

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

Design/Repair: socio-material conditions of/in place, practice & community

19 September 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm

Room: EA.G.26 Parramatta South Campus

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Institute for Culture
and Society

Abstract

Repair is increasingly recognised as part of design (Fry 2007; Cooper 2010) and this connection needs to be underscored by conditions of urgency. An emergency context of climate disasters, exhaustion of natural resources, and volumes of waste, requires repair to be at the forefront as a 'first responder' (IPCC AR6 2022, 11–25) in a wider cultural transformation.

Our recent book *Design/Repair* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023) aims to explore the role of design in repair, but also how repair is changing the practice and ethos of design, which has yet to establish 'repairability', and related properties, as design standards. Repair is an engaging practice that evokes the emergence of an economic subject who is both a first responder and a skilled bricoleur, attending to the material at hand with cultural sensitivity and care. In this seminar, the book's editors will present on cases where this subject is also a collaborator, connected with others in communities and in places. Repair-led design foregrounds the ethical questions of what needs repair, and should everything be repaired, even if it could be. We present our learnings about what happens when we adopt repair values and chart the agency of repair-led design, and design-led repair when they align with a life logic that goes beyond material restoration, to encompass the lived experiences of individuals and communities in socio-material practices that care for place, culture, and physical environments.

Biographies

Dr Eleni Kalantidou is a design psychologist, researcher and educator at Griffith University, with research projects investigating repair and community-led behavioural change within conditions of climate change.

Dr Guy Keulemans is an Enterprise Fellow at the University of South Australia, and a designer, artist and curator researching repair, reuse, and the environmental impacts of production and consumption.

Prof. Abby Mellick Lopes is a Professor in Design Studies at UTS, and an associate at ICS. She is part of federally funded (ARC) research projects about waste economies and living with urban heat.

Dr Niklavs Rubenis is coordinator of design, and object and furniture at the School of Creative Arts and Media, University of Tasmania. He is a designer/maker interested in the intersection of craft, design, ethics, waste, and people.

Dr Alison Gill is an interdisciplinary design researcher and educator at Western Sydney University, in the School of Humanities & Communication Arts, and a member of ICS.

Presenters: Alison Gill, Eleni Kalantidou, Guy Keulemans, Abby Mellick Lopes, Niklavs Rubenis
Discussant: Stephen Healy
Chair: Denise Rezk

**NEXT SEMINAR:
26 SEPTEMBER**