

# Norwich University of the Arts Library

## Decolonising Communication Design and Illustration

The reading list below is a small selection of books on this topic, it is viewed as a starting point for your own research – we hope you find it insightful and thought provoking. See our Decolonising the Library webpage for more suggestions.

Costanza-Chock, S. (2020) [\*Design justice : community-led practices to build the worlds we need.\*](#) Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

742 COS

Explores the theory and practice of design justice, demonstrates how universalist design principles and practices erase certain groups of people-specifically, those who are intersectionally disadvantaged or multiply burdened under the matrix of domination (white supremacist heteropatriarchy, ableism, capitalism, and settler colonialism)-and invites readers to "build a better world, a world where many worlds fit; linked worlds of collective liberation and ecological sustainability."

Kaufmann-Buhler, J., Pass, V. and Wilson, C. (eds.) (2019) [\*Design history beyond the canon.\*](#) London: Bloomsbury Visual Arts.

745 KAU

The authors' research highlights the often marginalised role of gender and racial identity in the production and consumption of design, the politics which underpins design practice and the role of designed objects as pathways of nostalgia and cultural memory. While focused primarily on North American examples from the early 20th century onwards, this collection also features essays examining European and Soviet design history, as well as the influence of Asia and Africa on Western design practice.

Lupton, E. et al. (2021) [\*Extra bold : a feminist, inclusive, anti-racist, non-binary field guide for graphic designers.\*](#) New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

750.7 LUP

Opens with critical essays that rethink design principles and practices through theories of feminism, racism, inclusion, and nonbinary thinking. It features interviews, essays, typefaces, and projects from dozens of contributors with a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds, abilities, gender identities, and positions of economic and social privilege, adding new voices to the dominant design canon.

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Mareis, C. (2021) [\*Design Struggles : Intersecting Histories, Pedagogies, and Perspectives\*](#). Valiz.

742 MAR

An intersectional take on design history and the design discourse, with feminist, decolonial, anti-racist, activist, non-Western and indigenous perspectives.

Papanek, V. (1984) [\*Design for the real world : human ecology & social change\*](#).

London: Thames & Hudson.

742 PAP

Provides an important and more general analysis that critically revisits the Western-Modernist foundations of design and the resulting concepts, artefacts, and applications. Papanek points out problems with design that are still relevant today. Designers are still used to create products that are obsolete. He talks about how “design is discriminatory against major sections of the population in spite of the clients’ differing race, age, sex and schooling. Most designers seem to design for an exclusively white, male chauvinist audience.

Norman Rockwell Museum (2016) *Diversity, Perception, and Responsibility in Illustration with Robyn Phillips-Pendleton*. Available at:

<https://youtu.be/xmAOPyBTtHQ>

Robyn Phillips-Pendleton, Associate Professor of Visual Communication at the University of Delaware, examines blatant, subtle, or perceived racial stereotypes created by illustrators, sanctioned by art directors and publishers, and how they have shaped America’s perception of race for over four centuries.

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