INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

Module Leader: Alex Wilkie & Tobie Kerridge
Module Code: DS71061A
Module Credits: 60 CAT points

The Independent Research Project is the final assessed project for your MA. It provides you with the opportunity to undertake an empirically informed interaction design project or written report on a major piece of design-led research drawing on empirical field research or an undertaking of social engagement. It is during this course that you will synthesize the various practical, theoretical and methodological skills and learning outcomes that you have developed in previous courses. As such, the Independent Research Project asks you to develop an empirical area of interest or concern via an interactive or computational system, a proposal for such a system or a design research report where you conduct a piece of research which addresses a social and technological issue or controversy by way of some combination of user/public involvement, engagement or participation.

MODULE INFORMATION

Contact Time: weekly tutorials throughout Autumn term (Tuesday at 10:00–13:00 TBC)

Assessment: practice-based design project and a 4,000-word report, or a 12,000-word dissertation

Key Dates:

- Tuesday 29 April – briefing, 14:00–17:00, off site
- Tuesday 3 June – themes, 10:00–13:00 & 14:00–17:00, location TBC
- Tuesday 22 July – frameworks, 10:00–13:00 & 14:00–17:00, location TBC
- Tuesday 30 September (TBC) – proposals, 10:00–13:00 & 14:00–17:00, location TBC
- Tuesday 28 November (TBC) – progress, 10:00–13:00 & 14:00–17:00, location TBC
- Tuesday 2 Dec 2014 (TBC) – vivas, 10:00–13:00 & 14:00–17:00, location TBC
- Tuesday 9 Dec 2014 (TBC) – assessment, 10:00–13:00 & 14:00–17:00, location TBC

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LO1. Students will develop a high-level understanding of devising and conducting a design research project that synthesises critical, theoretical, empirical and practice-based knowledge.

LO2. Students will develop the ability to apply critical reasoning and synthesize the concepts and methods of involvement and engagement in developing a single major project.

LO3. Students will gain enhanced ability to develop a personal perspective and manage the undertaking of an extended piece of design research.

LO4. Students will demonstrate the ability to undertake an independent design and research project in a critical, detailed and thorough manner.