Cím **Making Sense of Waste: Learning Through Diverging Methods for Creative Inquiry**

Classroom ☐
Studio or workshop ☐
External venues ☐
Online ☐

Kódok M-KF-E-301-FS-252602-04, B-KF-401-FS-252602-04, M-KF-301-FS-252602-04, ER-MOME-MA-252602-06

Hirdető **MOME Future School**

	Type	ECTS	Contact hours	Student work	Course type	Semester	Unit
Basic info	**Practice**	**5**	**weekly4**	**weekly 2**	**KFI**	**2025/2026/1**	**Ecology & Action Lab**

Recommendation

Short description

This course invites MA students in Interaction Design and Photography to explore waste as a material, concept, and context for creative research. Through a series of method-based workshops and collaborations, students will experiment with how observation, documentation, material transformation, and interaction can become tools for making sense of complex environmental and social issues. The course builds on three interlinked processes, (1) capturing, (2) interpreting, and (3) extending, to examine how visual and material methods can generate new ways of knowing. Photographers will use waste as a lens to question how images can document, reinterpret, or reimagine what is discarded, while interaction designers will translate these insights into interactive or experiential forms that connect audiences with the topic. Guest-lectures from waste researchers and environmental professionals will provide grounding in material systems and sustainability practices. Students will work hands-on with analogue and digital media from field photography and note-taking to 3D printing, recycled materials, and data visualization, to explore how creative methods can bridge science, art, and design.

Teachers

Name	Contact	BIO	Opening hours
Mary Karyda	maria.karyda@mome.hu	Lead Researcher	40
Damla Cay	damla.cay@mome.hu	Researcher	8
Mihaly Minko	minko.mihaly@mome.hu	Data Visualisation Expert	20
Szentandrási Dóra	szentandrasi.dora@mome.hu	Researcher	20
Ádám Szabó	szabo.adam@mome.hu	Research Assistant	4
Tölgyesi Borbála	tolgyesi.borbala@mome.hu	Doctoral Candidate	4
Daniella Grinberg	grinberg.daniella@stud.mome.hu	Doctoral Candidate	4
Erdei Krisztina	erdei@mome.hu	Photography Teacher	4
Fogarasy Tamás	fogarasy@mome.hu	IxD Teacher	4
Waste Expert 1	Bérces Éva	External	4
Waste Expert 2		External	4
Waste Expert 3		External	4

Semester schedule

Course scheduling	Weekly class appointments
Every Friday	

Occasion	Date	Weekly educational content
1	20 February	Introduction: Waste as Material, Concept, Context
2	27 February	Capturing: Observation and Documentation
3	6 March	**Waste Systems and Material Flows** *(Guest Waste Expert #1 + Workshop)*
4	13 March	Interpreting: From Image to Insight
5	20 March	**Waste Materiality: Transformation and Making** *(Guest Waste Expert #2 + Workshop)*
6	27 March	Sensing and Data: Waste Beyond the Visual
7	10 April	Extending: Interaction, Engagement, Experience
8	17 April	**Waste and Sustainability Practices** *(Guest Waste Expert #3 + Workshop)*
9	24 April	Collaborative Studio: Bridging Science, Art, and Design
10	8 May	Exhibition and Reflection
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

Requrements

Assignments	Evaluation criteria	Deadline	% in evaluation
active class participation	Max 3 absences		20%
keeping an individual research diary which could be textual or visual	Active presence: 20% Development: 30% Quantity: 30% Quality: 20%		30%
End-of-term Portfolio Exam	Students will examine other courses' results and consider waste using the tools/methods they learn in this elective. Based on that they will prepare for a portfolio exam (exhibition format).		50%

Compulsory readings

Recommended readings

Tomico, O., Rosén, A. P., Keune, S., Altarriba Bertran, F., Wilde, D., Fernández Galeote, D., ... & Spors, V. (2024). Seeding a repository of methods-to-be for nature-entangled design research. In Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (pp. 1101–1115).

de la Bellacasa, M. P. (2017). Matters of Care: Speculative Ethics in More-than-Human Worlds. University of Minnesota Press.

Hawkins, G. (2006). The Ethics of Waste: How We Relate to Rubbish. Rowman & Littlefield.

Gabrys, J. (2011). Digital Rubbish: A Natural History of Electronics. University of Michigan Press.

Scanlan, J. (2005). On Garbage. Reaktion Books.

Liboiron, M. (2021). Pollution is Colonialism. Duke University Press.

Bennett, J. (2010). Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things. Duke University Press.

Guattari, F. (2000). The Three Ecologies. Continuum.

Wakkary, R., Desjardins, A., Hauser, S., & Maestri, L. (2013). A Sustainable Design Fiction: Green Practices. ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI), 20(4), 1–34.

Lee, Y., Pschetz, L., Karyda, M., Tomico, O., Wilde, D., Lenskjold, T. U., ... & Nissen, B. (2024). Ecological Data for Manifesting the Entanglement of More-than-Human Livingness. In Companion Publication of the 2024 ACM DIS Conference (pp. 377–380).

Blevis, E. (2007). Sustainable Interaction Design: Invention & Disposal, Renewal & Reuse. In Proceedings of CHI (pp. 503–512).

Kuijer, L., Kaipainen, K., Bidwell, N. J., Friday, A., Hassenzahl, M., Lallemand, C., ... & Shakeri, G. (2025). Once Upon a Time When HCI Prioritised Environmental Sustainability. In Proceedings of CHI EA '25.

Douglas, M. (1966). Purity and Danger: An Analysis of Concepts of Pollution and Taboo. Routledge.

Giertz, E. (2023). Waste Forms: Reuse and Artistic Practice in the Anthropocene. Bloomsbury Visual Arts

Bennett, J., & Shaviro, S. (2015). Art, Ecology, and the Politics of Waste. Open Humanities Press.

Learnings

Knowledge	- Understand key theories and their relevance to design and artistic research. - Gain familiarity with diverse research methods. - Recognize the socio-political and environmental contexts shaping creative practice. - Develop an awareness of systems thinking, relationality, and more-than-human perspectives in ecological engagement.
Skills	- Apply fieldwork, observational, and participatory research techniques in student projects. - Develop methodological toolkits through studio-based experimentation. - Reflect critically on their own position and practice within ecological systems.
Attitude	- Cultivate a reflective and open-minded stance toward uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity in ecological work. - Demonstrate sensitivity to ethical, cultural, and environmental dimensions of design and research. - Embrace collaboration, care, and humility in engaging with communities and environments. - Value the process of learning from place, material, and more-than-human relations.

Responsibility	- Take responsibility for the ecological and social impact of their design/research decisions. - Practice accountability in working with participants, materials, and contexts. - Contribute actively to a respectful, inclusive, and critical studio environment. - Commit to ongoing inquiry, self-reflection, and action in their future ecological practices.

Exemption

☒ Exemption from attending and completing the course cannot be granted,
☐ Exemption may be granted from the acquisition of certain competencies and the fulfilment of tasks
☐ Some tasks can be replaced by other activities,
☐ A full exemption can be granted

Curriculum link

Subject	Related courses (paralells)	Merit rate in the subject
Title of the course to be covered	[This course]	
	Another course	
	Third course	

Course prerquisites	Is it available as an elective?	Prerequisites in case of elective

TechPark

	Resources	
Requests	HR (professional consultation)	
	Tools	
	Materials	

Other information