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International Forum on Knowledge Asset Dynamics

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22nd International Forum on Knowedge Asset Dynamics

University of Basilicata, Matera, Italy

The Ecology of Knowledge in the AI Era

CALL FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS - IFKAD 2027
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Special Track n.: 08

Generative AI Design Ecologies: Knowledge, Agency and Human-AI Co-Creation

Description

Design can be understood as a distinctive mode of knowledge production in which knowing and making are mutually constitutive. Its epistemic specificity lies in its projective capacity to frame problems, construct representations, generate alternatives, and explore possible futures. Across architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, exhibition design, product design, and related fields, design therefore engages not only with what exists, but with what could be.

Generative artificial intelligence intensifies and reconfigures this condition. As computational systems increasingly participate in ideation, representation, simulation, variation, and evaluation, design knowledge emerges through distributed configurations of human and non-human agency.

The notion of Generative Design Ecologies describes these configurations as relational systems in which designers, models, datasets, archives, precedents, interfaces, prompts, regulations, and situated forms of expertise jointly condition the production of design possibilities.

From this perspective, generative design is not simply automated solution production, but the construction and exploration of spaces of possibility. Alternatives and scenarios become provisional knowledge objects that are generated, compared, tested, rejected, and recombined through iterative inquiry. The crucial issue is therefore the relationship between generation and judgement. While AI operates predominantly through probabilistic inference, design concerns the construction and evaluation of possibilities that are not yet actualised.

This tension foregrounds the continued importance of contextual interpretation, situated knowledge, ethical positioning, and responsibility. Generative processes are also inseparable from the epistemic infrastructures that enable them. Archives, datasets, classifications, precedents, and representational systems are not neutral repositories: they actively structure what can be retrieved, correlated, and generated. AI-augmented design thus involves a double operation: designing the knowledge ecology from which possibilities emerge, and designing through the possibilities that this ecology makes available.

This perspective directly addresses IFKAD 2027's theme, The Ecology of Knowledge in the AI Era. Design disciplines provide a particularly relevant field for examining hybrid knowledge ecosystems because they combine explicit and tacit knowledge, analytical and aesthetic reasoning, technical constraints, and cultural values. At the same time, reliance on shared models and datasets may produce epistemic and aesthetic convergence, normalising statistically dominant patterns and creating new forms of design monoculture.

These transformations also concern organisational knowledge. Within design practices, AEC organisations, public agencies, creative firms, and universities, AI is changing how knowledge is curated, circulated, attributed, and reused, as well as how authorship, responsibility, and intellectual property are negotiated. Understanding these emerging generative design ecologies is essential if AI is to expand design's exploratory capacity without displacing the diversity, judgement, and situated intelligence through which design produces knowledge, meaning, and value.

Indicative Topics

- Generative design as a mode of knowledge production.
- Human–AI co-creation across design disciplines., i.e., architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, exhibition and interior design, product design.
- Open Science, FAIR principles, onthologies and AI-assited procedures for sharing knowledge in design research.
- Distributed agency across designers, AI models, datasets, archives, software, institutions, users, and contextual conditions.
- The relation between probabilistic generation and design's capacity to construct possibilities that do not yet exist.
- Design spaces, scenario building, iteration, variation, emergence, and productive deviation in AI-augmented processes.
- Archives, precedents, datasets, classifications, and organisational memory as active epistemic infrastructures for generative design.
- Dataset construction, curation, annotation, bias, and stewardship as design-oriented knowledge-management practices.
- Human judgement, tacit expertise, aesthetic knowledge, authorship, accountability, and responsibility in AI-augmented design.
- Algorithmic convergence, epistemic and aesthetic homogenisation, and the emergence of design monocultures.
- Generative AI for regenerative, climate-responsive, nature-based, heritage, and culturally sensitive design.
- Organisational capabilities, workflows, governance, intellectual property, and learning in AI-enabled design practices.
- Generative AI in design education, research-through-design, and interdisciplinary knowledge creation.

Keywords

Generative AI; AI; Design; Agency; Co-Creation

Organizers

Alessandro Raffa – Politecnico di Torino, Italy
Monica Moscatelli – Prince Sultan University, Saudi Arabia
José Remón – Xi'an Jiaotong–Liverpool University, China

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Guidelines and Requirements

Researchers wishing to contribute are invited to submit an EXTENDED ABSTRACT (in MS Word format) of min 500 and max 1000 words, not later than **22 JANUARY 2027**. All submission must be done via dedicated form on our website. The abstract should address theoretical background, research objective, methodology, and results in terms of expected contribution to Knowledge Management theory and practice.
Authors are required to follow the guidelines and templates available on IFKAD website: www.ifkad.org

Important Dates

22 January 2027 – Extended Abstract Submission Deadline
19 February 2027 – Acceptance Notification to Authors
16 April 2027 – Early-Bird Registration & Payment Deadline
23 April 2027 – Full Paper Submission Deadline
28 May 2027 – Regular and PhD Students Registration & Payment Deadline
12 June 2027 – Conference Program Release
28-30 June 2027 – Conference sessions *(to be considered as 3 full working days)*

Please note that all above indicated dates are **CUT-OFF** deadlines. There will not be an extention to any of these.

Further Information

For any information related to the conference and/or any special track, please see the event website at www.ifkad.org or contact the conference manager at **info@ifkad.org**