

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Design Research Works 'Lab Engagements'

1. Who are we?

We are a team of academic researchers at LICA (Lancaster Institute for Creative Arts), Lancaster University. This study is led by Dr. Joseph Lindley, Dr. David Green and Dr. Mayane Dore. It is part of a research project called Design Research Works – <https://designresearch.works>.

2. What is the study about?

The study is about observing and engaging with Design Researchers in-situ to learn about their working practices, culture(s) and methods. We are framing the study around visits that we are calling *Lab Engagements*.

3. What is the aim of the study?

The aim of the study is to visit a selection of active research groups to examine how the work of “Design Research” happens in those contexts. This will inform the wider aim of Design Research Works, which is to explore how Design Research might address the 21st Century’s complex challenges.

4. What are the objectives of the study?

There are four objectives of this study:

- To conduct one or more **interviews** with Design Researchers at each location, alongside direct observation of Design Research work, where possible.
- To work collaboratively with Design Researchers to create a **short film** about one or more specific Design Research projects at each location.
- To facilitate a **design workshop** at each location that explores the potential for a novel repository of Design Research work.
- To capture insights into an ongoing Design Research project via a **diary study** over 2-3 months. This may take place before and/or during and/or after the visit.

5. Why are we doing this?

We believe the *Lab Engagements* will provide us with unique insights into the practical challenges of doing Design Research and an understanding of how it works *in practice*. It will allow us to record and register

examples of Design Research, and capture and communicate some of the richness and diversity of Design Research work, as well as exploring the idea of a “repository” of Design Research work.

6. Who is being asked to take part?

We are inviting a selection of research groups in Europe and North America, who we have identified as doing “Design Research” work.

7. How does the “Lab Engagement” work?

We will begin by contacting lab leaders/representatives by email to share some basic information (e.g. this Information Sheet) and arrange a preliminary call to propose and discuss our visit. During the call, we will explain our aims and answer any questions. If you are happy to proceed, we will organize a time and date for the visit. We may also ask you to share some relevant materials (e.g. documents, media, reports) about your Design Research work, so that we can prepare in advance of the visit.

The visit will include one or more (or all) of the following elements:

(i) Getting to Know... We will meet you and/or your team and refine our objectives for the visit together. We might visit your workspace, meet people in the group, review / observe examples of your Design Research work, and/or spend time informally discussing approaches to Design Research. We will also be happy to contribute to the group in any format that might be appropriate (e.g. talks).

(ii) Interviews & Filming... We would like to conduct *three* different kinds of interviews. Each might involve just one person, or several people; we will organize this with you in advance.

(a) A ~45-minute, audio-recorded, semi-structured interview with the group leader/s about the group’s approach to Design Research. This will be transcribed and analysed by the researchers.

(b) A ~15-minute, video-recorded, structured interview about a specific Design Research project + one or more sessions (of up to ~2 hours maximum) collating and recording new audiovisual materials. These materials will be edited into a short film *vignette**.

(c) A ~15-minute, video-recorded, semi-structured interview about a specific Design Research issue, aligned to your specific area/s of expertise. This will be edited and included in a long-form documentary film about Design Research*.

* Both the vignettes and the long-form documentary are being produced and directed by the researchers and will be released on the Design Research Works [website](#) and [Vimeo channel](#) (via a Creative Commons [CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0](#) license).

(iii) Diary Study... We will provide you with a bespoke designed intervention that aims to capture the long-term process of Design Research. This may be given to you before or during our visit (depending on when we start) and you will keep it for several months. During the visit, we will discuss this with you, either as a ‘review’ session (if you have already started with it) or as a ‘brief’ (if you haven’t used it yet). At the end of the diary study, we will arrange for the diary to be collected and returned to us.

(iv) Speculative Workshop... We will conduct a workshop to explore the question: “*What if we had a shared repository of design research projects?*” What would it look like? How would we use it? How might examples from the current lab fit within its structures? What are its limitations?

At the end of the visit, we will explain our next steps and invite feedback from the group. We will offer token gifts as a “thank you” for participating. In some cases (e.g. where we have additional questions, or where we would like to collect additional materials) we may reach out after the visit to ask for a short online follow-up chat.

8. When will the Lab Engagement take place?

We would like to organize our visits between September 2022 and February 2023. We will work with you to identify a convenient time.

9. How long will it take?

We anticipate each visit will last 3-5 days. We do not expect everyone to be involved at all times. We don't want to disturb your work and we will treat your time and energy with respect. We hope that participating will be valuable and interesting for you.

10. How will my contribution be used?

Contributions to video-recorded interviews will be used in a series of short films (“*vignettes*”) about Design Research projects (8.ii.b) and/or a long-form documentary about Design Research (8.ii.c). You will be given a chance to review the film/s before they are released and have ‘power of veto’ over your interview footage. Contributions to audio-recorded interviews (8.ii.a) and the Diary Study (8.iii) will be used in various reporting and publications arising from the research. Contributions to the workshop (8.iv) will inform the (speculative) design of a new repository of Design Research that is being developed to facilitate better understanding of the ontologies of Design Research, and – subject to a feasibility appraisal – may be implemented later (tbc).

11. Will my contribution be anonymous?

The short films will not be anonymous. One of our underlying aims is to promote and make the design research community more visible both internally and to an external, general public audience. We therefore do not intend to anonymise the interviews for the films and you will be identified by name and affiliation. Nevertheless, before releasing the final version, we will give you the opportunity to remove any part of your interview that you would prefer not to show.

By default your contribution will be anonymous for all the other outputs of this research. However, we will offer you an **optional** anonymity waiver at the end of each interview in case you prefer the contributions to be attributed to you and your institution. We will do this because we understand that in some cases Design Researchers might prefer to showcase their research and explicitly say their name and affiliation in our outputs while also providing you with the opportunity to remain anonymous should you wish.

12. What if I change my mind?

If you change your mind after the lab engagement, you are free to withdraw. If you want to withdraw, please contact us and we will remove any idea you offer to us and destroy them. However, it is impossible to take out data once outputs are published in journals and videos. Therefore, you can only withdraw up to 1 month after taking part in the activities.

13. Will my personal data be made public?

No. Personal data (except for your name and affiliation) will be stored safely and securely at Lancaster University for a minimum of ten years. It will not be shared with any third parties, and it will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998) and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2016).

14. Do I have to take part?

No. It's completely up to you to decide if you want to take part. However, if we have directly contacted you, it is because we would really love to work with you and we think your work can make a great impact on our research and on the wider Design Research community.

15. Are there any incentives or benefits to taking part?

At the end of our visit, we will offer you a symbolic gift with no economic value. We hope that by participating in this research, you will gain some insights into your own work and a deeper understanding of Design Research as well. Hopefully, it will also be fun to participate!

16. Are there any risks involved in taking part?

There are no significant risks involved in taking part.

17. Who has reviewed the project?

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Ethics Committee at Lancaster University.

18. Where can I obtain further information about the study if I need it?

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the researchers: Joseph Lindley (j.lindley@lancaster.ac.uk), David Green (d.p.green@lancaster.ac.uk) and Mayane Dore (m.dore@lancaster.ac.uk).

19. What if I have a question or concern?

If you have any concerns or complaints that you wish to discuss with a person who is not directly involved in the research, you can also contact: Alan Marsden (Head of LICA Department), Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA), The LICA Building, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom, LA1 4YW email: alan.marsden@lancaster.ac.uk / phone: +44 (0)1524 510873 If you have any concerns about the use of your data, you can contact compliance@lancaster.ac.uk For further information about how Lancaster University processes personal data for research purposes and your data rights please visit our webpage: www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/dataprotection

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet!