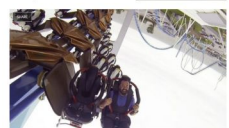


Theme parks under threat from technology, says DrCoaster

Amusement parks may not be the future of roller coasters, according to a Queensland researcher. The Queensland University of Technology's Malcolm Barr, known as DrCoaster, said because the focus is on the thrill of the ride, the likelihood is that roller coasters will continue to be a staple of amusement parks from their lounge rooms.



Dr Barr said facilities around the world were "looking" to incorporate virtual reality into their rides. "Virtual reality allows parks to offer different versions of the same attraction without the traditional expense of physically creating new rides," he said. Dr Barr said although the technology provided a safe way for people to experience an adrenaline rush, there were some drawbacks. "For example, it may take the public's eye off the roller coaster and these parks are usually something you experience with family and friends," he said.

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Dr Barr will visit Hong Kong, London, Europe and America over the coming weeks to see how the technology is being rolled out at amusement parks. He said it is exciting to see what is needed to create the ultimate virtual reality theme park ride.

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