



National Capital Region Chapter of the
ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Human Interaction

Advocating Humour in Interactive System Design

Presented by Claire Dormann, HOTLab at Carleton University

Thursday January 29, 2004 at **Adobe Systems Canada** in Ottawa

What?

This talk will focus on the benefits of introducing humour in the design of interactive systems. In this presentation we will refer more specifically to visual humour. The function of humour is first highlighted. Humour supports different aspects of interactive systems: persuasion, social presence, pleasure and well-being. The role of humour in interactive systems is illustrated through two cases: web designs and interactive agents. The use of humour is not a minor consideration if we wish interactive systems to be effective and enjoyable. Humour enhances interaction for example by arousing attention, provoking curiosity, or giving emotional information. Humour can also support conversation between ECAs and users. To conclude different issues pertaining to the development of humour in interactive systems will be presented. It is hoped with this talk to stimulate work in this area.

Who?

Claire Dormann recently joined the HotLab at Carleton University. She has a background in Psychology and in Computer Science with a specialisation in Computer Graphics. Her PhD is related to Human-Computer Interaction, Design and Rhetoric.

Since her PhD, she has worked in Denmark and the Netherlands as a Professor assistant. She has also participated in two main projects: Electronic Brokerage and Multimedia in the Home. Lately, she became involved in a project that was concerned with Embodied Conversational Agents (ECAs) evaluation. She is also working on affective experiences. New projects concern Creativity and Collaborative Design and the investigation of Individual Differences (i.e. in relation with emotion).

Claire's research interests are Home technology, ECAs, and Affective Applications. More specific topics include Computer mediated Persuasion, Emotions and Usability, as well as Humour.

When and Where?

The meeting takes place on Thursday January 29, 2004 at 7:00 PM in the Rideau 2 Conference Room at **Adobe Systems Canada** in Ottawa (please enter at link between the two towers) , located at 785 Carling Avenue (near Dow's Lake, between Rochester and Preston streets) Ottawa, ON K1S 5H4 Canada.

- Free parking available on site after 6:00 PM; entrance is on Rochester St.
- **Bus routes 6** and **85** pass in front of the Adobe Systems Canada office on Carling Ave.
- **Bus route 3** stops on Preston St. at Carling Ave., near the Adobe Systems Canada office.
- **Bus route 4** stops on Bronson Ave. at Carling Ave., near the Adobe Systems Canada office (10-15 minute walk).
- The **O-Train** stops at Carling Station; you can walk east long Carling Ave. from the station (3-5 minute walk).

Note: All attending will be required to register with security. Please arrive 5-10 minutes earlier to allow for registering.

The meeting fee is \$5 for non-members and free for CapCHI members (\$20/year). Membership is for the session period (September 2003-September 2004) - anyone can join!

Refreshments will be provided for the meeting.