

Framing overview

Introducing the research and components for submission

Progression of my research

I am at a unique inflection point in my doctorate where earlier explorations have facilitated a reframed and clarified articulation of my intended research outcomes, while at the same time the bulk of participant observation remains to be conducted. The following provides more detail about key activities and milestones.

Completed activities

My activities since the first stage assessment include the following - presented chronologically.

- I have developed research hypotheses through professional practice at the Design Innovation Research Centre (DIRC) UTS. In particular this involved co-designing in a NSW Circular project concerning place-based circular economies.
 - Subsequently I wrote a paper for Design & Culture journal, which is to form the basis of a thesis chapter.
 - Through these activities I developed and articulated deeper understanding and critique of key precedent co-design approaches.
- Building upon my literature review and drawing from experiences in the aforementioned DIRC project I have refined my theoretical frameworks to better be aligned with the emergent properties of similar discursive co-design forums.
- I have deepened my involvement with both Regen Sydney and Coalition of Everyone through my professional voluntary engagement. This included playing an increasingly critical role in nurturing the strategic co-design capacity in both organisations over the last twelve months.
 - I participated in countless instances of co-design, and in doing so observed that novel approaches and assemblages of co-design were emerging organically in these two organisations
- I revised my research design to harness my position as an insider researcher at my two sites of research centred around a critical design ethnography methodology and participant observation method.
- My ethics application for my doctoral field research has recently been approved after two rounds of review.

Current pursuits

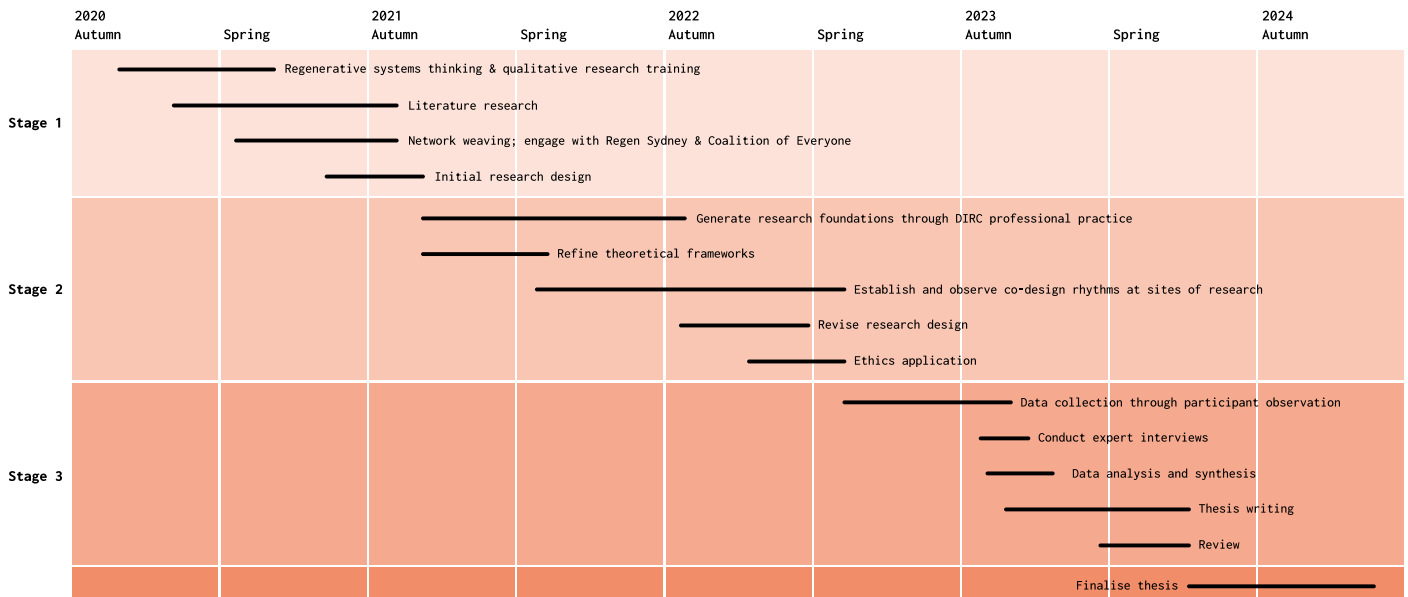
- Commencing data gathering through participant observation across my two sites of research
 - At Regen Sydney this study of co-design processes is currently with respect to the creation of a theory of change, as well as the design, facilitation and synthesis of a series of network engagements
 - Participant observation at Coalition of Everyone involves both the

emergence of an operational strategy as well as the refinement of a pilot project methodology for developing a Community Transition Plan in Castlemaine.

- Ongoing systematic note-taking and diagramming across both sites of research
- I am awaiting publication of the Design & Culture paper

Future undertakings

- Continued data collection through participant observation for an extended duration of six months at both sites of research
- Conduct expert interviews with ten practitioners in each of my sites of research
- Data analysis and synthesis
- Thesis writing and review



Items for stage 2 submission

For this second stage assessment of my doctoral research I submit the following items which can be accessed [here](#):

- Written submission
- Design & Culture article
- Approved ethics application

Written submission

This document contains my key theoretical frameworks drawn from literature, as well a detailed research design and initial data collection. Accompanying these are the DAB HDR second stage requirements which include an abstract, thesis chapter outline (contents), and a timeline for completion.

Design & Culture article

The journal article presented is pre-publication and currently undergoing double blind peer review after two rounds of positive editorial reviews. As a co-design practitioner I have sought to reflect on a highly relevant DIRC project and to find peer validation as a researcher. The paper which is for a special issue on 'design-led repair' is a demonstration of the ways in which I understand and explain my professional co-design practice, including with reference to key precedent approaches. I am taking the collection of hypotheses that I have generated through this piece of work to be tested in my field research under ethical conditions at Regen Sydney and Coalition of Everyone. The paper will also help to form a thesis chapter, clearly showing the practice foundations upon which my revised research design has been created.

Approved ethics application

My research application covers studies across two sites of research (Regen Sydney & Coalition of Everyone) using a critical design ethnography methodology. I am conducting the research as an insider researcher, with a post-constructivist philosophy. Primary research methods include participant observation, semi-structured interviews, note-taking, diagramming and audio-video recording. The attached ethics application document details these aspects along with considerations about participants, risks etc. The application has gone through two rounds of review, and has recently received approval.