



Carla Cipolla

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Carla Cipolla has been involved since 2004 in projects on design for social innovation in Europe, Africa and in Brazil where she is now associate professor of the UFRJ - Federal University of Rio de Janeiro / COPPE - Institute for Graduate Studies and Research in Engineering.

She is coordinator of the UFRJ/Coppe DESIS Lab, which is one of the founding members of the DESIS Network. Her research and design activities in this group are focused on design for social innovation, emphasizing international cooperative and comparative projects of relevance to specific Brazilian issues.

The international projects she is involved in include: TRANSIT (Transformative Social Innovation Theory), a European Community funded (FP7) research initiative which involves twelve separate research institutes from across Europe and Latin-America, and aims to develop a theory of transformative social innovation by studying how networks of social entrepreneurs and families of social innovation projects contribute to systemic societal change; and IFC (Informal, Formal, Collaborative), a program of activities involving DESIS Labs in Africa, Latin-America and in India, which aims to capitalize on the rich social and human resources that exist within underserved communities, where processes of dynamic change are happening despite their resource and service constrained environments.

Carla was awarded her Phd in Design at Politecnico di Milano in 2007, where she started up a research and design activity on the interpersonal relational qualities of social innovations. Social innovations are analysed in terms of a new service model: "relational services", which present interaction patterns characterised by mutual trust and intimacy between participants and are able to offer alternatives to standard or mainstream service provisions.

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