

Media Design 1

Let's Play

Schedule

- ▶ Comment on **Miro board**
- ▶ Small impulse to **game analysis**
- ▶ Find **categories / questions** for the analysis
- ▶ Let's **Play**
- ▶ Discuss **findings**
- ▶ Work on your **projects** in groups

Game analysis

What is game analysis?

Analyse

"An analysis (...) is a **systematic investigation in which the object is **broken down** into its **components (elements)**. These elements are recorded on the basis of **criteria** and then **structured, examined and evaluated**."**

Procedure steps

1. Find a **topic**
2. Derive **analysis categories** and **questions**
3. **Play the game** analytically (observe & take notes)
4. Organize, examine and evaluate **results**

What can be analyzed?



Char. Design

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UI Design

Empathy

Decisions



Sound Effects

Level of difficulty

Story Narrative

Music

World Design

Immersion

Art Style

Emotions

Feeling of Flow

Colors & Shapes

Tropes

Game Loops

Communities

Norms & Values

GP mechanics

Meaning

Game analysis approaches

What does it mean to analyze game design

- An analysis is to **study a game**
- Avoid the „**I don't like this**“ & „**positivity**“ spiral
- Understand the **qualifiers of a genre**
- Does the **design work**?
- Write up why someone would hate to play this game? (**Pain points**)

Example: Focus on gender roles

What possibilities of development does a character have?

- Avatar, Agent, Cast Char., Functional Char., Stage Char.

Four layers of interpretation

- Character surface
- Narration
- Gameplay
- Game world

Meier, M-L. (2022). "The hardest battles are fought in the mind": The role of women in Viking Age games. In: Draycott, J. (Hrsg.): Women in Historical and Archaeological Video Games. Video Games and the Humanities, Bd. 9. de Gruyter. S. 75-100

Game playing as a method

Analytical play (making notes, relating to context)

-> Observe and communicate (speak aloud)

A. **Gameplay** analysis

B. **Thematic** analysis

„A thematic analysis highlights the experience of players sensitive to the symbols and messages conveyed by game's operation as a cultural medium.“

Exercise

1. Focus on **1-2 topics**
2. Formulate some **questions**
3. **Play the game** (observe & take notes)
4. Organize **results**
5. **Discuss findings**

