Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Seminar 2: Transformative Work as a Livelihood
Course Code	96117
Course Title Additional	Transformative Work as a Livelihood
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	NN
Language	English
Degree Course	Master in Eco-Social Design
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Dott. Laura Charlotte Heym, LauraCharlotte.Heym2@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/37895
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
Course Year/s	1st and 2nd year
CP	2
Teaching Hours	18
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	0
Planned Office Hours	6
Contents Summary	Along with the work on their projects and the regular courses, students choose Short Seminars, which provide complementary competencies helping them to sharpen their practice and to get prepared for doing transformation-engaged work after graduating. Transformation-engaged study courses react to an urgent societal and ecological need to educate students to become change agents. However, as this design approach is still emergent, finding the right opportunities for eco-social designers in the present market conditions is challenging.

	The seminar outlines the challenges and questions then proposes concrete approaches for making "eco-social transformative" work economically viable through showing diverse forms of transformative work and new roles for eco-social designers. Concrete cases of transformation-engaged practices, including economic considerations help demonstrate roles within established work contexts in the mainstream job market; the foundation of self-initiated enterprises and (unconventional) alliances; and, radical alternatives embedded in solidarity economies and mutual support structures. Students can learn, which mix of approaches and roles best fits their desires and capabilities.
Course Topics	- Mapping professional experiences, skills and strengths - Exploring values, motivations and conditions for living and working - Self-understanding and articulating one's own contribution - Challenges, fears and doubts related to transformative work - Cooperation, support structures and different models of working - Imagining probable, possible and preferable futures - Different roles and work models for eco-social designers - Organisational formats for economically viable transformative work - Alternative models of livelihood creation and mixed work economies - Developing an individual approach to transformative practice - Exploring contacts, formats, sectors, alliances, funding, paid roles and experiments - Developing a personal roadmap, milestones and meaningful next steps
Keywords	transformative work, professional practice, livelihood, self-positioning, values, skills, future scenarios, viability, cooperation, support structures, alliances, work models, individual roadmap
Recommended Prerequisites	none
Propaedeutic Courses	none
Teaching Format	Balanced mix of: • concise inputs providing concepts, concrete tools and examples • self-reflective individual work • exchange in pairs or small groups • collaborative group work • plenary discussion

	• visual and analogue methods, including writing, sketching, mapping and collaging • work with concrete materials such as canvases, templates and guiding questions • check-in and check-out rounds • short energizer exercises • short presentations and peer feedback
Mandatory Attendance	mandatory
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	Knowledge and understanding Students of the Master in Eco-social Design will have developed their own individual project practice and will be able to: - design, implement and manage projects - initiate, carry out and lead project-oriented research, development and design activities - involve stakeholders and actors in projects, identify their needs, conflicts and potentials and work productively with them - working with different experts, companies, organisations, groups and people Applying knowledge and understanding Students will be able to develop projects and practices suitable for addressing complex challenges. Making judgements Students will be able to take responsibility for the development and management of projects and activities. Communication skills Students will be able to: - communicate convincingly in different ways and with different audiences - present projects convincingly - argue creative and strategic decisions - show how the social, ecological and economic aspects of sustainability interact in their projects - organising and/or moderating discussions and creative processes among project stakeholders - communicate productively within the team - lead creative processes and teams

	Learning skills Students will be able to working independently to learn according to different situations and in a personal way through experimentation and planning.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	Students will be able to: • Reflect on their professional path and identify experiences, skills and strengths that have shaped them • Identify which skills and strengths create value for other people, organisations or communities and which they would like to build a professional practice around • Identify their values and motivations and articulate the contribution they want to make • Reflect on the conditions in which they would like to live and work, including relevant people, places, activities, resources and income structures • Identify individual and shared challenges related to transformative work and reflect on which they can influence and where they need support, collaboration or another model of working • Imagine and articulate different probable, possible and preferable futures for their professional practice • Reflect on how imagined futures can be materially and organisationally sustained • Recognise different paths, roles and organisational formats through which eco-social transformation can become economically viable • Develop a visual and personal articulation of their own approach as emerging eco-social designers • Use exchange with fellow students and the teacher to further develop their thinking • Translate their emerging approach into a concrete roadmap, first milestones and meaningful next steps
Assessment	Students are required to give a short oral/visual presentation of their own emerging approach as eco-social designers. Drawing on the exercises and materials developed throughout the seminar, students bring together their experiences and skills, values and motivations, desired working conditions, and possible professional contexts. They articulate the contribution they want to

	make and reflect on how their transformative practice could be materially and organisationally sustained. The presentation includes a visual and personal articulation of their individual approach as well as a concrete roadmap with first milestones and immediate next steps. The goal is to help students gain a clearer sense of direction and identify concrete steps that can help them move from reflection into action.
Evaluation Criteria	• Degree of self-reflection, self-positioning and self-understanding • Ability to connect experiences, skills, values, motivations and desired working conditions • Reflection on challenges and on the material and organisational conditions of transformative work • Coherence of the developed individual approach • Creativity and imaginative power in exploring possible and preferable futures • Comprehensibility and accessibility of the presented work • Ability to translate reflection into a concrete roadmap, milestones and meaningful next steps
Required Readings	none
Supplementary Readings	**Bucay, Jorge.** Drei Fragen: Wer bin ich? Wohin gehe ich? Und mit wem? S. Fischer, 2011. [German] ¿ ***Self, direction & relationships*** **Costanza-Chock, Sasha.** *Design Justice: Community-Led Practices to Build the Worlds We Need.* **MIT Press, 2020.** ***¿ Power, Participation, Community-led design*** **Fezer, Jesko; Studio Experimentelles Design; Banz, Claudia.** How Do We (Want to) Work (Together) As (Socially Engaged) Designers (Students and Neighbours) (in Neoliberal Times)?: Public Design Support / Öffentliche Gestaltungsberatung 2016–2021. Sternberg Press, 2022. *¿ Collaboration, Support structures & Ways of working* **hooks, bell.** All About Love: New Visions. William Morrow, 2000. ***¿ Care, relationships & community*** **Krznaric, Roman.** How to Find Fulfilling Work. Macmillan, 2012.

	¿ Meaningful work & personal orientation **Lorusso, S.** Entreprecariat. Onomatopee, 2019.***¿ Precarity & entrepreneurial pressure*** **Miller, Ethan.** Reimagining Livelihoods — Life beyond Economy, Society, and Environment. University of Minnesota Press, 2019. ***¿ Livelihood & viability*** **Place, Alison (Ed.).** *Feminist Designer: On the Personal and the Political in Design.* **MIT Press, 2023.** ***¿ Power, Care, Feminist design practice*** **Wagner, Frank.** The Value of Design: Wirkung und Wert von Design im 21. Jahrhundert. Verlag Hermann Schmidt, 2015. [German] *¿ Role, value & responsibility of design*
Further Information	none
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Decent work and economic growth, Good health and well-being