



School: Creative Industries

Researcher: Charlie Tweed

Project Title: The Signal and the Noise

UoA: 34 – Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management

Research Timeline

Date	Rationale of research activities and decisions undertaken
08/2013	Animate Projects invited me to apply for the R&D Phase of their sci/art project titled 'Of Mice and Men' (later re-titled as Silent Signal). They had been awarded a Wellcome Trust Small Arts Award to conduct the R&D phase with a group of artists and scientists.
26/09/2013	My initial application was successful and I was then invited to attend a special 'speed dating' event with artists and scientists making short presentations of their research to each other. The event took place at Imperial College, London. As a result of this event I was asked to submit two proposals related to two of the scientists that I had met, outlining potential areas of interest for a future animated film project.
23/10/2013	My proposal to work with Dr Logan at Genome Campus, Cambridge was successful and I was one of the final six selected artists for the Silent Signal project. The proposal asked how I could utilize fiction to consider the potential futures of genetic technologies and the analysis of code in humans and animals. From this point I then provided further information to Animate Projects who put together a successful funding bid for a Wellcome Trust Large Arts Award. This Large Arts Award application had a successful outcome, and I then began the initial research phase of the commissioned film project.
01/10/2014- 1/05/2015	During the Initial research phase of the project, I attended a series of meetings with Dr Logan at the Genome Campus, Cambridge and also at various art institutions and galleries in London and at my studio in Bristol. During this time I learned about Dr Logan's research into genetically influenced behavior and also I spent a lot of time becoming familiar with the genome sequencing technologies that he uses and the software tools that are used to analyse the data. As a result of these meetings we discovered a shared interest in science fiction and how this mode of storytelling could be used as a way to interrogate the potential futures of his research activities. As a result I began to develop a draft script and initial plans for the commissioned film.

23/01/2015	<p>On 23/01/2015 I joined the five other artist/scientist groups to present our research and progress at a roundtable which took place at the Jerwood Space in London. Attendees included the producers and curators Animate Projects and members of the funders from the Wellcome Trust.</p> <p>In the presentation that we gave, the scientist Dr Logan provided a summary of his research, and I presented the initial script and storyboard for the film project.</p>
01/02/2015- 01/06/2015	<p>During this time I developed a science fictional script further in collaboration with Dr Logan, the script particularly focused on the technologies and tools used in his research and began to think about the parallels between genetic coding and computer coding, and the analysis of code. We began to visualize how developments such as Optogenetics and CRISPR could extend these parallel conditions, with CRISPR allowing scientists to edit lines of DNA and Optogenetics allowing scientists to influence behavior by using colored lights that are directed at neurons in the brain.</p>
01/06/2015- 31/1/2016	<p>Having got approval for the final script and storyboard from both Dr Logan and Animate Projects, the production phase began and during this time I worked on all aspects of the animation, as well as working on the production of the voice over and the soundtrack.</p>
06/02/2016- present	<p>Touring exhibition and film screenings: the final set of films launched at Quad Derby on 06 February 2016 in a large scale exhibition which then toured the UK, the special education programme and education materials also launched at this event. The special education pack was designed to engage diverse audiences with the scientific aspects of the films. Since this time the Signal and the Noise has been shown internationally including in a special event at the renowned Oberhausen Film Festival, where I was invited to give a talk and participate in a discussion and also most recently in 0.1% exhibition at Navel Gallery, Los Angeles (November 2019). Other events have included a special conference at Derby University on 26th February 2016 where I made a collaborative presentation with Dr Logan. On 30 September 2016 I did a special talk at Lifespace gallery, Dundee to a specialist scientific audience alongside the Silent Signal exhibition at the gallery.</p>