



Power in coffee: Disrupting practice for community-led change

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Abstract

Join us for a traditional Eritrean Boon coffee ceremony during which we will explore the application of genuine power-sharing when designing with traditionally marginalised communities. Hosted by women from the Flemington Housing Estate, our ceremony is intended to welcome you into a cultural ritual that will disrupt both the spaces and ways in which you consider power.

Through our ceremony, we will explore the tensions that underly designing with culturally and linguistically diverse communities, especially the negotiation of rich cultural complexity in design practice.

Over sips of Eritrean ginger coffee, we will dive into open dialogue about the enablers and barriers to power-sharing in the design process. This reflection draws on our lived experience as well as our work co-designing with and for our community. As women from Muslim-African backgrounds, we experience the ramifications of others designing solutions for our community that do not address our needs. Therefore, we prioritised genuine powersharing in our co-design project addressing unemployment for women in our community, developing tools and processes that we will share with you. These tools include a powersharing tool developed

through our learnings, which can be used to define and monitor the transfer of power between a professional designer and community members.

By participating in our Eritrean Boon coffee ceremony, you will have the opportunity to explore a different cultural tradition, share learnings about power-sharing in design, and interact with our tools and processes for ensuring genuine community ownership of the design process.

Keywords : Power-sharing, Community-led design, Diversity and inclusion