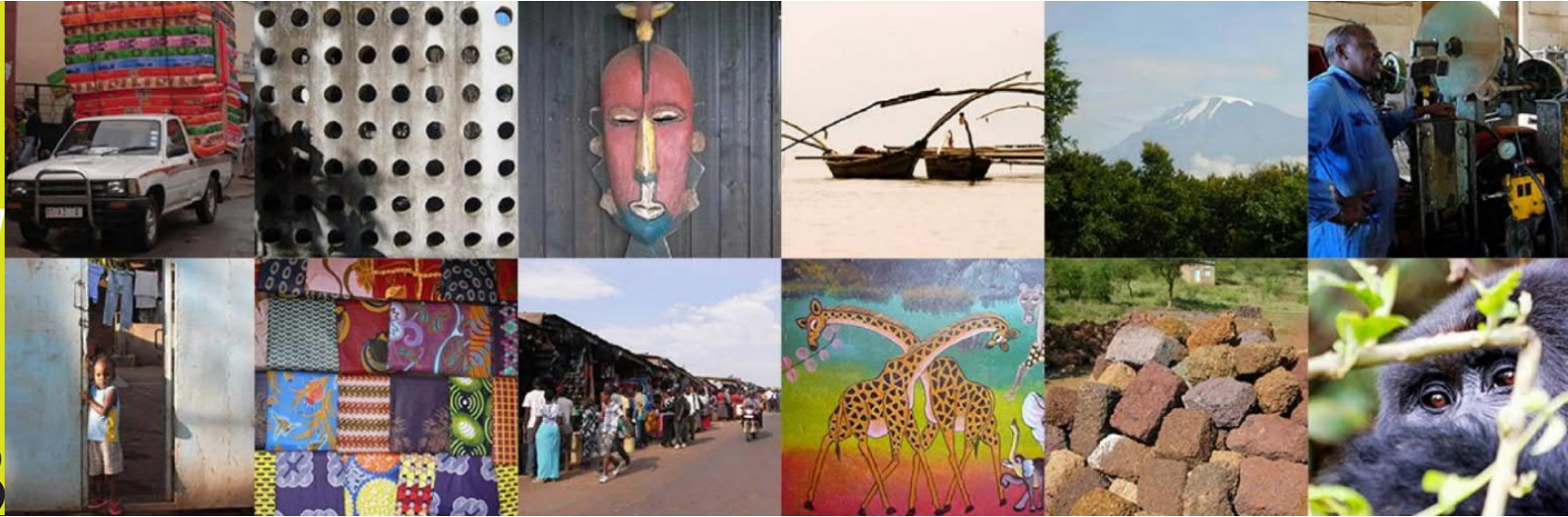


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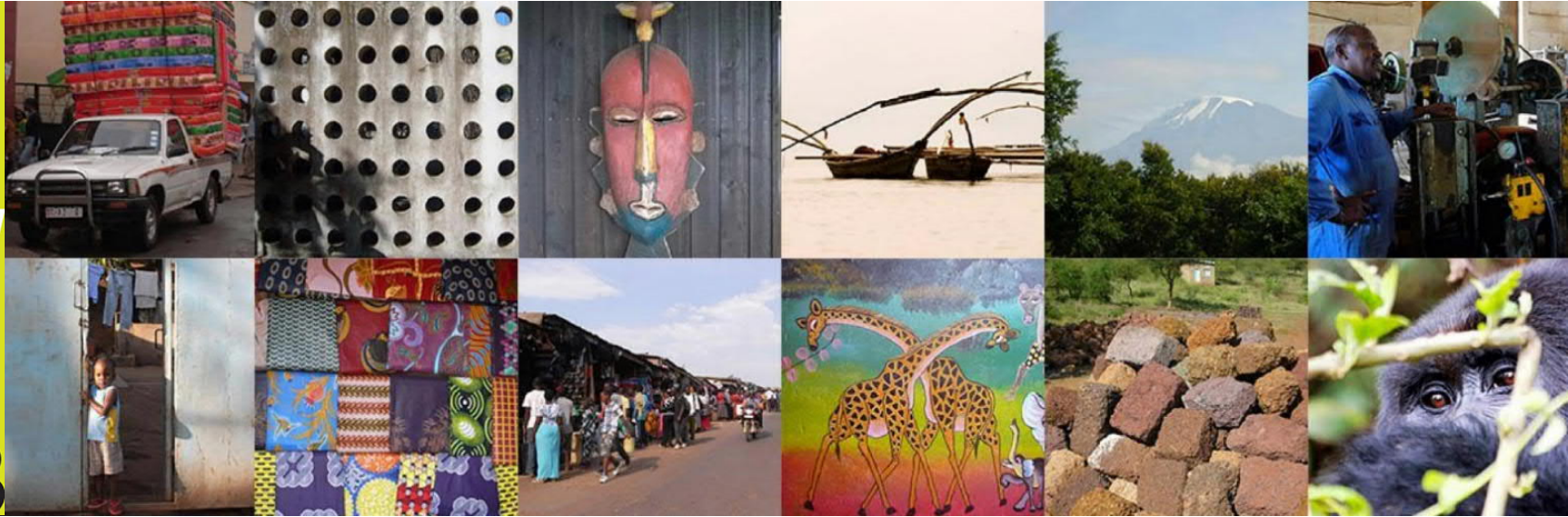


*Welcome to*  
**Interplay of Cultures** *Research & Theory*

<http://witlab.fi/>

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# Aalto *WIT* LAB

*World in Transition*

<http://witlab.fi/>



**WiT LAB's** core educational entities in global sustainability & development:

## IoC

*Interplay of Cultures Studio (periods III-V)*

*Interplay of Cultures Research & Theory (periods I-II)*

- Hosted by **Aalto ARTS** Department of Architecture
- Responsible academic Prof. **Saija Hollmén**, Humanitarian Architecture

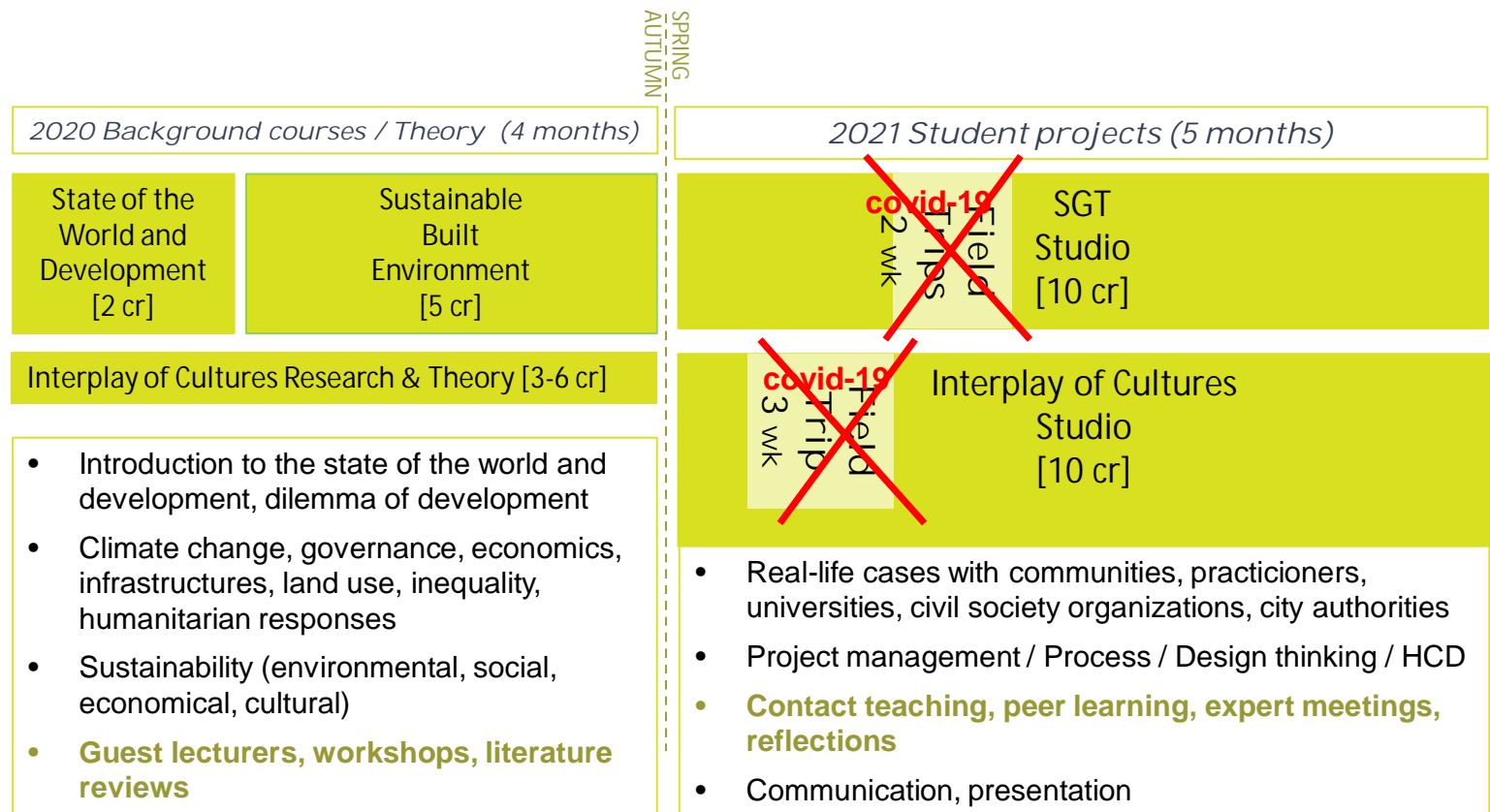
## SGT

*Sustainable Global Technologies Programme (periods I-V)*

- Hosted by **Aalto ENG** Department of Built Environment
- Responsible academic **Prof. Olli Varis**, Water Engineering
- Program Coordinator **Matleena Muhonen**



# Aalto **WiT** LAB *course structure*



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MINOR



## *World in Transition (WiT)* **MINOR**

- WiT Minor (20-25 credits) is an **Aalto University-wide interdisciplinary elective ensemble** focusing on **global sustainability & development**, open for all Aalto master level students.
- WiT Minor offers courses from Aalto Schools of ARTS, ENG and BIZ
- More info: <https://into.aalto.fi/display/ensivuaineet2020/World+in+Transition+WiT>

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## *Interplay of Cultures Research & Theory (3-6 cr)*

- Seminar course exploring **current theoretical discourse on global sustainability and development**
- Framework of **built environment and cultures outside Europe**
- **Includes:** seminar sessions; readings and analysis task; reflection essays
- For **master** and **doctoral** level students

**Teachers:**

Saija Hollmén [saija.hollmen@aalto.fi](mailto:saija.hollmen@aalto.fi)

Taru Niskanen [taru.niskanen@aalto.fi](mailto:taru.niskanen@aalto.fi)



## *Interplay of Cultures Research & Theory (3- 6 cr)*

Mondays at 13:15-16

Sept 14 - Nov 30, 2020 (11 sessions, week 42 off)

### ONLINE SEMINAR PRACTICALITIES

We will be using this same Zoom link for all sessions of this course

<https://aalto.zoom.us/j/66224821827>

To get most out of Zoom, we recommend you download Zoom Desktop App and activate your own Aalto Zoom license following these instructions:

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/services/zoom-quick-guide>

In order to ensure a smooth running of the sessions, please

- come online a few minutes before the start of each session, to ensure that there are no network problems, and we can start on time
- join the session with a name we can recognize you by (first name, last name)
- keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking, to avoid background noise.



## COURSE WORKING METHODS

The primary working methods of the course are reading and discussion. For each seminar session, you will be requested to read two separate articles (or set of readings), which are indicated in the course schedule. Everyone is requested to read the articles assigned for the sessions.

Each one of you will be asked to choose one of the predefined readings for closer scrutiny and prepare a 10-20 min presentation of it. You can also choose to do this in pairs, in which case you will be requested to complete two presentations.

You will soon be (randomly) divided in groups of 5 students. Note your team members carefully, since this will be your reference group for the entire course.





## COURSE WORKING METHODS (continues)

Each of you in the same group will be requested to prepare discussion points of the article chosen by one of your group members, as in the pre-assignment:

- prepare at least 3 discussion points of the reading(s), reflecting the perspective of the writer(s), their arguments and conclusions, as well as your own response and impressions of these.

The presenter of a reading assignment will act as a 'host' of the session (two sessions each Monday), chairing and facilitating the discussion.

### NOTE:

The participation of the group members of the 'host' / presenter is crucial (and mandatory), to generate genuine and diverse discussion on the topic at hand.



## COURSE CREDITS (3, 5 or 6)

### 3 credits

- A presentation (or 2 with a pair) and active contribution in the discussion of your group members' sessions.
- Participation in minimum 6 of the 11 Monday seminars.  
(Let us know in beforehand if/when you are absent)

### 5 credits

- A presentation (or 2 with a pair) and active contribution in the discussion of your group members' sessions.
- Participation in 10 the 11 Monday seminars.

### 6 credits

- A presentation (or 2 with a pair) and active contribution in the discussion of your group members' sessions.
- Participation in 10 the 11 Monday seminars.
- 3 reflection essays (1-2 pages each / 2000-4000 characters with spaces) on your chosen 3 different thematic areas.

**Submission of the reflections by December 7, 2020.**



## COURSE READINGS

20 articles (or set of readings) have been identified and assigned for every weekly seminar sessions (2/week). Everyone is requested to read all of them in preparation for the Monday seminars. The readings can be found in Mycourses 'Materials' folder.

The thematic areas of the readings are

- Urban planning
- Development & Participation
- Sustainability & Resilience
- Vernacular traditions
- (Critical) Regionalism
- Humanitarian architecture

The readings & weekly schedule are listed in

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ML-oQUE0MJE9nm\\_oJjoRshAqKEnhb5sq/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ML-oQUE0MJE9nm_oJjoRshAqKEnhb5sq/view?usp=sharing)

(click the link, then 'open with Google Sheets')

You can select a date & set of readings according to your preference by booking a session for your own presentation in the online document. Note the sessions of your team members, since you are requested to prepare discussion points for their sessions as well.



## READING LIST

### Urban planning

Watson, V. 2014. "African Urban Fantasies: Dreams or Nightmares?" *Environment and Urbanization* 26 (1): 215-231.

Folkers, Antoni. 2010. *Modern Architecture in Africa*. Amsterdam: Sun.  
Chapters: *The Lost Cities of Africa* (23-37) and *The People and their African Environment* (237-254)

Watson, Vanessa. 2009. "Seeing from the South: Refocusing Urban Planning on the Globe's Central Urban Issues." *Urban Studies* 46 (11): 2259-2275.

Watson, Vanessa. 2009. "'The Planned City Sweeps the Poor Away...': Urban Planning and 21st Century Urbanisation." *Progress in Planning* 72 (3): 151-193.



## READING LIST

### Development & Participation

Hamdi, Nabeel. 2010. *The Placemakers' Guide to Building Community*. London; Sterling, VA: Earthscan.

Chapter 1: The Evolution of Development and The Placemaker's Tools (pp 1-16)

De Carlo, G. Architecture's public. 2005. In Blundell-Jones, Peter, Peter Blundell-Jones, Doina Petrescu, and Jeremy Till. (eds.) *Architecture and Participation*. London: Spon Press. (3-22)

D'Auria, Viviana. 2018. "Retracing the Emergence of a Human Settlements Approach: Designing in, from and with Contexts of Development." In *The Routledge Companion to Architecture and Social Engagement*, edited by Fahran Karim, 49-63. New York: Routledge.



## READING LIST

### Sustainability & Resilience

Purvis, Ben, Yong Mao, and Darren Robinson. 2018. "Three Pillars of Sustainability: In Search of Conceptual Origins." *Sustainability Science* 14: 681–695.

Walker, Brian, C. S. Holling, Stephen R. Carpenter, and Ann Kinzig. 2004. "Resilience, Adaptability and Transformability in Social-Ecological Systems." *Ecology and Society* 9 (2): 5.

Folke, Carl. 2006. "Resilience: The Emergence of a Perspective for Social-ecological Systems Analyses." *Global Environmental Change* 16 (3): 253-267.

Ozolins, Peter. 2015. *Sustainability & Scarcity: A Handbook for Green Design and Construction in Developing Countries*. London: Routledge.

Chapter 1: Green Building and the Least Developed Regions (7-28).



## READING LIST

### Vernacular Traditions

Özkan, Suha. 2006. "Traditionalism and Vernacular Architecture in the Twenty-First Century." In *Vernacular Architecture in the 21st Century: Theory, Education and Practice*, edited by Lindsay Asquith and Marcel Vellinga, 97-109. London: Taylor & Francis.

Oliver, Paul. 2006. *Built to Meet Needs : Cultural Issues in Vernacular Architecture*. Amsterdam ; Boston: Architectural Press.

Chapter 2: 'The importance of the study of vernacular architecture' (17-26)  
and Chapter 5: 'Cultural traits and environmental contexts: Problems of cultural specificity and cross-cultural comparability' (55-68).

Lucas, Ray. 2020. *Anthropology for Architects: Social Relations and the Built Environment*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Chapter 1: Introduction (1-16).



## READING LIST

### (Critical) Regionalism

Pallasmaa, Juhani. 1988. "Tradition and Modernity: The Feasibility of Regional Architecture in Post-Modern Society." *The Architectural Review* 183 (1095): 26-34. Published also in Canizaro, Vincent B. 2007. *Architectural Regionalism : Collected Writings on Place, Identity, Modernity, and Tradition*. New York, NY, USA: Princeton Architectural Press. pp. 129-139.

Frampton, Kenneth. "Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance." In *The Anti-Aesthetic: Essays on Postmodern Culture*, edited by Hal Foster, 16-30. Port Townsend (WA): Bay Press, 1983.

AND

Patteeuw, Véronique and Léa-Catherine Szacka. 2019. "Critical Regionalism for our Time." *The Architectural Review* (1466): 92-98.





## READING LIST

### Humanitarian Architecture

Stohr, Kate. 2006. "100 Years of Humanitarian Design". In *Architecture for Humanity*, ed. 2006. *Design Like You Give a Damn: Architectural Responses to Humanitarian Crisis*. London: Thames & Hudson. (33-55).

Tafti, Mojgan Taheri and David O'Brien. 2018. "Are Architects the Last People Needed in Disaster Reconstruction?" In *The Routledge Companion to Architecture and Social Engagement*, edited by Farhan Karim, 429-439. New York: Routledge.

Roudbari, Shawhin. 2018. "Architecture without Borders?: The Globalization of Humanitarian Architecture Culture." In *Karim, F. the Routledge Companion to Architecture and Social Engagement.*, edited by Farhan Karim, 441-448. New York: Routledge.

AND

Charlesworth, Esther. 2014. *Humanitarian Architecture: 15 Stories of Architects Working After Disaster*. New York: Routledge. Introduction (1-15).



## READING LIST

### Humanitarian Architecture (continues)

Hubert, C. 2015. "Humanitarian Design: Notes for a Definition." In *Ground Rules in Humanitarian Design*, edited by Alice Min Soo Chun and Irene E. Brisson, 20-35. Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

AND

Cesal, E. 2015. "Humanitarian Architecture is Hip. Now what?" In *Ground Rules in Humanitarian Design*, edited by Alice Min Soo Chun and Irene E. Brisson, 212-217. Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.



## PRESENTATIONS

For your selected session, you are requested to prepare a presentation of 10-20 min of the reading(s).

- Briefly present the topic and the author(s) in one slide.
- Present an overview of the article, reflecting the perspective of the writer(s), their arguments and conclusions, as well as your own response and impressions of these.

Team members of the presenter

- prepare at least 3 discussion points of the reading(s).

The presenter will act as a host of the session (2 per each Monday seminar), moderating the discussion. Active participation by all is encouraged!

Groups will be distributed randomly by zoom (in breakout rooms). Groups will be listed also in the google drive document and Mycourses.

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*WELCOME to*

*Interplay of Cultures Research & Theory!*

Questions? Please send an email to

Saija Hollmén [saija.hollmen@aalto.fi](mailto:saija.hollmen@aalto.fi) and/or Taru Niskanen [taru.niskanen@aalto.fi](mailto:taru.niskanen@aalto.fi)