

About the conference

2002 *Commonground* Brunel University, Windsor, UK
2004 *Futureground* Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
2006 *Wonderground* Instituto de Artes Visuais, Design e Marketing, Lisbon, Portugal
2008 *Undisciplined!* Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, UK
2010 Montreal, Canada

Undisciplined! was the fourth biennial conference of the Design Research Society and an important opportunity to take stock and to attend to the new kinds of designing that are emerging to challenge our framework of specialisms and reshape our field. However this is the main conference for Design Research Society and as such was open to all research that informs or arises from designing.

Undisciplined! Rigour in emerging design disciplines and professions

DRS is open to the whole range of designing disciplines and any scholar interested in the matter of designing. Contributors were asked to consider two important issues and, if they felt them relevant, to weave them into the story of their research. We chose the title "*Undisciplined!*" to reflect these issues.

New and hybrid disciplines

Designing seems to be moving into a new era, the disciplines that have framed our work are reshaping themselves, new kinds of designing are emerging and we are not yet able to define these new and hybrid professions, some created by people not previously thought of as designers. Contributors were asked to reflect on how their research might add to our understanding of this situation.

A different kind of "discipline"

Some of us work in emerging academic cultures, seeking appropriate forms of inquiry whose methods and contributions to knowledge may not fit comfortably into the "rules" of other disciplines. One of our important tasks is to come to a shared understanding of rigour. Design research has seen some very different views taken and contributors were asked to make clear how their own concepts of rigour are worked out in the research they describe, paying attention to areas where their work may inform this developing picture.

Review process

Proposals for the conferences were invited in the form of an extended written abstract. Abstracts were independently blind reviewed. Successful authors were invited to submit a full paper (max 5000 words) and each full paper was double-blind reviewed by at least two appropriate reviewers. Significant differences of opinion were dealt with by obtaining a third review.

To see the original Call for Papers with more details, please click on the link on the right.

Reviewing was managed by **Prof David Durling**, past Chair of DRS Council and an experienced conference organiser. His role was separate from the conference organising group as it is important to ensure that refereeing is independent of the business aspects of running the event. David was supported by a review committee who helped him to establish the reviewing guidelines and to manage the process. The committee consisted of:

Prof Lin-Lin Chen Graduate Institute of Design, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

Dr Philippa Ashton Member of DRS Council

Prof Ken Friedman Dean of Design, Swinburne University, Australia

Prof Chris Rust Art and Design Research Centre, Sheffield Hallam University, UK

The Review Panel included 160 experienced academics from around the world who undertook the actual work of reviewing proposals and providing feedback to authors. For a full list of names of those on the Review panel, please go to <http://www3.shu.ac.uk/Conferences/DRS/Reviewing/Reviewing.htm>