

Hans Leo Höger (* 1960) – Ph.D. in Cultural Studies with a thesis about ‘Continuity and Method in the Work of the Italian Designer and Architect Ettore Sottsass jr’ – is tenured professor for **Theory and History of Design and Communication** (SECS 08/C1 - SSD ICAR/13) at the Free University of Bozen | Bolzano (Italy), Faculty of Design and Art. He studied Art History, Romance Philology, Folklore and Empirical Cultural Sciences at the Universities of Bonn, Perugia, Tübingen and Quimper.

Since 2012 Höger is member of the Editorial Board of **Bozen-Bolzano University Press**. From 2014 to 2017 he has been the academic representative in the Faculty's Joint Studies Committee. Currently he is the Dean's delegate for services dedicated to students with disabilities and/or specific learning difficulties.

The thematic areas of his activities in the field of design research are focused on **Cultural Engineering** (transdisciplinary approaches to *design and architecture process setting*), **Convergence Phenomena in Postindustrial Societies, Design & Politics / Eco-social Dimensions of and Approaches to Design, Design Thinking** (contextualization of design culture), **New Intercultural Realities**. Within the Unibz Faculty of Design and Art he is part of the **research cluster trans-form**.

Hans Leo Höger has been the curator of the international conference ‘**Design Research – Strategy Setting to Face the Future**’ in Bozen-Bolzano/Italy (2007). One year later, the **Swiss National Science Foundation** (Bern) invited him to join its team of experts for the evaluation of research project proposals.

In 2009, the organizers of the international conference ‘**Multiple Ways to Design Research**’ (Lugano/Switzerland) invited him to be part of its Program Committee. **DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)** – Germany’s largest research funding body and the largest such organization in Europe – appointed him in 2011 as external expert for the evaluation of research project proposals. Other expertises as reviewer include **AIS (Associazione Italiana degli Storici del Design)**.

As **visiting and guest professor** Höger he has been teaching at Universities in Milan (Bocconi University – School of Economics and Management), Saarbrücken (Academy of Arts and Design), Zurich (Zurich University of the Arts), Würzburg (University of Applied Sciences), New York (City College of New York) and Kent (Kent State University, Ohio).

Besides his academic activities he has been working as **consultant of strategy, research and communication** for companies and design offices, focusing on design topics in the context of economics, culture and society. Clients include Siemens, Olivetti, Swiss Re, Poste Italiane, Airport Cologne, Michele De Lucchi, intégral Ruedi Baur et associés, Sergio Calatroni Artroom.

In 1996 he was appointed Commissioner of the German participation at **XIXth Milan Triennale** (‘Identity and Differences: The Future of Urban Environments’); in the same year he has been responsible for the program ‘Attitudes for the New Millennium’ within the IDCA **International Design Conference in Aspen/Colorado** (USA).

From 1992 to 1997 he was Head of the **German Design Council** in Frankfurt am Main.

He confides in Heraklitus: “Unvisible links are stronger than visible ones.”

He agrees with the industrial designer Konstantin Grcic: “Beyond performing a purpose in a good way, the purpose itself has to be good.”

He believes in the assertion stated by the US-american physicist John Archibald Wheeler: "The past only exists insofar as it is present in the records of today. What those records are is determined by what questions we ask."

He shares the conviction expressed by the German philosopher Ernst Bloch: "Only that kind of remembering is fruitful that also remembers what still has to be done."

Publications (selection):

Microstorie di innovazione e impresa. Corraini Edizioni, Mantova 2018 **(Italian edition)**

Microstories of Innovation and Firms. Faculty of Design and Art, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano 2017 **(international edition)**

Percepire il costruito: Note sull'opera di Ettore Sottsass. In: Maria Passaro (a cura di). Cucchi & Sottsass. Il Chiostro della Pace. Studi e Restauro. Società Editrice Umberto Allemandi & C., Torino 2015

Theory without practice is useless, practice without theory is dangerous. In: Giorgio Camuffo, Maddalena Dalla Mura (eds), About Learning and Design, Bozen-Bolzano University Press, 2014

Ulm: methodically drawing a Moral, in: diid disegno industriale | industrial design no. 42-43, Rdesignpress, Rome 2010

Design & Geschichte [Design & History], Max Stein Verlag, Weimar 2009

Design Research, Abitare Segesta, Milan 2008

Zurich - Milan: Transalpine Dialogues of Graphic Design and Visual Communication. Design Museum Zurich, Lars Müller Publishers, Baden 2007

Design Education, Abitare Segesta, Milan 2006

LightWorks, Bozen-Bolzano University Press, 2006

Design & Politik [Design & Politics], University of Applied Sciences, Würzburg 2005

intégral ruedi baur et associés (monograph), Pyramyd ntcv, Paris 2003

Michele De Lucchi (monograph), DVA, Munich 2001

La lampada *Tizio* di Richard Sapper, Birkhäuser, Basel 1997

Il doppio e di più, XIX Triennale di Milano, Lars Müller Publishers, Baden 1996

Ettore Sottsass jr. (monograph), Wasmuth, Tübingen/Berlin 1993

Academic Fellowships:

DRS Design Research Society (London)

DMI Design Management Institute (Boston/Massachusetts)

DHS Design History Society (London)