Competencies for Advising (C1): Online @ Delft

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Participants: 36 advisers and organisers at partner institutions

Time: 13-14 October 2021

Location: online

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Topic & Need

The PhD in design is relatively new. Especially in the past two decades, institutions have formalized and structured their PhD programs. But although the PhD is part of the international academic community, the way the programs, supervision, and teaching is conducted varies widely. In all our institutions, staff has an idea of the local custom and procedures (and maybe from their own PhD elsewhere), and ideas about how to develop this, but few have an idea about the wider framing beyond what is implemented 'at home'.

Interactions with visiting researchers show confusions due to the very different practices, and many staff members welcome a better understanding of how the PhD is done beyond their own institution.

Participants & Goal

The workshop was developed for staff members at the DoCS4Design institutions who are supervising one or more PhD in Design candidates and/or are teaching in the PhD in the Design educational programme, with the aim to:

- To extend their network with peers from leading design schools;

- To learn from best practices in PhD guidance internationally;

- To contribute to give feedback to drive the next steps in the DoCS4Design project.

Format (how we worked)

Because the project started during COVID-19, travel was restricted, and we opted for an online format. Some of the members of the consortium came to Delft and worked both online and offline; all participants were online. The main platforms were Zoom and Miro.

Partners were asked to develop in advance: an introduction video and bring examples of archetypes of a PhD in Design (based on a template).

Each of the three days there were two-hour sessions organised in meaningful order (Opening Up, Sharing Out, Looking Back, Looking Forward, Next Steps, Round off), see figure#. Participants were asked to choose at least two of the sessions.

The sessions were developed in advance and managed on a backstage Miro platform and copied to the frontstage when needed.

This activity was a training, organised to exchange insights with researchers and program coordinators of the six institutions. Participants were informed about the various programmes and they discussed current and future practices of advising PhD candidates in design. The training event consists of 3 days of 2 online workshops of 2 hours each. Participants also received the draft version of the 'Map & Glossary' (item 1) report.

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Wednesday 13 October

Morning session 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CEST)	**SESSION 1: Opening Up** Presentation | The DoCS4Design project Workshop | Challenges for design PhD teaching, learning, advising
Afternoon session 15:30 PM - 17:30 PM (CEST)	**SESSION 2: Sharing Out** Presentation | Examples of best practices from the six partners Presentation & Discussion | Challenges for design research growth, about practice in PhD teaching, learning, advising

Thursday 14 October

Morning session 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CEST)	**SESSION 3: Looking Back** Presentation | Map & Glossary Workshop | Using MG to discuss existing cases of PhD projects
Afternoon session 15:30 PM - 17:30 PM (CEST)	**SESSION 4: Looking Forward** Workshop | Applying MG to archetypes of design PhDs Discussion | How can MG inform advising practices in PhD in Design?

Friday 15 October

Morning session 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CEST)	**SESSION 5: Next Steps** Presentation | Ideas for the Wunderlibrary, an online open repository of educational resources Discussion| How the Wunderlibrary might support PhD candidates and advisers
Afternoon session 15:30 PM - 16:30 PM (CEST)	**SESSION 6: Round Off** Presentation & Discussion | How DoCS4Design can support the future growth of PhD in Design programmes

Fig. 1:The workshop programme: A structure with two-hour sessions and ordered in a meaningful flow (Opening Up, Sharing Out, Looking Back, Looking Forward, Next Steps, Round off).

Resource materials developed

- Workshop programme.

- Introduction videos of the six partner institutions and PhD programmes (table A1).

- Introduction videos to the assignments of the online sessions (table A1).

- Vignettes with names and background information of the participants.

- Draft document of the Map & Glossary.

- Miro boards (backstage and frontstage) with the listed materials and space to exchange thoughts.

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*Fig. 2: Screenshot from Miro board: vignettes of moderator and online participants,
archetypes/representations of PhD in Design outcomes and approaches, and questions.*

Outcomes

Colleagues in the institutes showed great interest in the event. We were with 37 academic staff members across the European partners and two American partners (see table#). The exchange of experiences with the PhD in design curricula and reflection on the drafted Map & Glossary led to useful input for the final version of the Map & Glossary (see Concluding thoughts document, and Item 1).

Table 1 Participants

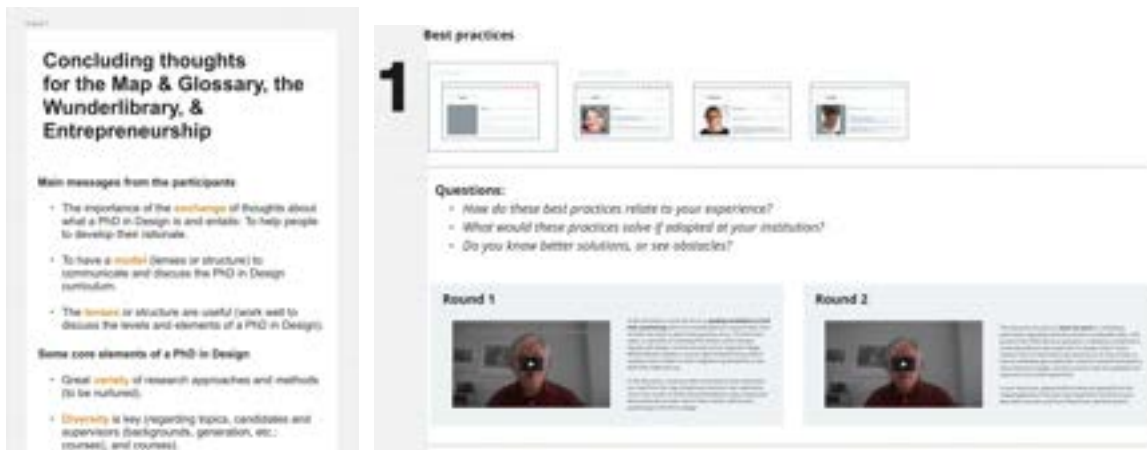| Institute	Facilitators (from the team)	Trainees (researchers from the institutions)
Aalto University	3	4
Imperial College	2	2
TUDelft	3	5
CMU	1	-
IIT	1	-
PoliMi	5	11
Subtotal	**15**	**22**
Total	**37**	

Fig. 3: Screenshots from Miro board: left a list of conclusions from all sessions (see attachment); right a session with vignettes of moderator and participants, questions, and introduction videos.

Feedback/Lessons/Evaluation

Participants were pleased with the lessons learned, and being engaged in the project. Several indicated that "through seeing the other programs I now understand our own program better". Several also shared the course documents with close colleagues.

The Map & Glossary supports exchange and development of thoughts, and supports language. Some new emphases were:

- Identified tensions, more than statements about, for example how funding-driven and curiosity-driven works, and about wellbeing of candidates and advisers (stress, etc.).

- Some more terms to ground (for the Glossary), for example, thesis versus research versus dissertation.

- References need to be included, and directions for using the diversity.

- Identified new activities for the consortium, for example, inclusion of experiments such as shared summer schools, and online courses.

- On education: go beyond the structure, enrich with didactics/pedagogy

- Main issues: The question What is PhD in Design remains the core of the Map & Glossary.

- The movement from disciplinarity: multi-/inter-/trans-/post-/...disciplinary.

- The desire to have overviews (for example, as appendices), for example, key design journals and conferences, and existing courses.

Most of these feedbacks were used to produce the final version of the Map & Glossary. Others, e.g., requests for overviews of journals, conferences, and courses, were taken along in further discussions.

Impacts

The sessions have led to a better understanding of our own programmes. Colleagues and consortium members expressed the value for positioning their own work and understanding about what a PhD in Design entails or could entail, and what this means for the development of their programme.
The draft *The PhD in Design - a Map and Glossary* has been disseminated within the six institutes and input has been used to improve the Map & Glossary. June 2022, the final version has been disseminated on a larger scale, see Item 1.

References

Mattioli, F., Figoli, F.A., & Stappers, P.J. (2023) Connecting the PhD in Design: How PhDs Label Their Thesis Research. *LearnXDesign 2023*. The Design Research Society. 8 pp.

 Stappers, P.J. & van Boeijen, A.G.C. (editors, 2022) PhD in Design – A Map & Glossary. Docs4Design project.

Credits

The Competencies for Advising study was conducted by Politecnico di Milano and TU Delft.

The report was edited by: Pieter Jan Stappers, Annemiek van Boeijen, and Lucia Rampino..

All partners contributed to the output:

Aalto University	Elise Hodson (facilitator), Guy Julier (facilitator)
Carnegie Mellon University	Jonathan Chapman
Illinois Institute of Technology	Carlos Teixeira (facilitator)
Imperial College London	Rafael Calvo, Weston Baxter (facilitator)
Politecnico di Milano	Annalinda De Rosa (facilitator), Fabio Figoli (facilitator), Francesca Mattioli (facilitator), Lucia Rampino (facilitator), Paola Bertola (facilitator)
TU Delft	Annemiek van Boeijen (facilitator), Erika Hajdu (Graphic Design), Sylvia Pont, Pieter Jan Stappers (chair), Wilfred van der Vegte

Appendix: Overview of Miroboard

Fig. A1: Screenshot of Miroboard: from left to right the agenda and script, introductory materials, workshops, and final plenary. Columns: introduction videos at the top, breakout discussion workspaces below.

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Table A1:introductory videos for introductions of programmes and sessions.

video	URL (no password)
1 Method & Positioning	https://vimeo.com/630209288
2 Expectations & Stance	https://vimeo.com/630209170
3 What we Teach	https://vimeo.com/630208981
4 How we Teach	https://vimeo.com/630208716
5 Bringing Together	https://vimeo.com/630208406
All of Us Complete (introducing programmes)	https://vimeo.com/631102773