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The Book of Iteration: Workshop and introduction to the method

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Relating Systems Thinking and Design
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The Book of Iteration: Workshop and Introduction to the Method

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This workshop will introduce participants to the process and content of *The Book of Iteration*. For some time, we have been using the Chinese classic the *I Ching* (or *Book of Changes*) as a resource for systemic design in both professional and classroom settings. The unique method of consulting the *I Ching* sparks novel insights, which can be usefully applied to overcome creative obstacles. Our research has found that the 64 passages of the *I Ching* correspond to the stages of a design cycle that apply to any creative process. We therefore adapted the passages into prompts for design thinking and creative practice. The adapted passages, and the various methods of consulting them, provide an intellectual lever that can help move any project toward its next iteration.

KEYWORDS: *I Ching*, *Yijing*, *Book of Iteration*

RSD TOPIC(S): Methods & Methodology

Workshop Description

The *I Ching*, or *Book of Changes*, is an ancient Chinese text used in ritual divination for thousands of years. Over the past few years we have been adapting this text for use as a design and development resource. The core of our method is a reinterpretation of the concepts and descriptions found in the text specifically for the context of design and creativity. The workshop will begin with a short introduction to the original text, its

multiple translations, and the tradition of “commentary” that encapsulates the multiple additions and revisions to the text that have occurred over the ages, including our own. After being introduced to the I Ching and our reinterpretation, participants will be guided through the process of consulting the text for advice on project development.

Participants will get the most benefit from this 90-120 minute hybrid workshop if they arrive with a project already in progress. This project can be any creative or research endeavour, personal or professional, provided the participant is open to gaining insight into how to advance the project in the near future. We will provide an online and physical form to help participants identify an appropriate project, as well as an advance draft of our text to be used for consultation during the workshop. After their guided consultation, participants will be given an opportunity to share the results of their consultation with the group and gain further or more refined insight through discussion. Participants will also be given a free gift and continued access to the text for future consultations.

Outline

0-10: Welcome and submit project form (link provided)

10-30: introduction to the text and our reinterpretation

30-45: Introduction to the consultation method

45-75: Guided consultation

75+: Discuss and Share