

EPDE 18 Foreword

Diversity and Conformity

The 20th International Conference on Engineering and Product Design Education (E&PDE) with the theme 'diversity and conformity' was held at the Dyson School of Design Engineering, Imperial College London on the 6th and 7th of September 2018.

The conference was hosted by the Dyson School of Design Engineering and the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College London, providing the principal locations and support for the conference, in close association with our long standing partner the Royal College of Art which hosted some of the pre-conference workshops and the pre-conference reception. The conference was planned and arranged with the Design Education Special Interest Group (DESIG) of the Design Society, and the Institution of Engineering Designers (IED).

The E&PDE conference was initiated in 1999 in the United Kingdom and was consolidated as an international conference in 2004; alternately taking place in the UK and abroad. Its objective is to facilitate the bringing together of people from within education and industry who are interested in sharing expertise on the implementation and analysis of contemporary and developing methodologies in engineering and design education. It provides educators and researchers from product development, engineering and industrial design, together with industry and government representatives, with a platform for discussion on topical educational issues in design education and its future direction.

Conference theme

A series of pressures, whether real or perceived, such as accreditation, competition and financial restraints has led to standardisation and norming in the educational experience and output produced by universities across the world within a specific subject area. Nevertheless universities and their staff teams pride themselves on distinctiveness in the educational pathway and on the unique characteristics of their specific university and associated departments. The general theme of the conference aims to explore how educators tackle the seemingly dualistic relationship between diversity and conformity.

These proceedings are based on a call for papers aiming to

- explore how different perspectives on diversity can help the design and engineering domains
- explore norming pressures in design, engineering and education
- seek new perspectives on what 'diversity in design and engineering' means and involves.

These aims were addressed through the following conference tracks related to Engineering and Product Design Education:

- Design and engineering education in practice
- Industrial involvement in design and engineering education
- Creativity and innovation in design and engineering education
- Ethics and social issues in design and engineering education
- Assessment methods in design and engineering education
- New design and engineering education paradigms
- Student papers related to design and engineering education
- Aesthetics and cultural practice in design and engineering education
- Design and engineering education for the general public

During the conference 18 countries were represented. 172 contributions were received which explored the various subthemes. Amongst them were 16 student contributions. After reviewing abstracts, full paper submissions and subsequent revisions 125 contributions were selected to be included in the proceedings.

Acknowledgements

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