2-day international workshop / seminar
“Engineering/Design for Development and Well-being/Agency/Justice”

Dates: Thursday 20 & Friday 21 November 2014
Location: Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands

About the topic

Many people, especially in the global South, still lack the opportunities to do and be what they have reason to value, to lead a flourishing human life. New technologies, products and services can play a significant role in improving this situation, but may also fail to do so or worse; have negative side effects. This workshop/seminar will critically reflect on engineering/design for development, but also look into concrete methods and approaches to effectuate positive change in practice, and in educating engineers/designers as future practitioners. It will do so from the perspective of three key values: well-being, agency and justice.

The focus on the values of well-being, agency and justice is not a coincidence. They are, it could be argued, the three key values in the capability approach, an influential normative framework developed by economist Amartya Sen and philosopher Martha Nussbaum. The capability approach conceptualizes these values in relation to individual, valuable human capabilities.

The organizers of this workshop/seminar welcome contributions that make use of the capability approach in relation to engineering/design for development. However, work based on alternative understandings of well-being, agency and justice is equally welcome.

Invitation to submit

Workshop participants are asked to submit a paper abstract or workshop proposal in the area of engineering/design for development, addressing one of the following:
   a) Philosophical/ethical issues (paper)
   b) Case studies (paper)
   c) Engineering/design methods/approaches (paper or workshop)
   d) Teaching methods/approaches (paper or workshop)

All contributions need to explicitly address one or more of the values of well-being, agency or justice.

Academic research papers
For each paper 30 minutes will be available (20 min. presentation + 10 minutes for questions & discussion). Please send us:
   • A title
   • An abstract of 300-500 words
   • At most 5 key references
   • A short biography of at most 250 words per author
   • An indication of interest (yes/no/maybe) in participating in a book or special issue

At the moment there are no concrete plans yet to publish papers presented at the seminar, but if participants have an interest in a joint publication (book or special journal issues), options can be explored together during the workshop.
**Workshop proposals on methods/approaches for usage in teaching & practice**

For each workshop there will be 1.5 hours available. Workshops should be interactive. For the workshops we will invite practitioners and students to participate. Ideally they should offer the participants the opportunity to gain some hands-on experience with the method/approach. The workshops may offer the organizer of the workshop an opportunity to get feedback and suggestions for improvement. Please send us a description of 500-750 words, addressing the following:

- Title
- Topic
- Goal
- Preparation needed by participants (if any)
- Required amount of participants (minimum and maximum)
- Activities / program
- A short biography of at most 250 words per workshop organizer

**Deadlines**

- Submission of paper abstract / workshop proposal: May 15th
- Feedback on abstract / proposal: June 15th
- Possibility to submit a revised abstract / proposal: July 15th
- Program online & opening registration: 1 September at the latest

**Organizers**

This workshop is organized by two people from Delft University of Technology:

- Annemarie Mink (working in the area of industrial design engineering), a.mink@tudelft.nl
- Ilse Oosterlaken (working in the area of philosophy/ethics of technology), e.t.oosterlaken@tudelft.nl

In the past years both of them have worked at a project at TU Delft which explored how the capability approach can be brought to bear on technology and its design, with a focus on the global South.

**Practicalities / Set-up**

- We intend this to be a relatively small-scale event, with 15-30 paper presentations on day 1, and 2-8 workshops on day 2. Depending on the number of submissions in both categories, we may decide to limit the workshops to ½ day, and extend the academic paper presentations to 1½ day.
- The possibility to submit an abstract or workshop proposal will be only on invitation by the organizers – but we do welcome suggestions from invitees about whom else to invite.
- For people who have been invited by the organizers to submit an abstract/proposal the organizers will pay for the following: coffee/tea during the breaks, 2 lunches and 1 workshop dinner.
- A registration form will be set up for other, non-invited participants. Especially for day 2 we will try and raise interest from students and practitioners. Costs for participation will be about €25 per day, and €40 for both days (exact amounts to be determined).
- All workshop participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Get in touch with one of the organizers if you need any assistance.