

Programme Year September 2007 – July 2008
Institute for Advanced Studies, Lancaster University



New Sciences of Protection: Designing Safe Living

'THERE IS NOTHING CLOSER TO THE BIG BANG OF DESIGN, TO ITS PRIME REASON TO EXIST, THAN OBJECTS THAT DEAL WITH SELF-PRESERVATION'

PAOLA ANTONELLI,
SAFE: DESIGN TAKES ON RISK, MoMA 2004

This research program investigates 'protection' at the intersections of security, sciences, technologies, markets and design. Protection is at the heart of all design. Design is at the heart of the creation of new services, products and relations. This research program investigates how design of objects, systems, places and services engender feelings of safety for individuals and groups. It particularly focuses on the intersection of design, and specific sciences and technologies. It asks, for example, if sciences like biogenetics are rendering our food, our bodies, our environments, and even our futures safe. It considers whether or not contemporary

technologies of protection — like high-pitched sounds designed to discourage teenagers from congregating in public spaces or on-line security practices designed to secure our data and our data doubles — actually protect 'us'. Do they merely commodify and/or multiply our fears and anxieties? A key aim of the research program is to think about design, protection and safe living in open-ended, conceptually and practically inventive ways. To this end, the workshop and conference processes bring together designers, artist-writers, policy makers and regulators, scientist-engineers, social scientists and humanities scholars.

WORKSHOPS:

WORKSHOP 1:
INTRODUCTION:
DESIGN,
SCIENCE, LIVING

DATES:
4 – 5 OCT 2007

WORKSHOP 2:
CODES AND
CONDUCT

DATES:
19 – 20 NOV 2007

WORKSHOP 3:
PROXIMITIES

DATES:
6 – 7 DEC 2007

WORKSHOP 4:
PROTOCOLS AND
PROCEDURES

DATES:
31 JAN – 1 FEB 2008

WORKSHOP 5:
PRESENTATION,
DOCUMENTATION,
MEDIATION

DATES:
13 – 14 MAR 2008

WORKSHOP 6:
FUTURES

DATES:
8 – 9 MAY 2008

CONFERENCE:

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
'NEW SCIENCES
OF PROTECTION:
DESIGNING
SAFE LIVING'

DATES:
10 – 12 JUL 2008

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

PROFESSOR SUSAN S. SILBEY
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge, USA

**PROFESSOR RICHARD
BUCHANAN**
Carnegie-Mellon University,
Pittsburgh, USA

PROFESSOR LUCY SUCHMAN
Lancaster University,
Lancaster, UK

**PROFESSORS FIONA RABY
AND ANTHONY DUNNE**
Royal College of Art, London, UK



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<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/ias/annualprogramme/protection/>