

Syllabus - Part 1

IN3010, 3rd of April 2024

Amela Karahasanović, SINTEF and UiO

Objectives

- ▶ Extending our understanding of transition design

Based on

Gideon Kossoff (2015) Holism and the reconstitution of everyday life: a framework for transition to a sustainable society, *Design Philosophy Papers*, 13:1, 25-38

Nomadic Practices: A Posthuman Theory for Knowing Design, 2020. Ron Wakkary

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY PAPERS, 2015
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Holism and the reconstitution of everyday life: a framework for transition to a sustainable society

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, a framework to assist transition to a sustainable society, incorporating the insights of whole systems science and philosophical holism, is proposed. It is argued this framework needs to be embedded in everyday life, and that everyday life is more likely to be sustainable when communities control the satisfaction of their needs at all levels of scale — households, neighborhoods, villages, cities, regions — 'The Domains of Everyday Life'. When everyday life is sustainable, these Domains arise as people strive to satisfy their needs in place-based ways. They are emergent, self-organizing, participatory, networked, nested and semi-autonomous forms, characteristics they share with living, whole systems. In modernity, however, control of need satisfaction has largely been ceded to centralized institutions and the Domains have consequently been hollowed out and gone into decline, leading to everyday life's unsustainability. Transitioning to a sustainable society requires the reconstitution and reinvention of the Domains. An additional Domain, that of the Planet, has emerged in modernity and its development could give everyday life a cosmopolitanism it lacked in pre-industrial societies.

KEYWORDS

Holism; whole systems;
everyday life; needs;
sustainability transitions

There is always a tight connection between social reality, the theoretical framework we use to interpret it, and the sense of politics and hope that emerges from such an understanding. This connection is often overlooked. Our hopes and politics are largely the result of a given framework. It is particularly important that we reflect on this fact in times of profound transformations, such as today. (Arturo Escobar, 2001)

PERSPECTIVE

Nomadic Practices: A Posthuman Theory for Knowing Design

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This article develops the theory of nomadic practices as an alternative to seeing design as a humanist discipline. Nomadic practices is an epistemological theory guided by posthumanist commitments of phenomenological intentionality, situated knowledges, and nomadism. In contrast to humanist understandings of design that rely on objectivist viewpoints and universalizing foundations, nomadic practices see knowledge production in design as situated, embodied, and partial. The aim of the theory of nomadic practices is to remove the epistemological hurdles of a disciplinary structure such that design practices can be more expansive and plural. The article builds on prior epistemological theories including Kuhn's (1962) *paradigms*, Redström's (2017) *programs*, and Agre's (1997) *generative metaphor* as seen through past changes and upheavals in what is considered design, such as Bolker's (2006) *third wave HCI* (human-computer interaction) or Harrison et al.'s (2007) *paradigms of HCI*. It then turns to key posthumanist concepts to articulate structural features of nomadic practices, namely 1) multiplicity of intentionalities; 2) situated knowing; and 3) nomadism. The contribution of this article is to offer a theory for thinking about design that embraces multiplicity and diversity rather than universalizing and singular ways of knowing design.

Keywords — Posthumanism, Discipline, Posthumanist Design, Intentionality, Nomadism, Epistemology

Relevance to Design Practice — This article offers a theory for knowing design that sees design practices as unique in terms of knowledge, methods, and intentionalities with respect to other design practices. It shows how design is pluralistic and independent of universalized principles and theoretical foundations of design characterized as a singular discipline.

Citation Wakkary, R. (2020). Nomadic practices: A posthuman theory for knowing design. *International Journal of Design*, 14(3), 117-128.

Introduction

knowledge produced aspires to be unified in its concepts to be seen as foundational or universal. By contrast, nomadic practices

Agenda

- ▶ Read the paper (about 20 minutes)
- ▶ Discussion in groups (about 15 minutes)
 - ▶ How is this (or can be) related to your project?
 - ▶ Do you know about any projects/initiatives addressing what is described in the paper?
- ▶ Presentation in plenum (10 minutes)