

ISPR 2011:

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PRESENCE
RESEARCH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

EDINBURGH, 26-28 OCTOBER 2011

EDITED BY PHIL TURNER



ISBN: 978-0-9792217-4-3

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Mixed Reality, Trajectories and Presence

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Mixed Reality performance involves a collision of real and virtual worlds that may be overlaid, interwoven, or juxtaposed in order to blend fiction with everyday experience. My talk will reveal the ways in which artists design and participants experience mixed reality performances, and how they may be described in terms of interleaved trajectories of various kinds. I will consider how this idea of trajectories through mixed reality requires us to think about how presence shifts between the virtual and the real throughout an extended experience as a result of various traversals and transitions.

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Steve Benford is Professor of Collaborative Computing in the Mixed Reality Laboratory at Nottingham where he explores novel interaction and communication technologies for rich and dynamic social interaction, focusing on the potential of ubiquitous computing to enhance the creative industries. He is Directing the EPSRC funded Doctoral Training Centre in Ubiquitous Computing for the Digital Economy, leading the EPSRC Platform grant in the Widespread Adoption of Ubiquitous Computing, and is also Head of the School of the Computer Science. He received best paper awards at CHI 2005, CHI 2009 and CHI 2011, won the 2003 Prix Ars Electronica for Interactive Art, the 2007 Nokia Mindtrek award for innovative applications of ubiquitous computing, and has received four BAFTA nominations. He is co-author of 'Performing Mixed Reality', published by MIT Press in 2011.