

@ Emergent Futures | New Around the World | What Are We Writing About

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*Extra links that we couldn't fit in this month's newsletter...*



## What's Emerging

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### Researchers create 'sound bullets': Highly focused acoustic pulses could be used as sonic scalpels and more

The acoustic lens and its sound have "the potential to revolutionise applications from medical imaging and therapy to the non-destructive evaluation of materials and engineering systems," says Chiara Daraio, assistant professor of aeronautics and applied physics at Caltech and corresponding author of a recent paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. [Read more...](#)

### Bright future projected for hand-held games

Zi Ye and Hammad Khalid of the Human Media Lab at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, have devised a way of using a shoulder-mounted projector system to display - and play - a game on a bendy A4-sized sliver of plastic. Sensors in the screen allow gameplay to be controlled by bending, shaking or tapping it. [Read more...](#)

### Modified viruses 'can destroy cancer cells'

Development could lead to treatments tailored to different diseases, say research groups. [Read more...](#)

### Union square, spark capital double tumblr's funding to \$10 million

Tumblr recently surpassed the 4 million registered users milestone, and founder David Karp (23) tells MediaMemo that the service is now generating 1 billion page views a month, up from 2 million Tumblr bloggers and 420 million monthly impressions half a year ago. Paul Higgins: We love Tumblr you can see our site at [www.emergentfutures.tumblr.com](http://www.emergentfutures.tumblr.com). [Read more...](#)

### Microbial life found in Hydrocarbon Lake

Scientist find life in a lake of asphalt that is the closest thing on Earth to the hydrocarbon seas on Titan. [Read more...](#)

### IBM breakthrough means it's a nanoscale world after all

It's a nanoscale 3D world after all. IBM researchers have produced a breakthrough technique that allows scientists to create nanoscale objects. The first mission was to produce the smallest 3D map of the world ever. [Read more...](#)

### First direct recording made of mirror neurons in human brain

Mirror neurons, many say, are what make us human. They are the cells in the brain that fire not only when we perform a particular action but also when we watch someone else perform that same action. [Read more...](#)

**Jae Kim: The page**

The page is a prototype ereader concept by designer jae kim that uses a semi-transparent e-ink screen to display image and text. The project aims to find a more appropriate way to interact with newspapers in a digital context. For starters the e reader folds into segments much like newsprint, allowing it to be spread out on a table, or folded up neatly on the train. [Read more...](#)

### **Dairy accounts for 4pc of global GHG emissions**

The dairy sector accounts for around four per cent of all global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), according to a new United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report. [Read more...](#)

### **Whoops -- Facebook is once again overhyped**

A really good post on revenues of some of the larger internet based businesses – well worth a look just for the graphic information. [Read more...](#)

### **Scientists make cancer cells vanish**

Scottish scientists have made cancer tumours vanish within 10 days by sending DNA to seek and destroy the cells. [Read more...](#)

### **Carbon nanotube research could lead to bionic sense of touch**

"Our goal is to use our discovery to mimic nature's design using artificial sensors to effectively restore a person's ability to sense objects and temperatures," said Ilia Ivanov, a researcher in the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences Division. [Read more...](#)

### **Power and moral hypocrisy**

**Paul Higgins: Interesting post from Don Ariely on changes in moral stances depending on how much power a person has. One has to be careful extrapolating these sort of experiments into real life but this appears to resonate with what we see:** The researchers found that compared to participants without power, powerful participants were stricter in judging others' moral transgressions but more lenient in judging their own: "power increases hypocrisy, meaning that the powerful show a greater discrepancy between what they practice and what they preach." [Read more...](#)

### **French town to Power Street lights via energy-absorbing sidewalk**

Inspired by a nightclub in Rotterdam, Netherlands, the city is investigating the installation of energy-absorbing sidewalk panels that would harvest the energy of passerby to power power street lights. [Read more...](#)

### **AdMob report: One third of Android phones account for 96 percent of traffic, Motorola Droid takes the lead**

Mobile Ad Network AdMob has released its monthly mobile metrics report for March, which takes a close look at Android OS traffic. In AdMob's network in March 2010, 11 devices accounted for 96 percent of Android traffic, up from two devices in September 2009. [Read more...](#)

### **Vator**

The place for emerging companies to showcase and market themselves, and share their news. [Read more...](#)

### **Taking the iPad on its national journey**

NEWS Limited's national masthead The Australian is believed to be the first newspaper in Australia to sign-up lucrative advertising packages for the iPad, which is expected to garner \$1 million in the next few weeks. [Read more...](#)

### **Brain-like computing on an organic molecular layer**

Information processing circuits in digital computers are static. In our brains, information processing circuits -- neurons -- evolve continuously to solve complex problems. Now, an international research team from Japan and Michigan Technological University has created a similar process of circuit evolution in an organic molecular layer that can solve complex problems. [Read more...](#)

### **When will we be able to build brains like ours?**

Sooner than you think -- and the race has lately caused a 'catfight' [Read more...](#)

### **Volkswagen asks developers to design next-gen. infotainment systems**

Volkswagen is taking a page from the Apple playbook by inviting software developers to help shape the face of the automaker's infotainment systems. The German manufacturer is holding an "App My Ride" contest where anyone can submit an application that they think would work well in future VW products. [Read more...](#)

### **'Tissue paper' could stop bullets, harness solar energy**

Who wouldn't want a shirt that could stop a bullet and power your iPod? A new fabric can do just that. [Read more...](#)

### **Statistics researchers predict road traffic conditions**

IBM Traffic Prediction Tool is a statistical model for the near-term prediction of traffic conditions. TPT was developed at IBM and has been tested in Singapore, where the Land Transport Authority is working with IBM and others to develop technology that will provide one-hour traffic predictions. [Read more...](#)

### **Why Twitter is the future of news**

An unprecedented analysis reveals that the micro-blogging service is remarkably effective at spreading "important" information. [Read more...](#)

### **You are your bacteria**

Variation in our microbial inhabitants could help tailor efforts to treat illness. [Read more...](#)

### **Google updates Google Goggles app with language translation**

For those of you planning on going abroad this summer with your Android-based smartphone, there will be another tool at your disposal should you have some issues with the local language. Google has updated their Google Goggles application to version 1.1, adding on a language translator tool if you're afraid of ordering something scary on the menu that you can't understand. [Read more...](#)

### **Maptor**

Maptor is this wonderful combination of a map and projector that (predictably) projects the desired map onto any surface. Palm of the hand, floor, and walls included. What I really fancy about it, is its size. Small enough to pass off as a lipstick, the device is discreet enough for you to quickly hop into a quiet corner, check for directions and make your way forth. All this without anyone knowing that you are lost or need help! [Read more...](#)

### **IBM plans 'serious' sim city**

Big Blue to roll out gaming platform that aims to help planners better manage urban environments. [Read more...](#)

### **Streetcars are making a comeback**

Thanks to a small transformation in federal transportation policy since Obama took office, cities around the USA are looking at the real possibility of creating new streetcar lines within the next year or two. [Read more...](#)

### **An urban gaming accessory for your iPhone/iPod**

Canadian Film's Interactive Arts and Entertainment Program designers Kathleen Climie, Rose Bianchini and David McCallum have created Neighbourhoodie, which merges physical street games with online games. [Read more...](#)

### **The new face of start-ups is a senior citizen**

According to recent research, these days those 55 and over are more likely than young people to be starting businesses, says Professor Scott Shane, writing in BusinessWeek. [Read more...](#)

### **Queue watch**

Queue Watch is designed to provide you with timely information to plan your visit to medical clinics. It has web camera feeds from all of the clinics involved all over Singapore and you can look up the current number of people waiting to make a decision if and where to go. [Read more...](#)

### **Blood glucose meter attaches to Nintendo DS**

Bayer introduced a blood glucose meter called the Didget, which connects to the Nintendo DS "to help kids manage their diabetes by positively reinforcing consistent blood glucose testing habits and awarding points that kids can use to unlock new game levels and customize their gaming experience. It comes with Knock 'Em Downs: World's Fair that includes a full length adventure game and mini game arcade." [Read more...](#)

### **Electricity-generating shock absorbers**

Levant Power saves fuel by turning road shocks and vibrations into electricity.. [Read more...](#)

### **Reading on iPad before bed can affect sleep habits**

The issue is the amount of emitted light. [Read more...](#)