

**NEW DESIGN NOMADS@HOME.EDU  
DIGITAL / DISTANCE INCLUSIVE METHODS OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONALS &  
PROFESSIONALS COMMUNITIES**

**Theodor Liho**

*Sofia National Academy of Arts, Bulgaria*



**Name:** Theodor Liho  
**Webpage:** <http://nha.bg/en>  
**E-mail:** [teddy.liho@nha.bg](mailto:teddy.liho@nha.bg)  
**Institution:** Sofia Academy of Arts & Design  
**Address:** **The Eggs Studio;** 89, Rakovski St. 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria  
**Phone.** +359 888 581450



*...The potter's clay forms a vessel. It is the space within that serves. A house is built with solid walls. The nothingness of window and door alone renders it usable, that which exists may be transformed. What is non-existent has boundless uses.*

*LAO-TSE*

**Research purpose.** Platforms like Zoom, Webex, Teams, Skype, Google Meeting, etc. All of them became our main connecting tools to work, learn and socialize. We are faced with the “Dilema” of our reality, which has never existed before: “Health” v/s “Economy”.

**Keywords:** New Design Nomads, Distance, Hybrid Learning, Sustainable Living, Communication, Art, New Transformer Heroes

**Results / Findings.** All this is about feeling that we miss something important, probably because we can't see it, but in fact this invisible vital form takes the lives of human beings. New nomads “@ Home”, “Artist & Designers @ Home”, “Students @ Home”? Yes, it sounds like an oxymoron. Yes, but no. During the last year “The nothingness” defined “new life-style” and it seems no way back @ 100%.

The “Game Rules” were changed by one of the smallest units of the material world – “coVIRUS'19” Feeling of fear! The nothingness! Lost in abandoned cities: (Figure 1) the social contacts /practices are in a complete new form of life.

We have New Priorities. While waiting for the vaccine against CoVit'19 Medicine Practitioners / Scientists and Teachers / Educators are “New Transformer Heroes”. They are in highly intensive risk and action than usual, guide the social transformation process as never before. With a vision for the post-pandemic reality our “New Transformer Heroes” keep hard working with human dignity and devotion to society. Some weeks ago, students in different European countries were asked: *What do they really expect from their teachers /educators in those distance / hybrid learning forms?*

- a. To reduce education materials in half size...
- b. To be more flexible in education practice...
- c. To be more liberal...
- d. ....

Surprisingly or NOT, the biggest part of them filled in line d: “Empathy”.

Empathy is the “bright side of the earth”. We see flourishing nature around us: Plenty of animals can be seen in the cities, (Figure 1). And thus remind us that we are not “owners of the planet”. We belong to it...

**Originality / Practical implications.** Empathy in educational process: numerous online learning opportunities like the “FutureLearn” platform uniting leading universities and organizations from all over the world. With those have appeared new social forms of Education Nomads “@home”. Many students are included in the educational process from their hometowns. On line Pitch Training / Presentations skills “@ Best 3 minutes”.

Actually, the Concept for the Creative Nomads is not new: James Hennessey & Victor Papanek in the beginning of the 70ies developed the concept for nomadic furniture / structures, predicting commuting of the working labor and giving them the best creative facility (Figure 1).

Today our heroes: New Design Nomads “@home” have a lot of unheard wonderful music, a lot of unread books, a lot of wonderful unseen films, etc. New form of on-line visits of remarkable places – museums / galleries virtual tours (Musei Vaticani, Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam).

On line stage events: live concerts streaming, filmed theatre performances, digitized archives / libraries (The British Library, material Archive in Sitterwerk Foundation, Oodi Helsinki Central Library). What is “Service Design @ Oodi”? Design input from the users. Oodi has been designed together with the city’s residents so that it can best correspond with the wishes and needs that library users have. Ideas, tips and dreams have been gathered at urban events and workshops, and through websites and various campaigns. Dreams and participation, as the Central Library, Oodi is open to all people – a public space owned by the residents. That is why it must meet the varying needs of its different user groups and partners, and this would not be possible without collaborative design work.

Innovative design platforms, webinars and on-line events: listen and learn from each other. Seize the opportunity.

Monotype: we empower creative minds to build and express authentic brands through design, technology and expertise. “Dutch Design Week” (DDW20 with DDW Talks: The New Intimacy), “Dubai Design Week” & “2<sup>nd</sup> Emirates International Poster Festival” new “Bauhaus”: European policy for the synergy between Art & Design and Sciences & Technologies concepted on common thinking out of stereotypes -“Design Without Borders”, “The Future of Freelancing”. This year over 10,000 designers from 42 countries shared their insights and outlook on the industry. “99designs” compiled the results into a report that maps out the global freelance landscape and explores the challenges facing a diverse creative community.



*Figure 1. “When presenting we usually have 6 tools available”.  
Aut. Theodor Liho, 2020*