

Gun Issues

Design, Place & Social Innovation

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Issues we have identified

- Place
- Affordances
- Non-lethal violence
- Lethal violence
- Policy

A photograph of a residential street in Pittsburgh. In the foreground, a row of colorful row houses (yellow, red, and white) lines the street. A black pickup truck is parked on the left, and a silver car is further down the road. In the background, the Pittsburgh skyline is visible, including the PPG Place and other skyscrapers. The word "Place" is overlaid in large white text in the center of the image.

Place

Place: Pittsburgh

- Education
- Connectivity
- Geography

We need to know:

- who is specifically affected in the community
- key informants
- what the locals want, what is their perspective
- how people are relating to others in the community
(points of interaction, depth, access, share)

A close-up photograph of a person's right hand holding a black semi-automatic handgun. The hand is positioned in a way that demonstrates the grip and trigger area. The handgun has a textured black frame and a silver-colored slide. The word "AFFORDANCES" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image, partially obscuring the trigger and the hand's grip.

Affordances

Affordances of Firearms

- the gun is not a neutral object, when we see the gun we imagine all of the action possibilities that the gun has.
- separatist thought ("guns don't kill people...") doesn't hold.
- phenomena of "gun-with-human" which turns us into some hybrid monster.
- guns have agency because they are waiting for the human to use it.
- objects script our actions

More Affordances

- Guns live in an ecosystem
- Guns as an object have been designed to kill so what constitutes a real "gun accident"?
- "black boxing" of guns which allows for them to become something that is normalized in our culture.
- Firearms live in a continuum of fear, anger, pleasure, and necessity.

A red zippered bag is partially open, revealing a blue spiral notebook. A handgun is lying on the notebook. The background is a light blue surface.

Non-lethal Violence

Non-Lethal Gun Violence

- guns used for threats/terror - inner city young males
- children at risk
- rape, assault, domestic abuse, robbery
- mother to child impact
- gun - power differentials - motivation for gun ownership
- under-reported

The image features a close-up, low-angle shot of yellow police crime scene tape. The tape is strung across the frame, with the words "POLICE CRIME SCENE" and "DO NOT CROSS" visible in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Overlaid in the center of the image is the text "Lethal Violence" in a large, white, sans-serif font. The background is a warm, orange-brown color, and the overall composition is dramatic and somber.

Lethal Violence

Lethal Gun Violence

- children are disproportionately affected
- huge expenditures in healthcare
- leading cause of death for adolescents
- kids killing other kids
- homicides and suicides
- more often/successful with gun in the home
- accidents



Policy

Policy

- little to no regulation on manufacturing and sale of guns whose responsibility is it to regulate? (state v. federal)
- child access protection laws
- does policy contribute to the decrease in the number of guns? (high gun v. low gun states)
- are there gun buy-back programs anywhere/in Pittsburgh?
- chain of influence and power of lobbying orgs (i.e. NRA)
- communication policy across the country

