

University Academic Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

Name: MILA STEPANOVIC

Education since leaving school

- 2012, BA in Industrial Design, Faculty of Applied Arts in Belgrade (University of Arts in Belgrade)
- 2016, MSc in Design & Engineering, Politecnico di Milano
- 2022, PhD in Design, Politecnico di Milano

Present appointment

- Basic and applied investigations in the area of innovative product design with a technological, material and textiles focus
- 01/02/2026
- RTD Junior

Innovative and experimental investigations of new and traditional methods, typologies, and materials, emphasizing sustainable practices and material innovation. Special attention is given to exploring alternative production methods, open micro-production, and experimental approaches to material development, with a focus on "growing" materials and eco-friendly applications. Parallel to this, the research also delves into innovative and sustainable textile design and development. This includes exploring advanced textile techniques, bio-based and recycled materials, and processes that reduce environmental impact. Attention is given to the integration of textiles into functional design, fostering circularity, and developing new approaches to textile production that embrace sustainability from the design phase onward. The work focuses on two areas: individual design research and subject-specific teaching within the design curriculum.

Professional experience

From / to	Job title	Name of academic Institution	Academic level	responsibilities
Oct. 2022- May. 2023	Human Centred Designer	Your Business Partner (non academic institution – consultancy company)	-	Consulting services within the context of Design profession: - Human Centred Design activities; - Analysing customers and the market context, designing and developing

				<p>processes to provide a solution to customer problems;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting the management of workshops and meetings with customers; - Carrying out communication and marketing activities.
Oct. 2021- Nov. 2022	Research Fellow	Politecnico di Milano	Postdoctoral	<p>Research participation at the project "Digital Care" - Design Think Tank of Design Department of Politecnico di Milano. The research collaboration consists in several tasks where examination of bibliometrics, identification of potential users and finally tailoring the next future scenarios on the topic of digital care, answering the requests of the European agenda regarding building more resilient and sustainable futures.</p>
Jan. 2018 – Oct. 2018	Research Fellow	Politecnico di Milano	Junior researcher (post graduation)	<p>Research participation at the project: "Design of user experience and user interface for gas cooktops within the project "Mobile STEKIO - Extreme efficiency digital gas cooktop for campers, caravans and yachts" Description: The #Burnerway cooktop for camper and yacht developed by 3P Engineering and designed by the team of Politecnico di Milano (Prof. Rampino Lucia, Prof. Ferraro Venere, Riccardo Gatti, Federico Elli and Mila</p>

				Stepanovic). Responsibilities include secondary research and prototyping.
Nov. 2017 – July 2020	Tutor at Master industrial Design Engineering and Innovation	Poli.design (Politecnico di Milano)	-	Coordination of the course and the academic calendar, relation with the teaching staff and companies.
Jan -Dec. 2016	Research Collaboration	Politecnico di Milano	Junior researcher (post graduation)	Research participation at the project: "Prototyping the Experience". The collaboration was part of the European Research Project: "P.O.D_ Plurisensorial Device to prevent occupational disease" Co-founded by European Commission-SAFERA 2014 joint call-grant agreement number 291812. Activity: Design & Engineering, Concept Development, Research, User analysis, scientific writing
Dec. 2016 – Dec. 2025	Freelance Designer	Self employed (non-academic employment)	-	In this period I was providing design and research consultancy and product development for companies, organisations and individual collaborations. In parallel with the product design, my activity aimed at exploring, creating, divulgating, and testing future visions and experiences of technologies, products and services, and interactions. I collaborated at different projects both in academic and professional sector. Some of the products I design include wearable devices, hospital

				totems, smart poles for Italian highways, playgrounds and many other. I was also organizing workshops on how to design more consciously with and for technologies, adopting critical thinking through design fiction and speculative design principles.
Feb.-May 2014	Product designer (Internship)	Extravega Architectural fabrications (Non academic – design and manufacturing company)	-	Engineering of the architectural, design and art products to let them enter in production. This position required building the bridge between the clients and the production sector of the company.

Participation in exhibitions (where applicable)

From / to	Title	Place	Description
1 March - 1 September 2019	Home and Body Fire	XXII Triennale del Design, Milano	Part of a research and design group (Prof. Rampino Lucia, Prof. Ferraro Venere, Riccardo Gatti, Federico Elli and Mila Stepanovic).
29 May 2017	l'internazionalizzazione come leva per la costruzione di percorsi di innovazione sociale Partnership Fondazione Triulza with Fondazione Cariplo	Human Factor Day Cascina Triulza, ex area Expo Milano	"P.O.D_ Plurisensorial Device to prevent occupational disease" Co-founded by European Commission-SAFERA 2014 joint call-grant agreement number 291812. Digital semi-functional prototypes were exhibited at different venues and in different occasions to promote the project and strengthen manufacturing and academic collaborations.
18-20 Oct. 2019	Maker Fair Roma	Camera di commercio di Roma	
6-8 May 2019	InnovAgorà	Museo della scienza e tecnica di Milano (Science and Technology Museum of Milan)	

Experience in academic teaching

Adjunct Professor

March 2017 – December 2024

Master in Industrial Design Engineering and innovation - Workshop 1
PoliDesign, Consorzio di Politecnico di Milano
Course head teacher: Prof. Matteo Ingaramo

Master in Industrial Design Engineering and innovation - Workshop 2
PoliDesign, Consorzio di Politecnico di Milano
Course head teacher: Prof. Matteo Ingaramo

Master in Industrial Design Engineering and innovation
Product Development Lab, PoliDesign, Consorzio di Politecnico di Milano
Course head teacher: Prof. Matteo Ingaramo

Visiting Lecturer

FUTURE BASED INNOVATION, Domus Academy

- Four months programme for Sole 24 Ore Business School students [EMBA] (March - June 2025)
- Five months programme for Sole 24 Ore Business School students [EMBA] (May - November 2024)
- Four months programme for Sole 24 Ore Business School students [MBA] (March - July 2024)
- One week programme at Domus Academy for the students from Paris Business School (PSB).

May 3rd 2021 **Concept Lab: Visioning, Politecnico di Milano Design School** (Prof. Laura Anselmi); Lecture: "Introduction to Speculative Design. Critical Design Practices" [ITA]

Nov. 11th 2021 MSc Digital and Interaction Design (Theories and Tools of Interaction Design), Politecnico di Milano Design School (Prof. Venere Ferraro); Lecture: "Envisioning the Future Through Diegetic Prototypes" [ENG]

Nov. 9th 2020 MSc Digital and Interaction Design (Theories and Tools of Interaction Design), Politecnico di Milano Design School (Prof. Venere Ferraro); Lecture: "Extraordinary Fictional Worlds" (with Ilaria Mariani) [ENG]

Nov. 19th and Nov. 26th 2019 MSc Digital and Interaction Design (Theories and Tools of Interaction Design), Politecnico di Milano Design School (Prof. Venere Ferraro) and Integrated Product design (Design Narratives) Politecnico di Milano Design School (Prof. Marzia Mortati); Lecture "Critical Design Practices. Speculative Design and Design Fiction." [ENG]

Nov. 13th 2018 MSc Digital and Interaction Design (Theories and Tools of Interaction Design), Politecnico di Milano Design School (Prof. Venere Ferraro); Lecture "Design for Behavioural Change" [ENG]

Teaching assistant (educational tutor)

Sustainability Strategies and Design (elective course for Master of Science students)
Politecnico di Milano Design School – 2023 2nd semester English language
Course head teacher: Francesco Cara

Master Degree Course (MSc) in Design & Engineering
Product Development Design Studio 2, Politecnico di Milano Design School – 2022 2nd semester, English Language, Course head teacher: Riccardo Gatti

Master Degree Course (MSc) in Design & Engineering, Product Development Design Studio 1, Politecnico di Milano – 2016-2022 1st semester, English Language, Course head teacher: Prof. Venere Ferraro

Master Degree Course (MSc) in Design & Engineering, Product Development Design Studio 2, Politecnico di Milano – 2016-2021 2nd semester, English Language, Course head teacher: Prof. Venere Ferraro

Master Degree Course (MSc) in Digital and Interaction Design
Theories and tools for Interaction Design, Design School, Politecnico di Milano – 2019-2021 1st semester, English Language, Course head teacher: Prof. Venere Ferraro

Master Degree Course (MSc) in Digital and Interaction Design
Envisioning AI through Design, Design School, Politecnico di Milano – 2020 2nd semester, English Language, Course head teacher: Prof. Marzia Mortati

Master Degree Course (MSc) in Design & Engineering
Product Development Design Studio 2, Design School, Politecnico di Milano – 2017 2nd semester, English Language, Course head teacher: Roberta Gorno

Thesis co-advised

Thesis Author: Feng Li
Thesis supervisor: Venere Ferraro
Thesis Title: McGee music maker
Graduation Date: 20/04/2018

Thesis Author: Hou Delin
Thesis supervisor: Venere Ferraro
Thesis Title: MOTIV. Smart wearable in intravenous infusion therapy
Graduation Date: 20/04/2018

Thesis author: Ge Chang
Thesis supervisor: Venere Ferraro
Thesis Title: Easylock. Intelligent pre-warning steering wheel lock system
Graduation Date: 20/04/2018

Other academic responsibilities -

Memberships -

Research and scholarships

Date granted	Award Holder(s)	Funding Body	Title	Amount received
Nov. 2021 – Nov. 2022	Mila Stepanovic	Politecnico di Milano, Design Department	COSTRUIRE SCENARI USANDO DESIGN FICTION E CRITICAL THINKING /SCENARISTICA E PROTOTIPI DIEGETICI (BUILDING SCENARIOS USING DESIGN FICTION AND CRITICAL THINKING/SCENARIOS AND DIEGETIC PROTOTYPES)	23.000
Jan.-Oct. 2018	Mila Stepanovic	Politecnico di Milano, Design Department	Design dell'esperienza d'uso e dell'interfaccia utente per piani di cottura a gas nell'ambito del progetto "Mobile STEKIO – Extreme efficiency digital gas cooktop for campers, caravans and yachts"	23.000
Dec.2019 – Oct. 2020	Bolzan Patrizia, Invernizzi Michele, Mariani Ilaria, Parisi Stefano, Stepanovic Mila Varisco Laura	Politecnico di Milano, Design Department (Research Grant MiniFARB, Part of the award of research grant MINI Farb - fund for young researchers by Politecnico di Milano)	InData Envisioning and Prototyping informed by Data	11.000
January 2015	Mila Stepanovic	Serbian Government	Scholarship for studying abroad	6.000

Publications

Contribution to scientific books (Peer review)

Stepanovic, M., Ferraro, V. (2024). Envisioning Technological Artefacts Through Anticipatory Scenarios and Diegetic Prototypes. In: Zanella, F., et al. Multidisciplinary Aspects of Design. Design! OPEN 2022. Springer Series in Design and Innovation , vol 37. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-49811-4_38 (Presenter: Mila Stepanovic)

Varisco, L., Mariani, I., Parisi, S., Stepanovic, M., Invernizzi, M., & Bolzan, P. (2020). InData Envisioning and Prototyping Informed by Data. A Data Scraping and Visualization Tool to Support Design Scenarios. In T. Ahram, R. Taiar, S. Colson, & A. Choplin (Eds.), Human Interaction and Emerging Technologies (pp. 441–447). Cham: Springer International Publishing. (Presenter: Mila Stepanovic)

Venere Ferraro, Mila Stepanovic, Silvia Ferraris: Wearable technology as a tool to motivate health behaviour: A case study. In (ed.) Dr. Jesús Hamilton Ortiz "Wearable Technologies", InTech Publishing, 2018. Book indexed in the Book Citation Index in the Web of Science™ Core Collection (BKCI) ISBN 978-953-51-6081-6

Venere Ferraro, Mila Stepanovic, Silvia Ferraris (2017): Wearability and User Experience through User Engagement: The Case study of Wearable Plurisensorial Device. In: (Ed) Tareq Ahram Christianne Falcão, "Advances in Human Factors in Wearable Technologies and Game Design. Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing," p. 125-135, Springer International Publishing, 2017, SCOPUS indexed Book.

Journal Articles

Ingaramo, M., Stepanovic, M. (2021) "When the Lights turn off. Future perspectives of Design for Smart Home (Quando le luci si spengono. Le prospettive future per design della casa intelligente)", in AGATHÓN International Journal of Architecture, Art and Design, vol 10, pp. 168– 170, DOI: 10.19229/2464-9309/1015202

Ferraro, V., Stepanovic, M. (2020): "IA, design fiction e pensiero critico." in DIID 2020 DIID Disegno Industriale – Journal, #72 Pratiche

Venere Ferraro, Lucia Rampino, Mila Stepanovic (2019) "A Plurisensorial Device to support Human Smell in Hazardous Environment and Prevent Respiratory Disease. In ADVANCES IN HUMAN-COMPUTER INTERACTION (Personal Assistance and Monitoring Devices Applications), vol. 5893, pp.1-10, ISSN: 1687, <https://doi.org/10.1155/2019/3094560>DOI:10.1155/2019/3094560

Venere Ferraro, Mila Stepanovic, Silvia Ferraris (2017): Persuasive Technology as key to increase Working Health Condition. The Case study of a Wearable System to prevent Respiratory Disease. The Design Journal, 20: sup1, S2439-S2450, DOI: 10.1080/14606925.2017.1352757. WOS (Web of ScienceTM) Indexed Journal

Conference Papers

Stepanovic, M. (2023): Design Fiction Prototyping to tackle Societal Challenges and support design for Sustainable Behaviours. EKSIG23 From Abstractness to Concreteness. June 19-20, 2023, Milano, Italy (presenter: Mila Stepanovic)

Stepanovic, M., Boer, L., Jenkins, T. (2022): "Reconfiguring the Smartphone to Support Intentional Use", in NordiCHI Proceedings, Aarhus 8-12 October 2022 (presenter: Mila Stepanovic)

Stepanovic, M., Ferraro, V. (2021): "Disruptive technologies and behavioural change: Design fiction as trigger for critical thinking", in Proceedings Cumulus Conference, DESIGN CULTURE(S) | ROMA 2020, 08-10 June 2021 (presenter: Mila Stepanovic)

Mariani, I.; Parisi, S.; Bolzan, P.; Stepanovic, M.; Invernizzi, M.; Varisco, L. (2021): "Envisioning and prototyping smart material system and artefacts from data-informed scenarios. A case study of design hackathon between digital and physical", in Proceedings Cumulus Conference, DESIGN CULTURE(S) | ROMA 2020, 08-10 June 2021

Mariani, I.; Parisi, S.; Bolzan, P.; Stepanovic, M.; Invernizzi, M.; Varisco, L. (2019): Indata, Envisioning & Prototyping Informed by Knowledge. Open-Access Data Platform to Support Design Scenarios. 11th International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies 1 - 7 July 2019

Stepanovic, M., Ingaramo, M. (2018): Process tailored to the new Design Challenges and Opportunities. DOI:10.5593/sgemsocial2018/5.3/S21.059. pp.465-472. In 5th International Multidisciplinary Scientific Conference on Social Sciences and Arts SGEM 2018 - ISBN:978-619- 7408-66-9 vol. 18. 5th International Multidisciplinary Scientific Conference on Social Sciences and Arts SGEM 2018. August 26 – September 1, 2018

Stepanovic, M., Ferraro, V. (2018): Digitalize limits for increased capability: Technology to overcome Human Mechanisms. Paper accepted for: 9th International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics and the Affiliated Conferences (AHFE 2017) Loews Sapphire Falls Resort, Universal Studios Orlando Resort TM, Orlando, Florida, USA. July 22-26, 2018

Mila Stepanovic, Venere Ferraro (2016): Engaging with the user: Defining and Designing the user experience. SAFERA Symposium Emergence of a New Collaborative Work Programme on Industrial Safety 12-13 April, Athens, Greece

Commissions as reviewer

2024 Journal Technology in Society
Review of n.1 scientific papers

2023 LEARNXDESIGN (Design Research Society – DRS)
Review of n.2 scientific papers

2023 EKSIG FROM ABSTRACTNESS TO CONCRETEDNESS (Design Research Society – DRS)
Review of n.3 scientific papers.

2023 CHI Late braking work
Review of n.1 scientific paper

Further data

EKSIG23 From Abstractness to Concreteness. June 19-20, 2023, Milan (paper presenter)

NordiCHI Conference, Aarhus 8-12 October 2022 (paper presenter)

Design! OPEN 2022. Online edition (Parma), 5-6 October (paper presenter)

IHIET 2020 Human Interaction and Emerging Technologies (Nice, FR) (paper presenter)

Cumulus Conference, DESIGN CULTURE(S) Online edition (Rome) 2020, 08-10 June

Entrepreneurship -

Statement of interest

Herein I express my motivation to candidate to the RTD position at the unibz under the supervision of Prof. Nitzan Cohen and my expected contribution to this academic context. I will briefly describe my past experience that is related to this specific position. In 2018 I started my PhD in Design entitled "Design Fiction 4 Critical Thinking: Designing Consciously Technological Artefacts to Tackle Aware Behaviours," which I discussed with success in March 2022. My PhD investigated the creation of new approaches for design research and practice exploiting the design fiction principles such as scenarios and diegetic prototypes. Throughout my PhD, I delivered a Protocol for designing consciously technological artefacts to tackle aware behaviours in users. The Protocol aims to help the design researchers and practitioners (dealing with human behaviour, societal challenges, and technologies, mainly concerning product design, interaction design, and service design) adopt critical thinking and pluriversal perspectives and anticipate the possible societal and ethical implications of technological artefacts in a perspective of creating more thriving future societies. Since then, I brought this concept into the education sphere by organizing workshops with the design students (interaction design, product design, space design, and others). In the same period I collaborated with ITU Copenhagen where I worked on the research project "Future of Mobile Technology." This project investigated how to design the smartphone (new forms and interactions) to prevent problematic behaviours such as addiction to Social Networks and Internet, using speculative and design fiction principles as well design fiction prototyping. Throughout this project, we investigated how the form and digital interaction aspects could be designed to let the user develop more intentional usage patterns. In parallel with my PhD I collaborated also on other projects investigating speculative design and design fiction, smart and bio materials, and digital fabrication (see InData in the list of granted projects). All of my academic work was tightly related to prototyping both digital and physical objects, including digital fabrication, animation and post production, but also traditional techniques. I have experience in design education since 2016 and I was also organising workshops for students on how to use critical design, speculative design and design fiction to design more consciously technological artefacts, and even services and spaces.

What I appreciated about this specific position and the context of the lab is that it is tightly related to the research topics of my interest focusing very much on making tangible the future through hands on approach, contextualising the artefacts. The blend of these approaches and focus on digital fabrication and materials is where I find myself as a researcher both confident and curious to explore and experiment. Considering my previous experience I believe this opportunity will be of a reciprocal enrichment.

Considering that the curriculum at unibz is design and art but still practice oriented is something that is at the same time stimulating for me as a professional (especially considering my background that is both in artistic and engineering area) and I strongly believe I can give my contribution to the academic context and also within the teaching sphere.

Language competence

Written and spoken competence in all languages according to CERF levels, Common European Reference Framework (http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/cadre1_en.asp); append certificates wherever available

Date 07/01/2026