

Soziologisches Werkstattgespräch

17. März 2025, 12:30-14:00,
Besprechungsraum, 4. Stock, hybrid

Discussing Challenges and Changes of Design Inquiry as a Method performed in Co-Creation Workshops

Niklas L. Pernhaupt

In a nutshell, my dissertation wants to explore how junior scientists in Vienna jointly imagine their future daily work lives in science – with an emphasis on the roles of automation and democracy. It wants to add to a nascent sociology of imagination by exploring imagination as a potential form of democratic creativity.

My choice of method fell on *design inquiry* (Stompff et al., 2022) in co-creation workshops. Design inquiry is based on two forms of imagination with democratic relevance – deliberation and experimentation. Participants first deliberate about their current daily work lives, imagine future daily work lives, and then they co-create artifacts to collect cultural probes (Gaver et al., 1999) by confronting current daily work practices with their imagined futures. Cultural probes are data collected through artifacts with which people document certain aspects of their cultural milieu. Examples are photos taken with a camera, diary entries in a diary, or more abstract forms of data collection. The first workshop group co-created a tool to make unconventional or even fringe work practices more visible by documenting performed work tasks perceived as good practice *and* work tasks that deviate from a perceived norm of proper scientific work (e.g., taking creative walks).

The first workshop setting revealed some hiccups (that are to be expected with a novel method) – e.g., participants being somewhat overwhelmed and/or concepts being initially less accessible. In this Werkstattgespräch, I want to draw on our collective intelligence to collect potential solutions to address those and other challenges of performing design inquiry in co-creation workshops.

Gaver, B., Dunne, T., & Pacenti, E. (1999). Design: cultural probes. *interactions*, 6(1), 21-29.

Stompff, G., van Bruinessen, T., & Smulders, F. (2022). The generative dance of design inquiry: Exploring Dewey's pragmatism for design research. *Design Studies*, 83, 101136.

Das **Werkstattgespräch** wird am **17. März 2025 von 12:30-14:00, hybrid** stattfinden.

Vor Ort: Besprechungsraum im 4. Stock (Institut für Soziologie)

Online-Meeting-ID: 676 2657 5457, Kenncode: 039970

Koordination: Agnes Dürr & Johanna Kiermaier
Eine Initiative des Mittelbaus, Institut für Soziologie
<http://www.soz.univie.ac.at/rising-scholars/>

