


**STORIES UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

RAY LC



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**WE EDIT STORIES FOR PURPOSE**

stories under our influence



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**STORIES TELL US ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO TELL THEM**



"taught me how to swim by throwing in water"

"have to take risks to create a business"

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**OUR STORIES COMMIT US TO PURPOSE**

stories influence us



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**STORIES TELL US ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO TELL THEM**



"taught me how to swim by throwing in water"

"never trust authority, fight for your rights"

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**WE ARE ALWAYS UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

We understand the people and devices in our world by way of stories.



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### WE ARE ALWAYS UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Stories lead to new interactions with each other and with machines.



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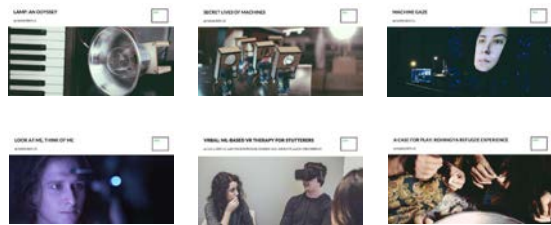
### LAMP: AN ODYSSEY

as told to RAY LC

2017



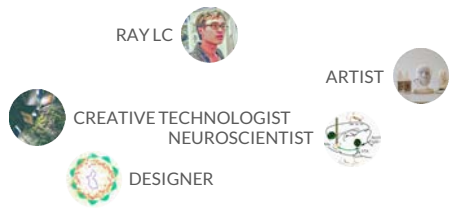
### STORIES OF HYBRID PRACTICE



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### STORIES OF HYBRID PRACTICE



China -> Los Angeles -> Tokyo -> New York / Boston

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### CURRENT USES OF MACHINE INTELLIGENCE

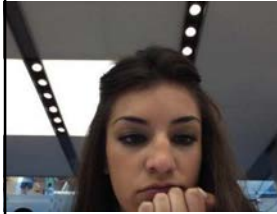


AARON mimicking Harold Cohen's style.

NSynth makes sounds from existing material.

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**MACHINES WITH AURA OF MYSTERY**

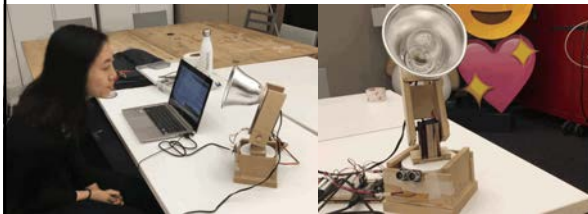


I'm not sure I understand you fully.

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**MACHINES WITH HUMAN GESTURES**



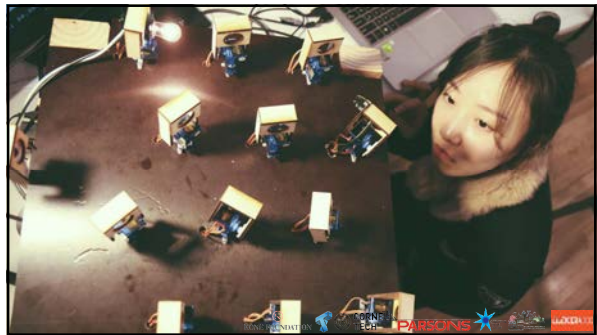
LC 2017

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**SECRET LIVES OF MACHINES**

as told to RAY LC

2017



**THE STARE: COLLECTIVE INTERACTIVITY**



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**MACHINE GAZE**

2019

as told to RAY LC

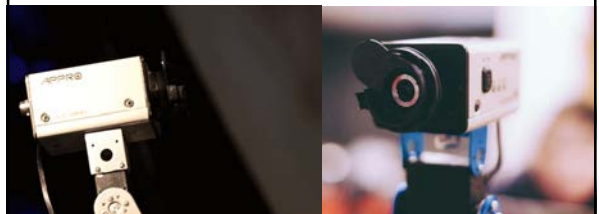


**capulets and  
montagues.**

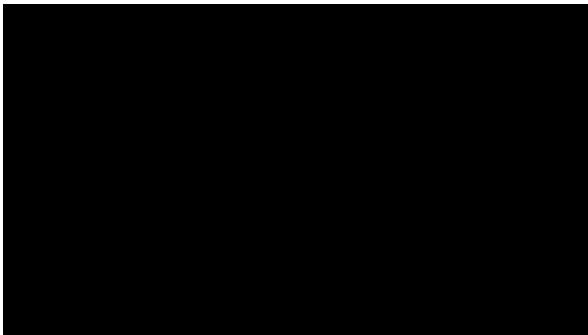
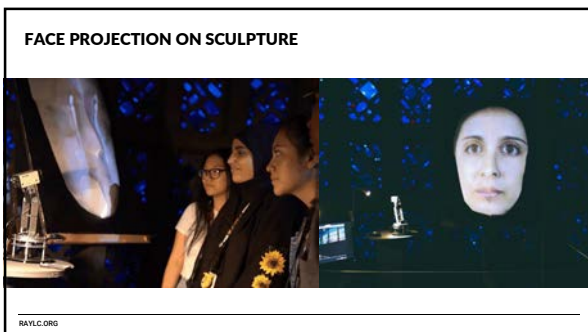
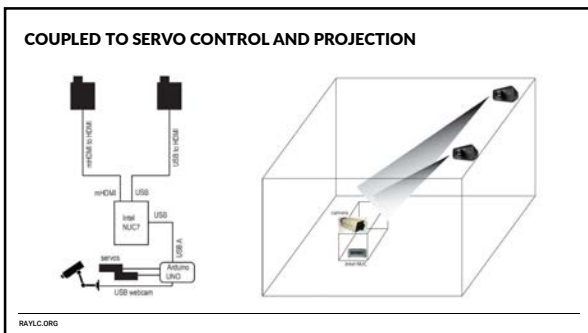
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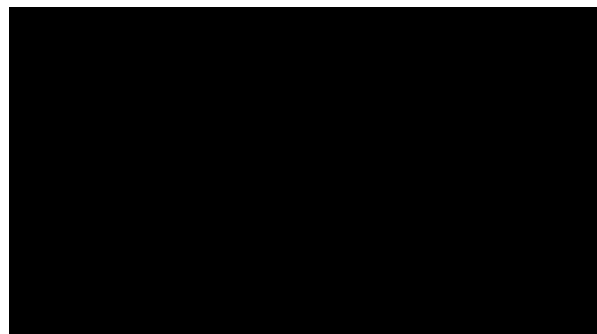
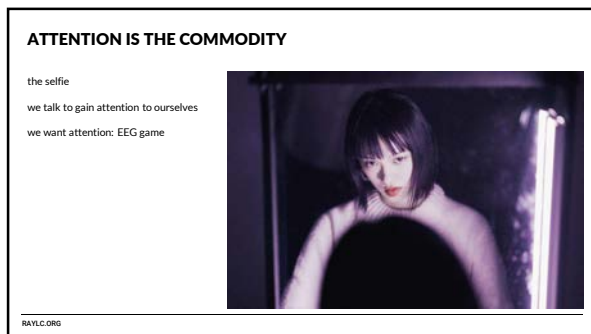
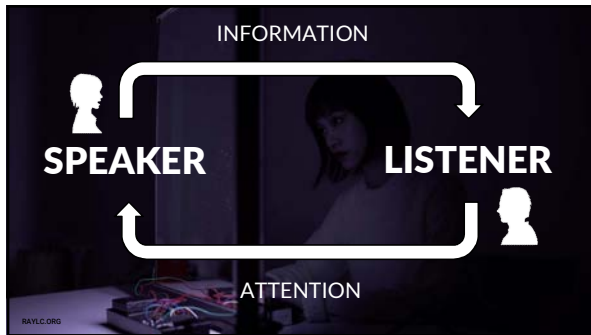


**A SURVEILLANCE CAMERA FROM THE 60s + COMPUTER VISION**



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**VRBAL: ML-BASED VR THERAPY FOR STUTTERING** 2018

as told to RAY LC, with YUKA FUKUOKA et al

**THERAPIES ARE EXPENSIVE, TIME-CONSUMING, HARD TO FIND**

what takes place here... is supposed to... mimic what happens here

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NYC MEDIA LAB | verizon | PARSONS

**SOLUTION: Virtual Reality + Machine Learning**

VR (context) Machine Learning (customized) Therapy (get better)

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**SPEECH DISORDERS ARE DEBILITATING**

social stress  
perception  
interviews / speeches / meetings  
70 million sufferers worldwide

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**USER FLOW**

```

    graph LR
      Intro[Intro Scene] --> L1[LEVEL 1]
      L1 --> L2[LEVEL 2]
      L2 --> Intro
      L1 --> L1
      L2 --> L2
      L1 --> L2
      L2 --> L1
  
```

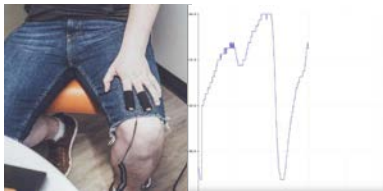
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● → ●  
 INTRO → RELAXATION




### USER TEST DETERMINING STRESS

GSR (perspiration) sensor  
 anxiety level during test  
 incorporate into ML model



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● → ● → ●  
 INTRO → RELAXATION → PRACTICE



### WEAVABLE TECH: GESTURE-BASED ANXIETY SENSORS

as told to RAY LC, with CHANEL LUU

2018




### USER TEST STUTTERERS


National Stuttering Association  
 NYC Chapter.

40 user tests.

Survey:  
 reduced anxiety by 30%  
 80% of users want to incorporate routine



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ACM Proceedings • Machine Learning and Therapeutic Strategies in VR

**Machine Learning and Therapeutic Strategies in VR**

Authors: Ray Li, Yifei Estabrook [Authors, IDs & Affiliations](#)

Publication: ARTICEE 2020: Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Digital and Interactive Arts • October 2020  
 • Article No. 43 • Pages 1–8 • <https://doi.org/10.1145/3358194.3358198>

ARTICEE 2020: Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Digital and Interactive Arts • October 2020

**ABSTRACT**  
 Cognitive behavioral therapy is one of the few treatment options for individuals suffering from psychological and physiological abnormalities like phobias, post-traumatic stress, stuttering, and anxiety. They are expensive in both cost and time, and are often difficult to



**POSITIVITY FOR SOCIAL ANXIETY**

Exposure doesn't address intrinsic motivation.  
Need implicit rewards as "relief"

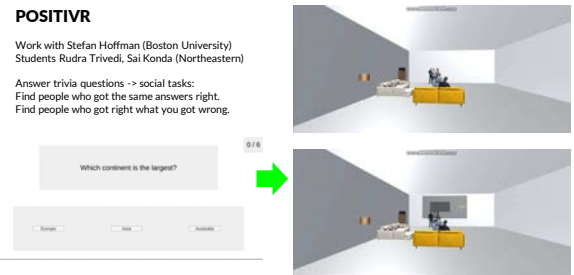


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**POSITIVR**

Work with Stefan Hoffman (Boston University)  
Students Rudra Trivedi, Sai Konda (Northeastern)

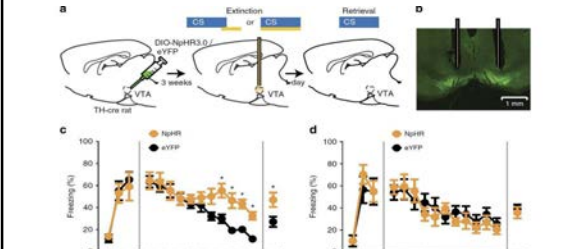
Answer trivia questions -> social tasks:  
Find people who got the same answers right.  
Find people who got right what you got wrong.



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**DOPAMINE: EXTINCTION IN POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS** 2017

as told to RAY LC and AKIRA UEMATSU, with JOSHUA JOHANSEN



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**EMPOWERED STORIES: ROHINGYA REFUGEE EXPERIENCE** 2019

as told to RAY LC, with FABEHA MONIR



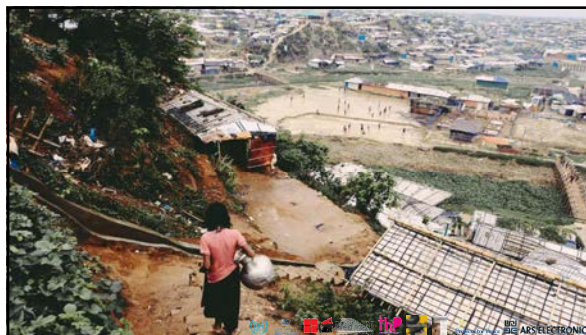
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**POSITIVITY FOR SOCIAL ANXIETY**

self-esteem games:  
pick cards, say 2 positive things  
why they should vote for you



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**FULLER PERSPECTIVE FROM DIVERSE MODES OF STORYTELLING**



**DOCUMENTARY**

Narrates the loss of child on the way from Myanmar, memory in Ramadan



**VR EXPERIENCE**

Rohingya child takes you around the camps in daily life activities



**EMPOWERMENT**

Teaching refugees how to use phone and 360 camera to record and express

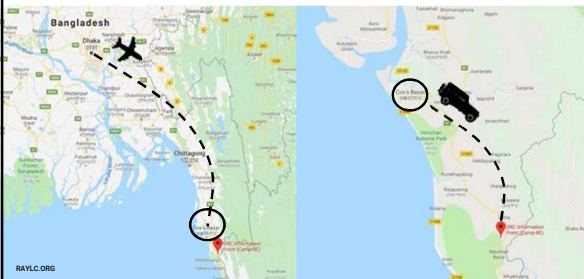
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**FACES OF ROHINGYA**



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**JOURNEY TO ROHINGYA**



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**FACES OF ROHINGYA**



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**JOURNEY TO ROHINGYA**



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**CHILDREN OF ROHINGYA**



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**REFUGEE EXPERIENCE: VR**

- static
- agenda
- hidden director/creator - objective?
- sad - according to whom?
- 2D like movie
- western music/sensibility
- frequently dubbed



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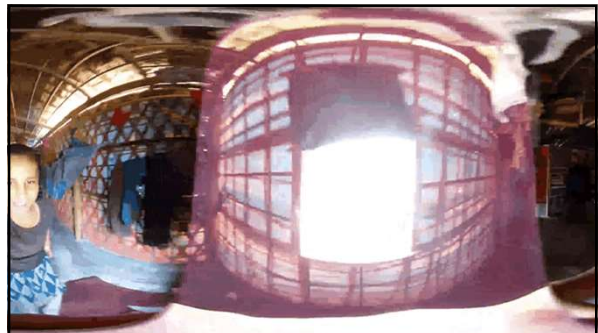


**A NEW LANGUAGE FOR A NEW MEDIUM**

- movement - perspective change
- show the auteur - subjective
- surprising sound - VR power in invisible
  
- use their own voice and sound
- subtitle the viewer not the scene
- expressive language over rendering



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RAY LC OFFICE DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

Non profits | nonprofits100-film

**Shamima: Memory In My Heart**  
 Directed By RAY LC and FABEHA  
 MONTH Run Time: 02:46

**Panama Shock**  
 Directed by Isabel De Obaldia Run Time: 04:41

**Nigerians Fight to Protect the World's Most Trafficked Mammal**  
 Directed by Katie Schuler Run Time: 09:57

**Maria Torres: Neighborhood Artist**  
 Directed By Davis Hall Run Time: 11:20

Sunday March 22 10AM  
 Producers Club 358 W 44th  
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**WHAT WE LEARNED**

frame narratives, not journalism  
 multiple projects, fuller story  
 communication by coop action

**MOVEMENT INTERACTION EXPRESSION**

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 Verizon Connected Futures

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 Anika Ullah and Fabeha Monir  
 (Rohingya Refugees Experience)  
 Yuka Fukuoka, Chanel Luu (VRbal)

**THANK YOU!**

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**WHAT WE REALLY LEARNED**

RAYLC.ORG Ameena Khatun and Family

**BEAD IT: LOW-COST WASHING CONSERVES RURAL WATER** 2017

RAY LC, with SHRISTI, WENCHI HUANG, YUJIE JIANG, and ECHO JIANG

