

Visualizing Your Knowledge and Connecting the Dots

Creating Visual Maps to Uncover Shared Interests for Collaboration

Verena Paepcke-Hjeltness

https://doi.org/10.21606/drs_lxd2021.04.259w

This workshop focuses on knowledge exchange to foster collaboration across disciplines. Participants will apply metaphors to visualize their research and projects using the online platform Miro, creating a virtual repository to start (or continue) conversations. How can we transfer knowledge and connect across disciplines in academia in non-traditional ways? Although barriers to connect virtually are now lower than ever before, there is a plethora of knowledge and research that is not accessible, visible, or discoverable to all researchers equally. How can we connect academia to practice and vice versa? All too often pertinent research developed in academia doesn't make its way to practice and on the other side businesses and industry are often too occupied meeting deadlines to either pursue their own research or to immerse in academic publications. This workshop aims to foster visual conversations to connect conference participants of diverse backgrounds to identify opportunities to collaborate with and learn from each other.

Keywords: knowledge exchange; sketchnoting; visual maps

Workshop Requirements

Technical Requirements & Materials

- A computer and internet bandwidth that can handle being on Zoom and Miro.com at the same time
- Basic knowledge of miro.com: How to navigate, use sticky notes, use text frames, use icon tool, upload images, use pen tool (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pULLAEmhSho>, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zbde_j3CbYo)
- Pen and paper
- A phone, tablet, or camera to upload sketches to Miro

Pre-workshop Prompts

Participants will be given access to the Miro board prior to the workshop. Each participant will find a frame with their name on it. These frames will guide participants through the pre-workshop steps and questions to answer. These questions build the foundation for the workshop activities. Alternatively, participants will be given access to a template to print out and fill in.

Note: they will be asked to transfer the contents to the Miro board during the workshop or upload the template as an image.

Questions for the pre-workshop prep:

1. What is your background?
2. What projects are you currently working on? What is your research focus?
3. What are you interested in collaborating about?
4. When you think about your research/work what image or activity comes to mind? What metaphor could describe it?

Does it feel like smooth sailing, climbing a mountain, being in a maze, crossing the ocean in a small



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boat or big yacht, hiking a trail or through unknown territory, traveling in space or deep diving? Is it an adventure or planned activity? If it was a landscape, would it be a city, an island, a forest, would there be mountains and rivers?

Workshop Outline

During this 60-minute session academics, students, and professionals are led through a process to visualize their interests and research focus with the aim to find connections for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Process

1. 5 min: Give introduction to facilitators, and overall logistics.
2. 5 min: Give introduction to workshop and goals and share examples.
3. 15 min: Participants transfer their research/project metaphor prompt to Miro. This can be a sketch uploaded to their frame, sketched on Miro, or a visual using Miro icons, frames, arrows, and text.
4. 5 min: Participants highlight where they see areas for collaboration, where they would like input, or simply connect with someone who has expertise in a specific area.
5. 20 min: Each participant will be given 1 min to pitch where they seek input, advice, or are looking for collaborators.
6. 5 min: Each participant will browse the Miro board and leave notes on other boards to connect.
7. 5 min: Wrap up the workshop, share next steps and continue the conversations.

Note: Participants can opt in or out to make their boards public so that participants of following workshops can connect with them through this platform.

Workshop Outcomes

A visual repository to exchange knowledge and to connect during the conference and beyond.

The goal is to create visual maps on miro.com that showcase the individual's background, interests, current work and identifies opportunities to connect with others. These maps would be accessible throughout the conference and beyond to all conference attendees. The visual maps would be locked; however, participants would be able to leave notes, comments, feedback, and make suggestions for collaboration.

Examples of possible long-term outcomes: if successful, this workshop could lead to new connections between researchers for collaborative research and grant proposals; it could connect faculty and student mentees, faculty, and peer mentors; it could connect faculty for global collaborative courses, or practitioners and academics for joint projects or sponsored courses.

Continuation of accessibility to the workshop Miro board would create an alternative platform to foster conversations and connections.

Examples of Previous Workshops

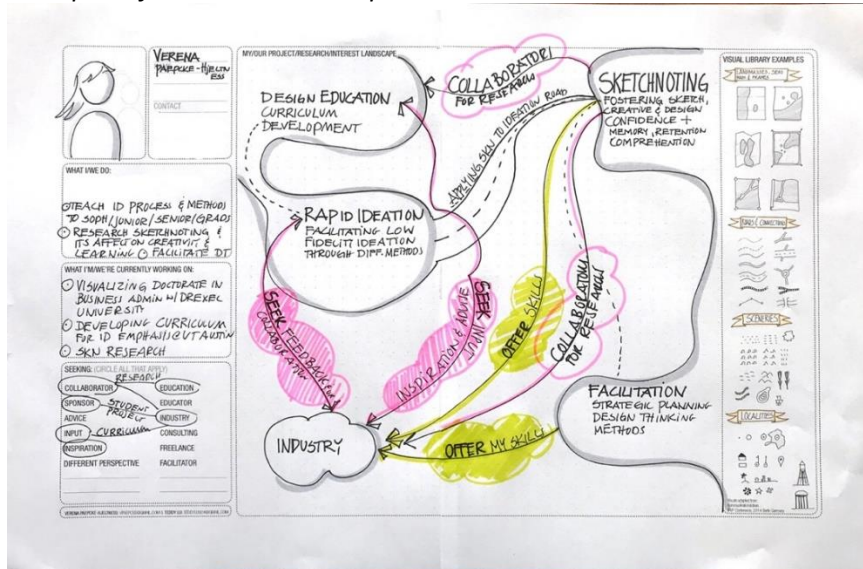


Figure 1. Example of previous workshop paper template



Figure 2. Workshop outcomes from the International Design Conference (IDC 2019), Chicago, IL, USA

Verena Paepcke-Hjeltness

Iowa State University, USA

verena@iastate.edu

Assistant Professor of Industrial Design and Education Director at the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), her research focuses on the diffusion of design thinking and doing practices in design and non-design-oriented disciplines, with an emphasis on exploring visualization as a gateway to learning, comprehension and creative confidence. She plans and facilitates workshops on sketchnoting, design thinking and strategic planning in both academia and industry.