

Small Voice

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Small Voice Installed in as part of Sonorities 2022, SARC, Belfast

This sound installation utilises the context of the climate crisis to explore how our opinions of topics can become radicalised by exposure to feedback loops of extreme views. The internet has enabled a democratisation and decentralisation of knowledge. The proliferation of online communities has created echo-chambers where our beliefs and opinions are reinforced but rarely challenged. Opaque algorithms proposition us, guiding our reading and watching, shaping our opinions in subtle and not so subtle ways. These structures magnify and reinforce prejudices through the omission of counter arguments. “Truth” in these scenarios becomes a subjective, socially constructed concept supported by misinformation and lies.

This work explores this notion of truth in the post-digital age by focusing on the unfolding climate crisis. How are our opinions formed, our concerns and fears manipulated? How can what to many is an existential crisis be to so many more a non-issue?

Through recorded interviews and existing news footage, we examine the motivations of activists and scientists who are actively involved in protesting climate change and alongside these the reaction of citizens for whom the crisis is not a major concern or who are ambivalent to it.

Taking a walk through this immersive experience you can navigate through differing opinions on climate change. The sonic landscape operates on three layers; an ever-changing enveloping natural environment; spatially fixed areas of differing climate opinion and changing headphone related sound reflecting your changing inner monologue. As you physically move to navigate the space you can simultaneously navigate the varying climate change opinions and hear how these opinions affect your whispered inner monologue.

Some documentation is available here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-99VV0Hlt_mAX92wvh01KlK2TF9pCxM3/view?usp=sharing