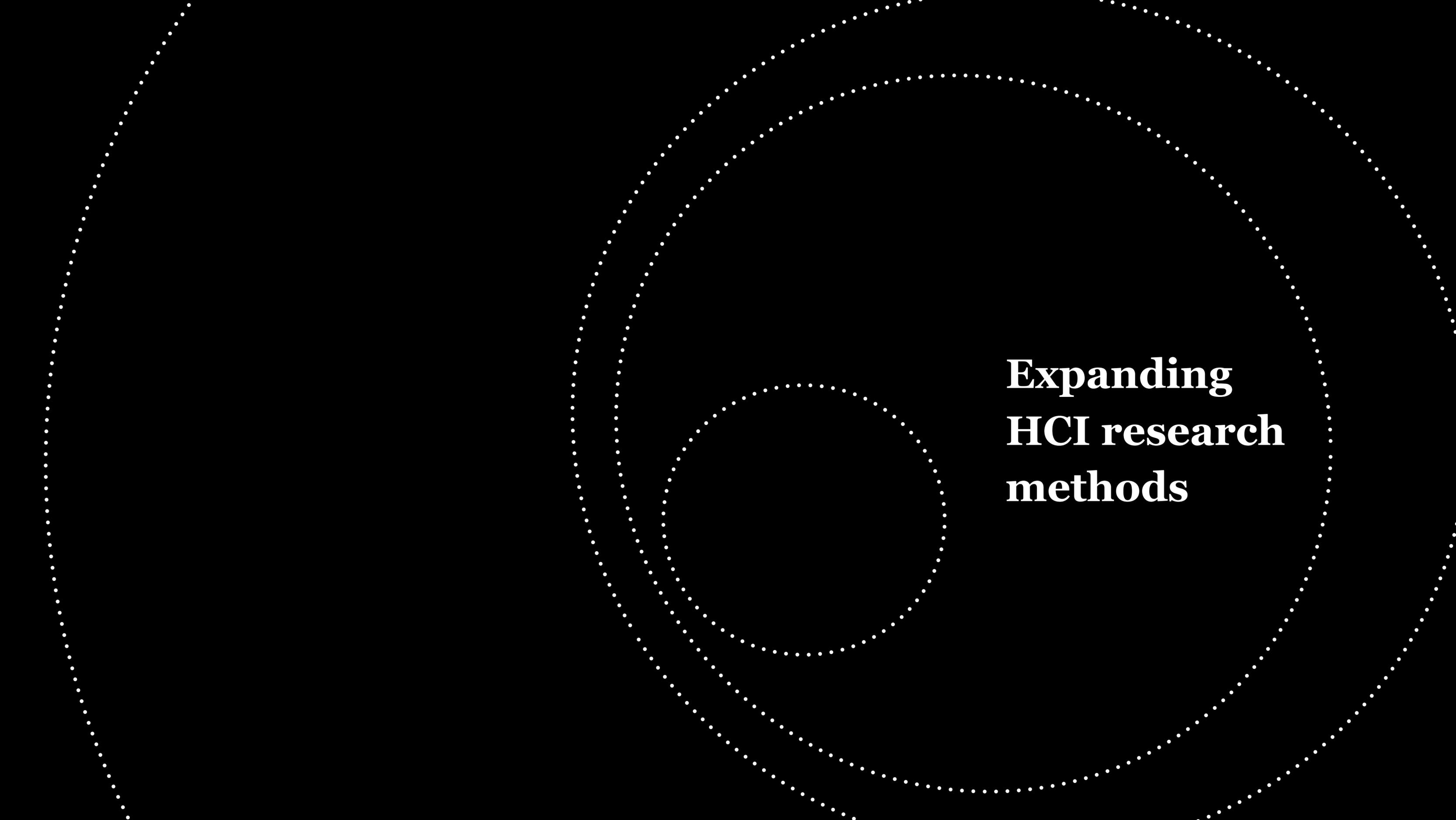

Revealing Tensions in Autobiographical Design in HCI

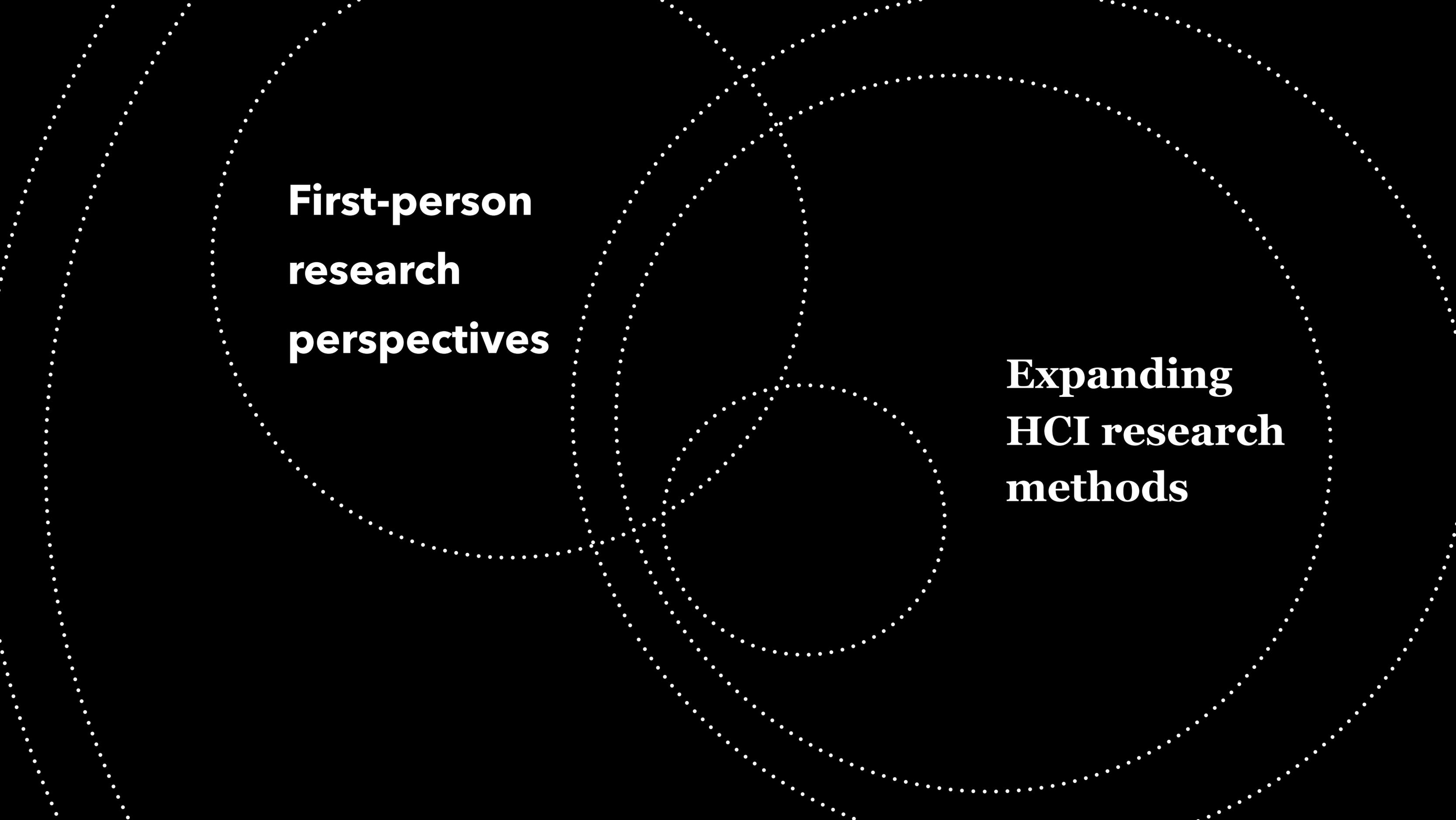
Audrey Desjardins and Aubree Ball
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UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



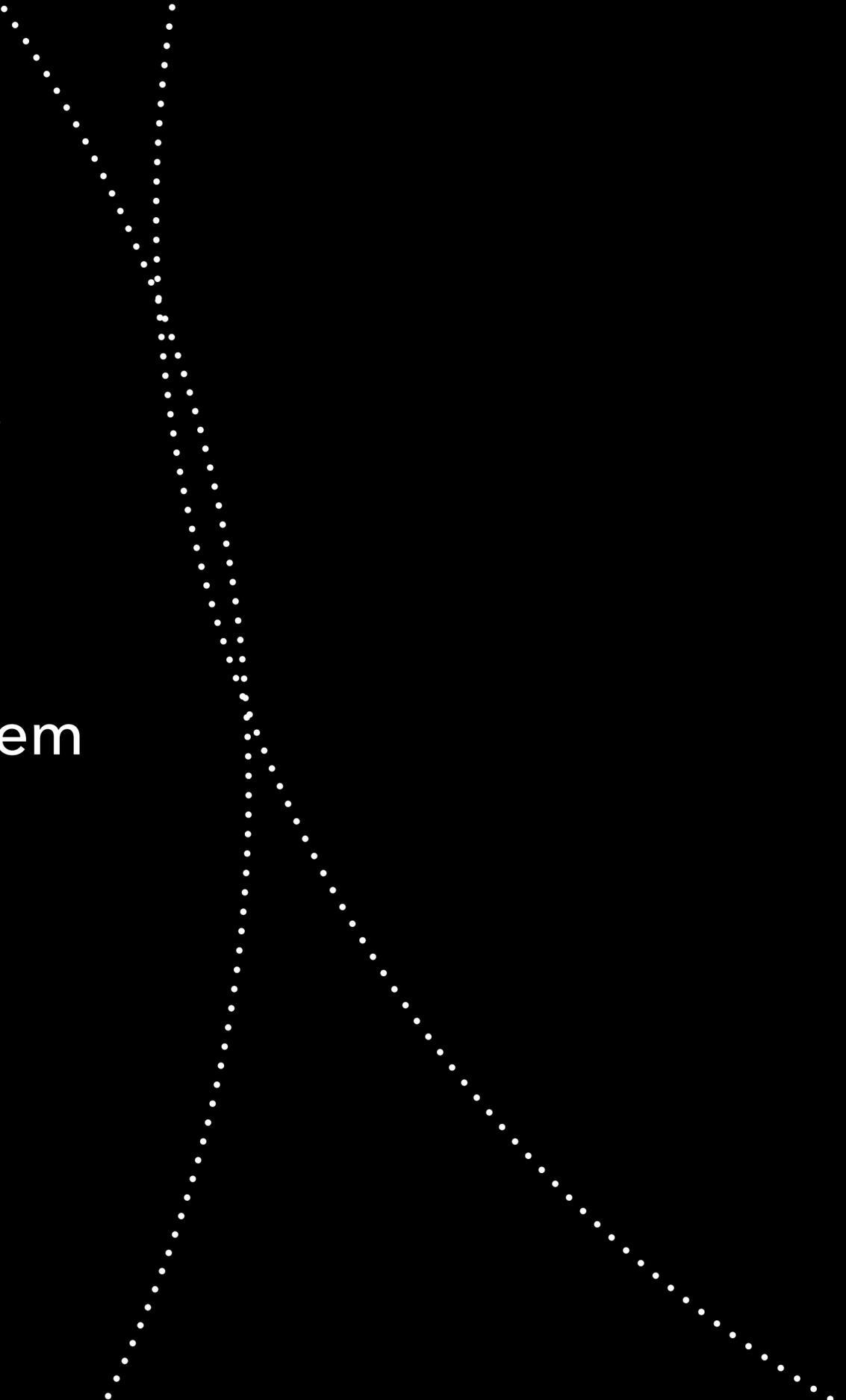


**Expanding
HCI research
methods**



**First-person
research
perspectives**

**Expanding
HCI research
methods**



Autoethnography

Focus on the lived
experience with a system
and within a culture

Autoethnography

Focus on the lived
experience with a system
and within a culture

Autobiographical design

Equal emphasis on the **design
and making** of the system and
living with the system

Autobiographical design: 5 tenets

1.
Genuine
needs

2.
Real
systems

3.
Fast
tinkering

4.
Record
keeping

5.
Long-term
usage

(Neustaedter and Sengers, 2012)

Questions, uncertainties, dilemmas

We need more discussion around the **tensions** that arise when doing autobiographical design

Reflexive analysis of autobiographical design

Two first hand accounts

Four published accounts in HCI

Reflexive analysis of autobiographical design

Two first hand accounts

Data collected: Photos, notes, diary accounts,
tutorials, timelapse videos

.....

Four published accounts in HCI

Data collected: Annotation of published accounts
& email questionnaire to the authors



Van conversion project
Desjardins, 2016



Ludic communication
Ball, 2018



Van conversion project
Desjardins, 2016



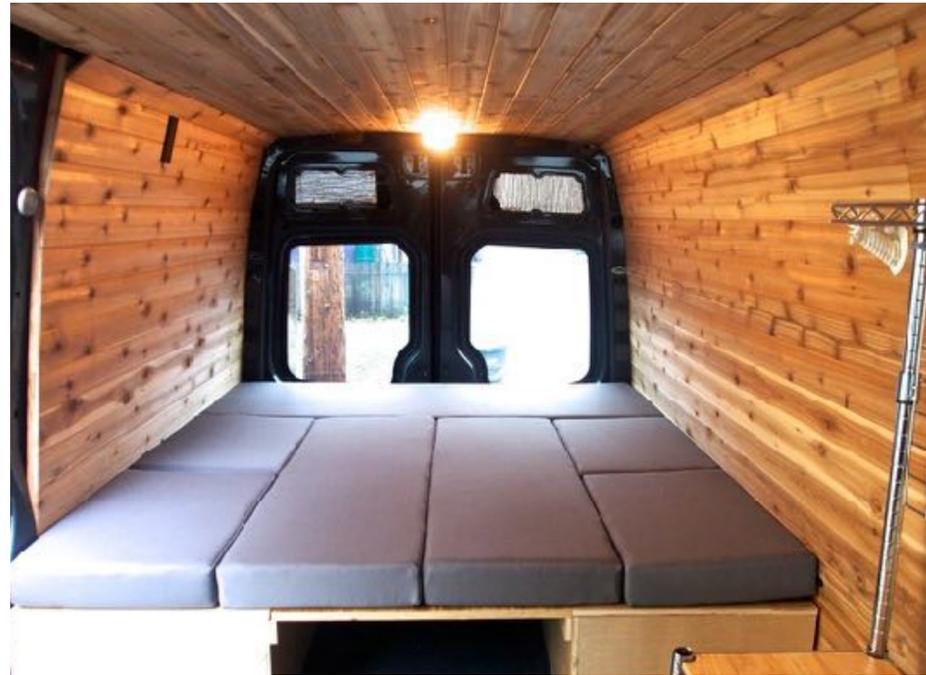
Video Window
Gaver, 2006



Ludic communication
Ball, 2018



Moments
Heshmat, Neustaedter and DeBrincat, 2017



Van conversion project
Desjardins, 2016



Video Window
Gaver, 2006



Leaky Objects
Helms, 2017



Ludic communication
Ball, 2018



Moments
Heshmat, Neustaedter and DeBrincat, 2017



Long-distance relationship prototypes
Chien and Hassenzhal, 2017

5 tensions in autobiographical design

1.

Questioning
genuine needs

2.

Probing design
participation

3.

Weighing intimacy,
relationships and privacy

4.

Contemplating the co-shaping
of design and research

5.

Examining the
authorial voice

5 tensions in autobiographical design

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TENSION #1

Questioning genuine needs

TENSION #1

Questioning genuine needs



TENSION #1

Questioning genuine needs

Not really a need

*“mix of curiosity,
technological possibility,
and aesthetic imagination”*

(Gaver, email)



Gaver, 2006

TENSION #1

Questioning genuine needs

Not really a need

Mixed interests



Chien, 2017

TENSION #1

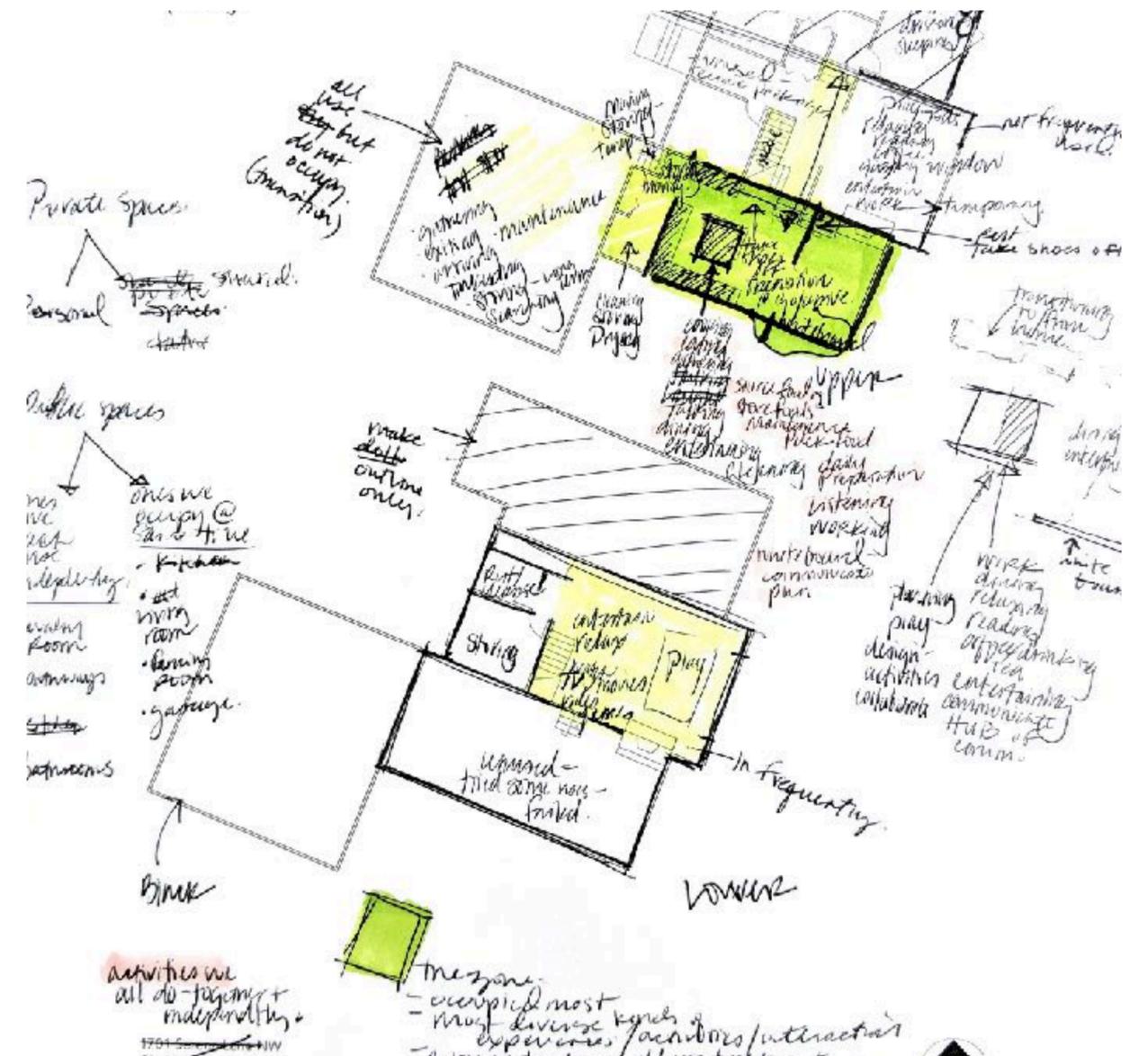
Questioning genuine needs

Not really a need

Mixed interests



Chien, 2017



Ball, 2018

TENSION #1

Questioning genuine needs

Not really a need

Mixed interests

Intentional sincerity

*“this attainment of ‘sincere’
autobiographical design
decisions is requiring more
deliberate reflection and rigor.”*

(Helms, email)

TENSION #3

**Weighing
intimacy,
relationships,
and privacy**

TENSION #3

Weighing intimacy, relationships, and privacy

Relational ethics

*“doubts crept in: Is it a risk? Is it appropriate to bring design and the academic into our personal relationship? **What may happen? Could it ruin my relationship?**”*

(Chien and Hassenzhal, p.10)

TENSION #3

**Weighing
intimacy,
relationships,
and privacy**

Relational ethics

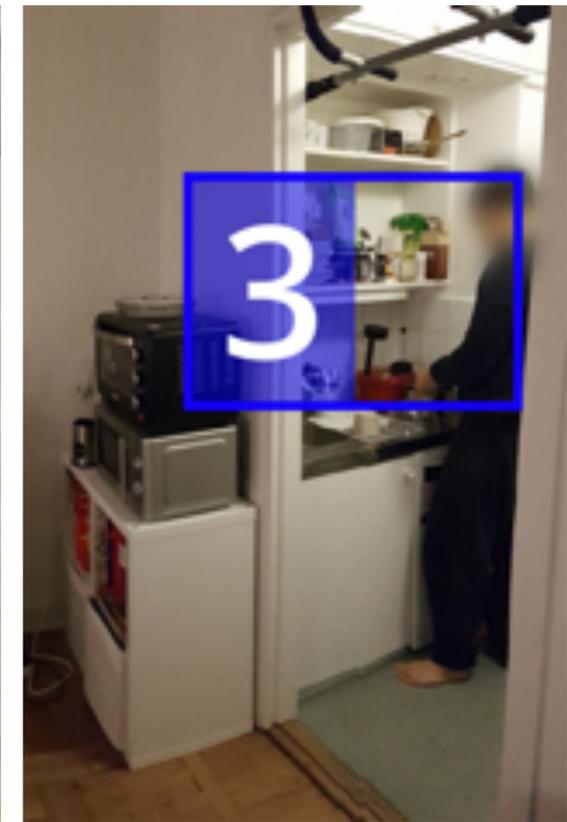
Visual strategies



Ball, 2018



Ball, 2018



Helms, 2017

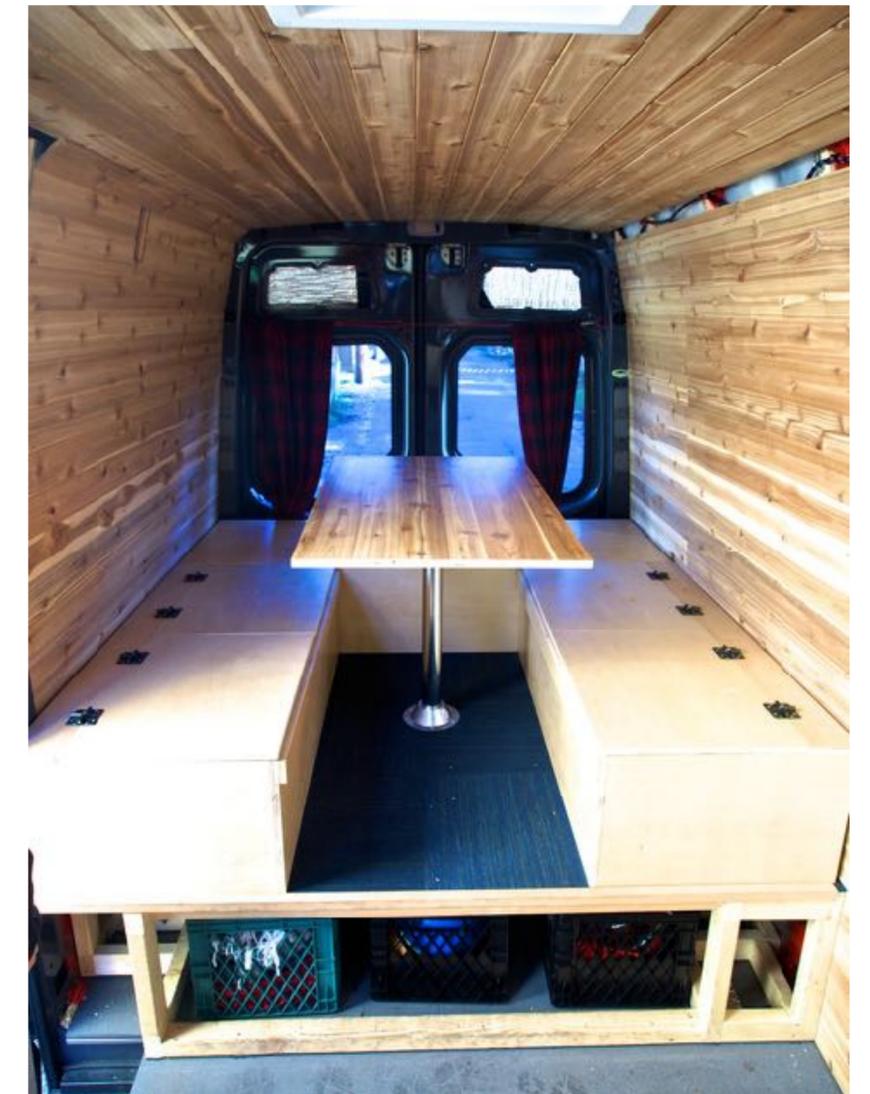
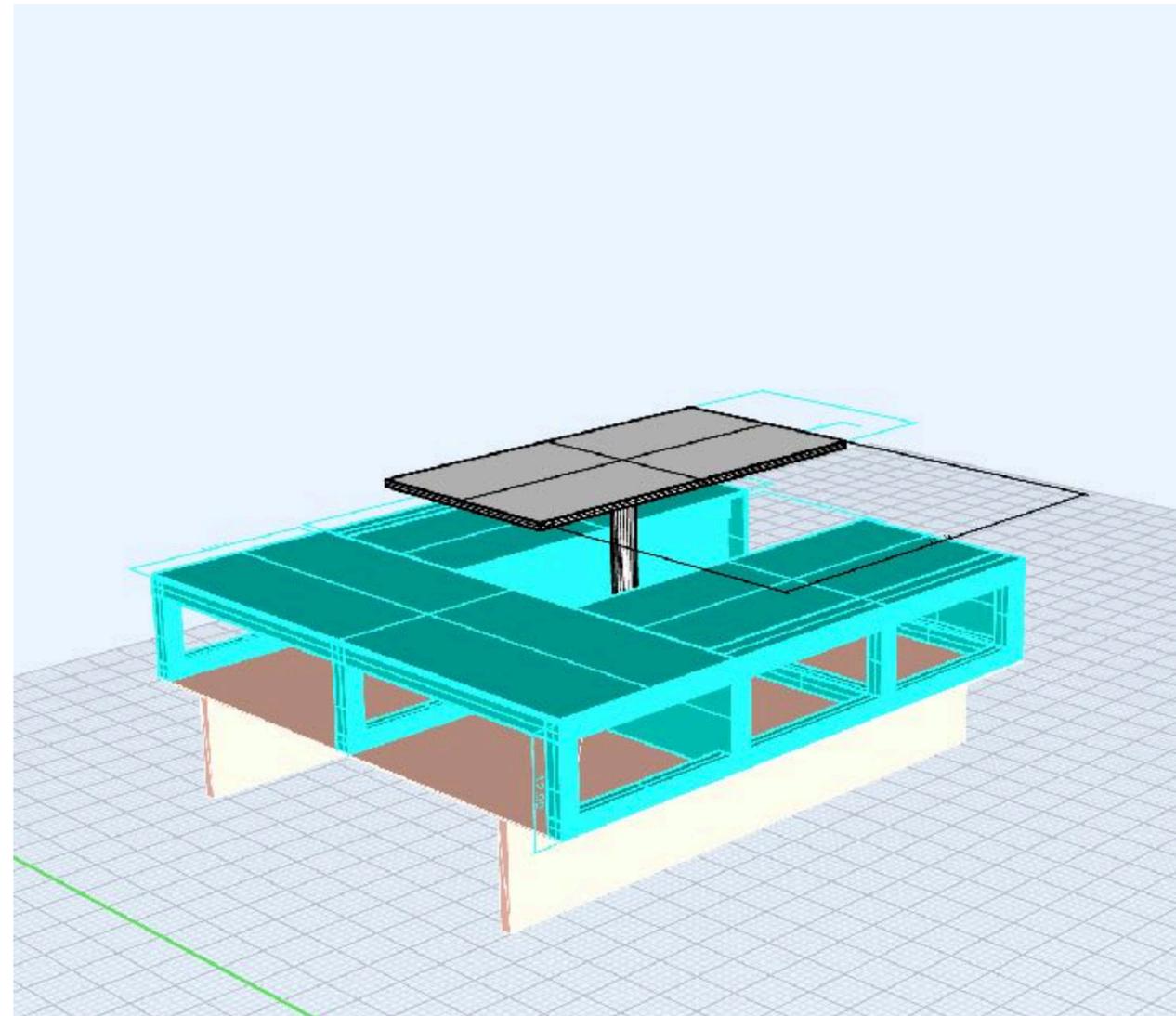
TENSION #4

**Contemplating
the co-shaping
of design and
research**

TENSION #4

Contemplating the co-shaping of design and research

Reflexivity



Desjardins, 2016

TENSION #4

Contemplating the co-shaping of design and research

Reflexivity

Research expertise

*“the researcher is **trained to observe, critique, and reflect** on the family’s usage with extensive knowledge of the related literature and continuous access to observe.”*

(Heshmat, Neustaedter, and DeBrincat, p.679)

5 tensions in autobiographical design

1.

Questioning
genuine needs

2.

Probing design
participation

3.

Weighing intimacy,
relationships and privacy

4.

Contemplating the co-shaping
of design and research

5.

Examining the
authorial voice

Moving forward

1.

Sincerity

Moving forward

1.

Sincerity



2.

Collaboration
and authority

Moving forward

1.
Sincerity



2.
Collaboration
and authority



3.
Inventiveness

To conclude

Autobiographical design can be **powerful, rich, and highly relevant**

Articulating the tensions with finesse and nuance will hopefully open dialogue to continue pushing the method forward

Revealing Tensions in Autobiographical Design in HCI

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TENSION #2

Probing design participation

TENSION #2

Probing design participation

Designing for & with



TENSION #2

Probing design participation

Designing for & with

“Bias like politeness is surprisingly low in our case - Claire always reveals her thought and [critique] directly”

(Chien, email)

TENSION #5

Examining the authorial voice

TENSION #5

Examining the authorial voice

Simplicity

*“I thought introducing his name would be **an unnecessary and distracting detail.**”*

(Helms, email)

TENSION #5

Examining the authorial voice

Simplicity

*“I thought introducing his name would be **an unnecessary and distracting detail.**”*

(Helms, email)

“it seemed to be easiest to read.”

(Neustaedter, email)

TENSION #5

Examining the authorial voice

Simplicity

Commitments

*“Wei-Chi (first author) **will now tell his story** of designing, establishing, and living with “things” [...]. To do so, **we will change to a first-person narrative.**”*

(Chien and Hassenzhal, p.9)