

Warning! Integration in design is never neutral

Factors to watch out for when designing with diverse ways of knowing

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Designers are never neutral. Positioned as integrators, they decide what knowledge enters a process, whose voices are amplified, and what futures are foreclosed. These decisions often remain invisible, yet they carry profound ethical and political consequences. This zine acts as a public service announcement, exposing the hidden forces – bias, positionality, methods, tools, and institutional dynamics that shape integration in design and demand greater accountability from those who practice it.

Through vignettes, the zine draws on reflexive and autoethnographic fragments to reveal moments where integration falters – when certain voices dominate, when institutional priorities override care, or when dominant tools mask certain perspectives. These fragments show that design is always an act of (in)justice, mediated through integrative choices, external forces, and that accountability lies with designers to recognize and respond to these stakes.

Structured with warnings, provocations, and visual metaphors, the zine urges designers to pause and ask: Whose knowledge am I privileging and silencing? How does my positionality shape what counts as credible? How am I accountable for these outcomes?

Rather than prescribing solutions, the zine holds space for discomfort and reflexivity as essential steps toward justice by design. It challenges designers to approach integration with greater consciousness and care, not as passive collectors of knowledge but as conscious mediators of power, meaning, and inclusion. Speaking to design communities and wider publics, the zine insists designers can be agents of justice, fostering knowledge integration for design justice.

Printing Instructions

See “subendran-print ready-final”, print on A3 paper, double-sided,