

First Call for Contributions

NORDES 2025 - RELATIONAL DESIGN

Contributions are now most welcome for NORDES 2025

The 11th Nordic Design Research Society (NORDES) Conference

www.nordes.org

Wednesday 6 August – Saturday 9 August 2025

Located at OsloMet University, Oslo, Norway

ORIENTATION

NORDES 2025 marks the 11th bi-annual conference in this series. Launched in 2005, the Nordic Design Research Conferences have been shaped and sustained through commitment and participation from a range of Nordic design research institutions, together with regional and international participants.

NORDES 2025 symbolises a collective arrival for this community at the completion of the first quarter of the 21st century. The event offers a range of shared spaces and formats for reconsidering what we intended and may have achieved so far in design inquiry.

However, at this juncture, this occasion also invites us to reconsider designing and related practices, pedagogies and research as we look towards the mid-21st century. We do so in the contexts of pervasive, difficult and emergent challenges, compound crises, and deepening complexities and uncertainties about how to achieve and secure substantive and durative transformation in a world undergoing rapid ecological and systemic demands and changes.

THEME

NORDES 2025 takes up the open theme **Relational Design** to offer perspectives and means through which we may together investigate and discuss complex dilemmas and current responses, along with design's futures and futures designing.

Relational Design gives attention to ontological multiplicity in evolving processes of becoming and emergence. It accentuates working with possibilities, tensions, paradoxes and contradictions in re-framing and shaping resonances, alliances, linkages and networks of making and researching.

Working within and across difference, Relational Design instantiates interrelations, intersections and distinctions. It facilitates non-normative, situated knowledge experimentation and its generative practices. Relational designing treasures linked, participative and dynamic agency to bring forward pragmatically viable, equitable and bearable transformative potentials and their resonant effects.

Designing and researching relationally asks us to consider the shaping of re-directive design as well as analytical and methodological frames and practices linked with

values, ethics, concepts and methods centred on repair, regeneration and reinvigoration.

This includes how agency be realised when embedded within alliances, networks and webs of relationships to cultivate incipient ventures and bolder analyses in articulating relational design activities and pluralist design research formations.

Overall, rethinking and re-making design relationally invites engagement in working with entanglements - of places, zones, values, processes and participation - that are enmeshed in living and regenerative situations, environments, systems and situated acts of worldmaking.

The following are open prompts for consideration:

How might we re-think and re-work design researching in a way that remains rich and responsible in its situated, exploratory and critical practices while charting pathways and networks, alliances and diversity which contribute to wider structural, systemic and ecological transformation towards sustainable tomorrows?

What are the pragmatic, political and creative-critical characteristics of a linked, re-positioned design inquiry that reaches beyond the logics of immediate market gain and commercial extractivist exploitation and their continuing ecological destruction?

How might we elicit diverse potentials and possibilities for realising plural, mutual, malleable and participative change in which human and nonhuman entities and ecologies are interwoven and interspersed, reflexively, recursively and regeneratively?

What design tools and techniques might be applied to work with temporal and spatial intersections and relations that support shaping creative, multimodal and transductive design literacies in order to steward practices, ethics and cultures of care and environmental justice for near and farflung regenerative futures?

In what ways might we rethink and decolonise roles and relations, activities and responses in shaping counter-narratives and collaborative storying in design inquiries that are infused with context-rich alternatives, plural perspectives and multiple mediational formats?

What non-essentialist, transdisciplinary design-thick intersectional critiques of circular thinking and economic models might inform socially, technically and ecologically responsible and vibrant sustainable change?

SUBMISSION FORMATS

NORDES conferences accept full submissions not only abstracts. A range of well-rehearsed submission formats provides both formal analytical frames yet allows for

designerly articulations suited to shaping and querying relational designing practices and their research approaches and modes of publication.

NORDES 2025 invites the following contributions by type:

- Full papers
- Exploratory papers
- Workshops
- Exhibition
- Doctoral Consortium

All submissions are subject to a pre-review process carried out by the conference chairs and submission category coordinators to ensure coherence and quality. Full and exploratory papers, workshop and exhibition proposals will be subject to double-anonymous peer reviews. One set of full reviews per submission is provided with notifications and guidelines for preparing revised manuscripts for final digital publication. Templates for all submission types will be provided the NORDES 2025 website and also on www.nordes.org

KEY DATES & REGISTRATION

Important dates for contributions

Call for contributions: 1 November 2024

Submissions open: 15 January 2025

Deadline Full and Exploratory papers: 14 February 2025

Deadline Workshops, Exhibitions & Doctoral Consortium: 28 February 2025

Notification to contributors: 31 March 2025

Final revised submissions: 25 April 2025

Final acceptances: 9 May 2025

NOTE: Registration is needed by presenters by 31 May to be included in the programme, archive and proceedings.

Conference fee & registration

Fees includes the opening event, daily refreshments, lunches and the conference dinner.

Registration opens: 10 April 2025

Early Bird:

Students, including PhD students, with valid student ID (before 22 May 2025):
250 €

Regular participants: (before 22 May 2025): 450 €

Standard:

Student (closes 12 June 2025): 300 €

Regular (closes 12 June 2025): 500 €

Late & onsite registration (one fee for full or partial attendance):

Student (with valid student ID): 400 €

Regular: 600 €

PROGRAMME & PUBLICATION

Programme

Final programme published: 20 June 2025

Programme outline:

Wednesday 6 August 2025: Welcome, Keynote, Refreshments and Snacks

Thursday 7 & Friday 8 August 2025: Keynotes, Conference presentations and events

Saturday 9 August 2025: Doctoral Consortium

Publication

All accepted submissions will be available as open access publications during and after the conference via the NORDES Digital Archive. Subsequently, publications will be accessible via the online DRS Digital Library and in the format of an integrated Conference Proceedings.

ABOUT NORDES 2025

Location

In 2025 NORDES returns to Oslo. The conference is located at the OsloMet city centre campus. On this occasion, we have three closely connected conference chairs from three leading design research institutions and a lively local organising committee and a team of Nordic organisers and regional and international reviewers.

Conference co-chairs

University of Oslo (Prof Alma Leora Culén), OsloMet (Prof Laurence Habib) and AHO (Prof Andrew Morrison)

Organisers, reviewers, theme and session chairs, assistants, communication design and sponsors will be posted online at a later date.

Previous conferences

Papers from and material about earlier NORDES conferences can be found at

www.nordes.org

and also archived in the DRS digital library

<https://dl.designresearchsociety.org/nordes/>