

Research Cluster: Enable – Design & Art Competences, Material Culture, and Human Development | Timespan: 2017 – ongoing

## Infra-x-inter

Exploring the potentialities of infra-language for interdisciplinarity between design and social sciences.

### Team

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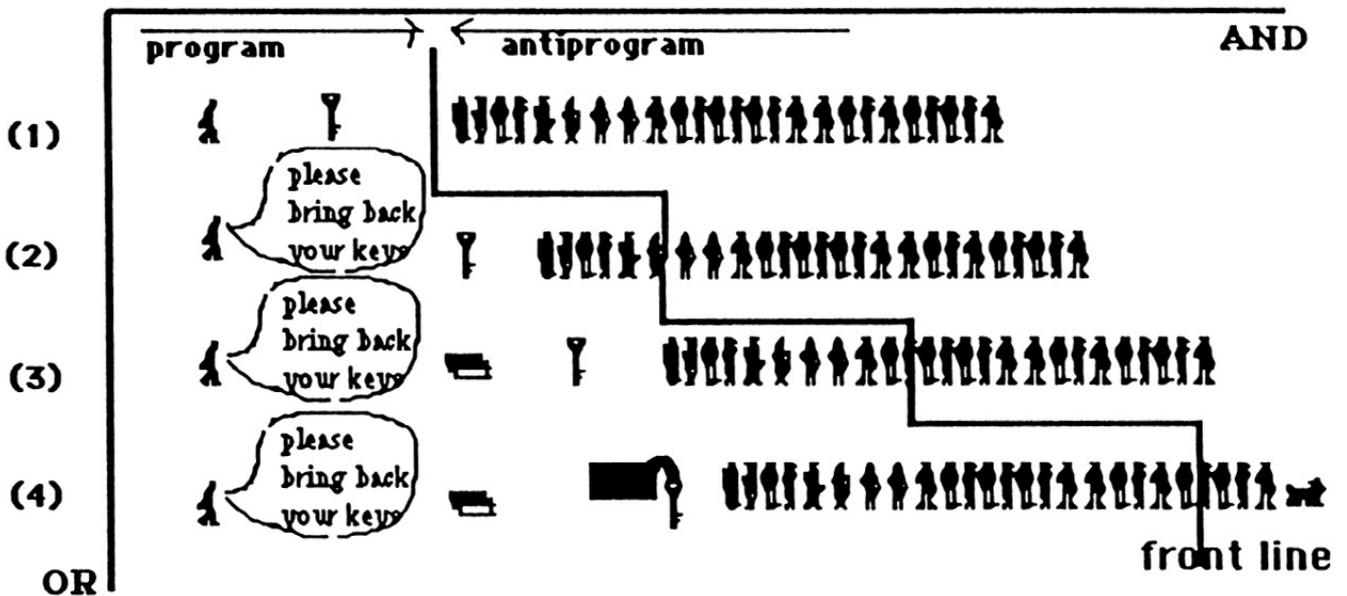
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Interdisciplinary research projects need to develop shared languages or a shared understanding in order to describe-analyse the objects of their investigations. Whereas the issue of languages was very relevant within the reflection about interdisciplinarity in the '70s, the more recent reflection on interdisciplinarity focus more on the issue of common goals and common problems to solve. These alone seem to provide the opportunity for a shared understanding. Within this more contemporary context the issue of language is on the one hand often reduced to the exchange of metaphors between disciplines or more formally, especially in engineering and computer sciences, in the creation of ontologies. By delving on the idea of the need of an infra-language, proposed by Bruno Latour as descriptive-analytical language for social sciences, the present project intends to investigate how and at what extent Latour's infralaguage and possible extensions of it can be effective and adequate in enabling a tight collaboration between social sciences and design.

The research projects intends to:

- reconstruct Latour's infra-language semiotics origins;
- position Latour's proposal historically in relation to transdisciplinary frameworks such as cybernetics-system theory, structuralism and artificial intelligence-cognitive sciences;
- investigate present day design based interdisciplinary projects and the descriptive languages in use;
- outline a descriptive language for interdisciplinary projects focused on the relation between design and social sciences.



**Figure 9.2**

The hotel manager successively adds keys, oral notices, written notices, and finally metal weights; each time he thus modified the attitude of some part of the “hotel customers” group while he extends the syntagmatic assemblage of elements.