

Oliver Baron & Diego Alatorre (2022): Intergenerational Design Activism, In: Proceedings of the 20th European Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work: The International Venue on Practice-centred Computing on the Design of Cooperation Technologies - Workshops, Reports of the European Society for Socially Embedded Technologies (ISSN 2510-2591), DOI: 10.48340/ecscw2022_ws02

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Intergenerational Design Activism

Oliver Baron & Diego Alatorre

Köln International School of Design (KISD, TH Köln, Germany); Centro de Investigaciones en Diseño Industrial (CIDI, UNAM, México) + Centro de Estudos Interdisciplinares do Século XX (CEISXX, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal)

oliver.baron@th-koeln.de; diego.alatorre@cidi.unam.mx

Abstract. Activists of all generations unite! With the same goals, we are designing an alternative to Greta Thunberg's "Fridays for Future". While this movement is largely age-homogeneous, accuses its parents' generation, and relies on renunciation as a solution, we demand intergenerational cooperation, bracket moral arguments, believe in the power of innovation and make dialogue qua digital media strong. Our project is provocative and playful, as an opportunity to reflect on the ecologically and politically complex problem we are addressing today. As a result, we will present the name of the (fictitious) new alliance, its program, a manifesto, a flag, an anthem, a "key visual", posters, flyers, banners a strategy for the (digital) dialogue as well as the "pro's and con's" of the dogmas.

Objective

Instrumentalize youngster discourse by inspiring attitudes of play, honesty and ingenuity that inverts the directionality of knowledge flow within traditional learning spaces.

By working with youngsters to discuss current issues such as global warming and discrimination, we aim to take a fresh perspective to learn about the environment, to come up with new ideas and representations, to build on

prototypes, and to test them: empowering the youngest, not only to be heard, but to establish new agendas and turning their discourses into actionable tools.

In return, we invite grown-up scholars, researchers and professors, to sit in the other side of the classroom, listen and learn how new media is transforming the way people organize and collaborate.

Set-up

The workshop will be the result of a collaboration between high school, bachelor and master students from different educational institutions in Mexico and Germany. The workshop will function as a melting pot for critical thinking, cultural exchange and creative motivation aimed at designing a political campaign to address social and environmental challenges.

The workshop will be facilitated by the students that will take part into this experiences, structured in the following way:

Morning: present the distributed team (in Mexico, Germany and Portugal) and introduce the Intergenerational Activists Manifesto (that will be written from May to June).

Afternoon: crash course on intergenerational online collaboration. Since most students won't be able to attend the conference in Coimbra, we will divide the group into teams. Each team will discuss relevant topics and base their reflections on an online whiteboard, the same that will be projected and interacted with onsite.

Website

<https://sites.google.com/cidi.unam.mx/ecscw2022designactivism>

Participants

We are looking for 15 enthusiasts, from young clever students to grown-up scholars, researchers and professors interested in sharing ideas, listening and learning from each other. We encourage the latest to invite their children, nephews and nieces, especially those already interested in using their creativity for good.

Coordinators

Dr. Oliver Baron: Professor at Köln International School of Design (KISD, TH Köln, Germany) - oliver.baron@th-koeln.de

Msc. Diego Alatorre: Professor at Centro de Investigaciones en Diseño Industrial (CIDI, UNAM, México) + PhD student at Centro de Estudos Interdisciplinares do Século XX (CEISXX, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal) - diego.alatorre@cidi.unam.mx

Ongoing Experience

The present workshop is the result of an international collaboration that has taken place since 2018 through different schemes and configurations. Along these years we have explored concepts such as inclusion and exclusion, sustainable lifestyle, power dynamics in design education, decolonization, online participation & playful interaction.

By working in stretch collaboration with different stakeholders, our previous experience involves mainly design students from different ages and backgrounds, professors and institutional representatives from international organizations such as Goethe Institute and Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Picture

The fruit of our work has been published at multiple online events, one international conference and it is currently being reflected in two students' master thesis.

Graphic Evidence

As designers, the evidence of our work is better communicated using images. The following figures show two different stages on the development of the ideas that inspire the present workshop.

Figure 1 is a screenshot of a video introducing the participants of the second iteration of the international collaboration project that is better explained in the report visualized by figure 2. Both figures refer to other documents that can be download though the following links:

Figure 1: <https://youtu.be/ABQEyG5uZr0>

Figure 2:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y_7kPuldMvmWySqj7CYuQW1A7Do6D7V5/viiew?usp=sharing



We are a team of designers from different backgrounds,

Figure 1. Team introduction.

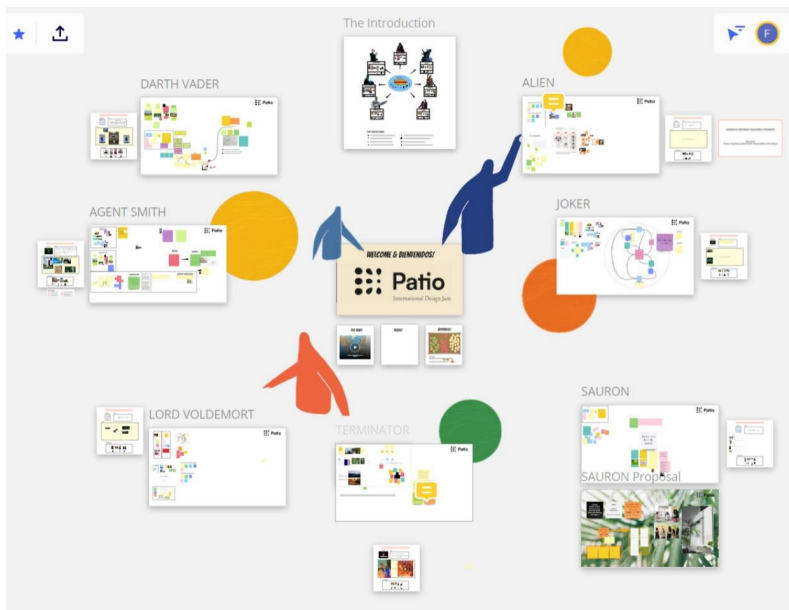


Figure 2. Patio report.