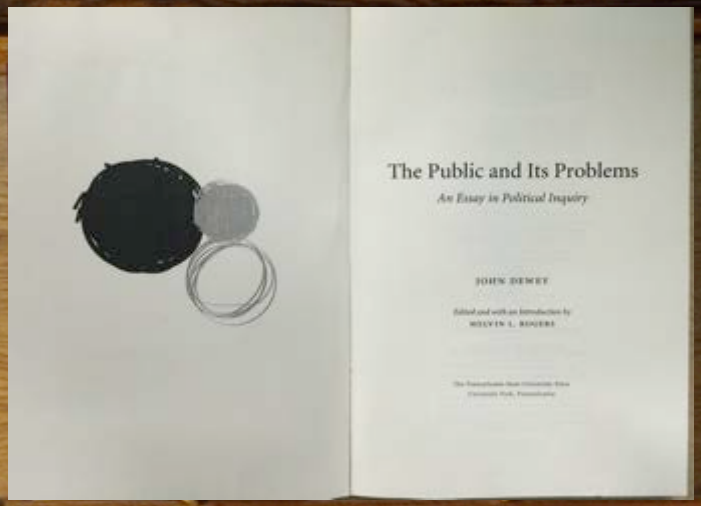
#deweyorgan
2005
10
2015
Arts & Humanities
Research Council

THE DEWEY ORGAN

#deweyorgan



The Public and Its Problems

An Essay in Political Inquiry

JOHN DEWEY

Edited and with an introduction by
MELVIN L. ROGERS

Salisbury Cathedral Organ

Piston Allocations

Research Team

Principle Investigator: Dr Kat Jungnickel, Lecturer, Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London

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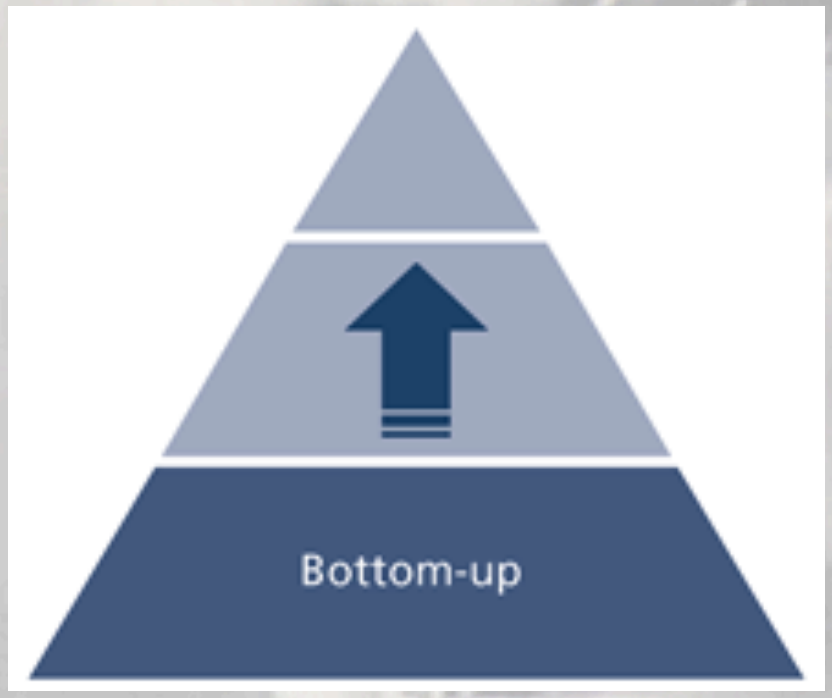
Because *an* individual can be disassociated from this, that and other grouping, since he need not be married, or be a church-member or a voter, or belong to a club or scientific organization, there grows up in the mind an image of residual individual who is not a member of any association at all**. From this premise, and from this only, there develops the unreal question of how individuals come to be united in societies and groups: *the* individual and *the* social are now opposed to each other, and there is the problem of "reconciling" them. Meanwhile, the genuine problem is that of adjusting groups and individuals to one another.**

John Dewey, *The Public and It's Problems*, 1927

Authentic communities, publics, or “Poleis,” are not “in-formed” by those issues that are dictated to them, nor the simple administrative co-ordination of those “residual” individuals who populate them, but rather instinctively coalesce around those particular problems and issues that concern them.


Bottom-up

Top-
down

How do problems come into being?

Who makes/defines them?

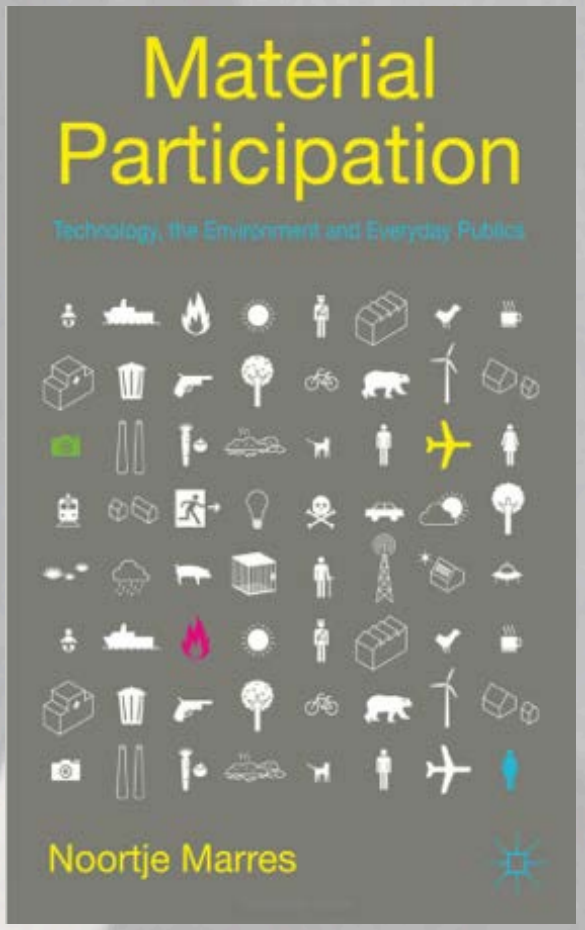
How do they emerge? What do they do?

So often we are told what is considered a problem in our area? We are then told about policies that are designed to solve these problems. But we don't always know who had these problems in the first place? Who said they were problems? Did they arise from a series of issues? Whose? And whose problems didn't make the cut? Which ones weren't considered problematic enough?

We are interested in asking these kinds of questions about problems. **We are querying not only where problems come from but also the mechanisms of how they are made**. Also, so often problems look neat and smooth – as if we are all in total agreement, when the reality and actual experience is usually a lot messier, conflicted and controversial. We are interested in the systems through which things are turned into problems because they are rarely transparent or easily trace-able processes

Noortje Marres

Material Participation: technology, the environment, and everyday publics



Noortje Marres

Issues Spark a Public into Being:
A key but often forgotten point of the Lippmann-Dewey debate

Enquiry Machines

Textile Futures Research Centre

Uncategorized

Is The Toddler Ready for University Personal life?

Ania

It seems like the other day, it absolutely was an incredible spring season day, I found myself relaxing in mother or father orientation for my oldest kid, who was before long headed off to her Freshman year or so of university or college. Display forward to right away I am now being seated on this site dreading her

Conference

Making Research/ Researching Making Conference

Bridget Harvey

TFRC and TED PhD researcher Bridget Harvey recently presented a paper at the Making Research/ Researching Making conference in Aarhus, Denmark. (more…)

Event

Breaking Patterns

TFRC

On Friday, 18 September,

Twitter

#UrbanFabric @annemarrwords: socio-responsive textiles empathise with city experiences+promote local ownership http://t.co/akHSbEEW6q 02:13 PM Jul 28

Students adopt a 'build-to-think' approach to realise conceptual design ideas using #TheTEN @TEDTextiles strategies.

Problem Making Machine

Search

The Dewey

The Dewey Organ

Edit profile

19 Boards | 105 Pins | 0 Likes | 1 Follower | 1 Following

Create a board

New ways of seeing

Edit

(Ministerial) Cabinets

Edit

Tinguely

Edit

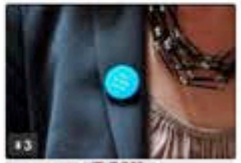
Landy - Saints Alive

Edit

Textile Materials

Edit

Kimbell - Physical Bar Chart



Edit

Institute of Backyard Studie...

Edit

Enquiry Machines

Edit

Organs and Instruments

Edit

Other Cycling and Hactivist...

Edit

Green - Forgiveness Machine

Edit

Embodied Cognition - Parti...

Edit

instruments

Edit

Bike+ sewing machine

Edit

labels

Edit

Dr Seuss machines

Edit

Organs

Edit

Weaving Machines

Edit

Mobile sewingcompany

Edit

Keep some boards secret—only you (and people you invite) can see these boards. **Learn more**

Dewey Organ Workbook

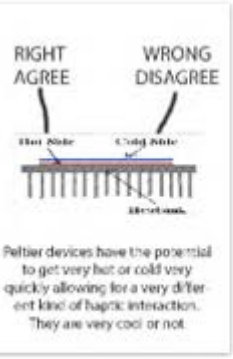
1

2

3

4

5



Peltier devices have the potential to get very hot or cold very quickly allowing for a very different kind of haptic interaction. They are very cool or not

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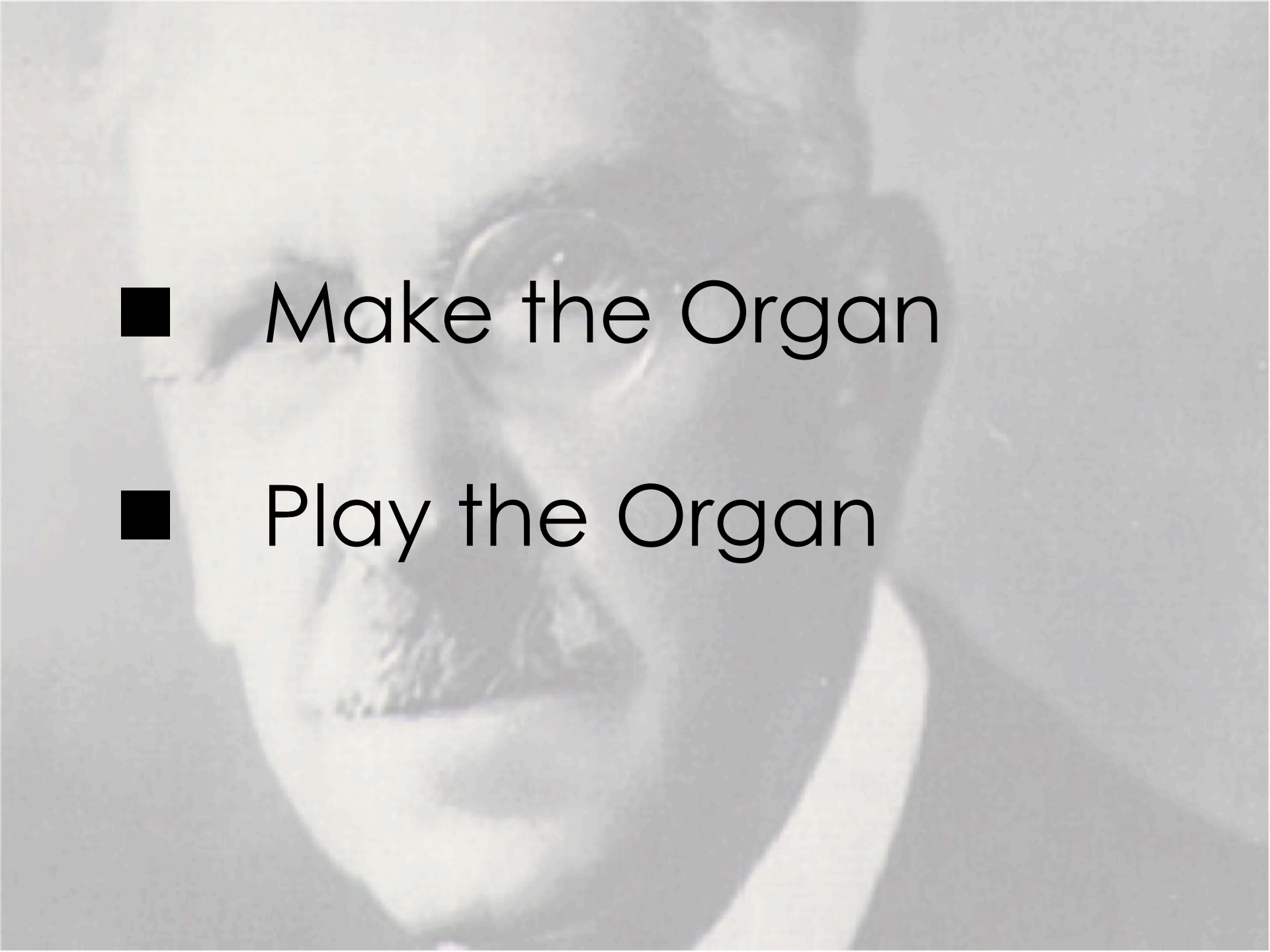


- Make the Organ
- Play the Organ

Why make a machine?

Problems require work

> Problems don't just emerge – they come from issues, they often require physical or social labour, often both. We want to render visible the interactivity of problem making – the labour involved

Problems are inherently social, embodied/participatory – you can't do it alone.

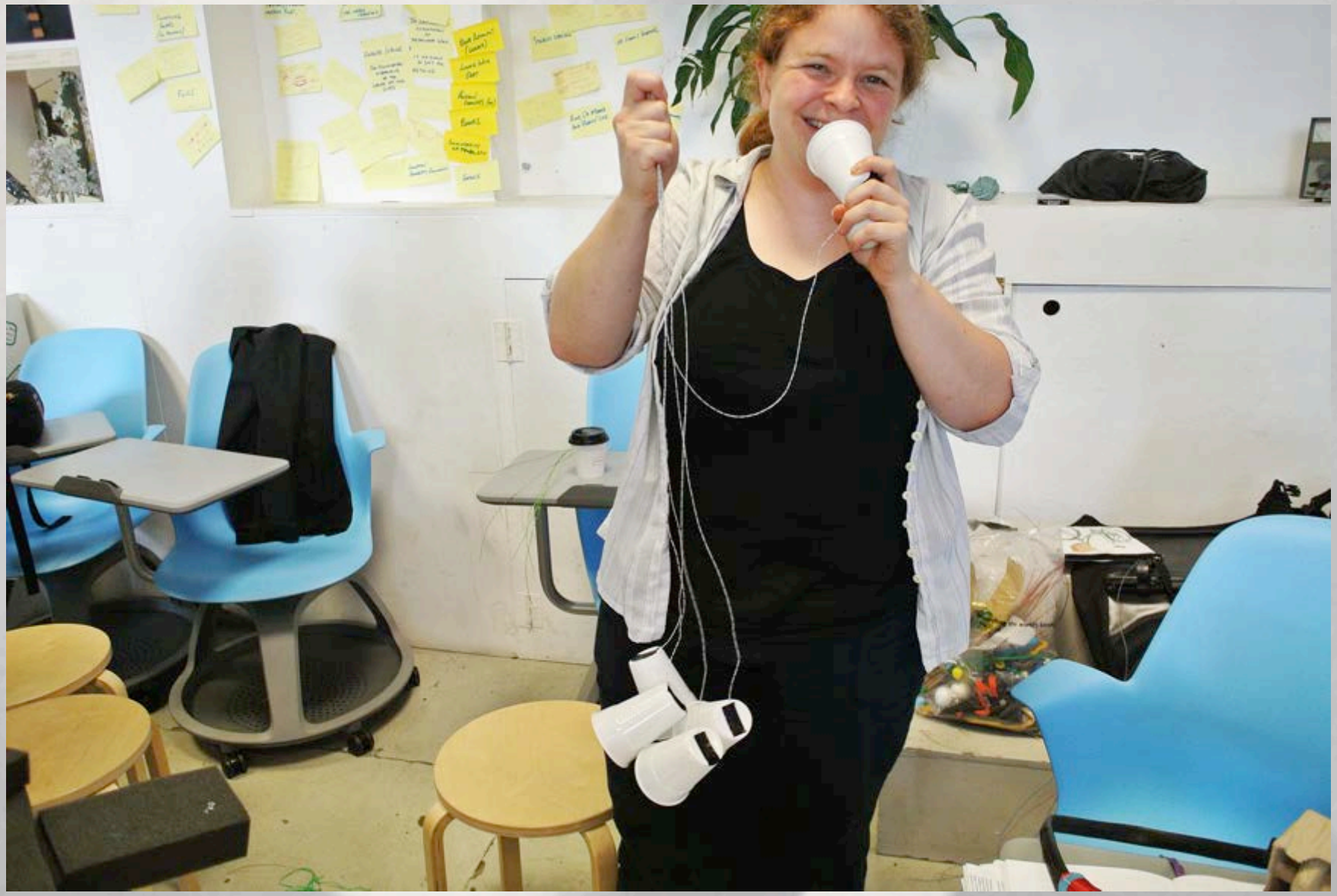
> We are interested in what kinds of groups and publics arise from different kinds of problems or how they themselves produce problems?

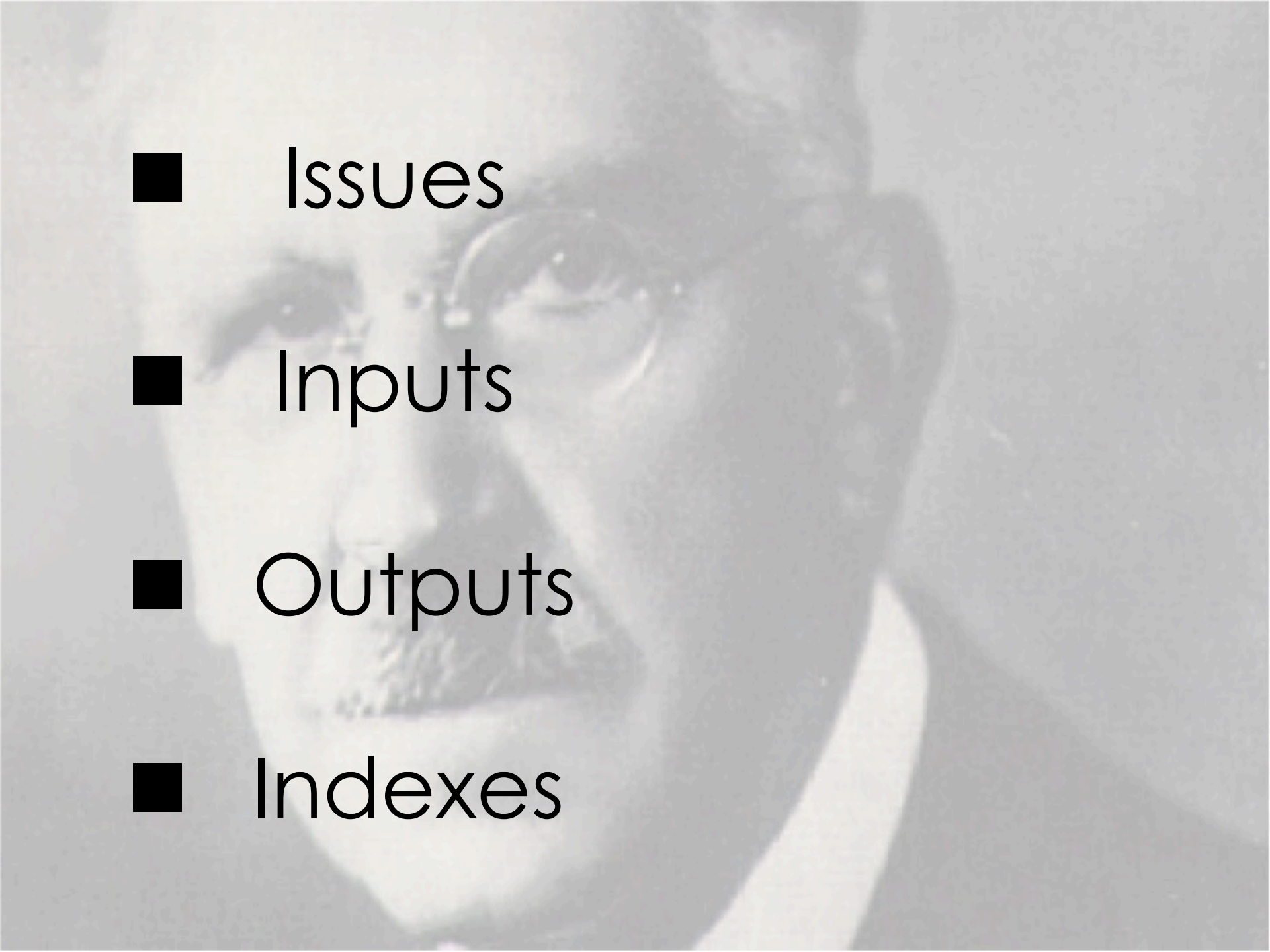
Problems can feel abstract and distant to everyday life. In materialising them, inviting people into a closer engagement with them, we think it might open up new ways of thinking about, interacting with and talking about problems and the infrastructures behind them

MAKERVERSITY

OLD POST ROOM

PETITION BAG





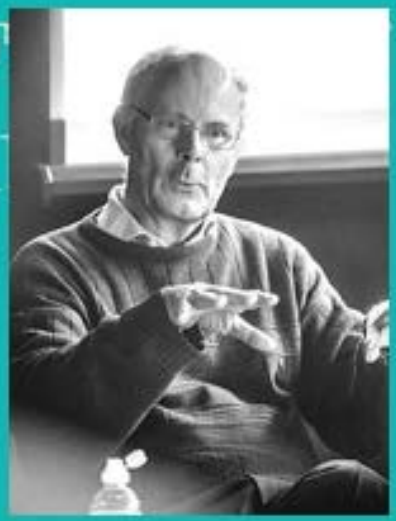
- Issues
- Inputs
- Outputs
- Indexes

YARD

#DEWEYORGAN
#ARTS&CULTURE
#ENVIRONMENT
#CARE
#TECH
#ECONOMY

imagiNation

HOME BOOK TICKETS PROGRAMME ABOUT US More



GOVANHILL BATHS
NOTICEBOARD
LOTTERY FUNDED
#DEWEYORGAN
HEAVEN

#DEWEY ORGAN
MAKING PROBLEMS & PUBLICS
#WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?
#MAKE A PROBLEM
#SHARE A PROBLEM
#WEAR A PROBLEM
#SHOW A PROBLEM

#DEWEYORGAN
#ARTS&CULTURE
#ENVIRONMENT
#CARE
#TECH
#ECONOMY

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#SHOW A PROBLEM

#SHARE A PROBLEM
#WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?
KLMNP
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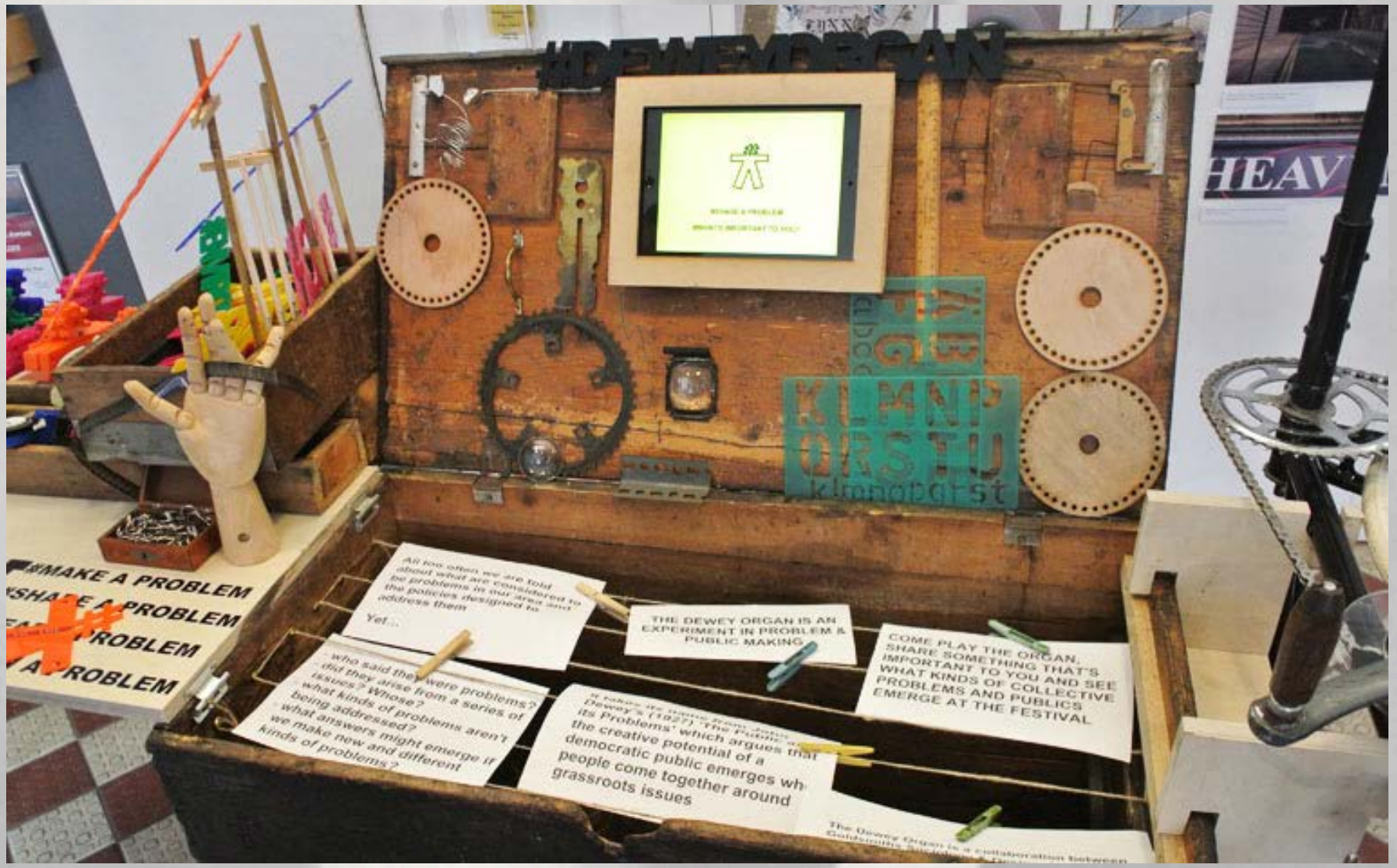
#DEWEYORGAN
MAKE A PROBLEM
SHARE A PROBLEM
ROBLEM
A ROBLEM
All too often we are told about what are considered to be problems in our area and the policies designed to address them
Yet ...
who said there were problems? did they arise from a series of issues? Whose? what kinds of problems aren't being addressed? what answers might emerge if we make new and different kinds of problems?
THE DEWEY ORGAN IS AN EXPERIMENT IN PROBLEM & PUBLIC MAKING
its Problems' which argues that the creative potential of a democratic public emerges wh people come together around grassroots issues
COME PLAY THE ORGAN. SHARE SOMETHING THAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU AND SEE WHAT KINDS OF COLLECTIVE PROBLEMS AND PUBLICS EMERGE AT THE FESTIVAL

#MAKE A PROBLEM
#SHARE A PROBLEM
#WEAR A PROBLEM
#SHOW A PROBLEM

PUBL
NT TO YO

#DEWEYORGAN
#ARTSECULTURE
CULTURE
#TECH

#PROTOPUBLICS
#ALTS&CULTURE
#ECONOMY

Overall we were pleased with the machine and its initial outcomes. One of the aims of the project was to materially engage with the process of making problems and participants commented about the tactility of the materials we chose. There was lots of positive feedback about the Dymo labellers and also the colourful hashtag figures. These objects operated to attract people's attention, which then sparked richer, deeper conversations about macro issues. Although it was only a small sample, we were also struck by the nature of the problems people posed – by far there was an abundance of care oriented concerns in all categories. It would be interesting to play the organ again, in different contexts, and with more specific themes that people could response to and intervene in.