

Hilary Cottam

Hilary is founding Director of Participle, a new social venture designing the next generation of public services. Hilary was named a Davos Young Global Leader in 2006 and UK Designer of the Year 2005 for her achievements in championing a more inspiring and efficient approach to public service innovation. She is a social entrepreneur whose recent projects include co-created preventative health services, a radical re-think of the prison system and a proven new approach to designing schools for the 21st century.



From 2001 Hilary was a Director of the Design Council, leading the RED unit: a 'do tank' developing new thinking and practice on social and economic problems through design led innovation. Hilary is also the founding Director of the Do Tank Ltd and School Works Ltd, ranked in 2004 within Britain's top 100 creative companies. The focus of all her work is on developing new thinking through doing and delivering innovation which works on the ground.

Educated at Oxford, Sussex and the Open University Hilary has a Ph.D. in social sciences. Prior to returning to the UK in 1995 Hilary worked for the World Bank Washington DC as an urban poverty specialist.