Scientific Design Process Theories

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Knowledge production in the design research community.

How could we determine the scientific*ness* of a design process theory?

Falsification

Bounded Rationality
CK Theory
FBS Framework
Figural Complexity
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Basic Statements

assert that an observable event is occurring in a certain place at a certain time

Bounded Rationality

(Simon, 1969)

Problems are clearly stated at the beginning of a design process.

<u>25</u> scientific

<u>150</u> non-scientific

Fewer stakeholders value scientific theories.

Design research is building a unique intellectual culture.

Different lenses may yield different insights about scientific design process theories.

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The Intellectual Culture Argument

"…building [design's] own intellectual culture, acceptable and defensible in the world on its own terms." (Cross, 2001)

Fewer scientific design process theories could be indicative of such culture-building efforts.

Science is neither written off nor prioritized.

But we might still be swamping ourselves with other kinds of theories.

150 theories

could they be designerly? what criteria could we
use to assess this quality?

Is it even
worthwhile to
develop criteria
to assess the
designerliness of
a theory?

Thanks!

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