

INSTANT JOURNAL

**Exploring what the
future holds for
practice-based PhDs**

ISSUE THREE

Created at PhD by Design
Satellite Session
27th - 30th June 2016
Design Research Society Conference

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editors

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foreword

PhD by Design is a forum where to vocalise, discuss and work through many of the topical issues of conducting a practice-based PhD in design and to explore how these are re-shaping the field of design.

The Instant Journal is dedicated to gathering materials produced during PhD By Design events.

Issue #3 has been produced during the Design Research Society conference held in Brighton from the 28th - 30th June 2016. The Call for this issue was formulated as 31 questions (page 49) generated during the PhD By Design day on the 27th June, at the start of the conference. The resulting materials have been collected throughout the conference.

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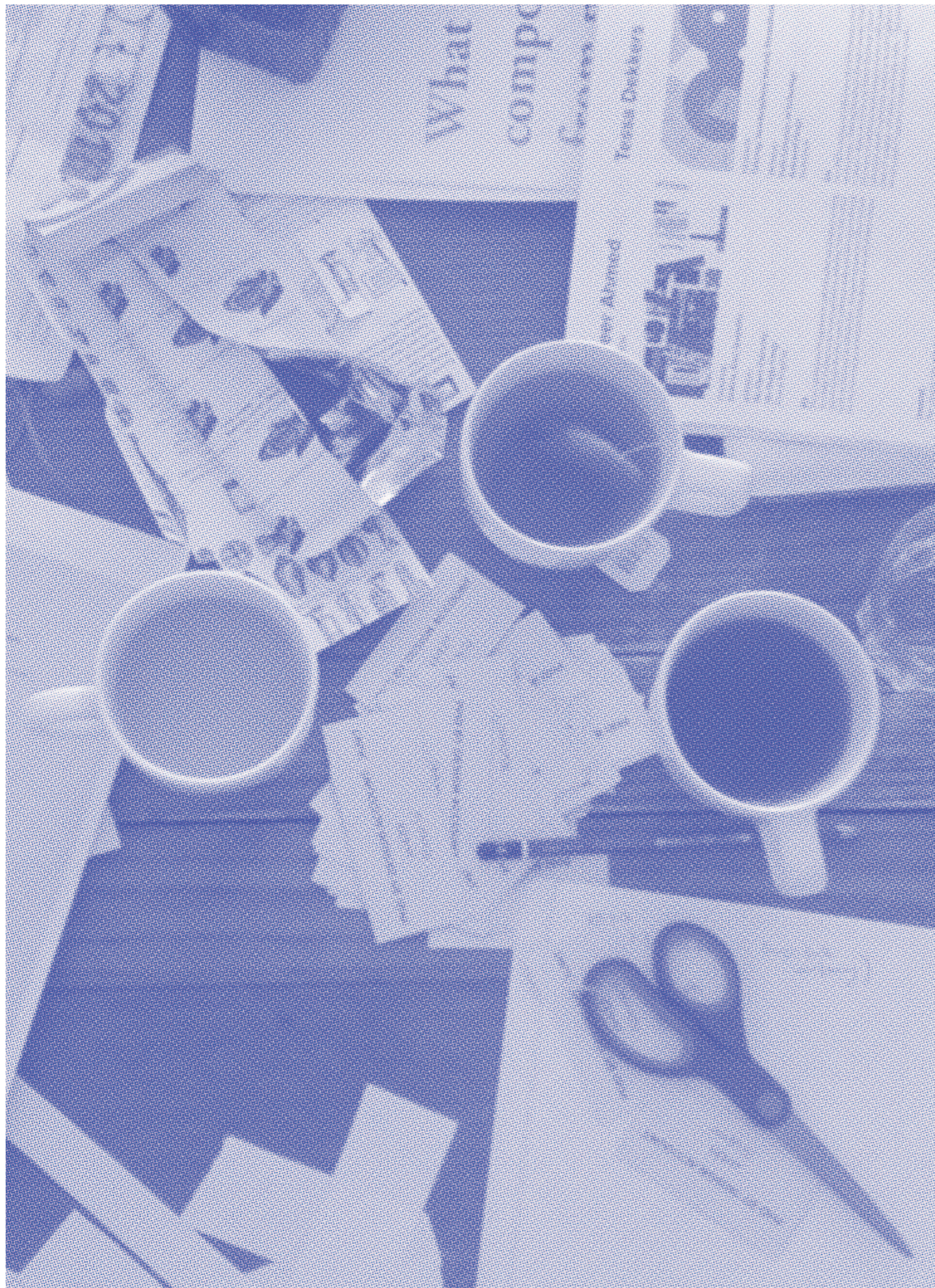
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reflections

To accompany the theme of the DRS conference, we came into this week posing the question: “What does the future hold for practice-based PhD’s in design?” and on Monday the PhD By Design community articulated 31 further questions that it would like to pose to the DRS community. These have been circulating and interweaving with session tracks, conversations, debates, online and late at night and are now being collated into an Instant journal

And as the week closes, we have come to the position that, for us, the future of practice-based research really rotates around the question: what does it mean to care in design research?

Firstly, this allows us to consider conferences as events where people, issues and practices come together and are ultimately changed in their becoming together. How can we show care in planning this? Care in organisational and logistical sense of using a conference as a productive and empowering moment where knowledge is generated between peers. But also in doing justice to your research in how you share it and how as a research community we work through difficult issues.

Secondly, care in knowledge politics. This can be thought about and reflected on how we deliver and engage in critique in both (the most appropriate formats to deliver critique) informal conversations and more public platforms. And we feel that there has been great moments where care has been shown. Throughout the week, we have seen that once again, this is something that the design community needs to work on.

And finally, how do we care for each other as a community of design researchers?

We have all been recipients of the care invested by Peter Lloyd and his team for putting this event on. Through this week we have experienced once more the work and commitment that care takes.

Care is an achievement and this time as PhD By Design we are especially proud of what we have achieved as we have created a great collaboration with the PhD By Design local organising team consisting of Giovanni Marmont, Merryn Haines-Gadd, Lilian Sanchez Moreno and Alessandro Esculapio.

In conclusion, we feel there is a need for design researchers to show care for the things they put in the world (whether conferences, papers, objects, or knowledge) and how they affect and demand care from other things.

What does it mean to care in design research?

Bianca Elzenbaumer, Alison Thomson, Maria Portugal

satellite session

Monday 27th June 2016

0800-0830	REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST
Building Entrance	Tea, coffee & pastries
0830-0900	WELCOME
Lecture Hall	Peter Lloyd, DRS PBD Organising Team
0900 - 1015	MESSY INTRODUCTIONS
	90 seconds per participant
1015 - 1215	DISCUSSION SESSIONS
	10 groups of 6 presentations (5 minutes each) led by a chair and a discussant
1215 - 1330	LUNCH
1330 - 1500	WORKSHOPS
	6 workshop sessions
1500 - 1530	COFFEE BREAK
1530- 1700	DESIGNING QUESTIONS FOR DRS
Lecture Hall	
1700 - 1730	PLANS FOR THE NEXT DAYS AND WRAPPING UP
Lecture Hall	
1800	PRODUCE THE INSTANT JOURNAL CALL
Lecture Hall	

hub

28th-30th June 2016

Following the main event on Monday 27th June 2016, PhD By Design will not lose momentum, extending its presence throughout the rest of the DRS Conference. From **28th to 30th June 2016**, we relocated to the **mezzanine of Brighton Dome** where the **PhD By Design HUB** was set up in order to continue our activities and the work on the *Instant Journal #3*. The HUB was a welcoming social space with an additional daily programme of workshops* and conversations.

Tuesday 28th 1115 - 1245	COMMON GROUND IN HEALTHCARE RESEARCH bridging perspectives between healthcare and design research
Tuesday 28th 1400 - 1530	SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM a session of problem's exchange around the theme of healthy working environments
Wednesday 29th 1600 - 1730	DESIGNER STORY MAPPING map the designer's experience
Thursday 30th 1115 - 1245	TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S design researcher reinventing the intersection

CONTRIBUTIONS AND DOCUMENTATION

DISCUSSION SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS AND INSTANT JOURNAL CALL



WORK- SHOPS



TACIT KNOWLEDGE

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The premise of creative practice research is to make explicit knowled which is perse tacit in creative practice. This tacit knowledge is a flexible and dynamic realm of knowledge which is hard to grasp, as it is something hidden, invisible to the eye of the practitioner but exists within their practice. It is something that exists at the level of the subconscious, an unspoken, silent and subjective form of knowledge, embedded in practice. Tacit knowledge could be described as an intuitive and heuristic thinking related to the operational and experiential aspects of the practice. It could be also defined as the mental space of perception and memory, built through our spatial intelligence. The PhD by design is a process of awareness concerning the tacit knowledge embedded in the practice. Therefore, the PhD could be seen as a journey of discovery through the implicit dimensions of the creative practice.

Exploring Tacit Knowledge

The premise of creative practice research is to make explicit knowledge which is per se tacit in creative practice. This Tacit Knowledge is a flexible and dynamic realm of knowledge which is hard to grasp, as it is something hidden, invisible to the eye of the practitioner but exists within their practice and research. It is something that exists at the level of the subconscious, an unspoken, silent and subjective form of knowledge, embedded in practice. Tacit knowledge could be described as an intuitive and heuristic thinking related to the operational and experiential aspects of the practice. It could be also defined as the mental space of perception and memory, built through our spatial intelligence. The workshop will be the occasion for triggering new reflections about tacit knowledge in creative practice. Research and experiences through the PhD process would be the starting point of debate and reflection about the knowledge embedded in practice.

The Tacit Knowledge is both the starting point and the prompt of the Phd Journey and, at the same time, its explication may the possible outcome and contribution to the knowledge. The expected outcome of the workshop were to have an idea of the personal and collective tacit knowledge. Therefore we asked the participant to find words/concepts/ideas that would respond to the following general questions about the Tacit Knowledge writing them on post its.

The questions were:

What is Tacit Knowledge?

What are the meanings of Tacit Knowledge in Creative Practice Research?

Where does

Tacit Knowledge reside?

How does Tacit Knowledge work?

Where does Tacit Knowledge come from?

How does Tacit Knowledge emerge? (epiphanies/slow and unfolding process)

How one can transfer and make Tacit Knowledge explicit?

How do practitioners deploy their Tacit Knowledge?

How does the discovery of Tacit Knowledge affect and change the practice?

Then we asked them to post the words on the poster arranging them accordingly to each other categorisation and identification of the possible meanings of Tacit Knowledge.

Some interesting insights came out from the dialogue among the participants which include reflections on the possible implications of intuition, serendipity and inspiration in the discovery and in the nature of Tacit Knowledge. On the other side another question aroused about how far should a practitioner go in the discovery of the Tacit Knowledge, how could this influence and change its spontaneity and naivety.