

# LEYLA ACAROGLU BIOS

*For use with booked speaking engagements and public appearances*

**\*\*Please note the pronunciation of Leyla's last name is A-JAR-A-LOO\*\***

**Title: CEO & Founder The UnSchool and Disrupt Design**

## **VERY SHORT BIO (76 words)**

Dr. Leyla Acaroglu connects systems, sustainability and design together as tools for addressing the planet's biggest challenges. As a designer, sociologist, and sustainability provocateur, she was named 2016 United Nations Champion of the Earth for her internationally-recognised work in advancing science and innovation for sustainability. She is a TED speaker, entrepreneur, creator of the Disruptive Design Method, founder of the UnSchool and a sustainability provocateur who challenges people to think differently about how the world works.

## **LONGER BIO (88 words)**

Dr. Leyla Acaroglu is an internationally-known sustainability provocateur, sociologist, and award-winning designer, focused on systems thinking, sustainability sciences and creative change-making. She was named [Champion of the Earth](#) by the United Nations, Change-Maker by LinkedIn and is a mainstage TED speaker who leads presentations with leaders around the world on activating positive change for a sustainable, circular and regenerative future. As a serial social entrepreneur, she founded [The UnSchool](#), an experimental knowledge lab for adults, developed the Disruptive Design Method and is CEO of creative agency, Disrupt Design.

## **HEADSHOTS**

Please find a selection of headshots suitable for digital usage [here](#). If you require print-ready images at higher resolution, please contact [emma@disruptdesign.co](mailto:emma@disruptdesign.co) for a file transfer of your selected image.

## **ABOUT LEYLA**

Leyla Acaroglu (PhD) is a leading sustainability strategist and provocateur – an expert on life cycle and systems thinking in design, production and consumption. Named Champion of the Earth by the UNEP in 2016, she is a designer, sociologist, educator and passionate proponent of sustainability in and through design. Leyla is also a well-respected international speaker, with over 1 million views on her TED talk. She developed the Disruptive Design Method for activating change, founded the UnSchool of Disruptive Design as well as the creative agency Disrupt Design, and created the rural regeneration, CO Project Farm in Portugal. Her award-winning designs and cerebrally-activating experiences, gamified toolkits, and unique educational experiences help people around the world to challenge the status quo and make positive social and environmental change.

## **OPTIONAL VERBAL INTRODUCTION**

***Note on name pronunciation : Leyla (Lay-la) Acaroglu (A-jar-a-loo) – the c is pronounced as a 'j' and the 'g' is silent – please notify your moderators on this pronunciation***

Dr. Leyla Acaroglu is an award-winning designer and sociologist helping to pioneer the transformation to a sustainable and circular economy. She is a TED speaker, a UN Environment Champion of the Earth Lauret, and a LinkedIn Change-Maker. She is the creator of the Disruptive Design Method, which combines systems thinking, sustainability sciences and design as tools for creating a circular and sustainable future. The founder of [The UnSchool](#) of Disruptive Design and the creative agency [Disrupt](#)

[Design](#), Leyla travels the world helping people and organisations think differently about the role we can each play in designing a positive future.

## LINKS

[Link to website bio >](#)

[Link to high res and web sized headshots >](#)

[Link to her TED Talk >](#)

[Recent Articles by Leyla >](#)

[UNEP Champion of the Earth Award >](#)

## Recent Talks and Interviews

[Talks @ Google >](#)

[Ellen MacArthur Circular Economy Forum Opening Keynote >](#)

[Opening Keynote The Conference Malmo >](#)

[Closing Keynote Interaction 18 >](#)

[World Design Organisation Interview >](#)

[Interview with Barcelona Post >](#)

[Zero Waste Vancouver Closing Keynote >](#)

## Social Media

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## About the UnSchool

The UnSchool is an experimental knowledge lab for adults, designed to help activate agency and contribute to designing a future that works better for us all. We work with established and aspiring creative rebels, change pioneers, activators, entrepreneurs, and everyone in between who has a deep-seated passion to make a positive and meaningful impact. We approach everything we do from a problem-loving growth mindset, and the foundational tools we teach are applied systems thinking, life cycle thinking, sustainability sciences, and creative ideation, to support more problem lovers (not avoiders!) that are taking action to make a positive impact on the planet.

The UnSchool's mission is to seed and activate creative leadership globally for positive, impactful social and environmental change to help design a future that works better for all of us.

## [UNSCHOOL WEBSITE LINK](#)

## About Disrupt Design

Creative agency Disrupt Design guides organizations and individuals to make change through our [workshops](#), [online training packages](#), and [creative tools](#). Our mission is to build the knowledge, intervention opportunities, and tools that help activate a global community focused on purpose-driven change for positive impact on the planet. We build capacity for organizations and individuals to be an active part of the new circular and green economy.

Using a robust scientific approach to understanding the complex systems that impact society, we developed the unique [Disruptive Design Method](#), which leverages systems, sustainability, and design to understand, explore, and intervene in existing systems and to activate change globally. Taking on big challenges such as gender equity, a post disposable society, and cognitive biases with our method, we

create substance-based trainings and toolkits that are helping tens of thousands of people globally to activate their agency and positively impact the planet.

### [DISRUPT DESIGN WEBSITE LINK](#)

## About the Disruptive Design Method

The Disruptive Design Method (DDM) is an approach to understand and creatively intervene in the world around us to enact positive social and environmental change. Developed by Dr. Leyla Acaroglu, the DDM is based on a 12-part methodology that covers a wide range of established academic approaches to systems, sustainability, and design.

## Quotes about Leyla and her work

*"The designer is one of those unique individuals who uses systems-based thinking to disrupt mainstream ways of thinking. And even though the process for the person at the receiving end of her methods might initially be uncomfortable and unwelcome, we all need someone like Acaroglu to 'shake things up a bit' to enable a fresh perspective."* – Geraldine Faulkner, Recycling & Waste World Magazine

*"As the preeminent thought leader in her field, Leyla Acaroglu has been championing systemic life cycle sustainability as key to a sustainable future."* - Australian Design Review

*"Acaroglu doesn't think socially responsible design should be driven by a moral imperative. Instead, sustainability is most powerful when thought of as 'a parameter' that fuels innovation."* - Madeleine Hinchy, Powerhouse Museum

*"People like Leyla Acaroglu are so important to driving this change. Leyla is a 2016 UN Environment Champion of the Earth for science and innovation. Leyla inspires and helps people to equip themselves with agency, tools, and knowledge they need to shape the world and transform our lifestyles."* – Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UNEP

*"Creative force Leyla Acaroglu uses innovative design and systems thinking to create positive change."* - TED.com

*"I really loved Leyla's presentation – she is such a powerful advocate for new ways of thinking about the world and its resources – very inspirational."* - Sir Jonathon Porritt, Founder, Forum for the Future

*"Leyla did a super engaging talk at Made in Space that the audience really loved – she is a visionary, progressive thinker that, in an optimistic and constructive way, can address some of the big challenges we face as a human race and still leave a room uplifted and filled with hope."* - Simon Caspersen, Director of Communications, SPACE10

*"It was a pleasure working with Leyla on our opening session for our 2017 Annual Summit. Drawing from Leyla's experience in working with groups, we were able to be creative on how we structured the session, engaging the audience in a participatory way whilst also sharing her insights and integrity of thinking about the role of design in systemic change. We look forward to continuing to work with her and the team on how circular design can create more regenerative and restorative systems in the world we create."* - Jules Hayward, Education Lead, Ellen MacArthur Foundation