



What can we learn from the
probes? The role of
interpretation in contributions
to knowledge

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In this paper we demonstrate the role of interpretation in art and design research through an examination of the use of 'Cultural Probes' in a number of different research contributions. From a survey of the probes literature, we have identified five different types of research contributions that probes have been used to make: philosophical reorientations, design proposals and artefacts, forms of analysis, methods, and taxonomies. Our review of the literature and construction of this taxonomy enables us to identify the structure of the interpretive process that is active within the construction of a research contribution, and to show the influence of the researchers' interests, aims and contexts on the nature of the interpretation.