

„Brown cows produce  
chocolate milk...“

Photo by Tom Magliery

...nice hypothesis!

Want to know more? Then you should go for:

# Questions & Hypotheses

SPECIAL GUESTS:

ALAIN FINDELI, MIKE PRESS, KEITH RUSSELL,  
SUSANN VIHMA, KHALDOUN ZREIK

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**05/2008**

**DRNetwork Learning Conference 2008, Berlin, October 25&26**

<http://www.designresearchnetwork.org/drn/thought/441>

## Why

In 2008, there are at least eight design conferences: CUMULUS, Changing the Change, SwissDesignNetwork, DRS, Design History, Research into Practice, Participatory Design, Design & Emotion. With so many conferences in place, one cannot help but wonder the value of having another one. To warrant its existence, 'Questions & Hypotheses' (Q&H) must offer something that other conferences do not. Q&H has three distinct characteristics that aim to fill the gaps left open by others.

## Target

Student-Centered. Q&H is for student researchers. We call Q&H a learning conference because we set our first priority on the benefits of student researchers.

## Format

Discussion-Oriented. Conference is a rare opportunity for face-to-face interaction. Q&H is designed in such a way to ensure sufficient time and favourable environment for debates.

## Content

Promote rigour in conceptualizing. Design Research has been self-conscious about its lack of systematic methods and theories in comparison to other academic disciplines. This self-consciousness, on the one hand, to a certain degree, has advanced the quality of design discourse; on the other hand, it has resulted in much research that is methodologically rigorous but conceptually weak. 'Here is the solution and what was the problem?' seems to describe the unfavourable character of much design research. It is forgotten that it is questions and ideas that give meanings and values to meticulously executed research. Q&H is aimed to promote rigor in formulating research questions and conceiving new ideas, thus the conference title.

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 16.06.2008

For more details, see  
<http://www.designresearchnetwork.org/drn/thought/441>

For academic matters, contact Rosan Chow at  
[rosan.chow@telekom.de](mailto:rosan.chow@telekom.de)

For organizational matters, contact Jules Muench at  
[j.muench@www.designresearchnetwork.org](mailto:j.muench@www.designresearchnetwork.org)



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### What

The conference is about questions and hypotheses. Q&H is not only interested in 'talking' about questions and hypotheses, but also 'doing' questions and hypotheses. Q&H welcomes submissions that reflect on the role and practice of questioning and hypothesising in Design Research. Equally welcomed are submissions that contain critical and interesting questions and/or hypotheses in all domains of Design Research. We emphasize that it is systematic research that is sought. Reports of ordinary design practice are not appropriate.

### For whom

Q&H is for doctoral and masters student researchers. Senior researchers who are willing to share their knowledge and experiences in open and constructive discussion are also very welcome.

### How – Before Q&H

Submit an abstract (maximum 1000-words) addressing the conference themes. We use the 'visible review' process at Q&H. That means, abstracts are anonymous but are available on the DRNetwork for all to read and to comment. Abstracts will be reviewed by two anonymous reviewers whose evaluations will also be available for all to read and to comment. Conference organisers determine final acceptance of abstracts.

### How – During Q&H

Student researchers are encouraged and expected to participate actively in raising questions as well as sharing experiences and ideas. We welcome 'creative' presentations and uses of prototypes and visual aids besides the Powerpoint. Each presentation should be concise and lasts 10 minutes and be followed by 20-minute constructive discussion. Discussion will be chaired by a student researcher and supported by at least one invited senior researcher who is friendly and knowledgeable. H&Q will run from 13:00 to 21:00 and we encourage after-hour get-together.

### How – After Q&H

The output of the conference will be disseminated. Full papers will be written after the conference and be reviewed and published on DRNetwork with an ISBN number.

### When

Pre-Conference Social: October 24, 2008

Conference: October 25 & 26, 2008

### Abstract Submission Open: 05.05.2008

Abstract Submission Closed: 16.06.2008

Review: 17.06.2008 – 23.07.2008

Acceptance Notice: 01-04.08.2008

Registration Open: 01.08.2008

Registration Closed: 25.09.2008

Final Paper Submission: 15.12.2008

### Where

KulturBrauerei - Maschinenhaus  
Schönhauser Allee 36  
10435 Berlin - Prenzlauer Berg  
Germany

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### How Much

Free. With registration, you are committed to attending the conference on the 25 & 26 of October, 2008. As a courtesy to your fellow researchers, please withdraw registration as soon as possible if you can not make it to the conference.

### How Big

Q&H will have a maximum of 70 delegates. Registration will be first come first serve. Priorities will be given to presenters and student researchers.

### Who

Q&H is sponsored by the Deutsche Telekom Laboratories, an associated institute at the Technische Universität Berlin and System Design at Kunsthochschule Kassel. Q&H is composed of two different groups: academic and organisational.

### Academic

Conference Chairs: Rosan Chow, Wolfgang Jonas, Gesche Joost

Discussion Chairs: TBA

Invited Senior Researchers: Alain Findeli, Mike Press, Keith Russell, Susann Vihma, Khaldoun Zreik,

Reviewers: DRNetwork Advisory Board members

### Organizational

Conference Correspondence: Jules Muench, Birgit Bauer

Registration: Birgit Bauer

Graphic Design: Nadja Schäfer & Birgit Bauer

Invited Guests Coordination: Irene Hube

Social Event: Tom Bieling

Student Chairs Coordination: Katharina Bredies

Technical Systems: Fabian Hemmert

### Contact:

For academic matters:

Rosan Chow [rosan.chow@telekom.de](mailto:rosan.chow@telekom.de)

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