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Cosmopolitics of Care: territories, bodies, and situated knowledges

This editorial presents to the readers of the Strategic Design Research Journal (SDRJ) the first of two numbers of a special issue dedicated to a partnership built with the SDS - Simpósio de Design Sustentável + Sustainable Design Symposium (X SDS, 2025). This is an editorial initiative developed jointly by the journal's editorial board and the symposium's organizing group, born out of a perceived synergy between their respective values. The SDS, in its tenth edition, has established itself as a significant space for the Brazilian, Latin American, and global design communities. Throughout the event, participants sought to reflect on the role of design in relation to climate change as a profound expression of an unprecedented impact on practices of which we ourselves are part. This reflection moved across the relationships between design, sustainability, territories, and possible futures, valuing above all local knowledges as a foundation for elaborating other ways of doing design.

In X SDS, we delved deeper into the critical, political, and speculative dimensions of sustainability, and explored an even closer connection with traditional knowledge and multispecies collaborations as possibilities of conceiving and producing design in the face of the challenges of the Anthropocene. The SDRJ finds in the dynamics promoted by the symposium concerns that dialogue directly with its scope and trajectory, while also inspiring the journal to further value local design practices, especially in times of crisis and hopelessness.

The symposium brought together researchers from different regions of Brazil and abroad around thematic axes such as political design, cosmopolitics, decoloniality, the pluriverse, strategic design, systemic design, and design of and for territories; axes that correspond, to a great extent, to those that guide the SDRJ's own editorial line. By welcoming this set of texts, the journal reaffirms its commitment to a production of design knowledge that is situated, critical, and committed to the transition from degraded worlds toward more just and plural configurations, aligning with what authors in the field of ontological design and the pluriverse have called designs for transitions.

This issue, now published in two numbers, results from an invitation extended to selected authors to revisit their original texts, deepening their theoretical-methodological articulation with the scope of the SDRJ, and updating them considering the most recent contingencies. All texts were submitted to a new round of evaluation by referees distinct from those who evaluated the works within the scope of the event, rigorously following the journal's regular editorial flows and criteria. Thus, the articles gathered here may be read as memories of the event, but should be understood as autonomous contributions, conceived as singular original contributions to the field.

Given the volume and diversity of the 15 articles finally accepted for publication, we chose to organize them into two thematic numbers, distributed according to the predominant nature of the research gesture in each text. This first number, presented here under the title Cosmopolitics of Care: Territories, Bodies, and Situated Knowledges, brings together works organized around case studies and particular experiences. The papers are anchored in specific

territories, communities, and bodies, in which design is articulated with ancestral, popular, and traditional knowledges. The second number, *Strategic Design, Futures, and the Pluriverse: Theoretical-Methodological Essays*, published alongside this one, brings together contributions of an essayistic, theoretical, and speculative character, oriented toward the construction of concepts, methods, and scenarios for the field of strategic design and for the transitions. This division does not intend to establish a hierarchy between practice and theory (since the two numbers speak to and complement one another), but rather to offer readers a coherent thread through the diversity of approaches that characterized the X SDS 2025 itself. Even so, we invite readers to move freely between the articles of both issues, finding other possible coherences in the relationships among the texts.

This number opens with "Fofão do Maranhão and Social Innovation," by Priscila Andrade-Silva, Lara Teresa Buhaten Reis, Zenite Tainá Costa Martins, and Victor Gabriel Coelho Sousa. Drawing on the Story Design Method, the authors recover and value the memory of Fofão, a masked figure of Maranhão's carnival whose scattered, fragmented origin stories the article works to reassemble through oral history and multisensory memory artifacts, showing how design can act in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage rooted in a specific regional festive tradition.

Next, "Listen to the Cuia," by Andrea Bandoni and Carla Paoliello, investigates how the ancestral knowledge of Amazonian artisans can enrich biodesign practices. Grounded in the Cuia Colab project, carried out with cuia makers in Belém do Pará, the article follows the slow, embodied process of growing and shaping cuias (traditional vessels made from the fruit of the *Crescentia cujete* tree), proposing, from this local practice of maturation and care, a multispecies approach founded on relationality and on ecological attentiveness rather than industrial logics of speed and replicability.

The paper by Márcio Soares Lima, Luiz Fernando Gonçalves de Figueiredo, Raquel Gomes Noronha, and Camila Andrade dos Santos, "Systemic Design and Pluriversality in Public Policies," examines how systemic design can critically mediate the relationship between public policies and women in situations of social vulnerability in inland Maranhão. Anchored in the Programa Mulheres Mil in São João dos Patos, the paper follows creative workshops, affective cartographies, and the exhibition "Imagining Women for the Future," through which local practices such as embroidery, care, and orality are valued, advocating an epistemological redesign of policies grounded in cognitive justice.

In a closely related register, "Gender and Urban Space: A Feminist Analysis of Public Spaces in the Historic Center of São Luís, Brazil," by Eloina Maria Moura Reis dos Santos, examines how gender relations shape the configuration and experience of urban space in the Historic Center of São Luís, Maranhão. Drawing on socio-spatial theory and feminist urban studies, and applying Gender Safety Audit and Walkability methodologies to interventions carried out between 2016 and 2022 under a municipal revitalization program, the article listens to women users of Parque do Bom Menino, Praça da Bíblia, Praça da Saudade, and Praça da Misericórdia, revealing persistent gender-based inequalities in the use and perception of public space and arguing for the systematic incorporation of a gender perspective into urban revitalization policy.

Clara Terra Rayol Santos and Raquel Gomes Noronha, in "University, Gender, and Sustainability," take one author's own academic trajectory (which involves a shift from the exact sciences to design after failing to find sustainable conditions of permanence) as a critical

method for exposing the social unsustainability of university environments structured by paradigms of exclusion, articulating gender, student permanence, and political design, and drawing on the authors' work within the Gender Hubs research project.

"Khanimambo Cooperative," by Quézia Elisama Ribas, Andréia Mesacasa, Sandra Regina Rech, and Walter Dutra da Silveira Neto, presents the redesign of the visual identity of a Mozambican cooperative based in the city of Matola, from a territorial design perspective. Applying the Design Inova Embalagem model together with an Affective Map Generator, the authors incorporate symbols of the Matola territory and of Mozambican culture into the cooperative's new brand, strengthening a community-based creative economy initiative built around handmade fashion products for tourism.

The article by Zoy Anastassakis, Paula de Oliveira Camargo, Ísis Daou, Julia de Sá Earp, Marlene Rodrigues Medrado, Mariana Alves Monteiro, Laura Nakel, Kauê Marcos Pereira Silva, André Victor Alves Ramos, Amanda Rosetti, Catarina Costa de Souza, Joana Varon, and Victor Domingues Venancio, "Living and Researching Between the University and the Terreiro," departs from the contamination of a research group by the Oropouche virus during fieldwork at the Ilê Axé Omin Ota Odara, a Candomblé terreiro in Cachoeiras de Macacu, in the countryside of Rio de Janeiro, led by Ialorixá Marlene de Oxalufã, to theorize a cosmopolitics of encounter, contamination, and care.

The number closes with the article by Nadja Maria Mourão and Diony Elvira Gallegos Sanz, "Craft, Design, and Decolonial Practices," which discusses, through embroidery, the tensions and possibilities of collaborative processes between designers and artisans in Latin America and the Caribbean, tracing a brief genealogy of the practice and moving between the reproduction of colonial hierarchies and the horizontal production of knowledge.

Read together, these articles compose a mosaic of situated practices in which design appears less as a discipline applied to territories than as something that emerges from within them. From a carnival mask, a gourd left to grow on a tree, an embroidery stitch, a public policy workshop, a women's revitalized square, a brand for a cooperative, a contaminated body in a terreiro, a student's own trajectory through the university... design is elaborated as an involved practice defined in a dialectic process nurtured within particular situations. Across very different territories (Maranhão, Amazon, Mozambique, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais), some concerns recur: the valuing of ancestral, popular, and traditional knowledges; the presence of care as method and as ethics; and an attentiveness to gender, race, and vulnerability as constitutive of who gets to design, and with whom, and of who is entitled to the city itself. Taken as a whole, the number argues that situated knowledges are not merely objects to be documented by design, but active sources of design thinking in their own right; a reflection that finds its theoretical and methodological counterpart in the essays gathered in Number 2, published alongside this issue.

By bringing these contributions together in this special issue, the journal not only broadens its dialogue with the research community but also reaffirms its commitment to an academic design production capable of navigating through theory and practice, territory and concept, situated care and the imagination of plural futures. We thank the authors for their dedication to the process of rewriting and articulating their texts, and the referees who contributed to the final qualification of these works. We also thank the volunteers who carried out the technical review of the articles, named below. Without this dedicated work, these numbers would not have been possible. We wish everyone a good read.

Editorial

Guilherme Englert Corrêa Meyer (Editor SDRJ)

Raquel Gomes Noronha (Guest editor)

Samuel da Silva Miranda (Guest editor)

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