

# Material connotations: meta-structure research of practice based projects with invasive species plant waste



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## Abstract

In nature, change is inevitable as Greek philosopher Heraclito already said 'everything flows, nothing stays the same'. Nowadays we live in a fluent reality where the past, present and future change every moment and relate to new possibilities and disasters (Haraway, 2016). We have been embedded in a human centered design that has cost too much to our environment. Into what is called Anthropocentrism, crisis is a disease with several symptoms: deforestation, loss of biodiversity, global warming... are just some of them.

In this project we focused on nature biodiversity loss due the proliferation of invasive species and nature management systems through getting closer to the natural matter-material element from a co-creation perspective. The aim is to develop a recipe of how to understand and deal with invasive species raw matter through a context specific practice based research full of connotations, multidimensionality and ambiguity. To elaborate, through our own experimentation, a guide of 'how to' take into account all embedded aspects of its meanings.

With the diagram presented in this poster contribution, based on The Krebs cycle of creativity III (Oxman, 2016) we seek to make visual connections in between all agents, situations, conceptual concepts and decisions in order to make affordable the unseen backend of two related projects: the finished research 'What doesn't belong here' and the on-going thesis project 'Biomaterials and matter from the Galician natural environment applied to the design, printing and manufacturing of everyday life objects'.

Both projects focused on two different locations, 1. Genk, Belgium and 2. Umia river, Galicia, Spain; are being used to elaborate and re-elaborate the presented strategy. The diagram, a graphical representation of the Method, is presented as a combination of simple figures, circles and interconnected lines, whose interaction allows us to read it from inside to outside, left to right, top to bottom and vice-versa. Hence that everyone could start their own dialogue with the diagram in order to achieve its own conclusions and working method. It has been tried to stay in the middle, growing in all directions at the same time, as plants do (Marder, 2013), to be specific but open at once. It is considered that by applying a global to concrete perspective and creating rare kins and relations (Haraway, 2016) in between disciplines, the creators can be witnesses of the project's needs and possibilities.

'What doesn't belong here' is a matter-material research contextualized in Genk, Belgium, in between the months of March and June of 2022, developed in collaboration with the LUCA School of Arts Inter-actions research unit and focused on the invasive exotic species Japanese knotweed. 'Biomaterials and matter from the Galician natural environment' is an on-going thesis project in the program of Creativity, social innovation and sustainability at the University of Vigo in Galicia, Spain, that is being elaborated in collaboration with the forestry engineering school and the fine arts college at the campus of Pontevedra, working along with four invasive exotic species *Arundo donax*, *Phytolacca americana*, *Tradescantia fluminensis* and *Eucalyptus globulus*.