Ph.D. course: Foresight & Futuring in Design Research

## General information

ECTS: 2.0

Time: 29 - 30 August 2022

Place: Copenhagen Campus at Aalborg University

Number of seats: 25

Deadline: 1 August 2022

Cost: the participation is free (lunch and dinner at own expenses)

Register <https://phd.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=1955> or contact us for more information (Luca Simeone: lsi@create.aau.dk)

## Description of the course

“Everyone designs who devises courses of action aimed at changing existing situations into preferred ones”. As implied in this famous observation by Herbert Simon, design and the future are not strangers to each other but the future-orientation is inherent to design. But it is only in recent years that design has begun to consciously consider long-term futures. Since then, extensive research has been conducted at the intersection of design and futures studies. As the mutual interest between the design and futures field grew, various intertwined design-driven futures or futures-driven design approaches, and associated sub-disciplines emerged, such as speculative design, design fiction, or critical design. The contribution that the integration of design and foresight/futuring can make is manifold but emerges around the potential of anticipation, speculation and imagination to inform and incite change in the present.

With this two-day doctoral course, we invite participants to consider the relevance and scope of engaging, both theoretically and practically, with the intersection of design and foresight/futuring. The overarching purpose is to provide and generate research-based knowledge about theories and methods on how to use foresight/futuring to support design processes. The course will bring an overview of extant literature on the topic from both the design and futures field and suggest some tentative definitions to be further explored. The course is built on examples from practice, as well as hands-on activities which will serve us as vehicles for exploration and discussion. Practically, the course comprises a mix of lectures, discussions on reading, and workshops based on individual and group work. Participants will also be invited to present and share their own work in relation to the course topic. We will have Nick Dunn, Executive Director of ImaginationLancaster where he is also Chair of Urban Design, join us for a guest lecture. Find more information about Nick below.

The second day of the course will be linked to a symposium, where companies and research organizations operating within the field of design and foresight will present and discuss their work. The PhD course will continue in the afternoon after the symposium. Please find the detailed course programme below.

The idea of linking the symposium with the course is that the students of the course will be involved in crafting and facilitating a performative session during the symposium. The course, therefore, will also have a practice-based dimension, which, we expect, could be quite engaging.

In addition, the course will include a session that we labeled ‘publications marketplace’ and that is geared towards creating opportunities for PhD students to team up for joint publications to be potentially produced after the course.

## Preparation before the course

* You are asked to give a short oral presentation of your research in the course (max. 5 minutes)
* You are asked to write and submit a 1-page document before the course. The document should briefly present your ongoing doctoral project and how it relates to two of the readings. We encourage you to read through the mandatory readings before the course and to choose two texts that you find particularly relevant for your own research (whether you agree with them or not). Reflect on them in the 1-page document.

## Detailed programme

The first day is organized with lectures and workshops in the morning and group work among participants in the afternoon. On Monday there will be an optional dinner for participants and organizers at a restaurant in Copenhagen (at your own cost). The second day will start with the symposium and group work in the afternoon. Each day ends with a short sum up plenary.

### Day 1 (August 29, 2022):

9.30 – 10.00 Soft start with yoga, coffee and tea

10.00 – 10.30 Welcome & introduction

10.30 -12.00 Lecture and exercises by Lea Holst Laursen, Luca Simeone, Canan Akoglu and Sune Klok Gudiksen

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.00 Keynote lecture by Nick Dunn

14.00 – 16.00 Participants present their work and how it relates to 1) readings 2) foresight

16.00 –17.00 Creation of a map of research themes explored by PhD students (what are the patterns, emerging themes among the Phd students’ research)

17:00 – Optional dinner

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### Day 2 (August 30, 2022):

09:30 – 10:00 Soft start with coffee and welcome

10:00 – 13:30 Design & Foresight Symposium (the program will be circulated at a later stage)

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 15:30 PhD course: Elaborate on the symposium in small groups (what were the most important topics emerging

15:30 – 17:00 Publication marketplace & introduction of the idea of an online event in October (where we invite speakers to share reflections around some questions)

17:00 – Optional dinner

## Course lecturers and organizers

### Lecturers

**Luca Simeone**, Associate professor, Aalborg University, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology.

Luca’s core focus is on how design and arts can support personal, organizational and community resilience, innovation, transition thinking, long-term strategic orientation and positive and impactful change. He has carried out research, teaching and consulting activities at various universities (Harvard, MIT, Stanford, Polytechnic University of Milan, Malmö University and University of the Arts London), (co)authoring and (co)editing some 70 publications. He also helps private and public organizations (e.g. the European Commission, the World Bank, UNICEF and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research) to define strategies, policies, and funding schemes to foster innovation. <https://vbn.aau.dk/en/persons/140448>

**Lea Holst Laursen**, Associate professor, Aalborg University, Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology

Lea Holst Laursen is an associate professor and section head for the Architecture and Urban Design Section at the Department of Architecture, Design & Media Technology at Aalborg University. Lea holds a master's degree in Urban Design and a Ph.D. degree from Aalborg University in 2009. Lea's overall research area is urban and landscape transformation, with a focus on site development, co-creation, futures and urban and landscape design. Lea's research is based on a local, place-based perspective, where citizen involvement, site analyzes, and Research-by-design are central approaches to critically discuss the future urban landscape and its ability to adapt and change in accordance with the citizens and future needs. See full CV on AAU’s webpage:<https://vbn.aau.dk/da/persons/111568>

**Sune Klok Gudiksen,** Associate Professor, Design School Kolding, Lab Design–for-play (email: skg@dskd.dk)

Sune Gudiksen is Associate Professor at Design School Kolding. He has worked extensively with design and innovation management, and more specifically with future scenario design and strategic foresight. One specialized medium of choice is play and game-based techniques to support stakeholder participation, high engagement and quality learning outcome. He is one of those rare designer-researchers who both design the scenario and strategic foresight methods and apply them in a variety of organizations, as well as follow up with research into how the methods and approaches lead to specific interactions, dialogues and results.

**Canan Akoglu, Associate Professor**, Design School Kolding, Lab for Social Design (email: ca@dskd.dk)

Canan Akoglu works as an associate professor at Lab for Social Design and as the head of Design for People MA Programme at Design School Kolding in Denmark. She has a background in architecture together with a PhD degree in industrial design from Istanbul Technical University. Her main research interests include participatory design, stakeholder engagement, service design, social design in health and social care. Prior to her current position, Akoglu worked as the co-founder of the Department of Industrial Design at Ozyegin University in Istanbul and as a postdoctoral researcher at Umeå Institute of Design in Sweden.

### Guest lecturer

**Nick Dunn**

Nick Dunn is Executive Director of ImaginationLancaster where he is also Chair of Urban Design. He is a Senior Fellow of the Institute for Social Futures, where he also leads research in the Future of Cities and Urbanism. His work responds to the contemporary city as a series of systems, flows and processes, and is explored through experimentation and discourse addressing the nature of urban space: its perception, demarcation and appropriation. His work for the UK Government Office for Science and projects such as the EPSRC-funded Liveable Cities contributes to the wider discourse surrounding the current characteristics and potential future scenarios of the urban landscape in a range of contexts. In particular, he is interested in why and how (maybe even where and when) we design, rather than what we design. He has published numerous books related to architecture and urbanism and his papers have been published and presented internationally and collaborative creative work exhibited across the UK, China and Ukraine.

## Tentative reading list **(to be confirmed and expanded)**

The reading list that we specify for the course does not provide a full coverage of the literature on foresight/and futuring in design research. We have chosen texts that we find are useful for providing an overview over the different approaches to futures making in design.

Candy, S., & Dunagan, J. (2017). Designing an experiential scenario: The people who vanished. Futures, 86, 136-153.

Dunn, N. (2020) Futures Cities - a visual guide. London : Bloomsbury – Chapter 1

Garduño García, C., & Gaziulusoy, İ. (2021). Designing future experiences of the everyday. Futures, 127, 102702 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2021.102702>

Neuhoff, R., Simeone, L., Holst Laursen, L. (2021). Exploring how design-driven foresight can support strategic thinking in relation to sustainability and circular policy making. Proceedings of the 14th International Conference of the European Academy of Design, ‘Safe Harbours for Design Research’, Lancaster (UK), 11-16 October 2021.

Ramos, J., Sweeney, J. A., Peach, K., & Smith, L. (2019). Our futures: by the people, for the people.

Simeone, L., D’Ippolito, B. (ACCEPTED – IN PRESS). The potential of design-driven foresight to support strategy articulation through experiential learning. Long Range Planning. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lrp.2021.102181>