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"I LIVE POLITO" - Co-Designing Policies for Inclusion: Shifting to a GEDI Perspective in Higher Education Governance

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NINETEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DESIGN PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES
XIX CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE PRINCIPIOS Y PRÁCTICAS DEL DISEÑO

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Design Principles & Practices
Research Network

"I LIVE POLITO" - Co-Designing Policies for Inclusion: Shifting to a GEDI Perspective in Higher Education Governance

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The "I LIVE POLITO" workshop initiative at Politecnico di Torino highlights the role of design in shaping social policy by promoting Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (GEDI) through participatory methodologies. Launched by the Vice-Rectorate for Equal Opportunities, Inclusivity, and Quality of Life, the initiative adopts a strategic and political approach to embedding diversity and inclusion into the university's governance framework. Anchored in a co-design process, the workshop brought together approximately 50 representatives from across the university, including students, faculty and staff, to collaboratively explore key themes: "Equality", "Accessibility" and "Well-being". Facilitated by an interdisciplinary team and supported by an external communications agency, participants identified systemic challenges and proposed actionable strategies to foster inclusivity and enhance organizational well-being. Building on these outcomes, the workshop has initiated an ongoing process to define GEDI actions for the university's next Strategic Plan. This process, structured around three parallel working groups, adopts a bottom-up approach that actively involves students, teachers, technical-administrative staff, and university governance. It seeks to establish clear objectives and implement feasible, shared, and measurable policies, ensuring Politecnico di Torino evolves into a more inclusive and accessible institution. The results of this participatory framework have informed a comprehensive report that will shape the forthcoming Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan, aligning with Horizon Europe eligibility criteria. By integrating diversity into strategic planning, the "I LIVE POLITO" initiative demonstrates the potential of design to drive social innovation, fostering ethical and democratic policy-making while enabling sustainable institutional transformation in Higher Education.

MAPArts: Memory Enhanced by Art and Design

Elaine Brodie, Professor, Faculty of Animation, Art & Design, Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology, Ontario, Canada

MAPArts is an interdisciplinary research program that teaches the fundamentals of design and basic art-making skills to seniors who are concerned about changes in their memory. It was created as a collaboration between myself, a professor in the faculty of Animation, Art & Design, and Dr. Dupuis, a professor and clinical neuroscientist, from Sheridan College in Canada. Our participants had no formal art training and no formal diagnosis of cognitive impairment, as determined by a screening questionnaire. The program integrates embodied art-making with an existing, clinically proven "Memory and Aging Program" (MAP), developed by Baycrest Heath Sciences in Toronto, Canada. The goal of our research was to discover if adding visual interpretation and art-making, linked to Baycrest's teachings, would enhance participants' retention of memory-enhancing skills. We used pre and post intervention surveys as well as a six-week follow-up session to test our program's results, which were then compared to Baycrest's, which were collected in similar surveys. Our participants' memory and continuing adoption of the skills taught six weeks after the program ended were significantly higher (by about 19%) than Baycrest's own data for their program. Given the number of aging baby boomers, this research suggests potential benefits for an enormous number of seniors. However, additional funding has proven difficult, so far.

Lista de Participantes

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COMMON GROUND

Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations--of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge--these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect--differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

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