

8th International Forum of Design as a Process

# Disrupting Geographies in the Design World

**Responsible Innovation/  
Social Justice/Ecocentrism/Changing  
Education**

## Main Partners



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disegno industriale | theory  
industrial design | theorie  
praxis  
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journal founded  
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Related activities  
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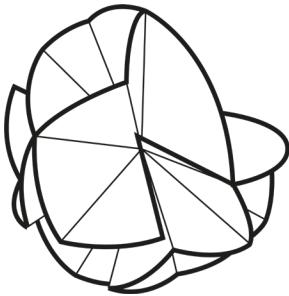


Winter School  
Design for Responsible Innovation

For information about the International Forum or if you want to know how to become a **member** of the Network, please contact us at [forumdesignprocess@unibo.it](mailto:forumdesignprocess@unibo.it)

**Website:**  
[www.forumdesignprocess.org/dgdw22/](http://www.forumdesignprocess.org/dgdw22/)

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Disrupting Geographies in the Design World  
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8th International Forum of Design as a Process

## Disrupting Geographies in the Design World

**Responsible Innovation/  
Social Justice/Ecocentrism/  
Changing Education**



Bologna, Italy  
20th, 21st, 22nd June, 2022  
Alma Mater Studiorum  
Università di Bologna  
Advanced Design Unit  
Department of Architecture

### Introduction

The 8th International Forum of Design as a Process is promoted by the Latin Network for the Development of Design Processes, founded in 2008 with the manifesto “Carta di Torino”: a worldwide group of researchers, educators, students and professionals, who study and operate in the field of design processes under the umbrella of the Latin cultures.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it emerged the need to cross-fertilize the discipline fields, overpassing multi-dimensional boundaries (spatial, cultural, economic, technological) and to integrate theoretical studies, researches and practical solutions coming from different areas of investigation.

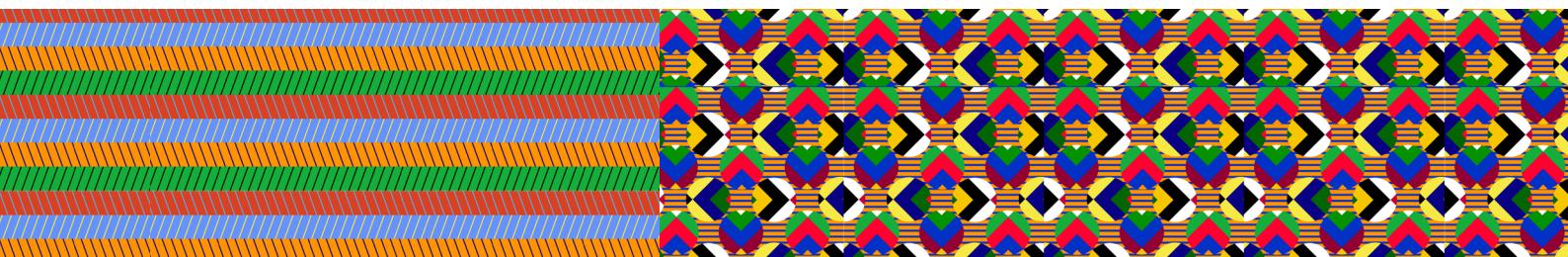
This reflection leverages the involvement of a larger community of designers interconnected to the wider world, shared by a plurality of peoples each inhabiting different geographies, including voices from the fringes, outside the mainstream, to pick up on new trends, practices and future references of globalisation, as a knowledge spillover effect of the Forum towards responsible innovation and social justice.

## Topic

How design is evolving to respond to the urgent needs facing our environment and society at large? How to understand and design the dynamic relations between artefacts, human beings and the ecosphere? How might design principles and practices adapt their approaches to attend to the diversity that characterised the world?

In an increasingly globalized world, new geographies in and of design offer the stage for negotiating ecosystem's complexity. Design is positioned as a key driver for improving the living standards of many, where human and environmental capitals are pivotal to local economies, but also for the connection to the rest of the world.

The Forum will involve speakers from the Global Design community, extending the original vocation of the Latin cultures to researchers and designers of the Mediterranean Area, Middle East, IOR (Indian Ocean Region), and Global South regions, with the aim of sharing new perspectives on how design futures can be imagined in a responsible and just perspective, at the forefront of change, building strategic partnerships, creating accessible knowledge.



Five tracks are proposed to address the different dimensions of design futures of responsibility and justice

### 01

#### There's No Plan(et) B: Sustainable Transitions to Systemic Planet-Centric Design

#sustainability #transitions, #systemics #planet-centricity #ethics

Along with the effects of climate change and the social unrest that has spread around the world in the past years, the recent health emergency for COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities and injustices at different scales, and has severely tested the resilience of individuals, communities, institutions, and businesses. Current crises, in their multiple manifestations, have exposed the profound instability affecting the planet and brought to the surface many complex situations that require urgent intervention. In this scenario, design is once again called to reconsider, as a discipline and as a practice, its traditional role towards society and the environment, and to redefine its methods, tools, and processes

to offer better solutions for products and services that not only do not harm our surroundings, but also contribute to healing the conflicts that affect both humans and all other beings that inhabit the planet and interrelate as a single living system. The challenge is therefore to encourage and facilitate transitions towards more sustainable and circular patterns of production and consumption, adopting a systemic and planet-centric approach, reinforcing the ethical responsibilities of design, and reaffirming its mediating role in the resolution of the wicked problems that characterise the contemporaneity. This track invites researchers, educators, practitioners, and students, to share their reflections and experiences concerning design-led processes that bring to the disruption with traditional practices and the transition to alternative forms of thinking and acting, aiming to address current crises and lay the foundations for more sustainable future.

## 02

### Intersectional Design for an Accessible and Empowering World

#social justice #empowerment  
#diverse knowledge #gendered innovation #people authonomy

Social positions and identities are multiple and seek to reveal the interconnected systems of subordination that together influence people's life chances.

Extending beyond gender-specific and empowering categories of social identity (youth, old age, disabilities, non-heteronormative sexuality, despised ethnicity, income, religion and more), intersectionality focuses attention on a variety of multi-level interacting social locations, forces, narratives, norms, factors and power structures that shape and influence human life.

Intersectionality is increasingly suggested an innovative design framework with the potential to advance understanding of, and action, on inequalities, by highlighting processes of stigmatization, but mainly to encourage a critical reflection to move beyond singular categories, foregrounds issues of equity.

The track intends to collect design studies and practices which include the perspectives and worldviews of people who are typically marginalized or excluded, in which social justice and equity can be understood as a way of transforming how resources and relationships are produced and distributed to ensure a dignified and ecologically sustainable life for all. It also aims to outline in which way the dimensions of time and space, fluid, changeable and

experienced through our interpretations, senses and feelings, influence different kinds of knowledge, through a deconstruction of the conventional social orders of meaning. Possible topics include concepts of accessibility, empowerment and people autonomy.

## 03

### Design and Responsive Technologies for Human Wellbeing

#wellbeing #health #self-tracking  
#body #data

In the continuous aspiration of humans to improve their personal wellbeing, a design field emerges that has grown along two dimensions: one linked to the relationship between body and product that is becoming dematerialized, losing the gestural nature and the physicality, the other related to medical sciences, food, fitness activities, self-tracking system, and behavior change. In this transformative scenario, the individual becomes the center of a knowledge process that changes and transforms his/her body towards a renewed balance between design and technologies. The debate we wish to open in this track is related to a model in which human being is at the center of a system of wellbeing between interpretation and prediction.

The aspected proposals should be focused on the role of responsive technologies, capable to adapt to a single person, and the importance of personal data and its applications that pose new challenges for the design processes and the evolution of these human-centred-technologies to improve our body awareness and potential.

The track opens horizons for new meanings and focus points on design studies and practices which include researches focused on products and services in which the wellbeing of the individuals and the collectivities are the center of a human-center approach to the innovative use of the technologies.

## 04

### Design Values out of the Mainstream: New Geographies of Influence

#endemic design #Global South  
#crafts #hybridization #transition

In geographical areas in which there is need today of establishing new economies, production of goods often relates either on traditional craft or imported industrialized plants. They do not see in the design field the chance to innovate objects as narrative tools with cultural reference.

With a wider view towards possible future developments of economies and cultures, the “Discourse of Transition” by Arturo Escobar reaches an unprecedent interest for design: there is a clear

difference in forecasting planetary changes related to the Global North, where the debate goes towards degrowth and postgrowth, postcapitalist, posthuman and many other post-industrial ideas of liberation of the “machine”, while the Global South looks towards postdevelopment and biocentric, after a period of self-definition of its position in the world. Acknowledging these areas as new geographies of influence for the world of tomorrow, as driver of a “Civilizing Globalization”, the track welcomes contributions that explore design praxis and research in decentralised areas (i.e. in the Global South) beyond the Mainstream. It wants to showcase projects that establish an independent view on local industry and endemic design strategies, self-construction and craft, which eventually generate new aesthetics and recognition of human being's skills. Moreover, the narration of experiences related to Advanced Design practices and processes, example of unconventional collaboration and networking, cross-fertilization between design, arts and technologies will complete the panorama of studies and projects of this track.

## 05

### New Education Pathways for Future Designers in a Changing World

#pluriverse education #responsible knowledge #collaborative learning system #prosumers #design for metaverse

There is a large consensus about the idea that the pandemic crisis is transforming almost everything for the next years or decades. The crisis will last longer than a few months and its behavioural and social implications could even be permanent, affecting the way we will produce and consume “knowledge” as a direct manifestation of our culture. These boundary conditions could represent the occasion to rethink about our own learning and education frameworks and methods to prepare future designers having a significant role and impact on the emerging challenges affecting organizations and the overall society. The track reflects upon two complementary perspectives. The first, how designers can apply their peculiar productive thinking to specific educational spheres (i.e. academies, universities, schools), but also to other organizations, to produce impactful changes related to cognitive processes and artifacts, moving into an environment where the field of education is going through significant disruptions from multiple points of view. The second, how a non-hegemonic approach to design education could introduce new perspectives on the future of experiences, opening to a more collaborative, inclusive, transdisciplinary and collective learning system. If knowledge has

now to be considered at the same time a product, a service, a space, a time, this track invites researchers, practitioners, corporates, students and professionals in the field of education to share their experiences and studies on design-driven processes and related impactful projects on new formats and contents, technologies and interactions, local spaces in global geographies, processes and relationships for the ideation, production, distribution and regeneration of education. In general, the attention should not be addressed to emergency researches and practices arisen during the Pandemic period, but mostly to future focused practices.

## Call for Contributions

The International Organizing Committee of the 8th International Forum of Design as a Process is inviting designers, architects, artists, engineers, humanists, and similar, to be part of Disrupting Geographies in the Design World. Responsible Innovation, Social Justice, Ecocentrism, Changing Education which is an exchange and aggregator space dedicated to reflect on the emerging practices, processes and experiences of design, applied and enforceable in the realms of innovation, growth and sustainability, considering the centralities of human and nature dimension, blurring the boundaries between creation, distribution and consumption, with a special eye on culture and creativity.

We welcome case studies, design proposals, scientific and technological research projects, review papers, discussion papers and theoretical considerations to encourage and seek decentralized dialogues, in which different voices can coexist in their difference rather than in an assimilated narrative. Different approaches, practices and processes of design concerning their relation with justice innovation and the ecosphere will be collected, exploring their direct influence on the development of new languages, values, structures, meta-processes, to activate dynamic transition processes.

We would like to underline to the applicants that papers of the Latin Network for the Development of Design Processes are read in more than 15 countries. That is why we expected for submission long abstracts,

that must have the following structure:

- Main text (10.000 characters including spaces, notes, references, expressively quoted in the text) discussing Methodology, Results, Conclusions
- Up to 5 keywords
- Bibliographic references (APA style)
- Images, graphics, and charts to be identified consecutively with name and credits
- Language: British English

Further information will be soon published on the web site of the event, together with the submission procedure and the fees of participation.

## **Important Dates**

**Call for Long Abstracts**  
Open December 23, 2021

**Deadline for Long Abstracts submission**  
Close February 20, 2022

**Notification of selected Proposals**  
March 31, 2022

**Early-Bird Registration**  
Open March 31, 2022  
Close April 30, 2022

**Regular Registration**  
Open May 1, 2022  
Close May 31, 2022

**Late Registration**  
Open June 1, 2022  
Close June 10, 2022

**Complete Forum Program**  
June 1, 2022

**Forum**  
June 20-21-22, 2022  
Blended event  
Bologna

**Full Paper submission (deadline for the proceedings)**  
September 30, 2022