



## ‘ความอุ่นใจ (Kharm Unn Jai)’: honouring transcultural experiences in supporting women

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### ABSTRACT

This paper presents autoethnographic accounts from women design researchers, each sharing their culturally grounded approaches to support women in a transcultural mentoring programme. The authors examine the concepts of ‘safety’ and ‘safe spaces’, by unpacking these terms through decolonial perspectives. The paper’s title ความอุ่นใจ (Karm Unn Jai), roughly meaning warm hearted, represents the first author’s state of being, relating and co-becoming during the programme and became an invitation for all authors to reflect on diverse personal experiences of safety. This paper offers six reflections on atmospheric and felt dimensions of codesign practice as prompts for readers’ own explorations. Their differences and resonances point towards the intersectional positionalities and relationalities that comprise codesigning, rather than collapsing them under generic guidelines for designing ‘safety’ or ‘safe spaces’. We highlight the transcultural emergence of trust and kindness, and expand the scholarship on inclusivity in multilingual and multicultural contexts. This work advocates for a more nuanced understanding of codesigning that recognises and values diverse lifeworlds, thereby contributing to efforts in decolonising and pluralising codesign discourse.

### ARTICLE HISTORY

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Autoethnography; codesign; transcultural women; decolonising; mentoring

## 1. Introduction

*“I often worry about the women in our programme who might be very tired from their daily chores before our sessions. They may spend hours in traffic or have children to care for. So when we come together, I want to ensure that we are building a supportive atmosphere. I feel our sessions become ways we care for each other and trust one another. We bring energy to their exhausted days and offer the support they need to face new challenges without worrying about failure because we are here to support them. This is how I aim to be, to place ความอุ่นใจ (Kharm Unn Jai) in my heart to support each other.” (personal reflection by the first author).*

This paper shares auto-ethnographic accounts from women design researchers. Through writing and visual forms, we each explored our respective intersectional and culturally grounded ways of building relationships to incubate trust, respect and generosity in

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