

Dear ACS friends

News about a new 'Super Stonehenge' found (see link below) and a couple of opportunities that you may want to know about.

[http://earthsky.org/earth/super-stonehenge-discovered?
utm_source=EarthSky+News&utm_campaign=d3b7f51845-
EarthSky_News&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c643945d79-d3b7f51845-394259649](http://earthsky.org/earth/super-stonehenge-discovered?utm_source=EarthSky+News&utm_campaign=d3b7f51845-EarthSky_News&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c643945d79-d3b7f51845-394259649)

<http://www.drs2016.org/#drs2016>
<http://www.drs2016.org/additional-themes/>

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY DRS CONFERENCE BRIGHTON, 27-30 JUNE 2016

Over the past 50 years design research has established a firm basis for our understanding of design. For DRS2016 we invite you to join us in considering how design research can help us address the problems we face now and the challenges that lie ahead. We ask three questions:

How can design research help frame and address the societal problems that face us?

How can design research be a creative and active force for rethinking ideas about Design?

How can design research shape our lives in more responsible, meaningful, and open ways?

Whatever your field of design research we encourage you to participate, to show the true diversity of our subject area, and to help us build a conference formed and shaped by the people that come.

DRS2016 is hosted by the University of Brighton in the UK, in association with the Royal College of Art and Imperial College, London (where the very first meeting of the Design Research Society was held in 1966). The conference week will give you the chance to experience the energy and creativity of the dynamic city of Brighton.

SUBMISSION FOR DRS2016 IS NOW OPEN!

<<http://www.drs2016.org/reservations>>

7. DESIGN EPISTEMOLOGY

SUB-CHAIRS

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Leonard R. Bachman, University of Houston

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The last 50 years has seen major moves towards establishing a sound epistemic basis for design research and understanding (Cross, 2007). Despite this, there remain several epistemological 'big challenges' across the entire spectrum of design disciplines – particularly the development of a distinct design knowledge (Cross, 2013).

The primary motivation of this theme is to consider the current state of design theory research by examining the boundary between belief and knowledge, the unique offering of design epistemology (Gettier, 1963). The basic question is how these knowledge categories operate

within and between design disciplines, and if there is a shared 'global' epistemological foundation. Specific questions might explore:

- An examination of the (possible) structured relationship between method and epistemology (e.g. Perez-Gomez, 1987),
- The validity of an epistemological foundation in practices which still stress intuition, tacit knowledge and reflective practice as primary approaches (e.g. Abelson, 1979).
- Whether common research activities provide mechanisms for epistemological exchange as opposed to knowledge transfer (e.g. McDonnell & Lloyd, 2009)
- Separating design as an activity from design as knowledge work through epistemological categorization (e.g. Plowright, 2014).

In particular, this theme will explore the relationship between traditional epistemological categories and newer tendencies, such as social, feminist or virtue epistemology, in relation to design. This exploration aligns closely to that of the PhD by Design <http://www.drs2016.org/phd-by-design> project, acknowledging the difficulty faced in creating definitions of research -by, -of and -in design.

3rd International Congress on Ambiances Volos, Greece: 21 - 24 September 2016

<http://ambiances2016.arch.uth.gr>

This third Congress will attempt to take stock of research into, and applications based around the notion of ambiance both in the scientific sphere and with regard to the future of design and artistic creation.

For the past 40 years, a large number of researchers, designers and artists in Europe and throughout the world have been focusing on the issue of architectural and urban ambiances. The increasing and enduring importance of the International Ambiances Network demonstrates the topicality of this whole area on a theoretical, critical, practical, experimental and artistic level, as well as from a political, historical and learning perspective. The output of the network members and numerous research teams tackling ambiance-related issues attests to this notion's ability to re-examine both the knowledge and the production of our living spaces. It constitutes a response to contemporary societal issues such as environmental challenges related to climate change and energy efficiency.

The Third Congress, after Grenoble (2008) and Montreal (2012) will be used to circumscribe the notion of ambiance (or atmosphere) in a dynamic prospective and demonstrate how it can become an operator in transforming our habitats, cities and societies. So, The future of ambiances can be analysed according to a three-fold perspective in terms of its pragmatic, theoretical and prospective dimensions.

Authors are invited to submit proposals (in French, English or Greek) dealing with one or more of the six themes proposed.

1. Ambiantal experiences and experiments
2. Traces, notations and representations of ambiances
3. Projecting and manufacturing the ambiances of tomorrow
4. Ambiance, atmosphere, climate: theory, politics and criticism
5. Ambiances and territories in transformation

6. Ambiance as heritage of the future

Proposals must be submitted to the Congress website before 1 November 2015.

The Congress is organised jointly by :

- the International Ambiances Network (www.ambiances.net <<http://www.ambiances.net>>), Scientific Thematic Network of the French Ministry for Culture and Communication, France

the department of architecture of the Polytechnic School of the University of Thessaly, Greece

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"leap and the net will appear"