

## COLLECTIVES.

# Designing beyond the individual

Date: 5-7 August 2020

*to gather together  
a plurality of views and participants  
in acts of performing in a group  
for related being and sharing*

### **Collectives, collecting, collectivity. What might these terms mean in our known and emerging approaches and practices of design research?**

In the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic, this NORDES PhD SUMMER SCHOOL will take the form of a 3-day online event, hosted by two partners in Norway, AHO and OsloMet. The timing of the school will be later than in other years to accommodate the many demands of current teaching and research calendars.

The event is free and is open to Nordic-based Design PhDs at any stage of their studies. We may accept participants from across disciplines, but the core requirement is that all participants are making a contribution to design research as a central focus of their thesis.

Thematically, the NORDES 2020 SUMMER SCHOOL is connected to the NORDES 2021 CONFERENCE. In addition to offering content and research support for PhDs, the SUMMER SCHOOL provides PhDs an opportunity to work on new and ongoing material and to prepare a potential contribution to next year's conference theme of MATTERS OF SCALE.

This three-day event will be run on ZOOM. It will use plenary, group sessions and individual study, collected and shared over the event, and connected to pre-circulated materials, activities and preparation. Time will also be made for individual and theme sessions as needed.

The four design research teachers hosting the course provide a wide range of disciplinary and research-based expertise in design education and design research. Other design researchers and supervisors within the NORDES community will also take part.

The event will address a range of thematics and topics around the notion of the COLLECTIVE. It will borrow from social science, the humanities and science and technology studies, in particular. It will explore how they may inform design inquiry in shaping futures that are shared and honed for common interests, needs and purposes, not only competitive and collaborative ones. Designing beyond the individual will be taken up as a means of transforming existing social and cultural practices and identities, values and performances by people acting as a group to arrive at shared, circulated and collective intentions. The themes and topics may include:

- Reflecting on the collective, the collaborative, scale, multi-actor interdependencies and cultural/social perspectives (connected social and everyday life and in designs that move

further into, for example, public health in the context of the COVID pandemic, anticipation and futures, and technology and design);

- Mapping and mediating sustainability
  - Diverse and common interests and needs
  - Circular economy and political pluralist agency
  - Collaborative future making and shared materialities
  - Design ethics and durative shared values;
  - Performing and materialising inclusion and identity, diversity and plurality
  - Stakeholders and participation reassessed through the notion of the collective in and as design inquiry; and
- Developing design theory and methods that acknowledge collective shaping processes and extends the traditional boundaries of what has been understood as design to encompass, for example, more emergent and pluralistic processes.

These themes will be tailored to support the PhD projects and the stages and states of study of your doctoral research.

## VENUE

This is an online course. It will be run in ZOOM and supported by online resources, learning activities and spaces to present and discuss your doctoral design work and research work. You will need a laptop, an internet connection and basic office supplies.

The course will be posted online by the end of June 2020. It will include pre-course readings and activities, a specific day by day programme with a variety of guest lectures, project work, pair and group activities and single study sessions.

Overall, the course aims to inform and strengthen understanding of the collective in your doctoral inquiries. More specifically, it seeks to examine and elaborate on related actions and methods, and to situate the challenges and potentials for designing and researching design for shared and sustainable survival, via creativity with critique.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Please note there are **only 20 places** available. Apply early and share this information with fellow PhDs. You will need to send in a short application form available here. All you need to include is a short outline of your work and ways you think it might connect to the theme of this NORDES summer school.

The due date for applications is **Monday 15 June 2020**.

You will receive notification of your application by Monday 29 June 2020.

The course awards a total of 3 ECTS.

WELCOME!

The Conveners:

Josina Vink and Andrew Morrison (AHO)

Dagny Stuedahl and Henry Mainsah (OsloMet)

For queries, please contact: [palak.dudani@aho.no](mailto:palak.dudani@aho.no)  
[www.nordes.org](http://www.nordes.org)