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Editorial

Relating systems thinking and design (VII)

Advancing Design Methodologies for Social and Environmental Systems

This special issue of *FormAkademisk* comprises a selection of articles developed from presentations at the seventh Relating Systems Thinking and Design (RSD7) symposium, held at Politecnico di Torino, Turin, October 23-26, 2018 (Barbero, 2018). RSD7 saw the launch of the Systemic Design Association (SDA), a membership organisation for the expanding community that has developed through the RSD conferences. The present issue is the second collection of articles from RSD7 to be published in *FormAkademisk* following the one released earlier this year (Davidová et al., 2020). These issues are the latest contributions to the ongoing relationship between the journal and the RSD conference series (Forlizzi et al., 2017; Hensel et al., 2019; Jones, 2014; Sevaldson, 2018; Sevaldson & Ryan, 2014).

Articles in this issue

The five articles collected in the present issue continue systemic design's development of participative and visual methodologies to address challenges of equity and planetary health across varied social and environmental contexts.

The first two articles in the issue address systemic design in an urban context. First, **Komal Faiz, Andree Woodcock, Deana McDonagh, and Sana Iqbal** (2020) examine gender transport poverty in Lahore, Pakistan, as a societal failure as well as one of transport systems per se. Qualitative research is translated into system maps to understand the complex nature of women's lives and the role of

transport within this as a systemic synthesis. The authors conclude by outlining opportunities for innovations within the transport sector to disrupt the status quo of gender inequality more broadly.

Second, **Athina Stylianos Stamatopoulou** (2020) presents the development of a participatory mapping methodology that aims to negotiate logics for designing within the city as an open complex system. Stamatopoulou's article introduces this new and richly referenced methodology through the discussion of two case studies located in central Athens.

The third article in the issue, authored by **Rosamund Mosse** and **Lewis Muirhead**, presents a case study of the Economic Immigration Lab in New Brunswick, Canada. Mosse and Muirhead (2020) review their use of the Art of Hosting and Harvesting as an approach to the facilitation of multi-stakeholder engagements in complex problem spaces.

The special issue concludes with two articles from **Tom Snow** that look to support designers in their understanding of and actions within ecosystems. Snow's (2020a) first article provides an eco-literacy primer for designers, articulating this through rich visual communication that is both accessible and detailed. Snow's (2020b) second article builds on the first, presenting a fractal model for integrative systems of production based on ecosystem metabolisms and functions. Snow's articles offer an ecological foundation for systemic designers working in areas such as regenerative agriculture, the bioeconomy, and circular economies.

The special issue editors are extremely grateful to the authors and the anonymous peer reviewers for all their efforts and to the Systemic Design Association for their kind financial contribution to copyediting the articles. We encourage readers to contact authors with comments, suggestions, and critique.

Cardiff, Brighton and Oslo, December 2020

Marie Davidová, Ben Sweeting and Birger Sevaldson

Special Issue Editors

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