

Prof. Dr. Kristof Vaes

Associate Professor (100%)
University of Antwerp | Faculty of Design Sciences | Product Development
Chair Cumulus Antwerp 2023



Kristof Vaes holds an Associate Professorship in inclusive design and design for interaction at the Faculty of Design Sciences, Product Development. Before transitioning to academia, he gained experience working with various design teams and offices. After completing his doctoral research on Stigma-free design in 2014, Kristof became actively engaged in advocating for and advancing human-centered and inclusive design principles in both educational and research contexts. His primary focus is on developing products and services that not only enhance individual performance and well-being but also foster social participation in an increasingly diverse society.

Kristof Vaes

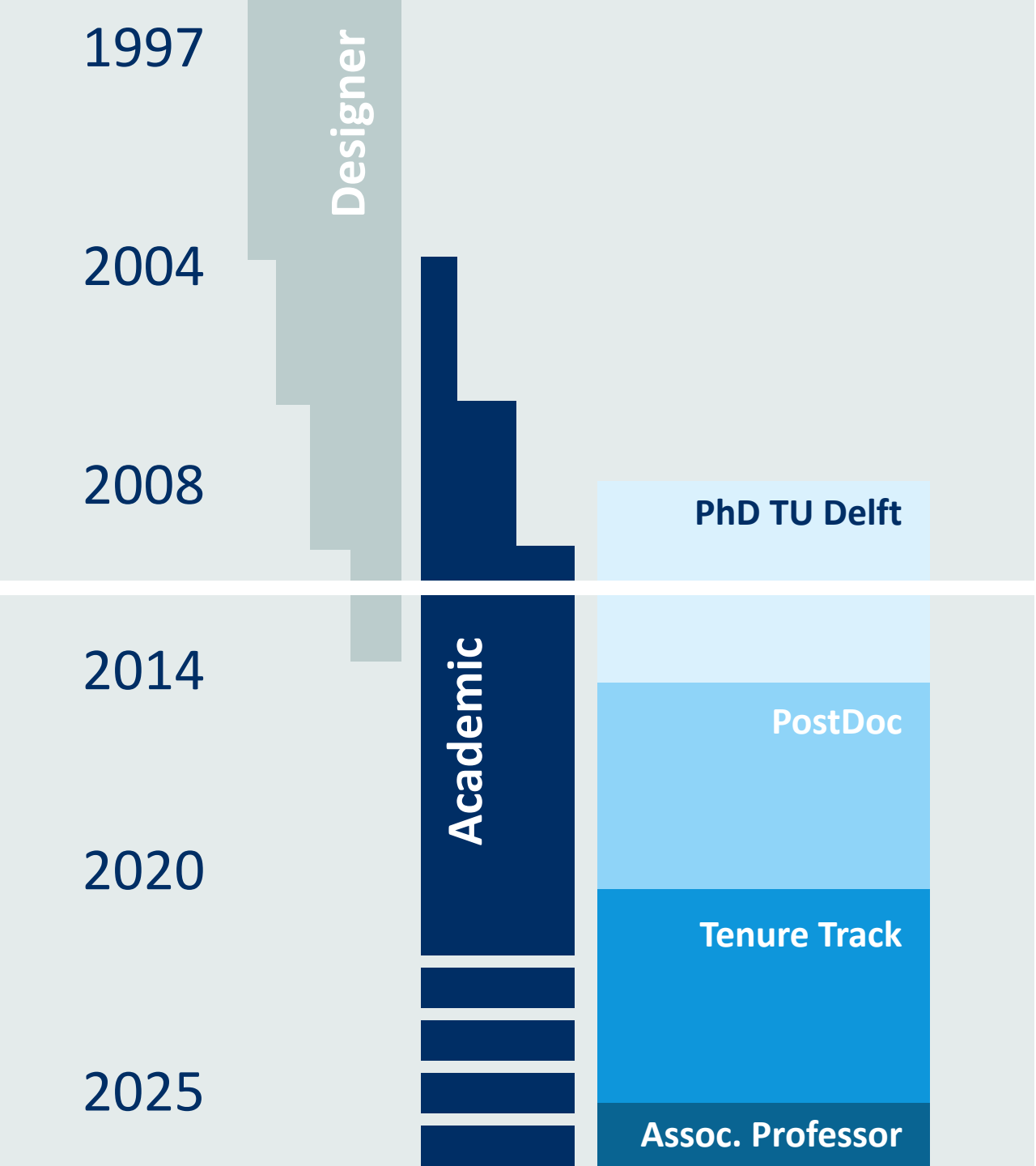
Associate Professor
Faculty of Design Sciences
Product Development
City Campus Paardenmarkt
Room S.0.109
kristof.vaes@uantwerpen.be

UA research page

www.uantwerpen.be/en/staff/kristof-vaes/

Inclusive Design Lab:

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/product-development/research/inclusive-design/>



Experience / Industry

**Designer / Researcher for D-science lab @
University College Antwerp**

February 1998 - December 1999

Industrial Designer @ BULO Office Furniture
www.bulo.be

January 2000 - December 2002
Mechelen, Belgium

Product Development @ TYCO Electronics

Fiber optics to the home
2004 - 2005,
Kessel-Lo, Belgium

Industrial Designer @ Achilles Design

www.achilles.be
January 2003 – September 2006
Mechelen, Belgium

Human Centered Designer @ Studio Dott.

www.studiodott.be
May 2009 - June 2013
Antwerp, Belgium

Freelance User Experience Designer @ Peel

www.peel.nu
Antwerp, Belgium
January 2014 - December 2017

2000 - 2003

Bulo

2003 - 2007

2003 - 2007

 **achillesdesign**

2006 - 2007



Tyco Electronics

2008 - 2012



2012 - 2017



Experience / Academic

UAntwerp - Faculty of Design Sciences

- **Associate Professor** / Inclusive design & Design for interaction
February 2025 - Present
- **Tenure Track Professor** / Inclusive design & Design for interaction
February 2020 - 2024
- **Postdoctoral Researcher** / Design lecturer & tutor
October 2015 - January 2020
- **Doctor Assistant – design tutor** / Interaction Design & Care Technology
October 2013 - September 2015

Conference Chair - Cumulus Antwerp 2023

Connectivity and Creativity in Times of Conflict - April 2023

PhD Researcher @ Industrial Design Engineering (IDE) TU Delft, NL

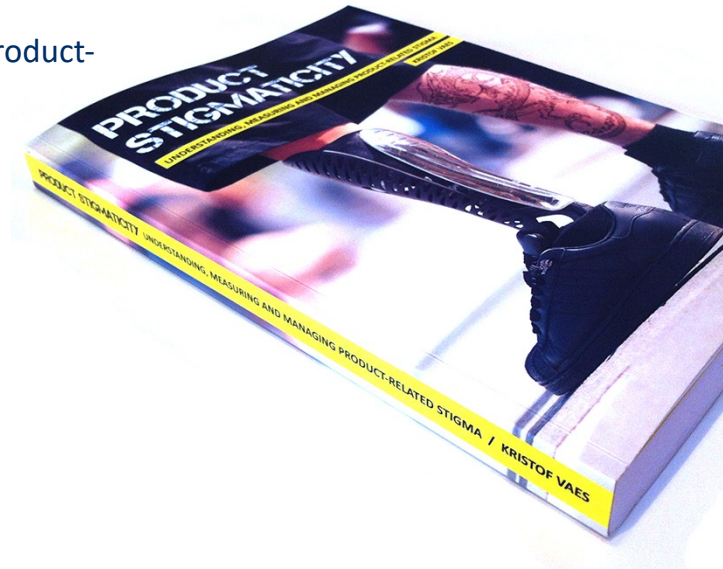
January 2008 - April 2014

Product Stigmaticity: Understanding, Measuring & Managing Product-Related Stigma / Promotor: Prof. P. J. Stappers

Design Tutor - Exploring Interactions / Design for Interaction /
IDE TU Delft / September 2013 - February 2014

Artesis University College Antwerp / Product Development

Design Tutor / 2004 - 2013



Education

Delft University of Technology

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Industrial Design Engineering
(2008 - 2014)

University of Antwerp

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Product Development
(2008 - 2014)

KU Leuven

Group T Leuven: Postgraduate in Multimedia Technology (1997 - 1998)

Artesis University College, Antwerp

Master of Science, Product Development (1991 - 1996)

Aragon High School

San Mateo, California, USA

AFS Intercultural Exchange (1990 - 1991)

Sint-Pieters College Leuven

High School Degree (1985 – 1990)

Research

Head of the Inclusive Design Lab

Inclusive Design Lab

www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/product-development/research/inclusive-design

Uantwerp profile page (projects, publications and education)

www.uantwerpen.be/en/staff/kristof-vaes

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/kristofvaes-inclusive-design-product-development

ResearchGate: www.researchgate.net/profile/Kristof-Vaes

Top Skills

Inclusive design

Design for Interaction

Nexus Design Education & Design Research

Languages

- Dutch (Native or Bilingual)
- English (Native or Bilingual)
- French (Full Professional)
- German (Limited Working)

Educational (courses I teach)

- Design Semiotics – Form & Meaning (2Ba)
- Inclusive Design (3Ba)
- Advanced Product Design (1Ma)
- Design for Interaction: Module 1 & 2 (1 & 2Ma)
- Design for Interaction Fundamentals: Design for Wellbeing (1Ma)
- Master Project in Product Development (2Ma)
- Curator of International Design Workshop and Xplore Design Week

Honors-Awards

European Award – Innovation in Teaching – Exciting Methods

London South Bank University /E&PDE 2022 - 24th Int. Conference on Engineering and Product Design Education

Best Presentation Award

Int. Conference on Engineering and Product Design Education 2011
City University, London, UK

Best Presentation Award

Design & Emotion Conference 2010 - IITInstitute of Design - Chicago

Interests

Passionate father of two sons, Art & Design, Motorcycles, Kayaking, Mountainbiking, Hiking, Swimming, DIY, ...