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Book review: Design for social innovation: Case studies from around the world

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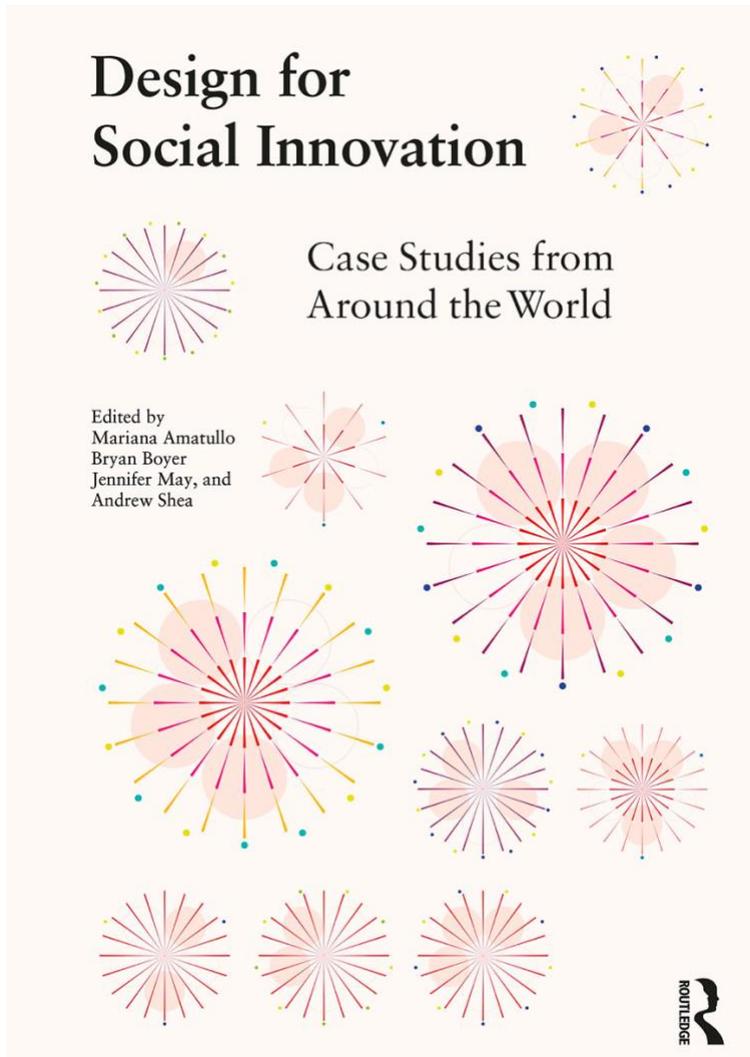
Amatullo, M., Boyer, B., May, J., & Shea, A., Eds. (2022). *Design for social innovation: Case studies from around the world*. **Routledge.** https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003021360 **418 pp.**

Featuring 45 case studies from 6 continents, this book is a snapshot of design for social innovation. An extensive introduction from the editors considers the boundaries and difficulties in projects based on design for social innovation: "With countless pilot projects, startups, and labs that have come and gone, the question is how the sustainability of design for social innovation practices can be enhanced. If that's a question you care about, this book is for you", they note.

The editors' intention for this book was to understand how design for social innovation can be sustainable. The case studies included resulted from a global survey and include projects from Africa, Asia, Europe,

North and South America, Oceania and a few cross-continent projects.

A key concern is measuring the impact of design for social innovation projects. The editors found 37 different methods of measuring the impact of design for social innovation work, and ask: Is it reasonable to use the logics of yesterday to assess outcomes that represent elements of tomorrow? Issues their panel discussion identified were that DSI takes place at the intersections of disciplines and sectors with the involvement of many stakeholders; consultancy-based work is mismatched to goals of DSI initiatives and many factors are worked through as such projects progress.

While the projects presented in the book were mainly funded by government or the third sector, the editors were encouraged that a third of the cases were funded by fee for service.

The volume is a useful combination of 'how we did our design for social innovation' with panel discussion on issues facing design for social innovation.