

Algorithmic Auras Workshop

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Algorithmic Auras is a workshop designed for anyone interested in digital wellbeing practices, technology and mysticism.



No prior technical knowledge is required, just an open mind and a willingness to discuss and collaborate. The workshop will be performed online through a video conferencing platform and will utilise online collaborative tools and storage spaces.

Throughout the workshop, participants are encouraged to discuss their results and the insights they've gathered in regards to their perceptions of their virtual selves.

Time will be allotted for a group reflection where participants may wish to consider their future relationship and interactions with technology.

During the workshop,

participants will learn what algorithms are prevalent in their everyday lives and use one such algorithm to unravel their online identity. Using Auras as a metaphor for our different relationships with technology, participants are assigned an Aura Colour Reading based on an algorithmic review of their online identity. The Aura Color Reading will be used to discuss and manifest a principle they wish to pass on and share with the global community.



How can we use technology more thoughtfully?

How many hours a day do we spend doom scrolling, swiping, or staring at a screen to attend another virtual call? In our current global climate and our increasingly tech-centric society, it's hard to tell if we are now more connected or disconnected than ever before.

The consequences of our expanding digital traces highlight the mental burnout and greater privacy and ethical concerns we all encounter. While we may receive better-targeted ads, we can also become victim to biased exam grades or have a greater risk of being singled out in a protest.

Our goal is to facilitate a workshop that merges algorithms alongside artistic representations of auras to analyse, question, educate and empower the public and their relationships with technology, resulting in a growing set of principles to share with a wider global community.

20' - Introductions + Short Presentation

After an overview of different algorithms, we continue with information about the positive and negative psychological impacts of social media use, body image, mental health and attention swapping.

20' - Activity

With the larger group divided into smaller breakout groups, each participant will write a short text-based response about their online habits and the motivations behind them. We will collect the text samples and process them through an algorithm.

20' - Break

During the break, our team will use the algorithm results to assign a personalised Aura Colour Reading for each participant.

30' - Discussion + Conclusion

Using the assigned Aura Colour Reading, the group will discuss if their results feel accurate, and what this might say about how an algorithm understands them. We will use the Aura Colour Readings as inspiration to develop a list of principles. Each principle will be published and shared on different platforms, for other people to read, add to and learn what a healthier relationship with technology could be.

Workshop Facts

This workshop will be in a digital format. In the future, we wish to conduct the workshop in a physical setting to encourage face to face discussion. We may also turn the participant-generated set of principles into a physical form.

We designed this workshop for twenty participants with three members of our team present to facilitate.

The workshop uses a combination of presentation, activities on a web browser (accessible via a smartphone or laptop) and group discussion.

If you wish to host a form of this workshop in another language or format, please let us know we are happy to share any resources as long as any principles generated are published and accessible through our chosen platforms.

This workshop sees the collaboration of Designer **Jon C Flint** with Onada Studios Design Researchers **Ana Maria Toro** and **Dr Romy Gad el Rab**. Following their participation at Hyphen-Labs 'Higher Resolution' at the Tate Exchange, Tate Modern London in September 2019, they discovered shared interests in the dissection of technological products and its effects on human relationships.



Jon C Flint is a designer and prototyper with an interest in dissecting complex technological products, and distilling them into unique physical form. He is a co-founder of VJF along with Vytas Jankauskas, and is a member of the [Cached Collective](#), an international group of creatives, who are dedicated to exploring how technology influences our individual lived realities.



Dr Romyne Gad el Rab is a designer and clinical psychiatrist. She is fascinated by the complexity of the human mind and how relationships with technology influence human behaviour.



Ana Maria Toro is a designer, researcher, and writer interested in the future of design and the creative process as it affects artists, humans, and society.

They are a part of [Onada Studios](#), a studio that aims to provide a platform for critical discourse on design research, futures and the creative process.