

Conference themes

Design, as a discipline, responds to and develops in accordance with overarching challenges since a clear ‘social turn’ has taken place more than a century ago. This paradigm shift poses questions to long-held beliefs, practices, and concepts in and about design itself. Even though the terrain may seem bleak due to crisis situations, questions arise as to whether design can shake up the apathy and contribute to bringing about much-needed, fundamental changes.

The international SDN conference brought together scholars from various disciplines to explore how design responds to and shapes our understanding of crises by encompassing a range of activities and interventions. In this edited volume, contributors explore topics such as the role of designers in responding to crises; the capacities and literacies necessary for responding; how current forms of thinking about design may be shifting in the context of transformation; different ontologies and their implication for designs’ ability to grasp and respond to the interconnected nature of permacrisis; the relationships between design and other disciplines in responding to crises; the potential for design to shape our understanding and response to crises; and adaption of design education as a response to “the long emergency”.

Conference presentations responding to the pressing questions above were submitted along four tracks with a particular emphasis on approaches oriented towards design studies. Papers featured in these tracks can be found in Chapter 1–4. A separate track created for PhD and MA submissions welcomed visual-based contributions to highlight how young emerging scholars, designers and practitioners respond to crises. These contributions are included in Chapter 5 with presentation abstracts and visuals.

Furthermore, to highlight a field-based, embedded aspect of synergies between scholars and practitioners of the social design field, panel discussions, workshops and presentations were also included in the conference, with the participation of relevant local actors, NGOs, and initiatives in and around Budapest. This program was organized with the Science Shop of Corvinus University, a Budapest-based institution with a lively Social Studies network and a strong emphasis on social innovation. Chapter 6 features a description of the Activation Day programs, where one-

day workshops were organized simultaneously in partnership with three selected local NGOs, each of them providing a case study of a current challenge they've faced. Invited speakers, conference participants and students had the opportunity to work on these challenges in collaboration with the NGOs, bringing diverse expertise to the forefront of the conversation.

Contributions

Papers in this edited volume are divided into four Chapters based on their angle on crises: (1) Understanding Design and Crisis; (2) Crisis, Literacies, and Practices; (3) Crisis and Communities; and (4) Crisis and Education. All four Chapters respond to different aspects of how design can relate to crises and to the question of how design education can prepare for these constant changes and increasingly complex issues. The positionality and research profile of MOME Social Design Hub organiser of the Conference results in featuring a strong focus on practice-based methods and the tangible aspects of design in crises. Besides a theoretical framing of crisis within the track 'Understanding Design and Crisis', the other three Chapters explored practical, field-based or collaborative aspects of design in crisis.

Papers featured in the following chapters feature short and long papers, theoretical papers, as well as literature reviews and case studies. All papers were selected through a blind peer review process.

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