Call for Papers:
Special Issue
on
Design Thinking and Social Justice

Guest Editors
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Design Thinking is in its approach similar to participatory design, as developed by Scandinavian design researchers from the 1970s onwards. Design as process, or design thinking, has also become a common strategic tool in many countries worldwide, as design research is increasingly conducted with stakeholder groups affected by a societal problem or challenge (Björgvinsson et al 2012; Johansson-Sköldberg et al. 2013). Thus, design thinking — with its intent of applying an inclusive design process on societal challenges and issues — begins to form the core of re-framing our organizations and society with an ethically grounded larger purpose in mind. In participatory design and design thinking processes, it has become clear that there is an educational dimension as well as a democratic urge to understand the needs and motivations of different sections of society.

This special issue of Organizational Aesthetics entitled Design Thinking and Social Justice brings into focus the need for the creative impulse as well as the foundational basis of design to bring about socially just and sustainable values in the organizations were we work and in society at large. It invites accounts of experiences of and research on environments/ processes/ scenarios/ road maps of design thinking and participatory design where everyone becomes a part of creating a more desirable future by taking action when faced with a challenge.

We welcome contributions that reflect on, exemplify, criticize, or theorize design thinking as empowering design processes at the individual, organizational, or societal levels. Topics of specific interest might include:
• How can design thinking be used in educational, social, or business contexts to introduce real and meaningful change?
• How can issues of social justice become embodied in organizational processes?
• What are the limitations of design thinking and participatory design?

Please submit your paper online at www.organizationalaesthetics.org by 15 March 2015. Details of the journals requirements can be found at http://digitalcommons.wpi.edu/oa/

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