

Track 2

Design Theory, Design Philosophy

Convenor : Stéphane Vial, University of Nîmes (France).

Track description

In the introduction of his book *The Semantic Turn: A New Foundation for Design* (2005), Klaus Krippendorff claims that our age is an age of 'design's identity crisis'. Design has changed. But what has changed in the concept of design? What does/should it mean today? Is Design a (Design) Thinking? Is Design an Art? Is Design a Discipline? Is Design a Philosophy? What is the quiddity of Design? In this track, we will try to address this problem. It will bring us to examine fundamental issues in design theory and especially in design philosophy, an emerging branch of design studies that needs more developments.

Philosophy of design can be adressed from the designer perspective (epistemology) or from the user perspective (phenomenology). On the one hand, epistemological perspective leads to issues such as: How does contemporary design researchers consider what is a 'designerly way of knowing' in the sense of Bruce Archer and Nigel Cross? Has design become a part of the contemporary 'episteme' in the sense of Michel Foucault? How to define the concept of 'project' in design? How is it different from any other kind of project? How a design project can be a 'way of knowing' in a research perspective? On the other hand, phenomenological perspective leads to issues such as: What is a designed experience? How to define a design-project-produced experience? How is it different from any other kind of experience? What is experience (and the quality of experience) in design? How does the Design affect the Existence? What is the Effect of Design? What are the relations between Design and Dasein?

Any other philosophical issue or philosophical approach of design is warmly welcomed in this track.

→ [Download the visual model of the track](#)

Related Papers & Books

- Vial, S. (201X), The Effect of Design: A phenomenological contribution to the quiddity of design presented in geometrical order, *to be published*.
- Vial, S. (2013), Design and Creation: Outline of a Philosophy of Modelling. *Wikicreation*. Paris: Institut ACTE UMR 8218 / LabEx CAP. URL : <http://goo.gl/QUQGSu> (switch to English if needed)
- Vial, S. (2013), Design et épistémè : de la légitimité culturelle à la légitimité épistémologique. *La Revue du Design*, 5 juin 2013, URL : <http://goo.gl/4fQQOp>
- Vial, S. (2010, reed. 2014), *Court traité du design* ('Short Treatise on Design'). Paris: PUF.

About Stéphane Vial

Having received a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the Paris Descartes University, Stéphane Vial is an Associate Professor of Design at the University of Nîmes, where he is the head of the [Bachelor of Applied Arts Program](#), and a researcher at the ACTE Institute from the Sorbonne Paris 1 University, where he is the co-head of the research group [PROJEKT](#). His research deals with Philosophy of Digital Age, Phenomenology of Technology, and Philosophy of Design. Stéphane is the author of several books, including *Being and Screen: How The Digital World Changes Our Perception* (Presses Universitaires de France, 2013) and *Short Treatise on Design* (PUF, 2010 ; second revised edition, 2014), translated into Swedish, Korean and soon Chinese.