Editorial: Research Perspectives in the Era of Transformations
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The Academy for Design Innovation Management (ADIM) Conference series facilitate sharing of knowledge, collaboration and advancement across a diverse range of Design Innovation discipline areas. The 2019 conference attracted speakers and attendees from across the globe, including recognised industry professionals, international scholars and emerging researchers operating in the creative, commercial and service industries. The ADIM 2019 conference general theme ‘Research Perspectives in the Era of Transformations’ provided a backdrop to what is taking place within the field of design innovation. It also signalled a desire to enable a more diverse intersection views at the conference. Thus, one of the aims was to open spaces for the early career research to actively join shaping the field of design innovation research.

During the 2017 conference we succeeded by attracting significant number of early career researchers who represented a third of the conference delegates. One of the outcomes was entablement of the ADIM Collective. The ADIM Collective is now an ongoing global initiative of the Academy for Design Innovation Management that connects doctoral students and early career researchers from leading universities around the world. The aim of the ADIM Collective is to establish a strong professional network of PhD and early career researchers in the field of Design Innovation Management. ADIM Collective reaches this aim by providing opportunities for members of the ADIM Collective to meet, develop professional skills and build strong ties with other researchers interested in similar research topics. ADIM Collective encourages leading academics to share their experiences with the new generation of design management scholars through events, meetings and symposia. The ADIM Collective has successfully organised three Research Development Workshops.

Unfortunately, the opportunity to travel to conferences is not equally distributed among researchers, which meant that scholars from the ‘Global South’ were underrepresented at the 2017 conference. Therefore, for the 2019 conference we offered bursaries specifically targeting early career scholars from the ‘Global South’ to enable them to bring and share their research perspectives. Supporting early career researchers to attend the ADIM conference provided an opportunity for these scholars to present their research and gain feedback on their work, as well as network with other design innovation scholars and forge exciting, new research partnerships. We are grateful to ThinkPlace, a design network spanning eight studios across five nations, which supported a full early career research bursary.

We would like to thank the keynote speakers, Professor Rachel Cooper (the founding director of Imagination, Lancaster University) and Mr Chris Thompson (the founding Partner of Viadynamics), Mr Eric Quint (Vice President and Chief Design Officer, 3M Company) and Professor Alison Rieple (University of Westminster) who generously gave their time to share their insights with the conference delegates. Their generosity allowed us to offer bursaries to fifteen emerging researchers to attend the conference. The bursar recipients were selected from over 40 applicants. The number of applicants indicates the need for funding schemes to allow emerging researchers from the Global South to attend international events such as this conference.

We are also grateful to 28 conference delegates, of which 5 were PhD candidates, who selected to register with ‘Do GOOD’ registration joining fees. The ‘Do GOOD’ fees help the Academy for Design Innovation Management to establish ‘ADIM Development Research Fund for Early Career Researchers from the Global South’.

The call for paper tracks resulted in 40 themed paper tracks, which was a double the number from the 2017 conference. This increase was reflected in the number of submissions which has more than doubled when
compared to 2017 conference. Altogether, 350 submission were made by authors from 66 countries. The submissions included 255 full papers, 32 workshop proposals and 63 case studies. All the submissions were double blind reviewed. Less than 30 were of the 350 initial submission were single authored.

The 40 conference tracks, for which the call for papers was issued, were organised within 6 overarching themes (see Table 1). The track facilitators ultimately shaped the overall conference scope and direction. The tracks’ topics acted as the focal points for the overall call for: Papers, Workshops and Case Studies. Thus, our thanks you go to all the tracks’ facilitators. It was them who collectively were responsible for the conference programme and we would like to thank them and the track chairs for their valuable services on the International Scientific Programme Committee.

Table 1 Conference Tracks

1. Social Impact Transformation
   1.a Transformation of the ageing society and its impact on design
   1.b Re-Designing health: transforming systems, practices and care

2. Transforming Design Perspectives
   2.a Decolonising knowledge to transform societies
   2.b Design & democracy
   2.c Gender of/in design practice and profession
   2.d Power and politics in design for transition
   2.e Design innovation and philosophy of technology: the practical turn

3. Transforming design values
   3.a Moving Beyond Existing Economic and Social Models through Design
   3.b Measuring and communicating the value of design
   3.c Design policy: understanding regional and national innovation ecosystems
   3.d How does design express value?
   3.e Service organisation and design management

4. Design, Innovation and Business
   4.a Effective design leadership
   4.b Designerly ways of innovating
   4.c Transformation IN and BY design thinking
   4.d How is business shaping design? Explorations of the contextual environment and its effects
   4.e Co-creation and organisational ambidexterity (O.A.) as an innovative framework for the service industries
   4.f Strategic design of sustainable business models
   4.g Disaster management by design-driven innovation. Shelter for resilient communities
   4.h Uncovering organisational practices of design businesses
   4.i Is design thinking transforming organizations or the design discipline?
   4.j Experience Design: Method and Evaluation
   4.k The relationship between designer, ecosystem and disruptive innovation

5. Mitigating Complexities with Design
   5.a Transforming complexities through design in collaborative community-based processes
   5.b Strengthening the design capabilities of professional organisations in a complex world
   5.c Transformation of design entrepreneurship within complex systems
   5.d Impact of digitisation on transformation of Service Design Systems
   5.e Seeking signification in transformational times: design semiotics and the negotiation of meaning
   5.f Transformation by strategic design: design roadmapping and creative foresight
   5.g Design with foresight: strategic anticipation in design research
   5.h Creative confidence – transforming individuals and organisations through design
   5.i Epistemological strategies in design and management Research
   5.j Innovation through design for meaning

6. Transforming Design innovation education
   6.a Materiality in the digital age
   6.b Design literacy enabling critical Innovation practices
   6.c Entrepreneurship in design education
   6.d Design Economy Futures and Direction

We would like to also thank the over 291 expert reviewers who provided their valuable time to provide critical peer feedback. Their service on the International Board of Reviewers was invaluable as the good quality peer reviews provided a vital contribution to this international conference. Each reviewer scored papers on a scale of 0 to 10 and provided critical review comments.
Submitted full papers were double blind reviewed, though some had three or even four reviewers. Total number of submitted full papers was 255 which represents an increase of 76% when compared to 2017 conference which received 140 paper submissions. After the blind peer review process 76 papers (30%) were accepted and 65 (25%) papers were provisionally accepted as these needed major revisions, and 114 (45%) papers were rejected.

In making the final decisions about papers, the Review Committee first looked at all papers where the difference of opinion between reviewers was significant and moderated the scores if necessary. The Review Committee then discussed all papers that were just under the general level of acceptance to determine outcomes, before finally looking at any exceptions. The track chairs made a final decision whether to accepted revised provisionally accepted papers. At the end of the review process 110 (43%) paper submissions were accepted for presentations and 145 (54%) papers were rejected. Three accepted papers were presented at the conference as research in progress and they were not included in the proceedings. Although, the number of accepted papers for presentation at the 2017 conference was nearly identical 103 this represented much greater acceptance rate of 73%, and in reverse lower rejection of 26% (n=37).

The workshop track provided another intersection on how delegates and workshop facilitators interacted. Altogether, 32 workshop proposals were submitted and 9 (28%) workshops were accepted and 23 (72%) were rejected by the International Workshop Organising Committee.

The case studies track was a new addition to the conference which provided another intersection on exploring design innovation management research. To get a feel for the potential interest, authors were initially asked to submit abstracts which were double-blind reviewed. The case studies track received 62 abstracts of which 22 (34%) were rejected and 41 (66%) were invited to submit the full case study. Altogether, 26 (64%) of the full case studies were accepted for presentation and 15 (36%) were rejected by the International Case Study Organising Committee.

The ADIM Collective 2019 Research Development Workshop event took place a day prior to the conference. Professor Gerda Gemser run a workshop on Preparing for journal publications. Then Dr Nusa Fain delivered a workshop on How to establish a theoretical framework to guide the PhD research. Professor Rachel Cooper workshop provided the participants to engage in Mapping their PhD journey. The final workshop titled Life after PhD: designing a meaningful research career was deliver by Dr Mieke van der Bijl-Brouwer.

The Design Management Academy’s international research conference was organised under the auspices of the Design Society’s Design Management Special Interest Group (DeMSIG) and Design Research Society’s Design Innovation Management Special Interest Group (DIMSIG). The conference was a culmination of two years of planning. It is a hope that the conference will act as a platform to build a diverse community of scholars who are interested to explore and discuss design innovation practices.

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