Equity in Design Education and Practice
Panel Discussion at the Seattle Public Library | September 19, 2015, 12-1pm

Through this panel discussion we hope to promote open dialogue about what it means practically to consider equity in design. Considering equity is not necessarily a part of traditional training for designers, whereas other professional disciplines—like public policy, social work, public health, and education—have established approaches, frameworks, and scholarship that support practitioners’ reflection on and approaches to issues of power, privilege, and access. We aim to discuss the various approaches that do and could exist to support critical engagement with equity in the field of design. Particularly, with the growing interest amongst practitioners in design for good or social impact, we hope to interrogate questions like the following: “What tools do designers have to making unique contributions towards equity? How could we better support this work by providing practitioners with the language and tools to address these issues?”

NOELLE HUSKINS
Associate Program Officer, Integrated Delivery-Interventions
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Noelle Huskins is interested in building strong communities and creating business models and experiences that promote equity. With her current team, she is focusing on developing commercialization strategies for new global health interventions in therapeutics, diagnostics, and vector control to drive towards global disease elimination. She has also worked on strategy development for the foundation’s work in India as well as managed the global innovation funding program, Grand Challenges Explorations. Prior to the Foundation she worked on social entrepreneurship, ICT for development and microfinance in India, and human-trafficking policy in the Philippines. She holds a BA from Boston College, an MPA from UW and is currently completing her MBA at UC Berkeley, where she has focused on strategy and design methods and entrepreneurship.

IZZIE ZAHORIAN
UX Lead at Google Ideas

Izzie Zahorian is a designer and researcher for Google Ideas. She has worked on software to protect against phishing, a service to protect free speech from DDoS attacks, and a peer-to-peer proxy that enables people across the globe to share their internet access.

She strives to make technology accessible, and the internet a safer, more inclusive space to be.

SUSAN KEMP
Professor at the School of Social Work
University of Washington

Susan Kemp, PhD is Charles O. Cressey Professor at the UW School of Social Work. Her scholarly interests focus on place and environment as foci of social work practice, community-based and community-engaged services, public child welfare, and social work history. Much of her current work centers on questions related to urban environments, marginalized populations, and spatial justice, including social work’s early history of urban environmental activism. She is co-author of Person-Environment Practice: The Social Ecology of Interpersonal Helping (1997), and co-editor of The Paradox of Urban Space: Inequality and Transformation in Marginalized Communities (2011), and Communities, Neighborhoods, and Health: Expanding the Boundaries of Place (2011). She also co-leads the UW Cities Collaboratory, a transdisciplinary research and teaching laboratory for the study of multiple dimensions of cities and urban processes.

KRISTINE WOOLERY
Senior Design Strategist at Microsoft

Kristine Woolery began her career working in the nonprofit sector designing experiential workshops for HIV prevention education at a youth clinic in San Francisco. As Program Director at DiversityWorks, a youth development anti-oppression nonprofit in Oakland, CA, she engaged teens to create workshops for engaging their peers in consciousness raising activities and community action plans. At Brainfood in D.C., where food is seen as a tool for building life skills, she redesigned afterschool programing to incorporate youth development practices, community development skills and participatory design. The second chapter of her career has been as a strategist working closely with designers of all types at Hornall Anderson and frog. In her current position as Senior Design Strategist with the Design Activation team at Microsoft, she is responsible for scaling inclusive design practices across the Windows and Devices group as well as Microsoft at large, primarily through inclusive design sprints.

This panel was organized by Sarah Fox and Catherine Lim, graduate students at UW and members of UW SIGCHI.