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Systems-oriented design as a democratic process design technique

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Suggested citation:

Blaasvær, Linda and Sevaldson, Birger (2019) Systems-oriented design as a democratic process design technique. In: Relating Systems Thinking and Design (RSD8) 2019 Symposium, October 13-15, 2019, Chicago, USA. Available at http://openresearch.ocadu.ca/id/eprint/3217/

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The Democracy Design Compass

Analysis of three master courses
Systems-oriented design: 2016 – 2017 – 2018
Design for democracy

RELATING SYSTEMS THINKING AND DESIGN THINKING

RSD 8 17. – 19. October 2019.

Kaplan Institute, home of IIT Institute of Design (ID), Chicago (Il), US.

Linda Blaasvær – The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV)

Birger Sevaldson – The Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO)

What is design for democracy?

What is Design for democracy?

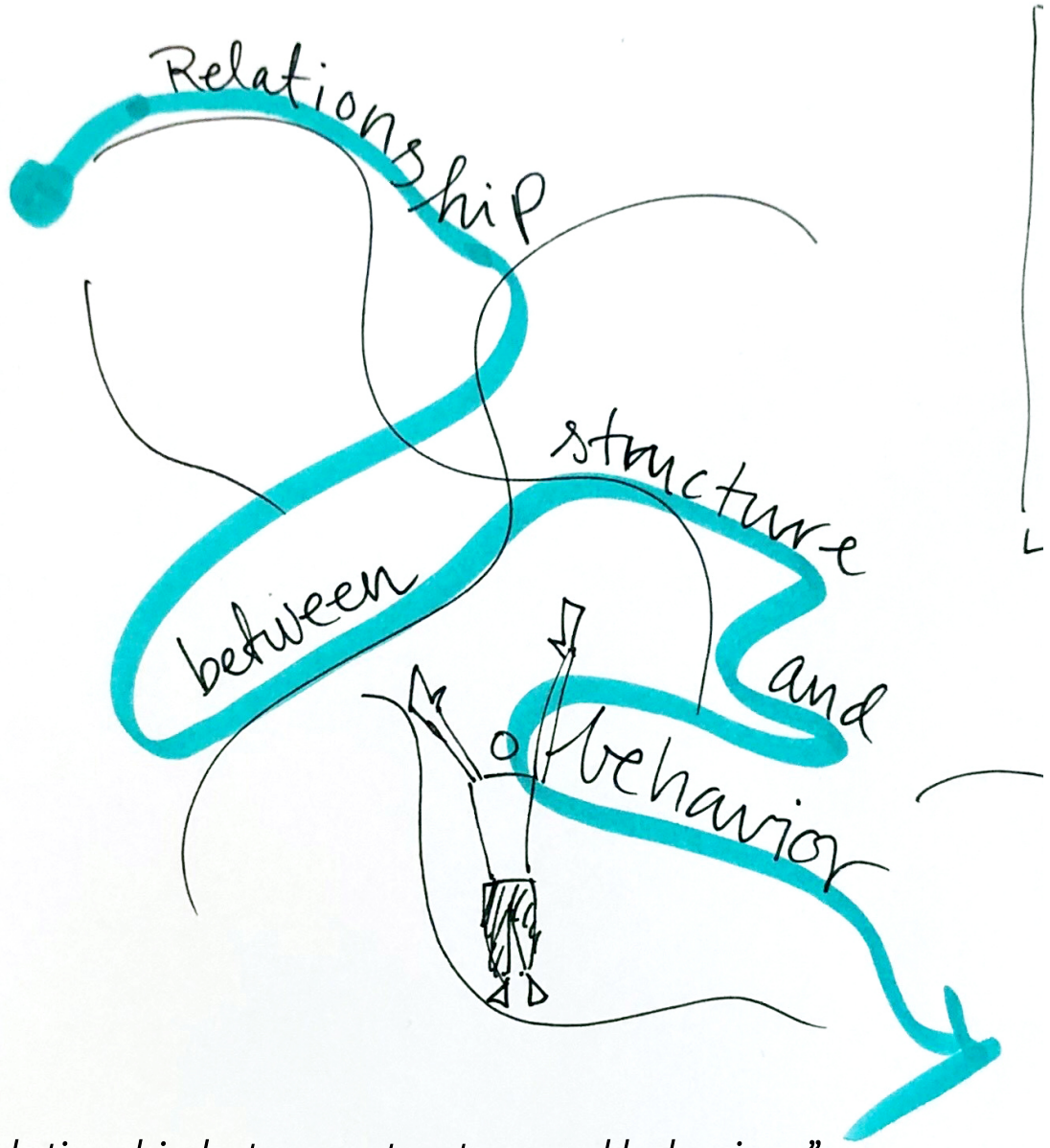
When planning the course important questions arose, such as:

Can we through design, envision and describe a future that supports a balanced distribution of power, values and resources?

Can we contribute to building democratic cultures and lowering the threshold for participation in democratic processes?

Can we design processes that make it easier to think long-term and through this encourage sustainable development?

Can we, through the design of our surroundings help the emergence of democratic organisations?



Systems can be seen as the *“relationship between structure and behaviour”*

- Donella Meadows

Design for democracy 2016 - 2018

Three sub categories

2016: Participative democracy in urban planning with a municipality in Norway

2017: Workplace democracy with UDI – the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, and representative democracy in collaboration with Norway´s largest insurance company

2018: How to engage young people to vote - in collaboration with a newspaper

Facilitating the course

Design for democracy within the context of systems-oriented design

Introduction to Systems-oriented design

The students were given an open brief, a main theme and a direction

Introduction to democracy through lectures and a reading circle

The democracy files

DEMOCRACY AND DESIGN PLATFORM

Open letter to the design community:
Stand up for democracy

www.democracy-design.org

We do not have to share exactly the same idea of what democracy is:
to defend it as a core value, it is enough to recognize the strong convergence between democracy and design in four respects:

design OF democracy – ***improving democratic processes*** and the ***institutions*** on which democracy is build

design FOR democracy – ***enabling more people to participate*** in the democratic process, especially through the use of ***technology***

design IN democracy – building ***access, openness and transparency*** into institutions in ways that assure ***equality and justice***

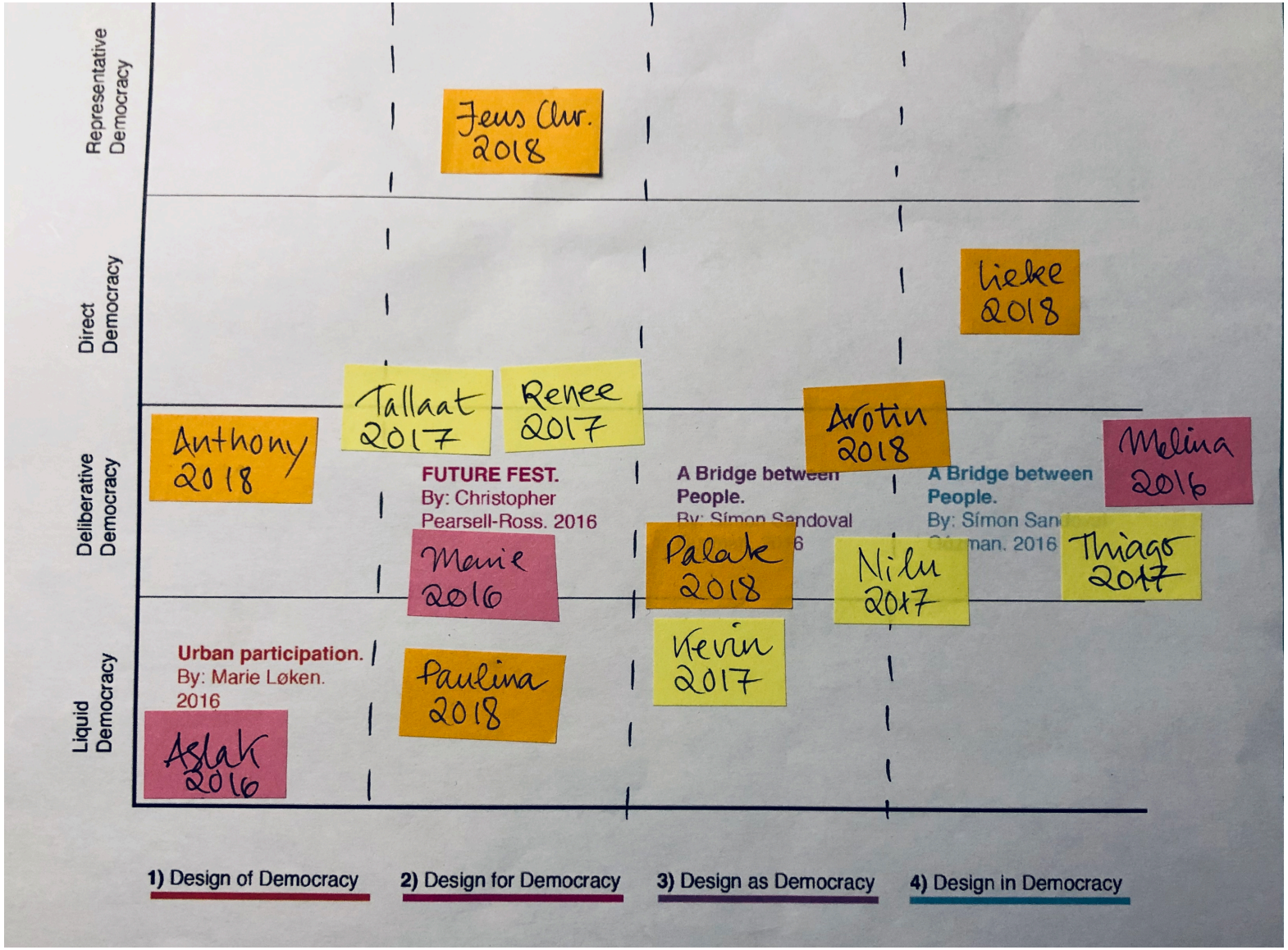
design AS democracy – the ***practice of participatory design*** so that ***diverse actors*** can shape our present and future worlds in ***fair and inclusive*** ways.

Chicago, 5. March 2017,
Enzio Mazini and Victor Margolin

Empirical data

The portfolio of projects for this study includes 19 master’s projects of a duration of a full semester.

Analysing the democracy projects



Theory

4 types of democracy

4 modes of design for democracy by Manzini and Margolin

Types of democracy

Representative democracy – Representatives represent us in a dialog going on in a parliament or similar. A form of indirect democracy. Levels spanning from municipalities, regions, to nations and federations like EU.

Direct democracy – Issues are voted on directly

Deliberate democracy – Sometimes called dialogic democracy. Participatory processes in society.
- spanning from hearings to involving all parts of the (organized) civic society.

Liquid democracy – Digital media, big data, and networks allow new forms of democracy to emerge. Combines direct influence with representation.

Source: Wikipedia

DEMOCRACY AND DESIGN PLATFORM

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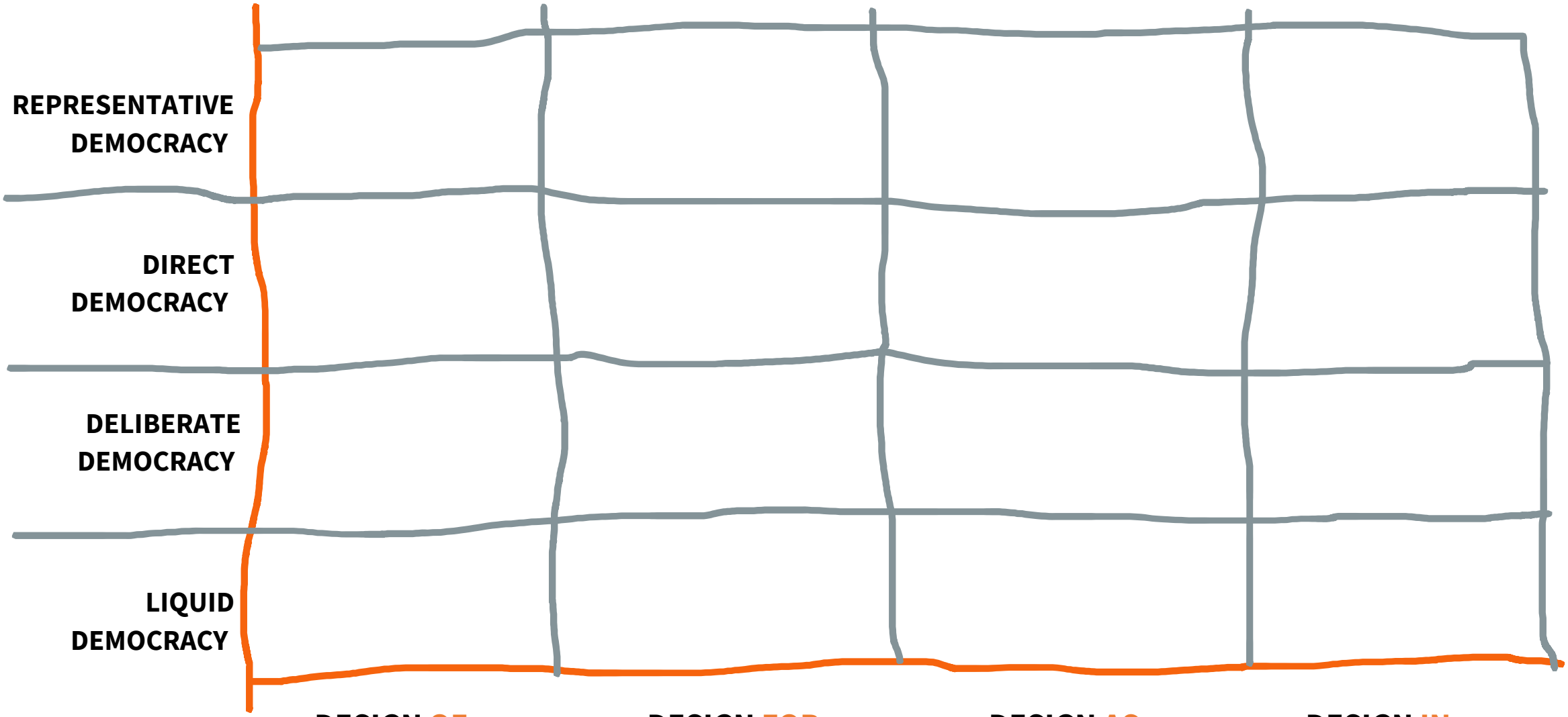
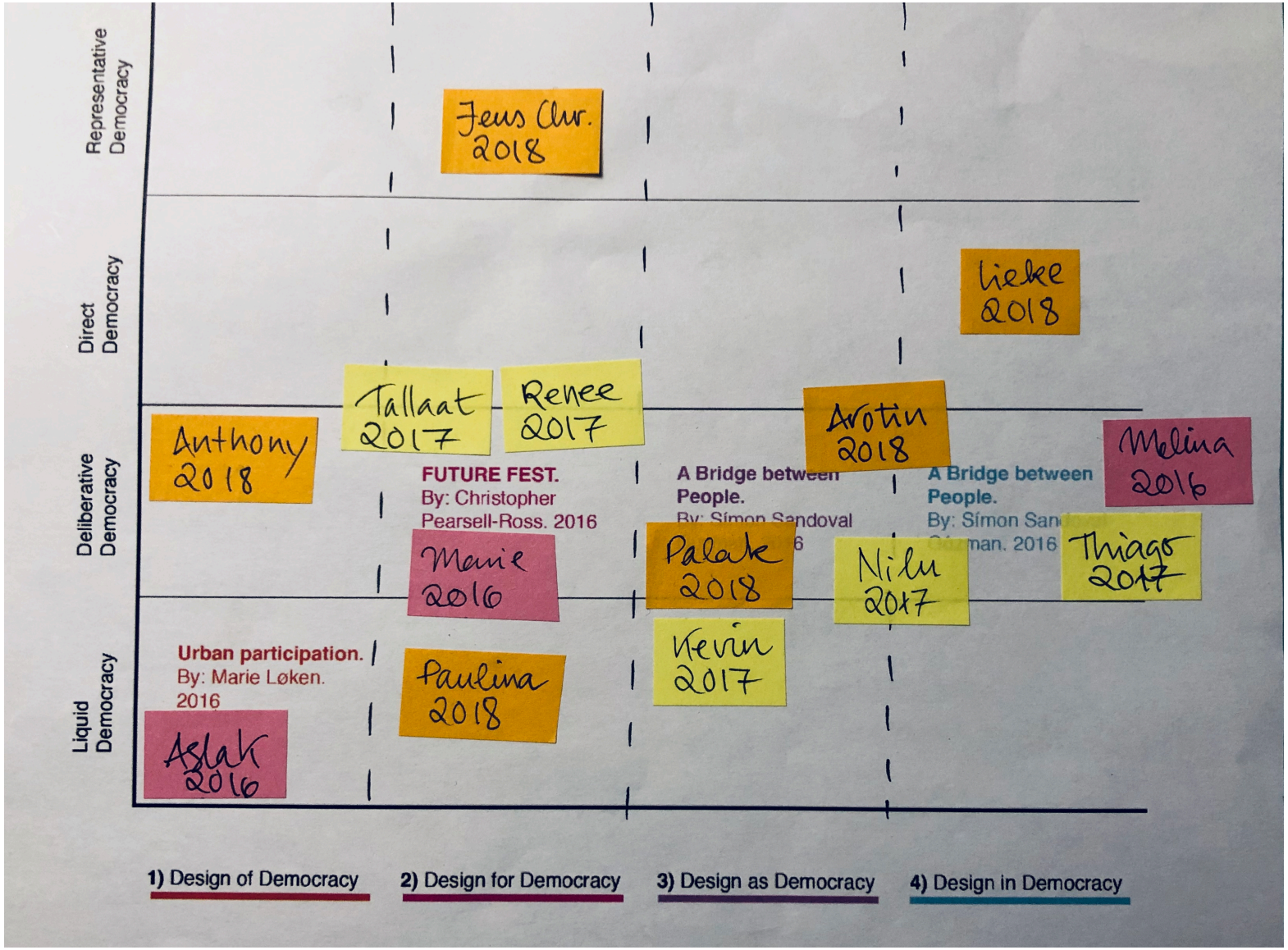

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY
DIRECT DEMOCRACY
DELIBERATE DEMOCRACY
LIQUID DEMOCRACY
DESIGN OF DEMOCRACY
/ democratic processes
/ institutions
DESIGN FOR DEMOCRACY
/ enabling participating
/technology
DESIGN AS DEMOCRACY
/ access, openness, transparency
/ equality & justice
DESIGN IN DEMOCRACY
/ participatory design
/ diverse actors
/ fair and inclusive

The democracy design compass



Design for Democracy 2016

See all 19 democracy projects 2016 – 18:
systemsorienteddesign.net

AHO
Arkitektur- og designhøgskolen i Oslo
The Oslo School of Architecture and Design

SOD
Systems Oriented Design

Do you want to learn more about Systems-oriented design?

Get in touch:

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http://systemsorienteddesign.net/

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