Pubcast feedback:

Concept:

- I actually do like the concept of talking with lecturers or academics in a relaxed pub setting about these sorts of issues. I think the nature of it allows for more naturally flowing conversation, and can also make an informative conversation less bland than the traditional way of learning these things. With everything though, I think the execution is more important than the concept itself. It definitely needs some refining.

Format:

- Overall format was good, but needs work. I do like the clip at the beginning about war; it is a good way to suck the listener in and want to find out how the conversation progressed to that point.

- The initial introduction was sufficient, but I think something more akin to what was written on the pangeans actual website would have been better. Remember, most people dont know who your guests are, and interview-like podcasts require some level of "this is x person and this is why you should care" in order to keep the listener engaged and in order to value the opinions of who you put on. We had a bit more information in the intro initially, however, some details were inaccurate and so we ended up opting for the basics. Will need do our due dilligence next time.

- In that regard, it might be valuable to maybe ask the guests about their background, how they got into what they were doing etc.

- One of the main issues with listening is the fact that a lot of the conversations didn't really have any context. An important part of a podcast is to give enough context as to the ideas discussed so the listeners can follow along. It's clear those having the conversation are very smart, but that lends itself to terms being thrown around and phrases being used that very few people outside of computer science would know about, and seeing as the conversation is in a pub, and the setting is relaxed, you can infer that the target demographic for this type of show are people who aren't super knowledgabe about these things but would like to learn more in a way that is also entertaining. Just every once in a while, one of your interviewers should explain what certain terms mean just so everyone is clear what is being discussed. This is a good shout! We'd need to properly identify these areas in the future. I want to note, however, that the interviewers have 0 background in CS.

- I think a greater attempt should also be made to press the interviewees more. I was very curious about a particular part of the podcast, where Dr Miranda Mowbray was asked about the addictive nature of a lot of these apps, and in response she said something (and I am paraphrasing) to the effect of "nobody is making you use the apps". I think what could have happened is the conversation could have gone down the road of personal responsiblity vs the responsiblity of the people making the apps in what decisions you make, whether it is fair for people who make the apps to be made responsible for the actions of those using it, especially if they design the apps to be this addictive. You could have talked about how gambling is an example where society has created a "line in the sand" as it were, and how we have a standard that exists where things deemed exploitative to the end user are restricted or even outright banned. You could have talked about the philosophical element, the idea of free will and whether we are even in control of our actions at all. But instead, the comment was just sort of left alone and nothing was really done with it. This is quite a specific but interesting example! You are right, the podcast was more towards the informative and discursive side, rather than an opinion challenging one; there was little disagreement, if any.

Audio:

- Audio quality was not good. Constant ambient noises, cars and sounds of people moving utensils around doesn't make for a good listening experience. There were parts of the podcast where the sounds of cars moving past made it virutally unlistenable. My suggestion would be to go through the audio footage again, and do some noise cancellation to cut out the normal ambience (so wind specifically). The other things such as cars passing by are less easy to get rid of. You might be able to do some equalisation on it so that the cars moving past aren't as loud as everything else. Main solution to that would be to record in a better environment next time. The environment was a bloody issue. I spent too many hours sampling individual traffic noises and removing them (as best as possible without creating artefacts), and equalising the speakers (the dB range was much worse before). Using a single microphone positioned at varying distances from the speakers will need to be avoided in the future. Will definitely look into your suggestion about booking a room and having the podcast sponsored.

- There are parts in which the audio cuts out for some reason. I dont know if this was a deliberate choice in the editing process, or if it is an error of the phone you were recording it on. Either way, it feels jarring. You're right, that was in the raw audio too.

- Some things should have been edited out. Things like when you were ordering food is fine (i actually think it adds a certain charm), but dead air where nobody is really saying anything isn't. I personally prefer it.

Overall:

- I think the podcast is a good first attempt. I like the format and the idea, it is just the execution that needs work. Maybe get in contact with someone at the place you are at and ask them if you can book out the place for the recording next time. They close out places all the time, they would probably do it for you if you paid them etc. Some interview shows basically pay the place by plugging it at the beginning. Maybe eat somewhere that doesn't have utensils? Or better yet, make sure you eat before the recording and order drinks during if you still want to retain that vibe. Drinking is way easier on the ears than eating. Make sure you have a good setup, and make sure you edit the audio properly. Ask more pressing questions, and don't be afraid to make the interviewee uncomfortable with what you are asking- that is the stuff people care about.

Thats all.

Superb! Please call me out if the next one doesn't improve. Thanks again man!