Theorizing Design of ‘Human Technologies’

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What do you feel is most important for you in holding a job as a design-oriented researcher?

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Design as a main subject area at the universities

- Theorizing Designing ‘Human Technologies’ - or:
  - Designing as processes and practices
  - Designing as knowledge development
  - Designing as reality construction
  - Designing as normative interventions
  - Designing as embedding values, ethics, politics, …
  - … as taking responsibility for the design, intervention, reality construction, …

Design schools traditionally rooted in practice now increasingly implement academic criteria
The framework is accompanied by seven general guidelines “in order to illustrate how authors, reviewers, and editors can apply them consistently” (p. 76).

Hevner et al./Design Science in IS Research, MIS Quarterly, 28(1), 2004
Designing Human Technologies at Roskilde University

- New main subject area initiated in 2008 as new bachelor program
- Researchers gather and initiate ‘grass root’ community
- Designing (constructive), Human (participation), Technologies (ICT, experiences, urban planning, climate adaption, etc.)
- Situated Design Methods, MIT Press (2014)
- 46 researchers reflections on 33 design projects
Design as ‘emerging’ change

Design idea/vision

Iterative design

Evaluation

Design in use

Design Research, Routledge (2010), Figure 14.3, p. 207
Design Research, Routledge (2010), Figure 14.3, p. 207

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An alternative “framework”
- i.e. a coordination mechanism

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<th>Change</th>
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<td>Situating contexts</td>
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Reflect on the experiences from a given project:

- What are the conditions and context of the theme/dimension?
- How did it "unfold", how would you describe it?
- How did you strive to respond appropriately to it?
- What were the challenges and opportunities involved?
- How have you (or others) tried to remedy these challenges and make use of the opportunities?
Summing up

- Need for theorizing our design practice - to establish ‘Design’ as main subject at universities

- Call for coordinating our collective reflections

- Presented our experiences so far - synthesized into ‘coordination mechanism’ for collective reflections

- Eager to hear you opinion and thoughts on this