

***PROCEEDINGS
OF THE FIFTH
CONFERENCE***



xCoAx 2017

xCoAx 2017 – LISBON

Proceedings of the Fifth Conference on
Computation, Communication, Aesthetics & X

EDITED BY

Luísa Ribas
André Rangel
Mario Verdicchio
Miguel Carvalhais

PUBLISHED BY

Universidade do Porto
Praça Gomes Teixeira
4099-002 Porto
Portugal

ISBN

978-989-746-128-6

ISSN

2183-9069

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FOREWORD

Throughout the years, we have given the 'X' several different meanings: crossroads, prohibition, mystery, but we never interpreted it in the most obvious way, that is, as the Roman symbol representing the number '10'. This is because the idea of organising the 10th edition of xCoAx has always looked too far fetched to us. This year that goal felt a bit less far, since we realised that we are halfway there: the 5th edition of the international conference on Computation, Communication, Aesthetics and X took place in the lively city of Lisbon, Portugal, on the 6th and the 7th of July 2017.

In the tradition of wedding anniversaries, a couple is no longer considered 'newlyweds' when they reach their fifth year together. Somehow, we are having a similar feeling with xCoAx: the nervous apprehension of the beginnings, when we did not have a clue on what the outcome might be, is giving way to a more positive excitement, in which we are aware that a lot of work is ahead of us, and that many issues are going to pop up along the way, but deep inside of us we know that in the end everybody will have a great time.

Lisbon was no exception. Thanks to an exceptionally competent and enthusiastic team of local organisers and volunteers, and thanks to the core value of xCoAx, the papers, artworks and performances of the participants, we had indeed a blast, and so did, we hope, everybody who came to Lisbon to be part of it. The success of xCoAx 2017 in Lisbon was a mix of improving on what has been done in the past and introducing new, exciting endeavours. Following the path traced by the previous edition, we were able to secure possibly the best venue one could wish for for our exhibition: an entire wing of the National Museum of Contemporary Art, also known as the Chiado Museum, hosted the artworks of xCoAx. We are very grateful to Aida Rechená not only for being a gracious host to the artworks by the xCoAx participants during the event, but also for allowing us to organise an exhibition with the works of our guest artists: Frieder Nake, Olia Lialina, Penousal Machado, and Philip Galanter. The contribution of these world-renowned artists was manifold. Olia and Penousal inaugurated our 'dual' keynote system, where both a speaker from abroad and a speaker from the host country are invited to share their knowledge and experience with the xCoAx audience.

Speaking of experience, Frieder and Philip's presence was vital for our new Doctoral Symposium initiative, in which PhD candidates from all over the world were invited to present their main research theme and receive feedback from these two artists, who were kind enough to take the role of mock-supervisors

for one afternoon. Their artworks alone would have constituted an invaluable contribution to xCoAx 2017, but the extra effort of these four artists allowed us to offer even more to our participants. For this, we are extremely grateful.

We owe special thanks also to Sam Baron of Fabrica, who helped us make waves in the international fashion and design press, and to Sininho, whose sound waves closed xCoAx 2017 in the coolest possible way in the heart of the Lisbon club scene.

Everything that happened at xCoAx 2017 is contained in this book. Whether you were there and want to go more in depth with some topics and events, or you weren't there and want to catch a glimpse of it all, turn the page and *boa viagem!*

The xCoAx Organizing Committee