



4TU – Design United Demonstrators 2017 Report

March 2018

Making Everyday Futures

By Lenneke Kuijer (TU/e) and Nicola Spurling (Lancaster University)

Photo: a participant in the making everyday futures workshop taking part in the making activity led by Joep Frens

Table of contents

General overview	3
The workshop	4
The prototypes	9
Dissemination	12
Conclusions	17
Acknowledgements	18

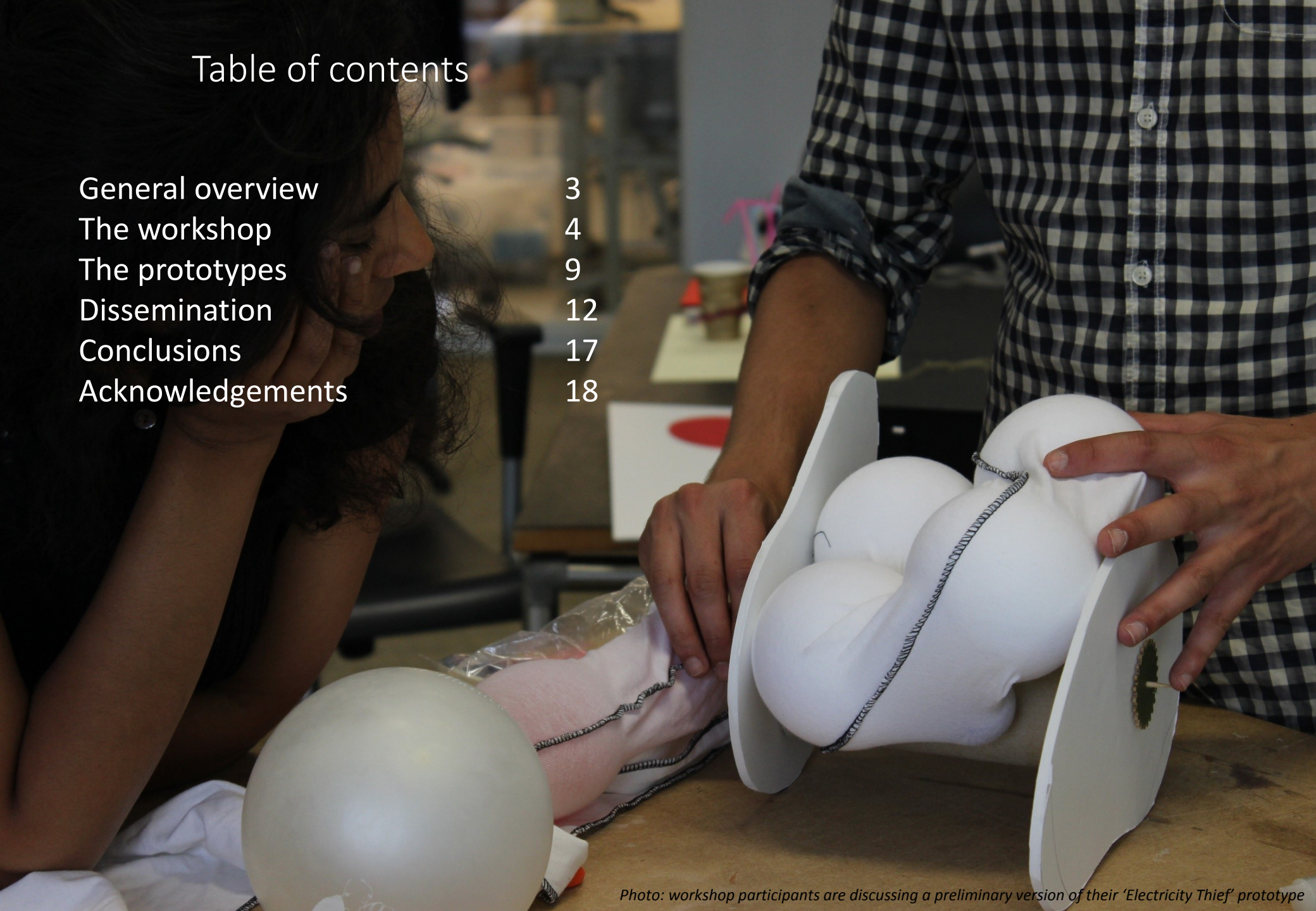


Photo: workshop participants are discussing a preliminary version of their 'Electricity Thief' prototype

General overview

Making Everyday Futures was a multifaceted project funded by Design United that demonstrated research at the touching points of 'everyday futures' and 'making as a way of doing research'.

The demonstrator was based on three propositions generated by the research:

- (1) future everyday life is certain to be different from today;
- (2) even though futures might require and witness systemic change, regarding ageing populations, sustainability and radically new technologies, it is in altered everyday lives that such change is realised and experienced;
- (3) making and deploying new artefacts forms a distinct approach to exploring and developing knowledge about this future and how it gets made.

The Making Everyday Futures Demonstrator – consisting of an interdisciplinary workshop, three prototypes, and various forms of dissemination – built on this research by promoting the value of making as a way of gaining insight into future everyday life.

CENTRAL RESEARCH QUESTION

How does making and deploying new artefacts provide a means to experiment with and find out about possible and preferable everyday futures?

The workshop

The main aim of the workshop was to let participants from a wide diversity of disciplinary backgrounds experience making as a way of researching future everyday life. In the workshop, experienced makers were paired with researchers not used to making.

For experienced makers, the main learning experience was envisioned to lie in a deepening of their understanding of the uniqueness and value of making as a way of doing research, to let them make the link between their making practices and future everyday life and to broaden their interdisciplinary collaboration skills. For the non-makers, the main aim was to let them experience, hands-on, the processes and value of making research artefacts as a way of generating knowledge in their area of interest.

The workshop involved 26 participants from 17 different disciplines, ranging from Sociology, Anthropology and Geography to Environmental Sciences, Health Research, Law and Design (Interaction, Textile, Interior and Graphic) from 18 different institutions in six different countries. All were recruited for an interest in future everyday life.

During the three days, the pairs were guided through a carefully composed programme in which they worked from their research interests concerning future everyday life, to joint research artefacts that were presented in a final exhibition in the department.

The workshop therefore offered a good platform for sharing expertise of the department with a broader community of researchers (see page 5).



Photo: participants and staff members involved in the making everyday futures workshop



Ron Wakkary



Oscar Tomico



Joep Frens

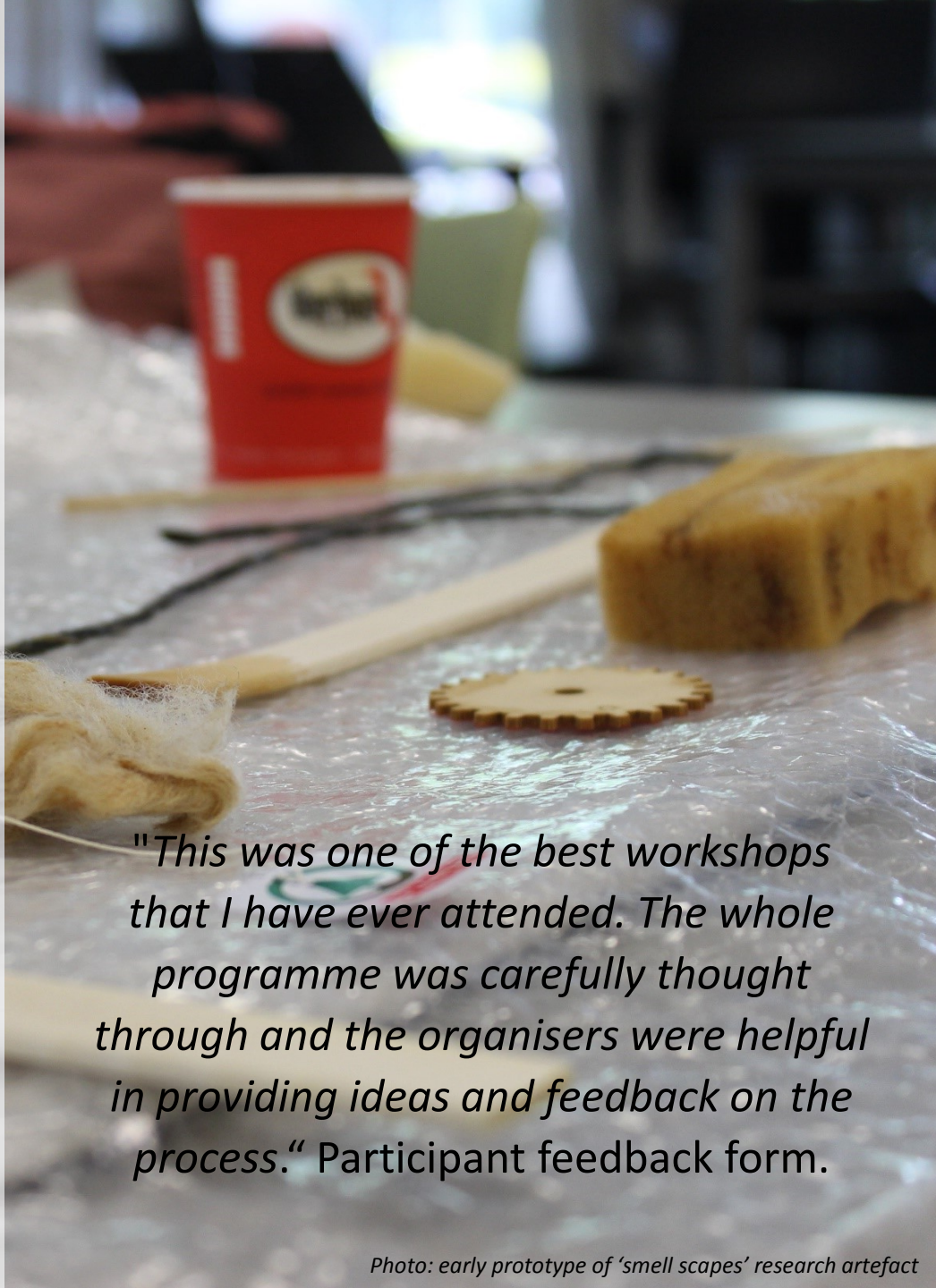


Sietske Klooster

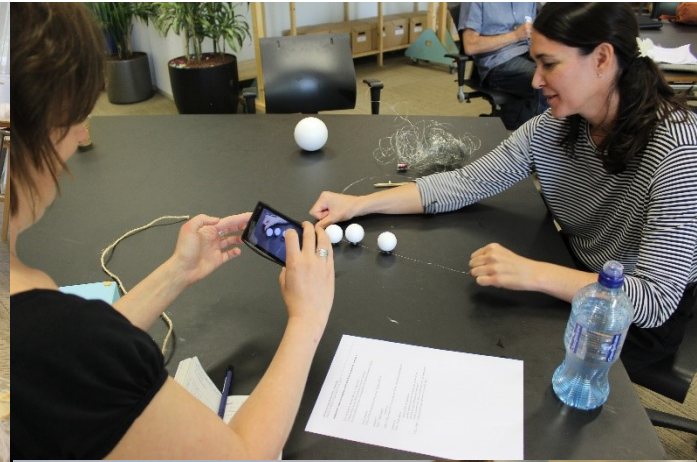
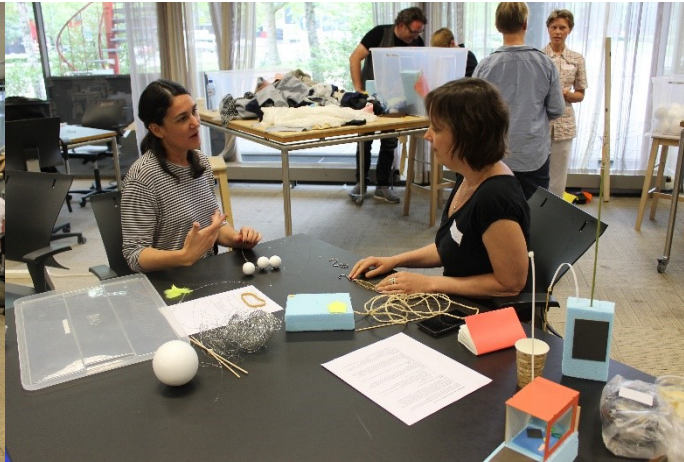
The general feedback we received was very positive. The non-design participants fed back to us that they very much enjoyed the experience of using making as a way of doing research. They indicated an interest to continue working with the approach in the future. They also reflected that the approach rendered a different kind of knowledge than the approaches they usually took (see quote on page 8). In general, the interdisciplinary character of the workshop was positively evaluated as a way of 'discovering new ways of thinking and researching'.

The photo collage on page 7 shows how participant pairs engaged in lively discussions about and with the materials they were offered to work with. When asked to contrast it with their usual research practice, participants reflected on making as 'liberating', and involving new realms of 'embodied and experiential knowledge', as 'playful', 'iterative' 'emergent', 'nonlinear' and 'intuitive'. One quote describes it as 'a shortcut into the unknown'.


After the workshop, all pairs worked to collect their reflections on the process of making research artefacts in multidisciplinary teams in an annotated portfolio. These 'artefact blogs', together with professional photographs of the pairs and their research artefacts were made available on the [Everyday Futures website](#) (see dissemination). An excerpt is shown on page 8.



"This was one of the best workshops that I have ever attended. The whole programme was carefully thought through and the organisers were helpful in providing ideas and feedback on the process." Participant feedback form.



Photos: workshop participants are engaging with materials and each other



"Collaborating on Empathy Tree, we became increasingly conscious of the distinctiveness of making as a speculative mode of research. Rather than having an idea and translating it into an artefact along a linear path, making is an invitation to release the moorings of conventional research. One has to place oneself amidst unruly materials and allow ideas to emerge during embodied interactions with them and their shifting individual and combined properties. Making confuses the phases and temporalities of academic research, because the method of finding out about a thing, the thing itself and the concepts employed to make sense of the thing are created simultaneously. This introduces a strong sense of fragility and uncertainty into the process, but also genuine moments of surprise and wonder." Vidmina Stasiulyte (fashion designer), and Kim Kullman (geographer)

The prototypes

The purpose of the prototypes was to enable communication of making as a way of doing research to a broader audience in an accessible way.

During the final workshop exhibition, three research artefacts were selected by the jury to receive funding for their presentation in the Dutch Design Week: UnderAir, Things Withdrawal and Space to Go. Up to the DDW, we worked with the three pairs of researchers/makers to turn their rough prototypes into demonstrators suitable for presentation at DDW2017.

Demonstrator development included the making of high quality, simple and robust versions of the rough prototypes produced during the workshop (see page 10), as well as complementary material to present them as a collection of research artefacts. This mainly involved the making of three videos featuring the research artefacts in context (see page 11), and an interactive presentation linking them together.

The interactive presentation and three demonstrators illustrated the new research questions regarding everyday futures that emerged from the making workshop. Because the research questions and artefacts were founded in the long standing research interests of workshop participants, they formed examples of how 'making' provides a unique approach to study the future of everyday life.

UnderAir

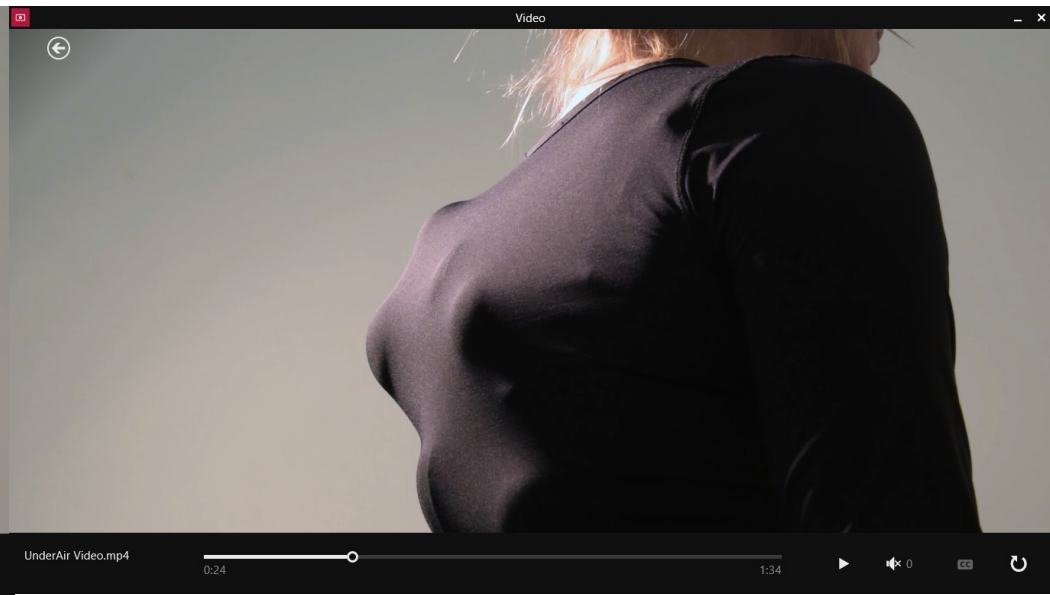
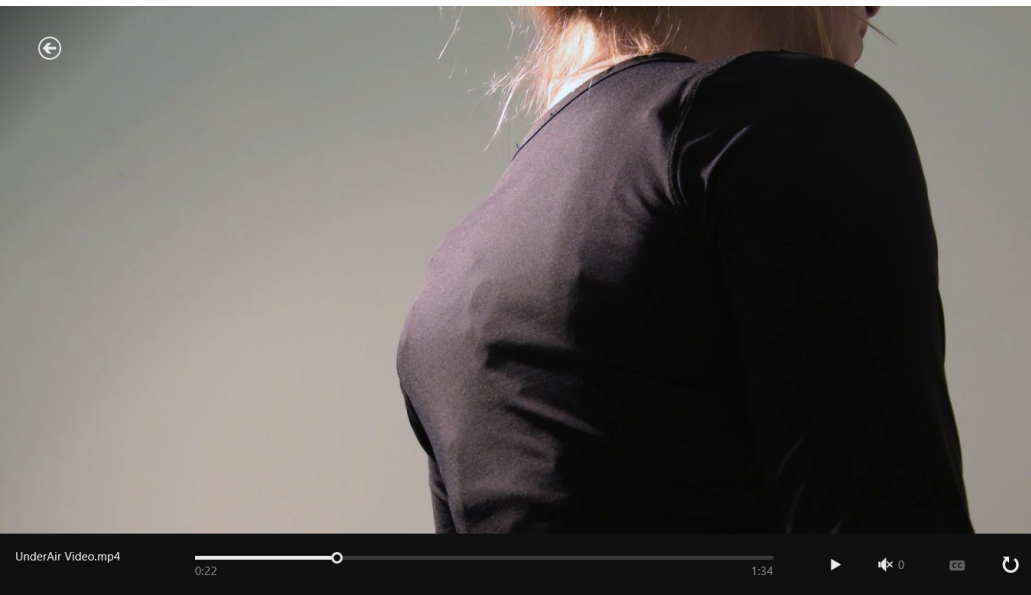


Things Withdrawal



Space to Go



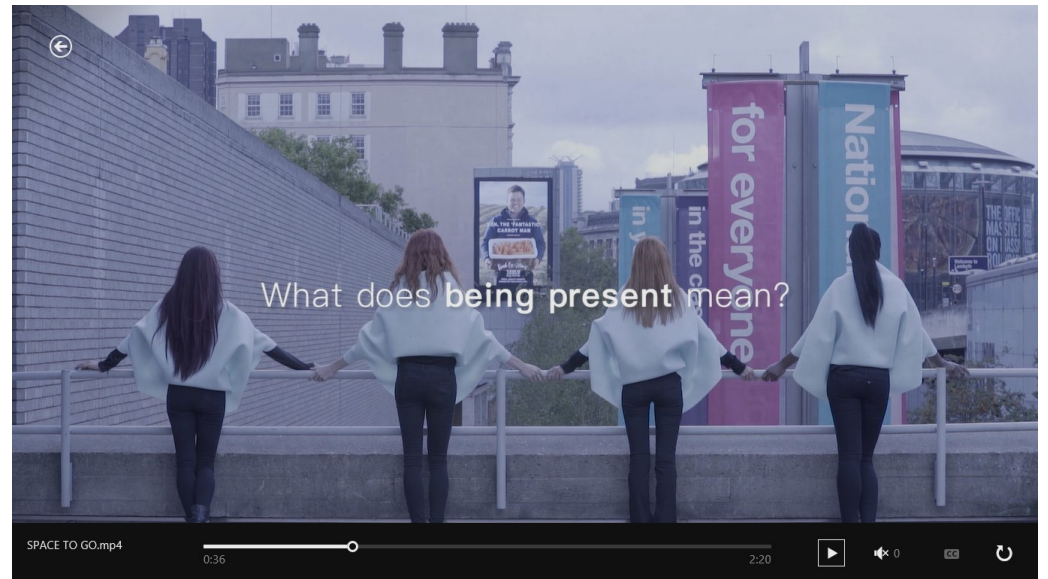


Photos: The UnderAir working prototype using balloons, tubes, various pneumatic accessories, stockings and a compressor



Photo: Things Withdrawal prototypes of ceramic shape variants on the 'mutated' cup

Photo: Space to Go four prototypes



Photos: Stills from the research artefact videos (left) and an example of a question they pose (right)

Dissemination

The results of the workshop were disseminated in a range of ways that promote and give access to making as a way of researching the future of everyday life to a broader audience. This audience included design practitioners, design students, other professionals and the general public.

Our dissemination activities consisted of the workshop exhibition (p13), an interactive presentation and demo at the Dutch Design Week (p14), a presentation of reflections on the workshop at the Anticipation2017 (p15), and by making materials produced for the demonstrator available on a renewed Everyday Futures website (p16).



Photo: visitors of the at the opening of the exhibition listening to an introduction

Workshop exhibition

The workshop exhibition formed the grand finale of, and great motivator for the Making Everyday Futures workshop. It took place in the ID Department of TU/e and attracted a approximately 50 visitors, including participants and members of staff from the department thus far uninvolved, as well as other staff from the ID Department and ArcInTexETN Network. As such, it facilitated a materially catalysed discussion between the participants, organisers and staff on the topic of making as a way of researching future everyday life.



DDW Mind the Story

Making Everyday Futures was accepted for Mind the Story, a platform at Mind the Step where researchers can present the stories behind their designs. We featured in the programme with a full day series of interactive presentations and demos titled 'Posing Questions with Design' on Sunday 22 October.

The audience was involved by voting on the provocative questions interwoven into the presentation (see page 7), and by interacting with the researchers and artefacts in the subsequent demo sessions. Over the course of the day we had approximately 250 attendees over four rounds of presenting.

Sunday 22 October

12.00/12.30/13.30/14.00/
15.00/15.30/17.00 hrs

Posing questions with design

Design can solve problems, but it is also very good at asking questions. The designs presented here pose specific questions about future everyday life. What if we were our own weather? What if things design themselves? What if data chose us physical space? What would be your answer? You are invited to a lively, mind-boggling experience.

Design kan problemen oplossen en ook vragen oproepen. In de presentatie die op deze middag worden gegeven worden specifieke vragen gesteld over het toekomstige leven van alledag. Wat als we onze eigen weer zijn? Wat als dingen zichzelf ontwerpen? Wat als data kiest voor onze fysieke ruimte? Wat zou uw antwoord zijn? U wordt uitgenodigd tot een levendig, breinverwarrend ervaring.

Speakers: Leonie Küller (TU/e), Nicola Starling (University of Warwick), Ina Reijnders (Utrecht University), Karin Wiersma (TU/e), Lonneke van der Wal (TU/e), Daniel Sauer (Utrecht University), Marieke van der Wal (TU/e), Marjolijn van der Wal (TU/e), Marjolijn van der Wal (TU/e)

(English)

12.00 – 12.30 Interactive presentation

12.30 – 13.00 Interactive demo

13.30 – 14.00 Interactive presentation

14.00 – 14.30 Interactive demo

15.00 – 15.30 Interactive presentation

15.30 – 16.00 Interactive demo

17.00 – 17.30 Interactive presentation

Mind
blowing
stories
during
Mind the
Step



Anticipation conference

Reflections on the Making Everyday Futures workshop were presented at the [Anticipation Conference 2017](#) to an audience of about 50 attendants.

*Making Everyday Futures
designing to know*

ANTICIPATION : London, 8 November 2017

Lenneke Kuijer, Department of Industrial Design, TU Eindhoven
Nicola Spurling, Institute for Social Futures, Lancaster University

EVERYDAY FUTURES
network | workshops | resources

Institute for
Social Futures

'In closing, our analysis may help make design research more self-aware of the concepts of 'the everyday' and 'the future' which making relies upon. More broadly, the workshop has led us to question the forms of data that decisions about the future, in the present, rest upon. We therefore close with a question: how might making – with its focus on embodied experience and the material – bring aspects of possible, probable and preferred futures that currently remain unanticipated into such decisions?'

Lenneke Kuijer and Nicola Spurling

Website

A report of the Making Everyday Futures workshop, the artefact blogs, an overview of the Mind the Story presentation and prototypes and the presentation offered at the Anticipation Conference are made available on the [Everyday Futures website](#). The Everyday Futures website is part of the Everyday Futures project started by us in the spring of 2016. The Making Everyday Futures workshop was a follow-up on the inaugural workshop held at Lancaster University in July 2016. Resources from both workshops are made available on the website.

The website was given a make-over in terms of layout and structure with the help of a student assistant. The day it was launched on 20 October 2017, the new website attracted 166 views, with at total 538 in October overall. It has to date had over 1200 visitors since its update.

EVERYDAY FUTURES

Network|Workshops|Resources

[home](#) / [organisers](#) / [join the network](#) / [exploring workshop](#) / [making workshop](#) / [essay collection](#)

Browse: Home

EVERYDAY FUTURES



Former website layout

EVERYDAY FUTURES

network / workshops / resources

NETWORK

WORKSHOPS

RESOURCES

About Everyday Futures

Future everyday life is certain to be different from today. But how is it shaped in the present? How can such processes and their implications be captured and analysed? Why might we want to intervene in and shape futures differently? and what new theories, methods and kinds of data would we need to achieve it?



Revised website layout

Conclusions

We can conclude that in the Making Everyday Futures demonstrator has successfully contributed to Design United's objectives by making prototypes, bringing together parties across disciplines and sectors, strengthening and expanding existing networks, and bringing cutting-edge design research to non-design disciplines, professional designers, design students and the general public.



Photo: participants with their "Electricity Thief" concept by Bart van Overbeeke

With special thanks to

Jyoti Kapur, Karin Niemantsverdriet, Iva Rešetar, Ramyah Gowrishankar, Robin Smale, Svenja Keune, Irene Maldini, Troy Nachtigall, Jacqueline Naismith, Jill Ebrey, Sara Lundberg, Tim Chatterton, Bastian Beyer, Ana Piñeyro, Heather Leslie, Vidmina Stasiulyte, Kim Kullman, Juste Peciulyte, Adrian Clear, Ana Inês Rodrigues, Elena Syurina, Marina Castan, Marie Heidingsfelder, Iohanna Nicenboim, Daniel Suarez, Ron Wakkary, Oscar Tomico, Joep Frens, Sietske Klooster, Nicole Gruithuijzen, Chet Bangaru, Dimitra, Brigitte and Lonneke, LUCID, Froukje Sleeswijk-Visser and Kristina Andersen

