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Editorial

Relating Systems Thinking and Design IV

The fourth special issue of FormAkademisk on the theme of Systemic Design features articles from RSD5 held at OCADU, Toronto 2016, and RSD5 at AHO, Oslo, 2017. The themes of these five full papers are covering development of the design field at large, methodology development and practice of learning and education. The other main thread in this issue is sustainability, circular economy and urban co living strategies.

The special issue follows after the publication of the RSD5 and RSD6 proceedings, containing videos, abstracts and working papers from the conference. In these full papers the themes from the presentations and working papers are developed further. The proceedings are found at:

<https://systemic-design.net/>

Following the three former special issues it is fair to state that systemic design has developed beyond the initial point where it was still unclear what the notion of Systemic Design was covering and how it should be developed. The current issue demonstrates that systemic design has a wide reach and depth in its explorations.

Articles in this issue

Susu Nousala, David Ing and **Peter H. Jones** report on the DesignX workshops held in 2015 and 2016. DesignX is an international initiative to address the need for the fields of design to become more relevant to solve complex societal problems and challenges. The timing and purpose of the DesignX initiative is quite aligned with and relevant to the aim of the SDRN.

Wouter Kersten, Jan Carel Diehl and **Jo van Engelen** report on methodology development for design engineering. They argue that an approach based on exploration of early contextual variations before the design process starts has shown to be efficient in handling the complex challenges designers are facing.

Silvia Barbero and **Agnese Pallaro** report from the RETRACE project in Italy. The relatively large project seen in the context of systemic design, is addressing the implementation of circular economy with the Piedmont Region as a case. They argue the value of Systemic Design in the transition of society from a linear to a circular economy.

Marie Davidová and **Kateřina Žimová** present a further development of their long-term research into complex multi-value and multi scalar sustainable urban development. The aim of the COLridor project is to study potential solutions to eco-systemic co-living between different species and biological as well as abiotic system interactions. The study represent a critique of the anthropocentric world view when planning our co-existence on earth.

In a related second paper, **Marie Davidova** and **Dana Raková** further develop the discussion on strategies for co-design and co-living with non-human agents. The strategies addresses the building level and involves discussions about microclimate, shared spaces for humans and non-human beings and refers to how we can learn from traditional architecture, when it comes to more diversified boundary conditions of buildings. In this paper, detailed analyses of semi enclosed spaces from traditional architecture are superimposed on discussions on atmosphere and light conditions based on an artist approach.

Gordon Rowland and ***Allison L. Kitchner-Meyer*** present report and reflect upon a youth learning program developed by the Sea Education Association for powerful learning. The program involve sailing tall ships while conducting scientific research. They report how this approach is contextualized within constructivism, complexity and systemic design.

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Birger Sevaldson

Special Issue Editor

Birger Sevaldson

Professor

Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Institute of Design

birger.sevaldson@aho.no