EUROPEAN URBAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
An International Network of Urban Scholars

Issue 18

EURA website: http://www.eura.org

Editorial

This latest EURA Newsletter will reach you just before or just after the EURA first bi-annual conference in Warsaw, perhaps the largest event organised in the not-very-long EURA history. We are expecting 80 papers and about 120 participants from 26 countries, mostly European but also from North America and Asia. Plus in the Newsletter you will find an invitation for the next big event of our organisation – the EURA 10th Anniversary Party in Glasgow in 1997.

The Warsaw conference will also be an occasion to formally adopt the EURA charter and to elect a new Executive Board. EURA becoming older formalises, but I am convinced that it is not going to loose its character of the friendly and not-too-much-formalised network of scholars and practitioners interested in cities' development.

Short information by Laurence Carmichael on G-FORS research project (initiated by EURA members and gathering mostly EURA member institutions) is just one proof of the vitality of EURA members and of the usefulness of our networking.

Among many interesting information in the current issue of the Newsletter I would like to draw your special attention to two:

- Our secretariat is trying to renew the EURA web-site. To be successful it has to be a collective effort. Your input is essential! In the form of up-to-date information, suggestions and, last but not least photos!

- CITTA network. The fact that cities in the globalising world play a role of not only local and regional actors, but are important in international exchange, may sound trivial. But in practice it is still not sufficiently researched and conceptualised. That is why the initiative including detailed case studies of the related topics, sounds extremely interesting and useful.

As I mentioned before, we face an election of the new EURA Board in mid May. It is very likely that this is my last editorial as EURA chair. I want to say that it has been a great honour for me to serve in this position and – using this occasion – I want to thank all of you for your co-operation and wish all possible and impossible successes in further urban researches.

Pawel Swianiewicz

Editorial Team
Prof Rob Atkinson
Dr Laurence Carmichael
Julie Triggle

The aims of EURA

- To encourage international exchange and co-operation in relation to urban research
- To stimulate and encourage interdisciplinary and cross-national urban research
- To contribute to urban policy debates.

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Conference News and Information

This section provides news and information about international conferences in Europe and elsewhere. If you have any material you would like to see in the next issue please forward it to Laurence.Carmichael@uwe.ac.uk

Call for papers

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (JAPA)

The Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA) will publish a special Winter 2008 issue on "Planning for the Future(s) of Housing". Submit brief abstracts of potential papers to the editor of the special issue by 1st June 2006. By 1st July 2006, the editor will invite the authors of a subset of these proposals to submit full papers. Final papers must be received at japa@gatech.edu by 1st November 2006. Papers determined to have potential for publication will receive a normal JAPA double-blind peer review; invitation to submit a paper does not imply a decision to review or acceptance for publication.

Special sessions on housing choice and affordability will be organized for the 2007 Conference of the American Planning Association, to be held in Philadelphia April 14-18, 2007. APA will issue a separate call for conference papers, and evaluate and invite papers for these sessions independently, but authors are encouraged to submit their work for consideration in both venues if appropriate.

Authors wishing to submit proposals should send 300-500 word abstracts (no references needed) to the editor of the special issue, Professor George Galster (George_Galster @wayne.edu), by June 1, 2006. Papers examining any housing issue that will be of increasing future importance are encouraged, although all should address practical planning and policy implications. Papers that are more forward-looking and speculative than usual will be especially valued.

Potential topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Holistic analysis of private and subsidized housing in light of population trends
- New housing and community designs and their social consequences
- Forthcoming types of housing and tenure arrangements, and implications
- Demographic projections and expected housing demands and needs
- Frontiers of expanding homeownership opportunities; methods and effects
- Emerging issues in housing affordability and possible responses
- Growing needs of special types of households and the homeless
- New approaches to assessing forthcoming housing needs
- Trends in inequalities of housing access by disability and family status
- Innovation and internationalization in housing finance
- Developing patterns of neighborhood segregation by race, class, family type
- Physical and psychological health issues emerging in context of housing
- Prospects of Community Development Corporations as future producers
- Forthcoming issues related to filtering and/or gentrification
- Adaptability of housing stock to demographic changes forthcoming (e.g., aging)
- Housing technological breakthroughs and their ramifications
- Home insurance: availability, adequacy in light of natural disasters
- Impacts of growing second-home sector
- Whither federal housing policy--and where should it go--in the next decade?
- Whither state and local housing policy--and where should it go--in the next decade?

For further details:

Professor George Galster
Email: george_galster@wayne.edu

Future conferences

WORLD PLANNERS CONGRESS. INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS – PLANNING INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

17-20 June 2006, Vancouver, Canada

This will be a major national and international professional conference hosted and organized by the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Planning Institute of British Columbia.

This Congress will be relevant to planning and related professionals from across Canada and throughout the developed and developing world. In addition, we expect that students, academics, decision-makers and other delegates will attend the Congress, which will be an important staging ground for discussion at the World Urban Forum which is also taking place in Vancouver June 19 to 23, 2006.

Conference theme

Sustainable Urbanization: Turning Ideas into Action
Sub-themes

- Planning for More with Less
  - Planning for the Basics
- Planning for the Unplanned
  - The Natural World and the Unexpected

- Planning for Creative Change
  - Diversity and Social Change
- Planning Connects Governance
  - Process and Professionalism

For further details:

Canadian Institute of Planners
116 Albert Street, Suite 801
Ottawa ON, K1P 5G3
Canada
Tel: (800) 207-2138 or toll free: (613) 237-PLAN (7526)
Fax: (613) 237-7045

12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS: EVOLVING CAPABILITY

21-24 June 2006, Riga, Latvia

The overall aim of this conference is to bring together professionals and academics working in the area of or with an interest in Partnership for Business Development. Conference papers must aim at an audience looking to gain a better understanding of current issues on the working relationship between public and private sectors and also the voluntary, i.e. not-for-profit organisations.

For further details:

Mr Modris Ozolins
PPP-2006 Conference Office
The Banking Institution of Higher Education
K. Valdemare Street, 161
Riga, LV-1819
Latvia
Email: modris.ozolins@ba.lv
Web: http://www.bsb.ac/conf_aim2006.htm

GREATER CITIES IN A SMALLER WORLD - THE CHANGING ROLE OF CITIES IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND THE LESSONS FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

4-5 July 2006, Robinson College, Cambridge, UK

There is growing evidence that cities are once again becoming the primary driver of economic growth and development, in both the developed and the emerging economies. The economic base and rationale for cities in the post-industrial West is changing rapidly as globalisation gathers pace, while rapid economic development in Asia is concentrated in cities whose history has leapfrogged the West's experience of the 19th and 20th centuries. In the case of the global city, competitive advantage based on innovation and specialisation is reinforcing the gains deriving from co-location with others engaged in similar activities. Such advantages are not quickly acquired by other cities, but rapid technological change is once again opening up new opportunities. This development provides a major role for government in bringing intelligent design to cities.

The conference will bring together practitioners in government and commerce together with leading academics in the area to explore a series of practical questions for advisers and policy-makers, informed by the latest evidence and analysis of urban change in the UK and the EU and around the world.

The conference will cover the following topics:

- how a city's offer affects its success, including the quality, proximity and accessibility of its built structures and its cultural, social and physical infrastructure
- how advances in information technology are influencing the competitive advantage of particular city locations
- how policies of regeneration linked to major sporting and cultural events can reshape a city's future
- how city governance can shape a response to the global forces of economic, social and environmental pressure
- whether public-private partnerships are an effective way forward at the local governance level
- whether the fast-growing urban areas of China and India can achieve a step change towards a future as sustainable cities

For further details:

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2006 - THE FUTURE IS LOCAL

4-7 July 2006, London, UK

Local – the community, the council, the neighbourhood – is where the future is at. In 2006 the LGA's annual conference will focus on:

- Local leadership
- Local devolution
- Local improvement

Local government is committed to better local leadership, to building on our track record to deliver further improvements in our services and we are committed to devolution – beyond the town hall, to our neighbourhoods

and communities. But in return councils and the communities they represent need central government to trust them with the tools to get the job done.

And with the right tools councils can deliver cleaner and greener neighbourhoods, we can cut crime, we can improve the health of our local communities, we can help fulfil every child's potential and we can deliver sustainable, economically thriving communities.
The future is local – and the political challenge is how we demonstrate to the wider world that it is local politics, and a resurgence of local democracy, that will rebuild trust in politicians and the political process.

For further details:

LGA conference department
Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ
UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7664 3131
Fax: +44 (0)20 7863 9158
Email: info@lga.gov.uk

1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: PLANNING AND DESIGNING HEALTHY PUBLIC OUTDOOR SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

5-7 July 2006, Bristol, UK

The aim of the conference is to determine what should be expected from public outdoor spaces in the 21st century to encourage outdoor play and promote regular physical activities. It seeks to explore the role of inclusive design of outdoor spaces as a vehicle to promote play and to overcome some barriers that inhibit outdoor physical activities.

Conference themes

This conference invites papers and poster presentations, based on innovative studies from diverse investigative authors and teams. The sessions will include oral presentations and posters selected through a competitive call for abstracts, poster and video presentations.

Areas of interest include, but are not restricted to:

- Planning policy and outdoor play
- Designing innovative outdoor environments
- Healthy environments for young people
- Safety and the use of outdoor environments by young people
- Informal supervision and outdoor play
- Theoretical and methodological issues in young people's play and physical activities
- Transport, traffic and outdoor physical activities
- Role of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in safety and outdoor play
- Use of technologies to promote outdoor play

For further details:

Email: publicspaces@uwe.ac.uk
or at
http://environment.uwe.ac.uk/publicspaces/conference/

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: URBAN CONDITIONS AND LIFE CHANCES

6-8 July 2006, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

This is an international conference of the Amsterdam Institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies, co-organised by the Research and Training Network UrbEurope.

The conference will be an interdisciplinary meeting, open to geographers, political scientists, sociologists, economists, anthropologists, planners and other social scientists.

Conference format

The conference will be organized in two types of sessions:

- Plenary sessions in the morning where invited keynote speakers will debate recent research evelopments and questions related to various aspects of the conference theme.
- Workshops in the afternoon will be focused on issues proposed by participants to expose different dimensions of urban conditions and life chances; selected participants will present their papers for discussion.

Workshops

- Social interactions and dynamics in the urban region
- Life courses and time-space behaviour
- Urban conditions for creative knowledge
- Area-based urban programmes and new local governance
- The urban context and exclusion.

How to participate

Participants should register by email in order to have access to the conference venue. This can be done online at www.fmg.uva.nl/amidst/conference.cfm

For further details:

Sako Musterd
Email: s.musterd@uva.nl
Wim Ostendorf
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Bettina Springer
Email: b.j.springer@uva.nl

MAKING SPACE – LEISURE, TOURISM AND RENEWAL. LEISURE STUDIES ASSOCIATION 2006

11-13 July 2006, hosted by University of the West of England, Bristol, UK

The production, consumption and regeneration of leisure and tourism landscapes and environments has formed an enduring theme in both leisure and tourism studies. Initially informed by geography and environmental management, explorations of the relationships between environment and leisure are now central to a wide range of research agendas across the social sciences. Increasing concerns about sustainability, community development, social inclusion, urban regeneration, rural renaissance and security have focused attention on the ways in which we plan and manage leisure and tourism landscapes and environments. But making space for leisure and tourism has become an increasingly contested terrain in a world where many people are income rich and time poor, where others remain in poverty or rely on the spending of tourists to make a living, and where our demands on the environment have frequently outstripped the supply of resources. Recently, however, leisure and tourism have come to be seen not simply as activities that draw on the environment but as mechanisms through which both urban and rural environments can be renewed and regenerated. By making space for leisure and tourism far reaching and sustainable social, cultural and economic benefits can be developed for individuals, communities and wider society.

A major focus within recent leisure and tourism education has been on the need to educate future professionals of the need to plan and manage leisure and tourism in more sustainable ways if they are not to degrade or destroy the very resources upon which the future growth of leisure and tourism depend. In addition to focusing on environmental renewal in leisure and tourism, the conference therefore aims to address issues of educational renewal in leisure and tourism studies. Thus, making space for leisure and tourism also relates to the renewal of the subject field, research perspectives and pedagogy. With this in mind, a central theme throughout the conference will be the making of links between teaching and research and between academics and practitioners in the context of sustainability.

For the first time in more than ten years the LSA conference will adopt an explicitly environmental focus. The 2006 conference aims to bring significant new insights to what has been an important area of academic and applied research within leisure studies since the inception of the Association in 1975. In addition to leisure studies' parent disciplines of geography, sociology and economics the subject fields of planning, architecture, public and social policy, transport policy and heritage studies have all begun to address the need to consider issues of environmental sustainability and the spatiality of leisure and tourism.

For further details:

Conference Administrator
Myrene McFee
Email: mcfee@solutions-inc.co.uk

Conference Chair
Professor Cara Aitchison

Email: cara.aitchison@uwe.ac.uk
or at
http://www.leisure-studies-association.ino/LSAWEB/2006/Main.html

AESOP PHD WORKSHOP

24-27 July 2006, Bristol UK

The next AESOP PhD workshop will take place on the waterside in the centre of Bristol in the UK. 30 PhD students from across Europe, the USA, South Africa, South America, Australia, etc, are invited to present their research ideas, findings, and concerns with each other in an informal atmosphere. In groups of six, international mentors will facilitate discussion around such themes as:

- How to develop, use and apply theory in planning research
- How to overcome the 'blocks': for example designing a research strategy that will work
- Developing a research career: for example publishing
- Particular topics of interest raised by the participating PhD students.

The main focus is on the student papers supplemented by a programme of plenary speakers and local walking tours, using local experts, to enhance understanding of the production of the built environment in Bristol. The workshop will have an interactive, productive and vibrant atmosphere. Evening social events have been planned to introduce the participants to different environments in the city.

The 30 participants will be selected by the local organising committee in February 2006 based on the following criteria:

- quality of abstract
- country of origin, with the aim to widen country participation
- priority will be given to PhD students in the middle phase of their PhD and new participants to AESOP PhD workshops

For further details:

www.aesop-planning.com or
http://www.aesop-youngacademics.net/
Email: aesopphd2006@uwe.ac.uk

REVENGE AND RENEWAL: REVANCHIST URBANISM AND CITY TRANSFORMATION

10-11 August 2006, Newcastle University, UK

The aim of this conference is to provide a space for focused discussion and critical reflection on key emerging transitions in urban society across the globe. The idea of a revanchist urbanism has begun to filter into analyses of urban policies and the terms under which social, political and economic renewal are now being secured.

A politics of revenge, in which urban elites and an everyday urban society labelled as decent, ordinary and hard-working has sought the use of increasingly punitive measures to enable security, reduce disorder and sow the seeds for preconditions seen as essential for local economic development. It has been argued that a growing intolerance of progressive politics, the homeless, street poor, minor disorder and unconventional lifestyles has burgeoned globally. These vengeful actions can be located in the actions of local states, private households, corporate entities and their agents, as well as in the architecture and public spaces of the city in which hostility to difference and engineered conformity now appear as the essential ingredients of enforced ordinariness. The conference will draw together researchers and academic commentators to entertain a broad range of perspectives on the revanchist city.

The organisers welcome abstracts or expressions of interest from participants across the globe on topics that may include: urban governance and politics, property markets, private security, segregation, socio-legal sanctions, policing, vigilantism, gentrification, processes of clearance and other areas of contention and sites of conflict.

Confirmed key speakers:

Professor Neil Smith, City University of New York
Dr Rowland Atkinson, University of Tasmania

Please send expressions of interest to Stuart Cameron
Email: s.j.cameron@newcastle.ac.uk

6TH EUROPEAN URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES (EURS) CONFERENCE

21-24 September 2006, Roskilde Denmark

The conference will continue the tradition of previous EURS meetings in providing a forum for discussion of the relationships between economic, political and cultural processes in shaping the map of European cities and regions.

Themes

- Identities in Europe
- Diverse economies in Europe
- Governance, territoriality and network policies
- Health inequalities: society, space and environments
- Health, well-being and public policies

Keynote speakers

Luiza Bialasiewicz, Sarah Curtis, Peter Jackson and Orvar Löfgreen

For further details:

Kathy Wood
Department of Geography
University of Durham
Durham DH1 3LE
UK

Tel: +44 (0)191 334 1801
Email: Kathy.wood@durham.ac.uk
or at
www.geography.dur.ac.uk/conferences/Urban_Conference/index.html

2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNIVERSAL DESIGN

22-26 October 2006, Kyoto, Japan

The 2nd International Conference on Universal Design will take place from Sunday 22nd October to Thursday 26th October, 2006 in Kyoto, Japan. The event will be hosted by the International Association for Universal Design (IAUD) and co-hosted by Kyoto Prefecture.

Some of the collaborators for this event are:

Adaptive Environments
Helen Hamlyn Research Centre
International Federation on Ageing
Japan Design Foundation
Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization

Adaptive Environments hope that you will consider attending this exciting event, and we invite you to visit our web site, where you will find more information about the conference in our Events section. You will also find a link to the official conference website.

For further details:

http://adaptiveenvironments.org/index.php?option=Event&articleid=650

MEDIA AND URBAN SPACE: CHALLENGE, PLAYGROUND AND CONSIDERATION FOR ARCHITECTS, URBAN PLANNERS, SOCIOLOGISTS AND MEDIA SCIENTISTS

10-12 November 2006, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany

The terms "media" and "city" are used in many discourses and have different references. A wide range of disciplines are formulating assumptions about the relationship between spatial and technological relationships, while neither terminologies nor theoretical framing are worked out. The conference attempts to research different approaches to handle the basic question of how "media" and "urban space" might be constructed as terms which will allow further empirical research strategies.

The MEDIACITY conference wants to enable the research about occurring processes of media use in urban contexts in the widest sense. It is aiming to research solutions for urban development in a knowledge based society. MEDIACITY intends to achieve a transfer of experiences and theoretical knowledge about opportunities to implement information and media technologies in an urban environment. The conference focuses on the issue of a knowledge based economy and society for cities, the use for new media in the practice of urban planning, land use and architecture and the necessary political and social framework to ensure the socially balanced embedding of these technologies.

The MEDIACITY conference is interested to increase its international and national cooperation with scientists and research institutions all over the world. The conference will be the starting date of a new international on-line journal where selected contributions will be published.

The MEDIACITY conference is part of the MEDIACITY project of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and aims at establishing a new research center on media, architecture and city. The conference will represent the book "Mediacity" which will offer an inside look in the first findings.

Call for papers: art concepts, media art projects

We call for proposals concerning the fields of architecture, urban studies/sociology and media studies.

- What is medialized space? How do media influence space and the perception of space?
- How new media shape concepts of creative architecture?
- How can modern means of media communication influence space, cities and our social lives?
- Media in architecture and urban planning
- Media in urban sociology
- The morphology of cybercities

Deadline for abstracts: 1st June 2006

For further details or to submit abstract:

Email: mediacity@uni-weimar.de

10TH ANNIVERSARY EURA CONFERENCE: 'THE VITAL CITY'

12-14 September 2007, Glasgow

EURA EVENT

An emerging conventional wisdom about European cities argues that they are vital to the future of our societies and are undergoing revitalisation. Cities are engines of regional and national development in advanced economies dependent on innovation, knowledge, human capital and connectivity. In an era of low communication costs and high mobility, cities can offer high quality environments, vibrant amenities and sustainable patterns of development. They can also provide social and cultural vitality in a context of increasing population diversity and fluidity.

Yet many questions and ambiguities remain for urban policy and research. Is the new thinking consistent with the challenges of social inclusion? Are consumption-oriented urban strategies sustainable in economic and ecological terms? Are there losers as well as winners among cities in the more competitive environment? What are the roles of national governments and the EU in balancing territorial cohesion and globalisation? Can the fuzzy concepts of cohesion, competitiveness and sustainability be sharpened, and can the propositions linking these processes be validated empirically?

Sub-themes

- Resurgent European cities
- Branding the distinctive city
- The urban environment and 'quality of place'
- Real estate development and city planning
- Urban form, transport and sustainability
- Diversity, cohesion and the richness of cities
- Neighbourhood dynamics and urban vitality
- Strategies for viable and vital neighbourhoods
- Community activism and civic innovation
- Labour markets in the new Europe
- Housing organisation and finance
- Health and public policy
- Urban governance

For further details:

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Scotland, UK
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Recent Publications

This section provides news and information about recent publications by members. If you have any material you would like to see in the next issue please forward it to Laurence.Carmichael@uwe.ac.uk

Heinelt, H., Sweeting, D. and Getimis, P. (2006) Legitimacy and Urban Governance - A cross-national comparative study, London: Routledge

This new study examines the relationship between two key issues in the ongoing debate on urban governance-leadership and community involvement. This book explores the nature of the interaction between community involvement and political leadership in modern local governance. Drawing on empirical data gathered from case studies concerning cities in England, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland and Sweden, the analysis offers both a country-specific and crosscutting analysis of the contributions that communities and leaders can make to more effective local governance. These country-specific chapters are complemented by thematic, comparative chapters addressing alternative forms of community involvement, types and styles of leadership, multi-level governance, institutional restrictions and opportunities for leadership and involvement, institutional conditions underpinning leadership and involvement, and political culture in cities. This up-to-date survey of trends and developments in local governance moves the debate forward by analysing modern governance with reference to theories related to institutional theory, legitimation, and the way urban leadership and community involvement complement one another.

This book will be of great interest to students and scholars of politics and urban governance, and to all those concerned with questions of local governance and democracy.

Hubert Heinelt is Professor for Political Science at the Institute for Political Science and Dean of the Faculty for Social Sciences and History, Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany. David Sweeting is a Research Fellow in the Cities Research Centre at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Panagiotis Getimis is Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the Department of Economic and Regional Development at the Panteion University of Social and Political Science, Athens.

Holm-Hansen, J. (2005) The transferability of policy instruments. How new environmental policy instruments strike roots in Russia and Latvia. Norway, NIBR Policies and policy instruments move between countries with variable luck. This study addresses the transfer of policy instruments based on governance and ecological modernisation to a transitional setting (Russia and Latvia). Through methodological awareness, theoretical reflection and a keen eye for the importance of institutional factors, this study seeks to identify the pre-conditions for successful policy transfer.

This book is Jørn Holm-Hansen's thesis written for his Dr. polit dissertation at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Oslo.
The Research Council of Norway has supported the project financially.
Further information or to order the report:
Tel: +47 22 95 88 00
Fax: +47 22 22 37 02
Email: berit.willumsen@nibr.no

Jouve, B. et Gagnon, A.-G. (sous la direction de)(2006). Les métropoles au défi de la diversité culturelle, Grenoble: Presse Universitaire de Grenoble.

Résumé:
Les métropoles sont les territoires de transformation du contrat social qui lie la sphère du politique, la société civile, dans les États modernes. Cette transformation se joue notamment sur le 'terrain' de la diversité et du pluralisme. Plus que jamais, il importe de se pencher sur la gestion de la diversité au niveau des métropoles. La segmentation des sociétés métropolitaines n'est certes pas une dynamique actuelle. Elle a une épaisseur historique indéniable. G. Simmel en faisait même un élément central de la modernité. Par contre, l'une des principales nouveautés réside dans l'émergence de nouvelles revendications qui accompagnent cette fragmentation. De plus en plus, des aspirations de type identitaire, communautariste, apparaissent à côté de clivages plus 'classiques' qui recoupent la division du travail au sein des rapports de production ou qui tentent de se dégager de ces derniers pour structurer l'agenda politique à partir de nouvelles problématiques (mouvements sociaux urbains). Différentes 'strates' de processus porteurs de revendications diverses se conjuguent donc actuellement pour questionner la gouvernabilité même des métropoles. C'est ce processus qui est au cœur de cet ouvrage. Quelle est l'influence des configurations institutionnelles locales dans le traitement de cette diversité, du pluralisme politique plus que jamais à l'ordre du jour? Les institutions locales et métropolitaines permettent-elles un traitement alternatif de la diversité par rapport à celui opéré par les institutions nationales? Comment la fragmentation institutionnelle des métropoles affecte-t-elle la prise en compte de leur diversité culturelle? Quel est le poids du cadre politique national? À l'inverse,

existe-t-il des 'effets localité' ou des cultures politiques territoriales qui affectent le traitement de la diversité culturelle?
Vous pouvez vous procurer la table des matières, le contenu du premier chapitre et un bon de commande à l'adresse suivante:
http://www.pug.fr/Titre.asp?Num=902

Nous avons le plaisir de vous annoncer la publication d'un numéro spécial (volume 8, n° 1) de la revue "Géographie, Economie, Société" consacré au thème de l'empowerment

Résumé:
Si le terme n'est guère traduisible en français, l'empowerment, comme d'autres termes passe-partout au contenu rendu très plastique du fait d'une utilisation non raisonnée, connaît un succès très important depuis plusieurs années. Alors que les inégalités sociales ne cessent de s'accentuer, au point d'avoir occasionné durant une dizaine de jours une série de violences urbaines en France en novembre 2005, le terme sert à désigner un ensemble de transformations majeures aussi bien dans la manière de mener les politiques de lutte contre la pauvreté que le cadre analytique à travers lequel l'individu et les groupes sociaux - compris comme des sujets politiques - envisagent leur rapport à la puissance publique et en premier lieu à l'Etat. Pour aller à l'essentiel, alors qu'un mode de pilotage de l'action publique qualifié de stato-centré montre des signes évidents d'essoufflement, l'empowerment vise à renverser les rapports classiques de domination entre l'Etat et la société civile par le biais de transfert de ressources politiques et de capacité d'organisation. Appréhendé à partir de ces registres de justification, on serait ainsi tentés d'accorder à l'empowerment des vertus subversives d'une portée inégalée touchant à la fois au contenu des politiques publiques et surtout à la transformation de l'ordre politique à travers la recomposition des relations entre l'Etat et les citoyens. Ce numéro de Géographie, Economie, Société vise justement à établir un bilan de différentes expériences d'empowerment, dans des contextes institutionnels, culturels économiques différents et qui concernent exclusivement les pays développés. Il ne s'agit pas ici de conduire une évaluation de l'efficacité économique de l'empowerment, en tant que registre d'action alternatif à l'Etat et au marché, mais plutôt d'en adopter une lecture socio-politique mettant l'accent sur les conditions d'émergence de démarches se revendiquant de l'empowerment et sur les impacts de ces dynamiques quant à l'évolution de l'ordre politique.

Vous pouvez vous procurer la table des matières et un bon de commande à l'adresse suivante:

http://www.lavoisier.fr/fr/livres/index.asp?texte=géographie,%20économie,%20société&select=motcle&exact=on&togo=&support=NULL&from=

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G-FORS has just started!

Governance for Sustainability (G-FORS), a three year research project which brings together EURA members has just started! The project funded by The EU Commission's Research Framework Programme 6 priority 7 (Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society - The Implications of European Integration and Enlargement for Governance and the Citizen) brings together the Metropol region of Hannover, EUROCITIES as well as ten universities and research institutes. They are: University of the West of England, Bristol, Darmstadt University of Technology, University of Warsaw, University of Twente, Politecnico di Milano, University of Göteborg, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Panteion University, Centre for Regional Studies of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the Erkner (Germany) based Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning.

The G-FORS STREP will develop an innovative analytical model for the study of governance for sustainability, focusing on the synergy between new governance modes and different forms of knowledge, taking into account the rapid changes in the knowledge society. For this purpose, G-FORS will identify a range of different forms of knowledge and analyse how these different forms of knowledge may interact in the context of particular governance arrangements to produce `reflexive knowledge' and contribute to a more legitimate understanding of sustainability.

The project will then empirically test this new model through case studies examining EU policies in the field of air pollution control and environmental planning and their implementation at domestic level. These areas have been chosen because they involve different governance modes in a multi-level context that illustrate the positive interactions, and potential tensions between certain governance arrangements, different forms of knowledge and sustainable development. Benchmark indicators will be identified for appraising the effectiveness of current political, economic, administrative and organisational processes and institutional settings to develop economically, socially and environmentally sustainable policies.

From the empirical research, the research team will be able to assess how the engagement of a range of actors in new complex multi-level governance arrangements can be activated to tackle any future threats of `democratic deficit', and to promote participation and sustainable development. In particular, G-FORS will demonstrate the key economic, social and political roles of sub-national actors.

G-FORS will help shape the European Research Area by developing links with other projects on similar themes across Europe and developing a systematic disemination strategy to end-users at all levels of government, whilst adding to our knowledge of the interaction between modes of governance, knowledge and broadened participation

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Kick-off meeting for G-FORS hosted by Darmstadt University of Technology



Reinhard Martinsen, co-ordinator of the G-FORS project

CALL FOR SCHOLARS

The Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies
International Urban Fellows Program
Call for Urban Scholars and Practitioners
2007 Fall/Spring semester
2006-2007 academic year

The John Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies is seeking qualified candidates for its renowned 38 year-old International Fellows in Urban Studies program for the 2006-2007 academic year. This program brings scholars and practitioners to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore to conduct cross-national urban research over a semester or academic year. Fellows become part of an international network of more than 270 alumni (countries highlighted below) who continue to exchange best thinking and practices. Fellows gather annually at a study conference hosted by a former Fellow. The 2006 conference will be held in Barcelona, Spain.

Requirements:

- Demonstration of a high degree of experience and professional competence in urban studies research, and the capability for carrying out a project independently
- Proposed cross-national research proposal on a policy issue related to the growth, decline, and/or revitalization of cities
- A university or college diploma that is the equivalent of an U.S. Bachelor of Arts or Science Degree
- High degree of written and spoken English fluency
- Urban scholars, policymakers, and practitioners are eligible

SPECIAL FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR FELLOWS FROM ITALY AND SWEDEN

For more information and to download an application, please visit our website at:
http://www.jhu.edu/ips/fellows/urban/index.html

For further details:

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Applications are being accepted for Fall 2006.
Paul Kantor, Fordham University in New York City, was appointed to the Fulbright Program's John Marshall Distinguished Chair in Political Science (Hungary) at the Institute of English and American Studies at the University of Szeged for where he will teach until June 2006. He may be contacted at the following address:

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URBAN MATRIX

Targeted knowledge exchange on urban sustainability

Urban Matrix is a new coordination action coordinated by EUROCITIES under priority 8.1 of FP6 "Policy oriented research – Scientific support to policies". The project aims at charting demand and organising the supply of information and know how on Sustainable Urban Development. In order to provide information and know how matched to the needs and demands of cities, URBAN MATRIX will connect knowledge actors and end-users to facilitate the exchange of best practices, expertise and Sustainable Urban Development solutions. In doing so it will enable the dissemination and implementation of existing and forthcoming EU urban environment legislation, EC funded programmes and the application of EU funded research and project outputs.

The project will also help forecasting and developing innovative policies for sustainability in the medium and long term. It will in particular focus on providing support to the efficient development and implementation of the forthcoming Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment.

URBAN MATRIX is based on the fact that networking knowledge is a key contributing factor to Sustainable Urban Development (SUD), and that cities have a growing need for practical know-how to facilitate decision-making. The project will connect knowledge providers and end-users to allow exchange of best practice, expertise and application of SUD solutions, with the objectives of meeting the needs of cities and helping dissemination and implementation of current and future EU legislation affecting cities and the use of EU project outputs.

To achieve this, the project will chart knowledge demands, stemming from current and future challenges in the area of SUD in Europe, and the existing information offer as given by the outputs of relevant research projects of previous and current EC R&D programmes, most importantly, but not exclusively, the KA-4 'City of Tomorrow' (5th R&D Framework Programme).
The demand from cities will be charted through the use of surveys and analyses of urban data and policy requirements, such as, for example, the Urban Audit II, whereas the information supply will be organised on the basis of a further development of the existing SUD-LAB website portal. Eventually, the cross comparison of demand and offer

identification will result in the organisation of thematic workshops to ensure that the knowledge available reach city officers and decision-makers on the basis in a tailor-made format. The project will assess the potential of organising such small-scale tailor made workshops on a regular and systematic basis. This should allow for much more efficient and better-targeted output delivery and uptake across cities and towns all over the European Union.

The approach will be evaluated, to draw conclusions on what types of mechanisms will be needed to ensure a better take up of European R&D activities and related outputs and, at the same time, elaborate a more precise determination of future information and R&D needs within the urban context.

Participants:

- EUROCITIES
- University of the West of England, Bristol
- GHK Consulting
- Development Department, City of Amsterdam
- City of Helsinki Environment Centre
- City of Aalborg
- Ayuntamiento de Sevilla/City of Seville
- Malmö Stad/City of Malmö
- Belfast City Centre
- Fomento de San Sebastian S.A.
- Commune di Palermo/City of Palermo
- City Planning Administration of Stockholm
- Sheffield City Council

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TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY FOR PEOPLE IN URBAN AREAS (SMILE)

The Centre for the Environment and Planning (CEP) is undertaking the Cumulative Effects evaluation of this CIVITAS II initiative. SMILE is a four year European project funded by the European Commission which is promoting the demonstration of cleaner and better transport in cities 17 cities across Europe.

51 demonstration measures will be implemented across the five cities of Norwich, Malmö, Potenza, Tallinn, and Suceava with the objective of lowering hazardous emissions from city traffic and promoting more sustainable alternatives for people movement and the distribution of goods. In addition to undertaking the process and technical evaluation, CEP is also supporting the dissemination activities of these cities.
CEP is using sophisticated GIS based modelling and network analysis techniques in undertaking the Cumulative Effects Assessment.

- Establishing a baseline situation as if no measures has been put in place;
- CEA on a measure by measure basis;
- CEA across each city areas;
- Scaling up of the measures;

The University of the West of England (UWE) will identify:

- which measures are suitable for CEA;
- data needs for CEA;
- setting up a GIS model for CEA;
- conduct an analysis of policy documents relevant for CEA;
- to help local site evaluation teams to establish baseline positions and developing "do nothing" scenarios.

UWE's role in SMILE Dissemination

SMILE will develop and implement an advanced Dissemination, Exploitation and Training Plan to exchange know-how between the European cities. The results of SMILE will have wide transferability in Europe, with particular focus on the cities of the new EU member states.

UWE will support the DET coordinator through provision of input for the SMILE part of the CIVITAS II website and management of the content information about the SMILE measures and cities. With knowledge established during those activities UWE will also support the training activities, by providing analysis needed and by capturing the content of the training sessions in compliance with the guidelines from the DET coordinator.

For further details:

Professor Angela Hull
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Team members also include:
Clare Mitchell, Besik Tkhelidze and Reginald Tricker

City of Amsterdam
Development Corporation

THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM

Two comparative researches

The Development Corporation of the City of Amsterdam has commissioned two comparative researches on two relevant under layers of urban policy:

1. Land price policy, a comparative study of land price policies in European cities
2. Ground lease, a comparative study on the use of ground lease systems in European cities

Cities who took part in the research are: Stockholm, Helsinki, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Riga, London and Vienna.
The reports give an insight in the way some European cities are using these policy-instruments. How to make land available for market functions such as hotels and leisure amenities, or for social housing and marler sector housing. The way ground lease systems are used to optimise the use of land, to capture steady income flows. All servicing the most effective and financially beneficial way of developing the city!

Regarding the importance of these instruments for urban policy, the Development Corporation Amsterdam is interested in all types of relevant insights from other cities, as it wants to share its own experience with other cities. The research can be seen as a first step for further enrichment by future research and of course for further collaboration between cities on these instruments.

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EUROPEAN CITIES LEARN FROM EACH OTHER:

Helsinki, Amsterdam and Stockholm exchange experiences in order to stimulate housing production

Housing production in European cities turns out to be an area of attention and sometimes a source of concern. Some European cities are facing major housing development requirements. This report examines the results of the cooperative efforts between Helsinki, Amsterdam and Stockholm to deal with the issue 'How to stimulate housing production?'. From this exchange of experience on the different instruments used by the three cities to promote their housing production, a number of concrete topics presenting opportunities for bilateral and multilateral exchanges were pointed out.

Regarding the importance of this report to cope with the challenges of the stimulation of housing production, the Development Corporation Amsterdam would like to deepen the report thanks to the experience of other European cities. The Development Corporation Amsterdam is interested in all types of relevant insights from other cities, as it wants to share its own experience with other cities. The research can be seen as a first step for further enrichment by future research and of course for further collaboration between cities.

The report can be downloaded from the EURA website, research news page http://www.eura.org/newspage.htm

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INNOVATIONS IN URBAN BEEKEEPING!

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Second year PhD research student, Mr Liam Devany, is studying in the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of the West of England (UWE) UK and is funded and working in collaboration with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council UK and environmental charity Highbury Builders Collective (London). He recently completed the construction of two urban bee houses in London. These bee houses will field-test Devany's horizontal hive (HH) prototype one which he has designed and built as part of his PhD at UWE. The field investigation will include testing traditional vertical hives, such as a Langstroths and BS Nationals, against the new HH in addition to a number of other research questions.

The bee houses are located at two different locations in London because one of the fundamental questions being investigated by the research is how the local population in an urban environment accepts them.

Why design a horizontal hive?
The research began on the premise that the traditional vertical beehive design was no longer fulfilling the purpose of being functional housing for the protection of bees, nor as a structure that allows for easy manipulation of the bees by humans. Vertical design is low maintenance as an extra box can be stacked on top of the previous one as the nectar flow increases and the bees make more honey. Commercial bee farmers only have to visit their bee colonies sporadically throughout the bee season with a vertical hive and therefore it is cost efficient. Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2 below illustrate a traditional Langstroth hive and the HH.



Fig 1.1 Langstroth Vertical – Thornes, 2004



Fig. 1.2 Horizontal Hive (Pine) – Devany, 2005

The bee houses have been designed as potential solutions to the wide climatic fluctuations that the UK has started to experience in recent years between seasons and could be subject to greater variations in the future, due to global climactic changes [Pearce, 2006]. Honey bees are under threat from modern agricultural practices, climatic conditions plus a number of diseases and pests and therefore need protection [Kipyatkov, 2005]. There have been no wild honey bees in London since the 1990s [Carpenter-Turner, 1998]. This is a startling announcement when it is considered that the honey bee is the prime pollinator of trees, flowers and shrubs and - of most concern to humans - is responsible for pollinating about £700 million worth of agricultural crops each year [Stevens, 1998].

Ironically, urban environments are now the "safest" places for honey bees to prosper, due to the huge variety of flora in such locations. For example, London has a wide diversity of flora suitable for honey bees, from apple blossoms to buddleia and it is not unusual for urban hives to deliver two to three times the yield of honey than hives in rural locations collect [Arseneault, 2005].

If honey bees in the UK are to survive there is an urgency for more people in urban centres to practice beekeeping, there are now only 30,000 beekeepers in the UK compared to a high of 400,000 in 1945 [SAC, 2006]. Indeed, the vast majority of beekeeping societies in the UK mainly cater for a mature audience but offer no training programmes for young people aged seven to 18 years old, even though they represent the future of beekeeping in the UK.

Bearing this in mind, bee houses need to be robust enough and accessible to a wide range of people of all ages to allow honey bees the best chance of survival. The focus of Devany's PhD is to investigate the redesign of the traditional vertical beehive to a horizontal beehive using lightweight and recyclable materials, which can be used in bee houses or in the field, so that handling utility, cost, reuse of materials and the thermal performance can be addressed.

Both bee houses in London have been built to allow for maximum access to people previously denied the opportunity to learn and practice the craft of beekeeping. There are disabled ramps and two tiers of hives on each side of the walls of the bee house. It is now possible for children and those who are wheelchair-bound to practice beekeeping, whilst sitting down, as there is no longer any heavy lifting involved. In addition, honey frames can also be examined and removed without any disturbance to the egg laying activities of the queen bee in the other chamber; this keeps the queen's worker bees calmer and less agitated.

Figure 2.1 below shows the bee house in Finsbury Park, London. The beehouse includes two roof windows, which are designed to allow bees to exit whilst their hives are being inspected. Each hive also has an individually coloured entrance, adhering to research into the honey bee's colour recognition abilities, so that the bees can easily identify which hive is theirs [Zhang, 2005].

An urban bee house allows many people living in urban areas to practice the craft of beekeeping in a small footprint area, which is secure from vandalism. This is due to multiple hives being aggregated densely instead of individual hives being widely spread out on the ground.



Figure 2.1: Completed Bee House at Finsbury Park, London

In many ways a typical beehive at the peak of the season from June - August reflects high-density urban living conditions (approximately 60,000 bees in one hive at the peak of the season around July) for dwellings occupied by humans, with similar associated problems, such as how to control ventilation and the supply of fresh air yet maintain comfort conditions, protect the occupants from climatic fluctuations throughout the seasons, as well as deal with health, hygiene and sewage disposal.

The bee season in 2006, will be the first time both the bee house and the HH will have been tested in the field and a number of experiments will be conducted and comparisons made of results with traditional vertical hives: i.e. handling by existing beekeepers and members of the general public new to beekeeping, honey harvest yields, thermal performance testing - specifically - relative humidity, temperature and air flow, wood versus polystyrene.

The, which is prototype one., which will also, will be manufactured from expanded polystyrene. This is because it is a much lighter material than wood, expected to have an improved thermal performance and is recyclable after use.

In the 2006 bee season, monitoring will determine whether some early conclusions are valid in relation to a HH and also how wood performs (HH shown in Figure 1.2 is manufactured from pine) in comparison to polystyrene (Prototype two not shown to be tested in the field in the 2006 bee season). Of particular interest will be whether the ventilation improvements make any difference to the honey yields, control of pests and the survival rates of the bees through the winter months. Furthermore, a comparison will be undertaken between a vertical hive and a HH to establish whether the HH makes it physically easier for people of all ages to have access to the craft of beekeeping.

Progress of the bee houses and the HH in the 2006 bee season can be seen at the following web link:
http://www.highburybuilders.co.uk/build/finpark_beehouse/finbee_01.htm

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EURA developments

EURA website updates

A few developments have taken place on the EURA website recently. Members will have received an e-mail already on the new pages which are now fully working.

Firstly, in addition to EURA conferences, we are happy to advertise members' conferences, seminars and workshops. So if you are an institutional member, let us know of your forthcoming conferences and Julie Triggle will publish them on the website, along with a weblink to the conference site.

Secondly, we have added a new page on members' news. We are looking forward to giving information on new publications, new projects and research results which might be very useful to our membership. This is available for all members to use, so don't be shy and share your research with us.

Thirdly, from time to time, we receive advertisements for academic positions, traineeships, scholarships and we would like to encourage our institutional members to post these opportunities on the EURA website, to share with other members and also broaden the net to recruit suitable candidates.

Lastly, we need to renew the EURA website's photos. No offence to our members featuring prominently on the EURA web, but we would like to receive new pictures of people, conferences and other events and also of all the fantastic cities that we live in and research on. So, please send us photos of your own city, its historic or extraordinary architectural features and let us know of any exciting or moving anecdote. Remember that people must have given their permission to have their picture published!

We really appreciate your help to make the EURA website a useful tool for our urban network.

Laurence Carmichael

The European Urban Research Association Executive Committee

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How Structural Funds can support Research and Innovation

Structural Funds support for research, technological development and innovation (RTDI) now amounts to 10.5 billion in the form of grants. 97% of this support is made through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Around 8% of total ERDF resources are invested into research and innovation.

Structural Funds support for RTDI falls into four types of activity:

- research projects based in universities and research institutes receive about 26% of total RTDI investment (some 2.7 billion)
- research and innovation infrastructure (public facilities, but also technology transfer centres and incubators) receives slightly over 25% of the total, amounting to some 2.8 billion
- innovation and technology transfer and setting up networks and partnerships between businesses and/or research centres receives about 37% of the total (some 3.6 billion)
- training for researchers (co-financed by the ESF) receives about 3% of the total (around 350 million). This type of project is supported through the European Social Fund (ESF).

There are two things to note regarding these figures. Around 10% of total expenditure is not attributed to a specific project category and also Structural Funds RTDI spending is relatively narrowly defined and does not include investment in other areas favourable to innovation such as the information society.

Around 70% of this investment, or 7.8 billion, is in Objective 1 regions, that is those with GDP per head below 75 per cent of the EU average (in purchasing power standards).

Source: Higher Education Regional Development Association - South West (HERDA-SW).

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Institutional Member Profile

In this issue we profile the Centre for Local Politics (CLP) at Ghent University

General introduction

The Centre for Local Politics (CLP) is a research group within the Department of Political Sciences at Ghent University. We focus on scientific research, education and services concerning local politics. The members of the research group have expertise in several fields and the main objective is to enhance and further exploit the already existing expertise as a basis to develop new political-scientific research and to have impact on academic and policy debates concerning local politics and local government. Partnerships were set up with other (foreign) universities and research institutions with a view to comparative research, publications and the organisation of congresses. A website provides the opportunity to intensify the contacts with all colleagues 'extra muros'.

Key areas of research

Some of the key areas of research are: sustainability indicators at the local and regional level, decision-making at the local level, recruitment of local politicians (in international and comparative perspective), election studies at the local and provincial level.

With regard to the Quality of Life Studies, a longitudinal approach was chosen in order to analyse the relationship between demographic, social and economic background (employment situations, living and working conditions, family and community life) and the views of citizens on these conditions, their subjective well-being and their political behaviour (participation, etc.). Empirical data are gathered from case studies concerning Flemish cities.

Congresses

The members of the Centre for Local Politics regularly take part in national and international congresses. In 2005 for example papers were presented at the annual conference of the European Group of Public Administration (EGPA), the conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) and the international conference of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS). These papers concern some of the key research areas such as redefining public administration and political leadership, an analysis of compulsory voting at the local level, etc.

Beside these contributions the research group, since the year 2000, also organises an annual congress on local and provincial politics. Each year a central theme is chosen, which is treated by various experts in the field. This year we focussed on the communal and provincial elections (and the election reforms) which will take place in October 2006. We aim at academics, public servants and politicians.

In May 2006 the Centre for Local Politics, in collaboration with the colleagues of the Centre de la vie politique (Cevipol) of the Université libre de Bruxelles, will organise an International Congress on Local Politics in Europe. As was the case for the first international congress (in December 2004) this congress aims to develop a comparative picture by confronting the visions of keynote speakers and country experts in the field of local government. This time we aim at a series of first evaluations on how participatory democracy works at the local level in Europe. A book will be published with the papers presented at this congress.

External relationships and partnerships

Beside the cooperation with Cevipol aiming at the organisation of an international congress on local politics in Europe, other partnerships stress on different key research areas. With regard to the gathering and the analysis of sustainability indicators a partnership was set up with the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD), an interdisciplinary research group drawing on the knowledge and expertise of nine departments at Ghent University. The aim of the centre is to use an interdisciplinary methodology for the elaboration on the sustainable development as a social framework.

Projects

At present we have different projects at the research centre. One of them concerns strategic planning at the local level. In this research theoretical knowledge will be developed concerning strategic planning in and by local governing boards. The empirical data will be gathered in a combination of qualitative development research (in four Flemish cities) and quantitative research in the 13 Flemish centre cities. The findings must lead to insights which are useful within both the academic environment and the political and administrative apparatus.

Another project aims at an analysis of the relation between scale and administrative capacity. This will be operationalised by an evaluation of the municipal amalgamations in Flanders during the sixties and seventies. Part of the analysis will focus on the way Flanders situates itself within the European context.

Publications

The Centre for Local Politics regularly publishes the results of its research initiatives, most of which are published in Dutch. These publications concern research areas such as subjective well-being and citizen satisfaction, electoral and administrative reforms at the local and provincial level, etc.

Among one of the recent publications can be mentioned: Reynaert, H., Steyvers, K., Delwit, P., Pilet, J.-B., (eds.), Revolution or Renovation. Reforming Local Politics in Europe. Brugge, Vanden Broele, 2005, 643p. (Comparative Local Politics, I) ISBN: 90 5946 983 6

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Cities as International and transnsational Actors (CITTA)

In each issue we feature a network.
On these pages we look at CITTA
(http://www.diesonline.it/citta-esf)

CITTA stands for 'Cities as International and Transnational Actors. It has been a research network funded by the European Science Foundation from January 2003 to December 2005. It was chaired by Ernesto d'Albergo (University La Sapienza) and Christian Lefèvre (University of Paris 8) and gathered researchers and Ph.D students for all over Europe (France, Hungary, Italy, Lituania, Netherlands, Spain, Uk and Switzerland).

The initial aim of the CITTA network was to shed light on the political internationalization of cities, that is the international activities deliberately carried out by actors of different kinds within a city's political and governance system.

Members

The CITTA network activities were carried out through several meetings, which were of three kinds:

(i) Six Core Group (Steering Committee) meetings, held in parallel with every seminar and workshop, within which strategic and organizational matters were collectively discussed and decisions made;

(ii) Five seminars, gathering the CITTA network's members in order to achieve a shared analytical and interpretative approach and to discuss and collectively assess the "individual" case studies progress and the comparative results;

(iii) Two open workshops and a final ESF-EURA workshop, which gave the opportunity to widen the topics and the disciplinary perspectives as well as debating the CITTA's works in progress through the participation of a number of other scholars from Russia, Germany and the US.

The research activities tried to analyze not one specific type, goal or form of city international activity, but a wide-ranging repertoire of actions, how they vary and the factors on which they depend. In this way, the international agency, that is the subjective capacity for a city to act in the international arena, has been subjected to a comprehensive and explanatory approach through comparative analysis.
The key aspects addressed by the ESF-CITTA network research, concern the internal aspect of a city's international agency and, more precisely, the ways related issues enter and are processed in urban agendas. In particular, the main questions were: (i) How important are international actions within a city's agenda? (ii) Since many actors within a city may engage in international activities, are these actions integrated, or not, within a common strategic framework? (iii) If such strategies are identified, are they in the majority of cases of a converging or diverging nature? If so, how and why? In particular, are they based on the same type of values and aims? Are different or similar resources and methods brought into action to achieve such things?

The empirical basis of the CITTA's research was provided by ten case studies, regarding Amsterdam, Birmingham, Budapest, Madrid, Manchester, Montreal, Paris, Rome, Vilnius and Zurich. A consistent and controlled comparison has been carried out drawing on a similar set of independent variables, whereas the dependent variable were about the variety of the international strategy underlying the many kind of cities' international activities, such as initiatives aimed at fostering and improving a city's competitiveness in the international marketplace, bilateral and multilateral inter-city partnerships (networks), lobbying at inter or supra-national levels of political decision-making, participation in the implementation of EU-funded programmes, performing actions of solidarity with the Global South, involving decentralised cooperation and "diplomacy from below", aimed at promoting peace and preventing war.

The CITTA network focused the analysis onto the study of the 'prevailing strategy or strategies' in each metropolitan area, which is commonly linked to political leadership. Three main orientations of this strategy were noted – economic, political and social – in which an adequate amount of internal coherence was found to exist.

In analysing the international strategies of cities, four major questions have been addressed: (i) Which variables may explain the existence or absence of a prevailing strategy?; (ii) Which variables may explain the orientation of those strategies? (iii) Which variables may explain the specific mix of possible orientations within a particular strategy? (iv) What explains the divergence/convergence between the various international strategies in the group of urban areas examined?

A website (www.diesonline.it/citta-esf) has been created in 2003 and is still active after the end of the network. On this website, one will find all papers written for the various meetings of the network by the members of CITTA and by the invited speakers. In addition, 10 case study papers presenting and analyzing the international activities and strategies of each city of the Citta panel are available.

A special issue of the international journal, Environment and Policy C: Governement and Policy is being prepared on the topic: Understanding the international activities of cities. The six articles written by CITTA network members making up the special issue are being reviewed. The publication is expected in December 2006.

Some specific results of the network will be presented in international meetings of European and North-American scientific associations, such as the American Urban Affairs Association Conference (Montreal, April 2006) within which a panel will be dedicated to the CITTA-Esf research and the 8th International Conference on Urban History: Urban Europe in Comparative Perspective to be held in Stockholm on 30th August to 2nd September 2006.



CITTA group at the Madrid seminar



CITTA group at the Amsterdam workshop

From the left:
Pedro Perez Guerrero,
Maria Eugenia Iocco,
Francesco Musco,
Michael Hebbert, Lyonel Martins,
Josè Manuel Rodriguez Alvarez,
Pieter Therhorst,
Daniela Lotrecchiano,
Richard Smith, Ernesto d'Albergo,
Pierre- Yves Saunier,
Christian Lefèvre, Shane Ewen,
Jolita Piliutyte, Caroline Baqué,
Martin De Jong, Masa Djordjevic ,
Floridea Di Ciommo.

Developments in Europe

Cities in Perspective

Cities are at the core of our research. We felt it would be appropriate for our newsletter to celebrate these cities and to promote the work that EURA researchers carry out in these cities. In the second in our series, we look at Lisbon with an article by Sofia Morgado, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa.

If you would like to write about a specific city, the issues of importance for that city and the work you are carrying out, please contact Laurence Carmichael (Laurence.carmichael@uwe.ac.uk). We welcome short and longer pieces, including photographs.

Interpretation of the metropolitan formation of Lisbon. A research abstract

Sofia Morgado, PhD architect, Professor Departamento de Urbanismo, Faculdade de Arquitectura - Universidade Técnica de Lisboa

(research for doctoral thesis in Urbanism, doctor europeos mention, Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Barcelona-Universidad Politécncia de Cataluña, 2005, FCT-Fundação para Ciência e a Tecnologia - Doctoral Grant)

Absence is the contemporary protagonist in the metropolis. Nevertheless, no author has attempted to interpret a concrete metropolis from this point of view, examining the circumstances in which unoccupied spaces occur, even when such spaces have been latent in conventional urban planning readings based on occupied space.

This then was the challenge: how to interpret a concrete metropolitan formation starting from its unoccupied space. On the one hand, it would be necessary to show that unoccupied spaces really determine the various stages of urban development that lead to an effectively metropolitan status. On the other, it would be necessary to choose a metropolis where this premise is unquestionable. Such a premise is true of Lisbon, which is formed around a large unoccupied central space: the Tagus Estuary. The progress of the research determined a simply and extraordinarily flexibly structured approach.

Analysis of the metropolitan formation of Lisbon around the unoccupied is based on five significant moments in which three principles – water, land, and artificial creation – are used to identify morphologies of unoccupied spaces, using the same conceptual criteria, expressed according to identical cartographic criteria. Considering the motives and forms of occupation, as well as how they inter-relate with each other, the metropolis of Lisbon is not only described, but trends for future development are also outlined.

This reading matrix made it possible to establish an analytic criterion which was coherent at all stages of metropolitan development discussed here. In addition, it was possible to see how the three elements related to each other, characterising the territory as a whole, as well as how each element over time has adapted to the circumstances of the metropolitan formation itself:

- 1860 - the founding of the metropolis: the shapes of water and land were the main factors determining formation, resulting directly in the artificial creation which definitively marked later development of the ways of occupying territory;

- 1940 - the infrastructural base of the territory: the territory where the lines of development of the future metropolis of Lisbon were taking shape was transformed by large-scale infrastructures, particularly the railways and the port of Lisbon;

- 1965 - the machine-space: a pre-metropolitan conurbation began to be formed, and territory began to be more intensively exploited, involving functionalisation of space expressed in maximum-productivity forms;

- 1992 - a metropolis of opportunities: this was when Lisbon first achieved real metropolitan status, with renewal of land-use opportunities in comparison with the foregoing period;

- 2001 - a supra-metropolitan transformation: insertion into larger networks has led to an apparently homogeneous reduction of unoccupied space, which contributes to an undifferentiated landscape and few urban reference-points.

Analysis of each period showed a territorial structure under construction, from its foundation to its current status as part of a supra-metropolitan formation. Each stage has been dealt with in a completely autonomous reading but the time-sequence explains the present configuration of the Lisbon metropolis around unoccupied spaces, and allows us to draw some conclusions concerning the trend of future development. Progressive knowledge of the formation of the metropolis has made it possible to describe and classify it at every stage, showing that unoccupied space is the essential determining factor in the territory of Lisbon.



This study proposes an innovative interpretation of a concrete territory starting from a discussion of a space which remains unoccupied, based on a specific methodology. The use of some GIS techniques applied to a specific territory, in which the importance and role of the various types of unoccupied territory are systematically assessed at each of the five stages of metropolitan formation, also led to the production of new cartography on this theme, with potential future use, together with a new detailed cartographic archive on the territory under analysis. The methodology and conclusions may be used to interpret other metropolitan realities.

Metropolitan Area of Lisbon, 1992. For each of the five periods, there are similar geo-referenciated cartography composed by several maps, scale 1:25000, organized thematically in water, land, artificial creation, and all themes simultaneously, specifically produced for this research.

Related published research

Morgado, Sofia, 'Interpretação urbanística da formação metropolitana de Lisboa a partir do desocupado', Revista ArtiTextos, Faculdade de Arquitectura, N° 1, Lisboa, Janeiro 2006.

Morgado, Sofia, Protagonismo de la ausencia. Interpretación urbanística de la formación metropolitana de Lisboa desde lo desocupado, Universidade Politécnica da Cataluña, TDX URL: http://www.tdx.cesca.es/TDX-0725105-162915/, ISBN: 84-689-3468-2/ DL: B-40164-2005, Barcelona, Spain, 2005.

George, Pedro; Morgado, Sofia; et al 'Metropolitan Area of Lisbon 1970-2001. From monopolarity to an emerging matrix pattern' in L'explosió de la ciutat. Morfologies, mirades i mocions sobre les transformacion territorials recents en les regions urbanes de l'Europa Meridional, (ed. Antonio Font; Francesco Indovina, Nuno Portas), COAC/Forum Universal de les Cultures Barcelona, 2004 Barcelona, Spain.

George, Pedro; Morgado, Sofia, 'Dinâmicas do Uso e Ocupação do Solo da Área Metropolitana de Lisboa 1940-2001', Pós-Revista do Programa de Pós-graduação em Arquitetura e Urbanismo da FAUUSP, Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo da Universidade de São Paulo, Brasil, N° 18, Dezembro 2005.

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10th Anniversary EURA conference: 'The Vital City'

12-14 September 2007, Glasgow.

An emerging conventional wisdom about European cities argues that they are vital to the future of our societies and are undergoing revitalisation. Cities are engines of regional and national development in advanced economies dependent on innovation, knowledge, human capital and connectivity. In an era of low communication costs and high mobility, cities can offer high quality environments, vibrant amenities and sustainable patterns of development. They can also provide social and cultural vitality in a context of increasing population diversity and fluidity.

Yet many questions and ambiguities remain for urban policy and research. Is the new thinking consistent with the challenges of social inclusion? Are consumption-oriented urban strategies sustainable in economic and ecological terms? Are there losers as well as winners among cities in the more competitive environment? What are the roles of national governments and the EU in balancing territorial cohesion and globalisation? Can the fuzzy concepts of cohesion, competitiveness and sustainability be sharpened, and can the propositions linking these processes be validated empirically?

Sub-themes

- Resurgent European cities
- Branding the distinctive city
- The urban environment and 'quality of place'
- Real estate development and city planning
- Urban form, transport and sustainability
- Diversity, cohesion and the richness of cities
- Neighbourhood dynamics and urban vitality
- Strategies for viable and vital neighbourhoods
- Community activism and civic innovation
- Labour markets in the new Europe
- Housing organisation and finance
- Health and public policy
- Urban governance

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Your views

We would welcome your views and reactions on any aspect of this newsletter. If you have any material for inclusion in the next issue the copy deadline is **1st October 2006.**

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Published by:

Faculty of the Built Environment
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Coldharbour Lane,
Frenchay,
Bristol
BS16 1QY, UK

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