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Young Academic Network (YA)
AESOP
Foreword

The Young Academic Network (YA) is much more than collection of early career planners. It is a group of friends, a congregation of young scholars all trying to figure out how to make the most of the AESOP experience. It is a familiar feeling that we do not get tired of. Something we look forward to at every Conference, lecture, and workshop. The value of the YA is sometimes difficult to adequately portray to those who have not felt it, but it is one that cannot be forgotten by those that have. Of course, this foreword is biased, so deal with it! While the end goal of the YA is to help one another reach higher academic and professional quality in our work and increase our chances on the job market. The YA brings in other dimensions that we believe also have their place in academia: informal social networks, friendships, opportunities to be stupid, to have fun, to have beers, etc. Without forgetting karaoke!! This membership magazine is meant to show the YA spirit and hopefully convince some of those doubters out there to join the network, participate in our activities, or at least just in our social events or social media.

As the Senior Advisor of the Young Academic Network I hope this short foreword has shown the deep appreciation I have for the YA, for all opportunities I have had, for the help and support I have received from scholars of all ages within the AESOP network and beyond. I wish to thank the YA all with my deepest regards for its absolute awesomeness! I have had the greatest pleasure working alongside different members of the coordination and project teams.

Wishing you all a happy read,

Anais De Keijser
Senior Advisor of the Young Academic Network (2018 - 2019)
What is YA?

The Young Academics Network was established in 2002 as a loosely-structured branch of AESOP. Motivated by the early successes of the AESOP PhD Workshops, the YA has since evolved into a global network of early career planning scholars and practitioners. The network seeks to provide a platform through which young academics can share their ideas in an open and inclusive environment, challenging and supporting one another with the support of senior AESOP members.

The YA are managed by a Coordination Team (CT) of five democratically-elected YA members. Each CT member is elected for a duration of two years. Every year, two or three members are replaced, ensuring necessary continuity amongst the team. One of the second year members acts as the YA CT Chair and has an official place on the AESOP Executive Committee. Thus, the YA Chair acts as the voice of ‘young’ scholars, ensuring that their interests and concerns are represented within the wider AESOP community.

The YA work on several projects and initiatives, managed by both the CT and several other enthusiastic YA members – often organised into editorial boards and Local Organising Committees.
Meet the CT

Daan Bossuyt

Anais De Keijser

Lukas Gilliard

Aoife Doyle

Irene Luque Martín

Agnes Matoga

Batoul Ibrahim
“Foster your self-belief whilst learning from others, including those who try to put you down. When your papers get critical reviews, find ways to write better so that your contribution becomes clearer and more convincing. Good scholarship needs a good mix of confidence that you have an important message to convey and humility in the face of demonstrating and articulating it. When you don’t get the promotion you feel you deserve, think about what you have to offer, and wait for the time and opportunity to turn in your direction. If academia is closed to you for a bit, and you go into the world of ‘practice’, think about ways of bringing the knowledge and understanding you gain there back into academia. Good luck”

Patsy Healey

“Nobody is alone in his/her academic life. We all have the responsibility of creating the conditions in which the young planning researchers of today can become a resource for greater global networking in the future: a flow of fresh streams connecting, with unpredictable trajectories, the safe but endangered waters of a coral reef to the turbulent deep ocean.”

Francesco Lo Piccolo

“Success means different things to different people and the pathways to a successful academic career are diverse but what they all have in common are: intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm for learning, eagerness for sharing knowledge, and perseverance. There is no door that cannot be opened; we just need to find the right key.”

Simin Davoudi
How can I get involved in the Young Academic Network?

Here is a list of the different ways in which you can get involved in the YA network:

• Join the Coordination Team – the mandate is 2 years and elections are held in May every year. As a member of the coordination team you will be responsible for the coordination of the network as well as the representation of the Young Academics within the larger AESOP structures.

• Become an active member of an Editorial Board – the Young Academic network consists of different projects that each have an own editorial team. This includes: PlaNext (our peer-reviewed open access journal), Conversations in Planning (our collaborative booklet series where Young Academics get the chance to work with more established scholars), our Blog, our MemZine (our membership magazine published yearly and distributed at the AESOP Congress).

• Host our Young Academics Conference - Which is a yearly activity, organised by Young Academics for Young Academics. Where no participation fee is charged.

• Publish - in either our journal, booklet series, blog, or magazine.

• Propose your own idea for a YA event or project!

• Become an Early-Career Co-Chair - at the annual AESOP Congress

• Register on our website - increase your chances to be invited as a reviewer

• Participate - in one of our competitions, or events.

• Come by the YA room at the AESOP Congress, talk to us, make friends

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How can I build-up my CV on a budget?

Here is a list of the different ways in which getting involved in the YA network can help build-up your CV on a budget:

• **Get Experience** – coordinating, managing, editing, writing, team-work and leadership skills, attending Conferences,

• **Get Recognition** – with best paper prizes, presenting as guest speaker, co-chairing a track, co-authoring, collaborative projects and publications

• **Build a Network** – meet other young academics, get a smooth introduction into the AESOP network, through collaborative efforts get in touch with other planning associations such as ISOCARP, ICSP, etc.

• **Get Published** – in our journal, booklets, blog, magazine, etc.

• **Improve the quality of your work** – by presenting at our Conference, through personal one-on-one input during our Expert Clinic, through collaborative work with more established scholars, through peer-to-peer exchanges


The YA publishes the international, peer reviewed and open access journal PlaNext. In general, PlaNext publishes two issues per year, one as an open-call issue and one as a special issue inviting paper authors who presented their research during the annual YA Conference.

Since 2007, the YA has organised an annual Conference, traditionally during the months of March or April. An AESOP member school hosts the Conference. The last three Conferences were hosted by Ghent University (2016), TU Munich (2017), and the University of Groningen (2018). In contrast to most international conferences, the YA is proud that this initiative runs free of charge each year (with costs covered by the host institution). Strongly supported by AESOP, the YA believe that arrangement ensures a more inclusive approach to supporting YA members in furthering their academic career.

- This year, the YA are proud to have been involved in the selection of YA Co-Chairs for the AESOP Congress. This is the first time this initiative has been undertaken and we hope to progress it in future Congresses.
- The YA also hosts a General Assembly (GA) every year at the AESOP Congress, together with a YA Social Event.
- Another important activity for the YA within the AESOP Congress is the awarding of a YA ‘Best Paper Prize’ for papers submitted to the Congress by early career scholars. This year, this prize is kindly supported by the Journal of Urban Design and Planning.
In addition to the YA Conference, the YA also help to organise the annual AESOP PhD Workshop, which is associated with the annual AESOP Conference.

The idea of the blog was born around YA’s concern to work towards new outreach and dissemination approaches, which would be able to expand the “impact” of research outside the academia. The blog, online since March 2014, publishes two/three posts a week on a wide array of themes.

‘Conversations in Planning’ is a collaborative e-publication series in planning developed by the YA and AESOP. These YA-AESOP publications aim to document a series of conversations between scholars at different career stages about theories, ideas, concepts and practices that matter in planning.

The YA actively collaborates with the American young planners of ACSP, the Australian and New Zealand young planners of AECURN, and CORUM, the young planners network of the French-speaking APERAU association.

The YA network has also been involved in numerous other activities that all have enhanced opportunities for young researchers to foster exchange of academic work and research. These activities include, but are not limited to becoming a YA early-career co-chair at the annual AESOP Conference; a YA editor in the editorial board of European Planning Studies; a YA member as part of the jury of the Young Landscape Architects Competition; setting up of a Young Researcher Exchange fund for fostering the international exchange between ACSP and AESOP.
Beyond planners a variety of people are involved in planning. Lawyers, politicians, geographers, architects, engineers, social scientists, individuals, communities, etc. they take the role of planners at certain phases of the planning process. In order to maximise the synergies between this vast array of disciplines, we have to go beyond a multidisciplinary approach to space production and rather adopt an interdisciplinary one; integrating bodies of knowledge and methods into an overlapping synthesis of approaches. By aiming to create a unity of intellectual frameworks we can become more than the sum of our individual components. Because of the complexity of the urban, cities cannot be understood by separating them into individual components and systems. Planning as a young discipline is trying to achieve this goal and through this Conference we hope to get involved in this discussion. We hope to offer its participants new insights by bridging the limitations of a single discipline.
CONTACT

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