

Sunday, December 1st, 2019.

Gordon Gray

Sabine Rosenberg,

Cart 351.

Response 1.

Locative media makes use of location-based technological systems to make the effect of closed systems more visible. A few of the projects shown in Jonah Brucker-Cohen's *Locative Media Revisited* make geospatial technologies more visible.

The artist Hojun Song designed a satellite that anyone could create if they had the money for it. Song's design is called the Open Source Satellite initiative and is an attempt to bring space research to the public domain. The device's code is open source and is small cubic device that is about 60 inches. The materials to make it consist of a solar cell, lithium-ion, a modified Arduino controller that can survive the sun's radiation and four LED lights so anyone can view the device from Earth when it's in orbit.

What Song's Open Source Satellite does is that it senses random cosmic microwave emissions and transmit that data to Earth. Now Cohen says this is to "help prove the existence of the Big Bang" (Cohen), however, I see it was more of an interesting way for the public to play with random space data. Having your own satellite to capture data could be a neat way to play with the emissions of outer space or the orbit around our planet.

I would say I really like that Song's has given us a blue prints and designs to make our own space satellite if we wanted to. Although, I don't see his satellite as being fully open to the public because sure you can build the satellite for \$500 US dollars but I don't think the common person has \$100,000 sitting in their pocket to launch a satellite into orbit. I would say this is a project more open to wealthy people who are interested in playing with space data. In the end though, Song does make geospatial technologies more visible to the public by keeping the project open source and given us the designs on how to build a satellite.

Works Cited

Jonah Brucker-Cohen, *Locative Media Revisited*, March 26 2014:

https://rhizome.org/editorial/2014/mar/26/locative-media-revisited/?ref=fp_post_readbtn