

Annual General Meeting

2017

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The current council is:	<i>Present Council (year of election) *Term ending</i>
President	Prof Nigel Cross, Open University, UK
Chair	Prof Tracy Bhamra (2015)* Loughborough University, UK
Vice Chair	Prof Peter Lloyd (2016) Brighton University, UK
Honorary Secretary	Dr Rebecca Cain (2016) University of Warwick, UK
Honorary Treasurer	Prof John Langrish (2016) University of Salford, UK
Membership Secretary	Dr Emma Dewberry (2016) Open University, UK
Events Secretary	Dr Erik Bohemia (2016) Loughborough University, UK
Communications Secretary	Mr Derek Jones (2016), Open University, UK
Internationalisation Secretary	Dr Tiiu Poldma (2016) University of Montreal, Canada
SIGs Secretary	Prof Kristina Niedderer (2016) Uni of Wolverhampton, UK

Other elected members

Dr Stella Boess (2015)* TU Delft, the Netherlands
 Prof Hua Dong (2015)* Tongji University, China
 Prof David Durling (2015)* Coventry University, UK
 Prof Tom Fisher (2015)* Nottingham Trent University, UK
 Dr Sarah Kettley (2015)* Nottingham Trent University, UK
 Dr Keelin Leahy (2016) Limerick University, Ireland
 Prof Nithikul Nimkulrat (2016) Estonian Academy of the Arts, Estonia
 Prof Robin Roy (2016) The Open University, UK
 Prof Michael Tovey (2016) Coventry University, UK
 Dr Arno Verhoeven (2016) Edinburgh University, UK
 Prof Martin Woolley (2015)* Coventry University, UK

Co-opted member

Dr Rhoda Trimmingham (2017) Loughborough University, UK

This year, 7 council members (*) were coming to the end of their two-year terms. Following the call for nominations, the following 9 people put themselves forward for election:

Tracy Bhamra,	Loughborough University
Stella Boess,	Delft University of Technology
Jose Casamayor,	Nottingham Trent University
Hua Dong,	Tongji University
David Durling,	Coventry University

Martyn Evans,	Manchester Metropolitan University
Robert Harland,	Loughborough University
John Langrish,	University of Salford
Vicky Lofthouse,	Loughborough University

Sarah Kettley decided not to stand again this year, and we thank her for serving as a council member. She will continue to be engaged with the DRS as a SIG convenor.

John Langrish, the Honourable Treasurer had decided to step down, and Tom Fisher was nominated to replace him.

The other officers put themselves forward to remain in post for a further year, and as none of the officer posts, including for Treasurer were contested, there was no election for officers required.

This year, we trialled a new online voting system called Opavote. Emails were sent to all members and people could vote for 7 out of the 9 candidates. Usually, we would allow up to 7 votes so people can vote for fewer if they wish. However, this online system only allowed the selection of 7 votes exactly. Follow-up emails were sent a week later to those members who had not yet voted.

It was very encouraging to see that by using this system, we had 137 voters, which is approximately 100 more than we usually get for a DRS election. The Opavote and emailing process was administered by Linda Anderson, and I would like to thank her for her efficient running of the digital side of the election. The vote counts were calculated within Opavote, and checked by myself and Linda Anderson. The 7 candidates with the most votes were (in alphabetical order):

Tracy Bhamra
 Stella Boess
 Hua Dong
 David Durling
 Martyn Evans
 Robert Harland
 Vicky Lofthouse

The new DRS council for 2017-2018 now looks like this:

	<i>Present Council (year of election) *Term ending</i>
President	Professor Rachel Cooper OBE, Lancaster University, UK
Chair	Prof Tracy Bhamra, Loughborough University, UK
Vice Chair	Prof Peter Lloyd, University of Brighton, UK
Honorary Secretary	Dr Rebecca Cain (2017) University of Warwick, UK
Honorary Treasurer	Prof Tom Fisher (2017) Nottingham Trent University, UK
Membership Secretary	Dr Emma Dewberry (2017) Open University, UK
Events Secretary	Dr Erik Bohemia (2017) Loughborough University, UK
Communications Secretary	Mr Derek Jones (2017), Open University, UK
Internationalisation Secretary	Dr Tiiu Poldma (2017) University of Montreal, Canada
SIGs Secretary	Prof Kristina Niedderer (2017) Uni of Wolverhampton, UK

Other elected members

Prof Tracy Bhamra (2017) Loughborough University, UK
 Dr Stella Boess (2017) TU Delft, the Netherlands
 Prof Hua Dong (2017) Tongji University, China
 Prof David Durling (2017) Coventry University, UK
 Prof Martyn Evans (2017) Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
 Dr Robert Harland (2017) Loughborough University
 Dr Keelin Leahy (2016) Limerick University, Ireland
 Prof Peter Lloyd (2016) Brighton University, UK
 Dr Vicky Lofthouse (2017) Loughborough University, UK
 Prof Niithikul Nimkulrat (2016) Estonian Academy of the Arts, Estonia
 Prof Robin Roy (2016) The Open University, UK
 Prof Michael Tovey (2016) Coventry University, UK
 Dr Arno Verhoeven (2016) Edinburgh University, UK

Co-opted member

Dr Rhoda Trimingham (2017) Loughborough University, UK

Rebecca Cain

This report summarises the key activities over the first year in my role as Chair of the DRS Council.

DRS2016

In June 2016 we held the DRS2016 Conference which was our most successful to date and the feedback I have received informally from those who attended has been fantastic. We are hoping to build on this for DRS2018 and as you will know planning is well underway for this conference and I am delighted that Peter Lloyd as DRS2016 Conference Chair (and Vice-Chair of Council) is passing on his experience to the conference team in Limerick.

Unfortunately, immediately after the Conference in June we heard that Seymour Roworth-Stokes, the previous Chair of Council, had sadly passed away. This was a very sad end to what had been a great celebration of Design Research.

Strategy Workshop

In September we held a strategy workshop for Council members with the aim of looking at the direction DRS should go in the future. Our concern was that there was little engagement with DRS by the members beyond the Conference. As a result of this workshop we have undertaken a complete transformation of our website and raised the profile of the Special Interest Groups. The new website enables easier communication with DRS members which we are hoping will result in them finding out more about DRS and getting involved. It is early days in terms of the changes but the significant increase in the number of members voting in the recent council elections is very promising.

We aim to make the strategy workshop a regular event to ensure we are always reflecting on the previous year and looking for ways of making further improvements.

Council Meetings

Over the last year council meetings have been focussed around making the changes to the DRS website, developing strategies for communications with members and looking for a new President

AHRC Design Priority Area

In the UK the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) have made design a strategic priority area for their research funding. They have appointed Professor Paul Rodgers from Lancaster University as their new Leadership Fellow in Design and he will help drive the agenda forward for the AHRC. Paul has established an Advisory Group to work with him and I am member of that group. In addition, the AHRC have started to consult with different groups including the DRS to understand how they can ensure that more design research is funded in the future. AHRC will attend a council meeting in the future to hear our views.

Next Steps

I am very excited about the future of DRS. We have a new and dynamic President who is committed to help move forward not only DRS but Design Research more widely. We also have an excellent Council who are committed to getting more engagement with DRS members through better communications and activities. We will have another strategy workshop for Council members later this year and I look forward to the DRS launching new initiatives shortly.

And Finally....

I would like to thank all members of the DRS Council for the support they have given me in my new role as Chair over the past 12 months. Without their significant effort, the DRS would not be in the strong position it is in today and I look forward to continuing to work them in the future.

Tracy Bhamra

Honorary Treasurer's Report 2016-2017

The financial records of the society have been inspected by Robert Littlehales of Bramhall, Cheshire. The following accounts and balance sheet have been found to be a fair summary of these records for the years 2016 and 2017.

The accounts show that a deficit in 2015 became a surplus in 2016. The DRS holds a major international conference every two years. These conferences provide the society with an income to help cover our costs spread over two years.

Our income from subscriptions provides the other main source of revenue. At the end of 2016 we had over £20,000 in the bank. It is the Treasurer's opinion that we should be spending more on our charitable objectives.

I became Treasurer of the DRS in 1993. In the early days, the society communicated with its members via a newsletter sent through the post and online banking did not exist. There have been many changes since then and the DRS is in good shape to face the future. After 24 years it is time to hand over to someone new and I am happy to propose Tom Fisher as my successor.

John Z Langrish

	2016	2015
INCOME	£	£
Subscriptions	13320.00	11612.90
Conferences	10000.00	
Interest		
Total Income	23320.00	11612.90

EXPENDITURE		
Council (1)	2447.80	1418.12
Admin (2)	9825.17	3868.20
Conferences	157.20	729.36
Web Site	4026.11	5241.61
Charges (3)	636.87	510
Other [4]	2040.50	5588
Total Expenditure	19133.65	17355.29
Excess I/E	4186.35	-5742.39

ASSETS		
Bank yr end	21455.10	19006.73
Plus debtor 5	1476.77	
Less Creditors		261.21
Total Assets	22931.87	18745.52

FINANCED BY		
OpeningBalance	18745.52	24487.91
Excess I/E	4186.35	-5742.39
Closing Balance	22931.87	18745.52

The current membership of 521 includes standard members, honorary members and student members. This is a slightly lower number than last year and goes against an underlying trend of a slight elevation in membership numbers in recent years: from 501 in 2014; 528 in 2015; 545 in 2016; and 521 this year. Student members show a similar pattern of slight decline with current numbers of 110 compared to 145 in 2016.

The membership numbers described here do not take into account the increase in standard and student members as a result of the biannual conference. The additional memberships issued as part of the biannual conference registration process in 2016, increased total membership numbers to over 900 during this last reporting period. However data shows that the biannual conference cycle does not retain those conference-based members as on-going renewals and remains an issue of economic viability for the Society.

The key focus of membership activities in this reporting period year has been to consolidate all previous forms of membership data into a useable and transferable dataset. During this process the administrator has been able to identify specific membership issues such as lapsed membership, renewal dates and persistent problems with subscription payments and find ways to record and deal with outstanding membership issues. A huge thanks must go to go to our new administrator, Linda Anderson, who has worked very hard during the year to consolidate the legacy data in a transparent manner. The focus for Membership going forward is to address the integration and functionality of membership data with the new website (to be launched in the Autumn 2017). This work will also explore the value of the Society to DRS members in terms of improving networking, research communications, and access to the scope, membership and activities of the SIGs and links to other communication channels.

Actions going forward

This year has predominantly been involved with the consolidation of members' data from across a number of different sources in preparation for the launch of the new website. Actions for Council (and members) resulting from this transition will involve updating their profiles in the new website, supporting their SIG membership and linking to their other social media networks.

Over the coming year it will be important for Council and members to reflect on fundamental issues such as the cost and value of the DRS offer; this may address how best to:

1. Broaden the appeal of DRS, particularly to an International audience;
2. Deliver effective ways for members to engage with each other in the digital domain;
3. Evaluate the relationship between the cost and the value of Society membership;
4. Look at the relationship between conference registration and sustaining membership numbers to support the economic viability of the Society.

Emma Dewberry

The past year saw the continued failure of the existing Joomla website, finally initiating the transition to the new platform, Silkstart. The activity around this transition has been the major focus for DRS Communications.

This has meant delays to developing any in-depth communications strategy. Despite this, the work to date will inform such a strategy and good progress has been made in developing and preparing our social media strategy thanks to the work of Stella Boess who has set up Twitter (@thisisDRS) and Facebook accounts for the DRS.

Current Role of Communications Officer

The office of Communications Secretary is no longer suitably defined to meet the current needs of the DRS. Current activity and demands on time from other offices, members and interested parties are not sustainable for a voluntary position (i.e. uploading, editing and even writing copy for all news, articles, events, notifications, etc.).

This demand will increase with the transition to the new website but will also be eased by the new capabilities offered. At present, it is difficult to estimate how much resource will be required to continue the role on the current basis. However, the intention of the new website is to ensure that ALL Council members can create new material on the website whenever they need to.

Future role of Communications Officer

The current role comprises three main activities:

1. **Communications Strategy and Operation** – dealing with communications plan; providing online content for other Officers (currently writing as well as editing); liaising with other events/information providers;
2. **Online and digital systems** – dealing with the technical and operational aspects of the website and all other online systems required by the DRS to carry out its business and duties;

3. **Social media Strategy and Operation** – setting guidelines and parameters for SM comms; running all channels – posting and reposting; supporting communications to other offices.

This is simply not sustainable for a voluntary role and Council are asked to consider this as a matter of priority for the next year. It may be possible to split this into additional (or replacement) Council Office roles – this would have to be considered as part of a general overall review of DRS Council Offices.

My recommendation is that the role of the Communications Officer should be reviewed to ensure the sustainability and equity of time and resources available to meet actual need.

Social Media Strategy

Member of Council Stella Boess worked hard in creating DRS accounts on all major social media platforms. These have generated interest and interaction without any proactive promotion. This will change to more active engagement once the new website is fully open.

This early activity has provided support for a broader communications strategy across multiple channels and media. Our online presence has to be recognised as the totality of these media – not simply the website. Future communications strategy will make use of the website as the catalyst for broad channel, wide access communications by default.

JISC Mail Lists

Over the past year it was agreed that a number of discussions on the PhD-Design JISC mail list were beginning to generate negative associations for the DRS. In April Council sought clarification about ownership of the list. Action has now been taken in rewording ownership to make clear that the DRS is not responsible for the mail list.

With the launch of the new website there is now the opportunity to offer significant improvement in the way that items of interest are

communicated. The Design Research Newsletter (DRN) continues to offer an excellent service to the design research community. Over the next year we need to find ways in which the website can draw on and enhance DRN content for the benefit of members.

Future Strategy

This will be developed in the next period of office – current priorities are operational rather than strategic, although the opportunity to consider both is being taken wherever possible.

The main focus of the Office for 2017/18 will be:

- Completing the transition to the new website;
- Establishing operational communications strategy for new content on the website based on the widening participation prototype being trialled;
- Continue to establish the new social media channels and establishing operational 'guidance' for messages;
- Supporting communications for DRS 2018 and using this to establish other
- Test and feedback on use of a wider contribution base of DRS members for communications;
- Bring together the identity of all communications channel using the new DRS identity: website; social media; newsletter; conference attendance; email templates; etc.
- To ensure that the widest possible user base is represented from across the DRS geographically; politically; epistemically; and socially.

Derek Jones

DRS2016 Brighton

The DRS 2016 biannual conference hosted by Brighton University has received unprecedented interest from the Design Research community. The conference was a sold out event and generally thought to be a great success.

The 10 volume proceedings are available from the conference website though individual papers will need to be archived online to fulfil ISSN and DOI requirements.

DRS2018 Limerick

The University of Limerick and Limerick School of Art and Design, and Limerick Institute of Technology will jointly host the DRS2018 conference. The DRS2018 Conference website is now online (drs2018limerick.org) with further information about the conference available.

Dr Keelin Leahy and Dr Muireann Mc Mahon are the DRS2018 Co-Chairs, providing lead for the local conference organising team.

The Vice Chair and Membership Secretary visited the proposed conference venues and met with the local organising team in February. The venues have very good facilities. It is scalable to accommodate moderate to large number of delegates.

Current action points include:

1. Collating the 84 track proposals that were submitted;
2. Planning the overall envelope for the conference budget, including setting registration fees. Professor Tom Fisher will represent the DRS Council in working with the local organisation team;
3. A number of potential keynote debate contributors have been identified and will be contacted in September 2017;
4. The organisation are working on calls for Workshops, Conversations, and Papers to be communicated in September.

ISBNs

A set of 100 ISBNs have been purchased. These will be applied to the DRS2016 and DRS2018 proceedings. This is in addition to the ISSN. The reason is that for some countries ISBN is one of the prerequisite for research publications.

The idea is that SIGs can apply to use ISBNs for their past and upcoming publications.

SIG Events

The DRS SIG report provides details on events undertaken by the individual SIGs.

Recommendation: It is proposed that DRS Council allocates a seed funding of up to £1000 for each of its SIGs to support their event activities.

2018 AGM

The 2018 AGM will be held at the DRS2018 conference.

Erik Bohemia

Since last year, there have been several changes in internationalisation activities. The worldwide discussion group is pending, and will be developed when the current communication and marketing strategies are put into place. This may change in scope and approach, but the intent is still evident to engage worldwide DRS members. Possible avenues include developing strategies with membership and developing Facebook or other social media venues as places for communication.

As a wideranging design research society, DRS connects members from a variety of disciplines and encourages intersections across regions around the world and across a diverse variety of themes and issues, usually at the biannual conferences. The key is to develop dialogue in all areas of the world and during the year, and to encourage dialogue in areas where DRS is not currently as active. Goals for this discussion continue to be the development of a flexible platform for world discussions and with interactive support.

Despite some effort with the previous administrator the previous platforms were not useful, nor flexible enough to develop such a discussion group. With the new communication and marketing strategies being implemented by Council this will become possible over the next year. Proposed activities will be aligned with the new DRS social media strategy proposed.

Discussions with the new "design research" association in the USA ceased during the summer of 2016. It became apparent that this new organization has different values and goals than the Design Research Society and that our advice was not useful at this time.

IASDR Report

As representative to IASDR, the Internationalisation Secretary participated in meetings held in 2017. The yearly online Board meeting was held on April 23, 2017.

Motions were passed regarding membership terms. Essentially member societies are asked to nominate two members, the nature of which is at their discretion, for a two year term. This term is renewable for a further two years, again at the discretion of the member society IASDR also has a proviso wherein they may solicit a third member from member societies, should the need arise. These appointments will normally occur during the biennial conference.

Plans for the upcoming conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA are moving forward.

World Summit of Design

The World Summit of Design is being held in Montreal 16-20 October, 2017. The second Call for proposals is open until June 4, 2017. All DRS members are encouraged to submit proposals. This is a first event of its kind, bringing together professionals and academics from around the world to discuss disciplinary and interdisciplinary initiatives with the conference theme "10 Days to Change the World".

Tiiu Poldma

The DRS now has nine SIGs which aim to facilitate debate and networking between DRS members, and to produce resources accessible to the research community:

- Experiential Knowledge (EKSIG)
- Health, Wellbeing and Happiness (SIGWELL)
- Design Pedagogy (PedSIG)
- Objects, Practices, Experiences, Networks (OPENSIG)
- Inclusive Design (Inclusive SIG)
- Sustainability SIG
- Design for Behaviour Change (Behaviour Change SIG)
- Design Innovation Management (DM SIG)
- Tangible, Embedded and Networked Technologies (TENTSIG)

SIG Activity

While individual SIG activity fluctuates from time to time, overall SIG activity is very healthy and they have become an important benefit and tool for DRS members to network and develop research interests and priorities.

The SIGs have become an important part of the DRS biennial conferences, and they will be present again in the DRS2018 conference with their dedicated strands. The conference organisers, SIG secretary and SIG convenors are working together to facilitate their integration into the conference programme.

Besides participation in the DRS conferences, all SIGs have their own individual activities. A description of each of the current SIGs and their activities follows further below.

SIG review & operational development

After ten years, it was appropriate to review the operation of SIGs to open further avenues for development. The strategic DRS meeting in September 2016 found that the SIGs have become an important vehicle for DRS for delivering visible members benefits. However, a number of issues were also identified to improve SIG operations and ensure their visibility and benefit to members. These issues included:

- A review and amendment of the rules and guidance to ensure they are up-to-date and fit for purpose;
- A SIG pre meeting was introduced before the DRS council meetings to ensure SIG convenors have and opportunity to meet and discuss important SIG business to the council meeting for consideration;
- A fund for to support SIG activities;
- The new website is designed to feature SIGs more strongly and allow for better networking and recruitment of members
- Development of new graphic material to represent and signpost the SIGs

Individual Special Interest Group Reports

Experiential Knowledge (EKSIG)

Convenor: Nithikul Nimkulrat, Estonian Academy of Arts

The EKSIG 2017 Conference: Alive. Active. Adaptive – Experiential Knowledge and Emerging Materials is organised in collaboration with Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands from 19th-20th June 2017.

This is the sixth EKSIG conference but the second that is held outside the UK. The preliminary programme of the conference has been announced and is available online.

The post-publication of EKSIG 2017 has been planned. A special issue proposal has been submitted to International Journal of Design.

The post-publication of EKSIG 2015 as a special issue of Artifact has been delayed due to the change in editorial team of the journal. The special issue will not be announced at the EKSIG 2017 Conference as planned.

In addition, EKSIG is going to organise a track for the upcoming DRS 2018 Limerick conference.

Design for Health, Wellbeing and Happiness (SIGWELL)

Convenor: Rebecca Cain, University of Warwick, UK

I have visited Hasselt University in Belgium on 27-29 2016 November to meet with Ann Petermans (Hasselt University) and Pieter Desmet (Delft University) to discuss how SIGWELL can undertake international activities, and to set an agenda for community-building initiatives over the next year. There is a lot of research activity around design for wellbeing in this part of Europe and we are keen to build links.

A book is being planned on Design for Wellbeing, as part of Rachel Cooper's Design for Social Responsibility series. This will be edited by Rebecca Cain and Ann Petermans. Contributing authors are currently being sought, with content being built on the SIGWELL papers from DRS2016. Writing has begun in January 2017.

Design Pedagogy (PedSIG)

Convenor: Michael Tovey, Coventry University, UK

The special issue of the Design and Technology Education Journal based on a selection of the Design Pedagogy papers at DRS 2016 is well in hand.

The DRS/CUMULUS/DESIGNED PedSIG conference at Ravensbourne is planned for June 2017.

Objects, Practices, Experiences, Networks (OPENSIG)

Convenor: Tom Fisher, Nottingham Trent University, UK

OPENSIG's re-launch round 'material and skill' has been taken up in discussions with researchers in Holland and New Zealand directed at a DRS2018 track. This contribution to the conference will progress the 'material' part of the relaunch. Look out for news of a meeting in September round Skill.

Inclusive Design (Inclusive SIG)

Convenor: Hua Dong, Tongji University, China

InclusiveSIG has organised or actively participated in four events in 2016. In March we organised a research symposium at the University of Cambridge on 'design-engineering-management', 20 research students from Tongji University, University of Cambridge, Brunel University, and Royal College of Arts attended the symposium and presented their research.

In April we organised a PhD consortium at the College of Design and Innovation, Tongji University. More than 40 participants attended the conference. Design researchers from Japan, UK and America acted as panelists to advise PhD students.

In June we organised two Inclusive Design sessions at the DRS conference in Brighton.

In October we helped organised the international symposium on "human factors in design", more than 200 people from China, Japan, UK, Germany, Italy attended the conference and presented their papers. The conference proceedings are available from the website.

Sustainability (Sustainability SIG)

Convenor: Rhoda Trimmingham

No report received.

Design for Behaviour Change (Behaviour Change SIG)

Convenor: Kristina Niedderer

SIG members have submitted the full manuscript for their edited book "Design for Behaviour Change" (Kristina Niedderer, Stephen Clune, Geke Ludden, eds). SIG members have also proposed a special strand for the DRS conference 2018 on "Helping people help themselves - what's the role of Design for Behaviour Change?"

Design Innovation Management (DIM SIG)**Convenor: Erik Bohemia, Loughborough University, UK**

The Design Innovation Management SIG (DIMSIG) in collaboration with the Design Society's Design Management SIG has organised its 1st international conference which will be hosted by the School of Design at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, June 7–9th, 2017. The conference overall theme is: Research Perspectives on Creative Intersections. Over 200 delegates will be attending the conference.

DIM SIG is planning to organise a Track for the upcoming DRS2018 Limerick conference.

Design for Tangible, Embedded and Networked Technologies (TENTSIG)**Convenor: Sarah Kettley, Nottingham Trent University, UK**

No report received.

Kristina Niederrer

