

# Introduction to e-textiles

## Gabriela Avram Interaction Design Centre University of Limerick

FabLab Limerick, 24 March 2018

#### e-Textiles

- Electronic textiles, also known as smart garments, smart clothing, smart textiles, or smart fabrics, are fabrics that enable digital components such as a battery and a light (including small computers), and electronics to be embedded in them. Smart textiles are fabrics that have been developed with new technologies that provide added value to the wearer.
- What makes smart fabrics revolutionary is that they have the ability to do many things that traditional fabrics cannot, including communicate, transform, conduct energy and even grow" (Pailes-Friedman, 2017).
- Smart textiles can be broken into two different categories: aesthetic and performance enhancing.

# Kimbowby Eef Lubbers and Malou Beemer



#### https://vimeo.com/129483770

# ATTIRE http://attire.ie

ATTIRE - The Making of: Construction Of Th...







R

## My sabbatical last year

#### Dr. Becky Stewart: Sensing Movement with Textiles

Dr. Becky Stewart will be sharing some of her work in e-textiles that covers a range of applications and explorations. She works with e-textiles and signal processing to build interactive, body-centric wearable computing systems. These systems often incorporate performance, fashion, music and/or design.

Becky is a lecturer in the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science at Queen Mary University of London. She was recently awarded the Daphne Oram Award Lecture for Digital

Innovation. Becky was the that ran workshops teachin



#### Guests who presented at e-stitches London in April 2017, May 2017, Sept 2017, Dec 2017 and March 2018

#### Brooke Roberts https://www.brinnovationagency.com



# Amy Rainbow Winters https://www.rainbowwinters.com



# Becky Stewart http://theleadingzero.com



#### **eSwatches**

#### Bobbin-Lace with Conductive Inlay Thread

by: Marts Risand Barbro Scholz

elearnighten flobon are making started in the 16th century in Bary. Back then the lace was made with gold and silver energiest threads or colored area and then threads to create rich and extravagant designs, tropped by the historical lace making, this eatrole explores the possibilities of using trus old technique today to create contemporary chargene.

The sample is made using silver plated thread and cotton yars, like they did in the 16th century. Additionally to pure visuel pleasure mis sample a functional for e-lextiles use, e.g. for electrical circuits. The design can be developed and used as conductor or as a sensor

meterials; 100% cotton thread (size 10), conductive thread (117/17 2ply)

techniques: Bobbin-lace

link: www.martekisand.com/blog/bobbin-lace-workshop

reference: Historical laces of 16th century Italy



2013

#### **eSwatches**



## Maria Almena- Kimatica Studio https://kimatica.net



# The gloves



# Emilie Giles http://www.emiliegiles.co.uk



# Maria Paneta – Sarotis http://www.mariapaneta.com



### The silicon wearable



# Bushra Burge http://www.bushraburge.com/



### **Bushra Burge**

#### Lessons learned

- The garment aesthetics are much more important than I originally thought, they have to be central to the story. People will fill in the gaps, this is an intimate experience, there is inevitably
- It's good to be able to develop the experience further as you get feedback,
- the piece is not a passive
- Find a place where you have access to hardware to see if it makes a difference and then buy the cheapest thing you can get away with
- This is a new genre, don't be rigid in your story-telling..... be open to how
- people adopt or not. Take note and absorb the learnings into your new story.
- Keep going. Being scorned is part of the journey of trying something new.

www.bushraburge.com

# Rachel Freire https://www.rachelfreire.com



# Kasia Molga http://www.kasiamolga.net

#### #TheHumanSensor

## Leonie Tenthof van Noorden http://leoniesuzanne.com



# Tsai Chu Huang https://www.huangtsaichun.com



### **Sara Robertson and Sarah Taylor**



## Giordana Giache-Hybrid 2016



#### **Back to eTextiles!**

- Passive smart textiles: only able to sense the environment/user, based on sensors;
- Active smart textiles: reactive sensing to stimuli from the environment, integrating an actuator function and a sensing device;
- Very smart textiles: able to sense, react and adapt their behavior to the given circumstances.

## **Materials**

- Conductive Fibers
- Conductive Fabrics
- Conductive inks
- Conductive materials as sensors
  - Stretch sensors
  - Pressure sensors
  - Electrochemical sensors
- Textile Energy Harvesting and Portable Power Supply System
- Wearable Antenna

## What about coding?

#### Arduino, Lilypad, Microbit, AT tiny, Intel Edison



### **Kitronic**



## **Inspiration: Kobakant.at**

- Hannah Perner-Wilson and Mika Satomi
- Based in Berlin
- Their website has plenty of advice and tutorials



# Codasign.com

#### Tutorials, suppliers



## Local groups

- eStitches London V&A
- eStitches Bristol
- Lovelace Dublin lovespace.com



#### **eTextile Swatch Exchange**



## eTextile spring break

#### eTextile Spring Break

a gathering of woolpunks + wicked fabrics



A TASTE OF FABRICADEMY IN 40 INTENSIVE HOURS

MAY

-11

# TEXTILE ACADEMY BOOTCAMP 2018

#### @ WEMAKE MILANO (IT)



via Stefanardo da Vimercate 27/5

#### FEES VAT included

Professional: 750 € / Student: 550 € Academany Alumni and tcbl members: 450 € Online attendance: 200 €

#### APPLY NOW

Write us at info@textile-academy.org Subject: Bootcamp Milan textile-academy.org



#### About Fabricademy

Fabricademy is a transdisciplinary course that focuses on the development of new technologies applied in the textile industry, in its broad range of applications, from the fashion industry and the upcoming wearable market. The two phase program will last 6 months, with approximately 3 months of seminars and learning modules and three months focusing on individual in depth applied project research.

#### http://textile-academy.org/

### **Future Textiles Lab**



#### Follow us on Facebook!

## Any interest in an eTextiles group?

- Midwest Makers are meeting every Thursday 7:30pm-9pm in the FabLab
- Next meetup for eTextile fans: 12 April 2018

## **Short exercise**

#### □ A very simple circuit -



http://www.julieboyd.co.uk/e-textiles/ https://youtu.be/5tBHPiduQMM

## Soft battery holder



(grey) fits inside.

Sew a lump of conductive yarn (purple) in the middle of each piece, take the yarn inside the felt to the tip and sew another lump. The lumps should Place the battery in between the pieces so that the conductive yarn lumps are inside, touching the battery. The + of the battery should touch

#### http://www.julieboyd.co.uk/e-textiles/

# You will get:

- □ An LED white, red, blue or green
- Conductive thread
- Normal thread
- □ A needle
- Felt for making your own battery holder
- A 3V battery to try it out; please return it, and on your way home enter the nearest shop and buy one.

## Thank you! Keep in touch!

**Gabriela Avram** 

Gabriela.avram@ul.ie

@gabig58 on Twitter
Coniecto.org
@FutureTextilesLab