

# Info

Vortragsreihe “Research Practice Dialogue”

## **Designing in Research & Development: Method, Role and Substance**

**Sommer Semester 2015**

**Im Kesselhaus der Muthesius Kunsthochschule**

“Research” and “Practice” were arguably the most important words in academic design discourse in the last 20 years. These were spoken often in the context of developing design research at the University. Currently there are a number of models established: *Research Through Design, Practice-Led/Based Research, Project-Grounded Research, and Constructive Research*. They all share the ideas that designing is a form of inquiry which has its own particular methods that should be capitalized. Secondly, they see that designing should form a (major) part of design research and should generate trustworthy knowledge to serve and renew practice.

In SoSe2015, we intend to look more closely at designing that engages with specialised scientific knowledge or emerging technology in the context of interdisciplinary research and development. We go after the following questions:

- How does design(er) deal with this? What **methods** are used?
- What does design(er) contribute? What **roles** are played?
- What knowledge is generated? What are the **substantial outcomes**?

*Organization: Prof. in Dr. Rosan Chow, Industriedesign, MKH, chow@muthesius.de*  
*Student participation is credited by Kunst- und Designdiskurs.*

**12. Mai 2015, 19:00-20:30 Uhr**

**Alastair Macdonald, Glasgow School of Art, UK**

***Negotiating Design in Sceptical Territory: Research for Healthcare***

**Abstract**

Design's great weakness is in its own hubris; can we test Design's legitimacy in sceptical territory? Recent co-design initiatives demonstrate successful healthcare innovation and improvement without the need for Designers, potentially wrong-footing Design. Through case studies, Macdonald explores Design's research value in the healthcare domain, where the RCT is regarded as the gold standard for scientific evidence. Design's agency is also discussed in eliciting different kinds of evidence from stakeholders through 'building into being' by iterative prototyping, providing stakeholders with tangible new means to think with and experience how different and better things could be. Design's shortcomings are also addressed.

**Biography**

Professor Alastair Macdonald is Senior Researcher, School of Design at The Glasgow School of Art. Trained as a designer, he headed the Product Design Engineering programme at GSA from 1996-2006 before pursuing full-time design-led research within multidisciplinary healthcare teams. He publishes, reviews and lectures internationally, and supervises and examines PhDs.

**19. Mai 2015, 19:00-20:30 Uhr**

**Tara Mullaney, Umeå Institute of Design, Sweden**

***Context-Driven Design: The complexity of conducting Constructive Design Research within Healthcare***

**Abstract**

In this talk, I will present the work that I have done as a PhD student and design researcher within a 3 year, EU funded, project called PERT (Patient Experience of Radiation Therapy), in collaboration with the Radiotherapy Department at Norrlands University Hospital in Umeå, Sweden. I will present my research, including two design experiments, Taklandskap and ActivPPS, which were executed within this project, and discuss how my research context shaped the methods and theories I used as well as the type of design construction I engaged with. I will finish with a discussion of the concept of context-driven design and its core principles.

**Biography**

Tara Mullaney is a scientist-turned-designer that loves exploring emotions and experiences. She holds degrees in social anthropology and biology from MIT, cancer biology from Stanford University, and design from SAIC. Her work experience ranges from anti-cancer drug development to interaction design consulting, and she is currently writing her dissertation on cancer patients' experiences during treatment.

**02.Juni 2015, 19:00-20:30 Uhr**  
**Katharina Bredies, UdK Berlin**  
***Use as Design***

**Abstract**

In my lecture, I will present my practice-based doctoral design research project, completed in 2014, in which I investigate the design of unfamiliar interfaces to encourage design in use. I will start with an overview of the roles of designers and users in different design processes, and discuss social and radical constructivist viewpoints in design theory. I propose formal estrangement as a suitable design method, based on the pragmatist idea that it takes a „crisis of action“ to perceive new things. I will show research results including *Wavecap*, *Undercover*, *Shuffle Sleeve* and draw conclusions using ecological concept theory, actor-network theory, and Peircean semeiotics. The lecture will be held in German.

**Biography**

Katharina is a postdoctoral researcher at Universität der Künste, Berlin, and Borås School of Textiles in Sweden. She conducts research in human-computer interaction, electronic textiles, and design methodology. She is co-founder of Design Promoviert—a student-organized doctoral colloquium—and manager of the Design Research Network—an online forum for young researchers.

**16. Juni 2015, 19:00-20:30 Uhr**  
**Jon Rogers, University of Dundee, UK**  
***Co-Designing the Future of our Digital Physical World***

**Abstract**

What digital world do we want? Locked in screen-based experiences for eternity? Or an interwoven digital and physical existence for and by people? If we want the latter, we need to know how to design and live within it and have methods that place people at the heart of creation. So let's come together and ask ourselves how to co-design our digital future. In this talk, I will lay out the challenge of envisioning a physical digital world by investigating a centuries-old physical communication medium that has caused revolution and evolution, and quite literally re-written the future of humankind.

**Biography**

Professor Jon Rogers holds a personal chair in creative technology at the University of Dundee. He balances playful technologies with citizenship to find new ways to connect people to each other and to their data. He is passionate about the potential of an open physical web of things and his work includes collaborations with Mozilla, NASA, BBC R&D and the Met Office.