ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:

Design teaching behind the screen: Investigating student and design tutor interaction in distance education

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• Abstract (300 words):

Online education obliged us to reconsider teaching instruments, strategies, methodologies, and learning experience for design education dissociating from conventional educational setting of physical studios. By the emergence of global transition to ensure the continuity of educational practices, all the communication, practice, and assessment requirements materially adapted to the new mediums in every institution. Traditional spatial setting of a studio is transformed into immediate surroundings of individuals. Although students from second to last years of undergraduate education are familiar with the language we speak, and tools/instruments they use, the freshman students has no self-awareness, experience, or domain knowledge.

This paper questions the transformed nature of student and design tutor relations in remote teaching and its influence on the learning practices of the students via a brief case study with 271 freshman students from five different design departments, who are attending the freshman design studio in complete mixed groups. The discussion revolves
around how to construct a balanced communication that would overcome the emerging difficulties of teaching behind the screens of computers aiding the students to acquire design skills and knowledge. This paper starts with theoretical discussions on learning as an activity and move on to a comparative analysis on the current state of remote teaching followed by highlights on how to adapt student-tutor relations to the new medium.

- Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Ali Aslankan received his bachelors degree (2005), masters degree (2008) and doctorate degree (2014) in architecture from the Middle East Technical University (METU). He completed two years of doctorate research (2011-2013) in the Department of Architecture, Penn State University (PSU) as a visiting researcher with Fulbright Program and as a visiting scholar under PSU sponsorship. His area of interest includes architectural space, housing and urbanism, social and cultural processes in architecture, and design education.