

PhD Methodology Seminar (EN/FR)

Under construction: Mobilising Photography in Architectural Research

10.02.2026 | 11:00-16:00

PROGRAMME

11:00–12:00

Lecture of Sarah Melsens (EN):
“Construction photography: potentialities, histories, and counterhistories”

12:00–13:00

Lunch break with all participants

13:00–16:00

Methodology seminar with your own research questions and photos (FR/EN)

Introduction

This methodological seminar invites doctoral students in architecture to explore how we can document and analyze the lesser-recorded phases of the act of building, particularly those that unfold on the construction site. While architectural research often relies on conventional documents (plans, sections, elevations, models) many aspects of construction remain undocumented, ephemeral, or invisible within official archives. How can researchers capture the processes in the making, the improvisations, negotiations, and material contingencies that shape the built environment as it comes into being? What tools, methods, or forms of observation allow us to engage with these dynamic and often messy realities?

The seminar will open a discussion on research methodologies suited to the study of construction-in-action. In particular, with our guest Sarah Melsens, the afternoon will draw on recent developments in visual anthropology and photography theory to address how photography can be mobilised as a documentation technique and (historical) source in architectural research.

Room

FL.3.1

Organisation

Filière Cultures Constructives
ULB Faculté d'Architecture
La Cambre Horta

Registration

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Registration deadline

15.01.2026

Still from the research film 'Tango' by Sharayu Wadekar

