



OE24B24

Designing Ecologies of Care



David Gelb

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ABOUT

David Gelb is an Associate Professor in the Department of Design at the School of the Arts Media, Performance, and Design at York University. His research centers on ethical interfaces, and he co-leads AI In Focus, a project funded by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada to investigate and explain artificial intelligence. He teaches user-centered design, visual communication, and interaction design theory at both undergraduate and graduate levels. David's professional practice emphasizes user experience research for clients in health sciences, education, and culture. He also served as Chair of the Department of Design from 2019-2022.



Michael Longford

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Michael Longford is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computational Arts and Graduate Program Director of Digital Media, a joint program between the School of the Arts Media, Performance and Design (AMPD) and the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University. Previously, he served as Associate Dean of Research in AMPD and Director of Sensorium: Centre for Digital Arts and Technology. His research spans early wireless communications in Canada, mobile technologies, and locative media practices, and his creative work explores how mobile technologies can animate public spaces.

OVERVIEW

This workshop will explore the intersection of the natural world and human activity in urban areas to imagine systems of care. Participants will consider aspects of urban nature (wild and domestic) as sources of shelter, food, and refuge, while also examining the impact of pollution, waste management, and unregulated building. The workshop will reflect on cultural practices that emphasize empathy, collective growth, and the nuanced relationships between humans and non-human species. Topics may include designing for health, promoting green spaces, spiritual regeneration, ecological awareness, and community building.

METHODOLOGY

This workshop combines lectures, field research, and hands-on demonstrations with regular feedback sessions. Students will work in small groups to present progress at the end of Week 1 and participate in a final critique in Week 2. The project involves three parts: Field Research, where participants explore urban-nature intersections through sketching and photography; Analysis and Visualization, creating care narratives through storyboards; and Synthesis and Prototyping, designing prototypes like visual essays and digital applications. This elective will help you develop skills in design while exploring the concept of care.

KEYWORDS

Empathy, multispecies, ecology, community, sustainability.

LOCATION

Bangalore

MAXIMUM PARTICIPANTS

20