
Designing Social Innovation

Socially sustainable design

Motivation

Driven by sustainability, the 'third industrial revolution' signifies new research and innovation opportunities in green technology and sustainable design. However, the social, cultural, and gender aspects of sustainable development indicate the need for an interdisciplinary and international approach. Addressing such societal issues, Designing Social Innovation will be led as a collaboration between the Interactive Institute and the Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Aimed at advancing interaction design research directed at sustainable technology development, the project will result in theories, methods, innovation models and demonstrators. The project will grow research groups in both locations and an international academic and industrial network.

Focus areas

Research foundations

Interaction design is a recent but rapidly growing field – there is a pressing need to develop academic foundations, including theories and methods applicable to sustainable development. This collaborative project will contribute to developing a more substantial consideration of user research methods and critical theories from the social sciences.

Innovation demonstrators

With a heritage in industrial design and engineering, traditionally focused on electrical and electronic products, interaction design retains certain material- and energy-intensive logics of mass-production. In this project, we will develop existing – or new – innovation processes and commercialization models for alternative value propositions and modes of consumption.

Activities

The project will be conducted through

- Expert interviews and case studies
- A pilot study at the IIT Institute of Design
- Research and innovation seminars

Sponsor

Designing Social Innovation is funded from Apr 2010 - Mar 2013 by VINNOVA (The Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems) through the VINNMER–Marie Curie program.

Contacts

Project leader: Ramia Mazé, PhD
www.tii.se/ramia, ramia.maze@tii.se
SE +46 (0) 705 942 932, US +1 312 841 1162

Advisor at the IIT Institute of Design: Judith Gregory, PhD

Project website: www.tii.se/dsi