

PDC 2012

Embracing New Territories of Participation

Proceedings of the 12th Participatory Design Conference.
Volume 2: Exploratory Papers, Workshop Descriptions,
Industry Cases

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Roskilde University, Denmark

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Embracing New Territories of Participation

Participatory Design is a vibrant area of research, a fact documented by the exciting programme for this 12th Participatory Design Conference - PDC 2012 - in Roskilde, Denmark. This 'Exploratory Papers' section allows the reader to gain a sense of the energy within this community through reports from both the coalface of engaged action research and the centre of reflective practice. The papers are short, but rich in ideas and insight.

A total of 60 papers were submitted in the exploratory category for PDC 2012. Through an intense review process, 29 were selected for publication and presentation. Some contributions explore emergent themes, such as DIY maker culture and design for design (Seravalli), some open up new spaces for participation, in time, in substantive domain, in geographical space, or in the conceptual realm. Fléron et al, for example, describe how a participatory approach can support processes of implementation, even if a focus on design in use was not included in the design of systems from the start. Offenhuber and Lee collaborate with informal recycling cooperatives in São Paulo, Brazil and Yasuoka and Sakurai provide insight into how participatory design methods can be brought to disaster response with a study of IT company sponsored community response to the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in Japan. De los Reyes and Botero propose the notion of 'ad hoc community' as a way of understanding and mobilizing engagement in rural and urban areas of Colombia, while Merritt and Stolterman provide a discussion of cultural hybridity as a sensitizing concept for collaborative design projects. Methodological reflections discuss how artistic practices can foster a sense of collective purpose and complementarity of expertise (van Klaveren), or how methods developed in the context of democratic cultures can be transposed into other cultural contexts – for example, in an effort to develop novel approaches to active aging and well-being in China (Chen).

These are just some of the many ideas and issues discussed by the papers in this section. The authors present work in progress, experiences from reflective practice, and new ideas for discussion and mutual learning. Their work provides a glimpse of a huge effort and growing body of work that is developing and gathering expertise for design. There is no doubt that many fruitful conversations and new ways of comprehending challenges and opportunities for collaborative design will come from presenting and discussing these papers. And that's a very good start.

We would like to thank the authors for the insight, inspiration and energy they provide. Also, we would like to acknowledge the effort of reviewers from around the world, who have made an effort to sharpen and sometime even contest the contributions in the 29 selected papers.

Welcome to Roskilde - welcome to PDC 2012!

Kim Halskov, Ole Sejer Iversen, Monica Büscher, Jesper Simonsen, Keld Bødker

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