

## Press Release

### The Hybrid City Symposium

**Ioannis Dracopoulos Amfitheatre  
Central Building of the University of Athens  
Panepistimiou 30**

**4-5 March 2011**

The **University Research Institute of Applied Communication** (URIAC) of the **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens** would like to invite you to attend the two day Symposium under the title "Hybrid City". The symposium is organised by URIAC in collaboration with the **New Technologies Laboratory** of the **Faculty of Communication and Media Studies**, of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, in the context of the **Global Gateway** action and of the EU-funded program "Civil Society Dialogue - Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture".

The Symposium, which will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2011, at the Ioannis Dracopoulos Amfitheatre (at the central building of the University of Athens), will bring together experts drawn from academia, as well as artists, designers, researchers, cultural operators etc. to participate as presenters. Keynote speakers in the event are **Richard Coyne**, Professor and Head of the School of Arts, Culture and Environment at the University of Edinburgh, and **Martin Rieser**, artist and joint research Professor between the Institute of Creative Technologies and the Faculty of Art and Design at De Montfort University.

The primary goal of the symposium is to highlight the potential transformative shift of the urban condition, as a result of recent developments in information and communication technologies (ICTs). Urban life is in a state of flux. The widespread adoption of technologies that facilitate social activity among prospective users influences community dynamics and introduces the emergence of novel forms of social interaction. The city is augmented through multidimensional processes. Digital information is embedded in persistent architectural forms (the built environment), while at the same time, representations of the urban setting are displayed on the screens of mobile communication devices.

Emphasizing the inherently interdisciplinary nature of technologically mediated urban activity, the symposium aims at exploring the emergent character of the city, addressing resurfacing questions on the nature of the urban experience, as well as outlining strategies and tools for future social interaction and participation.

**Richard Coyne** is Professor and Head of the School of Arts, Culture and Environment at the University of Edinburgh. He is an architect researching and teaching in architectural theory, design theory and digital media. He is the author of several books, including *Designing Information Technology in the Postmodern Age* (1995), *Technoromanticism* (1999), *Cornucopia Limited* (2005), and *The Tuning of Place* (2010) with MIT Press. With Adrian Snodgrass he co-authored *Interpretation in Architecture: Design as a Way of Thinking* (Routledge, 2006).

His latest book due for release on March 2011 is *Derrida for Architects* (Routledge).

<http://rcoyne99.wordpress.com/>

Professor **Martin Rieser** is joint research Professor between the Institute of Creative Technologies and the Faculty of Art and Design at De Montfort University. He has always been fascinated by the possibility of creating fragmentary narrative structures and interactive stories using new technology. As an artist and researcher this has led him into his current explorations using mobile and locative technologies and large-scale interactive video experiences. Professor Rieser's art practice in mobile and internet art and interactive narrative installations have been seen around the world including China, Australia, USA, Greece, France, Austria, and Italy.

[www.martinrieser.com](http://www.martinrieser.com)

For more information and the detailed program of the symposium:

<http://www.media.uoa.gr/hybridcity/>

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