



GHENT UNIVERSITY STADS UNIVERSITY ACADEMIE

ENLIGHT European Dialogue 2022

May 11, 2022

Femke Lootens and Lies Hens



Last month ...



Structure

The *Stadsacademie* in a nutshell: 5 essentials

The way we work: several activities within different trajectories

Master Thesis Ateliers & Living Lab



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1 - Focus on wicked urban sustainability challenges



2 - Focus on issues in our own city: Ghent

WoningGent veroordeeld voor verhuur sociale krotten



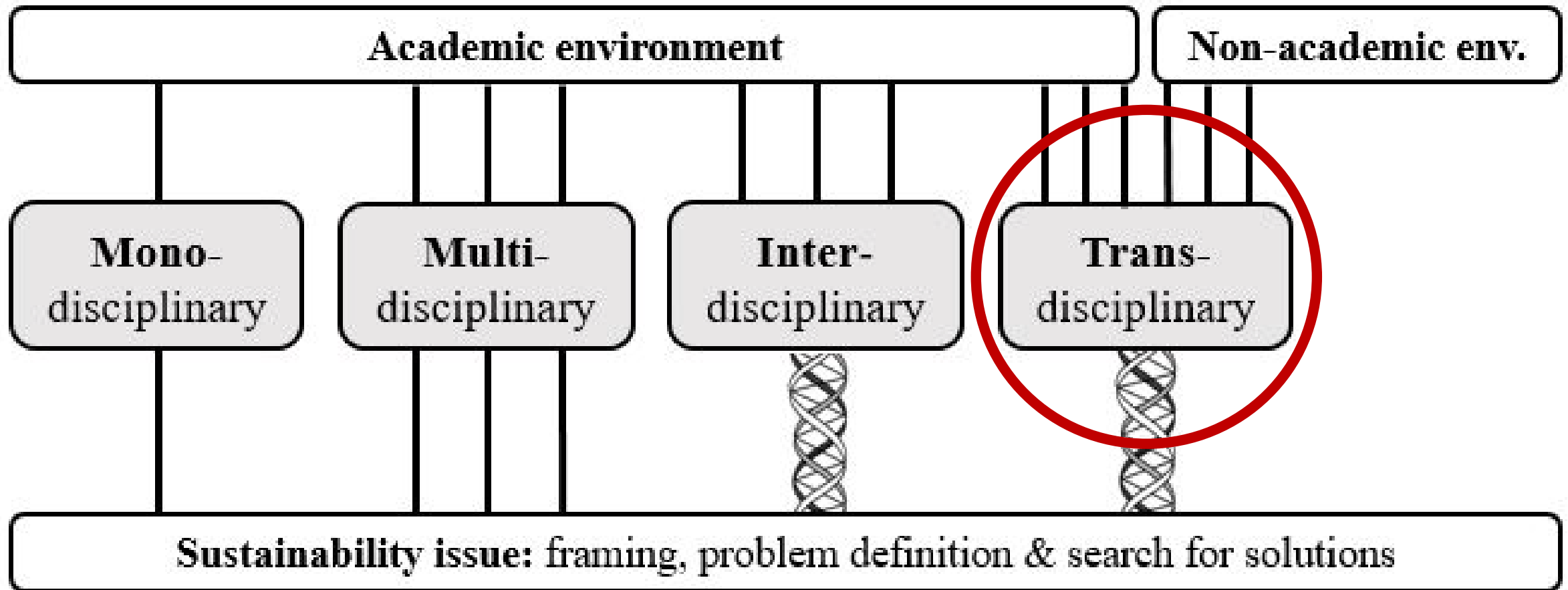
Open brief tegen privatisering van Gentse publieke grond

21 oktober 2019

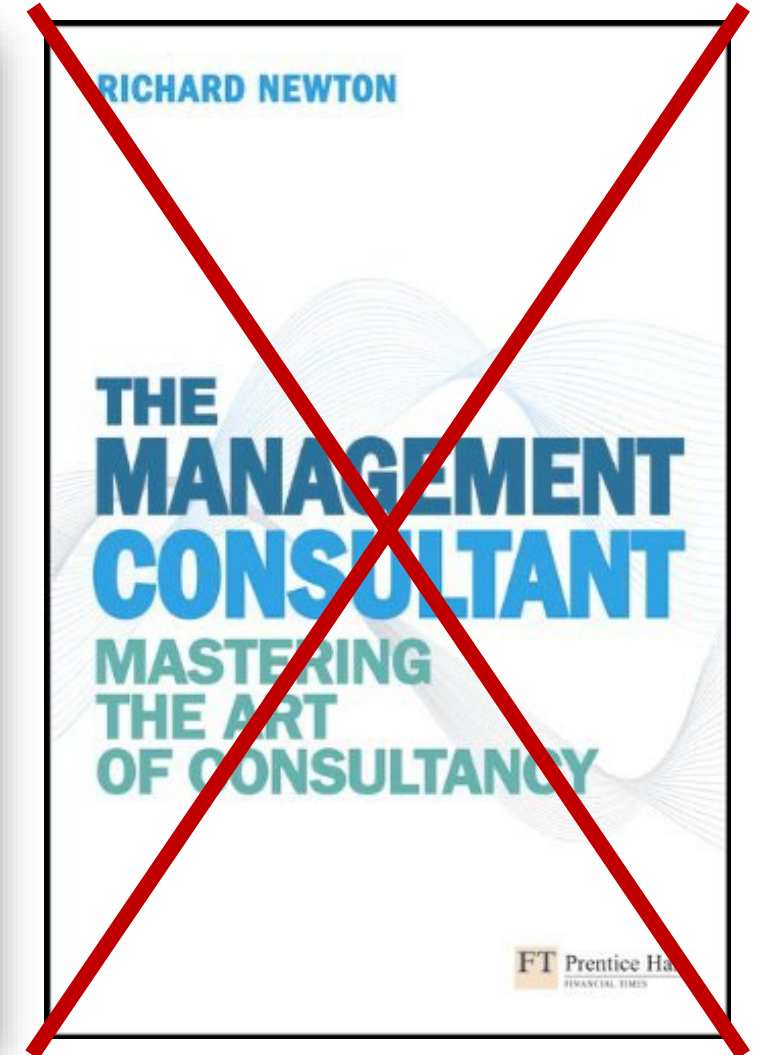
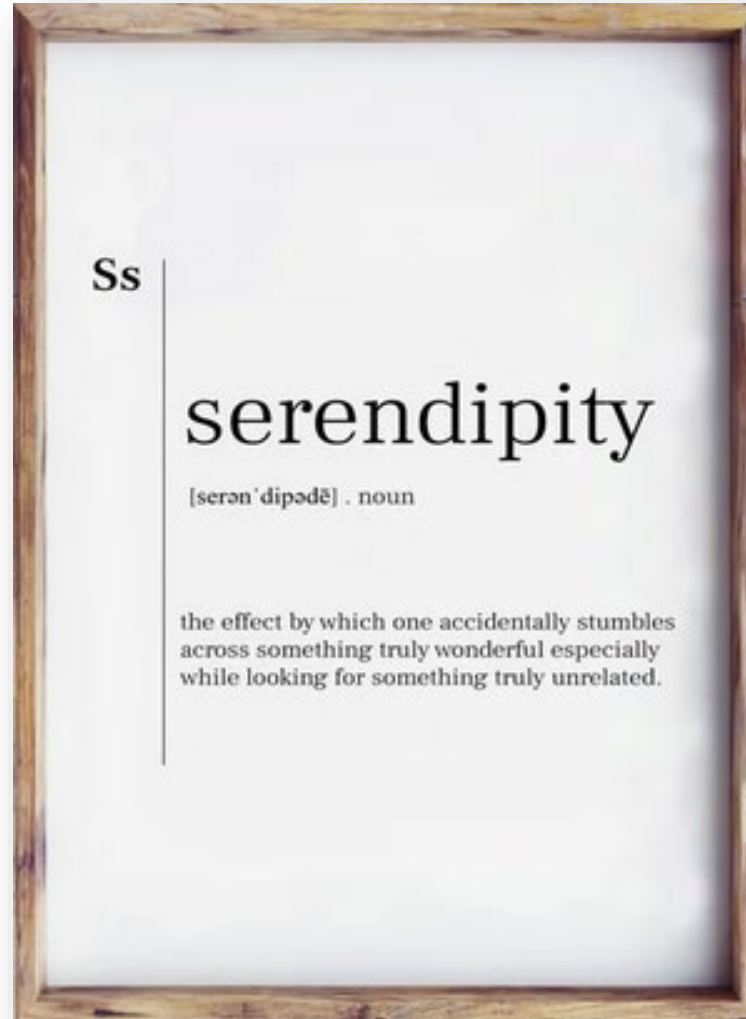
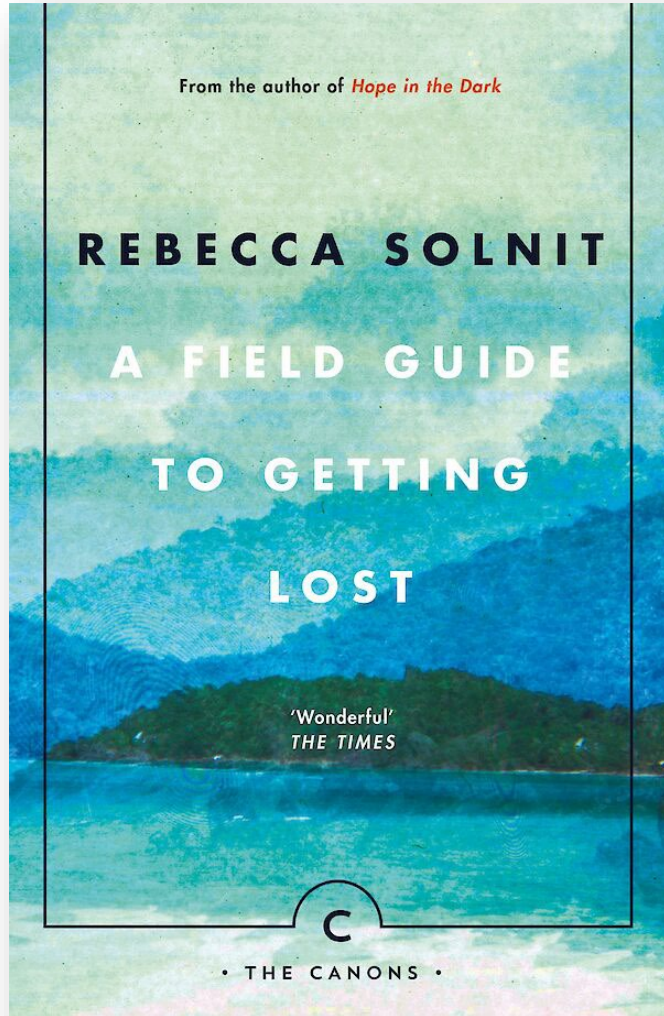
Steuncomité De Hongerige Stad

Gent verkoopt onverminderd landbouwgrond, zonder ook maar enige vorm van publiek overleg, hekelen tientallen Gentse landbouw- en andere organisaties, samen met burgers. Ze eisen een moratorium op de verkoop van publieke grond door stad en OCMW Gent. Ze roepen de stad ook op om eerst en vooral duidelijk in kaart te brengen welke gronden ze bezit, om vervolgens met het publiek te overleggen over hoe ze zullen worden ingezet in het algemeen belang.

3 - Focus on transdisciplinarity



4 - Embrace exploration & the search for relevant questions



5 – Look for synergies between education, research & services



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Main goals of the *Stadsacademie*

- to experiment with **new ways of knowledge production**: transdisciplinary, reflexive, student-led,... processes
- to **explore** and to **impact** upon sustainability issues in Ghent
- to become an “***incubator and international reference for transdisciplinary research and education on urban sustainability problems***”

Coordination

- **One overall coordinator** (paid by UGent)
- **Day-to-day management:** coordinator + 3 engaged professors
- **Steering group:** 10 to 15 professors, postdocs, PhDs,... and 5 to 8 non-academic actors (policy makers from the city of Ghent)

... and a **community** of more than 150 people



Different trajectories



Circular building



Living Lab
Campus Sterre



Mobility & accessibility



Urban agriculture



Space for care



City & campus



Urban renewal



Food democracy



Diversity & social
housing

Different formula

- Stadsacademie sessions
- Research projects and courses (education)
- Seminars, debates, lunch talks, etc.
- Master Thesis Ateliers



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Some history & main goals

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Trajectory 'Diversity in Social Housing'



Luce Beeckmans



Thomas Block



Peter Vanden Abeele

Four editions

Trajectory	Diversity in Social Housing			
<i>Academic year</i>	<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>2019-2020</i>	<i>2020-2021</i>	<i>2021-2022</i>
Specific focus	Development of an innovative housing program for refugees in Ghent	The social housing neighbourhood Watersportbaan	The social housing 'garden city' Sint-Bernadette	The social housing neighbourhood Nieuw Gent

Specific issue 2020-2021: 'Renovation of Sint-Bernadette'



8 students = 8 perspectives = 8 focuses

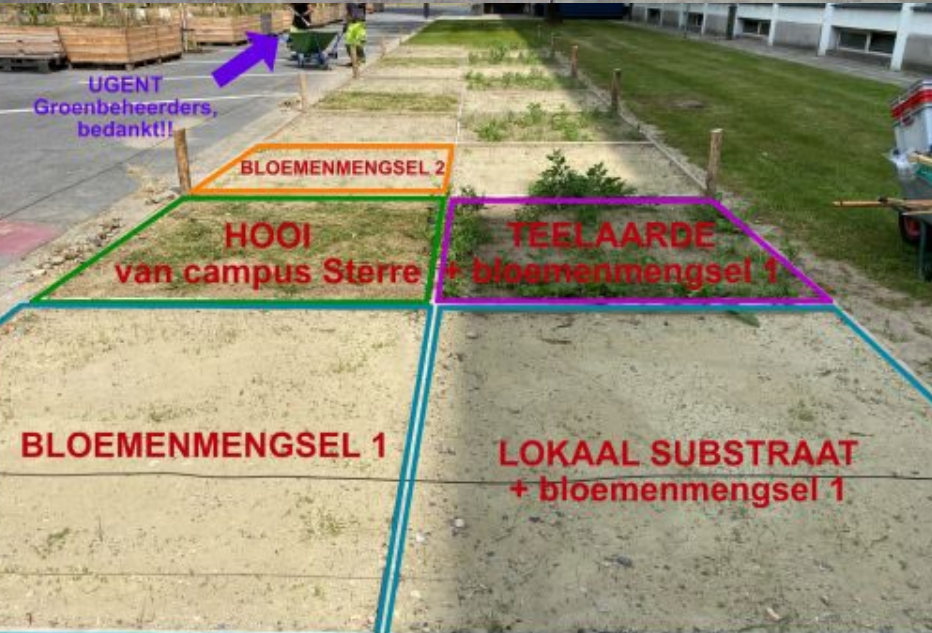
<i>Educational program</i>	<i>Research focus</i>
Engineering-Architecture	Typological innovation in response to demographic variation in the Ghent neighbourhood Sint-Bernadette
Engineering-Architecture	Inclusive design scenarios for collective spaces in the Ghent neighbourhood Sint-Bernadette
Engineering-Architecture	Diversity-sensitive design for transitional spaces in the Ghent neighbourhood Sint-Bernadette
Urbanism and Spatial Planning	Alternative urban design strategies and instruments for supra-local connection and residential relocation from Sint-Bernadette
Political Sciences	Activism and urban policies: a comparative analysis focusing on patterns in two Ghent cases ('Sint-Bernadette' and 'Craemersklooster')
Conflict Studies	The impact of forced relocation on the citizenship of residents in the Ghent neighbourhood Sint-Bernadette
Philosophy-Moral Sciences	Social housing ethics: a moral deliberation on the forced relocation in the Ghent neighbourhood Sint-Bernadette
Pedagogy-Social Work	Urban sustainability and participation in social housing: an ethnographic case study research in the Ghent neighbourhood Sint-Bernadette

Living Lab campus Sterre

- Trajectory of the Stadsacademie
- University as a stakeholder in the city
- Campus as an experimental place
- Master thesis Ateliers, courses









Some reflections

- **Preparation phase:** 1 year and an organic process is needed.
- The **'silo' structure of our university** does not work in favor of an atelier → Problems to recruit students.
- Intensive **collective focus** in the first semester → some students ran into problems to finalise their thesis in time.
- **'Multiperspectivism'** is perceived as enriching.
- The atelier functions as 'a socially **safe space**'.
- Adequate **valorisation** remains the greatest challenge.



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Important triggers



(U)Ghent
Research Platform



Sustainable Cities

