

Curriculum Vitae | William Nickley

Assistant Professor of Design

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William Nickley serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Design at The Ohio State University, with his appointment divided into 50% teaching, 30% research, and 20% service. He earned both his MFA in Design (2020) and his BSD in Industrial Design (2010) from The Ohio State University. With eight years of industry experience prior to his current appointment—ranging from consultancy to in-house, freelance, and non-profit leadership roles—Nickley specializes in merging industrial design expertise with social-impact initiatives. As a member of the Ohio State DESIS Lab, he works at the crossroads of practice, pedagogy, and research; he has introduced two complementary frameworks—design-based making (DBM) and person-centered design (PCD)—to guide how students and community participants navigate the creative process to envision and enact more just and equitable futures through design.

Education

2020	MFA Design, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
2010	BSD, Industrial Design, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
2009-10	Folkwang Hochschule, Essen, Germany (semester abroad)

Employment, Teaching, Research & Outreach

2020-present	Assistant Professor of Design, Department of Design, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
2024-present	Central District Representative, Education Council, Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA)
2017-present	Co-founding Board Member, Local Tech Heroes, Columbus, OH
2017-18	Lecturer, Department of Design, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
2017-18	Senior Industrial Design Contractor, Priority Designs, Columbus, OH
2017	Speculative Design Contractor, Institute for the Future, Palo Alto, CA
2012-16	Senior Industrial Designer, Zoku LLC, Hoboken, NJ
2012	Industrial Design Contractor, Michael Graves Design Group, Princeton, NJ
2011-12	Industrial Design Contractor, Priority Designs, Columbus, OH
2010-12	Founding Partner / Designer, Cobego Design LLC, Columbus, OH

Research Funding

2025-2027	<i>Local Loops: Designing Durable Circular Economies from Waste to Community Impact in Central Ohio.</i> Co-PI: Nickley, W., & Huynh, A. Battelle Engineering, Technology and Human Affairs (BETHA) grant program. \$141,000 (\$60,000 request from BETHA).
2024-2025	<i>Co-designing Competent Care for LGBTQ+ Youth: Developing Simulation-based Training for Multidisciplinary Health Professionals (CoDeAC).</i> Co-PI: McInroy, L. & Nickley, W. Co-I: Maa, T. External Collaborators: Kaleidoscope Youth Center, Nationwide Children's Hospital. 2024 Critical Translational Science Pilot (CTSP) Grant Program, Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI), The Ohio State University, Columbus, and Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH), funded by the

National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS). \$49,726.

- 2023–2024 *Hold it dear: Co-designing the preservation of cultural artifacts.* **Co-PI:** Addy, S., **Nickley, W.**, & Matheny, R. Student Academic Success Research (SASR) Grants, Student Success Research Lab, The Ohio State University, Columbus. \$10,000 (\$15,000 including secured matching funding)
- 2022–2023 *AI + Object Making & Creative Content.* **Co-PI:** Zhu, Q., **Nickley, W.**, & Ainger, M. Artificial Intelligence in the Arts, Humanities, and Engineering: Interdisciplinary Collaborations. \$10,500.
- 2021-2023 *Co-designing cultural humility with LGBTQ+ youth: Addressing provider biases and barriers to healthcare access.* **Co-PI:** Maa, T., McInroy, L. B., **Nickley, W.** Co-I: Chelvakumar, G., Penka, J., Sanders, E., Popeika, J., & Patterson, J. Medicaid Equity Simulation Project. \$631,081.00 USD (+\$686,096.00 USD In-Kind).
- 2020–2021 *Designing for Public Health: Humanities and Arts Leading Transformation (HALT) during COVID-19.* **Co-PI:** Proulx, S., Melsop, S., Matheny, R., **Nickley, W.**, Gumus-Ciftci, H., & Fromme, A. External Collaborators: Bazzano, A., & Murphy, L. Global Arts + Humanities Discovery Theme COVID-19 Special Grants Initiative. \$10,000.
- 2020-2022 *Using Hyve-3D Immersive Virtual Environment System to Facilitate Engagement in Public Participation Activities.* Co-PI: Sébastien Proulx (Project leader), Tijs Van Maasakkers, Susan Melsop, Jason Reece. **Co-I:** Shadrack Addy, Donggyu Lee, **William Nickley.** Battelle Engineering, Technology and Human Affairs (BETHA) Grant Program. \$58,738 | \$146,703 (secured matching funding).
- 2020-2021 *Designing for Public Health. Humanities and Arts Leading Transformation (HALT) during COVID-19.* **Co-PI:** Sébastien Proulx (Project leader), Susan Melsop, Hazal Gumus-Ciftci, Rebekah Matheny, **William Nickley,** Adam Fromme. Collaborator: Alessandra Bazzano (Tulane), Laura Murphy (Tulane) Ohio State Global Arts + Humanities Discovery Themes, COVID-19 Grant Program. \$10,000

Select Publications, Peer Reviewed - Presentations, Proceedings, Papers, Lectures & Workshops

- 2026 McInroy, L., **Nickley, W.**, & Ong, K. (2026, Jan 14–18). Code Rainbow: Creating a Virtual Reality Intervention to Increase LGBTQ+ Competence Among Social Workers and Other Health Professionals [Conference presentation]. *Society for Social Work and Research 30th Annual Conference Anniversary*, Washington, D.C
- 2025 **Nickley, W. A.**, Proulx, S., Sanders, E. B.-N., McInroy, L., & Melsop, S. (2025). Making for one another: Design-based making and positive youth development. *International Journal of Design*, 19(1), 21-44. <https://doi.org/10.57698/v19i1.02>
- Snyder, C., **Nickley, W.**, & Sanders, E. B.-N. (2025, Sep 16–19). Imagining together: Co-designing sexual and reproductive futures [conference presentation]. *2025 Industrial Designers Society of America International Design Conference & Education Symposium*, Detroit.
- Nickley, W.**, O'Hara, S., Ackerman, M., Muñoz-Arias, C., & Rincon, H. (2025, Sep 16–19). ISPARK mobile makerspace initiative: Closing the bedside innovation gap through democratizing design

[conference presentation]. *2025 Industrial Designers Society of America International Design Conference & Education Symposium*, Detroit.

Nickley, W., McInroy, L., Sanders, E. B.-N., Snyder, C., & Ong, K. M. (2025, June 23–25). Director's Cut: Hope-Filled Approaches to Amplifying LGBTQ+ Youth Voices in Healthcare [Workshop]. In *Proceedings of The 24th Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference* (pp.1242–1245). University of Reykjavík, Iceland. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3713043.3735540>

Nickley, W., Wisniewski, D., & Abell, A. (2025, June), Ideation equation: Examining how mechanical engineering and industrial design capstone students generate ideas. *2025 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition*, Montréal. <https://doi.org/10.18260/1-2--56723> and <https://peer.asee.org/56723>

2024 Zhu, K. & **Nickley, W.** (2024). AI + object making & creative content. In F. Lorig, J. Tucker, A. D. Lindström, F. Dignum, P. Murukannaiah, A. Theodorou, & P. Yolum (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Hybrid Human-Artificial Intelligence (HHAI 2024), Volume 386: HHA1 2024: Hybrid Human AI Systems for the Social Good* (pp. 488–489). 10–14 June, Malmö, Sweden. <https://doi.org/10.3233/FAIA240233>

Nickley, W. (2024, June 25). Doctoral education in design: The Administrative challenges – visualization live stream with audio [Performance]. *DRS2024*, Boston. <https://youtu.be/lna2uXepd-k>

Proulx, S., Munch, F., Gauthier, P., Cooper, R., Teixeira, C., Imbesi, L., & Cucuzzella, C. (2024). Doctoral education in design. The administrative challenges, in Gray, C., Hekkert, P., Forlano, L., Ciuccarelli, P. (Eds.), *DRS2024*. 23–28 June, Boston, USA. <https://doi.org/10.21606/drs.2024.1579>

2023 Proulx, S., & **Nickley, W.** (2023) Sparking creative prowess through a peculiar design challenge: a mocktail design charrette. In De Sainz Molestina, D., Galluzzo, L., Rizzo, F., & Spallazzo, D. (Eds.), *IASDR 2023: Life-Changing Design*, 9-13 October, Politecnico di Milano. <https://doi.org/10.21606/iasdr.2023.781>

Melsop, S., Proulx, S., & **Nickley, W.** (2023, October 4–5). Developing a design lab for social innovation and sustainability [Paper presentation abstract]. *2023 Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference*, East Lansing, MI. <https://engagementscholarship.org/meetings/past-conferences/esc-2023>

Proulx, S., Gauthier, P., & **Nickley, W.** (2023, October 4–5). Differential moral framing; Facilitating ideation and coordination of diverse perspectives on what is worth doing [Workshop]. *2023 Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference*, East Lansing, MI. <https://engagementscholarship.org/meetings/esc-2023/>

Proulx, S., Gauthier, P., & **Nickley, W. A.** (2023). Differential moral framing. Changing perspectives to uncover opportunities [interactive workshop]. *IASDR 2023*. Politecnico di Milano. <https://www.iasdr2023.polimi.it/>

2022 **Nickley, W.** (2022, November 10). *Critical I/O: Hybridity's heart is human* [invited presentation and panel discussion]. *Blurred Lines 3.0*, Industrial Designers Society of America, Columbus, OH, United States.

Gumus-Ciftci, H., Proulx, S., **Nickley, W.**, & Beecher, M. A. (submitted 2022, April 11). If it's broken, don't just fix it: Exploring repair as design through a two-week charrette [Paper presentation]. *Design for Adaptation Cumulus*. Detroit.

Nickley, W., Snyder, C., McInroy, L. B., Sanders, E. B.-N., Scheadler, T. (2022, June 25–July 3). Affirmation excursion: Moving beyond surveys to make space for your stakeholders' identities [Conference workshop]. *DRS 2022*, Universidad del País Vasco. Bilbao.

Nickley, W., McInroy, L. B., Sanders, E. B.-N., Snyder, C., Scheadler, T. (2022, June 20–22). Toward affirmative co-design: Accounting for intersectionality in LGBTQ+ youth identity & lived experience [Paper presentation]. *8th International Forum of Design as a Process: Disrupting Geographies in the Design World*. Bologña.

Nickley, W. (2022, May 9). *Tokens: An experimental making project to foster dialogue for racial justice* [invited workshop]. Department of Design Faculty Retreat, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, United States. <https://sites.google.com/view/racialjusticetokens/>

Gumus Ciftci, H., Beecher, M.A., Proulx, S., & **Nickley, W.** (2022). If it's broken, don't just fix it: Exploring repair as design through a two-week design charrette. Cumulus Conference 2022. *Design for Adaptation Proceedings*. Detroit. <https://cumulusdetroit2022.org/>

2021 Gümüş Çiftçi, H., **Nickley, W.**, Proulx, S. (2021). Rekindling student connection and engagement: A covid-era design charrette. In Cruickshank, L. and Valentine, L. (Eds.) *Safe Harbours, Proceedings of the 2021 EAD Conference*.

Nickley, W., Gümüş Çiftçi, H., & Proulx, S. (2021). No distance too far: Adapting education + industry collaboration for COVID and beyond. In Paepcke-Hjeltness, V. & Cyamani, A. (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 2021 IDSA International Design Conference & Education Symposium*.

Nickley, W. (2021). Practices of making: Exploring design-based making within Positive Youth Development. In M. Botta, & S. Junginger (Eds.), *Design as common good: Framing design through pluralism and social values* (pp.1086–1106). SUPSI, HSLU, swissdesignnetwork.

2020 **Nickley, W.**, Proulx, S., & Nini, P. (2019, March 1–3). Mobilizing the design process within compensated work therapy for military veterans at a Department of Veterans Affairs ambulatory care center [Poster presentation]. *Thirteenth International Conference on Design Principles and Practices*, St. Petersburg, Russia.