

International Conference  
DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Call for Abstracts  
MAY 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023



**LEAVING  
NOTHING  
BEHIND**



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA

organized by:

Architecture and Design Cultures

PhD Program

DA - Department of Architecture

Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna

# LEAVING NOTHING BEHIND



## International Conference Call for Abstracts

deadline May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

In light of new global and local phenomena bringing unprecedented effects on communities and their settlements, there are several environmental, social and political issues that must be addressed. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN General Assembly, 2015) proposes a vision for sustainable development, asking for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive and resilient future for people and the planet. According to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection are the three interconnected pillars for the well-being of individuals and societies. The SDGs put equality and non-discrimination at the core of a universal call to action to tackle the growing poverty, empower vulnerable communities and groups, address the climate emergency, and rebalance the relationship between people and nature.

The major contemporary challenge appears to be finding new ways to survive the threatening consequences of various pressures, which increasingly appear to be interconnected: thus, the effects of climate change are intertwined with contractions and migrations, energy and environmental crises with wars, and the global pandemic emergency has demonstrated unprecedented relationships with digital and cultural innovations.

New approaches are needed to regenerate cities and territories, to reduce soil consumption, promote the use of renewable resources and strengthen the values of local communities. Accordingly, it is critical to shift from an anthropocentric to an ecological perspective, in order to design territories and societies which effectively support health and well-being for the benefits of humans and other species. Ecologically-oriented planning can lead to responsible decisions for spatial, social and cultural justice. It is more and more evident that new design visions can

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#design justice  
#inclusion  
#coevolution

be the tool to address issues such as territorial imbalances, the destruction of marginalized communities and places, diversity inclusion and socio-cultural interactions between humans and the surrounding environment, as well humans and other species, in the whole earth system.

Furthermore, our past lives on in the evidence of our cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, gets reflected in natural landscapes and unique ecological resources, is stored in our digital archives data. All of these elements play a crucial role in re-thinking new territorial assets and re-shaping new relationships to respond to contemporary challenges. Contemporary technologies, like data modelling, computer vision and machine learning, provide with a huge support in different disciplines, from architecture to environmental sciences, from humanistic knowledge to economics, giving the possibility to experiment with innovative design approaches.

A concerted and shared effort by all is needed at this point, in the pursuit of *leaving nothing behind*. Urgent actions are required from each of us - scientific community, practitioners and policy makers alike - to establish networks in defense of people, especially those living in vulnerable conditions and/or in the presence of war, species and resources, so that none are lost.

***Leaving nothing behind*** is an interdisciplinary conference which invites all interested in these topics to a conversation thinking out of boxes and going beyond borders, to re-define new interactions among different sectors and disciplines.

In order to explore different dimensions of inclusiveness, justice and non-discrimination, the conference is structured in three tracks:

1. **Leaving NO DATA behind**, referring to the implementation of emerging technologies in sustainable ways, as inclusive solutions for future data access, management and preservation;
2. **Leaving NO LANDSCAPE behind**, addressing issues of spatial justice and environmental justice, as well cultural and natural heritage protection and enhancement;
3. **Leaving NO SPECIES behind**, suggesting new reflections on how co-design relations between human and non-human spheres.

*"The world's digital heritage is at risk of being lost to posterity. Contributing factors include the rapid obsolescence of the hardware and software which brings it to life, uncertainties about resources, responsibility and methods for maintenance and preservation, and the lack of supportive legislation. Attitudinal change has fallen behind technological change. Digital evolution has been too rapid and costly for governments and institutions to develop timely and informed preservation strategies"*

UNESCO, 2009

## Track 1 Leaving NO DATA behind

The potential loss of the world's digital heritage is a concerning issue, not only due to the rapid obsolescence of hardware and software, but especially considering the uncertain resource allocation and a lack of supportive legislation. As a result, attitudes toward preservation have lagged behind technological advancement, making it difficult for governments and institutions to develop timely preservation strategies. However, the advancement of architectural and urban planning research, holds great promise thanks to cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), especially as it pertains to the analysis of large data sets and the development of predictive models. Nevertheless, this rapid expansion raises issues for data management, such as data transparency, standardized 3D models for scientific applications, and long-term accessibility and preservation.

To address these challenges, there is a need for sustainable implementation of new technologies, considering their potential impact on environmental justice issues within ecosystem services, as well as ethical and social implications. This includes ensuring that nothing is lost in the process, which is what "Leaving NO DATA behind" stands for. This track is opened, but not limited to, all those contributions that delve into cutting-edge technologies in architectural research, sustainable scientific solutions for the publication of 3D models and data preservation, as well as modalities of Human-Machine Interactions (HMI) in the growing implementation of AI-based systems, autonomous agents, and robotics.

*“The landscape remains the only image in the world which is able to restore something of the structural opacity of the real – and thus it is the most human and faithful, although the least scientific, of concepts. For this reason, there can be no crisis (and certainly no death) of the landscape: because the very concept of has been conceived to describe crisis, the vascillation and trembling of the world.”*

Farinelli, 1991

## Track 2

# Leaving NO LANDSCAPE behind

The climate and environmental crisis, the exposure of our territories to multiple risks, due to natural hazards, the loss of biodiversity and the lack of ecological resources, require a new and essential perspective of mitigation and adaptation to climate change and risk reduction, as well of protection and enhancement of cultural and natural heritage. In a context of socio-demographic changes and several crises - economic, political, cultural, health - these environmental vulnerabilities are increasingly intertwined with social fragilities, creating forms of inequity and processes of exclusion which are projected in space. It is becoming even clearer that there is a need of re-thinking new territorial visions and re-shaping new territorial assets, not only through the development of planning strategies and policies but also with the safeguarding and enhancement of our heritage, which should combine environmental and social justice.

“Leaving NO LANDSCAPE behind” means to integrate mitigation and adaptation measures with the valorization of cultural heritage and natural resources, according to a new ecologically-oriented perspective, to conserve biodiversity, to promote the regeneration of our urban and rural areas, which are facing environmental and social challenges, to strengthen the spatial relationship between communities and their surroundings, enhancing a sense of belonging to the space.

This track welcomes theoretical contributions and research, practices and case-studies, that recognize the territory and its multiple landscapes as a resource of inclusion and a privileged location for configuring innovative, fair spatial models.



*“The recent experience - dramatic, intense, disturbing - of the pandemic, by laying bare the fragility and vulnerability of the human life, has helped to return strongly the attention on the meaning of the network of life and on some crucial issues: the anthropic impacts on ecological functioning of the habitats of the whole planet and the urgency that a relationship of respectful and conscious interdependence with others be restored by the dominant species, ours.”*

*Lambertini, 2021*

### Track 3

## Leaving NO SPECIES behind

The transition we seek to a more sustainable and inclusive future should raise the concept of “nature” to a higher level of awareness, rejecting the human/non-human binarism and considering the agency and the interaction of various spheres of actors and actants. While reducing the use of renewable resources, decarbonizing our economies, and using less energy are all pressing issues for the urban environment, the new challenge is determining how the city and its inhabitants should interact in the context of multispecies coexistence.

By adopting methodologies that include the principle of leaving nothing behind, design cultures should attempt to define how existing intersectional and multi-actor approaches should interact and accommodate non-human logic.

The aim of this track is to allow for the inclusion of those who may be overlooked in traditional design practices, as well as to broaden our imaginations as architects, planners, and designers, by discussing humanity’s current role in relation to “otherness”. “Leaving NO SPECIES behind” is an invitation to imagine how to overcome anthropocentric supremacy in design thinking and method through a transdisciplinary approach, with the goal of promoting a co-evolutionary vision capable of imagining welcoming and enabling spaces for people as well as other organisms in the direction of interspecies spatial justice.



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## Eligible participants

Architects, designers, engineers, planners, urbanists, geographers, agronomists, anthropologists, sociologists, philosophers, biologists, ecologists and all PhD students and researchers from various disciplinary fields interested in the topic are encouraged to apply.

## How to apply

**abstract submission**  
deadline May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Participation is completely free of charge.** Each author may submit **no more than one abstract for each track**.

We invite you to **send the abstracts by email** to [leavingnothingbehind@unibo.it](mailto:leavingnothingbehind@unibo.it). Please write as the **subject line** in the email: **Abstract Submission\_LNB23**.

In the attachment, please name the file as follows: **TrackN\_ShortTitle\_LNB23** (instead of N indicate the Track number from 1 to 3).

**The document must be in PDF format.** We invite submissions of abstracts with the following structure:

- Title
- Track of the Conference
- Abstract (max. 3000 characters, including spaces)
- up to 5 keywords
- a short list of bibliographic references in APA style

Please **upload in the attachment another document including:**

- information about the author(s): name and surname
- affiliation, email address, disciplinary area
- short biography of maximum 100 words for each author

**Please, submit both files according to the templates available on the website of the Conference.**

**All texts must be written in English.** The abstract should include the author(s) original research work and it should clearly outline the scope of the contribution, the main thesis argued, the conceptual and methodological approaches (e.g.: case studies, comparisons, etc.) and the expected outcomes.

**The proposals will be evaluated through a double-blind peer-review process**, by the Organising Committee of the Conference. The evaluation will be based on their originality, scholarly quality, and relevance to the conference themes and topics. **Acceptance notifications will be sent out within June 30<sup>th</sup>**, after the application deadline.

**All selected authors will be asked to submit their full paper**

**no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>**. Following the selection, the authors will be notified of the editorial rules to be complied for the final version of the paper. **Full papers will go through a double-blind peer-review process**, by the Scientific Committee of the Conference.

The authors of the selected full papers will be invited to present their work at the **International Conference on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023** in the manner that will be further communicated. The Conference will be held in Bologna; location and details will be announced following the selection of contributions.

Following the Conference, the proceedings will be published in the **CPCL Series, a free and open access online book series exploring cultural heritage, creative practices and the city**. The book series is jointly edited by the Department of Architecture at the University of Bologna and the Chair of History of Architecture and Urbanism at the Technical University, Delft. CPCL Series is a project promoted by the European Journal of Creative Practices in Cities and Landscapes. More information can be found here: <https://cpcl.unibo.it>

For updates and more details on deadlines, please refer to the website of the conference at: <https://eventi.unibo.it/leaving-nothing-behind>

For all questions and requests, please contact [leavingnothingbehind@unibo.it](mailto:leavingnothingbehind@unibo.it)

## Organising Committee

The Organising Committee is composed of the members of the XXXVII PhD Cycle in Architecture and Design Cultures: Margherita Ascari, Igor Piotr Bajena, Benedetta Baldassarre, Alberto Calleo, Enrico Chinellato, Maria Antonietta De Vivo, Lorela Mehmeti, Eleonora Melandri, Zeno Mutton, Arianna Pasa, Alba Pauli, Davide Pletto, Tommaso Rovinelli, Aniseh Saber, Ruoran Yan.

For more information: <https://phd.unibo.it/architettura/it/persone/dottorandi>

## Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is composed of the members of the Academic Board of the PhD Programme in Architecture and Design Culture, Department of Architecture, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna.

For more information: <https://phd.unibo.it/architettura/en/people>