

# Propositions

The following propositions accompany the dissertation

*Materialising Public Engagement: The articulation of public issues through design*

- 1.** Designers can use their knowledge and sensibilities to create work that supports the articulation of public issues through the enactment of specific activities, and the employment of particular artefacts. (thesis)
- 2.** Design enacts the articulation of public issues by supporting spaces of contest, exchange, and collaboration, where frictions emerge at the interfaces of concurring realities. (thesis)
- 3.** In order to articulate relevant and meaningful roles design(ers) might play concerning various matters of concern it is essential – following sociologist Noortje Marres – to differentiate problems that can be fixed, from issues that can merely be stabilized, and approach both phenomena precisely for what they are. (thesis)
- 4.** The term “device of articulation” can depict both “smart” (computational) and “dumb” (noncomputational) artefacts that were purposefully designed to support material forms of political participation. (thesis)
- 5.** It is the combination of being able to transform identity and meaning, as well as their specific utilitarian value, that distinguishes devices of articulation as valuable means for publics to articulate their collective concerns. (thesis)
- 6.** The challenge with teaching sociological thinking within design education is to disseminate and create nuanced contextual knowledge, whilst simultaneously inspiring actionability.
- 7.** Public fascination with design is fuelled by the potential of utilitarian artefacts to communicate, convince and seduce by stimulating multiple senses simultaneously in ways that explicitly inform embodied cognition.
- 8.** We are in the midst of revitalized post-truth controversies regarding the authority, legitimacy, and relevance of “official” science and its established methodologies.
- 9.** Violence is just as “social” as caring, as to me the commonly used expression “the social” signifies the many ways in which living together might be shaped, organized, and enacted.
- 10.** Sociology’s tendency to disclose complexity does not seem to fare well with the current zeitgeist, which underlines the academic field’s present-day political relevance.
- 11.** Playing the guitar beats using AI when it comes to boosting a doctoral dissertation.