

Achille Mbembe

# Challenge

## The Universal Right to Breathe

### Subject

A design competition for students in the Netherlands and Flanders (NL/ENG), about:

- Climate and activism
- Restitution of (stolen) heritage
- Digital colonization

In occasion of the International Spinozalens Prize, which will be awarded to the Cameroonian philosopher, Achille Mbembe, on 24 November 2025.

### Available Support

- Digital kick-off meeting and consultation
- Digital speed dates for individual participants
- Accessible podcasts about Achille Mbembe's work
- Digital reading groups
- Literature and videos
- Guidance with the presentation of the prototype during the finals

### When

September 1 or 15 - November 24, 2025

- Phase 1: until 21 October 21, 2025
- Final Phase: from 28 October 28, 2025
- Finalists gathering: 15 November 2025
- Meet & greet with Achille Mbembe and announcement of the winner: 24 November 2025

**A design competition  
about burning hot issues**

#### ORGANISATION BY A.O.

- Wereldmuseum
- Baltan Laboratories
- The International Spinoza Price Foundation



#### WEBSITES

- [www.amsterdam.wereldmuseum.nl](http://www.amsterdam.wereldmuseum.nl)
- [www.baltanlaboratories.org](http://www.baltanlaboratories.org)
- [www.spinozalens.nl](http://www.spinozalens.nl)

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## The Universal Right

## to Breathe

### Format & Locations

- (Multidisciplinary) teams of up to four students
- Phase 1 for all teams: Short draft of the prototype (digital)
- Digital consultation hours
- Final phase: Development and presentation of the prototype (digital and live)
- Finalists gathering and presentation to the jury in the Wereldmuseum Leiden
- Announcement of the winning team in The Hague (location TBA)

### Registration

- Participation is free
- Travel expenses for the final gatherings will be reimbursed
- Before 1 september 2025, via [info@spinozalens.nl](mailto:info@spinozalens.nl)

PS. Parallel to the design competition for college and university students, a competition for mbo students and secondary school is taking place.

### Additional Information

- From 8 May 2025 on [www.spinozalens.nl](http://www.spinozalens.nl)
- All material and practical information will be available by 1 September 2025
- Questions via [info@spinozalens.nl](mailto:info@spinozalens.nl)

**For creative, brainy and gutsy students**

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