

# Making is Connecting

## A study of the material and social worlds of DIY makers centered around makerspaces

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The title of the project refers to a popular book by David Gauntlett. In our opinion, this simple title captures the essence of amateur DIY: people make things and, in doing so, they connect with others. Through making and tinkering, they not only create things, but share them, and create bond with our physical and social environment.

To understand this complex socio-material dimension of DIY we conduct anthropological fieldwork in makers' workshops. We explore the processes of making, looking at the relationships between the maker and the tools and materials, as well as between the makers, in order to understand how they build their identity and community.

In addition to participant observation, we use video diaries, photography, and mapping to understand the complex nature of amateur makers' work. This is important because DIY culture is gaining more and more adherents, and the search for "meaning" in making work is an important motivation for DIYers.