

Instructions to Participants

Workshop description: The workshop will a) explain thesis-related work to students, and b) help students either get started in their work on thesis or work out an aspect of thesis project (if they are already working on their thesis).

The workshop will target interaction/industrial/visual design BA and MSc students from Universities of Bolzano and Trento. Some students are already working on their thesis; some do not.

Each student will have 30-40 minutes dedicated exclusively to them to either choose a topic and plan thesis work (if the student isn't writing a thesis yet) or evaluate and iterate a piece of thesis project (if the student is already working on a thesis).

Before the workshop:

If you are not yet working on a thesis, you should write down a list of potential thesis topics and tentatively plan thesis work (tentative deadlines, amount of work, different stages, evaluation plan).

If you are already working on your thesis, you should choose a thesis-related issue that you wish elaborate and note down a description of it. The issue should be solvable in under 40 min by a group of fellow students, e.g., a design-critique of your project; using/interacting with your design and reporting issues or praise; choosing among alternative solutions to a thesis-related issue.

During the workshop:

The participants will hear presentations and interact with the speakers (first half of the workshop) and groupwork on their thesis (second half of the workshop).

During the 30-40 minutes of groupwork dedicated to a student, the student should:

- a) Depending if the student is already working on thesis, Show and describe the list of potential thesis topics and thesis plan, or Show and explain the thesis project to the groupmates.
- b) Formulate the issue that the student expects his/her groupmates to help to solve.
- c) Take notes of groupmates' feedback

After the workshop:

The student may want to carry the notes with them to integrate in their thesis.

Workshop Schedule:

10.00 - 10.20 -- Coffee + welcome address

10.20 - 11.20 -- three 15min presentation + 5min QA by each of facilitators

11.20 - 11.40 -- Panel session (all 3 facilitators taking questions together and asking questions each other)

11.40 - 12.00 -- Group formation (3-5 groups) and explanation of Groupwork activities

12.00 - 12.45 -- Lunch

12.45 - 15.00 -- a) The facilitators and 1-2 of us go one to each of groups, take notes about the thesis issues that the students mention, and categorize the notes

b) Students take turns and use their groupmates as an expert system to discuss their thesis-related issues, e.g., b1) a technical aspect of thesis project (for those who are in an advanced stage of thesis work), b2) design critique (advanced stage), b3) creation of thesis plan right there (pre-thesis stage), b4) a plan of formal/non-formal evaluation of thesis project (initial stage, for those

who need to show an evaluation in the thesis).

15.00 - 15.30 -- coffee break

15.30 - 16.45 -- 3 to 5 presentation of 15min each (10min talk + 5min QA) by one student (who volunteer) per group: showing how their understanding of their thesis advanced, and getting feedback on that.