

## CALL FOR QUESTIONS

GRASPING DESIGN RESEARCH

Workshop series for  
young researchers  
in Design Sciences

April 13-14, April 28-29

and May 18 2016

Faculty of Design Sciences  
University of Antwerp



Design Research has become a buzzword in many research strategies, research policies and future research orientations in academic circles. Although design research has a long tradition in the international arena, it only recently prevailed as a hot topic in Flanders in the context of the design disciplines, integrating in the university. There are many ways, techniques, methods and approaches, which one might refer to as design research. Accordingly, many PhD students and young researchers, dealing with design research have difficulties to cope with this multi-faceted young scholarly discipline and its proper perspective. Indeed, what can design - as research - mean in an academic context and how can it be validated? The current struggle to understand and grasp the wide range of approaches and methods in the field of design is one of the main concerns for many young researchers. Hence, the proposed workshop series aims to tackle pitfalls and to reveal potentials, through hands-on workshops regarding methodology and outcome of design research, guided by leading academic experts with international standing.

### Format

This series is composed of **three** workshops, two of them consisting of an afternoon session (14:00–19:25) and a morning session (09:30–12:30), and one taking a full day session (09:30-19:25). In each workshop, twelve PhD students and/or young researchers have the opportunity to give a 10-minute presentation in which they put a question to the audience of peers, framed in their own research and the specific issues (s)he is dealing with, from the perspective related to the workshop's theme.

After this presentation, the invited experts and other participants actively engage in a discussion in order to solve these problems. The intention is to share insights, expand the knowledge, create a forum for feedback and get familiarized with various approaches and outputs of design research within a diversity of design disciplines.

## WORKSHOP 01

*Validating Design Research and Dissemination*

**April 13-14 2016**

In this workshop we look at the various ways in which research in the field of Design Sciences could be validated. The workshop addresses the issue of assessing quality and rigor in design research. Moreover, it focusses on the possibility and added value of including non-written outcome for review as well as for dissemination. Thereby, the workshop explores new emerging strategies for appropriately publishing design research, within the expanding scope of channels for disseminating academic research outcome. Young researchers struggling with questions like "how can non-written outcome, resulting from my research be validated?", and "which are appropriate ways of disseminating non-written output?" are welcomed to apply.

Experts:

Prof. Murray Fraser:

The Bartlett School of Architecture, Faculty of the Built Environment, the U.K.

Prof. Frederik Nilsson:

Department of Architecture at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

## WORKSHOP 02

*How to address Research-by-Design methodologically?*

**April 28-29 2016**

During the second workshop, young academics dealing with design research are invited to share a methodological research problem they are confronted with during their own research. In this context, research-by-design should be interpreted broadly as any kind of inquiry in which design is the substantial constituent of the research process. During this workshop, young researchers will be advised by the audience of peers on research-by-design in order to solve their problems related to techniques, methods and approaches, specific to this type of research.

Experts:

Prof. Kris Scheerlinck:

Faculty of Architecture, KU Leuven, Belgium

Prof. Johan De Walsche:

Faculty of Design Sciences, University of Antwerp, Belgium

## WORKSHOP 03

*How to address Socio-Historical Research-on-Design methodologically?*

**May 18 2016**

In the third workshop, young researchers who are involved in Design Sciences from a socio-historical point of view are invited to pose a question on appropriate methods and techniques. Question dealt with in this workshop are: How can history and theory add to the field of design research? What is the interaction and relation between history, theory and design? How to write the history of material culture? What is historical about objects and what is so material about history and theory? What is the best way to deal with these material things as data of design historical or design theoretical research? Which literary devices exist to include the material in written output? The aim is to bring young researchers in contact with experts in the field, in order to improve their methodological skills.

Experts:

Prof. Alison Clarke:

Department of Design History and Theory, University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria

Prof. Tom Avermaete:

Department of Architecture, TU Delft, the Netherlands

## Application

From the **22nd of February** onwards, candidates can apply for one or multiple workshops on following site: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/conferences/grasping-design-research/>  
Proposals (written in English; pdf-format of max. **5 MB**), containing a question, framed in a research project, must be uploaded by **the 14th of March 2016**.

Following information must be included in the proposals:

- Full name;
- Institution, address for correspondence, telephone and e-mail;
- Workshop session(s) in which you aim to participate;
- Question/problem on which you're struggling in your own research. This question has to be related to the theme of the workshop session (**50 words**);
- Motivation why this question/problem is relevant in
  - (i.) your personal research and
  - (ii.) the workshop session for which you applied (**250 words**);
- Additional graphic material substantiating your question is welcomed

Prospective participants wishing to attend without presenting can register **here**. However, the number of participants will be limited. More information on the online registration will follow later. Check out our blog: [graspingdesignresearch.wordpress.com](http://graspingdesignresearch.wordpress.com).

## Contact

For any questions on the workshops, submission and participation, please email to [\*\*GDR@uantwerpen.be\*\*](mailto:GDR@uantwerpen.be) ; For any enquiries on the venue, please email to [\*\*nina.peeten@uantwerpen.be\*\*](mailto:nina.peeten@uantwerpen.be)

## Scientific Committee

Johan De Walsche, Els Du Bois, Bruno Notteboom, Katarina Serulus, Lara Schrijver, Maarten Van Acker & Erik Wieers.

## Institutional Sponsors

The event is free to all participants thanks to the support provided by the Flemish government, the Antwerp Doctoral School and the Faculty of Design Sciences of the University of Antwerp.