

## Design/History/Revolution (New York City, 27 – 28 Apr 12)

Parsons/New School for Social Research/New York City, Apr 27–28, 2012

Deadline: Dec 7, 2011

Orit Halpern, The New School (professor)/Duke (post doc 2006-2007)

CFP: Design/History/Revolution

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Conference: April 27 & 28, 2012, The New School, NYC

Whether by providing agitprop for revolutionary movements, an aesthetics of empire, or a language for numerous avant-gardes, design has changed the world. But how? Why? And under what conditions? We propose a consideration of design as an historical agent, a contested category, and a mode of historical analysis.

This interdisciplinary conference aims to explore these questions and open up new possibilities for understanding the relationships among design, history and revolution.

Casting a wide net, we define our terms broadly. We seek 20-minute papers that examine the roles of design in generating, shaping, remembering or challenging moments of social, political, economic, aesthetic, intellectual, technological, religious, and other upheaval. We consider a range of historical periods (ancient, pre-modern, early modern, modern, post- and post-post-modern) and geographical locations ("West," "East," "North," "South," and contact zones between these constructed categories). We examine not only designed objects (e.g., industrial design, decorative arts, graphic design, fashion) but also spaces (e.g., architecture, interiors, landscapes, urban settings) and systems (e.g., communications, services, governments). And we welcome a diversity of disciplinary and inter-disciplinary approaches.

This conference brings together scholars from the humanities, sciences, and social sciences with designers, artists, and other creators. We hope not only to present multiple methodological approaches but also to foster conversations across traditional spatial, cultural, and disciplinary boundaries.

We list some possible subject areas below, and encourage you to propose others:

Design and political / cultural / economic revolution

Design and the everyday

Design and technological revolution

Design and government

Design and social movements

Design and surveillance

Design and historicity

Designed landscapes

Design and empire

Design and the sacred  
Design and the avant-garde  
Design and memory  
Design and the print revolution  
Design and philosophy/philosophies  
Design and literature of design  
Design and consumerism  
Design and the city  
Design and science  
Design and the environment  
Design and cybernetics  
Design and the domestic sphere  
Design and education

Please submit a 250-word abstract (maximum) and 1-page CV to:  
designhistoryrevolution@gmail.com

Web: <http://designhistoryrevolution.wordpress.com/>

Reference:

CFP: Design/History/Revolution (New York City, 27 - 28 Apr 12). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 17, 2011 (accessed Dec 18, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/2066>>.