

**IV ESDA  
DESIS  
SOCIAL  
DESIGN  
DAYS**

PROMOTING  
SOCIAL  
DESIGN

13/14  
MARCH 2025



**PROGRAMME**

# Thursday 13, March

## MORNING

### KEYNOTE SPEECHES

ESDA's main venue.

**10 h**      **Davide Fassi**

“Off the Campus, in the Neighbourhood”.

**11 h**      **Coffee Break**

**11:30 h**   **Ralitsa Debrah**

“Social Innovation in Afrika: Designing to Empower Differently-Abled Persons from the Margins”.

# Thursday 13, March

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## EVENING

### WORKSHOPS

Library

- 16 h**      **For STUDENTS by Ana Margarida Ferreira**  
“The IMAGINE Design Challenge.  
Designing Peace and Caring for all under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)”.

# Thursday 13, March

## EVENING

### WORKSHOPS

Classroom 001

**16:30 h For TEACHERS by Lorraine Gamman and Francesco Mazzarella**

“Uncovering Journeys towards Transformational Change – Sharing Insights with Creative Practitioners”.

**18:00 h For TEACHERS by Yanki Lee**

“Design & People: Exploring Universal Design (UD) 4.0 of design for/with/by/as the others”.

# Friday 14, March

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## MORNING

### PRESENTATIONS

ESDA's hall

**9:30 h Students Presentations of last Social Design projects to the Panel of Experts.**

### DESIGN ACTIVISM

El Gancho Neighbourhood

**12:30 h Design Activism for Peace in the Quarter: Poster Sticking.**

# Davide Fassi

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Full professor in Spatial and Service design at the Politecnico di Milano. Rector's delegate for cultural activities. Member of the international committee at DESIS Network (Design for Social innovation and Sustainability) and coordinator of the Polimi DESIS Lab.

Author of “Temporary Urban Solutions” (2012), “In the neighbourhood” (2017) and “Universities as drivers for social innovation” (2020). XXV Compasso d'Oro (2018) for the research “campUS- Incubation and settings of social practices”. Ambrogino d'Oro (2022) for Off Campus Polimi. Third prize at the Seoul Design Award (2023) with Off Campus Nolo. Coordinator of “Smoties- Creative works with small and remote places” funded by Creative Europe including 10 European partners. Founder of “Coltivando, the convivial garden at the Politecnico di Milano”.

Scientific coordinator of “Off Campus Nolo” a neighbourhood research and design lab located in a municipal grocery market at Nolo, Milan. “SOSpesa” is one of the hosted activities, to help people in getting access to fresh and healthy food.



# Ralitsa Debrah

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Dr. Ralitsa Diana Debrah is a designer and educator with over a decade of local and international consulting experience.

She lectures at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana, where she serves as the Lab Operations Manager and International Coordinator for the Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability (DESIS) Network. She is a member of the e/merge Africa Network at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa, and actively participates in organisations such as Open Design Afrika, DesignGhana, the Pan Afrikan Design Institute, and the World Design Organization (WDO).

As co-founder of Inclusive-Tech-Group (ITG), a Ghanaian not-for-profit, she works with differently-abled persons in local communities. Ralitsa is a lifelong learner, futurist, and advocate for people-centred design.





# Ana Margarida Ferreira

■

Dr. Ana Margarida Ferreira (AMF) currently serves as an Associate Professor with Habilitation in Design at Beira Interior University (UBI), alongside her role as PhD in Design Course Coordinator, iA\* Lab “DES’SIDE – Design for Sustainability, Social Innovation and Development” Coordinator and Senior Researcher at UBI’s R&D unit iArtes.

Dr. Ferreira’s research interests primarily lie in Design Research Methodologies, Creativity & Innovation, Design Education, Social Innovation, and Sustainable Development. She actively collaborates with national and international R&D units, coordinates several R&D+i national and international projects, co-edits “DISCERN – International Design Journal for Social Change, Sustainable Innovation and Entrepreneurship” and serves as the President of Creative Nature Hub, an NGO focused on sustainable development in rural areas. AMF has supervised 9 PhD theses and numerous MSc dissertations throughout her career. She currently supervises 1 Postdoc student and 6 PhD students.

More info: <https://www.cienciavitaet.pt/portal/0613-C585-F347>



# Lorraine Gamman

Dr. Lorraine Gamman is Professor of Design at University of the Arts London where she founded the award-winning Design Against Crime Research Lab (DACRL) at Central Saint Martins in 1999 .

Today she continues to teach, write, and co-direct design against crime research team funding applications, projects & exhibitions delivering international design benchmarks, some co-designed with prisoners.

Gamman has generated over 50 publications, co-curated over 20 international art and design exhibitions, and co designed a number product ranges with prisoners including Makeright anti-theft bags (2016-18) . the development of a social game Captivated (2020) to connect prisoners with their children as well as a cell furniture range (2018-23).

Her research continues to focus on creative education in prison also on anti- shoplifting and anti gender-based violence.



# Francesco Mazzarella

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Dr Francesco Mazzarella is a design researcher, educator, and activist, striving to plant seeds of hope and change, especially working with marginalised communities.

He is Reader in Design for Social Change at London College of Fashion, UAL. His work at Centre for Sustainable Fashion (CSF) aims at exploring ways in which design activism can be used to create counter-narratives towards sustainability in fashion.

Francesco's research spans the fields of design activism, textile craftsmanship, decolonising fashion, design for sustainability, social innovation, and place-making.

Francesco has experience in design research, education, and practice in the UK, Italy, the Netherlands, Hungary, Brazil, South Africa, Vietnam, and Australia. He is a member of the Design Council Expert Network, Fellow of Advance HE, Co-founder of the DESIS Cluster on Design from the Margins and of the Cumulus Working Group on Design Education for Social Change. Francesco's work has been presented at international conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.





# Yanki Lee

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Professor Yanki LEE is a global citizen which she researches and teaches between Hong Kong, London, Växjö and Kolding.

As a design activist with architectural design background and founder of Enable Foundation, a social design collective and education charity, Yanki co-designs things and exhibitions as co-creative tools that unlock wicked social problems through empathic design practice.

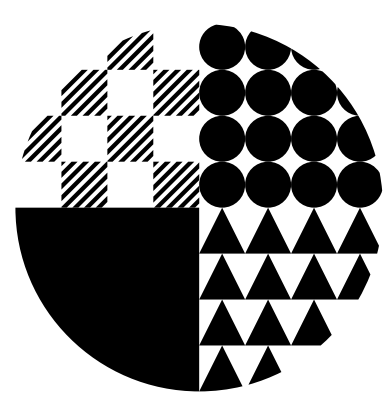
Since her doctoral design research on inclusive and participatory design practice (2003-2007), she started on self-reflective discussions about human-centered design practice and now the discussion is extended from human to non-human and expanded to “design for/with people” or even “design as the others”.





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