ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:

Reflections on Summer Investigations: Within an Environment of Perceived Atmospheric Distance

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• Abstract (300 words):

In rapid response to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic a summer course was proposed to examine our relationship to physical distance and technology’s ability to foster a shared occupancy of a perceived atmosphere spanning disparate pan-cultural events. This talk will introduce the premise of the course and present the remarkable thoughts and work that the students produced in an intensive five week period.

Abbreviated Project Brief:

This course will examine the realm of distance in our current daily life: social, physical, virtual distances and how these impact design. How do we find, define and design for comfort, discomfort, pleasure, displeasure, etc., in these various, related/previiously disparate occupancies? How has our perception of time as it relates to distance shifted? How can design be an agent to mediate our well-being where the conventional relationship of distance and time is upended?
Independent research and analysis of cultural, geographic, historical and present measures of distancing is prompted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. A study for the design of an environment or object or surface to facilitate *______-ing* in the near future is explored. The course will meet remotely but will not be limited to the laptop. Students will use video, audio and other methods to map their accessible [global] environments, determine time/distance/performative evidence and think about design as a means to mediate these findings. Students will collaborate although physically situated around the world and navigate the spatiality between the intimate and vast community. The desire is to establish both rural, urban and sub-urban conditions to best reflect our global society.

The course is open to students of all departments specifically to cross-pollinate multi-scalar responses. We will look critically and take advantage of this opportunity to [re]question a typical activity and [re] produce something in response.

Investigations shall span studio-driven making, divergent dialogue and written word.

**Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Sheryl Kasak is the founder of Interim Design, an architectural, interior design and research practice focusing on investigations based upon the communication of information through developing and everyday technologies, spatial design, and the notion that we are all living in an interim state, one constantly evolving and reacting to our surrounding environment and our actions within it. Sheryl is currently working on research and practical proposals which engage our relationship to, and need for, both technology and the extreme absence of technology and how the two affect and are affected by spatial and atmospheric perception. Sheryl has presented her research and pedagogy at global conferences, recently, “Spatial Design and the iPhone” at the 2019 Architectural Film Symposium, Texas A&M University and the 2019 Annual Conference of Technology, Knowledge and Society, Barcelona, Spain. Recent publications include the 2019 Architecture and Film Symposium Proceedings and RIDE [risk dare experiment]:ON, Pratt Institute, 2017. Sheryl has been awarded a CIDA Innovation in Interior Design Education Merit Award.

An Adjunct Associate Professor, CCE at Pratt Institute in the Department of Interior Design, Sheryl teaches at the undergraduate and graduate levels and has taught Introduction to Architecture Design Studio as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University GSAPP.