

— ONE DAY
SYMPOSIUM 2011

25.11.2011

HEAD - GENEVA

Practicing Theory (or: Did Practice Kill Theory?)

Designerly ways of knowing, reflection in action/reflection on action, tacit knowledge, the language of things etc. The theoretical dimension of design research is usually described in numerous and various ways that tend to subsume in elegant formulas the complex relationships between designers and thinkers. Many design research bibliographies show a tendency to overquote a set of common references that could be perceived as the doxa of design research – either in the French theory (Deleuze, Baudrillard), or in the fashionable sociology of systems (Latour, Tarde) or the pragmatic approach (Schön, Simon, Dewey).

The Swiss Design Network one-day Symposium of 2011 Practicing Theory aims at understanding what are the real theoretical contexts of designers practicing design research, how these theoretical backgrounds are formed, explored and broaden, and what use is made of them in the everyday practice of a research project in design. Not only will we seek to understand where from designers think, but also in what directions their research could possibly push the activity of thinking. The aim is not to re-design the ideal library of design thinking, but on the contrary to interrogate the dialog that design research establishes with the historical discourse disciplines such as philosophy, sociology, semiotics or cognitive theories.

Call for papers:

We are looking for papers by designers researchers that present the theoretical background of a practice-based design research project, analyze the importance of said theoretical background and discuss its relevance within the frame of the project, as well as elaborate about the possible inputs that the project might have brought to deepen or broaden the theoretical reflection. Selected papers will be presented and then each one will be discussed in the form of a round table dialogue with one topic-relevant theoretician (philosopher, social scientist, psychologist, etc.), in order to push the general design discourse towards a more conscious and critical positioning within the theoretical landscape. The abstracts and full text papers will be reviewed anonymously. Submissions and reviews are managed with PCS system. The board of reviewers is the international board of the regular Swiss Design Network symposiums.

Deadlines

Papers abstracts (400 words): 30th May 2011

**Deadline for submission
of abstract extended
till June 15th**

Peer-review results: 1st July 2011

Full text papers: 16th September 2011

One-day Symposium: 25th November 2011

Abstract and paper submission

www.swissdesignnetwork.org

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