



Interpreting 20th Century European Urbanism 21-23 October, Stockholm

urbanHIST welcomes abstracts on the main theme of its second conference: Interpreting 20th Century European Urbanism. As an explicitly interdisciplinary project, we encourage submissions from urbanism, planning, and architectural historians; preservationists; geographers; museum curators; and independent scholars. Abstracts should be related to the following suggested tracks:

1. Writing Town Planning Histories. Since the very beginning of modern town planning as a discipline and profession, different uses and approaches of “history” can be traced within the professional discourse, that eventually led to the writing of planning history. In its inherent interdisciplinary disposition, diverse causes have triggered the writing of history such as technological, infrastructural, economical or statutory progress, a shift of doctrines or political ideologies as well as societal change. This session is aimed at discussing the wide scope of stimuli, promoters and protagonists during the long 20th century, that have fostered the writing of planning histories, as well as authors, who committed themselves to the historiography of town planning.

2. Dissemination and Mobility of Town Planning Ideas. With the foundation of the first – basically national – town planning associations in the late 19th century, planning concepts and ideas were put in circulation through books, newly established journals, exhibitions or conferences. Soon after, they even crossed national borders and resulted in an impressive interconnectedness of actors. This session focuses on different media, institutions and networks that have served for the dissemination of planning ideas over the course of the long 20th century; questions its adoption or adaption processes, and evaluates critical junctions that have changed its direction, scope or pace.

3. History Matters. An assessment of contemporary urban conditions played a pivotal role in the early operations of the Swedish Museum of Architecture (now ArkDes, Sweden’s national centre for architecture and design), founded in 1962. In seeking to gain a fuller understanding of the present state of urban design and in an attempt to intellectually mend ruptures in the historic urban fabric created by a Modernist planning doctrine, the Museum was spurred to engage in a critical historicising of the Modern movement in Sweden. Looking to the approach of the Museum, this session aims to discuss how past and present studies of urban history ground contemporary city research.

4. Urban Regeneration in European Cities. Urban regeneration processes contributed to radical changes in many European cities, especially after the Second World War. Carried out as redevelopment or renewal projects, their impact on cities’ physical shape, social content and economic change is still conflictual. This track has its focus on the impact of urban regeneration on cities’ development, changes and evolution through time.





5. Discourses of Consumption in Modern Architecture and City Building. Participants are invited to elaborate on the relationship between capitalism and the built environment, with an emphasis on outcomes and long-term consequences in contemporary discourses of consumption in architecture and urban planning. This track invites reflection upon industrialized mass-production methods and new means of mass communication determining consumption discourses, from the housing unit to the larger urban development.

6. Cities and the Environment. Urgencies of our present have put the environment as a central issue in the contemporary discourse. Sustainability, urban metabolism, ecosystems and other ecological approaches dominate academic rhetoric and the production of the city. But history of architecture and urban design from the lens of environment demands deeper explorations. In consideration of anthropogenic climate change, this panel aims to discuss new narratives on architectural and urban history, thus putting environment as a central issue. We are open to proposals that revisit urban historiography taking environment as a material and intellectual driving force.

7. Facets of Modernity in Housing Development. In the early 20th century, planning and design approaches underwent major changes. City planners not only followed Modernist ideas, they also adjusted to a specific local history and context. Hence, Modern housing presents a wide range of variations today. Looking at this process through the lens of Modernity in its various facets, this track welcomes contributions, which investigate the impact of political, economic, and ideological contexts on housing development.

8. Post-socialist transition: Between Conflicts and Legacy. The adaptation to market economy after the collapse of socialism created new challenges. This theme deals with the spatial transformations in post-socialist cities that dealt with the vacuum created by the collapse of communism that was filled by commercial developers. Different cities across Central and Eastern European countries face different trajectories, mostly due to the spatial/ urban planning laws that were ingrained during the socialist period which are still in use today, as well as existing actors and administrative structures.

9. Housing beyond State Power. The housing problem has given rise, in different contexts and in different historical periods, to the occupation of land or housing outside of the existing legal context. Europe has not been exempted from this process and, although it has changed over time, at present it seems to re-emerge as a survival housing solution. The track is trying to find out, which strategies had been used by excluded populations to bypass the real estate market and how public authorities and urban planning have acted and are acting today on such informal housing areas.

10. The impact of Industrialisation on Central and Eastern European Cities. Across the 20th century, industrialisation arrived in Central and Eastern Europe. As in many Western countries before, its rapid progress resulted in rural exodus that led to the reshaping of city structures and the development of city extensions; even completely new towns were built from the scratch. In the late 20th century, major political and economic changes, such as the fall of communism, deindustrialisation or the global





relocation of the industrial production, had a huge impact on urban structures, especially in post-socialist cities. This panel focuses on the impact of Industrialisation in Central and Eastern European cities from multiple perspectives: as indicators of urban development in the past, or as difficult legacy today.

11. Nature and the City: (Re-)creating Urban Landscapes. Cities grow in a specific environment within the bioregional context set by their location and climate. Natural elements can not only present barriers for urban development, but also offer important resources that contribute to a more integrated urban environment. Due to major economic changes that led to the shift from industrial to post-industrial society, a significant number of urban regeneration projects worldwide started to reinforce the connection of the city and its nature. The revitalization of natural heritage within the urban context is gradually gaining more importance, presenting an opportunity for cities to improve structurally, economically and aesthetically. This track is addressing the complexity of this process by understanding the variety of policies, actors, and outcomes in different contexts.

12. Rationalised Traffic and Transport as Means for Town Planning. Questions regarding road traffic limitation, people mobility organization, transport efficiency as well as new principles of rationalization in accordance with traffic circulation necessities, became central issues in urban planning from the 1940s to the 1980s. The attempt to resolve these common infrastructural problems was a priority for authorities and planning professionals in both, capitalist and socialist cities. This track is open to examples of urban traffic planning and organization that show progressive planning principles and good practices.

How to Participate

The organizers invite proposals for individual presentations (20 minutes). Please upload your **abstract** and a **short CV** on the online submission platform www.bth.se/urbanhistconference. **Abstracts should be under 350 words** and display the field of research, research question, theoretical and methodological frame as well as the expected results. Please specify the following information: title, track, author and affiliation, and email address. **The submission deadline is 24th of June 2019.** After a peer review, acceptance or rejection of the abstracts will be communicated between the 26th and the 30th of August 2019. The conference will take place at the Wenner-Gren Center in Stockholm between the 21st and the 23rd of October 2019. It charges no fees but accommodation and travel expenses are not covered. For questions or further information, please contact us via urbanhist@bth.se.

urbanHIST is a multidisciplinary research and training programme aiming at the development and sustainable promotion of a joint understanding of 20th century urbanism in Europe. It is run by four universities in Germany, Spain, Slovakia, and Sweden in cooperation with 13 partner-organizations, and funded within the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action - Innovative Training Networks (ITN) as European Joint Doctorate (EJD). 15 Early Stage Researchers are working in eight thematic fields, embedded into a network of high-profile academics and practitioners.



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