

Julian Priest

Bio

Julian Priest is an artist and independent researcher. He was co-founder of early wireless freenetwork community Consume.net in London. He became an activist and advocate for the freenetworking movement and has pursued wireless networking as a theme in fields of arts, development, and policy.

He has written and lectured through Informal - an informal independent research framework. He was one of the instigators of WSFII, the world summits on free information infrastructures, which was an international series of events to promote grass roots information infrastructures.

He has commented on radio spectrum policy and co-founded policy intervention OpenSpectrum UK to advocate an open spectrum in the public interest, in Europe and the UK.

Since 2005 he has developed an artistic practice around participatory and collaborative forms and has shown works internationally in the UK, Latvia, Germany and New Zealand. He has an ongoing relationship with the Banff New Media Institute in Canada, where he has been peer advisor to post graduate students at the Almost Perfect residency and he has lectured in Online media at Wanganui School of Design.

He is currently focused on art practice and his current interests are themes around the physical and cultural boundaries between technology and the environment. He is currently based in Whanganui, New Zealand where he has opened a new public project room 'The Green Bench'.

Work History

2008 - Green Bench

Director of Green Bench project room in Wanganui New Zealand.

<http://greenbench.org>

2002 – 2008 Informal

Director of the Informal research framework, an international, interdisciplinary group, working in fields as diverse as development and the arts, with an initial focus on the social aspects of technology. Developing projects, publishing, presenting at and organising events. Informal projects have been funded by a variety of organisations, the Open Society Institute, Wellcome Trust, Arts Council of England and others.

<http://informal.org.uk>

2000 - 2002 Consume

Consume was the first free wireless network community in the UK and was one of the first community wireless groups internationally. It developed strategies for building a widespread broadband telecommunications infrastructure using wireless networking equipment, self provision and resource sharing. It serves as a forum for freenetwork debate and is a part of the wider freenetworking movement.

- Contributions to the project:
- co-authored initial texts
- Helped to establish the legality of network self-provision in license-free radio spectrum with the UK Radio Authority and Dti.

Participated in UK Spectrum Legislative reviews

<http://consume.net>

1996 - 2000 Mediumrare

Co-founder and Technical Director of Mediumrare, a multimedia design and communications company specialising in design for electronic media (Web, TV, CD, Software). The company was started with the idea that a small group with mastery of the emerging digital tools could work in diverse media forms. Projects ranged from satellite IP video systems to design for print, animation, interiors and software development. Clients included GlobeCast France Telecom, Levis, BBC.

<http://www.mediumrare.net>

1992 - 1996 Plastic Fircone Ltd.

A multimedia programming partnership Specialising in Macromedia Director Programming (Lingo), CD-Rom authoring and consultancy. Clients included Dorling Kindersly, British Telecom, Commonwealth Secretariat.

Selected Projects

Cicadacom 2009

Low cost environmental sensors, connected to wireless community mesh networks

<http://cicadacom.server1.org>

Slow Flow 2009

A residency to explore the relationship between technology and the environment in a waka on the Whanganui river

<http://greenbench.org/project/slowflow>

Greenbench 2008

A project room in Whanganui run by Julian Priest and Sophie Klerk.

<http://greenbench.org>

Internet;Environment 2008

An ongoing exploration into the physical cultural and technical interfaces between the Internet and the Environment

<http://informal.org.uk>

OpenSpectrumUK 2005

An policy intervention in support of an Open Spectrum in the Public Interest in the UK and Europe

<http://openspectrum.org.uk>

WSFII – world summits on free information infrastructures 2004

An ongoing grass roots summit process promoting free information infrastructures (free culture, free software, free networks and community currencies)

<http://wsfii.org>

Wireless Roadshow 2003

Capacity building for wireless networking in the Developing world

<http://informal.org.uk>

Picopeer 2002

Development of a lightweight peering agreement between node owners to facilitate the building of large scale freenetworks under distributed ownership patterns.

<http://picopeer.net>

Informal 2002

An international framework for collaborative research, project development and implementation formed as a non profit organisation registered in the UK

<http://informal.org.uk>

Consume 2000

An early wireless freenetwork community based in the UK

<http://consume.net>

Selected Events and Performances

Electrosmog Festival of Sustainable Immobility: - multiple network locations 18-20.03.2010

Wireless Waka remote performance <http://greenbench.org/project/waka-wireless>

The wedding between art and agriculture: Kalmar Konstmuseum, Sweden 10.03.2010

Talk, short film and performance <http://kultivator.org/jordreformopenresource.html>

Illustrating the Unseeable: Reconnecting Art and Science - Dunedin School of Art, New Zealand, 28.10.2009

Report from Riga: Energy and Waves

<http://www.otagopolytechnic.ac.nz/schools-departments/art/exhibitions-events-and-seminars.html>

Energy - RIXC, Riga, Latvia 08-10.10.2009

Whois Energy

<http://rixc.lv/09>

Symposium for Art and Renewable Technology - Serde, Aizpute, Latvia 13-16.08.2009

Whois Energy

<http://www.rixc.lv/projects/energy/renewable/index.html>

Ada Symposium - Critical Digital Matter, Wellington, New Zealand 26-28.06.2009

Materiality in Digital Art - with Su Ballard

<http://symposium09.aotearoadigitalarts.org.nz/>

Creating Technology - AUT Auckland, New Zealand 04.06.2009

Terra Firmware –Cicadacom environmental sensors

http://www.mindkits.co.nz/documents/colab_conference_v4.pdf <http://colab.ac.nz>

Interactive Screen '08 – Sustain 24-29.08.2008

Information;Energy - keynote

http://www.banffcentre.ca/bnmi/programs/2008/interactive-screen/stream-links/Julian_Priest.mov

The Upgrade! - Wellington – 23.07.2008

Internet;Environment

<http://www.critical-mas.tv/upgrade/priest.html>

Govett Brewster – Artist talk 26.03.2008

Presentation of work

<http://www.govettbrewster.com/>

Ada Symposium – 02.2008

Tending networks + building communities – panel discussion

<http://symposium08.aotearoadigitalarts.org.nz/#Programme>

Interactive Screen '07 – Banff New Media Institute, Banff, Canada 12-17.08.2007

Internet; Environment - keynote

http://www.banffcentre.ca/bnmi/programs/archives/2007/interactive_screen/default.aspx

Waves National Museum, Riga Latvia– RIXC 2006

The Visual Spectrum

Almost Perfect – BNMI, Banff, Canada 08.2006

Wsfii.London - Lime House Town Hall, London, UK, 26.09 – 2.10.2005

Event co-ordinator – closing panel chair

Wireless Utopias – Dana Centre, Science Museum, London 26.05.2005

Event organiser

<http://openspectrum.org.uk>

PLAN – ICA London 1-2.02.2005

Spread the Spectrum

<http://www.open-plan.org>

Future Urban Infrastructures – Architectural Association, London, UK 18.01.2005

<http://wirelesslondon.info>

Pervasive Connections – Space Studios. London, UK 16.04.2005

An Introduction to WiFi

http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/All_Content_Items/Media_Arts_Archive/Pervasive_Connections/

Fresh Air Free Networks Norre Djurs Hallen, Djursland, Denmark 03-10.09.2004

<http://freifunk.net/sc2004/>

Open Systems - Goethe Institute/V2 lab - Rotterdam - 27.11.2003

<http://www.v2.nl/2003/events/opensystems.html>

Digital Media Zone - Limehouse Town Hall, London, UK - 14-15.11.2003

<http://dmz.spc.org/>

Panelist presenting - Playing Card Based Routing Protocols

<http://informal.org.uk/project/playingcards>

Panelist presenting Diagrammar - a visual poetics of fictional networks

<http://informal.org.uk/people/julian/resources/diagrammar/>

Freifunk Summer Convention – Berlin, Germany - 12-13.09.2003

<http://www.freifunk.net>

Presenting - Consume.net, Playing Card Based Routing Protocols

Keynote - Adenauer Institute Freenetwork Debate

Open Cultures – Vienna, Austria - 04-06.06.2003

<http://opencultures.t0.or.at/>

Presenting - Freenetworking and The Picopeering Agreement

Workshop - Wireless Community Networks for Austria

Danish WSIS prep com (UNDA) - Copenhagen - .08-09.2003

Participant - intellectual property debate

Participant - training and capacity building debate

The Copenhagen Interpolation - Copenhagen - 01-02.03.2003

Conference organiser, Picopeering workshop and presentation

Berlon - Bootlab, Berlin 10-12.10.2002

<http://bootlab.org/berlon/>

Picopeer workshop with Berlin and London freenetworkers

A History of Consume - Centro Nacional De las Artes, Mexico City DF - 21.05.2001

<http://informal.org.uk/people/julian/resources/consume/history/>

Lecture on the history of Consume.net and the beginnings of the freenetworking movement

Selected Exhibitions

I speak; I lie, Aotearoa Digital Arts Symposium

Energy Hike (solo), The Green Bench, Whanganui, New Zealand *.02.2009

<http://greenbench.org>

The Political Spectrum Review, Waves 2 (group), HMKV, Dortmund, Germany *.08.2009

http://www.hmkv.de/dyn/e_program_exhibitions/detail.php?nr=2990

Terms of Endearment, Futuresonic (group) Cube Gallery, Manchester, United Kingdom *.05.2009

<http://www.futuresonic.com/08/art/termsofendearment/>

A Geekosystem (solo), The Physics Room, Christchurch, New Zealand *.02.2008

<http://geekosystem.org>

The Political Spectrum, Waves (group), National Museum, Riga, Latvia *.11.2006

http://informal.org.uk/project/the_politicalspectrum

Joindot, Open Congress (group), Tate Britain, UK 15.10.2005

<http://joindot.org>

Playing Card Based Routing Protocols (group), DMZ, Limehouse Town Hall, UK 11-14.09.2003

<http://informal.org.uk/project/playingcards>

Selected Publications

Whois Energy, 2009

Energy conference reader, Rixc¹

The Political Spectrum, 2009

Sampling the Spectrum, University of Toronto Press²

Internet;Environment, 2008

Aotearoa Digital Arts Reader, Cloud 2008,³

<http://informal.org.uk/project/internet-environment/internet-environment.pdf>

The Political Spectrum, 2008,

Waves - The Art of the Electromagnetic Society, Hartware MedienKunst Verein,⁴

<http://informal.org.uk/project/thepoliticalspectrum/>

The Visual Spectrum 2007,

Spectropia Acoustic Space 7 2008,⁵

http://informal.org.uk/project/the_visual_spectrum/

The State of Wireless London, 2004,

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Acoustic Space 4: Transcultural Mapping⁷

http://informal.org.uk/people/julian/publications/the_state_of_wireless_london

1 RIXC, Energy, Scientific, artistic and critical visions, (RIXC, 2009)

2 Barbara Crow, Michael Longford, and Kim Sawchuck, *The Wireless Spectrum: The Politics, Practices and Poetics of Mobile Communications* (University of Toronto Press, 2009).

3 Stella Brennan and Su Ballard, *Aotearoa Digital Arts Reader* 1st edn (Clouds / Aotearoa Digital Arts, 2008)

4 Armin Medosch, Rasa Smite, Raitis Smits, and Inke Arns, *Waves - The Art of the Electromagnetic Society* (Hart MedienKunstVerein, 2008).

5 Rasa Smite and Armin Medosch, *Spectropia Acoustic Space* (Rixc, 2008).

6 Geoff Cox, *Economising Culture*: 1 edn (Autonomea, 2004).

7 Rasa Smite, *Transcultural Mapping Acoustic Space* (Rixc, 2008).

Selected Teaching / Workshops

Wanganui School of Design 2008-2009

Lecturer Advanced Online Media and Online media

Banff New Media Institute 2006 - 2008

Interactive Screen '08 Sustain - Senior Artist/mentor

Interactive Screen '07 - Senior Artist/mentor

Almost Perfect Residency '06 Peer Advisor for postgraduate locative media residency

Workshops

Julian works with participatory forms in both technical projects and art works, often in collaboration with people from different disciplines. Some workshop examples are listed here:

Geekosystem <http://geekosystem.org>,

Physics Room, Christchurch, Feb 2008

A gallery event, involving helping the general public make art objects out of recycled electronics in an electronics workshop.

The Political Spectrum http://informal.org.uk/project/the_political_spectrum/

National Museum of Latvia, Riga

A participatory artwork exploring radio spectrum regulation with a 6m white board.

Joindot <http://joindot.org>

Tate Britain, London, UK

Collaborative artwork exploring creative commons licensing and derivative works in art practice.

Picopeer

Developing a legal framework for wireless network sharing through a series of workshops.

Ongoing Positions

Director Greenbench Ltd.

Director Informal.org.uk Ltd.

Academic Board member Intercreate.org

Executive Board Auckland University of Technology Colab

Board member Aotearoa Digital Arts

Education

BSc Physics and Philosophy, University of Leeds, UK

Languages

English:	Native
Danish:	Conversational and written
Spanish:	Basic Conversational
French:	Basic Conversational
Italian:	Rudimentary

Contact

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