# INVESTIGATING ROLLENWAHRNEHMUNG, PERSPECTIVE AND SPACE THROUGH VIRTUAL REALITY RELATED GAME INTERFACES

DR. DANIEL P. O. WIEDEMANN

Dedicated to my parents Maria Elisabeth Wiedemann & Otto Allgaier We do not stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing! - Benjamin Franklin

Unfortunately, no one can be told what the Matrix is. You have to see it for yourself. - *Morpheus. The Matrix* (1999) For me, the cool thing is doing things that could only be done in gaming.

- Warren Spector

Immersion: The pleasurable surrender of the mind to an imaginative world ...

*– Janet H. Murray. Hamlet on the Holodeck: The Future of Narrative in Cyberspace* (1997)

# ABSTRACT

This thesis describes my explorations and investigative reflections on *Rollenwahrnehmung* (a newly coined phrase meaning role perception/fulfillment), *Perspective* and *Space* through *Virtual Reality (VR)* game interfaces.

Throughout this narrative, a number of important topics, relating to my thesis, will be addressed, like the creation of new experiences in the context of *VR*, the extension and new development of various interaction paradigms, various *User Experience* aspects and user guidance in a sophisticated new medium.

My research, placed in the field of design practice, focuses digital gaming the creation of artifacts. while on insights and auidelines extrapolating concerning VR interfaces. Both closely intertwined strands will be discussed narrative context of investigating the user's in the Rollenwahrnehmung, Perspective and Space.

The thesis describes practice-based research derived from a portfolio of specifically developed interactive artifacts, following the methodological approach of *Constructive Design Research (CDR)*. These include the games *Nicely Dicely, LizzE – And the Light of Dreams* and *Gooze*. They were used for user testing sessions during various *Lab* experiments and *Showroom* presentations (components of the *CDR* approach), while continually being refined throughout an iterative process.

*Nicely Dicely* is an abstract game based on physics. In *Local Multiplayer,* up to four players are able to compete or collaborate. It is not a *VR* game per se, but features both, *Monoscopic* and *3D Stereoscopic Vision* modes. As the latter

is an important aspect of VR, this game was used to primarily investigate if 3D Stereoscopic Vision increases Player Immersion, even in a possibly distracting Local Multiplayer game. Among further insights, the results confirmed that Player Immersion is increased when using a 3D Stereoscopic Presentation compared to a Non-3D Monoscopic one.

LizzE – And the Light of Dreams is a Singleplayer 3<sup>rd</sup> Person Hack and Slay game based in a fantasy universe. The game basics were previously developed and further extended during this research. In an experiment, the game was used to primarily investigate in which ways 3<sup>rd</sup> Person VR games can work for a broad audience. Five different 3<sup>rd</sup> Person camera behavior modes were tested for their Player Enjoyment and Support of Gameplay, while closely looking at their influence on Simulator Sickness. The results led to using a default camera behavior based on the Buffered Pulling approach but providing users with the option to switch to a behavior based on the Blink Circling approach instead.

Gooze is a 1st Person VR puzzle game, taking place in a realistic horror environment with supernatural aspects. It was designed with diverse VR interaction technologies in mind and offers users different options to play the game, depending on available hardware and preferences. In an experiment, the game was used to primarily investigate how three different interaction setups and their underlying Locomotion and Virtual Object Interaction mechanics affected several User Experience (UX) aspects like: Player Enjoyment, Support of Gameplay, Simulator Sickness and Presence, with the latter being subdivided into the four sub-Presence, parameters: General Spatial Presence. Involvement and Experienced Realism. The results led to a comparison of individual advantages detailed and

disadvantages of the assessed interaction modes and their mechanics.

The research is reported in three sections, one per artifact. Each section gives an overview of the artifact and documents its mechanics, style, content, feature set and discusses its design and development process. Furthermore, each section elaborates on the *Lab* and *Showroom* user studies that have been undertaken and their outcomes.

In summary, this thesis in combination with the portfolio of games, contribute to knowledge by providing three unique documented artifacts, illustrating various and game, interface and VR designs, extending the CDR approach to VR game development and informing the emerging field of the relationship between UX, interfaces and gameplay. Each single artifact and the whole collection can be used as a design and development precedent for practice and academia. Furthermore, guidelines for designing and developing specific aspects of VR games were identified, the experience related term of *Rollenwahrnehmung* was established in the area of VR, a Hybrid Journaling Technique was developed, using versioning commits for design reflection and an extension of *Constructive Design Research* to the field of digital games creation was undertaken. Additionally, this thesis offers a reflected rationale of different VR game interfaces affecting Rollenwahrnehmung, Perspective and Space. Eventually, it further provides an outlook on possible areas for future research, related to the overall study in a more general sense and more specific to individual artifacts and corresponding studies.

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My girlfriend **Katalin Klänhardt,** I thank with all my heart for her patience, motivation, participation and helping love.

# **CITATION STYLE**

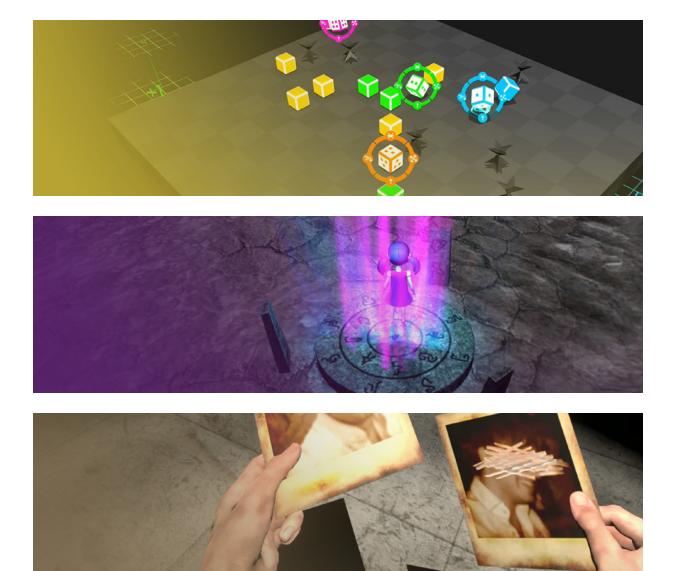
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A.3 AAA - Triple A

A.4 AHRC - Arts and Humanities Research Council

A.5 AI - Artificial Intelligence

A.6 AMOLED - Active-Matrix Organic Light-Emitting Diode

**A.7 ANOVA - Analysis of Variance** 

**A.8 API - Application Programming Interface** 

A.9 AR - Augmented Reality

A.10 Artifact

A.11 Break-in-Presence

A.12 CCP

A.13 CDR - Constructive Design Research

A.14 Character

A.15 CHI PLAY

A.16 CHT - Controllerless Hand Tracking

A.17 Component - Unity

A.18 Constellation Tracking - Oculus

A.19 CPU - Central Processing Unit

A.20 CV1 - Oculus Rift Consumer Version 1

A.21 DK1 - Oculus Rift Development Kit 1

A.22 DK2 - Oculus Rift Development Kit 2

A.23 DPS - Design Practice Stream

A.24 EEG - Electroencephalogram

**A.25 Experience** 

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**A.27 FIVE - Framework for Immersive Virtual Environments** 

**A.28 Flow** 

A.29 FOV - Field of View

A.30 FPS - First Person Shooter

A.31 FPS - Frames per Second

A.32 G - General Presence

A.33 Game

A.34 Gamepad

A.35 GPU - Graphics Processing Unit

A.36 GUI - Graphical User Interface

A.37 GUID - Globally Unique Identifier

A.38 Hack and Slay

**A.39 HCI - Human Computer Interaction** 

A.40 HDK - Hacker Development Kit

A.41 HDMI - High-Definition Multimedia Interface

A.42 HMD - Head Mounted Display

A.43 HTC

A.44 HUD - Head-up-Display

A.45 IDE - Integrated Development Environment

**A.46 IDEO** 

A.47 Immersion

A.48 IMU - Inertial Measurement Unit

A.49 Inside-Out Tracking

A.50 Interface

A.51 INV - Involvement

**A.52 IPD - Inter-Pupillary Distance** 

A.53 IPQ - igroup Presence Questionnaire

A.54 IQR - Inter-Quartile Range

A.55 IR - Infrared

**A.56 ISO - International Organization for Standardization** 

A.57 Kurtosis

**A.58 Lab** 

A.59 LCD - Liquid-Crystal Display

A.60 LED - Light-Emitting Diode

A.61 Lighthouse Tracking - Steam VR

A.62 LOC - Locomotion

A.63 LOD - Level of Detail

A.64 M - Joystick with a Monitor

A.65 MDX - Middlesex University London

A.66 Mechanic

A.67 MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

A.68 Monoscopy

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A.70 MPhil - Master of Philosophy

A.71 MR - Mixed Reality

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**A.75 OASIS - Ontologically Anthropocentric Sensory Immersive Sim.** 

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A.77 ONSP - Oculus Native Spatializer Plugin

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A.81 PC - Personal Computer

**A.82 PCIe - Peripheral Component** Interconnect Express

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A.93 REAL - Experienced Realism

A.94 Rollenwahrnehmung

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A.97 RSS - Rich Site Summary

A.98 RW - Real Walking

A.99 SBS - Side by Side

A.100 SD - Standard Deviation

A.101 SDK - Software Development Kit

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A.109 SP - Spatial Presence

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A.112 STHC - Spatially Tracked Hand Controller

A.113 Treadmill - Omnidirectional Treadmill

A.114 TSV - Tab Separated Values

A.115 TV - Television

A.116 UI - User Interface

A.117 USB - Universal Serial Bus

A.118 UX - User Experience

A.119 VE - Virtual Environment

A.120 Virtual Camera

A.121 VOI - Virtual Object Interaction

A.122 VR - Virtual Reality

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A.124 VW3 - Virtual Walking using Three-Degrees-of-Freedom Tracking

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