

# LEGION TV

**Yuri Pattison *RELIable COMmunication***  
**Online commission | 11 December 2013 – May 31 2014**

"When the time came a few years ago to find an Inuktitut term for the word "Internet," Nunavut's former Official Languages Commissioner, Eva Aariak, chose *ikiaqqivik*, or "[traveling through layers](#)"....

For <http://legion-tv.com/> Yuri Pattison has created an online project, *RELIable COMmunications*, an exploration, or rumination, of the idea of reliable communications in computer networking. The work takes shape as an archive website devised by the artist that will change and develop over the six month period of the project. The work derives its title from the Soviet computer network RELCOM, an acronym for 'RELIable COMmunications' that pre-dated the World Wide Web as we know it today. Reliability is also a concept in computer networking where the sender receives feedback that data has been delivered, the Internet as we know it today functions as a reliable network. Users of RELCOM prevented the Soviet coup attempt of 1991 - the network was the only mass media not censored by the architects of the coup, at the time it was deemed not to be of importance.

RelCom itself was conceived because of the influence of cosmology on the Soviet Union's scientific and technological development. One Russian early Science Fiction author, Vladimir Odoevsky, is particularly important in establishing these ideas in the nation's psyche. His unfinished book (1835) [The Year 4338: Petersburg Letters](#), written in a letter format reminiscent of email, prophesises many innovations that have become part of normal modern society. The work now reads like a disconnected dystopian alternative history rather than futuristic science fiction - it presents a familiar world threatened by destruction from a meteor.

On 15th February 2013 a meteorite fell to earth in a massive fireball at Chelyabinsk Oblast, Russia. Damaging buildings for miles and injuring thousands - the meteorite was also witnessed by [dozens of cameras](#).

Later that week industrious meteorite hunters in the area began listing fragments of rock for sale on eBay with detailed images.

During the Persian Gulf War in 1991 users of Internet Relay Chat (IRC) posted updates from news sources around the world and from the front line of the conflict.

On 21st May 2010 Bradley Manning contacted convicted hacker Adrian Lamo on Jabber chat, confiding in him his concerns and reasons for leaking information to WikiLeaks.

Three days later he gave his justifications for leaking what became know as the collateral murder video. Among his influences he links to an image of earth from space dubbed [the pale blue dot](#) - the earth appears smaller than a pixel in the digital image. Adrian Lamo later turns Manning in to the authorities.

Yuri Pattison is interested in human communication via computer networks. Using an archive of correspondence from the Soviet coup, *RELIable COMmunications* explores the informal record of conversation and the personal moments within it. Times of change and turmoil create moments of heightened reality. In this sense the work aims to investigate the emotional content in these correspondences, mixing fact and (science) fiction via multiple strands and formats. The [raw data from these archives](#) forms the basis of this *RELIable COMmunications*. By disrupting these records through the insertion of fiction and reinsertion of fact, Pattison's

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archive negotiates the collapsing effect of online communication and networking within society.

[reliablecommunications.net](http://reliablecommunications.net) is hosted by [Bahnhof](http://Bahnhof), a company known as a free speech ISP. Its clients include Wikileaks & The Pirate Bay, further elements of the project are also hosted on a server within the artist's studio in Berlin.

[Yuri Pattison](#): Recent solo projects include (2012) *polymer placeholder pin drop*, Project/Number, London. *The Making of*, HYPERLINK "http://bubblebyte.org/"bubblebyte.org, Online. *e ink pearl memory*, Arcadia\_Missa, London. Faraday Cage, [SPACE], London. Recent group exhibitions and events include (2013) *Objectness*, Outpost Norwich, *SECONDO ANNIVERSARIO*, Seventeen Gallery, London, *Space Time: Convention T* (Occasionals and Supplement Gallery), Wying Arts Centre, Cambridge, QUANTUM LEAP: AN EVENT IN PLURAL TIME/Z BY FAY NICOLSON Embassy Gallery, Edinburgh & Malmö Konsthall, Sweden.



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