

CCFI Noted Scholars Lecture Series

Phantasms and Shapeshifters:

Imagination and Identity in Computing

Dr. Fox Harrell

Computational systems for expressing imaginative stories and concepts - here called *phantasmal media*, enable new

forms of human creative culture, while empowering diverse communities. This talk presents recent work, theory, and new media immersive environments, for developing empowering transformative, and critical forms of imaginative discourse and identity expression.

Humans have the ability to creatively present themselves in fluidly nuanced and dynamic ways, seamlessly varying body language, discourse strategy, fashion, and more, often with an astounding sensitivity for context.

Digital Media
Georgia Institute of
Technology

Now, everyday computing technologies force users to represent themselves in digital media, which necessarily provide identity structures (avatars, profiles, characters, etc.) that allow for robust new experiences and social interactions. However, these structures are often rigid and social ills such as racial discrimination, gender-based inequity, and class stereotyping persist in our digital identity media. Harrell's work bridges these two worlds, with cognitive science helping to close the gap, and proposes new technologies with an eye toward doing better.

September 23, 2009
1 - 2:30 pm

Digital Literacy Center
Ponderosa F, Rm. 103
2008 Lower Mall, UBC

Free and Open to the
Public, Lunch with RSVP

RSVP ccfi@interchange.ubc.ca



Dr. Fox Harrell (<http://silver.skiles.gatech.edu/~dharrell3/>) is a researcher, author, and artist exploring the relationship between imaginative cognition and computation. He is Assistant Professor of Digital Media in the department of Literature, Communication, and Culture at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He directs the Imagination, Computation, and Expression (ICE) Lab/Studio (icelab.lcc.gatech.edu) in developing new forms of computational narrative and poetry, gaming, social networking, and related digital systems with bases in computer science, cognitive science, and digital media arts.

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