Special Issue on

Design in and for the Public Sector

Full Paper Due: 31 May 2024

Call for Papers

Design has become an increasingly recognized element of public sector innovation in terms of strategy, process, and methods for addressing complex social and policy problems. Governments and municipalities have turned to design and participative approaches for addressing growing financial pressures, digitalization, wicked problems, and providing a better understanding of the social needs and values through citizen engagement. However, bringing design to the public sector is still a relatively recent phenomenon with significant challenges, such as transforming the way governments work, creating a sustained impact, and effectively engaging publics. For this special issue, we invite the submission of articles that foster discussion of the challenges and opportunities of embedding design in public sector development. Specifically, we seek to highlight design issues in the organizational context of design; design for and with multiple stakeholders; power and politics; design in the context of digitalization of public services; and the limits and possibilities of design methods.

Suggested Research Themes

We invite theoretical and empirical contributions from all areas of design focusing on adoption, practice, results, and impacts of design in the public sector. Specifically, submissions on all types of designerly interventions in the public sector are welcome, including, but not limited to:

- **Institutioning**: How can designers and stakeholders (re)engage with public organizations and develop new relationships? What challenges designers face as they build design capacity in the public sector? What coping skills and strategies do they develop?
- **Power and Politics**: How does design act when it meets power and politics? What impact, if any, does it have on the existing power structures? What challenges does it face? Can public sector design sustainably navigate those challenges, finding and maintaining the right balance between opposing forces?
- **Policy Design**: What is the potential and limitations of design as a viable approach to policymaking under uncertainty? What challenges exist in applying design to policymaking?
- **Digitalization**: What are the challenges for design brought by the rapid digital transformation of the public sector? How should design approach the emergence of the digital citizen? How would AI and other emerging technologies change the nature of government-citizen relationship?
- **Just, Equitable, and Inclusive Design**: How to infuse diversity, equity, and inclusion into public service design and policy design work? How to resolve systemic barriers built into the existing public services and systems? What are the designerly ways of enabling equitable conditions for underprivileged and underrepresented?
- **Participatory Design**: Who gets to participate and how? How could we ensure inclusive and sustained participation? What socio-technical infrastructures could be used to support and possibly scale out and/or scale up participatory design in the public sector?
- **Public-Private Collaboration**: How to orchestrate the collaboration between public and private service providers in public service design?

Submission of Papers

Manuscripts should be prepared with the template file and guidelines found at www.ijdesign.org/authorGuidelines. Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. A double-blind review process will be employed for this special issue. While making a submission, authors should choose "Special Issue on Design in and for the Public Sector" as the Journal Section.
Schedule

- **Full Paper Due:** 31 May 2024
- Notification of Review Results: 10 September 2024
- Final Version of Paper Due: 10 October 2024
- Notification of Acceptance: 10 November 2024
- Special Issue Publication Date: 31 December 2024

Suggested Readings


Special Issue Editors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suzan Boztepe</th>
<th>Amalia de Götzen</th>
<th>Turkka Keinonen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linköping University, Sweden</td>
<td>Aalborg University, Denmark</td>
<td>Aalto University, Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:suzan.boztepe@liu.se">suzan.boztepe@liu.se</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ago@create.aau.dk">ago@create.aau.dk</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:turkka.keinonen@aalto.fi">turkka.keinonen@aalto.fi</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jörn Christiansson</th>
<th>Leigh-Anne Hepburn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
<td>University of Sydney, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:jrme@itu.dk">jrme@itu.dk</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:leigh-anne.hepburn@sydney.edu.au">leigh-anne.hepburn@sydney.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>