

DJN - Instructional/Learning Design Professionals Node/WG

***** *Start of Registration Form Questions for Node* *****

Question 1: A few sentences about your Local Node *

This will be shared publicly on designjustice.org.

Instructional/learning designers work with subject matter specialists to create learning experiences. Instructional/learning design is a multi-disciplinary field whose practitioners draw from the learning sciences, interface design, multimedia design, and other disciplines, in their work. Practitioner members of the Instructional/Learning Design DJN node are interested in using design justice approaches to move toward a critical instructional design centered around co-designing learning that is equitable, accessible, and just.

We welcome anyone in the fields of instructional design and learning design to join us in conversation around the DJN principles and how they can influence our work together.

Question 2: What are the issues that intersect with design in your local context? How do you see the Design Justice Network Principles being useful in this context? *

As learning design professionals, we provide a variety of support to the faculty, staff, and students, as well as business clients. For some of us, we are working in higher education, supporting faculty with researched practices on online, hybrid, and blended programs and courses. We might be recommending the best ways to engage students, the best ways to teach in other formats than face-to-face, and how to support themselves and students during a pandemic or traumatic life event. Some of us have roles in deciding what technologies to recommend, and provide guidance on data privacy and surveillance issues surrounding ed tech.

At the same time, while several of the professional organizations listed below have ethical guidelines, there is no central standard nor is there a body of work that looks at how to implement any guidelines or principles in practice. As a DJN node, our first priority would be to engage in a co-design process with the instructional design/learning design community with the goal of adapting the DJ principles for the ID/LD profession. As a result of that process, our next steps would be to:

- share out the principles more broadly (website/social media, presentations to professional conferences, hosting conversation groups, etc.)
- create resources such as sample design activities and design outcomes to help designers understand how to apply the principles in practice
- host design events for practitioners to share advice and support for putting the principles into action

We hope that by creating this node, we can use the focus on the more inclusionary work outlined in the DJN Principles and find ways to incorporate and share how we are using these principles in our daily work.

Question 3: Are the Local Node participants connected to organizing efforts or movement building around the issues described above? (for examples, check out our zines). *

Yes

No

Not sure

Question 4: If so, how so? Please describe some of the organizations, groups, and/or movements you are working with and how. If there are not yet connections, how do you plan to engage respectfully and responsibly with these organizing efforts? *

As instructional design professionals, the organizations with whom we are most likely to interface are professional organizations such as the Online Learning Consortium (OLC), the Professional and Organizational Network (POD), and the Association for Educational Technology and Computing (AECT) where there are those who hold the titles of instructional designers, instructional technologists, educational technologists, learning experience designers, faculty and/or educational developers, and other learning designer professionals.

We have already begun to identify potential network collaborators or members connected with OLC, and with Digital Pedagogy Lab (a week-long learning institute on topics related to critical digital pedagogy). We see these organizations as places where we may be able to identify potential network members and collaborators in co-design opportunities, as well as places to share out what we're working on and learning about together in the network.

Question 5: A few sentences about how the DJN Steering Committee might best support your work

Given that our node will be virtual rather than geographically based, we would benefit from guidance and possibly assistance in creating momentum around the virtual group. We would also benefit from hearing about models of other professional groups who have adapted the DJ principles to their own discipline.

Question 6: Anything else you'd like to share!

We recognize that nodes are typically more geographically bound, but for our purposes, we feel that having this virtual node would support designers who are interested in moving their design practice toward more just and equitable processes and practices. Our experience is that instructional designers already doing this work tend to be doing it alone within work environments that do not value critical approaches to instructional design, so we are hoping that this will be a centrally located (albeit virtual) space for learning designers to find advice and

support about the principles and the challenges they are facing at their institutions, and to grow their practice.

We see the principles as being a way to help guide thought and action before delving into reactionary or biased views.

Many of us are working in spaces where we are making recommendations on technology, as well. Because the principles are based on the work surrounding participatory design, we see this as an opportunity for our members to be mindful and aware of constituents who need to be at the table when these decisions are being made. We see this as an opportunity for designers to address power structures in their committees, as well.