Critical Code Studies: The Transborder Immigrant Tool

Mark C. Marino
University of Southern California
MLA 2011, Los Angeles
Transborder Immigrant Tool Project

- When first started, the GPS system needs to find navigation satellites...
- For now, this is a textual message
Ricardo Dominguez
UCSD prof who studies disobedience under investigation

Ricardo Dominguez, an electronic civil disobedience expert, is the target of probes examining whether his work improperly uses public funds and violates security laws.
Glenn Beck
Critical Code Studies

2006 MLA presentation

2007 electronic book review article

2008 Softwhere Studies, UCSD

2009 Digital Arts and Culture ’09, UCI

2010 Critical Code Studies Working Group
   CCS Conference at USC
   CCSWG Proceedings in electronic book review

2011 HASTAC Scholars forum
   Proceedings for CCS @ USC in Vectors (Thought-Mesh)
   Videos of talks on Vimeo at IML site

2012 Book Projects: 10-Print: Nick Montfort et al.
   Close Reading Electronic Literature:
   Jeremy Douglass and Jessica Pressman (IOWA)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Code Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Few Readings:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border Hacks: Electronic Civil Disobedience and the Politics of Immigration, Rita Raley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Transborder Immigrant Tool: Violence, Solidarity and Hope in Post-NAFTA Circuits of Bodies Electr(on)/ic, Micha Cardena, Amy Sara Carroll, EDT, CALIT2, B.A.N.G. Lab, Brett Stalbaum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border Theatre: on the arts of security and resistance: Louise Amoore and Alexandra Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forthcoming Chapters by Paula Levine and Carolyn Guertin in Jason Farman edited collection, Mobile Media Narratives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustenance

A Play for All Trans [ ] Borders

Electronic Disturbance Theater/b.a.n.g. lab
We have a tradition of migration, a tradition of long walks. Today we are witnessing la migracion de los pueblos mexicanos, the return odyssey to the historical/Mythological Aztlan.

-- Gloria Anzaldúa

quoted in “Transition” Song of my Cells
Critical Code Studies

Let-Down [La Difunta Correa]: The Argentinean popular saint, La Difunta Correa, has yet to be canonized by the Catholic Church. Like Jesus Malverde, she resides in the hearts and minds of would-be border-crossers. Legend has it that she set off to find her husband with an infant in tow; but, crossing the desert, she died of dehydration. Those who found her body also found her son, miraculously still alive, his mouth latched to her breast. Entertain for a moment the baroque iconography of a corpse, one breast exposed, nursing an infant.

Most women who have nursed are intimately familiar with the phenomenon of let-down. Your child cries, your breast responds, lactating to the call. Edited out of this narrative is the sheer magnanimity of the breast: in a grocery store, an infant wails, you let-down—no matter that s/he is not your own. To veer dangerously toward an essentialist narrative the body knows and responds to distress in manners that exceed fight-or-flight dialectics. To cross technologies of gender, race, sexuality, nation, religion, class: imagine caching water in the Mexican-U.S. borderlands’ “season of dying” as a comparable act of spontaneous release—not as a political statement (or not only that), but as a corporeal reflex, as an intuitive ethical gesture to insist, “not on my watch”?

Neither mixing nor mixing metaphors, one must concede that “enabling, enticing, aiding, abetting” (the worst case scenario spins on water-caching) are more complicated “acts of transfer” than this. Framing water-caching in terms of let-down amounts to a refusal to recount the borderlands’ competing and accreting essentialisms, a U.S.-based “privilege of unknowing” the escalating numbers of a continental humanitarian crisis.
Founded by Enrique Morones in 1986, Border Angels is a non-profit organization supporting humanity. The organization consists of extraordinary volunteers who want to stop unnecessary deaths of individuals traveling through the Imperial Valley desert areas and the mountain areas surrounding San Diego County, as well as the areas located around the United States and Mexican border. The high percentage of unnecessary deaths have been results of extreme heat and cold weather conditions, in addition some have sadly been the results of racial-discrimination crimes.

Steps Needed To Be Taken Spring and Summer Months: With horrifically hot temperature conditions, hundreds of rescue stations are located along the ten state US Mexico border region. Temperatures reaching as high as 127 degrees, water is critical for survival. Volunteers maintain stations throughout the spring and summer months.

Fall and Winter Months: Critical life-saving stations are established throughout the San Diego Mountain areas. Winter clothing, food and water are placed in winter storage bins to help decrease negative health results from being exposed to the incredibly freezing temperature changes that exists in the San Diego County mountain areas during the Fall and Winter. Awareness and Support Educating citizens and government dignitaries on the status of weather related deaths and racial-discrimination crime deaths is crucial in gaining support in the volunteer, donation and jurisdiction areas. Border Angels are proud supporters of Equal Rights.
Water Station, Inc.

Members of the Board of Directors

Ben Cassel
President
out in the sand

Rob Fryer
Director
(right) with Richard Homick
in background

Ruben Bermejo
Director
(right) with his wife Imelda
(left)

Frances Beope
Director
(center) with Tom Hudson and Laura Hunter

John Hunter
Director
(right) with

For more information please call:

Laura Hunter (619) 318 0371
John Hunter (619) 933-6678
package edu.ucsd.calit2.TransBorderTool;

import edu.ucsd.calit2.TransBorderTool.international.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import javax.microedition.location.*;
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;
import javax.microedition.media.*;
import net.walkingtools.javame.util.AudioArrayPlayer;
package edu.ucsd.calit2.TransBorderTool;

import edu.ucsd.calit2.TransBorderTool.international.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import javax.microedition.location.*;
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;
import javax.microedition.media.*;
import net.walkingtools.javame.util.AudioArrayPlayer;
private Command exit = null;
private Command ignore = null;
private Command cancel = null;
private Command listNearbyWPs = null;
private Command setTargetManual = null;
private Command setTargetAuto = null;
In matters of life or death, most would contend, “Taste is relative.” (Such is the fate of poetry as artifice, art, or sustenance—a non-issue if one cannot drink, eat, or breathe, even if ‘poetry is not a luxury.’) Still, the taste of cacti presents a particularly thorny conundrum. Not yet mezcal or tequila, many cacti hold moisture, but also harbor toxins. Again, the baseline rule: Only take the risk of eating or drinking cacti if the alternative you face is dying of thirst.

-- Amy Sara Carroll
// inner class to control audio
class AudioTimer extends Thread {

    Random rand = new Random();

    public void run() {
        while (running) {
            try {
                Thread.sleep(1000 * 60 * (rand.nextInt(19) + 1)); // sleep random minutes
                //Thread.sleep(1000 * 60); // sleep one min (test)
            } catch (InterruptedException e) {
                running = false;
            }
            try {
                int randIndex = rand.nextInt(NUMBER_OF_POEMS); // poems at the top of the audio array
                audioPlayer.play(randIndex, false); // false means to cue the audio if something else is playing
            } catch (MediaException ex) {
                Alert bailOnAudioException = new Alert(translation.translate("media exception"), ex.getMessage(), null, AlertType.INFO);
                bailOnAudioException.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
                display.setCurrent(bailOnAudioException);
            }
        }
    }

    public void finalize() {
        running = false;
    }
}
public class TBmidlet extends MIDlet implements DowsingCompassListener, CommandListener {

// override CompassCanvas locationUpdated
public void locationUpdated(LocationProvider provider, Location location) {
    // call to superclass
    super.locationUpdated(provider, location);
    if (gotFirstFix == false && location.isValid()) {
        gotFirstFix = true;
    } else if (!location.isValid()) {
        return;
    }
    if (!navigating && isMoving()) {
        // here we are dowsing, but only if moving
        //System.out.println("search waypoint list begun");
        for (int i = 0; i < nearbyWPVector.size(); i++) {
            TBCoordinates mc = (TBCoordinates) nearbyWPVector.elementAt(i);
            if (currentCoords.distance(mc) <= TRIGGER_RADIUS + 20) {
                // + a little
                continue; // omits sites that we are already at
            }
            float directionPointerAzimuth = (int) currentCoords.azimuthTo(mc);
            //System.out.println(directionPointerAzimuth);
            if ((currentCompassHeading >= (directionPointerAzimuth - 5) &&
                currentCompassHeading <= (directionPointerAzimuth + 5))) {
                if (dowsingListener != null) {
                    dowsingListener.witchingEvent(mc);
                }
                break;
            }
        }
    }
}
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Code Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

```java
dowsingListener.witchingEvent (mc);
```
dowsingListener.witchingEvent (mc);

skdjakdAs.kasdjaksdjaskdaj (ddkaksdj);
/**
 * edu.ucsd.calit2.TransBorderTool.CompassListener interface method
 * Called when user is facing a waypoint
 * Displays waypointAheadAlert pertaining to type of waypoint
 */

public void witchingEvent(TBCoordinates mc) {
    aheadCoords = mc;
    if (display.getCurrent().equals(tbDowsingCompass)) {
        waypointAheadAlert.setString(tbDowsingCompass.getInfo(mc));
        waypointAheadAlert.setImage(aheadCoords.getIcon());
        double distance = tbDowsingCompass.distanceTo(mc);
        if (distance > SEARCH_DISTANCE) {
            display.vibrate(100);
        } else if (distance > 1000) {
            display.vibrate(300);
        } else if (distance > 500) {
            display.vibrate(500);
        } else if (distance > 100) {
            display.vibrate(800);
        }
        display.setCurrent(waypointAheadAlert);
        display.vibrate(1000);
        playAudioFile("found.wav", false);
    }
}
GPS Dowsing

**Video of usage scenario, Beta**
/* through a lot of tedious testing, I discovered that these constructions of the TextFields were throwing an IllegalArgumentException when using TextField.DECIMAL or TextField.NUMERIC constraints. The following is from the javadoc. It seems not to contradict the use of TextField.DECIMAL or NUMERIC given that I was setting the forms to a decimal/numeric value... hmmmmm... this must be an issue in in iden implementation.

"Some constraints, such as DECIMAL, require the implementation to perform syntactic validation of the contents of the text object. The syntax checking is performed on the actual contents of the text object, which may differ from the displayed contents as described above. Syntax checking is performed on the initial contents passed to the constructors, and it is also enforced for all method calls that affect the contents of the text object. The methods and constructors throw IllegalArgumentException if they would result in the contents of the text object not conforming to the required syntax."
 */
private Display display = null;
// current displayable will normally be the tbDowsingCompass,
but if expired, an alert.
private DowsingCompass tbDowsingCompass = null;
private Vector nearbyWPList = null;
private static final int SEARCH_DISTANCE = 10000; // 10K
private List targetList = null;
private Alert arrivedAlert = null;
private Alert waypointAheadAlert = null;
private Alert expired = null;
private boolean isExpired = false;
private Alert expirationWarning = null;
private boolean expireWarning = false;
private Alert startUpDisplay = null;
private boolean startUpAlert = false;
private Alert noNearbyWaypoints = null;