Design Research Foundations

Peter Gall Krogh Ilpo Koskinen

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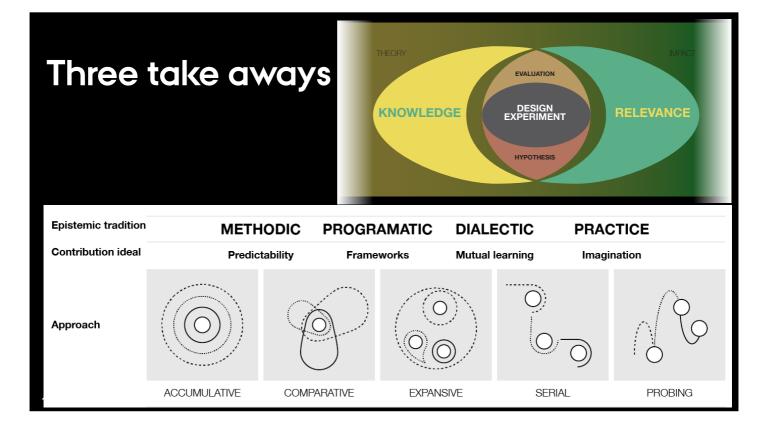
Drifting by Intention

Four Epistemic Traditions from within Constructive Design Research

Deringer

PETER GALL KROGH

Professor, Architect Digital Design, Department Communication and Culture ARTS, Aarhus University, DK



Me...

- Architect MAA Arkitektskolen Aarhus, DK
- Head of Innovation, Alexandra Instituttet (GTS)
- Visiting professor: Milano, Eindhoven, Hong Kong and currently Wuxi (Kina)
- Co-designer of BA and MA programs in IT-Product Design and Development and MA in Experience design - all AU



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From Drag'n Drop through Twist'n Shout to Insights and dialogue









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Disclaimer constructive design research

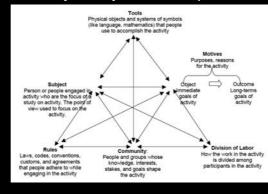
- Practice-based
- Research about/ into/ through design
- And more...





The shift to knowledge

- Exemplars Particulars The designer
- · Theory Generalisability Beyond disciplines









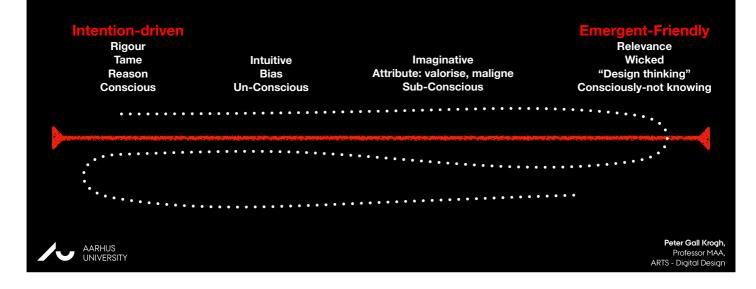
III-behaved problem solvers

- Counter brief
- To what question is this project an answer?



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A spectrum for design traveling towards realisation



Artefacts, experiments and theory

in an erratic discipline

- The design world is filled with stuff and realities that doesn't add up to a coherent theory - so why at all talk about research?
- Theory always underspecifies design (Gaver)





The bottom of the dispute

- What is science? What is knowledge?
 - What is the role of design in its production?
- And:
- Is scientific knowledge the only relevant in design?
- Is there a single epistemology?, or more? Or even a generic in the making? (Schmid & Hautchel 2014)



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Bill Gaver:

· Epistemological accountable (the scientist)

· Aesthetic accountable (the designer)



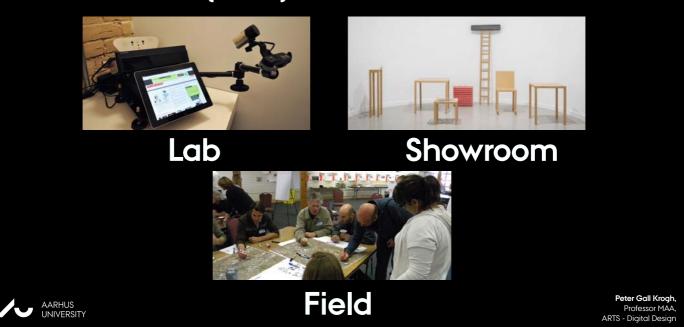
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To whom are you accountable?

- The auteur the designer herself?
- · Which design discipline -
 - graphics and fashion have their ideals,
 - products others,
 - while service design and interaction design yet further others...
- Which community of science/ research
- Art?
- Specification of fire and use safety, marketability, efficiency of production, packaging...

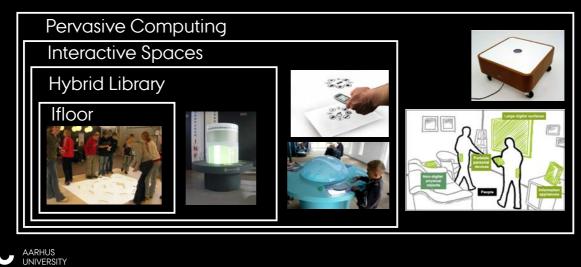


Practice-based design research Koskinen et al (2011)



Johan Redström: Making Design Theory (2017)

• 4 P's: Product, project, program, paradigm



Drifting by intention ^{4 Epistemic traditions} Constructive design research



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Experiential

- Theory underspecifies design (Bill Gaver)
- Drifting is central element of the design process and needs no justification
- The artefacts are hypotheses in themselves:
 - The produced objects elicits experiences along the line of thinking of the designer?
 - · The project is considered a succes if the hypothesis is confirmed



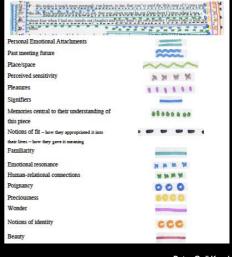
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Jayne Wallace 2007





Emotionally Charged: A Practice-Centred Enquiry of Digital Jewellery and Personal Emotional Significance



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Mo Michelsen Stochholm Krag (2017)



Experiential practice and hypothesising

- Products are hypotheses
- They are qualified through comparison
- Annotated portfolios

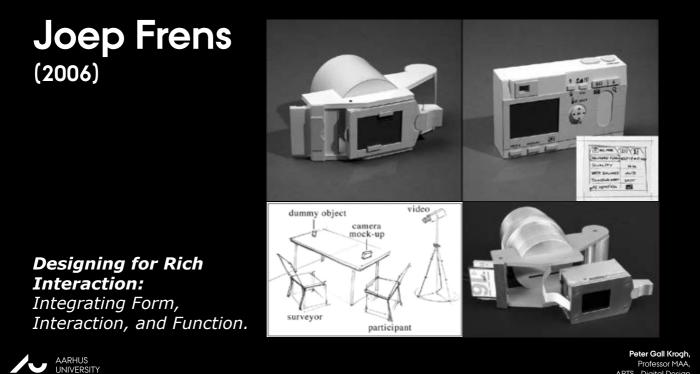


Methodic

- Ensure collaboration through compliance
- · Methodologies, procedures and process tools steward the design work
- Strive for verifiability
- Identify measures
- Any drift needs to be justified by reason
- In its extreme any personal assessment should be ruled out



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Methodic tradition and hypothesising

- Concepts from literature form the basis for something to be tested by design
- Theoretical work creates a structure of meaning
- This is as close constructive design research goes to become a science...



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Programatic

- Frameworks and theories as outsets and evaluative criteria of research
- Pervasive in HCI and geographically in Scandinavia and the USA
- Drifting happens in the design work but most importantly it happens when conceptualising the work, and debating pros and cons
- Knowledge is build on research predecessors and may drift depending under which theoretical perspective work is viewed - this may be viewed as an ambiguity that thus needs to be declared



Martin Ludvigsen

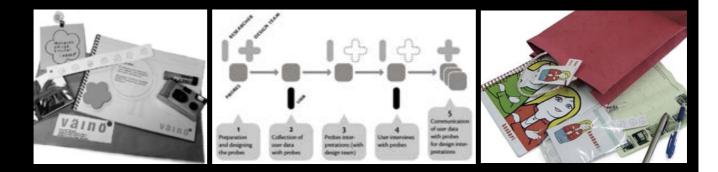


Designing for Social Interaction



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Tuuli Mattelmäki



Design Probes



Programmatic tradition and hypothesising

- Artefacts are understood with regard to the research program they are a part of
 - both literature tested by design
 - and design being understood by frameworks
- It is dependent on its community and the community defines itself on examples and the framework that document them



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Dialectic

- A key driver is mutual learning between prospective users, stakeholders and designers
- The objective of the design process may not be the what is designed, that the process facilitated change
- Drifting and progress is based on the involvement of people
- User-centred and participatory design are different approaches



Christian Dindler



Fictional Space in Participatory Design of Engaging Interactive Environments.





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Dialectic Tradition and Hypothesising

- the result of a dialogue between multiple agents
- Mutual learning collective hypothesising
- The hypothesis has a life on its own...
- ...dialectically pointing to a potential future
- Participatory, adverserial, user-centred



Knowledge - accountability

- Epistomology the way we know things, and checking if we can trust our senses...
 - We claim that the way in which knowledge and practice work depends crucially on how we understand knowledge.
 - Knowledge for us is more than scientific knowledge; it is also practical.
- To put it on standard philosophical terms, when design becomes research, i.e. leaves the context of discovery and has to play the game of "context of justification"
- · Knowledge takes many forms and scientific is not the only of value here
- It is at least Janus-headed



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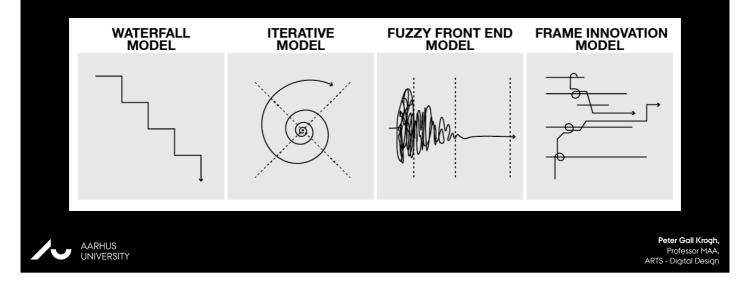
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Experimentation Constructive design research Pursuing knowledge and relevance



Models of Design progression and status of solution



A note on experiment

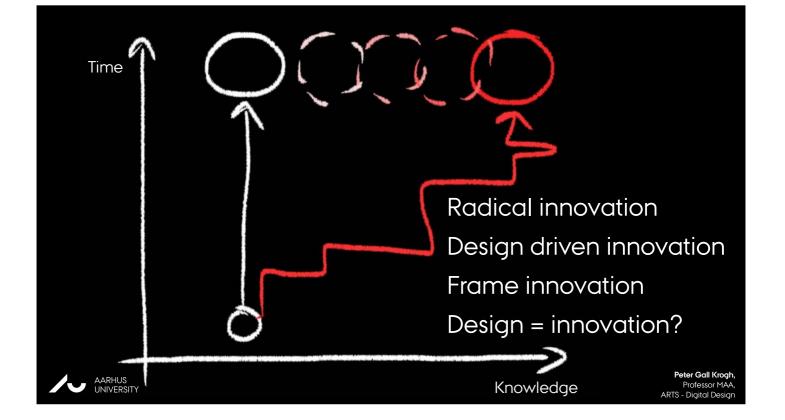
- In science experiment concerns testing a hypothese
- In design and art experiment concerns
 exploration



Experiments change characteristics over the course of a project

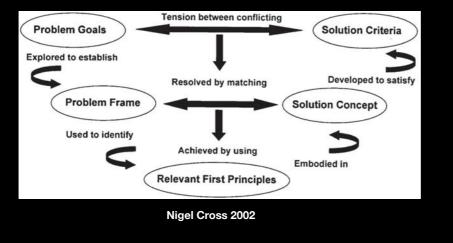
• Experiments change characteristics as they are conducted at different times during a constructive design research process.







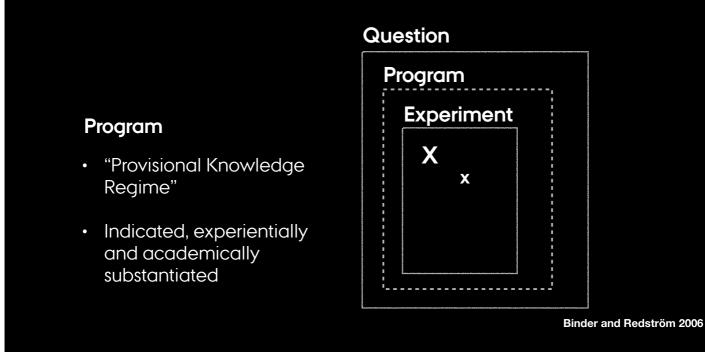
Knowledge and the design process



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Jan Pieter van Stappers 2006



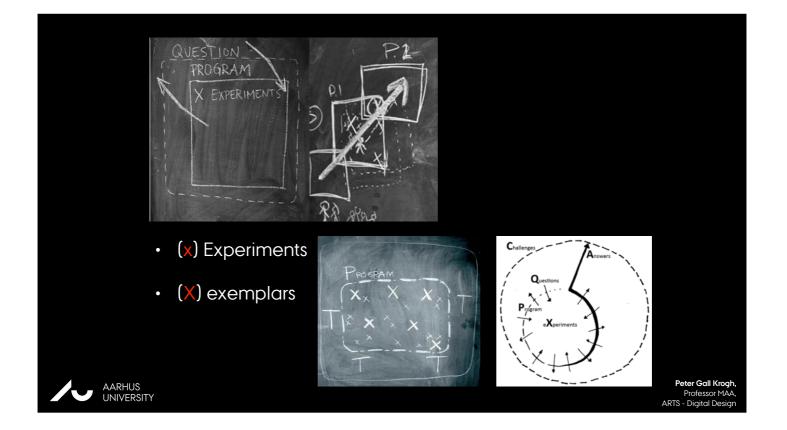
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Ideas on and roles of experiments

| Donald Schön (1984) | Binder and Redström (2006) | Bang and Eriksen (2014) | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| Exploratory experiments | Beginnings | Initiating Driving Framing | |
| Move testing experiments | Perform | Drift Reframing Maturing Stabilising | |
| Hypothesis-testing experiments | Intersections | Closure Finalizing | |
| | | | Peter Gall Krogh Professor MAA ABTS - Dinital Design |

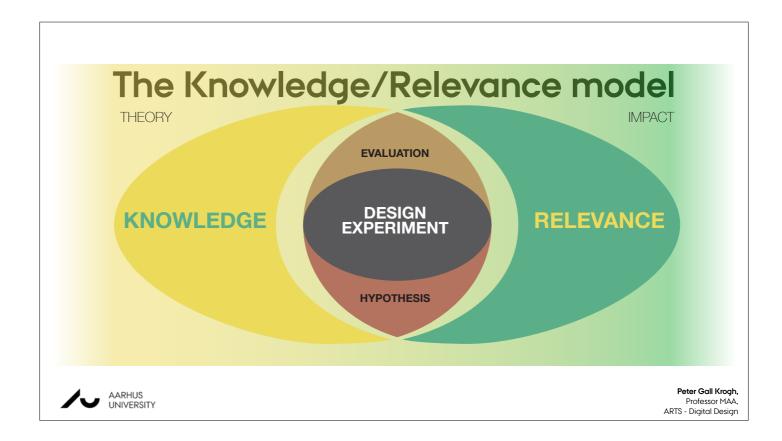
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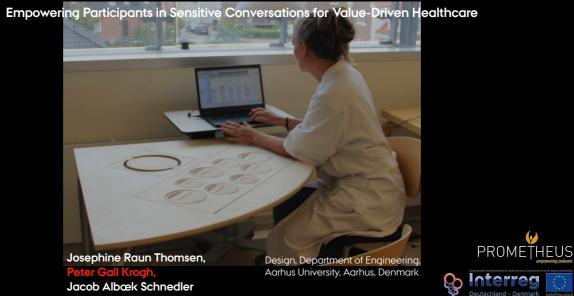
Knowledge and relevance

- When experimenting in design research we serve two concerns:
- Knowledge production
- Pursuing relevance





Interactive Interior and Proxemics Thresholds:

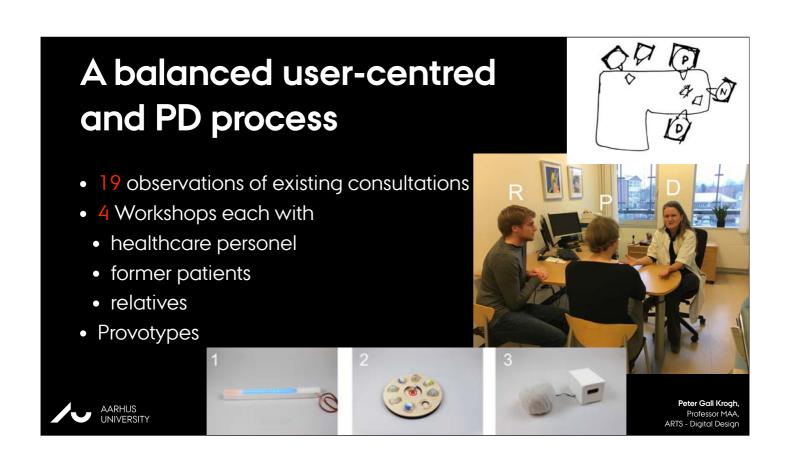


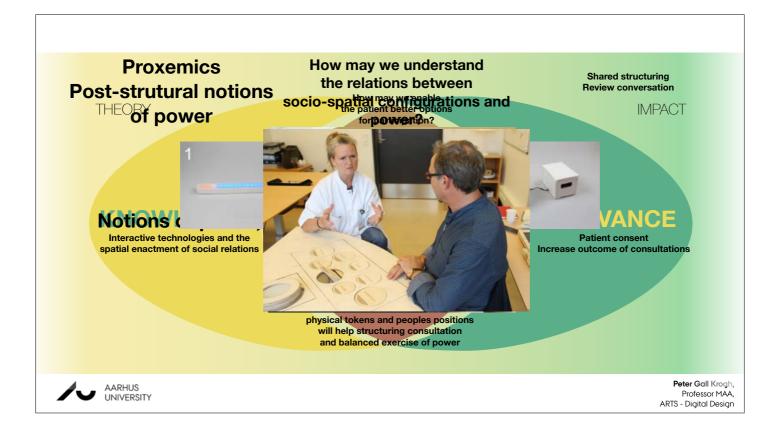
Department of Oncology, Herning Hospital, Herning, Denmark

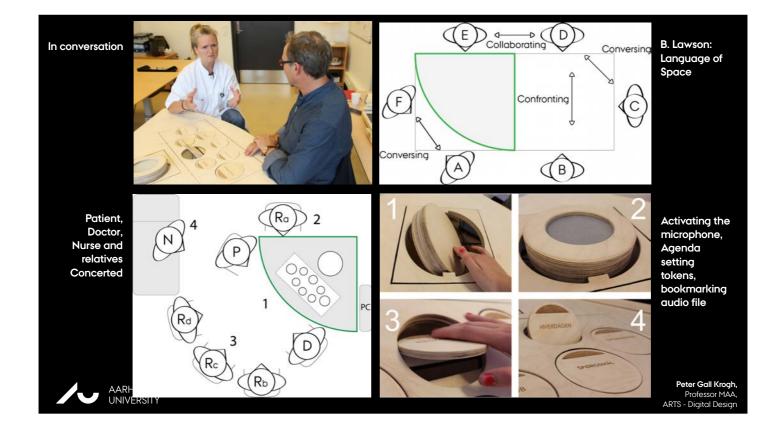
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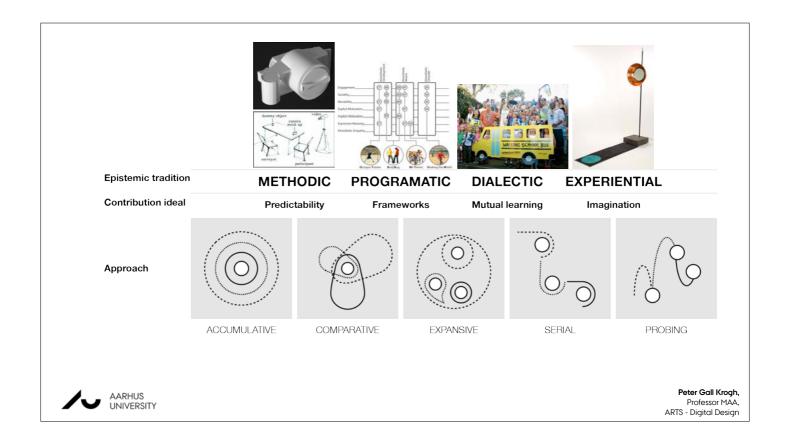
Hanne Linnet

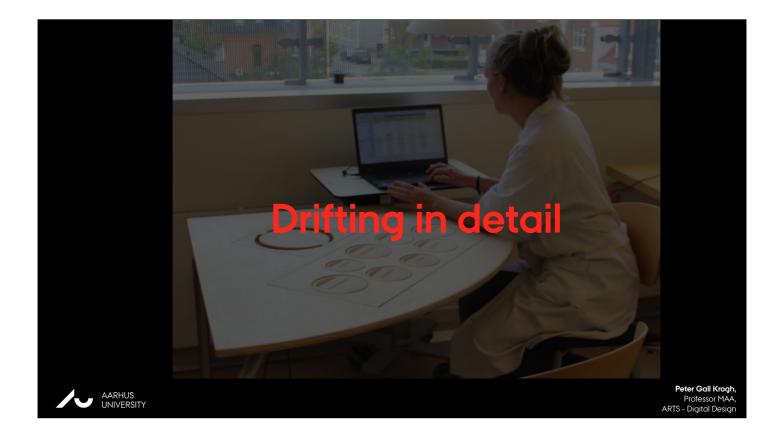


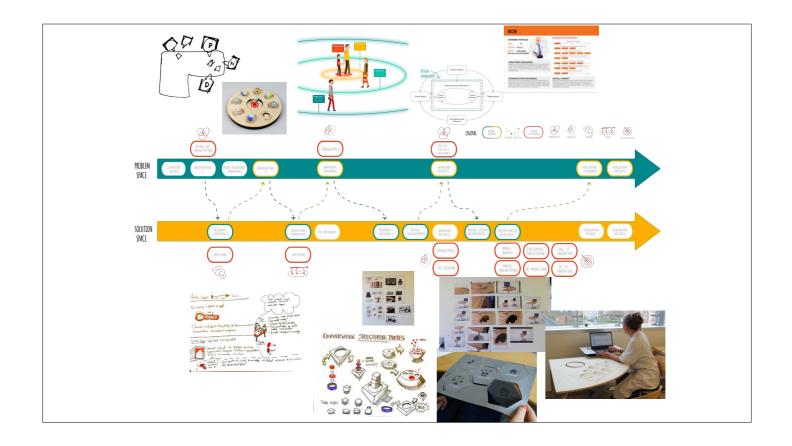


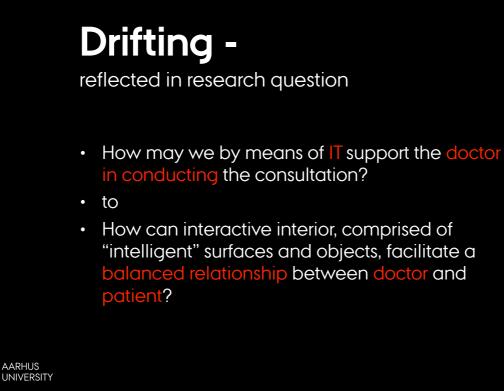


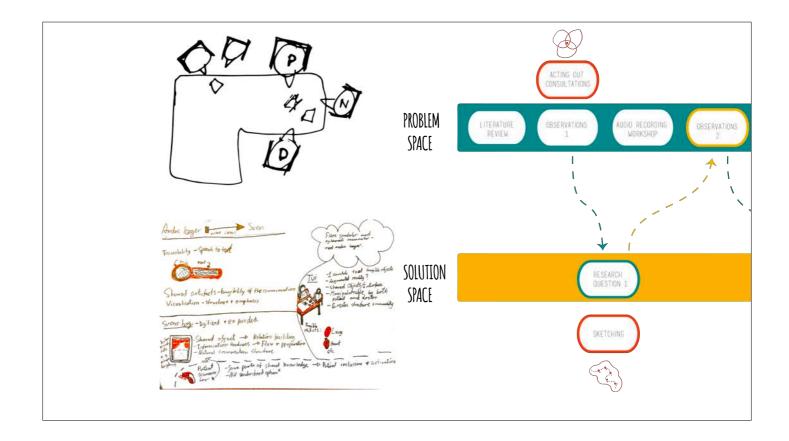


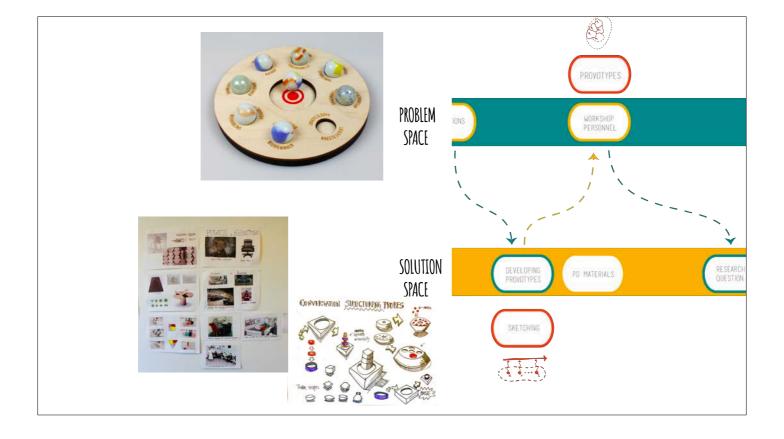


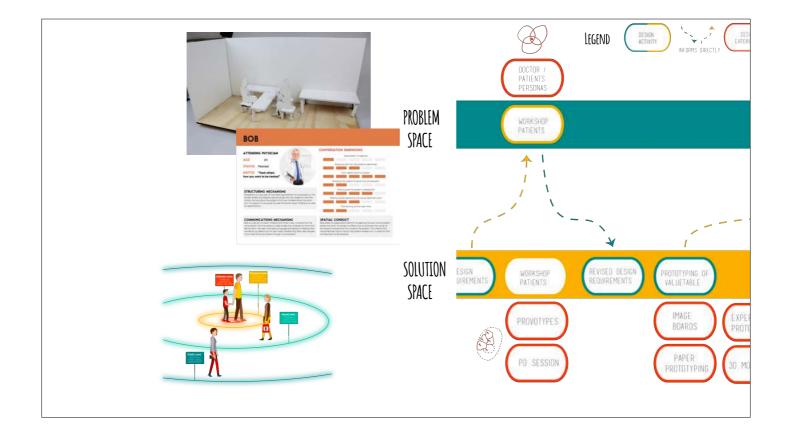


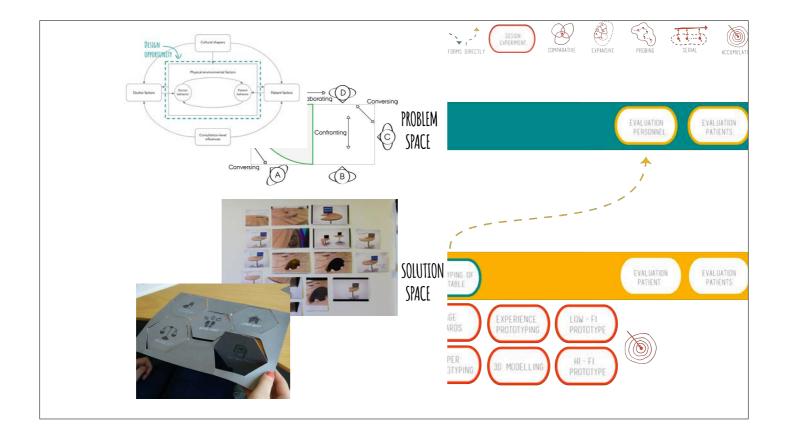


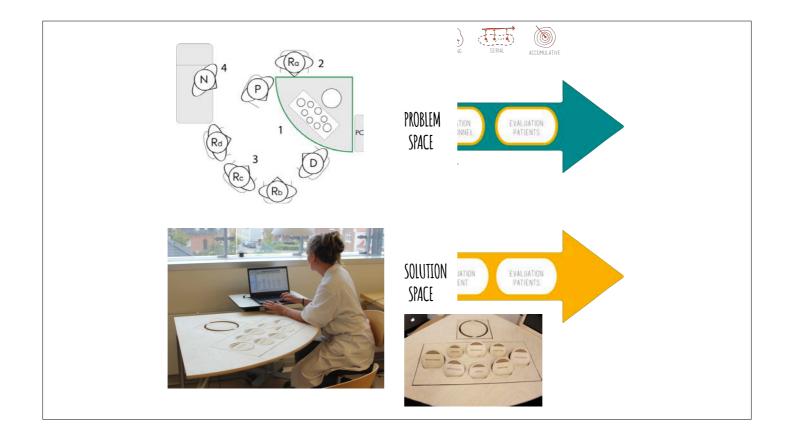








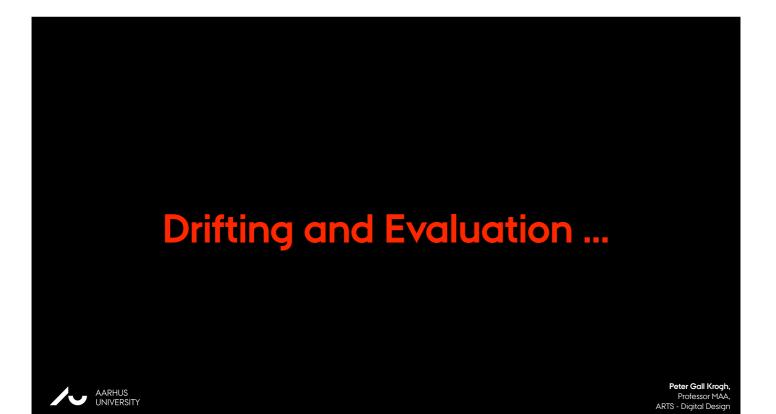




Sum up - Drifting by intention

- Defined the concept of constructive design research
- Provided a way for constructive design researchers to participate in the language games of other research disciplines
- Identified four epistemic traditions within the field of research
- Provided the K/R model to map research activities and concerns
- · Unravled to five ways and motives for experimental drift
- Pointed to the concept of accountability as a way to allow diverse appreciation of research work and supporting a rich variety of contributions without compromising credibility
- Unpacked how drift in discourse can be tracked and justified over the course of a project





An example









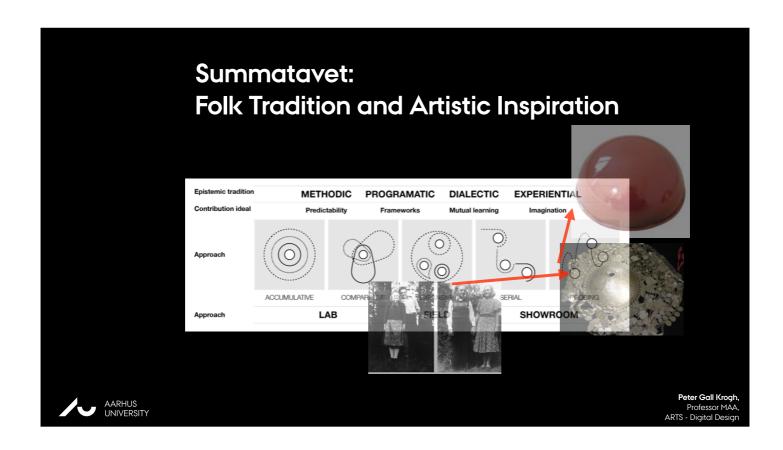
Evaluating

- On what grounds do we judge whether a theory for design is useful, valuable or successful?
- What is validity in constructive design research?
- What is the role of theory produced from design?

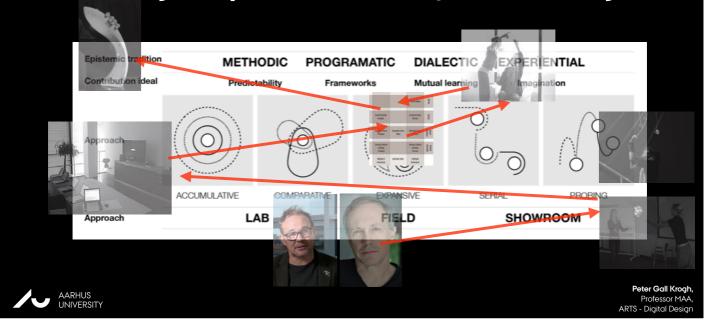
Epistemic tradition METHODIC PROGRAMATIC DIALECTIC **EXPERIENTIAL** Contribution ideal Predictability Frameworks Mutual learning Imagination Approach ACCUMULATIVE COMPARATIVE EXPANSIVE SERIAL PROBING LAB FIELD SHOWROOM Approach

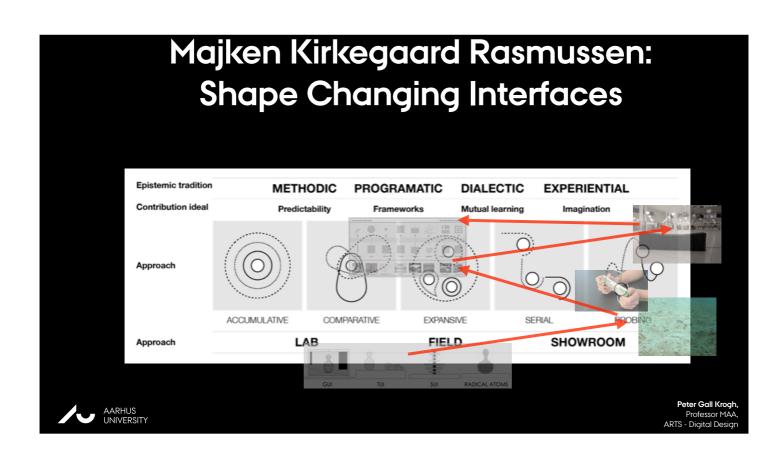
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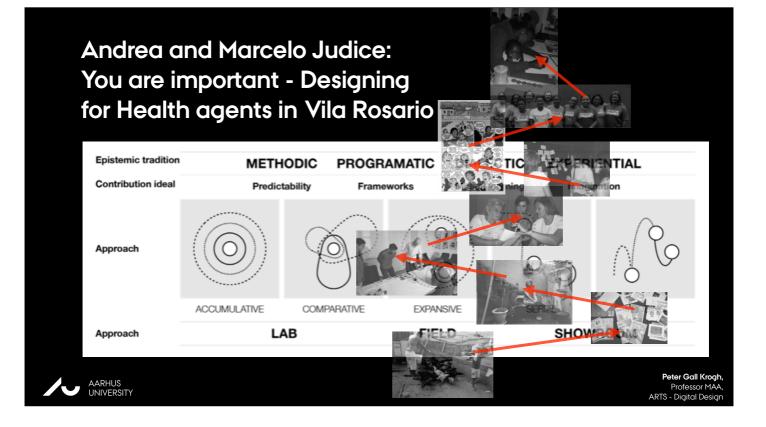
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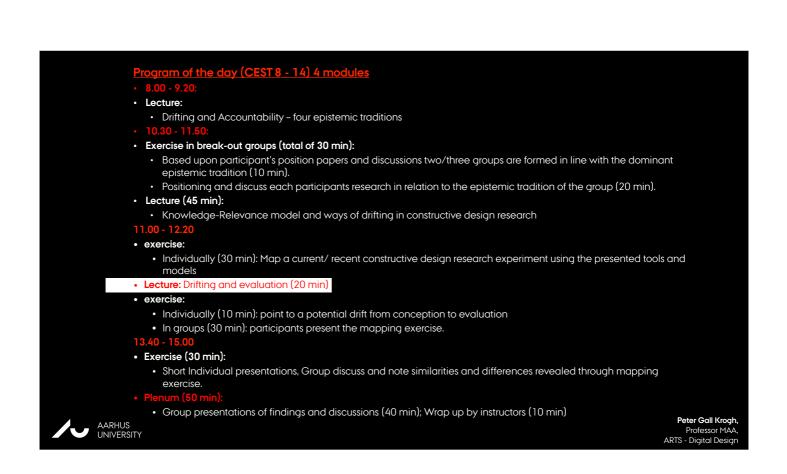


Philip Ross: Ethics and aesthetics in intelligent product and system design









| Program of the day (CEST 8 - 14) 4 modules |
|--|
| • 8.00 - 9.20: |
| Lecture: |
| Drifting and Accountability – four epistemic traditions |
| • 10.30 - 11.50: |
| Exercise in break-out groups (total of 30 min): |
| Based upon participant's position papers and discussions two/three groups are formed in line with the dominant epistemic tradition (10 min). |
| Positioning and discuss each participants research in relation to the epistemic tradition of the group (20 min). |
| Lecture (45 min): |
| Knowledge-Relevance model and ways of drifting in constructive design research |
| 11.00 - 12.20 |
| exercise: |
| Individually (30 min): Map a current/ recent constructive design research experiment using the presented tools and models |
| Lecture: Drifting and evaluation (20 min) |
| exercise: |
| Individually (10 min): point to a potential drift from conception to evaluation |
| In groups (30 min): participants present the mapping exercise. |
| 13.40 - 15.00 |
| Exercise (30 min): |
| Short Individual presentations, Group discuss and note similarities and differences revealed through mapping |
| exercise. |
| Plenum (50 min): |
| Group presentations of findings and discussions (40 min); Wrap up by instructors (10 min) Peter Gall Krow |
| Professor MA |
| ARTS - Digital Desi |

The strength and weaknesses of cacophony on evaluation

- Constructive design research is not and can not be linear and stay within only one regime of knowing
- Several well argued stances is a sign of maturity there is something to disagree about
- · From validity to accountability
 - Measures and purposes are flip sides of a coin
 - Different measures serve different communities and value systems
- Participate in the language game of other research fields and establish identity



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Eurocentrism

- The trouble of global brands and products
 assuming that will meet the needs -
 - They are only signs of young, successful and rich - regional relevance will win in the long run...
- Relational aesthetics, "hacktivism", collective action are eurocentric concepts
- · Research should be aware of this...





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