

Amended by Faculty Council on January 26

Faculty of Design and Art

Position call: Associate Professor in Transformation-engaged Design Research
(08/C1 – ICAR/13)

Position type: Permanent Position

Application deadline: 31st March, 2022

POSITION

We are looking for a design researcher focussing on social-ecological transformation, and the diverse practices and projects designers can contribute to, in collaboration with other actors.

Your transdisciplinary approach is based on reflected practice, research through design, eco-social design, transformation design, participatory design, co-design, systemic design, commoning, action research and/or related fields. It is inspired by critical social theories, by queer and (eco)feminist perspectives, by postcolonial studies and concepts from materialism. You integrate knowledge and methods from diverse fields such as sociology, cultural and social anthropology, political ecology, heterodox economics, commons research and activism. Your practice, teaching and research unfolds in the light of an escalating multiple crisis, and engages in social-ecological transformations towards just, solidary, sustainable, resilient, and inclusive modes of production, living and working by considering structural obstacles, and identifying opportunities to overcome them. You manage to involve diverse actors, deal with conflicts and create (unconventional) alliances. Together with others, you inspire and empower individuals, collectives and organisations to engage in desirable transformations.

We expect you to have/be part of a broad international network, having contacts with a wide scope of players in the context such as transformation-engaged design, social-ecological transformation, critical social sciences, transformative and solidarity economies, commons research and activism.

You will take leading positions in the Faculty research cluster trans–form, the MA Eco-Social Design as well as at the foundation of a future practice-based PHD program.

Important: Your current position must be tenured at a recognized University.

A master's degree (or preferably PhD) in design - or some congenial discipline which is essentially coined by professional design approaches in theory, methodology and practice will be taken into adequate consideration.

The position offered is an Associate professorship in Transformation-engaged Design Research (Professore Associato). It is a tenured full-time position with a teaching load of 120-180 hours per annum. Salary is highly competitive at top European standards. Applicants may as well enjoy extensive fiscal advantages.

The working place is at the Bolzano Campus and the Faculty expects its professors to take up residence in the immediate vicinity of Bozen-Bolzano. The position offers a working opportunity in an international team of artists, designers and researchers open to collaborate on innovative and cross-disciplinary projects. Also, various funding possibilities for research (European, national, regional and internal university funding schemes) are at disposal.

A multilingual working environment completes the offers of the position.

Foreseen starting date: October 2022 – January 2023.

Teaching

Teaching in all programs of the Faculty of Design and Art is conducted through semester projects as well as an extensive exchange between practice and theory. As a professor you will challenge the students to deal with complex questions in critical, creative and progressive ways. In the excellently equipped and supervised

workshops, projects can be physically realised by students and teachers. You will lead courses in transformation-engaged Design Research and related fields. Your teaching activities help to raise awareness of the role of the designers in a world of escalating multiple crisis, and their contributions to the urgently needed social-ecological transformation. You will introduce students to critical discourse, instruments and practices of research through design, eco-social design, transformation design, participatory design, co-design, commoning, action research and related fields. You will be teaching in the Master in Eco-Social Design, where diverse teaching formats are co-created and explored in a continuous process. Parts of it are team teaching, transdisciplinary pedagogies and working with partners in the “real world”.

Research

You take on a leading role in the research cluster trans–form – exploring design, art and social practices for political and eco-social transitions.

The research cluster trans–form is concerned with a diverse set of art, design and social practices that strive to contribute to a much-needed transformation of the relations among humans and, therefore, between humans and other beings, in order to move towards more sustainable, resilient, just and equitable futures.

The cluster explores, experiments with and realizes transformative design, art and social practices, ways of making things public, eco-social designs, and the generation and construction of alternative narratives / artefacts / services / experiences / economies. The attitude is guided by open, experimental, inclusive ways of collating, generating and applying knowledge(s) which celebrate an ‘in-between’ way of researching involving transdisciplinary collaborations and multifaceted approaches.

Eligible candidates offer a solid track of accomplished disciplinary and interdisciplinary Design research projects, well documented in a series of publications/projects.

Faculty

We are a young faculty with a strong multidisciplinary and multinational approach. In our staff we have nationally and internationally recognized professionals. We have a solid network of international collaborations and high-end research and workshop facilities and are always open for new input and ideas.

The Faculty of Design and Art at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano currently offers a Bachelor program with two majors: Design, Art, as well as a Master program in Eco-Social Design and the executive Master program ‘Design for Children’.

Teaching at the faculty follows an interdisciplinary project-based model, involving different disciplines and professionals in the main Art or Design courses. The complex contemporary issues addressed by the teaching teams require keen analytical skills and stimulate research as well as the individual creation of new solutions. The projects are conceived with the aim of encouraging the acquisition of skills related to the work carried out and favouring the gradual development of a personal working method and an artistic body of work.

We carefully choose our academic personnel by hiring renowned artists, designers and theorists (such as sociologists, anthropologists or media theorists) from abroad as guest/contract lecturers or tenured professors. We are one of the world’s few universities that offer their students lectures in three languages and a trilingual qualification in English, German and Italian.

More information is available on our website: <https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/>

University

The Free University of Bozen-Bolzano is located in one of the most fascinating European regions, at the crossroad between the German and Italian languages, economies and cultures. Its trilingualism in teaching and research, its high level of internationalisation as well as an ideal study environment guaranteed by its excellent facilities are some of the reasons why unibz regularly reaches top positions in national and international rankings.

Region

In the provincial regions of Europe, especially those in Alpine environments, geopolitical conditions, climate warming and market forces present serious challenges while, simultaneously, offering unique opportunities for

art and design. The province of Alto Adige/Südtirol offers a special cultural, historical, industrial and environmental landscape fostering the exploration of historical contexts and the development of new visions. This requires visionary qualities as much as the ability and experience in dealing with complexity and collaborative systems.

For more information, please contact Prof. Kris Krois: Kris.Krois@unibz.it

For general information about the position, terms and conditions of working at the Faculty of Design and Art please contact the Faculty Dean Prof. Nitzan Cohen: nitzan.cohen@unibz.it

REQUIREMENTS

According to Italian legislation, only candidates already **holding an equivalent academic position of Associate Professor at their current foreign university (a university outside Italy) are eligible to take part in this application process of a “direct call from abroad”**. Applications that do not satisfy this requirement will not be short-listed.

Furthermore, applicants need to provide the following:

- a) Record of excellence in design research on an international level, and in local projects and practices, demonstrated by a detailed curriculum vitae, a detailed description of own projects and practices (portfolio), and (scientific) publications.
- b) Evidence of high-quality teaching and mentoring demonstrated through students’ work examples, short description of courses given and possible teaching evaluations.
- c) Comprehensive vision towards own work, research and teaching as well as specifying future planned projects.
- d) Proof of knowledge of at least two of three official teaching languages at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (English, Italian, German)

Application procedure

Please send the above mentioned together with:

- Names and full addresses of at least three referees (address, telephone number and e-mail)
- Specification of current academic position
- Expression of interest

For your curriculum vitae we recommend the use of the form “Attachment A – University Academic CV” available at the following website:

<https://www.unibz.it/en/home/position-calls/positions-for-academic-staff/5618-icar-13-professor-in-transformation-engaged-design-research-associate?group=58>

Your whole application, duly signed and dated on the last page, must be sent to Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Faculty of Design and Art, attn. Mrs. Elena Ghizzo, Universitätsplatz 1, 39100 Bozen, e-mail:

recruitment-design@unibz.it

Expressions of interest will be accepted until March 31, 2022.

Short-listed candidates would be invited for personal interviews and public presentations in April - May 2022.