

The Making of the Map & Glossary

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Erasmus+ project DoCS4Design (Doctoral Courses System for Design)

The Map & Glossary is the foundational document reporting our insight. It was launched at the Design Research Society Conference 2022 in Bilbao, Spain, and has been used in all subsequent workshops, and provided the basis for the Representations tool and the Vignette Tool.

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DoCS4Design



Doctoral Courses System for Design

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Topic & Need

Compared to PhD programs in other disciplines, the PhD in Design is relatively young and has developed differently over time within the different institutes. In 2018, a number of academia involved in the development and implementation of PhD courses noted in an informal exchange of practices that there is a lot to learn from each other's schools. In addition, it also turned out that PhD candidates and design researchers within these institutes do not always know that there are different views and practices, and it is not always clear to them how to position in the field. This gave rise to the desire to map and record both different and similar practices in a systematic manner, record them, and develop activities in such a way that various stakeholders in the field can also benefit from the findings and insights.

EU Policy explicitly mentions the value of diversity in PhD programmes, and although some unity is helpful in communication, differences are valued as expressing local needs and opportunities, and therefore enriching the landscape of doctoral research and education.

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Goal

Goal of the Map and Glossary activity was to help those involved in a PhD in Design - including programme coordinators, supervisors, and PhD students - to develop their own rationale, to build or position their work (e.g. research approach, project, programme, scale and structure) within their own university and beyond, for example, within other PhD programmes with different structures, processes, focus, aims, research approaches and outcomes.

How we worked

To do so the partners exchanged practices of the PhD in Design programmes and developed an overview, including the used language and jargon. In addition, activities were organised to share the captured insights with interested parties, in such a way that they could better position their work, for example, their own programme, research topics, methods, and outcomes, and appropriate their language if needed.

Output

The above efforts resulted in a report, a workshop, conversation and workshop on a conference, and a website.

The report provides an overview - a map - of the practices for the PhD in Design curriculum of six institutions. In addition, the most commonly used terms used by the various institutes are mapped and explained - a glossary.

PhD in Design - A Map & Glossary (Eds.) (Stappers & van Boeijen, 2022): 82 pages in total; Introduction (6 pages), Map section with Context & History (6 pages); Actors & Organisation (12 pages); Time & Activities (14 pages); Research & Education (13 pages), Afterward (2 pages); Glossary section (9 pages), Appendix with Representations of PhD in Design approaches and outcomes (10 pages).

In the online workshop (Delft, October 2021) the first draft of the report was shared with the participants (program coordinators, supervisors, and PhD candidates from the six institutes). Feedback was harvested to improve and finalise the report.

At the first post-COVID major design conference (DRS, June 2022) with the in-person Conversation 'Guiding the PhD in Design – Experiences from Six Programmes' and an online Workshop that built on the Conversation and the shared Map & Glossary, both to disseminate the Map & Glossary report and to gain new insights about what the PhD in Design entails. The six Representations about what a PhD in Design produces regarding both research approach and outcome were discussed in a 90-minute online workshop (Zoom and Miro): 1. to share opinions and gain insights in the broad variety of the possible outcomes of a PhD in Design; 2. to have a better understanding of what a PhD in Design entails; 3. Identify strengths and weaknesses of the proposed Representation format.

Prior to this workshop, the representations - at the time called 'archetypes' - were used again with PhD candidates in a workshop in Torino (December 2021), and used in the RtD online course for initial positioning of the participants.

A website DocS4Design: <http://DoCS4Design.eu/> where the report has been published for dissemination at the time of its international release at the DRS conference in Summer 2022.

An online downloadable pdf and 70 hardcopies of the Map and Glossary were printed and shared with advisory board, management and PhD community in our institutions, PhD research mailing lists, and through two conferences.

Outcomes and Impacts

With the PhD in Design - a Map & Glossary we contribute to people and their work related to design research in various ways.

Program developers within and beyond the consortium have input to develop their curriculum, depending on their needs and possibilities to position, to appropriate their programmes, and improve effectiveness.

Supervisors have knowledge and ideas to position their research, methods, and results in their own institute and beyond.

Students have knowledge and ideas to position their research, methods, results in their own institute and in the working field and have the sources to find their peers.

All these stakeholders are aware of the variety in language and are able to appropriate the used terms needed for effective communication.

Connections to other DoCS4Design Results

The Map & Glossary is the foundation document capturing our understanding about our practices and the language(s) we use to describe them. A draft version was used in the first training event C1 'Competencies for Advising', where feedback was taken to produce the final version.

After its launch on the DRS 2022 Conference, it has served as introductory information for all subsequent training events C2,34,*. It also led to two spinoffs: the 'Representations' tool (see report), and a paper at EAD about the labels that are used to describe various types of design (Stappers, Sleeswijk Visser, & van Boeijen, 2023). The authors of this paper were invited to develop an extended version of this paper for a special issue of The Design Journal (submitted).

References

For the report

Stappers, P.J. & van Boeijen, A.G.C. (Eds.) (2022) PhD in Design - A Map & Glossary. Delft: Delft University of Technology. <http://DoCS4Design.eu>

For the Conversation at the DRS conference

Stappers, P.J., Teixeira, C., Rampino, L., Baxter, W., Hyysalo, S., and Chapman, J. (2022) Guiding the PhD in design: Experiences from six programs, in Lockton, D., Lenzi, S., Hekkert, P., Oak, A., Sádaba, J., Lloyd, P. (eds.), DRS2022: Bilbao, 27 June - 3 July, Bilbao, Spain. <https://doi.org/10.21606/drs.2022.845>

For the Workshop at the DRS conference

DRS did not publish proceedings about the workshop. In the appendix we include the accepted proposal for the workshop:

Van Boeijen, A., Rampino, L., & Mattioli, F (2023) Guiding the PhD in Design – Exchanging Experiences about Outcomes & Approaches. Proposal for workshop accepted at *DRS 2022*.

For the Design Labels spinoff

Stappers, P.J., Sleeswijk Visser, F, & van Boeijen, A.G.C. (2023) Design Labels: The words that Divide and Unite Us. 15th International Conference of the European Academy of Design, 19 October, Espoo, Helsinki. P 728-736.

Stappers, P.J., Sleeswijk Visser, F, & van Boeijen, A.G.C. (submitted to *The Design Journal*) Different Flags over Shared Terrain: Making Sense of 'Design Labels'.

The website

DoCS4Design (2022) *Doctoral Courses System for Design*. Retrieved November 2023, from <http://DoCS4Design.eu>



Some Feedback/Evaluation

During workshops and conversations participants show their interest in the report

Quote from C1 training event: *'the Map & Glossary gave me a much better insight in the position of the PhD programme of my institution, and my position in the field'*

Quote from DRS Conversation: *'Institutionalisation because of a growing number of PhD students leads to more rules. Keeping flexibility is important [to accommodate the individual differences of people]'*.

Quote about Representations from DRS Workshop: *'Useful to early researchers, possible outcome. PhD students struggling with this rational epistemology and structure.'*, *'Helpful to demystify the PhD in Design'*, and *'Concrete starting point. Pros and cons of categories, [they] overlap.'*



Credits

The Map & Glossary activity was organised by TUDelft and led by Pieter Jan Stappers.

The report was edited by: Pieter Jan Stappers & Annemiek van Boeijen and the graphic design was done by Erika Hajdu.

All partners contributed to the output:

Aalto University	Elise Hodson, Guy Julier, Sampsa Hyysalo
Carnegie Mellon University	Jonathan Chapman
Illinois Institute of Technology	Carlos Teixeira, Deea Bataineh (DRS conversation)
Imperial College London	Weston Baxter, Rafael Calvo
Politecnico di Milano	Paola Bertola, Annalinda De Rosa, Fabio Figoli, Francesca Mattioli, Lucia Rampino
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