

ATACD Conference/Exhibition; Changing Cultures: Cultures of Change 10-12 December 2009 at the University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

(http://www.atacd.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=174&Itemid=78)

The Exhibition is curated around the theme of 'topology and culture'. The organizers have selected work that articulates a '*topological approach to cultural dynamics*' - work that '*draws inspiration from mathematical theories of topology, networks and complexity*' in order to look at '*cultural change*' - emphasizing '*links, driving forces and modes of change*' (quoted from ATACD website).

The Mediating Place group are exhibiting the News telescope prototype at this exhibition..

The News Telescope

By way of an explanation of the News telescope we quote from the catalogue for the exhibition:

'The visual array has always been impregnated with non-visual data (notated in various ways), but with the advent of technologies like electronic sensors/readers, GPS, RFID tags (etc.), we are now able to install - and have installed - information and infomatics into the spaces and objects in the cone of the visible; in a sense mediatizing vision.

The news telescope draws on the fact that the visual is impregnated with non-visual data. Our 'velo' of sight (veils of optical threads) is intersected by matrices of information that lie 'invisible' in the view (but are there nevertheless). The telescope allows one to draw some of this invisible information into view. The 'news telescope' is a located device which may be oriented and focused on different places and draw down different kinds of news from those places - setting them in contrast one to another. Thus, the demotic news of twitter feeds makes comment on traditional forms of news publication - organs of publication like newspapers. The 'news telescope' places the news and asks the viewer to physically, and, by extention, in other ways relate their place in the world to the places and different constructions of news.