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# 3<sup>rd</sup> YA Meeting

<http://www.aesop-youngacademics.net>

February 9-12, 2009

Planning as  
**REAR VIEW MIRROR or  
CRYSTAL BALL?**

*Diversities of Planning Cultures, Traditions, Identities*



## CALL FOR PAPERS

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:	19.09.2008
NOTIFICATION – ACCEPTANCE:	26.10.2008
FULL-PAPER SUBMISSION:	09.01.2009

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The discipline of planning should be innately optimistic and forward-looking. Planning processes and practices are fundamentally oriented towards attempting to influence and shape the future by regulating and guiding the present. Planning is continually concerned with anticipating (future) trends and innovations in order to better predict (and shape) what the future might bring.

Yet, paradoxically, planning is also strongly influenced by its past in a variety of ways. Whilst obvious, it is not always acknowledged that local, regional and national planning cultures shape the way (that) planners perform their tasks and how planning is practised. But the idea of planning culture is not a simplistic, transparent or an orderly construct. It is deeply and often unconsciously embedded in the practises and professions of people involved and their interests in planning.

Planning identities are historically and socially rooted and are strongly embedded in planning traditions AND expressed through current diverse practices. Although the ideas behind "spatial planning", *Raumplanung*, *Urbanistica*, *Ruimtelijke Ordening* are largely cognate, they all carry specific national resonances which reflect as much the evolution of national planning systems and successes as the wider cultures of governance and government within which they are embedded.

It is widely acknowledged that contemporary society faces a spectrum of intense pressures driving rapid changes and evolutions in social, political, economic and cultural structures. Similarly, planning systems and policies in many regions and countries are going through an unprecedented period of rapid adjustment, affecting processes and policies of planning systems, but also planning cultures. These pressures are creating a demand for greater trans-national working, and whilst there are pressures for harmonisation across borders, little is known of how differing planning cultures are shaping the emergence of "new planning" practices.

In this conference, we seek to reconcile these two perspectives, and understand how past and future can be constructively brought together in contemporary planning practices and research. The past/ future paradox raises a number of questions on which this conference will be focused:

- How can we understand how to better plan the future by reflecting from where the discipline(-s) of planning has come?
- How can we learn from past experiences to inform future planning activities?
- Do past experiences have salience for planning as it grapples with the emerging generational challenges of resource scarcity, energy limitations, energy security and the rise of the super-megapolis?

The key emphasis will be on understanding the evolution of specific planning cultures. By planning cultures, we mean the place-specific constellations of institutions, discourses, actors, methods and practices that come together to translate juridical frameworks into experiential outcomes.

We welcome all papers dealing with European, cross-border/ (international) trans-national, national, regional, local and urban planning which seek to contextualise planning structures and outcomes within a wider cultural understanding.

## CONFERENCE THEMES

The conference will be structured in four sub-themes, which fall under the remit of the general topic of the event. Each sub-theme will comprise an invited plenary contribution from the particular track chair plus eight submitted papers from young academics. All tracks will be supported by a discussant whose role will be to capture the key elements of each track and report them back at the final day's interactive plenary event, the "world café". The sub-themes of the conference are as follows:

### Track 1: Past Planning and Planning Futures

*Track Chair:* **Luigi Mazza** (Italy)

*Discussant:* Beatrix Haselsberger (Austria) [haselsberger@email.archlab.tuwien.ac.at](mailto:haselsberger@email.archlab.tuwien.ac.at)

Roles and methods of planning are constantly changing. On the one hand, planning is influenced by principles and aims expressed by political and administrative social systems as well as by the civil society. On the other hand, it is increasingly possible to perceive the increasing influence and the localised impacts of more general societal shifts (including a rebalancing from manufacturing to services and the slow-down in productivity and economic growth) and of exogenous pressures (such as globalisation, climate change).

In both cases innovative planning is needed, but it has to come to terms with planning traditions and conventions. This track seeks to discuss "**what lessons can be learnt from history for future planning**" and which **conflicts** could emerge **between traditional and innovative planning approaches**. In this track, we therefore welcome papers exploring **the influence of the (historical and modern) past on contemporary and future planning perspectives**. In addition papers dealing with **new approaches and trends in planning** would also be welcome.

### Track 2: Public Participation in Planning

*Track Chair:* **Simin Davoudi** (UK)

*Discussant:* Vojtěch Novotný (Czech Republic) [novotnyvoj@fzp.czu.cz](mailto:novotnyvoj@fzp.czu.cz)

Planners in democratic societies generally attempt to exercise their function as an expression of a wider public interest. In recent decades, there has been an increasing interest of how the public can formally become involved and represent themselves in the planning process. Yet, participation and interest representation do not always take place against a background of compromise and consensus, but can lead to new tensions, conflicts and contradictions.

To explore this issue, in this strand we seek empirical explorations of **public participation in the planning process**. We welcome papers exploring **country-specific particularities, cultures and institutions of participatory practices** alongside more general reflections on the **future of participative planning**. We are also keen to include papers in this strand which draw on cross-border or transnational planning experiences, or those focusing on **equity and power**. In exploring whether participatory planning positively improves planning outcomes, this track seeks to build a conversation around **different approaches and possibilities for participatory planning**.

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### Track 3: Bridging Planning Cultures, Traditions and Identities

*Track Chair:* **Petra Hirschler** (Austria)

*Discussant:* Paul Benneworth (UK) paul.benneworth@ncl.ac.uk

There is increasing acknowledgement of the fact that different nations deal differently with similar spatial planning "issues" in accordance with their own cultures, traditions and identities. Empirical observation suggests that increasing numbers of contemporary sub-national and cross-border co-operative planning activities are faltering due to a mix of apparent political apathy or the existence of invisible structural barriers arising from due to cultural and natural diversities.

This track therefore welcomes papers dealing with the **identification of key issues and problems that could emerge** where there is no clear congruence between outcomes, traditions and identities of planning, and the more formal institutional structures through which the business of planning is conducted. Moreover papers exploring **case-specific trans-national contexts, where different planning cultures, traditions and identities meet** are especially welcome. Therefore this track seeks to illuminate these phenomena by considering **"different ways and perspectives for making territorial co-operation activities more effective"**.

### Track 4: Cities of the Past – Cities of the Future

*Track Chair:* **Zeynep Merey Enlil** (Turkey)

*Discussant:* Oliver Frey (Austria) oliver.frey@tuwien.ac.at

Cities are reasserting themselves as focal points of the new knowledge economy, places where a range of decisions shaping socio-economic evolution come together and achieve spatial form. They are also the sites of some of the most vigorous activities in planning, where competing pressures of growth, competitiveness, mobility and access are brought together. The way these tensions and conflicts play out is embodied within material planning decisions, which in turn can exert profound influences on wider national planning structures.

How is **urban planning shaping and leading spatial processes** more generally and how are **decisions taken in the light of particular urban pressures and problems being translated into more general planning practices**? Drawing heavily on **practical examples** tracking the historical development of urban plans alongside spatial planning practice, this track seeks to discuss and explore the **enduring influence of cities on contemporary planning, practice and identity**.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Young Planning Scholars (Ph.D Students and Junior Academic Staff at the early stage of their career) are invited to submit an abstract addressing one particular track of the event.

32 papers (8 papers per track) will be selected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> YA Meeting with regard to three criteria, namely:

- the **academic quality** of the submission,
- their **contribution to the aims and themes of the conference**, and
- their capacity to address both **geographical scales** and **analytic dimensions** of interest.

All papers should deal explicitly with a particular **geographical scale** or dimension of planning practises, European, cross-border/ (international) trans-national, national, regional, local and urban planning. All papers should also address one of the following **analytic dimensions**, institutions, discourses, tools/ methods or actors/ agency.

Young Planning Scholars are invited to contact their track discussants by email concerning their potential contributions in advance of the submission deadline.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*If you are currently not a Member of the Young Academics Network, please remember you must register first in order to be able to submit your abstract.*

Please submit your abstract via the AESOP YA Website <http://www.aesop-youngacademics.net/> (Media Centre \ YA Print \ Deposit to YA Print \ 3<sup>rd</sup> YA Meeting) by **Friday, September 19, 2008**. Be aware, that the conference abstract submission page will close after this date.

Submissions must include the title, abstract (500-800 words), keywords, authors contact details (name, university, nationality, e-mail) and choice of gateway/track and have to be made by using the style-sheet provided on the Website.

The successful contributors will be informed by **Sunday, October 26, 2008** and will be asked to provide a full version of their paper (around 5.000 words) by **Friday, January 9, 2009**.

The AESOP YA Network will award a **PRIZE for the Best Paper** and any full paper submitted by the closing date of Friday, January 9, 2009 will be automatically entered for the competition. The winner will be announced in the Closing Session.

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

<b>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 – Day 0</b>				
14.00-18.00	<b>REGISTRATION</b>			
21.00 –	<i>YA Drinks - Welcome Reception</i>			
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – Day 1</b>				
09.00 – 10.00	<b>OPENING SESSION</b>			
10.00 – 10.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>			
10.30 – 12.00	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>			
	Luigi MAZZA	Simin DAVOUDI	Willem SALET	
	Discussion			
12.00 – 13.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>			
13.30 – 15.00	<b>PARALLEL SESSION</b>			
	Track 1 / Session 1 (3 presentations)		Track 2 / Session 1 (3 presentations)	
15.00 – 16.00	<b>PARALLEL SESSION</b>			
	Track 1 / Session 2 (2 presentations)		Track 2 / Session 2 (2 presentations)	
16.00 – 16.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>			
16.30 – 18.00	<b>PARALLEL SESSION</b>			
	Track 1 / Session 3 (3 presentations)		Track 2 / Session 3 (3 presentations)	
20.00 –	<i>Social Dinner</i>			
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 – Day 2</b>				
09.00 – 10.30	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>			
	Petra HIRSCHLER	Zeynep Meray ENLIL	Gert-Jan HOSPERS	
	Discussion			
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>			
11.00 – 12.30	<b>PARALLEL SESSION</b>			
	Track 3 / Session 1 (3 presentations)		Track 4 / Session 1 (3 presentations)	
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch Break</i>			
14.00 – 15.30	<b>PARALLEL SESSION</b>			
	Track 3 / Session 2 (3 presentations)		Track 4 / Session 2 (3 presentations)	
15.30 – 16.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>			
16.00 – 17.00	<b>PARALLEL SESSION</b>			
	Track 3 / Session 3 (2 presentations)		Track 4 / Session 3 (2 presentations)	
17.30 – 19.30	<i>Study Tour</i>			
20.00 –	<i>Social Dinner</i>			
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 – Day 3</b>				
09.00 – 10.15	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>			
	Discussant 1 Haselsberger	Discussant 2 Novotný	Discussant 3 Benneworth	Discussant 4 Frey
10.15 – 13.00	<b>WORLD CAFÉ</b>			
13.30 – 14.00	<b>CLOSING SESSION</b>			
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 – After Conference Programme</b>				
10.00 – 17.00	<i>Mobile Workshop (facultative) 2 different tours</i>			

## **VENUE 3<sup>rd</sup> YA Meeting**

Vienna University of Technology, AUSTRIA,  
Faculty of Planning and Architecture,

## **DATE 3<sup>rd</sup> YA Meeting**

*Registration and Welcome Reception:* Monday, Feb. 09, 2009

*Conference:* Tuesday, Feb. 10 – Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009

*After Conference Programme (facultative):* Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

## **AFTER CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

Those who are interested are warmly welcome to join one of our Mobile Workshops on Friday, Feb. 13, 2009.

## **CONFERENCE FEE**

NO conference fee will be charged for this event!

Refreshments and meals throughout the event are provided thanks to sponsorship from the Vienna University of Technology.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Accommodation (incl. breakfast) is free of charge for participants during the conference from Monday, Feb. 9 to Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009 (3 nights) thanks to the financial support of the Vienna University of Technology.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **YOUNG ACADEMICS COMMITTEE:**

**Beatrix Haselsberger** (chair)

Paul Benneworth

Oliver Frey

Vojtěch Novotný

### **LOCAL HOST COMMITTEE:**

**Petra Hirschler** (chair)

Gerhard Schimak

Thomas Dillinger

Sabine Neff

## **CONTACT**

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