

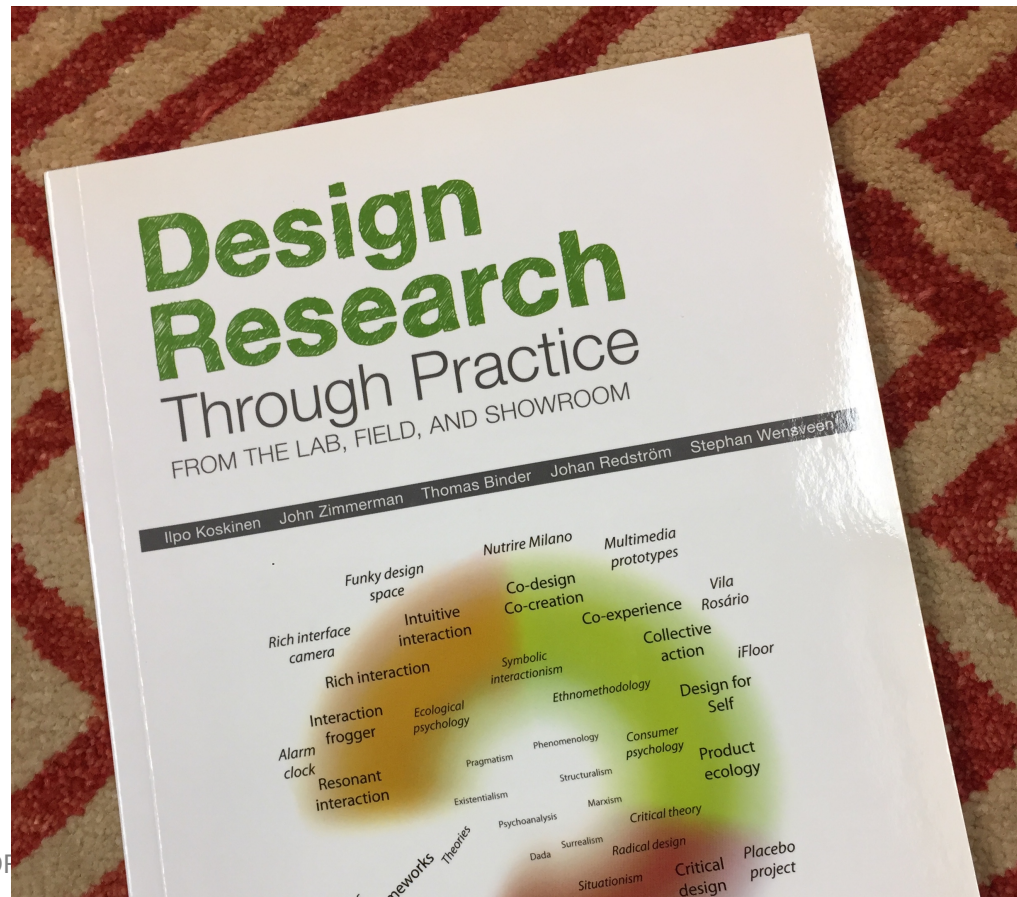
Let's get divorced: Pragmatic and Critical Constructive Design Research

Jodi Forlizzi, Ilpo Koskinen, Paul Hekkert, and John Zimmerman
IASDR Conference | 2 November 2017

IASDR 2017
Forlizzi, Koskinen,
Hekkert, Zimmerman



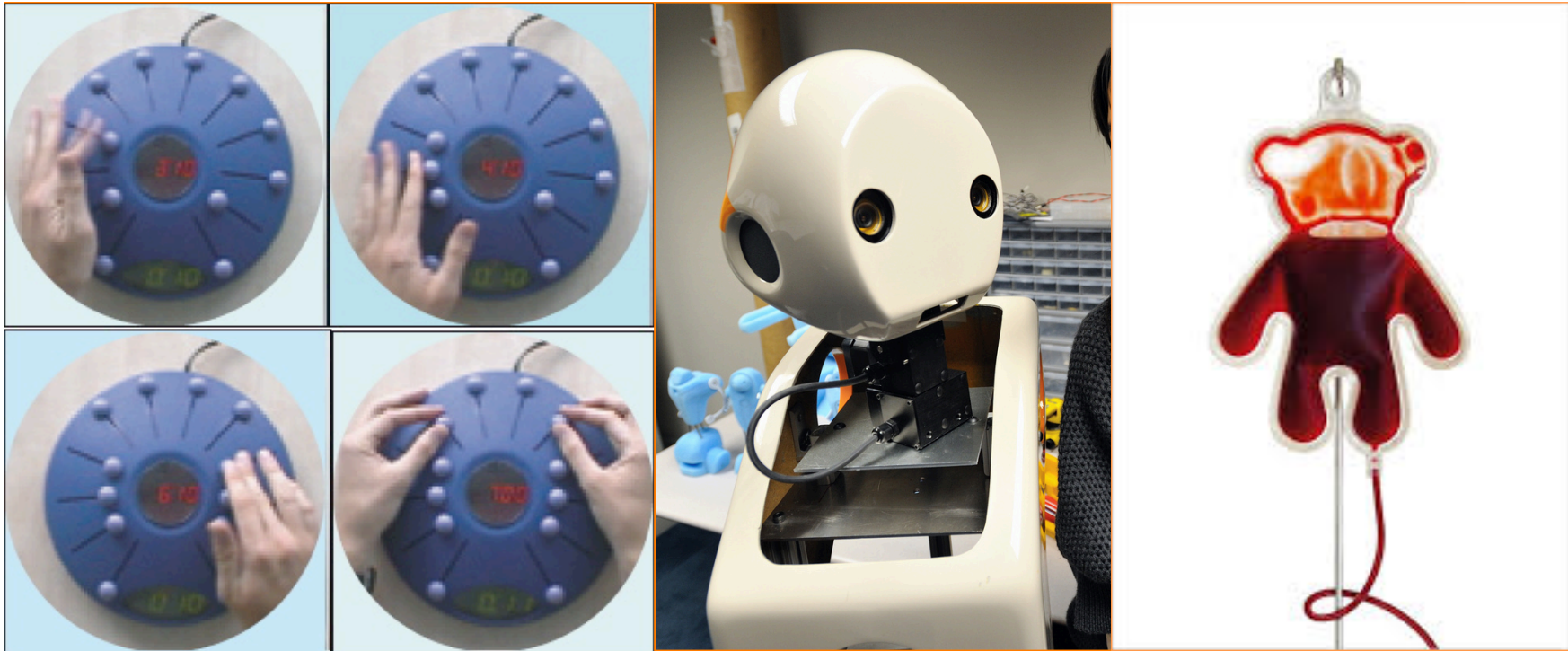
Constructive design research (CDR)



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Constructive design research (CDR)



A growing conflict

CDR has grown in popularity in the DR and HCI communities

However, an internal conflict is growing among these three approaches

Our goal is to allow all approaches to exist with positive critical discourse



Time to divorce?



Let's get divorced

We call for a divorce between CDR and CD

- Reduce internal conflict among design researchers

Place CDR and CD on two ends of a continuum

- Show that design research efforts can contain aspects of both research types



A continuum of pragmatic/critical research

Constructive Design Research

Pragmatic
Design for the other
Could/should be

Critical Design

Critical
For the self/for the world
Provoking researcher discussion



Design research on the continuum: Maypole



Image source: Buchenau, M. and Suri, J. F. Experience Prototyping. In Proceedings of Designing Interactive Systems, (2000) ACM Press, 424-433.



Image source: Zimmerman, J., Stolterman, E. and Forlizzi, J. An Analysis and Critique of Research through Design: towards a formalization of a research approach. In Proceedings of DIS, (2010) ACM Press.



Design research on the continuum: Photobox

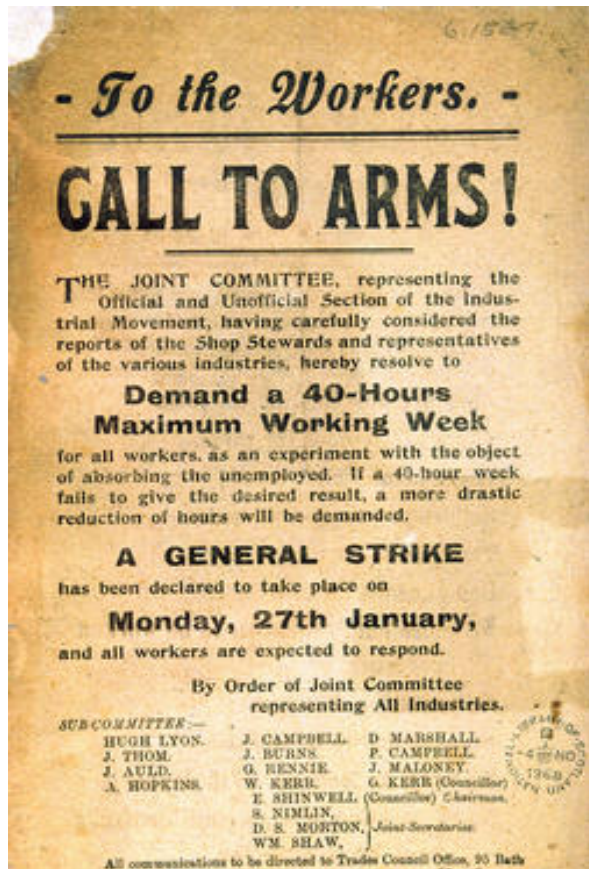


CDR and CD: Similarities and differences exist

- Different ideology
- Different purpose
- Different traditions
- Different intentions
- Produce different kinds of outcomes
- However, an overlap in kinds of knowledge they produce and structures that lead to quality research



Call to arms



Reduce conflict and maximize impact

- Create different criteria for peer review of design research efforts
- Document methodology so others can understand it, leverage it, and build on it
- Create higher profile for funding



Call to arms



Now is the time for the broader design research community to divorce the practice, outcome, and evaluation of CDR and CD

Develop approaches for teaching, branding, and disseminating outcomes beyond the design research community



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