

24.11.2023 14–17 Uhr

Ort: HBK Braunschweig, Gebäude 18, White Cube,
Johannes-Selenka-Platz 1, 38118 Braunschweig

In English

#ClimateEmergis

anastrophic design for a planet in crisis

activity format:

participatory workshop on collective intelligence

HBK Braunschweig Institut für Designforschung

developed by:

Climate Emergency Software Alliance

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a) concept

A catastrophe is the past coming apart; an anastrophe is the future coming together. By considering and designing for and among the trajectories and tendencies of the climate emergency and its myriad effects, this workshop will be organized as an exercise in *anastrophic design*. To this end, three key themes anchor the activities for event:

- 1) The climate emergency disproportionately affects the Global South, where residents who have contributed the least to causing the crisis; the Climate Emergency Software Alliance is committed to creating meaningful access to infrastructure and services in proportion to need and without barriers, especially focusing on the empowerment of women and girls through open source software and related technologies.
- 2) In our digital age, with over 6.3 billion smart phones currently in use around the world, communication exceeds both written and spoken languages; emojis have become a universal language for conveying emotions, ideas, and concerns. With the creation of “Climate Emergis,” CESA seeks to transform the way the world communicates the urgencies and contingencies of the climate emergency.
- 3) Crowdsourcing, crowdlogistics, and crowdfunding are all reshaping climate adaptation outcomes, especially through open source software as infrastructure for collective action in the Global South. CESA is a pathbreaking international organization stewarding the use of open source tools for climate adaptation in anticipation of rapidly increasing climate challenges worldwide.

CESA has envisioned a set of “Climate Emergis” tailored to represent and report various facets of climate change. These symbols, once approved by Unicode and released via updates on every smart phone across the globe, will offer people a simple yet powerful tool to share, report, and cooperate to address urgent environmental challenges.

The primary aim of the workshop is to engage the creativity of participants in a unique design charette to conceptualize and refine the visual representation of “climate emergis.” This collaborative endeavor will be supplemented by a preliminary presentation from CESA’s Research Architects, who will articulate the pressing need for a collective intelligence approach to climate adaptation and investment in infrastructure to enable collective action. Participants will not only participate in the design of this universal symbology for climate adaptation, but also learn how the Alliance are repurposing existing systems for climate justice.



b) workshop facilitators



Isabel Palacios-Macedo Aguilar is a Research Architect with the Climate Emergency Software Alliance in London. As an architect and a writer, she is committed to elaborating moments of intersection between spatial and linguistic meaning. Isabel explores the power exercised by human beings over their environments and her work supports communities and ecosystems to reclaim territories and repair relations. She completed a BArch at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México with a Diploma al Mérito, and an MA in Environmental Architecture at the Royal College of Art. isabel@cesa.global



Tima Rabbat is a Research Architect with the Climate Emergency Software Alliance in London. As a spatial practitioner and architectural researcher, her work focuses on ecological networks and mutual dependencies; she is especially interested in the politics of territory, ownership, and protection within changing environments. Tima completed a BArch Honors at the American University of Beirut, and an MA in Environmental Architecture at the Royal College of Art in London. She has also worked professionally as an architect in Oslo and Rotterdam on a series of socially-centered projects. tima@cesa.global

c) schedule

14h00	Workshop Brief Introduction <i>Make Every Pixel Count: Emergis Research To Date</i>
14h30	Emergis Design Charette Participants will be divided into groups, focusing on specific climate-related themes; collaborative sketching and related design exercises on Novel Icons, ZWJs, and Grid Mapping
16h00	Results, Feedback, and Reflective Conversation



d) outcomes

Based on a workshop with 25 participants, we expect the following outcomes:

- Comprehensive review of design concepts for the “Climate Emergis;”
- enhanced understanding among participants about the role of digital communication tools in collective action for climate advocacy;
- designs will be further refined post-workshop and prepared for submission to Unicode; all participants will be acknowledged as contributors to this design process.

e) about CESA

The Climate Emergency Software Alliance (CESA) is a pathbreaking international organization working at the forefront of climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Comprised of a dedicated team with deep roots in community-led research and engagement, CESA is a leading innovator in the development of infrastructure for inclusive, participatory climate adaptation.

CESA’s flagship product, CogniCity Open Source Software (OSS), has already been adopted by millions of users in Southeast Asia. However, to address the urgent challenges posed by climate change, it must meaningfully engage everyone affected. To this end, CESA is currently working to scale our proven software for DRR and climate adaptation from hundreds of millions of users in Southeast Asia to billions of users worldwide.

Because CogniCity OSS harnesses the under-leveraged potential of mobile connectivity—and the social media and messaging services it enables—CESA understands that its global adoption can help to facilitate participatory, equitable, and cost effective climate adaptation at scale.

To learn more about the organization, its mission and achievements, and the various frontline teams already working to facilitate climate adaptation in South and Southeast Asia and South America, visit <https://cesa.global>.

