
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Henri Christiaans holds an MSc Degree in Psychology from the University of Amsterdam and a PhD Degree in Design Engineering from Delft University of Technology. He is an Associate Professor in the Applied Ergonomics in Design group of the School of Industrial design Engineering. He is head of the Master Program Integrated Product Design at this school. Furthermore, he is program coordinator of the Master Program 'Retail & Interior Design' at the Piet Zwart Institute of University of Rotterdam. His research focus is on design methodology regarding the cognitive aspects of product design and use.

Paulien M. Herder holds an MSc Degree in Chemical Engineering (1994) and a PhD Degree in Systems Engineering (1999), both from Delft University of Technology. She is an Associate Professor in the Energy & Industry group at the Department of Technology, Policy and Management and she is the Executive Director and Sub-programme Leader (Design of Flexible Infrastructures) within a large, international research programme on Next Generation Infrastructures (NGInfra). Her research focuses on the flexible design and on design processes of large-scale networked systems, mainly in the energy and industrial sectors.

I.T. Klaasen is an Associate Professor at the Department of Urban Design and Planning, Faculty of Architecture of Delft University of Technology. Besides pursuing an academic career she has been a member of the Provincial Council

of North-Holland and an adviser to the Municipality of Amsterdam. She is the initiator and Editor of the Series Design/Science/Planning.

This volume of the *Journal of Design Research (JDR)* marks the start of the publication of the journal with a new publisher, Inderscience. Originally published as an electronic journal containing articles including multimedia applications and hence allowing visual knowledge transfer, JDR is now also available in print. This two-way availability will improve the overall quality and distribution of its content. For this reason we are very pleased to be part of the Inderscience group of journals. Another advantage is that papers will also be easily accessible on web searches undertaken by scholars.

Building upon and consolidating the directions already set for JDR, we see ourselves as moving forward as a Design journal which, as we point out in our Aims statement, emphasises human aspects as a central issue of design through integrative studies of social sciences and design disciplines.

We are a home for innovative, leading-edge papers that reveal design issues as part of the interplay between the material and technological world and human cultural values and beliefs. The objective of JDR is to be a forum for theoretical and empirical research (inclusive of case studies, experiments, and simulation-based analyses) that improves our knowledge of the state of human-related design issues past and present, as well as enriches our causal understanding of the role of design in fulfilling people's needs, wishes and dreams. As a consequence, we encourage interdisciplinary discourse and debate from a variety of methodological perspectives that serve to enhance our understanding of the world in which we live. With this in mind, JDR also welcomes survey articles, history of thought papers, and suggestions for special topic issues.

Finally, we have built a strong Editorial Board supplemented by an excellent group of additional reviewers. All papers are rigorously peer-reviewed. All communication with regards to referee reports and revisions and further follow-up communication are done through e-mail to expedite the review process.

By publishing in JDR, you will be read by designers and engineers, design researchers and other scholars from a variety of methodological perspectives. In this way, you can surely help to affect the future course of design and related disciplines. We invite potential contributors to view the *Journal of Design Research* as their first choice for submitting their scholarly contributions as we build a forum for innovative and engaging papers that will enhance the quality and applicability of theoretical and empirical studies on design. We aim to produce a journal that is both high quality and highly relevant. We hope that we are on the right track and we welcome comments and suggestions from our authors and readers in our ongoing efforts to build the *Journal of Design Research* into one of the profession's leading innovative publications.