We welcome you to submit your abstract to EURA2023 in Reykjavík

Below you will find a description of all the tracks as well as predefined panels for indvidual tracks.When submitting an abstract you must choose one of the six tracks available. However you may opt for the choice of no specific preference for a panel or choose a predefined panel.

Individual tracks may have different number of available predesigned panels. However, there is no need for concern, in addition to the predesigned panels more panels will be created after the abstract submission is completed.

- Last date to submit your abstract is the 25th of January 2023.
- You will receive a notification of acceptance by the end of February 2023.

Track 1 – The compact, inclusive city

In recent years, planning authorities far and a wide have embraced the concept of the 15-minute city or 20-minute neighborhood, as a way of framing policies on attractive, socially inclusive, healthy and sustainable communities with active transport and local access to open space, shops and services. Simultaneously we see in face of ever-increasing global mobility and intercultural dynamics a wide ranged interest in exploring the people-place nexus, how people relate to their urban environment and foster a sense of belonging. In this track we explore different aspects of governance, policy instruments, community involvement and policy priorities for the compact, inclusive city.

Track chairs: Salvör Jónsdóttir, Reykjavík University, Ólafur Rastrick, University of Iceland

Predesigned Panels for Track 1:

Track 1_Panel 1_The politics of value in compact city development

Chair: Hege Hofstad, Håvard Haarstad, Marianne Millstein

Panel description:

This panel's topic is the politics of value – the content, variation, interaction, influence, and role of relevant and observable values in compact city policies and political processes. Since the 1990ies, compact city has been a dominant approach to urban planning and development. Yet below its consensual surface, a plurality of values slumber. They emerge when compact city initiatives threaten to alter the urban fabric, challenging some values and interests and strengthening others. Values may thus be in opposition to one another, be related to specific material interests, or they may serve as platforms upon which to build collective goals and policies.

As an object for urban research, values are often overlooked or openly rejected as a significant factor for understanding urban processes. Neither the consensual-oriented communicative planning tradition (Healey, 1996; Innes and Booher, 2010), nor the conflict oriented agonistic pluralism tradition (Mouffe, 2005, 2022) acknowledge the importance of values for understanding urban politics and practices. Seeking to fill this void, McAuliffe and Rogers (2019:302), argue that values are key to understand what drives stakeholders' struggle for legitimacy in urban governance processes and underline that values may represent a potential bridge between conflict and consensus.

The panel invite scholars interested in exploring the potential of a value pluralism approach to the study of compact city policies and practices. We invite both theoretical and empirical

studies endeavoring to explore, identify and define operative values in the compact city, as well as the relation between multiple values. We believe a value pluralism approach is especially applicable to the study of compact cities. On the one hand, densification resonates with the current hegemonic urban, green values highlighting the livability and sustainability of compact living. On the other hand, compact city policies threaten social values and habits people want to maintain, as car-use and suburban living, spurring protests to compact city inspired measures (Vallance et al 2011). In situated contexts, values are also structured by, embedded in, and may inform power relations. Hence, what is at stake is different notions of what it means to live a sustainable life; different opinions of what a sustainable policy should include, and how planning processes should be organized to balance and handle a plurality of values among differently positioned actors. A key point for discussion is if, and in what way, recognition of plural values can serve as a pathway towards more agonistic compact city processes. The panel is open and welcomes papers from all social sciences.

Track 2 – Cities and democracy

Track chairs: Grétar Þór Eyþórsson, University of AkureyriJurga Bučaitė-Vilkė, Vytautas Magnus University

In this track we focus on democracy from a broad urban and regional perspective. We reflect on citizenship in the city and changing patterns of civic engagement and political participation. The track invites both panels and papers on various topics in relation to the local level such as multi-level governance capacity, participatory governance, civic engagement, political institutions and patterns of decision making at the local level.

Predesigned Panels for Track 2:

Track2_Panel1_ Transparency and public information in local governments: determinants and effects?

Chair: Esther Pano, Lluís Medir

Description

This panel aims to study the effects of transparency policies on local institutions and their citizens. We look for papers addressing impacts in both dimensions: citizens (trust, legitimacy, accountability...) and institutions (organizational reorganization and performance). The general question that this panel would like to address is whether transparency policies, understood as the publication of institutional information, the right of access to information and good governance, have had an impact on the dynamics, structures and functioning of public organizations and whether have had an impact on improving the subjective perception of local institutions by citizens (trust, satisfaction and control). Empirical, qualitative or quantitative papers on institutional and organizational aspects are welcome, as well as papers analyzing citizen elements in relation to the effects of transparency on legitimacy and trust. Work carried out from political science and urban studies will be prioritized, but any approach based on the social sciences (law, sociology, economics...) will be welcomed.

Track2_Panel2_ The political economy of 'just transition': Cities, conflicts and democratic encounters in 'green' politics

Chair: Trond Vedeld, Einar Braathen

Description

This panel explores the changing political economy of a 'just transition' to zero-carbon, sustainable cities. We reflect on how new forms of conflicts and dilemmas become manifest in changing patterns of civic engagement, and how these movements interact with political and administrative institutions in their pursuit of 'green' politics and 'just transition'. We propose that the 'just transition' discourse to this end, requires a concomitant focus on climate and energy justice and related issues of social equity. On the one hand, just transition has to cater for 'energy justice' related to those citizens whose livelihoods are affected by and depend on a fossil fuel economy. On the other hand, the transition needs to be compatible with the pursuit of 'climate justice' to current and future generations exposed to the social and environmental impacts of a warmer globe. The inherent contradictions and paradoxes in the new 'green' political economy raise new issues of citizenship, political participation, and democracy - since a basic societal goal is to enable a broad-based participation of citizens in support of, and not in opposition to, the 'green' policies and the social and behavioural changes they seek to promote.

However, confronted by the energy and climate crisis and increasing social inequalities, the moderate political parties, which in the past formed ruling coalitions of most cities, have today lost political support and influence, reflecting a more fragmented political landscape with growth of populist parties and right-wing tendencies. Polarization is manifest in, for example, young people's movements demanding more radical climate policies, such as Fridays for Future and Extension Rebellion, while other groups protest against restrictions on the fossil-economy on the grounds that such 'green' policies adversely affect their mobility, job opportunities, income or different aspects of social welfare. These protests might find support either in 'left-wing' green parties or new, more 'right-wing' populist parties. Thus, beneath an apparent consensus for a green transition, a diversity of counter-hegemonic discourses and initiatives are cropping up and challenges local political and democratic institutions. Conflicts and antagonisms invoked by the new 'green' political economy are reinforced by assertive citizens and powerful stakeholders with direct access to political institutions; each relying on a variety of channels for influencing democratic political decision-making, either through political party channels, direct lobbying, civic engagement, or use of social media or other forms of formal or informal arenas or platforms. Focusing on the changing dynamics of the new 'green' political economy, we aim to:

- Reflect on new forms of conflicts and dilemmas emerging with 'green' politics and how they become manifest in a changing landscape of civic engagement
- Investigate forms of citizen engagement in political institutions and decision making at the local level
- Explore how local democracy and (collaborative) governance aim to tackle conflicts and political trade-offs - and calls for socially just outcomes for a wide variety of citizens

Track2_Panel3_Tools and approaches for local democracy: communities, identities, and the sense of belonging

Chair: Jurga Bucaite-Vilke

Description

In the past few years, European countries have experienced an increased fragmentation and segregation of urban identities, considering macro-level generational, demographic, social, religious, political, and economic changes. The role of identities and the sense of belonging in modern democracies are becoming more critical to understanding political participation at different levels of government (local, regional, national, and European). The strengthening of local democratic practices and experiments can be regarded as one of the possible strategies to enhance territorial cohesion, build collective identity and reduce the impact of social and economic cleavages. We invite theoretical and empirical papers that discuss democratic participation policies, frameworks, practices, and processes to foster a sense of belonging to different geographic locations, including vibrant urban communities. The papers may include the cases of participatory or deliberative democracy practices or civic engagement activities targeted at identifying and discussing the issues of the sense of belonging in urban territories. Moreover, the papers that identify and explore the barriers and factors that limit the engagement and inclusion of urban communities in democratic practices and disintegrate their political participation, representation, or trust in democratic institutions are also very welcomed. Particular attention is paid to small- and large-scale democratic innovations implemented by local or regional authorities and/or local community groups or active citizens.

The contribution to this open panel should address, but is not limited to, the following questions:

- -How can we share our theoretical understanding of deliberative and participatory democratic practices that capture the power of local identities and introduce opportunities for improving urban spaces?
- -What empirical cases represent the design, implementation, and evaluation of deliberative and participatory democracy practices, innovations, and experiments in different geographic locations focusing on communities, interest groups, and citizens?
- -What are the conditions for innovative citizen engagement designs, participatory spaces, and strategies representing different types of urban participation and enhancing the variety of "urban" democracy across different governance levels?

Track2_Panel4_ Designing civic infrastructures of care: theories and practices for subverting power relations in the city

Chair: Nadia Bertolino, Ziana Namboori Madathil

Description

How can architects, urban designers and stakeholders act responsibly and ethically towards the community they work with and care for the environment they impact upon? How can an architectural and urban theory of care suggest ways to subvert power relations in an era of multiple political, social, and environmental crises? The panel seeks interdisciplinary voices and perspectives to articulate reflections and analyse entanglements between care and modes of spatial production. "Designing civic infrastructures of care" welcomes contributions that discuss 'civic care' as a framework for action, a flexible paradigm to articulate the radical politicization of architecture and urban design. The tendency for architects, urban designers and planners to play by and profit from the rules of neoliberalism has demeaned the human capacity for reasoning, care and practicing solidarity against market driven transformation of the built environment. Drawing on the assumption that design cannot be a neutral nor objective process, the panel takes a position against architecture's subjugation to market forces. Furthermore, it considers mutual care a fundamental value upon which community life is structured. The concept of care is central—or at least should be central—to the process or making the urban because design (at whatever scale) concerns space, and spatial practices are social practices. The way practitioners design and activate urban spaces can often help determine how people, animals and plants share space and who or what is excluded, exploited, welcomed, and cared for. When care underpins the production pf space, alternative economic and social patterns can emerge and spread. We will consider contributions that explore care as a framework for action across different cultural and geographical contexts, re-negotiating the role of the architect and urbanists within the complicated political, social and environmental context we live in.

We hope to bring together high and low theory with practices, cases, experimental projects, inventions, interventions, critiques, stories, perspectives standing opposite centralised political systems and social constructs, producing inclusive and environmentally resilient ways of living. The panel seeks to gather contributions from scholars, theorists, activists, artists, policy makers, architects, and urbanists, bringing together different modes of theory and practices.

Track2_Panel5_In change we trust? Reshaping participatory governance in urban spaces

Chair: Katarzyna Radzik-Maruszak, Dorothea Wehrmann, Michał Łuszczuk

Description

Citizen participation is a key prerequisite for a well-functioning democracy. Therefore, many countries as well as international organisations, such as the EU and OECD, are looking for

innovations to expand participation (OECD, 2017). Recently, it was also understood that more participation is needed to address the shared global challenges (e.g. climate change). Nevertheless, before the "governance era", a new participatory framework was applied to only a minor extent at the local level. Presently, in many local governments on the one hand, it is assumed that effective decision-making must be based on the cooperation of various – both individual and collective, public and private, formal and informal – stakeholders. In this context, citizens are perceived as important actors whose role should go far beyond than being just ! voters, consultants or information-providers. On the other hand, governance puts emphasis on reinforcing civic engagement by adding to 'traditional', based on representative democracy decision-making, other forms of community involvement that allow for a more frequent and broader say (e.g. participatory budgeting). Many of these forms are anchored in participatory and deliberative democracy (Mutz 2006). Finally, within governance there is a visible attempt to include disadvantaged or marginalized groups into governing as well as to focus on new issues and topics such as the environment or sustainable development. The incorporation of more vanguard forms of civic involvement into governance is particularly visible in cities and towns, which can be among others connected with a general wider experience of urban units in implementing democratic innovations. In this context cities, towns, districts, neighbourhoods etc. can be treated as a perfect arena for testing new ideas and as a kind of innovation labs for solutions that can be later applied on a broader scale. In addition, progressing urbanization and climate change force authorities to engage in a broader discussion with their residents. At the same time, however, new, more innovative forms of create important challenges for elected politicians and bureaucrats that often lead to a situation when participative agenda is built on pseudoforms of involvement. Consequently, in many cities, we can observe "business/governance as usual". In this panel we seek for both theoretical and empirical papers that focus on:

- -New forms of citizens engagement in urban areas
- -New stakeholders and groups that are included into urban governance e.g. youth, seniors, migrants, minorities, citizens with disabilities, indigenous people
- -The effects and outcomes of citizens inclusion in urban governance
- -The role of citizens in achieving sustainable development goals

The single case studies as well as comparative papers are more than welcome

Track 3 – The changing composition of cities: managing the urban and regional setting

Management of the urban setting has always been complex, but global developments and emerging new technologies add further challenges. This track will explore the city as a social realm concerning the provision of affordable housing, efficient use of resources and balancing private and public space. It is devoted to availability, accessibility and affordability of social services to citizens.

Anna Karlsdóttir, University of IcelandBjorn Egner, Darmstadt University

Predesigned Panels for Track 3:

Track3_Panel1_ Housing under Pressure in Comparative Perspective

Chair: Björn Egner

Description:

Both the COVID pandemic and the war in Ukraine have added pressure to national and local housing systems across Europe. Owners, buyers and especially renters feel the burden of new mobility schemes, energy saving efforts and increasing demand for housing in the cities. This panel should comparatively assess current problems of housing policy across cities in Europe, but also innovative solutions designed for being adopted.

Track3_Panel2_ Is small indeed beautiful? Microurbanization in rural regions

Chair Thoroddur Bjarnason

Description

In many rural regions, the restructuring of employment, services and residence defies traditional concepts of „urbanisation" and „counter-urbanisation". Complex patterns of mobility have rendered notions of an urban hierarchy problematic, and the dynamics reshaping rural regions appear to be distinct from overall country-level processes. The concepts of „micropolitan areas" and „micro-urbanisation" have been used to describe the regional concentration of employment, services and population that may reflect national hierarchies of scale or alternatively local strategies in response to the pressures of national policies and global forces. In some cases, small regional cities have been found to be drivers of economic growth and socio-cultural renewal in rural regions. In other cases, however, small cities have been seen as „s! ponges" that draw people and resources from adjacent rural regions, further accelerating rural decline. This session welcomes theoretical and empirical studies on patterns and processes of micro-urbanization in rural regions. Possible topics may include but are not limited to demographic processes, migration patterns, urban-rural mobilities, metropolitan-micropolitan-rural relations, and strategies for community building.

Track 4 – The smart city

While the pandemics allowed us to appreciate the importance of the places we live in, it also gave us a preview into a future of the smart city, with home working and online shopping and cultural activities. In this track we explore how emerging technologies are changing and shaping cities and urban life with automated and shared mobility, e-commerce and other innovations and how governance and planning of cities can shape the future in the smart city.

Ásdís Hlökk Theódórsdóttir, University of IcelandKatarzyna Szmigiel-Rawska, University of Warsaw

Predesigned Panels for Track 4:

Track4_Panel1_ Sustainable Urban Mobility: Challenge and Chance for More Resilience

Chair Adam Jarosz

Description

The presented in the panel should focus on spatial planning, concepts of changing the systems of urban mobility and implementation of its elements, they should also reflect on policies of building and developing the system of sustainable urban mobility. The debate addresses the questions of how cities change their public transport to make it more accessible, attractive and reliable, so that is can offer an attractive alternative to individual motorised transport. It reflects also on more sustainable use of a car within the city, if its sustainable use is possible, how it can be integrated with other means of urban transport, through parking policy, by the development of digital information systems on parking lots, multi-storage and underground garages in the city centres, supported by appropriate pricing policy. In this context also park and ride facilities and their role in reducing the number of cars in the city centres is discussed. Another point of discussion is restoration of cycling as a mean of everyday travel in the cities, thus the policies of developing this mode are put under consideration. This includes construction of network of cycling paths, bicycle racks and storages, and additional infrastructure. It also involves bike-sharing and the level of its development in the cities and the ways of its operation (direct management by the cities, public-private schemes etc.), similarly the new means of mobility like electric scooters and e-bikes which not only are an attractive mode of rapid movement for the users, but also a challenge for the city space and its management. Finally the issue of digitalization of urban mobility is outlined, with its forms and tools (MaaS, smartphone applications, but also traffic steering, ticket systems and interactive information systems). Sustainable urban mobility is a chance for improving the resilience of the cities, but at the same a great challenge, as it needs widespread changes in planning the public space, organizing the public transport, but also encouraging the stakeholders to change their habits and attitudes. Papers reflecting on general issues considering sustainable urban mobility, but also presenting case studies and qualitative, quantitative and comparative analyses are welcomed in this panel.

Track 5 – Managing cities in modern day crises

This track looks at the concept of "crisis" in relation to urban and regional settings. Covid-19 was a wake-up call as it pointed out the vulnerability of the functions of urban life. People's lives were seriously disrupted over a long time and in some parts of the world continues to be so. The pandemic not only revealed shortcomings of modern city life but also put the relationship between regions and their urban and rural settings into a new perspective. The refugee crisis following the Ukraine war is further testing the boundaries and capacity of cities.

Benjamin Hennig, University of IcelandFrauke Kraas, University of Cologne Harald Sterly, University of Vienna

Predesigned Panels for Track 5:

Track5_Panel1_ City governance, urban regimes and styles of local political leadership in times of changes

Chair : Paweł Swianiewicz

Description

The panel refers to the classic concepts of community power structure, but re-addresses old questions to the new and quickly evolving environment. Recent years have brought a rash of new initiatives and experiments aimed at increasing citizens' participation and community involvement in urban governance (e.g. citizens' juries, participatory budgeting and many others). New social movements have appeared on local political arenas, some of them explicitly focused on urban development and governance process. Expectations concerning behaviour of local politicians have also changed towards demand of more participatory and holistic styles of leadership. At the same time financial crisis, COVID-19 pandemics and energy crisis have undermined economic base of the cities, which have had an impact on potential roles of business actors in city governance. All this means that democratic urban governance and community power structures are in a state of dynamic change and uncertainty concerning the shape of future urban coalitions and the economic basis of urban government.

The panel will try to address questions how these changes may be interpreted in lights of existing theoretical concepts such as urban regimes or network governance theories? Do we need any modifications of existing or totally new conceptual approaches to understand contemporary power structures in European cities?

We invite both empirical case studies and comparative research as well as conceptual papers which might pave the ground for further research in the future.

Track5_Panel2_ Regional Resilience: causes, consequences and challenges

Chair: Ana Dias Daniel

Description

Regional resilience refers to the capacity of an economic ecosystem to resist, recover from, reorganize and renew in the face of exogenous shocks (Boschma, 2015). This capacity is related to the economic structure of a region, and, as a consequence, it is considered an ecosystem-level characteristic (Roundy, Brockman and Bradshaw, 2017). This ability is especially relevant in the current context of the crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic that affected worldwide economies and has unforeseen impacts on local communities. Thus, this special session aims to promote the discussion about regional resilience in the context of crises, such as the current economic and social crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic or the war in Ukraine. Among the possible topics and questions that can be covered, the following topics are proposed:

• Measurement of regional resilience;

• Impact of local dynamics and stakeholders on local resilience on local resilience;

• Impact of regional and national policies on local resilience and development;

• Relationship between local entrepreneurship ecosystem characteristics and regional/local resilience;

• Cross-regional and cross-country comparisons, as well as longitudinal studies, to assess the determinants of territorial resilience;

• Role of community-led initiatives in fostering regional/local resilience during and after a shock, as well as the community involvement and commitment to improving the 'initial conditions' of a region;

• Role of anchor companies or sectors in promoting regional/local resilience;

Finally, it is crucial to continue the theoretical and empirical debate on why and how some places react and adapt better to shocks than others, given its extensive implication on regions' development and people's lives.

References: Boschma, R. (2015) 'Towards an Evolutionary Perspective on Regional Resilience', Regional Studies, 49(5), pp. 733–751. doi: 10.1080/00343404.2014.959481.

Roundy, P. T., Brockman, B. K. and Bradshaw, M. (2017) 'The resilience of entrepreneurial ecosystems', Journal of Business Venturing Insights. Elsevier Inc., 8(May), pp. 99–104. doi: 10.1016/j.jbvi.2017.08.002.

Track5_Panel3_ On the Way to Resilient Cities? (Resilience) Conflicts and their Consequences.

Chairs: Ronald Gebauer, Annegret Haase

Description:

Resilient cities "are cities that have the ability to absorb, recover and prepare for future shocks (economic, environmental, social & institutional). Resilient cities promote sustainable development, well-being and inclusive growth"(OECD 2018). Given the increasing susceptibility or vulnerability of cities to multiple threats or crises (e.g. climate change, Covid-19 pandemic, impacts of warfare such as energy crisis and large influx of refugees) it is therefore not surprising that resilience concepts are becoming increasingly important for urban development.

In this context, a debate is emerging around the question of whether, in particular, the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted patterns of social perception in general, leading to the emergence of new "resilience regimes" (see e.g. Brand 2020). This shift in

perceptual patterns is best described as breaking with optimistic expectations of progress. The latter are increasingly replaced by pessimistic, dystopian expectations of the future, which find their expression by emphasizing order, (social) security and defense of the standard of living achieved so far. The conclusion of this may be that societal conflicts in the next years will be conducted on this new discourse terrain and thus become "resilience conflicts".

Against this backdrop, efforts to make cities more sustainable and resilient may meet with (even) less acceptance and willingness to participate on the part of the local population. Thus, sustainability efforts and resilience measures easily lead to (resilience) conflicts or exacerbate already existing conflicts. Such projects are then either called into question altogether or attention is drawn to the fact that other sustainability efforts or other existing projects that already contribute to urban sustainability will be affected. However, such conflicts should not be seen only in negative terms, in the sense that they always endanger sustainability projects. Right to the contrary, conflicts generally are an integral part of society and indications of necessary social or societal change. They can undeniably lead to disruptions in action and decision-making, but they can also be drivers of innovation and unleash creative potentials.

Our panel seeks to discuss the role and impacts of conflicts for the resilient city and the discussion on chances and limits, opportunities and threats of resilience strategies, policies and thinking.

For allowing for a meaningful exchange, we invite a number of short contributions, both conceptually and empirically-oriented, as well as transdisciplinary papers that focus on conflicts within the realm of urban resilience, their functions, subjects, impacts and local responses as well as the question whether and how they trigger/push/hinder/alter urban transformation towards resilience. The papers should form the foundation for a more in-depth and cross-cutting discussion of the presented topics with the presenters and the audience.

References:

Brand, Karl-Werner (2020): Nachhaltigkeitsperspektiven in der (Post-)Corona Welt. Globale Umbrüche und die Herausbildung neuer Resilienzregime. In: Soziologie und Nachhaltigkeit. Sonderband II: Die sozial-ökologische Transformation in der Corona-Krise.

OECD (2018): Resilient Cities. Available online: https://www.oecd.org/cfe/resilient-cities.htm (accessed on 24 October 2022)

Track 6 – The resilient city

The extreme heat in Europe in the summer of 2022 has left no one unaware of the severity of the impacts of climate change and that action cannot wait. Urban planning and governance of cities have a key role to play, both to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in adapting the built and natural environment to the changes already happening and anticipated in the future. In this track we explore different dimensions of planning, community involvement, governance, and policy instruments for resilient and sustainable cities.

Harpa Stefánsdóttir , Agricultural university of IcelandSara Moreno Pires, University of Aveiro

Predesigned Panels for Track 5:

Track6_Panel1_ Eco-social practices for sustainable cities

Chair Anni Jäntti, Antti Wallin, Liisa Häkiö,

Description:

This panel seeks ways to promote sustainability transformation in urban governance, planning and everyday lives by exploring the possibilities of eco-social practices. In theory, people reproduce social structures in everyday practices, yet new practices can be seeds for more extensive structural changes. Several researchers, institutional authorities, and politicians argue that we need new ecologically and socially sustainable practices, changing urban institutions and everyday lives. We consider an idea of urban eco-social practices: manifold social, spatial, political and governance practices for a sustainable city.

In pursuit of sustainability, cities can create opportunities but also challenges. In the context of sustainability transformation, cities have dual roles in transforming within their own organisation, and in catalysing transformation locally. (Amundsen et al. 2018.) The ways of planning, designing and governing cities, directly and indirectly, affect biodiversity and climate change (de Oliveira et al. 2010). Moreover, the consequences of global warming and biodiversity loss are felt locally as e.g., pollution, floods, water scarcity and heat waves. These consequences interrupt the everyday life and challenge the old practices. Environmental changes and how urban authorities try to solve them also have significant social impacts and bring up contradictory questions that need to be democratically reconciled at the local level.

While city politicians and urban authorities try to transform cities' mode of operation toward sustainability, many infrastructural investments can benefit the already well-off, for example, by increasing sustainability-based gentrification or excluding stigmatised neighbourhoods from sustainability investments. Unfortunately, sustainable urban development can increase injustices, but it should instead support socially just and environmentally sustainable eco-social practices (Kotsila et al., 2023).

In contrast to top-down efforts towards sustainability, many bottom-up social movements are taking place. These include e.g., community gardening, DIY urbanism, or other urban commons. Successful new eco-social practices support citizens' agency and empowerment.

This open panel welcomes presentations examining eco-social practices that are related, for example, to questions of democracy, inclusion, legitimacy, justice, authority, structures, norms, and agency in urban contexts. These can explore empirically and/or theoretically the inter-connectedness of eco-social practices in urban governance or people's everyday lives.

References:

Amundsen, H., Hovelsrud, G. K., Aall, C., Karlsson, M., & Westskog, H. (2018). Local governments as drivers for societal transformation: Towards the 1.5 C ambition. Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, 31, 23-29.

Kotsila, P., Anguelovski, I., García-Lamarca, M., & Sekulova, F. (2023). Injustice in Urban Sustainability: Ten Core Drivers. Routledge.

De Oliveira, J. P., Balaban, O., Doll, C. N., Moreno-Peñaranda, R., Gasparatos, A., Iossifova, D., & Suwa, A. (2011). Cities and biodiversity: Perspectives and governance challenges for implementing the convention on biological diversity (CBD) at the city level. Biological Conservation, 144(5), 1302-1313.

Track6_Panel2_ European Cities: meeting the urban challenges of the 2020s

Chairs: Nuno F. da Cruz, Filipe Teles, Imogen Hamilton Jones

Description

European cities' influence and confidence have grown in recent decades. City governments have gained new agency, become better networked and developed an increasingly confident sense of shared identity. But the challenges Europe's cities face seem to grow at an ever faster pace. Climate change, COVID recovery, migration pressures, inequalities, political polarisation, technological change, to name a few, all demand that city leaders work in new (and some say radical) ways.

Aware of these challenges, many European cities are collaborating across traditional government, sectoral and territorial boundaries; deepening relations with citizens and forging new political alliances; setting ambitious decarbonisation targets; testing and engaging with post-growth models of development... However, there is also a sense that the limited authority, administrative capacity, and financial resources of cities are major constraints that may ultimately prevent them from meeting the challenges ahead. More research is urgently needed into the causes and effects of these developments.

Our shared global challenges call for a complete rethinking of urban life. European cities have long been at the forefront of urban innovation and could lead the way in developing new socioeconomic and governance models and more inclusive and sustainable ways of living. Some large European cities such as Paris, Vienna and Amsterdam show that radical agendas can lead to electoral successes. But smaller, less well-known cities have also shown great appetite and potential for change. Nevertheless, in developing new these new models, cities will need support from national governments, international bodies and civil society organisations, including academia. This panel represents and attempts to answer this call.

Beyond the themes and arenas of analysis mentioned above, many other broad questions are relevant in guiding our discussion, for example: what new governance capabilities need to be created? What can European cities learn from one another, and from cities in other global regions, to help them better confront these challenges? Can context specific insights

about governance arrangements travel in time and space? What support do European city leaders need to meet the challenges ahead?

Track6_Panel3_ Urban transformations toward sustainable and resilient territories

Chairs: Alexandra Polido, Sara Moreno Pires

Description

Global environmental and social challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, natural resources use and social equity, urge the need to protect ecosystems and build inclusive societies towards sustainability. Cities and urban systems play a paramount role in achieving a global sustainability transformation by understanding the environmental and social challenges, decision-making processes (e.g., policies, plans) and governance structures. There is a common understanding that current governance models mainly focused on siloed approaches across specialized bureaucracies cannot adequately respond to the challenges and tend to be inefficient in achieving a sustainable and resilient urban environment. A systematic approach between urban governance and complex adaptive system thinking can introduce new perspectives for a sustainable transformation pathway. This is inextricably tied up with understanding the decision-making processes (e.g., policy, plans, programs) and governance issues in urban systems within a new holistic perspective. Public participation in strategic planning for sustainable transformation plays an essential role as well as the understanding of the relationship between the different actors, their interconnection, and their involvement across geographic, institutional, and governance scales.

Against this background, the panel aims to discuss the extent to which urban systems tackle sustainability challenges and how it gives new impetus to interdisciplinary policy, planning, and empirical practice. In the context of growing uncertainty, the panel encourages contributions that address urban and regional sustainability within an integrated perspective, through policy, planning, governance, and community involvement lens. The panel also welcomes contributions on how local governments are opening decision-making and planning processes, and how governance arrangements, community empowerment, and participatory decision-making support sustainability transformations. Contributions are also invited on the role of environmental assessment andhow it may be used to frame these questions. The panel encourages the submission of reflections from actors responsible for planning and designing for the sustainability and resilience of cities and regions as well as examples and practical case studies of significant challenges facing urban sustainability and resilience, sustainability assessments in governance, planning, and implementation of measures in cities and regions.

Track6_Panel4_ One Planet Cities: the challenges of building cities aligned with the Earth's Carrying Capacity

Chairs: Sara Moreno Pires, Paulo Magalhães, Jorge Cristino

Description

The Earth's carrying capacity (ECC) can be defined as the total regenerative and assimilative capacities of the planet Earth. Together with the so-called Planetary Boundaries - the nine main processes and variables that determine the Earth System's state of well-functioning – these scientific assessments alert us for the fact that Humanity is fast accelerating its

pressure over the Planet. Human activities have been promoting changes in natural processes that support life on Earth, pushing the Earth System out of its stable and desirable state, and demanding more natural resources than the ECC is able to provide.

Cities, being the home of almost 60% of the world population, are directly and indirectly responsible for most of these global pressures, from green gases emission (representing almost 70% of global emissions), to energy use and material and food consumption, changes in land use, high waste generation and plastic consumption or high ecosystems degradation and loss of biodiversity. But cities are also the places where innovation and mitigation is and should occur. Concepts such as One Planet Cities, Doughnut Economic Cities, Sustainable Cities, Resilient Cities have been emerging to call for a paradigm shift towards the way cities are planned, managed, debated and evaluated. Against this background, the panel aims to discuss how to rethink urban policy, assessment and financial mechanisms as well as legal and governance systems at urban scales towards the challenges of building cities aligned with the Earth's Carrying Capacity and a stable Earth system functioning.

The panel encourages contributions that address three main discussions:

1) new accounting Earth-System frameworks or sustainability indicator systems to evaluate and monitor impacts of cities towards the Earth's Carrying Capacity

To bring theoretical discussion or practical cases of new urban sustainability assessment frameworks that can are able to consider the costs/implications/value of overshoot (i.e., impacts which exceed a "fair share" of the ECC), undershoot (i.e., impacts within a "fair share"), and restoration (i.e. activities that are restorative of the ECC) to support political decision-making.

2) new financing mechanisms for One Planet Cities

To discuss innovative economic and financing mechanisms that stimulate net-zero and net-negative cities and promote nature preservation and restoration in urban spaces together with more efficient urban metabolisms. It aims to discuss the implications for funding, managing and monitoring these instruments, and how to ensure the desired outcomes.

3) new urban governance structures and new legal instruments

To bring new insights on how to govern cities with this global impact perspective and the need to promote civic engagement and legal innovation in urban scales to foster transition and accelerate change towards respecting the Earth's Carrying Capacity and the stable Earth system functioning.