CALL FOR PAPERS

CoDesign: International Journal of CoCreation in Design and the Arts

Special issue

CoDesign with people living with cognitive and sensory impairments
The main focus of this special issue is on methods and techniques for codesign with people living with cognitive or sensory impairments. The issue will collect a number of high-quality papers describing how existing methods/techniques were adjusted for people living with impairments, or how dedicated methods/techniques were developed. Moreover, this special issue will identify general guidelines for doing codesign with people living with impairments.

GUEST EDITORS
Karin Slegers – University of Leuven (KU Leuven) / iMinds
Pieter Duysburgh – Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) / iMinds
Niels Hendriks – Media, Arts & Design Faculty/ LUCA Faculty of Arts

SCOPE
This special issue aims to bring together research on codesign with people living with cognitive or sensory impairments. In our view, an important prerequisite for codesign is a ‘space’ for common understanding and creation. This can be seen as a ‘hybrid space’ where a process of mutual learning and shaping can occur. The concept of a hybrid space, as it was defined by Muller¹, serves as an in-between region for designers and end-users. It is an overlap between two different worlds and is not owned by the designer, nor by the end-user. As such, this hybrid space is open to differences and thus may serve as a place for polyvocal discussion and co-creation. As such, the hybrid space builds a bridge between the world of (technology) developers, designers and researchers on the one hand, and the world of end-users on the other hand.

The focus of this special issue is on the methods, techniques and tools in codesign that allow the creation of such a hybrid space when designing with people living with cognitive or sensory impairments. The ways in which such end-users make sense of their surroundings and the world, and share their experiences can radically differ from those of other end users. As a result, their impairments can be considered challenging in a codesign setting. Moreover, many cognitive and sensory impairments are related to thought processes and communication skills, including memory, sequencing actions, understanding abstractions, and interpreting social cues. These are precisely the processes and skills that many participatory and codesign techniques draw upon. Therefore, such techniques might not be usable or need to be adjusted for people living with impairments. On the other hand, the different perspectives of people living with impairments may also result in surprising insights and inspiration for design that researchers and designers might not have gained while working with people who do not live with impairments. Such positive effects of codesign with people living with impairments, possibly leading to improvements in codesign techniques, are also within the scope of this special issue.

¹ Muller, Michael J. "Participatory design: the third space in HCl." Human-computer interaction: Development process (2003): 165-185.
A critical issue in adjusting codesign techniques for users with cognitive or sensory impairments is that specific adjustments have to be devised for each user group, while the main principles behind those adjustments are not always clear. The main goal of this special issue is to bring together research on methods or techniques for codesign with people living with cognitive or sensory impairments. In this approach, the special issue aims to go beyond collecting case studies. Moreover, it will identify commonalities in current practices to determine the main principles described above. The focus of the individual papers should therefore be methodological, answering the main question of how the research approach has been different from an approach for codesign with users without impairments.

This special issue builds on a previous initiative of the guest editors, who organized two workshops on the same topic as this special issue at PDC 2012 and at INTERACT 2013. (The present call for papers is not at all limited to those workshop participants).

Specific topics to be dealt with may include:
- Specific methods/techniques for codesign that were adapted or developed for use with people living with cognitive or sensory impairments
- Sensory stimuli/tools/etc. that were used in codesign sessions with people living with cognitive or sensory impairments
- Ethical issues when doing codesign with people living with cognitive or sensory impairments
- The role in the codesign process of both people living with cognitive or sensory impairments as well as caregivers
- The process of translation and interpretation of data and insights towards concepts and designs
- Personal interaction with people living with cognitive or sensory impairments (including issues such as vocabulary, instruction material, use of language, interpreters, etc.)
- Dealing with the fact that you as a researcher/designer are not an expert in the area of the specific impairment of your target group
- Flexibility with respect to the codesign approach
- Collaboration with people with whom it is difficult to relate and whose world of experience is very different from that of the researcher/designer

It is essential that papers deal explicitly, and in depth, with methodological issues, explaining how existing methods/techniques were adapted or how new methods/techniques were specifically designed) for use with people living with impairments. The special issue will not be a collection of papers, but the papers will together form a coherent story, covering all subthemes of the special issue. The editors may invite authors to collaborate with authors of other proposals to write a collaborative paper. The editors themselves will write an introduction and a discussion to frame the papers and to identify general principles.

The guest editors of this special issue of the CoDesign journal encourage and request high quality papers describing mature research on this theme. The time schedule is below.
- Submission of intentions to contribute: October 18, 2013
- Notification of relevance: November 29, 2013
- Deadline for submission of full papers: March 28, 2014
- Post-review notification of decisions: June 27, 2014
- Deadline for submission of revised papers: September 26, 2014
- Final selected papers to production: November 28, 2014
- Publication of special issue: Spring 2015
INSTRUCTION FOR AUTHORS

Submission of intentions to contribute
In the first instance, potential contributors are invited to send an intention to contribute, in the form of a document of 500 words that outlines the content of the paper. The document should be sent by email to Karin Slegers (karin.slegers@soc.kuleuven.be) in pdf format.

Submissions of full papers (for pre-selected authors only)
Following an initial evaluation of the potential of submitted proposals, full papers may be requested, that will be subjected to the normal review procedure of the CoDesign journal. Authors who submitted related papers may be suggested to join forces and write a collaborative paper. Manuscripts should be prepared according to guidelines which can be found on the journal website (http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/ncdn - link “Instructions for Authors”).

All submissions should be made online at the CoDesign Manuscript Central site at: http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ncdn

New users will need to create an account. Instructions on how to do this can be found on the same website. All published articles will undergo rigorous peer review, based on initial guest editors screening and anonymous refereeing by independent expert referees.

Potential authors should contact Karin Slegers (karin.slegers@soc.kuleuven.be) with any questions about the Special Issue.

For further Information about CoDesign go to: http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/ncdn