

## Seminar – Facing uncertainties

Friday 5th October 2025

09.00 – 13.00

**LOCI\_BXL** (rue Wafelaerts 47-51, salle AV02, in presence only!)

Every year, *Uses&Spaces* organises four events:

- Two scientific seminars devoted to a transversal question,
- Two informal encounters centered on the exploration of places and spatial experiences.

Our next seminar will take place on Friday **October 3rd, 2025**, with the pleasure of welcoming **Jeremy Till, Pierre Chabard, and Pauline Lefebvre** (short bio below).

This event is related to a **talk at CIVA** by our three guests on **Thursday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, in the evening** (details will follow).

On this occasion, we invite PhD candidates and researchers to engage with a shared topic for debate:

### Facing Uncertainties

This theme unfolds along two main lines:

1. **Engaging with a World of Uncertainties:** How does my research shed light on, or serve as a point of reference in, addressing the uncertainties of our contemporary world?
2. **Confronting My Own Research Uncertainties:** How does my approach integrate, or grapple with my own uncertainties as a researcher? Are uncertainties an ally or an obstacle to methodology?

On this basis, we encourage you to prepare a short presentation about your research:

- Speaking time: **10–15 minutes**,
- Send **5 slides**, by **2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2025**, to [elodie.degavre@uclouvain.be](mailto:elodie.degavre@uclouvain.be) and [gerald.ledent@uclouvain.be](mailto:gerald.ledent@uclouvain.be),
- Confirm attendance by Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

We invite contributions to adopt one (or both) of the following perspectives:

### 1. Engaging with a World of Uncertainties

In our *Uses&Spaces* team, research is situated in dialogue with contemporary issues and challenges. Within those challenges, discerning the reliability of statements and facts is increasingly complex. In this context, research must embody integrity and cultivate a critical stance and the projects developed by our members aim to provide possible pathways and responses in a world marked by uncertainty.

This first perspective invites you to reflect on:

**Which contemporary uncertainties does your research address, and how might it produce meaningful, critical, and robust contributions?**

## 2. Confronting my Own Research Uncertainties

Along their research journeys, members of *Uses&Spaces* inevitably encounter doubt, hesitation, and moments of personal questioning. These experiences raise issues of relevance, legitimacy, and, more broadly, the very purpose of academic work. What if the often destabilizing nature of research was an ally for navigating through our research methods? Can uncertainty also be a strength, and how do I use it in a scientific way?

This second perspective invites you to reflect on:

**How do I identify and cultivate uncertainties in my trajectory, and transform them into fuel for research?**

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After group presentations (3–4 researchers each), proposals will be discussed and commented on by our three guest speakers.

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### Practical Information

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

**19:00**

CIVA – talk and booklaunch in the presence of Jeremy Till, Pierre Chabard and Pauline Lefebvre.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

**9:00-13:00**

Seminar – Facing uncertainties

In the presence of Jeremy Till, Pierre Chabard and Pauline Lefebvre.

### Biographies

#### Jeremy Till

Writer, educator and recovering architect. Previously (2012-22) Head of Central Saint Martins and Pro Vice-Chancellor of University of the Arts London, as well as University Lead on Climate Emergency. Now Emeritus Professor of Architecture at Central Saint Martins and member of the research collective MOULD, researching the relationship between climate breakdown and spatial practice. His latest project is called Architecture is Climate.

#### Pierre Chabard

Architect and doctor in architecture, Pierre Chabard currently teaches Architectural History and Theory, at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette. Member of the research team AHTTEP, his research deals with social and cultural history of architecture and urbanism in the second XXth century. Founding member of Criticat (french journal of architectural criticism, 2008-2018), he is now the director of the Editions de la Villette, a french publishing house specialized in architecture, urbanism and landscape.

#### Pauline Lefebvre

Pauline Lefebvre is a Senior Research Associate at the Faculty of Architecture of the Université libre de Bruxelles. Following her participation in Bruno Latour's *Programme of Experimentation in Arts and Politics* at SciencesPo Paris in 2011–12, she co-founded *Æ*, an independent and interdisciplinary research agency. Her research focuses on the recent encounters between architecture and American pragmatism. Her current work explores the social, political, and environmental commitments tied to architects' increasing attention to building materials.