

## 4.583 /// Forum in Computation

Fall 2024 /// 3 Units

First Class /// **Monday, September 9th**  
**5.30 - 7.00 PM**

Location /// **Room 5-216**

Student Organizer ///

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### //// Course Description

Forum in Computation is a student-led class that supports incoming and continuing students in navigating the many amount of opportunities at MIT. This subject offers a open platform for peer-to-peer learning and exchange, building upon the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and trajectories of current students and alumni. Forum provides a venue for discussions and group feedback around research interests, ongoing work, and opportunities at MIT and beyond. While targeted especially towards students in Design and Computation programs, we welcome participants from all programs and departments to join.

### /// Outline & Schedule

This course is organized around group discussions and the exchange of ideas and experiences and is structured in the following modules:

- A. In the first meeting we will go through the course schedule, common questions, and short introductions.
- B. The following two classes are reserved for informal presentations of each participant, covering your background, previous work, and current research interests. The presentations will help us to get to know each other and should focus on describing your interests in past and potential future directions.
- C. Based on the topics and field of interest, we will use the rest of the semester to curate presentations, discussions, and workshops by current students and alumni from the PhD and SMArchS programs in Design and Computation. Invited speakers will share their personal journey and development, their experience at MIT, past and present work, and life after the program, reaching from careers in industry, academia, or further studies.
- D. The final meetings will be used to reflect collectively on impressions, topics, and anything we would want to share or discuss at the end of the first semester at MIT.



**/// Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, you will:

- foster community engagement around research discussions
- know each other and be able to engage and utilize peer feedback
- think critically about your research and designer
- develop effective communication skills around your research interests
- solicit peer-to-peer and instructor-to-peer advice
- network with instructors, current students, and alumni

**// Completion Requirements and Deliverables**

Regular attendance is a requirement of this subject. This class setting is an exceptional opportunity to learn and share unique perspectives and trajectories in the field and require active participation. In addition, Forum requires students to complete a series of light deliverables centering around in-class discussions. Each student is expected to give a 5-10 minute introductory presentation and thoroughly participate and engage in discussion with the speakers.

**/ Schedule**

DATE	MOD	ACTIVITY
Sep. 9	A	Course introduction and schedule
Sep. 16	B	Individual introductory presentations
Sep. 23	B	Individual introductory presentations
Sep. 30	C	<b>Bailey Fernandez /// PhD expected '29</b>
Oct. 7	C	<b>Lavender Tessmer /// SMArchs Comp. + PhD '24</b>
Oct. 14	C	//////////////////// no class
Oct. 21	C	<b>Carolina Meirelles Reis Sotero de Menez /// PhD '28</b>
Oct. 28	C	<b>Athina Papadopoulou /// SMArchS Comp. '14, PhD 22'</b>
Nov. 4	C	<b>Carlos Sandoval Olascoaga /// SMArchS Comp. '16, PhD '21</b>
Nov. 11	C	//////////////////// no class
Nov. 18	C	<b>Nof Nathansohn /// SMArchS Comp., PhD '29</b>
Nov. 25	C	<b>Marcel Botha /// SMArchS Comp. '06</b>
Dec. 2	C	<b>Cagri Hakan Zaman, SMArchS Comp. '20</b>
Dec. 9	C	<b>SMArchS Comp. '25 - Thesis Proposal Presentations</b>
Dec. 16	D	/// Reflections, open conversation, feedback ///