

Dear Faculty Search Committee,

I would like to firmly express my interest in the Climate Change and Environment. My research concerns the use of digital technology for studying animals and their natural environments. While my work is not directly about climate change, I have worked with many climate change scientists in the field. My methods, of studying the behavioral changes of creatures and environments from within, also offer unique views of climate change compared to many traditional, macro-scale perspectives.

In my early work, I found the disciplinary segregation between science, engineering, and design to be a stifling impediment to all three. I quit my job running a robotics lab to look for new ways to work directly *with* the scientists we were supporting, and this became the focus of my PhD. I call my work, Digital Naturalism.

I look for ways to use the unique, new affordances of digital technology to engage with other living creatures in their natural environments. This research moves unrelentingly marches between many fields in a hunt for novel information, applications, and experiences. My work has wrestled with theoretical conundrums alongside real-world danger. I hunt for aesthetics of practical design while confronted with the intractable beauty of nature.

I have fearlessly infiltrated a wide variety of research communities to share and analyse my work. I infiltrated between conferences, workshops, and expeditions with Media theorists, performance artists, biologists, activists, sexologists, computer scientists, and engineers, which rarely afford the luxury of familiar faces. I lead massively interdisciplinary teams on excursions around the world, and acquire my own funding to do so.

These activities not only sharpen my research, but also cultivate a broad web of connections. I am now looking for a place to give this community a home. I seek a headquarters from which I can foster Digital Naturalism's development.

I would love the opportunity to join your team and forge new collaborations for exploring and understanding the natural world. I want to harness the human and technological resources available at the Media lab. At the same time, I want to share my opportunities to explore the wilderness with other researchers and students of Digital Media. I would utilize the hard-fought connections I developed over my PhD with places like the Smithsonian and the Cal Academy of Sciences, to grant our team access to unique areas of the world.

MIT could provide an opportune platform for leading unprecedented education and research at this frontier of new media expression and the untamed wild. Thank you for your time, and hopefully we will be able to continue these conversations about digital interactions and nature soon.

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