

Elective course Globalisation and Sustainable Development

Academic year 2026-2027

Date: 19/11/2026

Lecturers:

[Liesbeth Huybrechts](#) (UHasselt)

[Dhriti Dhaundiya](#) (Doon University, India)

Title: "Recollecting" research and education in Belgium and Congo (Liesbeth Huybrechts)

This lecture introduces the audience to the concept of "recollecting"—designing with and for collectives in a changing world in the face of global socio-ecological challenges. It draws on the case of (post)mining urban development—specifically in the Congo and the Euregion Maas-Rhein, where the speaker is involved in projects concerning (post)mining towns. The lecture explores how we as researchers, educators and students can approach the themes of "mines" and the "subsurface" with a sensitivity to decoloniality by bringing different collectives with different histories, experiences and future ambitions together (diverse groups of inhabitants, geologists, water specialists, policy etc).

<https://dl.acm.org/doi/full/10.1145/3796624.3796642>

Liesbeth Huybrechts is Professor in the areas of participatory design, design anthropology and socio-environmental transformation processes in the research group Civic and Policy Design, Arck, University of Hasselt, Belgium. She has developed a research interest in the design for/with participatory exchanges between human and the material/natural environment and the "politics" of designing these relations in just ways.

Title: Decolonising public space in Delhi (Dhriti Dhaundiya)

The reconfiguration of Rajpath (King's Way) in Lutyens' Delhi into Kartavya Path (Path of Duty) signifies a paradigmatic shift in India's urban architecture and public-space design morphology. It is emblematic of a broader pan-Indian process of epistemic decolonisation of visible public spaces. This paper undertakes a critical examination of the renaming and re-shaping of the spatial, aesthetic and socio-political implications of this transition,

contextualising it within the decolonial theory of space-reclamation. The study situates Kartavya Path within global movements seeking to challenge and understand entrenched colonial power structures and enduring legacies in urban planning and architecture, by critically interrogating the nature of design interventions, the political-state narratives behind the interventions and the public discourse surrounding the transformation. The lecture explores the intersection of state-driven planning and civic engagement to take a broader view of how the postcolonial spatial identity in India is being shaped.

Dhriti Dhaundiyal is a design researcher working at the intersection of material culture, mobility, and participatory practices. Trained in Industrial Design at the National Institute of Design, India, she later studied Urban Sustainability at King's College London as a Chevening Scholar and completed her PhD in Industrial Design at IIT Bombay. She has previously worked as an automobile designer in India and Japan for Suzuki.