

Tricky Design: Design Ethics for a Complex World

7th June (10:00 – 17:30) and 8th June (10:30 – 15:30)
Bakala Auditorium, Lower Ground Floor
Design Museum, London

#trickydesign



What role should design play in today’s complex world? What tools and strategies are available for design to engage with the ethical conundrums of the present? How should ethics shape the things we design?

This two-day conference invites citizens, designers, theorists, activists and educators to consider what design ethics, and design as an ethical discipline, should look like in the 21st century. On the first day of the symposium, leading designers and theorists discuss some of the challenges facing ethical design today, including the ethics of participatory design; design’s role in the public sphere; the relationship between objects and complex networks; and design’s relationship to the non-human.

On the second day, participants are invited to take part in a series of ‘applied ethics’ discussions, focusing on specific case-studies on topics such as human enhancement, healthcare, political activism and identity. Throughout the course of the day, participants will be introduced to different ways of framing complex ethical challenges within design practice.

Image Credit: *Rockwood lithium pools from the air*, Unknown Fields. Image courtesy of and © Liam Young.

Day 1 Agenda

Bakala Auditorium

10:30 – 17:30

10:00: Registration open

10:30: Introduction: What is Tricky Design?

Panel 1: How can we design with others in an ethical way?

10:45: Bahbak Hashemi Nezhad

10:55: Eduardo Staszowski

11:05: Torange Khonsari

11:15: Panel Discussion and Q&A

11:45 Break

Panel 2: How does ethics shape the things we design?

12:15: Mahmoud Keshavarz

12:25: Kate Davies and Liam Young

12:35: Stephanie Hankey

12:45: Panel Discussion and Q&A

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch

Panel 3: How should design intervene in the public sphere?

14:15: Adam Thorpe

14:25: Lucy Kimbell

14:35: Shana Agid

14:45: Panel Discussion and Q&A

15:15 Break

Panel 4: Can new ecologies provide a more equitable path for design?

15:45: Jeremy Kidwell

15:55: Carole Collet

16:05: Amy Twigger-Holroyd

16:15: Panel Discussion and Q&A

16:45 – Closing Remarks

17:30 – End of Day 1

Day 2 Agenda

Bauhaus and Ulm Room, Bakala Auditorium

10:30 – 15:30

Morning Session: Bauhaus and Ulm Room, 10:30 – 12:30

10:30: Registration open

11:00: Welcome and Introduction

11:05 Presentation from Lucy Kimbell, Social Design Institute (UAL)

11:15 Morning Workshop: Applied Ethics Speed-Dating

With Jeremy Kidwell
Shana Agid
Ai Yamanaka
Rachel Wikenden
Claudette David-Bonnick
Nela Milic
Lesley-Ann Daly
Katie-May Boyd

12:45 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session: Bakala Auditorium, 13:30 – 15:30

13:30 Afternoon Workshop: Pecha Kucha's

With Malcolm Quinn
John Wynne
Elissa Brunato
Daniella Jenkins
Alisa Rauzavina
Lesley-Ann Daly

15:10 – Closing Remarks

15:30 – Symposium Ends

This symposium builds on the publication of *Tricky Design: The Ethics of Things* (Bloomsbury 2019) and is a collaboration between University of the Arts London, the Design Research Society and the Design Museum.

Tricky Design: Design Ethics for a Complex World is organised and chaired by **Tom Fisher**, **Lorraine Gamman**, **Sevra Davis** and **Bernard Hay**.

Speaker Biographies

Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad's studio practice produces work spanning the domestic and public realms, from food and games to spaces and products. Drawing on play theory, architecture and anthropology, his work addresses through real-life projects the role of defamiliarisation as a critical tool to engage the public within design processes.

Torange Khonsari is Co-Founder and Director of art and architecture practice Public Works, an interdisciplinary practice combining performative art, architecture, anthropology and politics. Torange also leads the Design for Cultural Commons Masters at The Cass. She has previously taught at international universities such as UMA School of Architecture in Sweden and UIC Barcelona, Guildhall, and the RCA.

Eduardo Staszowski is associate professor of Design Strategies at Parsons School of Design, and Director of the Parsons DESIS Lab. He studies design as a method and language and its role as an intermediary, creating and orienting processes of social innovation and sustainability. Eduardo is also founding editor of *Designing in Dark Times*.

Mahmoud Keshavarz is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Engaging Vulnerability Research Program, Uppsala University. He is the author of *The Design Politics of the Passport: Materiality, Immobility and Dissent* (Bloomsbury, 2019), the Co-Founder of Decolonizing Design and the Co-Editor of the journal *Design and Culture*.

Directors of Unknown Fields, **Kate Davies** and **Liam Young** navigate the contemporary city to uncover the industrial ecologies created by technology and culture. These landscapes are embedded in global systems that connect them in surprising ways to our everyday lives. Unknown Fields' provocative explorations of these narratives include a book series, *Unknown Fields: Tales from the Dark Side of the City*, and projects featured in institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum, the V&A, and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney.

Stephanie Hankey is a designer, technologist and social entrepreneur who has worked for the past 20 years at the intersection of technology and human rights. She currently teaches, writes and consults on the ethical design of technology. She is the co-founder and Executive Director of Tactical Tech and the co-curator of the travelling exhibition: The Glass Room.

Adam Thorpe is Professor of Socially Responsive Design at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London (UAL). He is Co-Director of the Design Against Crime Research Centre and Coordinator of the UAL DESIS Lab (Design for Social

Innovation and Sustainability). He is also Principle Investigator of the Public Collaboration Lab, delivered in partnership with London Borough of Camden, focused on participatory design for service, social and policy innovation at a local level. His research activities are practice-based and explore the role of design in meeting societal goals and challenges.

Dr Sarah Rhodes is the Knowledge Exchange Manager at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London (UAL). She has wide experience of developing and utilising co-design and participatory practices to support interdisciplinary projects, bridging the gap between diverse groups. She has worked on a broad range of multi-partner, EU and AHRC funded projects that address complex social issues with a diversity of stakeholders including Pharma-Factory, Re-envisioning Infection Practice Ecologies in Nursing and the Public Collaboration Lab.

Lucy Kimbell is Director, Innovation Insights Hub, Professor of Contemporary Design Practices at University of the Arts London, and Associate Fellow at Said Business School, University of Oxford. Her research looks at the use of design expertise to address organisational, social and public policy. Lucy is developing UAL's Social Design Institute which uses research insights to change how designers and organisations create. She is co-investigator on two UKRI funded projects using design and foresight methodologies to address complex issues.

Shana Agid is Assistant Professor of Art, Media and Communication at Parsons School of Design, and co-founder of Working with People, a collaborative project that seeks to develop pedagogical approaches to engaged practice within the field of design. Shana has produced publications surrounding race and gender within visual culture, and provides editorial expertise for *Radical Teacher* and *Design Philosophy Papers*.

Jeremy Kidwell is an interdisciplinary scholar trained in ethics and constructive theology with a background in technology, literature and music. A field philosopher, his work explores the dichotomy between "nature" and "culture", allowing an ethnographic and quantitatively generated understanding of grassroots issues to illuminate his constructive philosophical reflections.

Carole Collet has dedicated her career to developing a new vision for sustainable design and pioneered the discipline of Textile Futures in 2000. She is the CSM-LVMH Director of Sustainable Innovation at Central Saint Martins UAL, as well as Director of the Design & Living Systems Lab, a programme exploring the interface of the biological sciences and design.

Dr Amy Twigger-Holroyd is a designer, maker and researcher who has been investigating fashion and sustainability since 2004. Key outputs include *Folk Fashion: Understanding Homemade Clothes* (2017), as well as *Fashion Knitwear Design* (2019). Her current projects include the practice-focused Reknit Revolution and two funded research networks, Stitching Together and Crafting the Commons.