

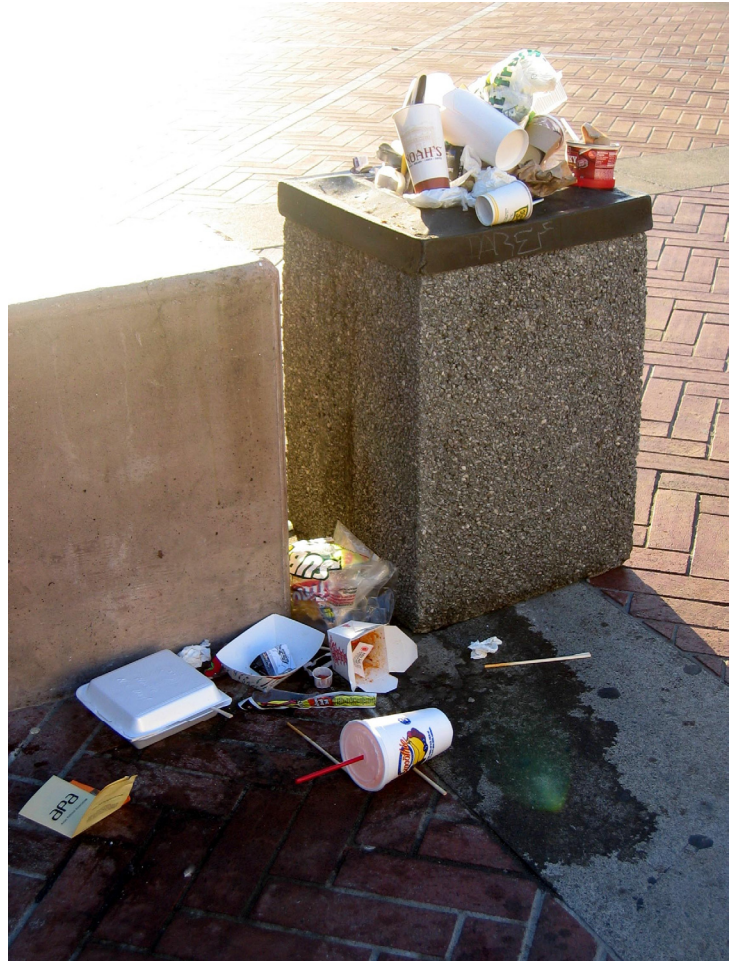
We intend to sing the love of danger, the habit of energy, and the strength of daring.
The Futurist Manifesto, 20 February 1909

This workshop aims to provoke discussion of identity at the intersection of our emerging digital networked society and the milieu of real life. This workshop card positions itself to further this discussion into our authentic urban landscape by digging deep — deep into our urban **rubbish!**

Urban life is largely composed of the movement, activities and familiar patterns of people within and across our crowded urban landscapes. There is also a curiosity, perhaps even verging on a **voyeuristic** interest in the lives of our fellow urban neighbors. As we traverse our city we share time and space with others. As we idle awaiting a bus, or navigate to our local cafe, we encounter other **strangers**. Often unconsciously we create fictitious stories about the lives of these people — that woman owns two cats, than man is a **vegan**, that child is lonely.

These people and the way they dress and behave on public city streets provide us an insight into the lives of others. Just as an **archeologist** excavates layers of debris from past civilizations to inform histories of ancient civilizations, so too can the discarded artifacts of today's urban inhabitants be used to create the rich milieu of everyday stories of urban life. In fact, we can observe these patterns by extracting the secondary traces that are left behind by the **flows** of urban inhabitants — the archaeology of public trash.

As urban places are traversed, used, experienced, and **neglected**, a pattern or trace of trash is created on the landscape. What does the type and/or amount of trash say about a place and people that frequent (or neglect) it? Can new urban computing technologies influence trash accumulation, collection, awareness? Can we observe and interpret **patterns** of usage perhaps near a public city trashcan that can reveal a larger story of the place and people that inhabit and **traverse** it? We explore these and other questions using the Urban Probes methodology.



The management and export of trash from urban centers has become big business, the last piece in a journey through conception, **design**, production, distribution, retail and consumption that finds focus in the city as a facilitator of commercial exchange and sheer scale. Often ignored or regarded as disgusting, our urban trash reveals fascinatingly rich details of urban life. Archeologists have long known that amazingly detailed images of life within an ancient **civilization** can be revealed by examining its trash. Trash is truth. While Americans report their "real" dietary patterns in surveys and interviews, the truth is actually revealed by examining the rubbish they leave behind. The Garbology Project in the archaeology department at the University of Arizona has been measuring urban trends over the past 30 years by excavating and evaluating over 150 tons of trash across American cities. The Urban Probe, Rubbish, explores urban **public** trash, its meaning, patterns, and usage, as it manifests itself in cities. Through this probe we uncover new opportunities for technology to emerge in such urban landscapes and further connect to our **emotional** experience of living in cities. The claim is that by looking into the **minutiae** of our own traces of publicly discarded city debris, we can formulate some notion of collective urban **identity** across urban landscapes.

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