



The Department of Digital Systems announces the upcoming MSc seminar  
(in the context of the MSc course: "Application Development for Mobile Devices")

Presenter: Associate Professor & UH Manoa Faculty Senator Brett Oppegaard,  
School of Communications / College of Social Sciences, University of Hawaii at Manoa

### *“Audio Description in Athens: Making Locative Media in the Wild”*

**Abstract:** Media messages often get produced and evaluated outside of the intended contexts, creating a shadow understanding of their nature and power. In this interactive lecture and activity, participants will first learn the basics of locative media (or media intended for use in a particular place) and audio description, a transmodal translation process that converts visual media into audible media, primarily to benefit those who are blind or visually impaired. We will have a quick training on our research team's free and open-source web tool, [www.unidescription.org](http://www.unidescription.org), followed by a group activity, in which individuals and small teams will spread out around the University of Piraeus campus and make this area more media-accessible through practicing audio description in real contexts. This material then can be converted into a free mobile app for broad public use. After working on the project, and creating the audio description in real settings for real use, we will come back together as a group and discuss the experience, with a focus on what changes about our media-production experiences and our audiences when we are creating the work in-situ – or as artists describe it, en plein air – and also encountering that media ourselves in place.

**Brett Oppegaard**, Ph.D., an Associate Professor at the University of Hawai'i, studies medium distinctions within ubiquitous computing environments, primarily focused upon the impacts of mobile technologies. His research has been supported by U.S. federal agencies, such as the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Park Service, but also by private foundations and corporations, such as



Prof. **Brett Oppegaard**,  
University of Hawaii  
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**Time and Place:** May 29, 2018, 18:00-21:00, Auditorium 202,  
University of Piraeus, 80 Karaoli & Dimitriou Str., Piraeus

Vision Maker Media and Google. For this work, he has earned such national accolades as the National Park Service's George and Helen Hartzog Award, for research into mobile app development and media delivery systems, as well as the John Wesley Powell Prize, for outstanding achievement in the field of historical displays. His research projects include collaborations with more than 50 national park sites throughout the country, including with America's first national park, Yellowstone, and Harpers Ferry Center, the Interpretive Design Center of the federal agency. He is a faculty member in the School of Communications, within the College of Social Sciences at University of Hawai'i's flagship Mānoa campus in Honolulu, HI.