

2016 - 2021

Phase 3: Personal Praxis

2021

- ▶ The dissertation *Applying Information Architecture in Design Thinking: Ideating Solutions to the Wicked Problem of Addiction* is submitted on 11 June and soon after awarded a high distinction of 86%.
- ▶ *Realising Discourse: A Strategic Design Solution to the Problem of Addiction* is published in the proceedings to *Design Culture(s) Cumulus Conference*. Rome, September 2021.

The *Journal of IA* (re)publishes the 2019 jh-01.com post as *Footnotes to Re: The Future of Information Architecture*. An extensive commentary is included with the benefit of new research and two-year's hindsight.

2020

- ▶ Rethinking and re-writing continue.

23RD MARCH: COVID. HARD LOCKDOWN IN SA. I MOVE HOMES TWICE (LONG STORY).

- ▶ It takes a year (June 2020 - June 2021) to write the final two chapters and finish. We're deep in lockdown, I'm living with my parents, broke, burnt-out, and yet profoundly inspired by the research project. *Existential design?* Maybe.

A short essay *Thoughts on IA as it Relates to Design: The Lost IA* is self-published.

Abundance by Design is presented at the *UX SA Craft Conference*. It includes new thinking from the dissertation.

2019

- ▶ First draft of the dissertation is completed. Supervisor feedback, "It's too long and too hard to read."
- ▶ *The Design of Socially Sustainable Ontologies* is published in *Philosophy and Technology*. Key concepts from 2016-18 can be referenced (vs. re-argued).
- ▶ Fenn discovers the *Discursive Design* connection. It's too good and too important not to include.
- ▶ A near total re-think and re-write of the dissertation is necessary.

September: *The IA Institute* dissolves.

Thoughts and concerns regarding the dissolution are posted on jh-01.com as *Re: The Future of Information Architecture*.

Fenn and Hobbs present on *Discursive Design & IA* at a *Design Society Development (Desis lab)* seminar.

2018

- ▶ The RPL is granted and the proposal is accepted. The MA begins.
- ▶ First draft of the article *The Design of Socially Sustainable Ontologies* (from the OII workshop) is reviewed for the journal *Philosophy and Technology*.
- ▶ Work on the book about *IA Design* goes into the dissertation.
- ▶ Work starts on the MA design project (ideating solutions to addiction with the Ubuntu-Addiction Community Trust).

Keynote presentation *Postcards from the Edge* delivered at the *IA Summit in Chicago*: A social constructivist account of IA is provided, considered in relation to meaning-making in Art, and premised upon the theory of semantic formations.

This is the last year of the *IA Summit*.

2017

- ▶ A recognition of prior learning (RPL) is needed as I don't hold a honours degree. The faculty doesn't have a RPL process. It will take a year to create one.
- ▶ **Plan B for 2017**: Sell apartment & pay-off debts; travel a little; self-study addiction (for the dissertation); and write a book on *IA Design*, partly in Cape Town, so as not to go mad not working.

Towards the end of 2017 the concepts of *structural logic*, *semantic formation* and *contrived ontology* emerge as a (speculative) theoretical account of *meaning-making by IA in Design*.

2016

- ▶ Work-life crisis: what's the point of it?
- ▶ A decision: take 2017 off from work to write a dissertation in Design at the University of Johannesburg.
- ▶ (*Social*) *ontology* is a new direction for Hobbs and Fenn in their theorising of IA.

The Design of Socially Sustainable Digital Ontologies is presented at the "IA meets the Philosophy of Information" workshop at the Oxford Internet Institute (OII).