

Designing the Circular Design Team

Keywords: designing for circular economies; diverse stakeholder groups; design facilitation

Abstract

This hybrid workshop aims to model diverse and inclusive stakeholder partnerships for circular economy challenges, where design will play a central role in visioning, convening and supporting multi-skill teams, who are each focused on utilizing a different, local waste stream. Drawing on a specific, developed case study of Laxta Wool within the region of Bilbao, and with materials in our hands, we will invite participants to reflect on their own role as designers, researchers, citizens and stakeholders in regional material flows, value retention and creation. Together we will co-design Circular Design Teams to address the challenges and interconnections of transforming food-, agricultural-, textiles-, and construction- waste into valuable local resources.

1. Workshop Organisers

Organiser Names	Emails	Affiliations
Rebecca Earley (Lead and Contact)	r.l.earley@arts.ac.uk	Centre for Circular Design, University of the Arts London (UAL)
Rosie Hornbuckle	r.hornbuckle@arts.ac.uk	Centre for Circular Design, University of the Arts London (UAL)
Marion Real	marion@fablabbcn.org	FabLab Barcelona, Institute of Advanced Architecture of Catalonia
Cathryn Hall	cathryn.hall@arts.ac.uk	University of the Arts London (UAL) & Design School Kolding

2. Context and Aim of Workshop

Background, Context, Aims. This workshop will consider how everyone is an essential part of the design team in future circular economy (CE) contexts. It will explore new ideas and applications for waste streams, using circular design strategies within extended circular economy lifecycle principles. These ideas build on current ideas, previous approaches and published methods from a series of EU H2020 research projects (Hornbuckle 2022; Real et al 2018; Tubito et al 2018; Earley & Goldsworthy 2019). The workshop aims to model diverse and inclusive multi-skill stakeholder groups for circular economy challenges, where design will play a central role in visioning, building and supporting teams, who are each focused on using a different, local waste stream.

Case Study: Bilbao’s Latxa Wool. In a prior online session, the waste wool local to Bilbao – Latxa – will be used form the basis of a pre-workshop case study that will then be used as a demonstrator in the DRS workshop. This low value local material has been the subject of many projects, discussion and workshops, which has already brought together diverse stakeholders – material scientists, farmers, designers. (The workshop authors have been developing ideas for EU-wide circular wool projects for the last 2 years. See more about UAL’s official partnership with Bilbao Town Hall [here](#). More about wool research across Europe [here](#).)

Format. This will be a hybrid format: with a workshop space near the conference hosting participants in a main room and breakout spaces; and an online audience joining via Zoom, who will also work in virtual breakout spaces.

3. Planned Activities and Expected Outcomes

Workshop Length. The workshop will be half a day and be held at one of the premises of the UAL partners in Bilbao (TBC). A 3-hour session will allow time for participants to gain an understanding of how current circular design research teams are comprised, the emerging circular economy contexts that require complex collaborations, and the different kinds of waste streams across Europe that need solutions. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of how designers can build diverse teams to tackle complex problems in creative ways.

Proposed Organisation & Activities

<i>Time (cumulative)</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Hybrid or separate delivery?</i>	<i>Facilitation team</i>	<i>Tools</i>
Part 1: Exploring the Laxta Wool Context				
15 mins	Welcome , workshop aims, research context, schedule and roles	Hybrid: Streamed live from the room	Online presenter In-person presenter	Slides

15 mins (30mins)	Warm-up and introductions around the room (specific activities dependent on number of participants)	Separate	Facilitators (online and in-person)	tbc
10 mins (40mins)	Materials presentation (materials to be available and passed around during the Laxta film)	Hybrid: Streamed live from the room	Presentation and probe discussion	Materials samples
15 mins (55mins)	Laxta Wool Case study presentation: (pre-recorded film tbc)	Hybrid: watch the same film		Film + Case study eco-system map
<i>Divide into groups of 4-5 participants 5mins (1h)</i>				
15 mins (1h15m)	Circular Design Team: What can design research do? What is your approach? How would you respond to the Laxta context? What might your role be?	Separate	Facilitators to roam	Blank design role cards Hardcopy and on MIRO
20 mins (1h30m)	Feedback to the room and add yourself to the map	Separate	Facilitator to host and probe	Case study eco-system map Hardcopy and on MIRO
<i>Break 15 mins (1h45m) facilitators consolidate online and off-line design roles</i>				
Part 2: Future Circular Design Teams (in diverse waste contexts and sectors)				
15 mins (2h)	Intro to Part 2 & review online/offline additions	Hybrid: live streamed from room	Online presenter In-person presenter	Slides & Map
<i>Self-divide into four groups for regional waste challenges: Food, Agriculture, Construction, Clothing (interiors??) 5mins (2h5m)</i>				
15 mins (2h20m)	Regional waste challenge: What do we know? what don't we know? what are our assumptions about challenges and opportunities? What might be the value? What might be the goal?	Separate	Facilitators to roam	Sticky notes and worksheet Hardcopy and on MIRO
15 mins (2h35m)	Build the Circular Design Team: Identify the stakeholders and experts – who are the actors needed	Separate	Facilitators to roam	Eco-system map & colour-coded actor categories (derived from

	for this collaboration? What might your role be?			SHE-MAKES and Laxta case study) Hardcopy and on MIRO
20 mins (2h50m)	Feedback to the room Considering connections: what are the relationships between the waste streams? What are the commonalities between design teams?	Hybrid	Facilitator to host and probe	String and weights Hardcopy and on MIRO
5 mins (3h)	WRAP-UP and next steps	Hybrid	Presenter	

4. Intended Audience

The workshop is for DRS participants who want to learn more about EU circular design research and methods for complex collaborations. The session will be of interest to design researchers working with waste materials. Conference participants will have a chance to meet new design and non-design researchers and stakeholders as the workshop team will draw in the current UAL Bilbao-based partners: BIAAF Bilbao (Bilbao International Art and Fashion); UNAV (University of Navarra); University of Deusto; University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU); IED Kunsthal School of Design; Mondragon University; Basque Biodesign Centre; NEIKER, Instituto Vasco de Investigaciones Agrarias; Tecnalia; and CIDETEC (San Sebastian).

5. Space and Equipment Required

We will need a main room large enough to host all participants (max 20), and then spaces for breakouts (4 x 5). Workshop team will supply equipment; screen is needed for the talk.

6. Potential Outputs

The facilitators have been developing ideas for funding bids, so the workshop will inform the rationale for the collaborators and methods for a future submission. The facilitators will also write a popular summary, and this will be shared on current live EU project channels.

7. References

- Earley, R. and Goldsworthy, K. (2019). Circular Design Researchers in Residence: a workshop report for the circular design speeds project with Filippa K (2016-2018). Project Report. Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE), Stockholm, Sweden. Mistra Future Fashion report. MISTRA: Sweden.
- Hornbuckle, R. (2022). Project Proximities: how design research addresses distance in complex collaborations. *(DRS conference paper to be presented.)*

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Tubito *et al* (2018). Applied DDMI: A White Paper on how Design-Driven Material Innovation Methodology was applied in the Trash-2-Cash Project. Trash-2-Cash. EU H2020 Programme.

About the Organisers:

Rebecca Earley, UAL Chair of Circular Design Futures, has delivered workshops exploring sustainable and circular design in academic/industry contexts since her first AHRC-funded project in 2002. Published methods and tools include 'The TEN' and DDMI (Design-Driven Materials Innovation, EU H2020).

Dr Rosie Hornbuckle is Senior Researcher at Centre for Circular Design and Service Futures LAB (UAL) and has developed and run co-design workshops in three EU Horizon 2020 consortium projects, involving diverse disciplines and stakeholders, as well as with design students and industry participants.

Dr Marion Real is a systemic design researcher at Fab Lab Barcelona. She has carried out eco-innovative workshops with companies, consultancy agencies and research centres during her PhD and facilitated many multi-stakeholder design processes for various European projects (RETRACE, SISCODE).

Dr Cathryn Hall is a post-doc researcher who has experience of using workshops as a research method; running explorative events during her PhD; collaborative workshops with practitioners for the 'Bio-Inspired Textiles' project; and industry workshops with Centre for Circular Design.