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Greetings from Chile

I met Liv Merete Nielsen at the DRS Limerick 2018 conference. I was studying Chilean teachers' use of design methods to solve pedagogical problems supported by a British Council fund. Peter Lloyd and Derek Jones brought the experience and vision of The Open University's Design Thinking course. They had Nigel Cross as an unavoidable theoretical reference. I also knew Maureen Carroll and Shelley Goldman's work at Stanford University to promote STEM disciplines in vulnerable schools in Palo Alto. Maureen and Shelley built on the IDEO-d.School universe and had Tim Brown and David Kelly as key references.

In contrast to these British and American perspectives, Liv proposed a particular Nordic vision focused on the most critical purpose that justifies teaching design to children, young people and non-design professionals. To get the critical mass of users to recognize their capacity to transform current unsustainable consumption patterns and to opt for more sustainable ways of being. Under this perspective, built on Paulo Freire's work, being literate means having the ability to read the world in all its complexity and to participate with autonomy and self-determination in creating meaning and transforming society.

As I come from a developing country with significant social and environmental challenges to face, I found Liv's vision very powerful. In ADIM London 2019, when she proposed to create the Design Literacy International Network, I did not hesitate to join. Since then, with Liv and Erik Bohemia, we have been organizing the 'Engage with Ideas' talks series, conferences' tracks and journals' special issues for almost four years. I can only be grateful and delighted to collaborate with and learn from Liv Merete Nielsen.

Congratulations Liv!

I look forward to meeting with you again in person before the next pandemic.

Abrazos desde Chile,

Úrsula Bravo
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