

# RESEARCH THEME

XXVII cycle - a.y. 2021/2022

**Title of the doctoral research** Design Futures (DF): a transdisciplinary perspective to decolonize futures

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## Abstract

We live in a world that is increasingly complex, the pandemic turn underlines once more that climate events and the practice of democracy challenge us as everyday citizens. Design practice and research methodologies need to be urgently reframed in an approach that we call 'Design Futures' (DF). This is a matter of Design taking on a far more proactive role, anticipate and working prospectively to look ahead of the immediate or short term (Celi & Morrison, 2018).

The overall objective of this research line is to investigate about the changing role of design in anticipating futures, sharing future literacies, activating change as response to global challenges by enabling future making by larger group in society. The hypothesis highlighted in this proposal is that after the great hype aroused by speculative design, a new perspective has opened for design that looks to the future. The relationships between DF and Future Studies (FS) has been recently growing rapidly into a collaborative nature (S. Candy and J. Dunagan, 2017 A. Hines and D. Zindato, 2016).

The delineation of this area opens up new lines of research that may concern: a) experiential futures as a methodology for creating futures in a cooperative context; b) design fiction and provotypes as operational tools to design trajectories towards preferable futures; future, technology (or bio-tech) and challenges for a new ethics ... etc.

To advance the DF knowledge the Ph.D candidate, after an initial desk research (literature review and case studies analysis), will be involved in action research (eg. funded projects as Fuel4Design) and by setting small scale testing (eg. educational field) to explicitly study process and methods to deal with future design literacies.

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## Keywords

Design Futures, Anticipation, Design Fiction