

Nightstniffing: Transdisciplinary Arts Toward a Field Ecology of Urban Change

Public field walk and discussion

About the project

Nightstniffing investigates how we can better understand the processes that change the city in relation to all the beings that inhabit it. It aims to create public bat walks that combine the exploration of hidden urban creatures with an interrogation of the systems and structures that shape the city. These systems can be anything from a housing database, a planning permission process or a stock market algorithm. Whilst they perform important functions, the difficulties in understanding how and why they operate makes it difficult to hold them or their operators to account. This is especially the case when they encourage or enable outcomes that are harmful for those living in the city, human, bat or otherwise, such as displacement or the destruction of valuable facilities or habitats. This project will enable exploration of these systems in the environments they affect, so that can be understood by people from different walks of life and allow for new conversations about how our cities could operate differently.

The outcomes of this research will be as follows:

- public participatory walks that explore the themes above
- a showcase event that will bring the research to wider audiences
- web documentation of the methods used and the final events
- written accounts of the research process and the ideas underlying it
- presentation of the research to stakeholder groups and conferences

What your participation will involve

This stage of the research explores how the walking methods and devices developed during the *Nightstniffing* project change or influence the perceptions of the city. Together we will go on a bat walk with the devices, which will attempt to make perceptible different facets and features of the systems that change and influence the city. The walk will be recorded using video and/or audio. The devices may record GPS location, movement and ambient environment data, but this will not be correlated with individuals.

Following this, we will meet together for a group discussion. During this, we will talk about our experiences during the walk and use them to reflect on the themes of the project. This discussion will be audio recorded for later evaluation by the artist researcher. Following this a short comment form will be sent to you, in which you can enter further reflections if you so wish.

Your participation is voluntary. You can choose to join in with whatever elements of the artistic research project you like, and are free to withdraw at any time, including after data gathering has taken place. Please let the artist researcher know if you wish to withdraw from any or all aspects of the project, either in person or using the contact details below.

Your personal information will be treated confidentially, and will be held only by the artist researcher and the University of Sussex - unless you agree otherwise. Unless you give clear indication to the contrary, your personal information will only be used to contact you regarding the research and its outcomes.

All gathered material will be anonymised in written accounts of the research, and your name will not be linked with the recorded material unless explicitly agreed by you.

Project contacts

Cliff Hammett is the artist researcher conducting this project. You can contact him by email at c.hammett@sussex.ac.uk or speak to him in person if you have any questions about the project, or would like to withdraw from the project or any specific aspects of it.

This research is supervised by Prof Kate O'Riordan (k.oriordan@sussex.ac.uk) and Dr Alice Eldridge (a.eldridge@sussex.ac.uk) at the University of Sussex. Please feel free to contact them with any questions or concerns.

Nightstniffing is a PhD research project in Critical and Creative Practice at the University of Sussex, and is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council through the CHASE Doctoral Training Partnership.



Participant consent: Nightsniffing - Public field walk and discussion

Participant Name

Email address

and/or Telephone number

I have been briefed by the artist researcher regarding this research and agree to the following:

1. I consent to participating in this research. I understand that personal information, opinions and observations will be gathered and recorded as part of the process, which will inform the development of art works and research.
2. I understand that during the walk, the artist researcher, or those working with him, may record audio, video, photographic and written observations of me and the activities I am taking part in. The devices may also record sensor data, including data on location and environment, but this will not be correlated to me as an individual. I agree to this taking place for the purposes of the research.
3. Following the walk, there will be a group discussion in which we reflect on the walk and the themes of the project. This will be audio recorded. After the event, a short comment form will be sent to me to make further reflections on the walk. I agree to this taking place for the purposes of the research.

4. **Please tick one of the following two options:**

I am happy for my name to be associated with my contribution to this research

☐

I wish to remain anonymous, and do not want my name linked with the research

☐

5. I also agree to the use of the recordings by the artist researcher as detailed below.

Please tick all boxes where you wish to give permission. Leave them blank where you do not wish to give permission or if they are not applicable:

	Video/photos of public walk	Audio from discussion
Within the online documentation of the project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In the final showcase event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In presentations of the research in academic and non-academic contexts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you agree to material related to you being used in these contexts, I will also contact you prior to this taking place.

Participant Signature

Date.....

Please tick here you would like to join a mailing list to keep informed of the development of this project.

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