



# Design Research for Uncertain Futures

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- Design Research — considered as it is in the context of this book — is a useful, necessary and vital way to engage designers more robustly in the complex challenges of our world
- The four sections of the book explore the capacity of design research to address 21st-century challenges: an introduction to design research as a complement to scientific research, especially needed now; a suite of tools for design researchers; a series of interviews with academics and practitioners across design and allied disciplines; and speculative histories and futures
- Our model of design research envisions a distinct and powerful role for future practitioners to work confidently with uncertainty and to skillfully negotiate contested futures as part of creating more equitable worlds

**Design Research for Uncertain Futures** assembles a diverse group of thinkers and makers, and thinking-through-makers, to situate design research as a form of knowledge generation that is complementary to science, and especially needed now, given changing climates and uncertain futures. Our model of design research envisions a distinct and powerful role for design researchers to work confidently with uncertainty and to skillfully negotiate contested futures as part of creating more equitable and resilient worlds. Using the tools of design research, knowledge is built through an iterative process of questioning, probing, proposing, building, testing, analysing and revising. The climate crises that are challenging our collective survival demands — indeed, provokes — bold partnerships among the curious and committed to align creativity, analytic rigor and the plurality of values in the broader contexts of uncertainty and experimentation.

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