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DRS2020: DRS President's Foreword

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DRS President's Foreword

Rachel COOPER

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The Design Research Society is a unique organisation comprised of people dedicated to the value of design and design research and its value to our people and our planet. Without a dedicated group of volunteers, we would not exist; people who offer their services to the management of the organisation, people who host conferences and people who submit papers and their combined intelligence to further knowledge of design and its contribution to the world. This year the fragile nature of the planet, of human relationships and the basis of our economy and society has been illuminated (fires, floods and a virus). We have seen the effect of radical changes in patterns of behaviour; both positive influences on the environment and negative influences on health and wellbeing and livelihoods. There are many design challenges and design researchers have come to the fore. This conference is a triumph of that creativity and fortitude, embracing the virtual world and bringing together all those people who so want to exchange ideas. Many of the papers are pre-Covid, and whilst we should not forget the conversations and research directions before this pandemic, it will, of course, shape our future and our conversations. People make the DRS and whether online or in person the conversations will continue. Let us together build a wider, deeper and stronger global design research community.

As a foot note I would like to say that 2020 marks a turning point for DRS in so many ways, we have a new structure of the organisation, that is a new International Advisory Council and executive who are eager to continue to move forward. We have a new virtual conference and I would like to thank the conference team for such a triumph in changing format and delivery mode, and also to you the members and delegates who are embracing this with your attendance. Enjoy the conference and the future DRS.

Rachel Cooper
DRS President 2020

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