

Using embodied practice for narrative environments

About

Over the past two decades, Professor Jorge Lopes Ramos' research has addressed a fast-growing, yet significantly unresearched area of investigation: immersive, participatory and interactive theatre. As co-founder and Executive Director of ZU-UK, he has also worked with Artistic Director Persis Jadé Maravala to create Radio Ghost, Within Touching Distance and DECELERATION which use immersive practice to translate sustainability issues.



Work

Radio Ghost is an audio-driven phone app which sees teams of three players hunt for horror stories within shopping malls. It has won the [2022 LUMEN Prize's Interactive Award for Art & Technology](#). The work gives a critical look at unsustainable practices of global consumer culture through ghost stories. "Radio Ghost engages with audiences through augmented sound, game design and movement. Players take the role of ghost-hunters, broadcasting their journey as they walk through portals into the far-away dimensions of a haunted mall. Part ghost-hunt, part late-night radio, part walking meditation, Radio Ghost employs interactive technology and serious game design towards ethical and sustainable consumption."

Within Touching Distance brings together artistic and technological innovation to explore how arts-based therapeutic content combined with XR technologies can provide positive mental health outcomes for patients and ensure effective training outcomes for nurses and carers. The project is patient-centred, focussing on solutions that could be applied, trialled and adopted at scale, to provide broad economic benefit to the UK mental health sector, such as 'affective touch' training and empathy skills for nurses.

DECELERATION is an audio-led instruction-based individual experience, guiding mind and body through a structured interaction with rhythm, speed and the environment through a stage-by-stage process of deceleration: an exploration of the embodied process of slowing down as a metaphor for a psychosocial approach to climate change.

Jorge's work has culminated in a range of events including his Inaugural Lecture and the artist-led symposium, From Creative Practise to Climate Justice Action, where artists, activists, researchers, policy-makers and scientists came together to understand how to tackle the climate crisis from an intersectional and cultural standpoint.

SDGs

