Alex McLean

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Education

2011 **PhD Arts and Computational Technology**. Goldsmiths, University of London. Thesis title *Artist-Programmers and Programming Languages for the Arts*. Funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

2007 **MSc Arts Computing** (Distinction), 2007. Goldsmiths, University of London. Fees funded by PRS Foundation.

Recent employment

Aug 2012 -- date **Research Fellow**, School of Music, University of Leeds. Co-leading the AHRC Weaving Codes, Coding Weaves project, the AHRC Live Coding Research Network, and the EPSRC Inhabiting the Hack project.

May 2011 -- Jul 2012 **Research Assistant**, Dept of Computing, University of Sheffield.

2000 -- 2007 **Senior Developer**, State51, London. Developing an online platform for the independent music industry.

Music

I have performed music since the year 2000 at hundreds of events, mainly live coding as part of Slub, Canute, and solo as Yaxu. My music is predominantly improvised live, but I have a few releases with online labels (fals.ch, fallt, 8bitrecs and my own Chordpunch). I also recently released **Peak Cut EP** on the Computer Club label, as a USB key featuring bootable O/S with EP source code.

"As well as challenging the conventional formats for releasing music, Yaxu's polyrhythmic and hyperreal strand of techno is showcased on cuts like Public Life and Cyclic showing that he is not just testing the confines of how music can be consumed but also how genres can sound." - Bleep.com.

Major festivals: **Incubate** (Tillburg, 2015), **ISEA** (Vancouver, 2015), **Karlsruhe Algorave** (2015), **Tramlines** (Sheffield, 2014), **Fierce** (Birmingham, 2014), **EMF Camp** (Milton Keynes, 2014), **Lambdasonic** (Gent, 2014), **Network Music** (Birmingham, 2012,2013,2014), **Thinking Digital** (Newcastle, 2014), **Roundhouse Rising** (London, 2014), **PRISM** (Sheffield, 2013), **Earzoom** (Slovenia, 2013), **Node** (Frankfurt, 2013), **Mozilla** (London, 2013), **Deer Shed** (Yorkshire, 2013), **Documenta** (Kassel, 2012), **Vivo** (Mexico City, 2012), **BEAM** (Uxbridge, 2012), **Lovebytes** (Sheffield, 2012), **Lambda** (Antwerp, 2010), **Piksel** (Norway, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014), **STRP** (Eindhoven, 2009), **Make Art** (Poitiers, 2008), **Secret Garden Party** (Cambridgeshire, 2008), **LOSS Livecode** (Sheffield, 2007), **Sonar** (Barcelona, 2005), **Ars Electronica** (Linz, 2003), **Dissonanze** (Rome, 2003), **Transmediale** (Berlin, 2002, 2005), **Sonic Acts** (Amsterdam, 2001) and **Ultrasound** (Huddersfield, 2002).

Other major venues: **National Centre for Early Music** (York, 2013), **White building** (London, 2013, 2014), **MS Stubnitz** (London, 2013), **Cafe OTO** (London, 2008, 2013), **Kunsthal** (Aarhus, 2013), **Maison Rouge** (Paris, 2013), **Arnolfini** (Bristol, 2012), **Tate Modern** (London, 2005), **FACT** (Liverpool, 2011, 2014), **Institute of Contemporary Arts** (London, 2000), **STEIM** (Amsterdam, 2014) and **onedotzero** (London, 2014).

Community development

Developing communities is part of my practice, for example through my work as co-founder and coordinator of the Algorave and TOPLAP communities, and co-founder of the Lurk discussion system. I have organised over 100 arts events and seminars, including many live performance events and a series of over eighty ``dorkbot'' art and technology events in London and Sheffield. I have chaired many international research events including International Conference on Live Coding (general chair, 2015), International Conference on Live Interfaces (2012, 2014), and Sonic Pattern and the Textility of Code symposium (Co-organised 2014, 2015).

I am a keen contributor to free software communities, including releasing the Tidal and Texture live coding environments, and contributing the Membrane waveguide mesh plugins to the SuperCollider language.

Invited residencies

- **Digital Media Labs**, Barrow-in-Furness, 2014. Selected for one week group residency hosted by Octopus collective, funded by Arts Council.
- **Experimentallabor residency** Robert Schümann School for Music and Media, Deusseldorf, 2014. Three day residency exploring relation between weaving and coding with Dr Ellen Harlizius-Klück and Dave Griffiths, invited by Prof Julian Rohrhuber.
- **ADDICTED2RANDOM residency** Hangar Barcelona 2013. Selected for one month residency, which included design and delivery of a twenty hour workshop over five days. Part of a European Culture funded project.

Awards

- **Daphne Oram Award Lecture**, British Science Festival, Bradford, 2015.
- **Sound and Music**, composer-curator award, 2014.
- **Prix Ars Electronica,** honorary mention with runme.org, net vision category, 2004.
- **Transmediale award for Software Art**, winner with "forkbomb.pl", 2002.

Interviews

British Science Association blog (Sep 2015), **Now Then magazine (Mar 2014), Vice** (nl) (Apr 2014), **Imperica** (Mar 2014), **Tracks/Arte TV** (Jan 2014), **Red bull music academy** (Oct 2013), **Nos.nl** (Nov 2013), **Vice** (Nov 2013), **Kunsten.nu** (Nov 2013), **Wired Magazine** (Aug 2013), **Dazed and Confused** (Jul 2013), **Neural Magazine** (Jun 2007).

Recent invited talks/workshops

- **Data as culture panel**, Open Data Institute Summit, London Nov 2015.
- **Live coding panel, talk and workshop** Resonate festival, Belgrade, Apr 2015.
- **Weaving codes, coding weaves** University of Aarhus, Oct 2014; Centre for Textile Research, Copenhagen, Oct 2014; Cheltenham Festival of Literature, Oct 2014; Make:Shift Craft Council Conference, London, Nov 2014.
- **Live coding and Algorave** STEIM Amsterdam, March 2014 (keynote); Culturelab, Newcastle, May 2014; dotdotdot/onedotzero, London, Aug 2014; University of York, Nov 2014.
- **Sound Choreography <> Body Code** NODE Forum, Frankfurt, June 2014.
- **Live Coding and Collaboration** British Academy event: External Engagement in the Arts and Humanities, University of York, May 2014.
- **Textility of live code** Torque, FACT Liverpool, April 2014.