# PROBOSCIS: PRIVATE REVERIES, PUBLIC SPACES
# PROPOSALS BRIEF

Technology is changing our relationship to each other in private and public spaces.
**PRIVATE REVERIES, PUBLIC SPACES** aims to stimulate public debate and discussion around the impact of new technologies on people's lives as private citizens in social spaces. In particular it aims to address the implications of 'convergence' — what might it be and how might it affect us.

The use of technologies such as mobile phones is dramatically altering social relations in ways that are difficult to gauge with any clarity. **PRPS** aims to commission a series of proposals (of which three will be taken forward to a 'conceptual prototype' stage) that explore the phenomena of such change, and propose cultural interventions using or misusing convergent technologies to bring these issues into the public arena.

**PRPS** is a project developed by Proboscis as part of its **SoMa: social matrices** research programme, a partnership between Proboscis, the **Royal College of Art** and the **London School of Economics**. SoMa's wider context concerns the role of artists (and other creative practitioners) as 'social innovators', the role of creative practices in society and culture as a fundamental part of the fabric of society. **PRPS** is part of this process of engaging the cultural sector with industry, academia and public policy in a critical and creative dialogue.

Since the issue of convergence is very broad and the term is both self-evident and perplexing, the curators and the panel have devised some questions and issues as a series of parameters or guides.
Proposals should **not** deliver a convergence media product or service, but think **beyond** convergence, and consider what public or audience the proposal addresses.

Proposals are asked to address one or more of the following:

- to engage critically with the social impact of technologies on society

- to engage with the relationship between the physical and the virtual in public spaces

- to explore the relationships of institutions and corporations to public space

- to address how technologies are changing social interrelations in public spaces

- to explore the issue of false utopias / fantasies created by technological futurology

- to address the management of anxiety through technology: how the devices we use both fuel and assuage our fears and desires of being responsible citizens, parents, workers etc...

- to explore the changing nature and experience of time caused by technology use

- to address how technology changes our concept of community

- to address how technology changes our inhabitation of public spaces

- to address how technology changes our concept of sociability

- the materiality of technology: how we react when our virtual, networked lives are abruptly brought down to earth by being offline, out of network reach, out of batteries etc...

We are not looking for finished artworks or design solutions, but experimental and critical responses — ideas. Please contact **Giles Lane** (giles@proboscis.org.uk) or **Alice Angus** (alice@proboscis.org.uk) if you have any further queries. All the proposals will be presented to the public on the web and at a special seminar to be held at the LSE in Spring 2002 — an opportunity to present work in an intellectually challenging context, with the participation of sociologists, social scientists and economists offering a different level of debate and discussion to those usually found in the art and design worlds.
Proboscis will also produce a publication for the proposals and prototypes with contextualising essays.