

Dr. Anthony Brooks

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Anthony Brooks

Aalborg University, Denmark

Dr. Anthony Brooks is Associate Professor and senior researcher at Aalborg University, Denmark. He is referred to as a third culture thinker and a world leading pioneer in applying digital media towards improving the lives of people of determination aimed at offering unlocking of hidden potentials. His research has been referred to as unique in (re)habilitation and has been awarded international and national awards and honours. A focus of his research is Virtual Information Space/Virtual Interactive Space (VIS) around which his over three decades of research have developed the SoundScapes system as a hybrid flexible modular system application that combines arrays of components (interfaces, mapping softwares, multimedia contents as feedback stimuli, and presentation means, to enable a mixing and matching to users individual needs so as to best achieve desired outcomes in different situations. His PhD on this subject was from the University of Sunderland, UK.

He has been steering person, organizing chair and co-chair of numerous international conferences. He is an expert reviewer for numerous international research funding foundations and has been external examiner of numerous PhDs. He has numerous international credits as visiting scholar/invited speaker. He is member of numerous international boards and committees.

Brooks' over three decades body of work titled SoundScapes has been presented globally and he has been responsible for approximately 240 publications including eleven books – specifically a three-volume book series focused on Technologies for Inclusive Well-Being. His other books, articles, papers, and chapters cover topics related to contemporary (re)habilitation including: design, interactivity, sensor technologies, games, computer-generated environments, learning, creative expression, play, innovation, human-computer-interaction, alternative realities, artificial intelligence, art and technology and more.

Under Aalborg University, since 2004, Brooks has been director/founder of the 'SensoramaLab' Complex (including Virtual Reality, HCI, Interactive Games, and Playful Learning). Since 2003 he has been a founding team-member of the 'Medialogy education' (Bsc, Msc, PhD) within which he has been section leader, lecturer, coordinator, supervisor, and study board member. Aligned, he has also been lecturer, supervisor, coordinator and study board member for the 'Art and Technology education' (BA). His volunteering has involved visiting numerous eastern European countries recruiting international students, leading to the Medialogy education growing to be the largest number of student intake numbers across three campuses.

Amongst Brooks' numerous credits are that he has been a coordination board member of the European Network for Intelligent Information Interfaces (i3net) and since 2004 has been active working for the European Commission and other international funding organizations as evaluator, rapporteur, and expert reviewer. He was also a member of the Global Education Team (GET) presenting around the world.

His research within (re)habilitation has been catalyst responsible for numerous externally funded international and national projects as well as an industry start-up company, and a family of patents.

Originating from Wales, born into a family with disabled members, at an early age he 'invented' alternative solutions for adaptive accessibility and creative 'control' of stimuli. In the 1980s he created bespoke instruments, applications, and volumetric invisible sensing systems for unencumbered gesture-control of digital media to stimulate meaningful causal interactions that could typically be tailored to individuals, their needs, preferences and desires alongside the outcome goals of facilitators, therapists, educators etc.

Brooks' art was first featured at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in 1979. More recently, he was first artist in residence at the Centre for Advanced Visualisation and Interactivity (CAVI) at Aarhus University, Denmark at the end of 1990s. Brooks has been featured at major events around the world, including the cultural events at two Olympic/Paralympics (Atlanta 1996; Sydney 2000), numerous European Cultural capital showcases, COEX Seoul, Korea in 2004, and also at underground events such as the Danish NeWave in New York city 1999. His interactive art installations have been exhibited at numerous renown Museums of Modern Art (MoMAs).

Brooks has been plenary keynote speaker at over twenty international events and he is Danish representative for UNESCO's International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) Technical committee (WG14) on "Entertainment Computing" – specifically under work groups WG14.7 "Art and Entertainment"; WG14.8 "Serious Games", and WG 14.9 "Game Accessibility". He has been active internationally as a PhD viva examiner over many years. Under the European Alliance for Innovation (EAI) he has steered the International Conference ArtsIT [Arts & Technology, Interactivity and Game Creation] since 2009 (see <http://artsit.org>). Brooks' university profile is at – <https://vbn.aau.dk/da/persons/103302> Brooks now has a vision of what he refers to as "Probably the best (re)habilitation complex in the world" posited being located at networked future smart cities where secured learning and sharing of experiences can emerge across cultures and languages and where advanced technologies are implemented toward improving wellbeing and quality-of-life potentials for people of determination and others. This vision will be presented to close Brooks' talk.