

We are surrounded by climate and the effects of its rapid change but how do we collectively make sense of this large complex system?

Through acts of construction (and deconstruction) participants will explore the line between understanding and collective responsibility.

# the Unseen Surround

Environments Studio IV, Spring 2019  
Carnegie Mellon School of Design

Environments Studio IV is a junior-level Design studio about design, behavior, and people's understanding, in physical, digital, and hybrid environments. The course comprises practical projects investigating, understanding, and materializing invisible and intangible qualitative phenomena, from intelligence to social relationships, through new forms of probe, prototype, speculative design and exhibit. In Spring 2019 we're focusing on different aspects of qualities in environments.

In The Unseen Surround, five exploratory projects bridge physical and digital information environments to examine phenomena, qualities, processes, and relationships that are present but not directly visible, from hyperobjects to social norms.

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Course website with gallery of past projects:  
[environments.imaginari.es](http://environments.imaginari.es)

Opened February 14, 2019

Environments Studio IV: Qualities  
Dr. Dan Lockton, Instructor  
Joseph Hines, Teaching assistant  
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## Instagram Station

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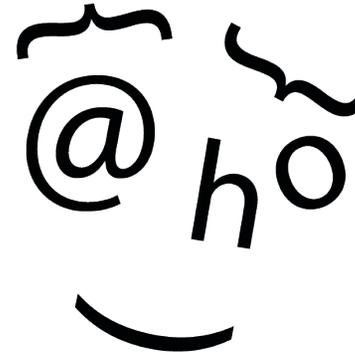
I'm exploring how various features on digital platforms, which often seem effortless and seamlessly integrated into our experience, are in fact a result of a rather complex back-end interactions between data structures and algorithms.

I'm focusing on revealing the behind-the-scenes interactions in a way where visitors can experience these rather abstract and complicated concepts in a more familiar experience.

The final form of the project will be an experience zone.

## hi how r u: A Toolkit for Modern Digital Expression

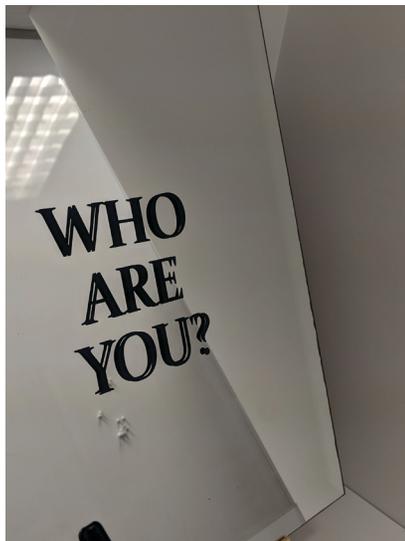
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In the absence of physical cues like tone of voice and facial expressions, young people are increasingly using the materials provided for them for digital communication in unexpected or unintended ways to allow for more nuanced online communication. This is a new form of digital placemaking, as more and more of our digital relationships and interactions hold a weight that rivals our physical ones. Through participatory research, this project explores how digital communication has evolved within the constraints of modern day messaging platforms, and how it can be furthered without them.

## Identity Lab: Tension in Reflection and Conversation

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In this project I am exploring hidden relationships of identity; both how we view ourselves and how that translates into interactions with others. Navigating identity is an invisible and personal process, but one that greatly affects how we navigate our environments. In a two part performative experience, visitors will be guided into self reflection in an attempt to realize the factors of identity that cause tension in conversation.

## Physicalizing Digital Conversations

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Digital communications are increasingly important to us, but they also increasingly cause tension between digital and real-world methods of communication. This project explores how we could possibly navigate that tension with more intent.