



UMEÅ INSTITUTE OF DESIGN  
UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

## Cirrus board membership: Statement of interest

I would like to hereby declare my interest in serving as a member of the Cirrus network board for the period 2019-2022.

During the past six years, I have been an active participant in the network meetings, which has been very rewarding for my work within the field of design in academia. I see the Cirrus context as strategically and practically very important for the Nordic-Baltic design education and design research community. Promoting exchange and collaboration for students as well as for staff in education and development of academic work in the field of design is something I feel very strongly about. The best ways of learning, and of developing, is by doing things together – from as many kinds of experiences and perspectives as possible. A network is only as strong as the connections it forges between its nodes, and that is in turn based on a balancing of forging ties on individual, organizational and regional levels. The formats and practices within Cirrus is, I believe, of fundamental importance for the kind of open and curious culture of sharing that takes place within the network. The regular network meetings are crucial for creating arenas where teachers, coordinators and leadership meet in different constellations, to start up conversations and initiatives that then can continue in other formats over time and place. Working with continuing to further strengthening and developing the ways we can communicate and collaborate – practically as well as strategically – within the network would be a core interest for me if I were elected board member.

My past experiences within design education and academia include working as a teacher in design history and theory within the industrial design courses and programs at Umeå Institute of Design at Umeå University since 1995, as well as teaching and developing courses in university pedagogy for university teachers. I have been part of the leadership group of Umeå Institute of Design between 2008 and 2018: as Deputy head of department (2008-12), Head of department (2013-14) and Vice rector (2015-2018). I am currently finishing my doctoral education in industrial design, working on a PhD thesis on the foundations and origins of Scandinavian user-centered design.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Maria Göransdotter'.

Maria Göransdotter