

# GRADUATION ORIENTATION AR3U105

September 2021

Dear MSc 3 Urbanism students,

You are kindly asked to submit this form:

- **First part - studio preference + draft general part - on Friday week 1.1 before 17:00h** in the studio specific submission folder on Brightspace AR3U105.

From Friday week 1.1 17.00h up and until Monday week 1.2 the MSc3 coordination team will review and assess all the selection forms. Based on an internal selection meeting with all coordinators, Tuesday week 1.2 (latest in the afternoon) you will receive an email from the specific studio coordinator with the confirmation of your studio choice and/or a recommendation on other possibilities. The confirmation of the studio does also mean you are enrolled for the studio specific essential intensive of week 1.3 and 1.4.

- **Second part - 1<sup>st</sup> mentor preference + further developed general part - on Friday week 1.2 before 17:00h** in the studio specific submission folder on Brightspace AR3U105.

From Friday week 1.2 17.00h up and until Wednesday week 1.3 the MSc3 studio coordinators will review and assess all the selection forms. Based on mutual coordination with all studio coordinators, Thursday week 1.3 the latest you will receive an email from the specific studio coordinator with the confirmation of your 1<sup>st</sup> mentor choice and/or a recommendation on other possibilities.

- **Third part - intensives preferences week 1.5&6 (focus intensives) and week 1.7&8 (integrative intensives) + further developed general part - on Friday week 1.3 before 17:00h** in the intensives submission folder on Brightspace AR3U105.

From Friday week 1.3 17.00h up and until Wednesday week 1.4 the MSc3 coordination team will review and assess all the selection forms. Based on mutual coordination with the Msc3 coordination team, Thursday week 1.4 the latest you will receive an email with the confirmation of the focus and integrative intensive and/or a recommendation on other possibilities.

- **Fourth part – 2<sup>nd</sup> mentor preference + further developed general part - on Friday week 2.1 before 17:00h** in the studio specific submission folder on Brightspace AR3U105.

From Friday week 2.1 17.00h up and until Wednesday week 2.2 the MSc3 coordination team will review and assess all the selection forms. Based on mutual coordination with all studio coordinators, Wednesday week 2.2 the latest you will receive an email from the specific studio coordinator with the confirmation of your 2<sup>nd</sup> mentor choice and/or a recommendation on other possibilities.

## AR3U105 Graduation Orientation form

Friday week 1.1 before 17:00h+ Friday week 1.2 before 17:00h + Friday week 1.3 before 17:00h + Friday week 2.1 before 17:00h

Student Name

Oviya Elango

Student Number

5252385

### First part: studio preference + draft general part

Friday week 1.1 before 17:00h

1<sup>st</sup> choice studio +  
argumentation

Transitional territories

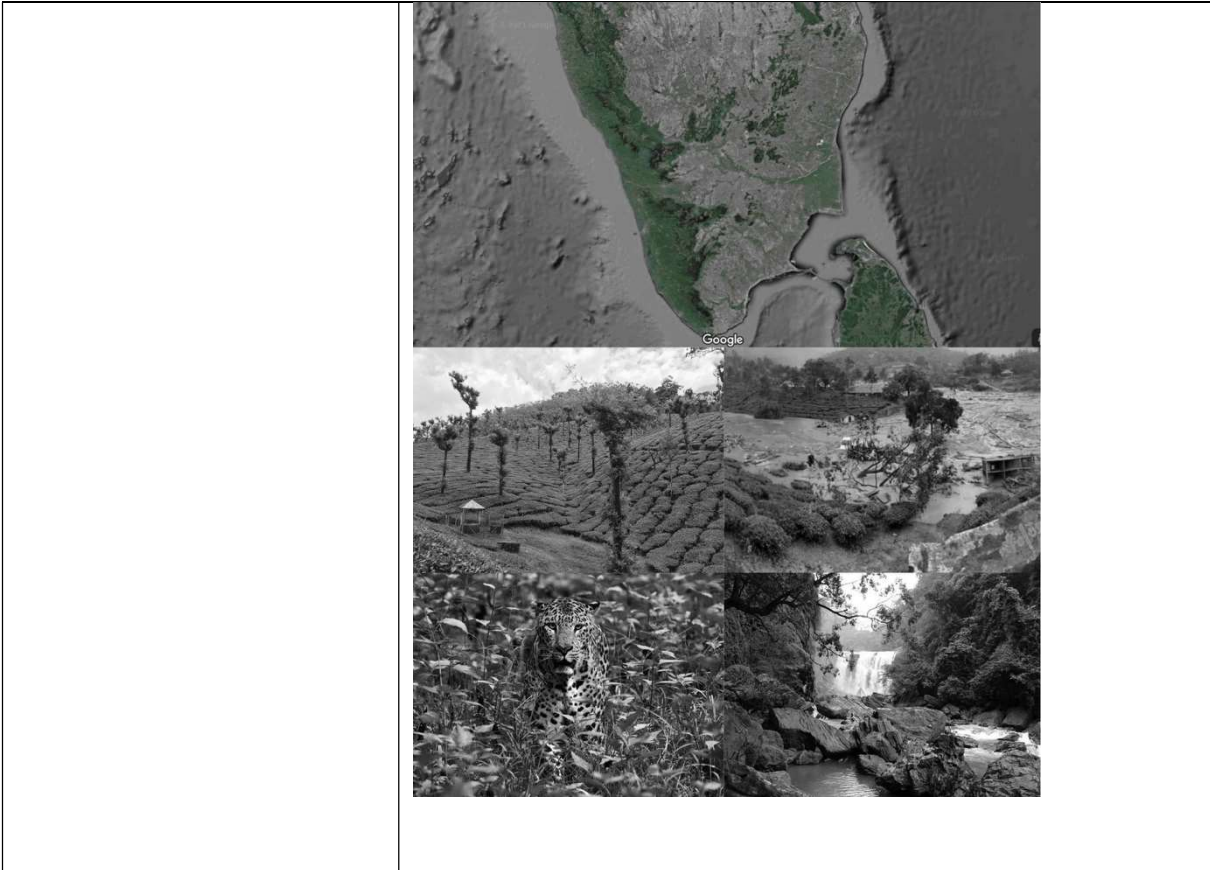
#### Motivation

**Scope:** Western Ghats in southern India is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest bio-diverse hotspots in the world, while at the same time houses 50 million people experiencing extreme weather conditions.

Various concentration of densities transitioning through varied landscapes interact with their eco-systems uniquely, which requires dynamic adaptation in the future and alternate ways of living.

**Trajectory:** These adaptations transitions through the realms of risk mitigation, organizing densities of human & other species ethically and solving spatial claims sustainably. Ending Anthropocene by visualizing future systems which is accommodative of all beings of the planet equally.

**Studio:** The Transitional territories studio looks at synchronizing the themes of matter, topos, habitat and geopolitics, which is essential in understanding the complexities of such a region and realizing speculative future adaptations beyond mitigation. To study such a region, there is a need for complex cartographic explorations to analyze its conditions and weather patterns. Going beyond post-accumulation requires human-nature systems existing as one which is how I perceive the project to grow.



2<sup>nd</sup> choice studio + argumentation

Complex Cities

**Studio:** The complex cities studios has various planning tools and to sort out the complexities and methods of governance. Yet I have some doubts about how this studio will help me in innovating mapping methods to represent the complexities.

**Second part: 1<sup>st</sup> mentor preference + general part**  
 Friday week 1.2 before 17:00h

Confirmed studio

Transitional Territories

Possible 1<sup>st</sup> mentor (max. 3 names) + argumentation

1. Nikos Katsikis

**Argumentation:**

The complexities that come with the Western Ghats as the site and trajectory I envision for the project, which imagines a socio-spatial-ecological form which are transformative and adaptive. A way of speculating emergent realities which accommodates 8 billion people in synergy with the planet. Most problems that the region faces from resource extraction (highlands, deltas and oceans) to monsoon adaptation and spatial claims for organizing density needs to be looked at from the perspective of economic and political perspective.

Such a trajectory demands in-depth understanding of urban theory, understanding of metabolism, the current field of speculative thought process, along with smart cartographic understanding of such problem. (given the lesser availability of data) Which I believe Nikos has

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|  | <p>great expertise in along with a lot of other fields. I find his argumentation to be simple, grounded and stringing a series of logical steps in solving a complex problem. (from Q3) That I believe is the key factor why I choose him, to be able to converse but not be intimidated by my mentor.</p> <p>2. Diego Sepulvada:<br/> <b>Argumentation:</b><br/> The project as mentioned above could also be looked at from a spatial planning strategy. Given Diego's experience and expertise in planning delta regions, I believe he could guide me in the direction of spatial planning, methods to solve the issues at present using the right tools and methodologies at hand.</p> |
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**A**

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| Confirmed studio   | Transitional Territories  |
| Confirmed 1 <sup>st</sup> mentor   | Diego Sepulvada   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> choice week 1.5&6 focus intensive (max. 3) + argumentation       | <p>1. Theories of sustainability-<br/> The project deals with identifying adaptations for future of human settlements which requires in depth understanding of existing theories. This I believe I can gain more knowledge from this intensive.</p>   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> choice week 1.7&8 integrative intensive (max. 3) + argumentation | <p>1. Projecting Urban Landscape<br/> I would require this skill to analysis of the systems(monsoon, economies, forest areas)interacting with each other and the elements which disrupt this functioning system.(climate change, de-forestation) To design or interject in such system I would need the tools of this studio.</p> |

**Fourth part: 2<sup>nd</sup> mentor preference + general part**  
Friday week 2.1 before 17:00h

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| Confirmed studio   | Transitional Territories   |
| Confirmed 1 <sup>st</sup> mentor                               | Diego Sepulvada  |
| Possible 2 <sup>nd</sup> mentor (max. 3 names) + argumentation | <p>Nikos Katsinkis-<br/> I believe his expertise in systemic thinking, knowledge on commodification of cheap natures and critical mapping would guide the project in the territorial scale.</p> <p>(Or)<br/> Claudiu Forgaci-<br/> I believe his expertise in working with adaptive cycles and water systems in particular, along with the</p> |

methodological approach to designing adaptive frameworks is something that would guide the project in the grounded local scale of design.

**General part: each time further developed**

Friday week 1.1 before 17:00h + Friday week 1.2 before 17:00h + Friday week 1.3 before 17:00h + Friday week 2.1 before 17:00h

**Preliminary project title** Towards a dynamic state equilibrium in Southern India, Vaigai river basin

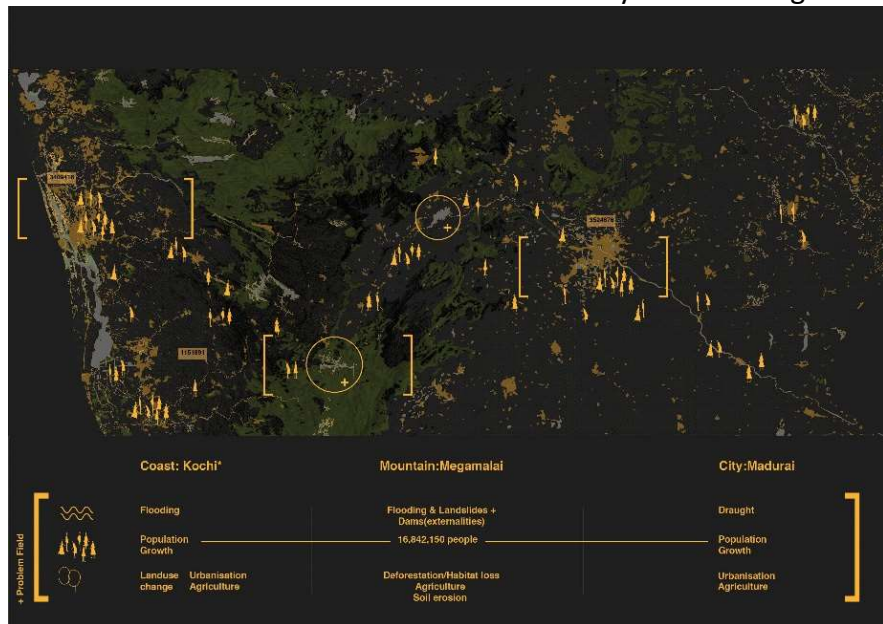
**Key words (4-7)** Habitat Loss, Human sustenance, Transitional regions, conflict, towards stability


**Key images**

**Main motivation for the project / Problematization**

Coming from a region like India, where we already are experiencing climate change like never before, I believe it is critical to tackle the ongoing crisis and also create an adaptable framework to sustain life in the future.

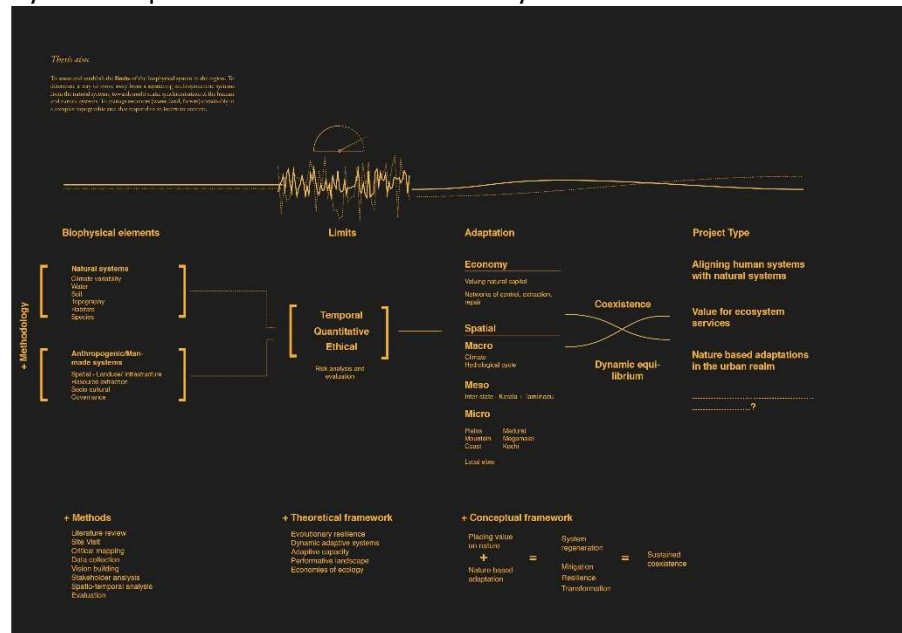
Unprecedented, extreme weather events are becoming daily news highlights, on the other hand exploitations of land/resources for human growth deepens into the pristine landscapes. Hence we need to envision the future of life in such a drastically modified region.



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| <p>Your possible location(s) for research and/or design (add a map if possible)</p> | <p>Western Ghats, India</p>    |
| <p>Aim of study / Main research question</p>  | <p>To assess and establish the <b>limits</b> of the biophysical system in the region. To determine a way to move away from a separating anthropocentric systems from the natural systems, towards multi-scalar synchronisation of the human and natural systems. To manage resources (water, land, forests) sustainably in a complex topographic area that respond to an interstate context.</p> |
| <p>Intended concrete outcomes (add images, maps etc. of reference projects)</p>     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Macro-Systems mapping and their taxonomies<br/>Designing changes in these systems.</li> <li>2. Micro- Local site specific adaptation strategies for mitigating flood/draught.</li> <li>3. Micro+Macro – exploitative extraction towards nature based systems.</li> </ol>   |
| <p>Possible project approach / methodology / methods</p>                            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial approach is to identify key elements/systems in the region, one being water, monsoon patterns, habitats, urbanisations. Etc.</li> <li>2. To identify the limits of these systems and their strength &amp; weakness.</li> </ol>   |



3.To formulate adaptation& transformation strategies to bring a dynamic equilibrium or a state of stability.



Scientific relevance of your project

I believe tackling climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our generation and formulating synergies with natural and human world would help reduce the effects to a certain level.( evaluation of a projects capacity to push back the ongoing climate crisis is something I want to explore in this project)

Societal relevance of your project

The project entails complexities involving more than 6 million people, who are faced with either flooding or draught. Moreover the Periyar dam on the mountains is a ticking bomb waiting to explode, meaning its 125 years old and lost its structural stability posing a threat of failing which would result in wiping off entire villages and affecting at least 3 million people in the state of Kerala. If it is decommissioned then the state of Tamil Nādu loses water security especially in the city of Madurai which has a population of 3 million people. Hence resolving issues like the one posed above I think is socially relevant at this point in time.

Reflection on all Urbanism MSc3&4 studios: briefly describe the project focus when performed under studio (in 200 words per studio):

- Transitional Territories: Performed under TT the focus will be on synchronization of natural and human systems, taking water/monsoon as drivers of change. The interventions would be on a regional and a local scale not going in-depth into every small detail on a local scale and different topographies.
- Design of the Urban Fabric: Performed under UF the focus will be on identifying the patterns of the systems at stake and systematically change elements that can be modifies and focus on a smaller scale of interventions, designing adaptations in minute detail.
- Planning Complex Cities: Performed under CC the focus will be on governance and social aspects of the issues at hand and extensive planning for regulation in policies and feasibility of adaptations.

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Metabolism &amp; Climate: Performed under UMC the focus will be on understanding the systems in multiple scales and coming up with solutions to reverse the climate. Lesser focus on different landscapes.</li> <li>• Urban Ecology &amp; Ecocities: Performed under UEE the focus will be on nature based solutions as transformation to bring back habitats and improve the ecosystems.</li> <li>• (City of the Future: ..) Performed under COF the focus will be on scenario building for a desired future and adapt current conditions according to it.</li> </ul> |
| Ethical considerations                     | Placing values on nature and people who are affected by the negative externalities of extraction/greed rather than focusing on the people who find climate change as a mere inconvenience. Prioritizing sustenance on the planet and people rather than the profit aspect on the sustainability equation.   |
| Possible resources                         |   |
| Mind map brainstorm on the project / topic |   |
| Other comments                             |   |