

Project 1 - Untitled

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Summary: This project was a conversational framework, wherein four people engage in a single conversation, each limited in some aspect of communication, and forced to compensate. The four people were split into two groups, two physically together, and the other 2 off in separate locations, but paired digitally in a chat interface with one of the physically present people.

Mechanic: The core mechanic was to apply constraints to how people communicate in order to explore how aspects of race, gender and personality are conveyed through non-verbal means such as body language, tone, pitch or word choice, and potentially more dynamic aspects such as the relationship of the speaker to what they're saying (are they speaking as themselves, or as a third party). The ruleset for engaging with the interaction is as follows:

Ruleset

Setup:

- 4 people, 2 physically in the same space (maybe in a dark room, obscuring vision), 2 digitally present.
- 2 text readouts, where the 2 digitally present users dictate the conversation for those physically present.

Interaction:

- Users have a conversation, with the two physically present speakers communication FOR the digitally present speakers.
- Feedback options, Digital users could:
 - hear audio of conversation,
 - receive text feedback (could be either the exact message from the other digital user, or an update from their speaker)
- Resolution: conversation ends and we ask questions about the experience afterwards.

Potential Variations:

- Cycling user's to create different relationships between physically or digitally present users
- Swap digital/physical user pairings part way through and ask users when this occurred.
- Start Point options: Either offer an initial prompt, or leave it entirely dependent on the two digital users.

Further discussion questions during class

- Should body language be masked?
- How would the conversation end? Would it be user directed, or do we provide/require an end point? Would said endpoint be time or content (they answer initial question) based?