

Annual General Meeting

2018

Contents

3

4	Chair's Report
6	Honorary Secretary Report
11	Treasurer's Report
14	Membership Report
16	Communications Report
20	Events Report
22	Special Interest Groups Report



designresearchsociety.org

This report summarises the key activities over the year.

Council Meetings

Over the last year council meetings have focussed on developing the future structure for DRS. For many years there has been concern that the DRS Council is not as International as we would like but we recognise that the current structure makes it difficult to get wider engagement. Consultation with the membership has taken place via the website and at a Special General meeting at DRS2018 and we now have a strong proposal for consideration. This proposal has the support of the DRS Council and will result in an enlarged International Advisory Council and an Executive Board. Interim arrangements will need to be put in place to facilitate this change but the hope would be that before the next DRS conference the new structure would be fully operational.

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 the Leadership Fellow in Design and he has established an Advisory Group. Three members of Council, Tracy Bhamra, Martyn Evans and Emma Dewberry, are members of this Advisory Group. Unfortunately, AHRC have not yet released any specific call targeting Design research but the Advisory Group continues to meet regularly.

REF2021

In the UK the Research Excellence Framework announced the membership for sub-panel 32 Art & Design: History, Practice and Theory. I have been a member of the sub-panel for the criteria setting phase that was completed in November 2018 and I will continue on the panel for the assessment phase that begins at the end of 2020.

And Finally...

This is my last AGM as Chair of Council as I will be stepping down from this role due to work pressures. I hope to remain involved with DRS and will support the Society as much as I can. I would like to thank all Council Members for their hard work since the last AGM.

I would like to formally acknowledge the valuable and worthwhile contribution that all of these outgoing council members have made to the successful running of the DRS during their terms. I would like to thank them for the work they have done in their respective roles on behalf of the society.

Tracy Bhamra
Chair

Previous position

The last election took place in April-May 2017. Usually the next election would have taken place in April-May 2018, however due to the proposal from council to create a new governance structure, council voted to delay the elections with officers continuing in their current roles until the governance review had been completed.

From May 2017 following the last election, the DRS was comprised as follows:

President	Prof Rachel Cooper OBE , Lancaster University, UK
Chair	Prof Tracy Bhamra (2017) Loughborough University, UK
Vice Chair	Prof Peter Lloyd (2016) Brighton University, UK
Hon. Secretary	Dr Rebecca Cain (2017) University of Warwick, UK
Hon. 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:

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
Dr Vicky Lofthouse (2017) Loughborough University, UK
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

Co-opted member:

Dr Rhoda Trimmingham (2017) Loughborough University, UK

Over the course of 2017-2018, due to a variety of different reasons, seven members of council stepped down from their positions:

- Erik Bohemia – Events Secretary
- Tiiu Poldma – Internationalisation Secretary
- Kristina Niedderer – SIGs Secretary
- David Durling
- Vicky Lofthouse
- Michael Tovey
- Rhoda Trimmingham

The DRS would like to formally acknowledge the valuable and worthwhile contribution that all of these outgoing council members have made to the successful running of the DRS during their terms. We thank them for the work they have done in their respective roles on behalf of the society.

Governance Review

On 3rd May 2018, the DRS council voted in favour of delaying the election and AGM to the Autumn 2018 and to start discussions on what a new governance structure could be. (The AGM subsequently got moved to Jan 2019 due to issues with scheduling the Symposium alongside the AGM).

Terms of Reference for a Governance Review, with the reasons for proposing the change were created and shared, and a Special General Meeting was held in June 2018 at DRS2018 in Limerick to gather the views of DRS members about the future of the society. Following this, a detailed proposal for moving towards the structure of an Executive Board and an Advisory Council was written. The proposal was communicated to the entire DRS membership through email and a discussion forum was set-up on the DRS website for members to voice their opinions. This brings us to our current position.

Current position

At this January 2019 AGM, the proposed changes will be put forward and there will be a discussion and vote from those present at the AGM on whether to proceed, or not.

The current council is comprised as follows:

President	Prof Rachel Cooper OBE, Lancaster University, UK
Chair	Prof Tracy Bhamra (2017) Loughborough University, UK
Vice Chair	Prof Peter Lloyd (2016) Brighton University, UK
Hon. Secretary	Dr Rebecca Cain (2017) Loughborough University, UK
Hon. Treasurer	Prof Tom Fisher (2017) Nottingham Trent University, UK
Membership Secretary	Dr Emma Dewberry (2017) Open University, UK
Events Secretary	vacant
Communications Secretary	Mr Derek Jones (2017), Open University, UK
Internationalisation Secretary	vacant
SIGs Secretary	vacant

Other Elected Members:

Dr Stella Boess (2017) TU Delft, the Netherlands
Prof Hua Dong (2017) Loughborough University, UK
Prof Martyn Evans (2017) Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
 Dr Robert Harland (2017) Loughborough University
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
Dr Arno Verhoeven (2016) Edinburgh University, UK
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant (co-opted)

Future plan

The plan for the elections from this point depends on the outcome from the discussion and vote about the governance structure at the AGM. There are two possible outcome scenarios:

1. If the vote is to proceed with the changes as outlined in the governance review proposal, then the formation process of an 'interim governing body' will commence. The current Council will temporarily become the International Advisory Council, with an acting Chair elected. This arrangement will allow the Council to collaboratively develop the new governance rules and Terms of Reference for the Executive Board and International Advisory Council. Legal advice on the new constitution will be sought. The new governance rules will be circulated to members for ratification at a General Meeting. Following ratification of the new rules, an election will take place to fill the remainder of the International Advisory Council places. The first Executive Board will then be voted in by the newly established International Advisory Council. The new governance structure will become operational by the beginning of 2020.

2. If the vote is not to proceed with the changes and to keep the council in its current format, then an election will be established immediately to fill the vacant roles, and those who have come to the end of their terms (elected in 2016), will need to stand again if they wish to continue.

Rebecca Cain
Honorary Secretary

Treasurer's Report

2017 - 2018

The society is in good financial health, with income from membership fees and conferences covering expenditure at its current level. The bank balance normally reduces in the years when there is not a DRS conference and that was the case in 2017. However, 2017 saw a number of exceptional expenses, associated with reviewing the society's constitution and bringing our web presence up to a better standard. The former involved legal fees of £3360 and the latter design and web service charges of £7163.33. In this context, the reduction in the bank balance was modest, made possible by income from a SiG conference of £5880.

The accounts were scrutinised and approved by the DRS accountant Graham Middlemass.

Tom Fisher
Honorary Treasurer

	2017	2016	2015
INCOME	£	£	£
Subscriptions	18633.56	13320.00	11612.9
Conferences	5880	10000.00	
Interest	0		
Total Income	24513.56	23320.00	11612.9

EXPENDITURE			
Council (1)	3910.56	2447.80	1418.12
Admin (2)	7301.16	9825.17	3868.2
Conferences	0	157.20	729.36
Web Site and Graphics	7163.33	4026.11	5241.61
Charges (3)	714.27	636.87	510
Bursaries and awards	3500		
IASDR sub	429.92		
legal fees & insurance	3567.98		
Other [4]	7497.9	2040.50	5588
Total Expenditure	26587.22	19133.65	17355.29
Excess I/E	-2073.66	4186.35	-5742.39

ASSETS			
Bank year end	15397.68	21455.1	19006.73
Plus debtors (Stripe, Paypal & Worldpay, late payment of conference membership fees)	6488.03	1476.77	
Less Creditors	1027.5		261.21
Total Assets	20858.21	22931.87	18745.52

	2017	2016	2015
FINANCED BY	£	£	£
Opening Balance	22931.87	18745.52	24487.91
Excess I/E	-2073.66	4186.35	-5742.39
Closing Balance	20858.21	22931.87	18745.52

Exceptional items in 2017			
Solicitors Fees re Constitution	3360.00		
Floda re new DRS identity/visuals & AGM booklet	2872.00		
Silkstart initial set up fees	2016.24		
	8248.24		

Executive summary

Core membership numbers are growing with a current total of 1114.

This includes 138 standard members and 85 student members who newly registered through DRS2018.

-Key activities in this reporting period have been to ensure membership data meets GDPR guidelines, to renew or cancel old payment plans and to explore new membership pricing structures.

A new pricing plan structure has been developed, proposed and accepted by Council

Work in progress explores how members' profiles uploaded to the website can usefully illustrate the design research landscape of DRS.

Details

Membership Profile

Total member numbers (as of 20/11/18) are 1114, comprised of 40 fellows, 693 standard members and 381 student members. The overarching trend in membership numbers shows improvement year on year. Since we began to populate the new database in 2016 we can see that membership has increased from 690 in 2016 to 891 in 2018 (these numbers don't include conference registration membership). The trend after conference is always an upturn in membership: a total of 223 members took membership as part of DRS 2018 in Limerick registration. This included 138 standard members and 85 student members.

Income from membership subscription has increased by £5.3k over this two year period.

There is scope with the newly proposed pricing structure to increase membership in lower- and middle-income countries and to provide different services such as multi-lingual communications. The new pricing structure, proposed by the Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Administrator, was accepted by Council at the Strategy Meeting, September 2018, and is as follows:
Fellow £120, Standard £60, Low/mid income countries £45, Student £20.

The encouragement of new SIGs and regional activities will also aim to have a positive impact on the perceptions of the value of DRS membership and on overall membership numbers. It is hoped that DRS2020, based in Brisbane, will also attract membership from a wider geography.

Updating and managing membership data. Our administrator has done an excellent job of responding to GDPR and resolving some of the legacy membership issues such as lapsed membership, old renewal payment plans and persistent problems with subscription payments. Expired membership numbers indicated on the current dataset are therefore mainly a result of these recent consolidation activities.

An ongoing focus for is to address the integration and functionality of membership data for members through the website. This process is still emerging and needs to address how profile membership data can be used more productively as a means of improving networking, research communications, and access to the scope, membership and activities of the SIGs and links to other communication channels.

Future focus

The focus for the coming year will look at the impacts of new membership pricing and address how the value of DRS membership is both conveyed and evolved by, and for the members. In particular Membership needs to explore:

1. The value and scope of DRS, particularly to an International audience
2. Effective ways for members to engage with each other in the digital domain (SIGs plus...)
3. Encourage the completion of membership profile information so that this content can provide an accurate picture of the contemporary design research landscape

Emma Dewberry
Membership Secretary

Summary

We end the year on a high, with 3286 website visitors in October 2018, our highest monthly usage ever, and a 27% increase on our previous monthly high. We have nearly 2000 followers on Twitter; 1200 on Facebook; and 1700 on LinkedIn. Engagement is high across all social media platforms, members are reading the content we produce, and using the online services we provide. But there is significant potential for further growth in communications activity.



Figure 1 DRS Website weekly pageviews in 2018

Review of aims for 2018

2018 saw the appointment of the new Online Editor, Isabel Prochner, who has made a significant impact on the website, social media, and even face to face at DRS 2018. There is clear evidence that the content sourced and produced by Isabel is having an impact on the website and social media traffic and (importantly) interactions between these online spaces [1].

Activity in 2018 has continued to build on traffic analysis from 2017 which suggested that content drives engagement. This has been verified again in 2018 but has to be seen as part of our overall online identity: our social media accounts, our interactions with members and how these interrelate with the website. Whilst content drives activity, the opposite is also true: e.g. the bounce rates are high from inactive SIG pages, suggesting we are not meeting members' needs in this area.

A long term (academic) document repository is still urgently required.

Success of working group / comms team

The Communications Sub-group formed to create a working team has been working well over the past year, meeting monthly to arrange content and communications. This group comprises 4 DRS members (Communication Officer, Website Editor, Social Media Lead, and Vice Chair) and works well as a distributed team, providing a positive model for future ways of working under the proposed new governance structure.

Success of content

This confirms once again that content is central to online engagement activity. The most popular website pages (ignoring Homepage and Account Administration) are Events, Articles, Jobs & Opportunities, and Information (about the DRS) (Figure 2). Each of these content areas shows potential in generating online activity and will continue to be the main focus of activity in 2019.

The website now hosts a This Much I Know series with four articles showcasing DRS members. A new series, Design Research Talking Points, started in November and we have plans for future series, considering ideas around Book Reviews, From the Periphery, and Fellow's Voices.

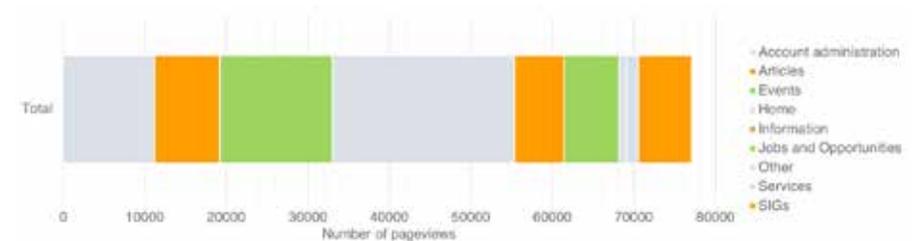


Figure 2. DRS Website 2018 Pageviews by category

Success of social media

Pickup rates on social media have exceeded expectations, generating both referral to the website and our own presence in these spaces - there are clear links between social media activity and website use [1].

Facebook has seen some of the highest activity - posts to our FB timeline generate twice as many referrals as the same Tweet [1]. There is significant potential for further exploration of how we might use these online spaces.



Figure 3. An example of website activity spike following social media posts and referral.

Comms at DRS 2018

It may be a bit old school, but the DRS stall at Limerick worked very well, allowing us and members a valuable (and often missing) opportunity to connect. This supported engagement with the #futureDRS consultation, an example of using a range of channels and modes of communications to work with members. The social media game worked quite well (in association with Bloomsbury Publishing) and, overall, our presence at the event gained valuable contacts and allowed us to promote the activity of DRS and its Council.

Actions and strategy for 2019

The overall strategy for 2019 is 'more of the same' but focusing on three main goals: increasing member interaction and participation; widening participation and voices; and developing the scope and purpose of content. To achieve this, specific targets are to:

- Develop website communications and interaction channels by: removing unused SIG discussions and supporting one or two discussion groups around DRS, PhD research or design research. This may be a larger piece of work around restructuring the website.
- Develop new article series: Emerging Voices; Fellow's Views; Book Reviews. Articles to be selected using the three goals outlined above.
- Expand social media use with unused channels (e.g. YouTube; Pinterest, etc.), specifically to increase interaction and participation.
- Support and monitor the article translation offer and develop this with the working group.
- Support the setting up of the Voices SIG to test and set out how comms can support new groups and activities within the membership.
- Carry out further work to analyse online audiences and respond to emerging trends (e.g India is now 3rd largest audience for website).
- Develop 'Big Comms' to broadcast the wider activity DRS undertakes (e.g. policy consultation; international organisation contributions) as well as our own influence. With updated statistics we now have an online identity with excellent reach - we need to communicate the value of this to 1) members wishing to broadcast their work and ideas, and 2) organisations wishing to communicate to our members

Derek Jones
Communications Officer

The DRS has continued to organise successful events in the current reporting period whilst the biannual conference remains the central focus. The conference now has a consistent format and is established as one of the leading conferences in the design research field. Following the 2016 conference in Brighton, the 2018 conference was hosted by the University of Limerick in Ireland and organised by an extensive team of people from both the DRS and the University of Limerick. The conference was very successful, attracting 600 attendees and initiating new debates in design research. The website for the conference can be viewed at: www.drs2018limerick.org/

Following a call for expressions of interest to host the 2020 conference we received 7 applications. Three bids were invited to present to Council and following this process Brisbane was chosen as the venue for DRS2020. We look forward to working with the Brisbane team over the next year in putting together another successful conference.

Publications

The 10 volume proceedings of DRS2016 are available from the conference website www.drs2016.org/proceedings. The biannual conference proceedings are published under an ISSN (Serial publication) with individual volumes having separate ISBNs and each paper allocated a DOI reference. The individual papers are currently being archived online to fulfil ISSN and DOI requirements (expected completion: early 2018).

The 7 volume proceedings of DRS2018 are available from the conference website <http://www.drs2018limerick.org/participation/proceedings>. A second edition of the proceedings correcting typographical errors is currently being finalised and individual papers archived in line with the 2016 proceedings.

A set of 100 ISBNs have been purchased on behalf of the DRS for conference proceedings and other future DRS publication. The reason is that for some countries having publications with an ISBN is one of the prerequisites for research publications. We anticipate that SIGs can also apply to use ISBNs for their past and upcoming publications. DRS is a member of Crossref which means that it can apply DOIs to its publications.

SIG Events

Please see the report for Special Interest Groups for details about events undertaken by individual SIGs.

Erik Bohemia **Events Secretary**

Background

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) lead discussions, organise events, and further research on specific subject and regional interests. Since 2007, when the Design Research Society (DRS) Special Interest Groups were introduced, SIGs have developed steadily and become an important benefit and way of providing DRS members with a forum for their interests to engage and work actively together around the world.

Current SIGs & SIG development

The DRS currently 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)
- Design for 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 Management (DM SIG)
- Design for Tangible, Embedded and Networked Technologies (tentSIG)

Applications for a further two SIGs are in progress at the time of writing this report, and further proposals for SIGs from DRS members are always welcome.

SIG Activity

While individual SIG activity fluctuates from time to time, overall SIG activity has been very healthy in 2018, with support for the DRS 2018 conference, several SIG events, various publications, and preparation for two SIG conferences in 2019. A description of each of the current SIGs and their activities follows further below.

SIG management & development

After ten years, SIGs have matured, and so has the management and operations of the SIGs. The SIG management has been formalized through the SIG convenors' group with its own meetings. Held in between Council meetings to allow for in depth discussion of relevant SIG issues, the group has proven fruitful to further SIG operations and strategy development. Key issues the SIG convenors group has dealt with include:

- Continuous review and development of SIG rules and guidance to ensure they are up-to-date and fit for purpose
- Management and organization of SIG leadership changes
- Ongoing support for all SIG convenors regarding delivering SIG activities including conference organization through discussion and advice within the group
- Public face: The new website has helped to feature SIGs more strongly and allow for better networking and recruitment of members
- A fund for SIGs to bid in to support for activities was established but is yet to be operationalized which is a task for the forthcoming year

As SIGs have matured, one particular issue this year has been to manage SIG leadership changes. Two SIG convenors have stepped down from their position:

Prof Mike Tovey, who has led PEDSIG for 10 years, and to whom I would like to extend our particular thanks for his role in helping to shape the working of the SIGs over this time and to create a vibrant design research education community.

Dr Rhoda Trimmingham, whom we would like to thank for the inception of the Sustainability SIG, one of the key areas of future research in design.

This change has led to a further change in SIG rules, requiring each SIG to have two co-convenors to ensure continuity for SIG leadership. At present, both SIGs have acting SIG convenors, and calls for applications for the convenorships of both SIGs are in progress. A further call for co-convenors for all other SIGs will be made in 2019.

SIG Activity by SIG

1) Special Interest Group on Experiential Knowledge (EKSIG)

Convenor: Nithikul Nimkulrat, OCAD University, Canada

Post-publication of EKSIG 2017

The post-publication of EKSIG 2017 Conference: Alive. Active. Adaptive. – Experiential Knowledge and Emerging Materials as a Special Issue of International Journal of Design is expected to be published in early 2019 (delayed from the original plan, June 2018). There were 22 submissions, 13 of which were selected to continue to the review process. Five articles will be published in the SI.

EKSIG Track at DRS 2018

EKSIG organised a track at the DRS 2018 Limerick Conference. The track theme was “Experiential Knowledge in Collaborative Multidisciplinary Design Research”. The track received 19 paper submissions from 12 countries, including Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, India, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey, UK and USA. After the double-blind peer review, nine papers were selected for presentation in two sessions at DRS 2018.

Organisation of EKSIG 2019

The next EKSIG Conference will be hosted by the Estonian Academy of Arts on 19–20 September 2019 during the Tallinn Design Festival. The venue is the new campus of the Academy that has been opened in August 2019. The call will be out by the end of 2018. The theme will expand from the EKSIG track theme at DRS 2018 on “Experiential Knowledge in Collaborative Practices with Materials and Non-Materials”. The announcement of the call has been delayed due to the change in work affiliation of the EKSIG convenor that led to a discussion with the host institution regarding the new person in charge of the local organising team.

2) Special Interest Group on Design for Health, Wellbeing and Happiness (SIGWELL)

Convenors: Ann Petermans (Current SIGWELL Chair, Hasselt University, Belgium), Rebecca Cain (Loughborough University, UK), Anna Pohlmeier (TU Delft, The Netherlands), Pieter Desmet (TU Delft, The Netherlands), Deger Ozkaramanli (Twente University, The Netherlands) Matthias Laschke (Siegen University, Germany), Marc Hazzenzahl (Siegen University, Germany), Leandro Tonetto (UNISINOS, Brazil), Tiiu Poldma (Montreal University, Canada).

The SIGWELL community has an interest in advancing knowledge, and the development and application of design research in the broadest sense to improve the personal and societal wellbeing, happiness and health of people.

SIGWELL was reinvigorated in the course of 2017, whereby an international board was established. In September 2017, this board met up in Hasselt, Belgium, to (i) discuss the set-up and organisation of the SIG within the DRS (ii) develop a joint research agenda (iii) discuss future plans.

SIGWELL 2018 international board: Ann Petermans (Belgium), Rebecca Cain (UK), Anna Pohlmeier (The Netherlands), Pieter Desmet (The Netherlands), Deger Ozkaramanli (The Netherlands), Matthias Laschke (Germany), Marc Hazzenzahl (Germany), Leandro Tonetto (Brazil), Tiiu Poldma (Canada).

SIGWELL has engaged in the following activities:

- The SIG is leading an edited book on “Design for Wellbeing” that will be published by Routledge as part of the Design for Social responsibility Series in 2019 and is edited by Ann Petermans and Rebecca Cain (series editor: Rachel Cooper). The chapter contributions have mostly come from the SIGWELL themed tracks at DRS2016.
- SIGWELL chaired a themed track on “Design for Subjective Wellbeing” at DRS2018 in Limerick.
- SIGWELL organised a workshop entitled ‘Victories and Defeats: current practices in Design for Wellbeing’ at DRS2018.

During April 2018, a SIG board meeting was held, where updates were shared on the following activities:

- Design for Wellbeing book
- DRS Conference in Limerick, June 2018
- DRS website – SIGWELL's space

Plans were also confirmed for the organisation of a one-day Conference on Design for Wellbeing education on 5th April 2019, to be held at TU Delft.

During November 2018, the SIG board met again to discuss the organisation of the one-day Conference on Design for Wellbeing education.

Activity planned for 2019

SIGWELL will hold a One-day conference, on April 5 2019, at TUDelft, in The Netherlands. The conference is titled: "Wellbeing by Design: Teaching Practices and Ethical Reflections"

We developed a programme that will share best practices, tools, methods, and experiences from positive design education. The day will start with an inspiring keynote lecture from an Australian teacher who has initiated and coordinated an inspiring positive design project at a primary school. This keynote will be followed by a workshop. After lunch, we will start with a Pecha Kucha session, after which we will host a workshop on design ethics, and a closing keynote on philosophy of technology.

During 2019, we will evaluate the one-day conference and start making plans for future collaborations and activities. SIGWELL will also plan for a new track and/or workshop or special session proposals for the DRS2020 Conference.

SIGWELL is further involved in the MinD conference on Designing with and for People with Dementia, September 2019, together with the Design for Behaviour Change SIG.

3) Special Interest Group on Design Pedagogy (PedSIG)

Acting Co-Convenors: Prof Liv Merete Nielsen, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway, Prof Gary Pritchard, Ravensbourne University, UK

Completed activity, 2018

DRS2018 Limerick

PEDSIG-track 1: Design Education for the General Public

Chaired by: Liv Merete Nielsen, Ingvild Digranes and Janne Reitan

PEDSIG-track 2: Design Education: Catalysing Design Capability

Chaired by: Mike Tovey and Liv Merete Nielsen

PEDSIG is also working with colleagues from METU, Ankara, Turkey, on organising the DRS LEARN X DESIGN 2019 Fifth International Conference for Design Education Researchers. The organisation is well on track with the call for papers, with the deadline for full papers having just been extended to December 2018.

4) Special Interest Group for Objects, Practices, Experiences, Networks (OPENSIG)

Convenor: Prof Tom Fisher, Nottingham Trent University, UK

Over the last year, OPENSIG has been working on publishing a book on the ethics of design products, based on workshops run by the OPENSIG, which will be out next year:

Fisher, Tom and Lorraine Gamman (eds) (2019) *Tricky Design: the ethics of things*, London: Bloomsbury Visual Arts

'Tricky Design: the ethics of things' is a collection of essays from sixteen contributors, an international group of design researchers who share a concern for the ethical dimension of design, and integrate this concern in their practice. The book originates in a paper that Tom gave at the Design Research Society (DRS) conference in Bangkok, in 2012 – Design as Trickster. That paper derived from thoughts about the conflicted answers that readily emerge when questioning whether design is an inherently positive phenomenon. Clearly it may not be. Lorraine was in the audience and conversation soon established that we had both been thinking along these lines, independently. Lorraine's energy

for pursuing these thoughts led us to run a couple of events, titled Good Things and Bad Things: Tricky Objects, Tricky People, Tricky Processes, under the auspices of the DRS OPENSIG: Objects, Practices, Experiences, Networks'. The first was a seminar, in 2013 in Nottingham, and the second a workshop at the 2014 DRS conference at Umea. By this time, the idea for the book was crystallizing, with a 'good things and bad things' Facebook group attracting attention and demonstrating that others shared our interest. The authors take a range of perspectives on design, designs and designing, covering topics that range through design for dying, to design interventions on government policy, to a critique of critical design, to accounts of the ethics of working with participant groups.

For 2019, OPENSIG are also planning a launch symposium, hopefully at the Design Museum, though this is not yet confirmed.

5) Special Interest Group on Inclusive Design (Inclusive SIG)

Convenor: Dr Hua Dong, Loughborough University, UK

The inclusiveSIG has organised a session on inclusive design for DRS2018 in June 2018 (by Hua Dong and Farnaz Nickpour) and several members of the SIG presented papers at the conference.

We organised a symposium on 'inclusive design: architecture, branding and economics' on 29th October 2018 at Tongji University, Shanghai.

We have supported the publication of the 'Inclusive Design Research: Chinese Archive' (to be published in early 2019). We are currently calling for contributions for the session on 'inclusive design in the digital age' at the HCI international 2019 (July 2019).

6) Special Interest Group on Sustainability (Sustainability SIG)

Acting convenor: Dr Emma Dewbury, Open University, UK

The Sustainable Design SIG has had a change in leadership this year. This occurred just prior to the DRS Conference in Limerick in June. The new acting convenor took the opportunity at Limerick to talk to members during both the Transition and Sustainability streams about the Sustainable Design SIG and its possible future directions. Individual conversations continued after the conference, with the membership of the SIG tripling in size during this period.

Future actions involve convening applications for leadership. This has been a little delayed while the DRS agree rules for all SIGs about future leadership and how this should be constituted, communicated and voted upon. After the AGM we will produce a call for the Sustainable Design SIG leadership (this will involve shared leadership between two convenors) and ask potential candidates to put forward their vision for the SIG. For the Sustainable Design SIG this will undoubtedly concern increasing membership numbers and in running activities and events that holistically represent and promote design for sustainability research.

7) Special Interest Group on Design for Behaviour Change (Behaviour Change SIG)

Convenor: Prof Kristina Niedderer, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

In autumn 2017, members of the Behaviour Change SIG published the edited book "Design for Behaviour Change" in the Social Design series:

Niedderer, K., Clune, S. and Ludden, G. (eds.) (2017). Design for Behaviour Change: Theories and practices of designing for change. Routledge.

SIG members have also contributed a special strand to the DRS conference 2018 on "Helping people help themselves - what's the role of Design for Behaviour Change?" which enabled lively discussion around these issues and networking.

For September 2019, the Behaviour Change SIG together with SIGWELL and the European MinD project are organising the first MIND conference Designing for and with People for Dementia: Wellbeing, Empowerment and Happiness. <http://www.mind4dementia.eu> The deadline for submissions is 1 February 2019.

8) Special Interest Group for Design Management (DM SIG)

*Convenor: Dr Erik Bohemia, Loughborough University
Prof Rachel Cooper, University of Lancaster*

The SIG managed to increase their membership after their first successful conference in 2017. The 2019 conference is currently in preparation.

9) Design for Tangible, Embedded and Networked Technologies Special Interest Group (tentSIG)

*Co-convenors: Sarah Kettley, The University of Edingurgh
Anne Cranny-Francis, UTS, Australia [now retired]
Contact: sarah.kettley@ed.ac.uk*

Co-convenor and activity, 2017

Professor Anne Cranny-Francis retired as an academic from University Technology Sydney at the end of 2017. To celebrate her contribution to the field, a day long cross-disciplinary symposium was held, plus a day of workshops bringing together technology, social science and critical theory.

I propose using the co-convenor process plans recently discussed by the SIG committee to re-energise tentSIG, check its relevance, and bring in a new co-convenor.

Proposed linked activity, 2019

Accepted panel: Kettley, S, Kettley, R. (forthcoming). Taking the relational seriously in Design research: humanistic approaches to technological innovation in health and wellbeing [panel]. European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Edinburgh, 13-15 February 2019.

This panel comprises five speakers and will become the starting point for the book proposal currently being developed with Professor Rachel Cooper on Doing Relational Work in HCI. I intend to invite members to this publication opportunity via a series of workshops, and submit for SIG funding to support a PhD researcher to attend the panel at ECQI in February.

Completed activity, 2018

DRS2018 conference track: Kettley, S., Frankel, L. and Blackler, T. (2018). Editorial: Design for Tangible, Embedded and Networked Technologies Special Interest Group (tentSIG). In Proceedings DRS2018 International Conference, Limerick, Ireland. pp2224-2226.

Kristina Niedderer

Secretary for Special Interest Groups

Individual SIG reports provided by SIG Conveners

