



Welcome letter

8 September 2025

Dear participant,

We are delighted that you are participating in the Achille Mbembe Challenge this autumn!

All the support material that we have developed for the competition is now available on the [competition page](#) of our website. In the right-hand column, you will find:

- A [link](#) to the Dutch podcast 'Het universele recht om adem te halen' and the [English transcript](#) of the podcast;
- Information about each competition case; for each case, there is:
 - A description, including the design assignment (Please read this carefully!);
 - An inspirational video consisting of a montage of various clips, which will give you some ideas for your design.
- A [competition form](#) for each team on which you describe a first draft of your design.
- A [calendar](#) with the most important dates for the competition.
- [General information](#) about the ideas of Achille Mbembe, which are relevant for this competition.

Please note that we are organising a digital consultation hour for students on Thursday, 18 September between 5 and 6 p.m., for which you will receive an invitation later on. The consultation hour will give you the opportunity to ask us questions. During this session, we will also organise breakout rooms for individual participants who want to form a team with other participants. If you can't attend the consultation hour, you can always email your questions to info@spinozalens.nl.

The deadline for submitting the competition forms to us is 3 October. On 10 October, we will inform you of which participants will advance to the finals.

As for the winning team: the prize will consist of a plastic statue of Spinoza (a copy of the bronze statue for Achille Mbembe, laureate of the Spinozalens 2025), a digital year subscription of Filosofie Magazine and a free ticket for special event of Brainwash festival for each team member, and (at least) 250 euros for the further development of your design under supervision of Baltan Laboratories.

On behalf of the Achille Mbembe Challenge team, I wish you lots of inspiration and fun with the competition.

Regine Dugardyn
Projectleider Achille Mbembe Challenge
Secretaris van de Stichting Internationale Spinozaprijs

