



EURA NEWSLETTER

Issue 34 July 2014

Conference News and Information

Karsten Zimmermann, Technische Universität Dortmund, EURA President

The next international EURA conference, “Transforming cities, transformative cities” will take place in Sibiu, Romania from the 17th – 20th September 2015. The local organizer is Cristina Stanus from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu.

Conference topic

Cities are dynamic places, where change is the result of both the innovation which inherently stems from the openness of cities and direct interventions. At the same time cities are involved in bringing about broader social, political, economic and environmental transformation. What happens in the cities has consequences in terms of global change. While cities themselves are constantly transforming, a debate over the contribution of urban areas to the transformation of societies, economies and political systems is on-going. The post-socialist cities are, from this point of view, a particularly important locus of transformation and an interesting case study on the transformative power of cities.

We approach cities focusing on the multiple dimensions of transformation within cities and the transformations cities bring about into the wider society. The political, social, cultural and educational, economic, spatial, and environmental ramifications of transformation are taken into account. The conference focuses on the European city, while it does not neglect cities elsewhere in the world or different types of urban areas. Special attention is also given to the transformation of the post-socialist cities in the past two decades.

Check the [website](#) for more details.

EURA 2014 Conference Report

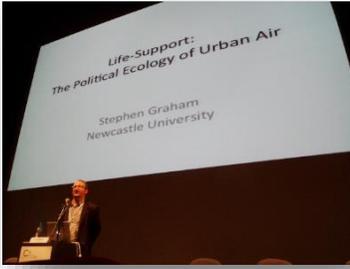
Christian Lefèvre, Professeur & Directeur, Institut français d'urbanisme (IFU), Directeur, Université Paris-Est Marne la Vallée

The third City Futures conference took place in Paris on June 18-20 2014. “Cities as strategic players and strategic places” served as the main topic that brought together more than 350 people. At this year’s annual conference and more than 310 papers were presented in more than 70 sessions.

Five major themes were addressed:

- Spatial justice and the City
- Productive and Creative cities
- Cities and Environmental Sustainability
- Cities and Democracy
- Cities, cosmopolitanism and multiculturalism

Many papers related to these five themes and to the 41 special sessions are available on the City Futures [website](#).



Professor Stephen Graham from Newcastle University provided the keynote speech. Professor Graham's speech discussed the challenging topic on the *Commodification of Urban Air*. The final roundtable included three world renowned academics: S. Clarke from the United States, R. Hambleton from Europe and V. Watson from Africa. They were invited by Professor Mustafa Dikec to further discuss big issues and challenges facing cities in the coming years from their 'continental' perspectives.

The attendees represented countries Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa and Oceania.

The third City Futures conference was a big success, thanks to the support of the EURA and UAA and also the international and organizing committees.

The following are some of the EURA Board Members' reflections:

"The 2014 EURA Conference was an exciting event. I enjoyed the privilege of chairing a panel on "Citizen Participation" in the 'Cities and Democracy' conference track. This panel brought together a number of talented young scholars (Inga Hajdarowicz, Juliet Carpenter, Arturo Flores, Paula Russell and Emma Puerari). They presented their high quality papers in a lively and professional manner, and because they were also disciplined in respecting time limits there was also time for interesting questions and debate. Impressive stuff! For the third consecutive time the Paris EURA Conference also hosted two panels organized together with the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Urban Europe. This JPI offers funding opportunities for European urban scholars to conduct cross-national comparative projects and invited EURA members to provide inputs for the new call for proposals that the JPI is preparing for next year. In this way the EURA Conference provided EURA members with a unique opportunity to influence the future JPI research agenda."

- Bas Denters, University of Twente

"Even this year in Paris, the EURA/UAA conference represented a new and challenging opportunity of sharing ideas and perspectives, thanks also to the presence of overseas colleagues. Several parallel sessions, several topics, several specific sessions: many chances to suggest a wider scenario of comparative studies, even if, in some ways, it was of course a bit 'dispersive'.

Specifically, the special session - already mentioned by Valeria - confirmed a general interest in cities (the "City Futures"), in their new forms, according to processes of multi-scalar regional urbanization (not just an arial representation, but also a representation of flows). The 'post-metropolis' has been a pretext to reflect on the new forms of Italian cities and, in general, a way to contribute to the current debate around cities (their livability, competitiveness and governability) in a moment in which a new EU urban agenda is under construction."

- Cristiana Rossignolo, Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico e Università di Torino



"The City Future Conference this year hosted a number of special sessions aimed at focussing on specific research topics and questions or ongoing research projects. I have found this option an interesting and promising one. Together with other Italian colleagues, we proposed and then organised a special session dedicated to discuss the first year results of a research project dedicated to explore processes of regional urbanisation in large urban areas in Italy. Organising such a special session, was the first step in discussing our preliminary results with an international audience; at the same time it was a way to interact with EURA as a research partner. In fact the national research project we are currently working on, since the very beginning, involved EURA as a partner for dissemination as well as for promoting discussion in an international context. This is a very interesting opportunity: I kindly invite every EURA Member to think of EURA as a lively and active space not just for dissemination and debate, but also as an active research partner!"

- Fedeli Valeria, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano

"Apart from the many valuable informal conversations the City Futures Conference had two highlights for me. First, the panels on 'The Democratic Foundations of the Just City' organised by Oliver Dlabac were intriguing. The eight papers presented examined different ways of conceptualising justice in the modern city and the discussions were stimulating. Second, the presentation in the final plenary session by Vanessa Watson, University of Cape Town, on the challenges facing African cities was full of fresh ideas on how to think about urbanisation and the future trajectory of cities in our globalising world."

- Robin Hambleton, Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments, University of the West of England

"The EURA Paris Conference has nicely illustrated both the strengths and the weaknesses of EURA. All the workshops I visited were interesting, raising state-of-the-art questions (post-democracy, austerity planning, post-metropolis, metropolitan governance...) and bringing up relevant examples from many parts of the world. In fact it was difficult to choose between the many different topics going on at the same time. This shows that EURA is attractive to urban researchers from all around the world – which is good. But how to assign the territory (topics) which EURA wants to deal with deeper? In the lack of a clear orientation we will always get in EURA conferences a wide kaleidoscope of all kinds of urban topics without being able to go deeper into a well-defined smaller number of issues with the chance to have some influence on how things go in European urban areas. The (too) wide interest of EURA in all kind of urban issues is also an obstacle to create strong affiliation of institutions and researchers to EURA which was well illustrated by the extremely low attendance of the General Assembly."

- Tosics Iván, Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest, Hungary

"The 2014 Eura Conference in Paris had one important highlight for me: Being organised in cooperation with UAA, brought together researchers from all over the world working in similar state of the art topics (e.g. planning under austerity, post-democratic polis, rescaling, metropolitan governance), however with different understandings, methodological and theoretical approaches. I followed mainly the sessions concerning Metropolitan Governance issues, which were very interesting with high quality papers, but at the same time there was very little time for discussion and critical debates. Smaller panel sessions Too many parallel and special sessions in a big conference like this, squeezed in two and a half days, with more than 300 participants, do not enhance deeper debates."



- Panos Getimis, Department of Economic and Regional Development, Panteion University of Political and Social Sciences, Athens, Greece

EURA Research and Conference Improvement Survey

As Part of the initiatives to improve collaborative research opportunities, the EURA Secretariat has prepared a short five-question survey regarding future working groups. Please help build a better collaborative research opportunities by participating in the easy [survey](#). Thanks in advance to those who contribute!



EURA Membership for Conference Attendees

All participants of the 2014 EURA *Cities Futures* conference were entitled to a year for free membership. For information, please refer to the [EURA website](#) or access the free membership voucher here.

Recent Publications

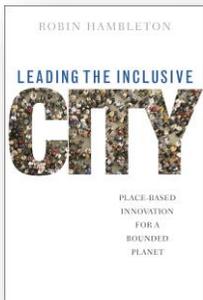
A forthcoming book on: Place-based leadership and the inclusive city

Some commentators take the view that the growth of multi-national companies operating on a global basis is now so well developed that cities are best viewed as helpless victims in a global flow of events. Distant, unelected decision makers now determine city futures, not urban residents.

A new book, to be published by *Policy Press* in November 2014, rejects this view and offers a fresh way of thinking about our urban future.

The book – *Leading the Inclusive City. Place-based innovation for a bounded planet* by Robin Hambleton - presents a new conceptual framework for understanding place-based civic leadership, and assembles evidence from across the world to show that cities are taking decisive action to shape the city according to progressive values – for example, advancing social justice, promoting care for the environment and bolstering community empowerment.

The book contains seventeen inspiring Innovation Stories, drawn from cities in all continents, to underpin the argument that place-based civic leadership, when combined with radical social innovation, can help to create inclusive, sustainable cities. The author wishes to express his thanks to the many colleagues in EURA who have assisted in the construction of a number of these Innovation Stories. The book argues that international, city-to-city learning and exchange is developing as a powerful way of advancing the creation of more inclusive cities, notwithstanding the continuing pressures of placeless power.



Book details:

Title: *Leading the Inclusive City. Place-based innovation for a bounded planet.*

Author: *Robin Hambleton*

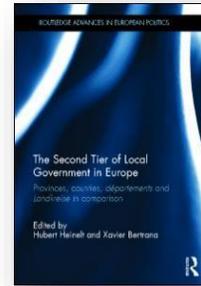
Publisher: *Policy Press*

Date of publication: *November 2014*

Now available in paperback!

This book takes a comparative approach to local government across 14 European countries, looking at processes of decentralisation, regionalisation and reforms of local government. Examining second levels of government, such as UK Counties, French Départements, Italian and Spanish Provinces, and German Landkreise, this book reveals both the specific characteristics of particular countries, and also similarities across Europe. As the first book focussing on the second level of local governments, this monograph combines comparative analysis of institutional trends and reforms of local government with examination of country-specific features to provide an original and insightful evaluation of European governance. Organised along common thematic lines, leading experts in their field outline the historical development of local government, and analyse recent or current reform debates. The book argues democratic quality and effectiveness of this territorial level of government is in the focus of on-going debates about the rescaling of statehood and a shift from 'government to governance'. The Second Tier of Local Government in Europe will be of interest to students and scholars studying local government, public administration and multi-level governance.

'A readable and informative book, particularly useful for those interested in decentralisation multi-level governance and local government reform issues. This book's originalities lie in the comparability it allows and in the comprehensive information it provides about one intermediate tier of government that - despite its relevance - has been discussed less. The book is geared both for political actors directly involved in similar debates as well as scholars.' - Filipe Teles, University of Aveiro, 2013



Book details:

Title: *The Second Tier of Local Government in Europe Provinces, Counties, Départements and Landkreise in Comparison*

Editors: *Hubert Heinelt, Xavier Bertrana*

Publisher: *Routledge*

Further Publications and Discount for EURA Members

SPECIAL 35% EURA DISCOUNT FROM EDWARD ELGAR PUBLISHING

URBAN ECONOMICS AND URBAN POLICY

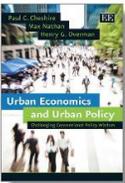
Challenging Conventional Policy Wisdom

Paul C. Cheshire, London School of Economics and Political Science, Max Nathan, London School of Economics and Political Science and National Institute of Economic and Social Research and Henry G. Overman, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

'Urban Economics and Urban Policy pulls together cutting-edge developments in urban and regional economics and draws out their implications for urban policy. This new urban economics goes beyond simple comparative advantage and cost competitiveness of cities, and beyond simple views of capital and labor. It develops a much more complex and realistic view of what constitutes local advantage, due to the spatial sorting of different types of people and different types of firms, giving rise to a lumpy landscape of people, activities, and incomes. By taking seriously the new ways we understand the forces shaping the geography of economic development, the authors suggest fresh new ways to work with the grain of markets, but without letting them rip. It is a tour de force.'

- Michael Storper, London School of Economics, UK

2014 424 pp Hardback 978 1 78195 571 0 ~~£100.00~~* Special EURA Price **£65.00** quote code **Ches35** when ordering
Elgaronline 978 1 78195 572 7



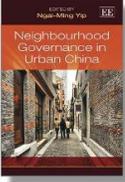
NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE IN URBAN CHINA

Edited by Ngai-Ming Yip, City University of Hong Kong

As the economy and society of China has become more diversified, so have its urban neighbourhoods. The last decade has witnessed a surge in collective action by homeowners in China against the infringement of their rights. Research on neighbourhood governance is sparse and limited, so this book fills a vital gap in the literature and understanding.

Neighbourhood governance is a multifaceted concept that cuts across academic disciplines and intersects an array of policy areas. Therefore this book will find a wide audience amongst public and social policy academics, particularly those with an interest in urban studies, governance and Asian cities, as well as politics.

2014 224 pp Hardback 978 1 78195 023 6 ~~£70.00~~* Special EURA Price **£45.50** quote code **Yip35** when ordering
Elgaronline 978 1 78195 024 3



HEALTHY CITIES

Public Health through Urban Planning

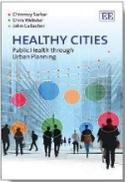
Chinmoy Sarkar, Cardiff University, UK, Chris Webster, University of Hong Kong and John Gallacher, Cardiff University, UK

Mounting scientific evidence generated over the past decade highlights the significant role of our cities' built environments in shaping our health and well-being. In this book, the authors conceptualize the 'urban health niche' as a novel approach to public health and healthy-city planning that integrates the diverse and multi-level health determinants present in a city system.

Healthy Cities will prove a fascinating read for an interdisciplinary body of scholars, practitioners and policy makers within the domains of public policy, regional and urban studies, urban planning, spatial epidemiology, health geography, sociology, public health and psychology.

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Network Activities

Grant Updates from the German-Polish Foundation

Martin Rosenfield, Section Head for Urban Economics, Halle Institute for Economic Research, Halle on Saale, Germany

Two EURA members have received a grant from the German-Polish Foundation for a joint research project (for two years) on "East German and Polish Cities in the Process of European Integration: New Chances for Urban Economic Development?"

The ideas for this project were derived from discussions on the fringes of the last EURA conferences. Project leaders are Martin T.W. Rosenfeld (Halle Institute for Economic Research, Halle on Saale, Germany) and Pawel Swianiewicz (University of Warsaw). The basic ideas of the project are as follows: For cities in East Germany and Poland – like in the other Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries – the beginning of the transition process was also the starting point for European integration. Cities in both regions under investigation were faced at first with similar problems, as a heritage from the socialist era. But both regions had rather different paths of integration. The research project has the objectives (1.) to isolate the expected impact of European integration on the development of cities, and (2.) to find out whether and how the varying paths of integration and varying national institutions have resulted in different patterns of urban change in both regions under observation. This shall be done with the help of regression analyses and a series of qualitative in-depth case studies. First results of the project shall be presented at the EURA conference in 2015.

Institutional Member Profile



ULBS

Universitatea "Lucian Blaga" din Sibiu

LUCIAN BLAGA UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU, ROMANIA

Cristina Stanus, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Department of International Relations, Political Science and Security Studies

The Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (LBUS) is a public education institution, with a continuous activity in providing higher education since 1969. LBUS is established in its current form since 1990. It was named after Lucian Blaga, the most prominent Romanian philosopher of the 20th century, also a remarkable poet, playwright, and novelist. The university is defined as a teaching and research institution and is organized in nine faculties, with over 18,000 students enrolled in its programs and 1,000 academic and non-academic staff. Although a young university, the LBUS has the most comprehensive educational offer in Romania at BA level, with 68 programs, doubled by an extensive range of MA and PhD programs. Its current effort to provide solid higher education is multiplied by an intense research activity across 23 interdisciplinary research centres. Currently, LBUS covers most of the scientific domains relevant to the current interdisciplinary outlook in urban studies: political science, sociology, economics, ecology, and engineering.

During the last two decades, the LBUS has managed to create and advance a solid international profile. Consequently, it has established academic contacts and partnership agreements with over 200 universities and research institutions worldwide. Currently it is the only Romanian university receiving Erasmus Mundus students from outside the EU and it regularly hosts international academic and artistic events. Among the latest such events we mention the 2012 International Conference of the Society for Romanian Studies and the 5th International Conference on Engineering and Business Education. LBUS is also a main partner of the Sibiu International Theatre Festival, the third most important theatre event across Europe.



Urban research at LBUS

Two units within the university host researchers interested in different aspects of urban studies. The Department of International Relations, Political Science and Security Studies hosts one of the oldest Political Science programs in Romania. It is home to a group of researchers interested in urban development, the urban renewal impact of programs such as European Capitals of Culture, and territorial governance. These research interests are pursued in connection with national and international partners. Among the latter we mention Université de Lille 1 and Université de Lille 2. The department is also involved in a series of nationally and internationally funded research projects (National Research Council, FP7 –IRSES, and private donors).

The Centre for Social Research (CSR) of LBUS was established in 2004 to serve as an infrastructure for researchers investigating various topics within sociology and related fields. Initially, its main body of research was focused on the social and political consequences of the European integration process at community level in areas like identity, education, and value change. More recently, it developed research on solidarity, voting behaviour, and an extensive list of social policy issues at local government level. The Centre for Social Research (CSR) was involved (both as coordinator or institutional partner) in a series of nationally and internationally funded research projects (National Research Council or the European Commission through Daphne III, Europe Fund, and Leonardo).

Some research projects on urban and community issues:

- Value Analysis of Local Utilities of Enterprises from Social Sector is a project focused on the governance and regulation of the social economy sector in a territorial context, with a focus on three specific areas of urban policy and development – cultural policy, healthcare policy and policy concerning the social and economic integration of disadvantaged groups. Project developed in partnership by the Université de Lille 1, Université de Lille 2, and LBUS, funded under the FP7 – IRSES scheme.
- The Local democracy and political representation is a project aiming to investigate in comparative perspective key aspects of political representation and democratic quality on both tiers of local government, with a focus on how political representation is reconciled with the introduction of governance-oriented mechanisms in Romanian local governments. Project funded by the CNCS-UEFISCDI.
- A Comparative Analysis of Community Focused Initiatives Aimed at Supporting Women, Children and Young People Who Have Been the Focus of Violence, Exploitation or Trafficking in three regions of the United Kingdom, Germany and Romania was a comparative research project focused on community-based services aimed to assist the victims of violence, exploitation and trafficking, in order to improve health, social care, education, and well-being. The project was developed in partnership with Newman University Birmingham and Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin and was funded by the European Commission's Daphne III Programme.
- Research and consultancy for Romanian municipalities on topics related to the rehabilitation of abandoned military sites (REPAIR PARTNER project) and the development of integrated models for energy efficiency in small towns (URBAN ENERGY project)

Contact

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E-mail: dep.sprise@ulbsibiu.ro (Political Science), centru.csr@ulbsibiu.ro (Centre for Social Research)

Urban Research and Practise

Latest Issue of EURA Journal, *Urban Research and Practise*

Urban Research and Practice, Volume 7, Issue 2, 2014

Special Issue: Towards output legitimacy in local government?

Introduction: Toward output legitimacy in local government?

Annelin Gustavsen, Asbjørn Røiseland & Jon Pierre pages 119-122

Mirror of the state or independent image? – Conceptual perspectives on the question of a legitimacy shift to the output dimension in local democracy

Michael Haus pages 123-136

Local policies and local government legitimacy. The Swedish case

Katarina Roos & Anders Lidström pages 137-152

Beyond 'What do I get?' Functional and procedural sources of Dutch citizens' satisfaction with local democracy

Bas Denters pages 153-168

Councillors' perspectives on democratic legitimacy in English local government: politics through provision?

Colin Copus pages 169-181

Democratic metropolitan governance: experiences in five German metropolitan regions

Karsten Zimmermann pages 182-199

Procedure or performance? Assessing citizen's attitudes toward legitimacy in Swedish and Norwegian local government

Annelin Gustavsen, Asbjørn Røiseland & Jon Pierre pages 200-212

What if performance accountability mechanisms engender distrust?

Vicki Johansson & Stig Montin pages 213-227

Policy Article: 'The Rhinish Greeks'. Bailout funds for local government in German federal states

Hubert Heinelt & Philipp Stolzenberg pages 228-240

EURA Developments

Comments on Recent EU Urban Policy Debates:

A new EU promoted urban agenda? EURA is contributing to the debate

Valeria Feledi, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano

Karsten Zimmermann, Technische Universität Dortmund, EURA President

Setting the scene

The year 2014 is expected to be a crucial time for setting a possible urban agenda at the EU level. In fact, according to official declarations, after years of intense debate both the Member States and the European Commission seem to have converged towards similar interests. This crucial moment can be read as a long-term effect of a process of discussion between cities, Member States, European institutions, professionals and experts, stakeholders. In fact cities have always been central in the

construction of the EU, and they have, in the past, lobbied for the introduction of an urban focus in social and territorial cohesion policies.

Since the 1980's cities have been identified as both passive and active actors in the production of economic and social imbalances in Europe; more recently, they have been an object of concern due to environmental problems. Against this background, during the 1990's, cities received specific attention, and the pilot urban projects experiences, followed by the Urban Program, finally directly addressed the urban dimension as a key factor in the economic and social development of Europe. After that experimental season, the EU has taken steps to mainstream innovation under national frameworks, with the support of specific financial tools (Jessica and Jaspers, among others), with limited, sometimes questionable results. At the end of the last decade, few Member States have implemented the so-called "urban aquis" and a limited number of them have invested on the construction of a national urban agenda. Path-dependency from different social, institutional, economic contexts, still shape quite differentiated approaches and understanding to the urban question in the different Member States.

Recent developments

More recently, the 2011 Report, "Cities of Tomorrow - Challenges, Visions and ways Forward" and the related documents delivered by the URBACT II program, have re-launched a discussion on the necessity to develop a new urban agenda at EU level. Since then a number of developments have taken place :

The integration of the urban dimension into the activities and aims of the "Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy" in 2012, with a new sign of investment on the role of cities.

The adoption of the new EU regulation, which has defined the space for action and the role of the urban dimension in the next programming period inside the ERDF funds. In particular, the new regulation has introduced some modalities of action that are destined to involve the urban sphere: a minimum 5% of national ERDF allocations have been earmarked for integrated sustainable development (Article 7 ERDF Regulation); in addition to that 330 Mio. Euros will be allocated to support innovative actions in the area of sustainable urban development (Article 8 ERDF regulation) in cities. Different Member States have already signed their Partnership Agreements and have started to take advantage from these new possibilities for action. Some Member States have reacted positively; some others have expressed their criticisms over the tools and effects of this new regulation, on the base of their local planning and institutional culture and experiences.

The invitation by the EU to Member States to develop their own national urban agenda to be able to interact with the innovations introduced by the new EU regulation, is producing local debates all over EU; states, cities, organizations, and professionals are contributing to the discussion from different perspectives and backgrounds.

The Cities Forum, Brussels

More recently, the organization of the Cities Forum, held in February 2014 in Brussels, by the DG Regional and Urban Policy has confirmed these intentions: on this occasion, Commissioner Johannes Hahn declared the intention to promote the construction of a new urban agenda by the end of the year. He suggested that a specific focus on the urban should characterize the new programming period. The Cities Forum has been created as an open space for reflection and dialogue, raising a number of significant questions, rather than providing definite solutions:

What kind of urban agenda is needed?

What type of content is necessary?

Who will be responsible in the implementation of the urban agenda?

The different actors and stakeholders invited to the Forum - EU members' representatives, national politicians, city mayors and cities' associations' representatives, practitioners, academics - have formulated different options.

The forum has discussed several different alternatives and approaches. In fact, different invited actors expressed during the two-day meeting different options, problems and risks. Many intriguing questions were raised. For example: What kind of idea of city do we have in mind when we talk about an urban agenda? What kind of actions do we have in mind - direct or indirect? What kind of evaluation is needed to assess the effectiveness previous EU policies? What kind of effects have these policies had? What is the meaning of the urban agenda that will be presented after the definition of the new regulation and after the different Member States have signed their Partnership agreements? What elements of innovation are indeed already available through the new regulation - how can cities take advantage of the above-described new opportunities provided by the ERDF fund?

The Cities Forum highlighted an ongoing tension. On the one hand, the strong interest of cities and Member States in developing an urban perspective is clear. On the other there is caution about what an urban agenda promoted by EU could look like.

Contributions by EURA to the debate

Members of the EURA Governing Board are following this debate closely and have attended the Cities Forum conference in Bruxelles. Karsten Zimmermann and Valeria Feledi convened a Round Table at the AESOP Conference in Utrecht, on the 10th

July 2014, inviting Klaus Kunzmann, Robin Hambleton, Ivan Tosics, the DG representative Martjin de Bruijn to discuss, from different points of view, the necessity and the nature of an EU promoted urban agenda. The debate was lively and highlighted expectations and caveats. It is clear that there are different degrees of awareness of this debate in different national contexts; as well as different reactions in different member states to the opportunities that an urban focus in the EU agenda might provide. In general the Round Table participants agreed on the fact that the role of a possible urban agenda promoted by EU could focus on stimulating urban innovation, trying not to define the detailed content of local urban policies. Such an approach would respect different local planning cultures.

The discussion identified several established concerns – for example, the need to improve the coordination of sectoral policies, and the importance of focusing effort on meeting the needs of deprived neighborhoods. In addition, it was suggested that the EU role could be strategic in trying to support actions locally promoted to reduce the territorial mismatch and/or the democratic deficit that affect contemporary cities (Tosics); monitor the geographical impact of sectoral policies funded by the EU (Kunzman); and support the capacity of local actors to promote place-based leadership and action (Hambleton). It maybe that future European urban policies can depart significantly from established practice. The EURA Governing Board discussed the recent European urban policy developments at the EURA City Futures Conference in Paris in June 2014 and encourages urban scholars to contribute to the debate.

Upcoming Conferences & Calls for Submissions:

45th Conference of the Urban Affairs Association: Transnationalism from Above and Below: The Dynamics of Place-making in the Global City

Miami, Florida: April 8-11, 2015

(Special Track on Urban Health | Special Track on Geopolitics in Latin America | Workshop on Urban Education Activism | Professional Development Workshops for Graduate Students)

Cities have become the central nodes in global networks of exchange—of information, capital, goods, and relationships. While cities in this context are places of promise, innovation, and mobility, they are also the sites of significant challenges. The persistence of poverty and inequality, crime and violence, social exclusion and discrimination, and environmental degradation in cities, reveals the parallel reality of urban distress confronting policymakers, planners, and social actors at all levels. This year's conference theme focuses on place-making in the "global city," with particular attention given to the actors, processes, strategies, and contingencies that shape urban settings and urban life. Thus, the conference theme will explore actions and processes from above (e.g. transnational capital and political institutions), as well as below (e.g. the work of civil society organizations, and the everyday actions of ordinary people). Miami provides an apt setting for this exploration. Long established as a link between the United States and Latin America and a stronghold of Cuban American culture and political power, Miami remains a regional destination for immigration and serves as a hub for residents from South America and the Caribbean. In addition, Miami is home to substantial Anglo- and African-American populations. The city is a site of international banking, finance, information technology, and other high-end service industries. As a coastal city in an era of climate change and increasingly high-profile natural disasters, Miami is poised for change through global environmental processes. Against this backdrop, the conference will examine how cities are adapting to meet global economic and environmental imperatives, who is engaged in leading these changes, and what opportunities and challenges these leaders face in mediating local outcomes.

Abstract/Proposal Deadline: October 1, 2014 (Late proposals or abstracts are not accepted)

Topical Categories Included

UAA welcomes proposals that focus on urban policy, planning, and/or urban life within/across any local, regional or national context(s). Topical categories include:

- Arts, Culture in Urban Contexts
- Disaster Planning/Disaster Management for Urban Areas, Cities and National Security
- Economic Development, Redevelopment, Tourism, Urban Economics, Urban Finance
- Education Policy in Urban Contexts, Educational Institutions and Urban Inequalities
- Environmental Issues, Sustainability
- Globalization, Multi-national Urban Issues
- Governance, Intergovernmental Relations, Regionalism, Urban Management
- Historic Preservation, Space and Place

- Historical Perspectives on Cities, Urban Areas
- Housing, Neighborhoods, Community Development
- Human Services and Urban Populations, Nonprofit/Voluntary Sector in Urban Contexts
- Immigration, Population and Demographic Trends
- Infrastructure, Capital Projects, Networks, Transport, Urban Services
- Labor, Employment, Wages, Training
- Land Use, Growth Management, Urban Development, Urban Planning
- Poverty, Welfare, Income Inequality
- Public Safety in Urban Areas, Criminal Justice, Household Violence
- Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Diversity
- Social Capital, Democracy and Civil Society, Social Theory, Religion and the City
- Urban Communication (Urban Media Roles, Urban Journalism, Social Media/Technology in Urban Life)
- Urban Design, Urban Architecture
- Urban Indicators, Data/Methods, Satisfaction/Quality of Life Surveys
- Urban Politics, Elections, Citizen Participation
- Urban Theory, Theoretical and Conceptual Issues in Urban Affairs
- SPECIAL TRACK: Urban Health
- SPECIAL TRACK: Cities in Contemporary Geopolitics: Latin America and Beyond

Questions?

Visit the UAA website: www.urbanaffairsassociation.org (info on proposal submissions, registration, hotel reservations, etc.), contact us at conf@uaaemail.org or 1-414-229-3025.




CALL FOR PAPERS:

5th Halle Forum on Urban Economic Growth

Date: December 11th-12th, 2014
Location: Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH), Conference Hall, Kleine Markstraße 8, Halle (Saale), Germany

The **Halle Forum** on Urban Economic Growth – established in 2006 – has the aim to bring together original economic and interdisciplinary papers that cast some light on new developments in theoretical and empirical research on economic growth and development in urban environments. The Forum should also give PhD students an opportunity for presenting and discussing their research results. Papers may focus on issues like

- Cities and creative quarters as seedbeds for innovation
- Urban infrastructure and the accessibility of cities
- European and national policies for urban development
- Measurement of urban development
- The impact of formal and informal institutions on the development of cities and metropolitan regions
- The role of metropolitan regions as nodes in the network of global cities
- The relationship between cities within polycentric metropolitan regions

The **5th Halle Forum** is organized by the IWH in cooperation with the German Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL) and has a **special focus on Metropolitan Regions**.

Is the Institutional Formation of Metropolitan Regions a Formula for Economic Success?

Scholars with new research results on this issue are especially encouraged to submit contributions to the conference.

No registration fee will be charged. A number of hotel rooms at preferential rates will be available for participants.

Keynote Speakers will be announced soon.

In the evening of December 11, a special **Policy Session** will be held on Issues of Metropolitan Governance.

Conference Language: English

Keynote Speakers will be announced soon

Submission of Papers or Abstracts
 Please submit a complete paper or an abstract (up to 500 words, including title and affiliation of the author(s)).
 Title of the presentation, objectives, abstract, results, keywords and JEL classification.

to: Research.Coordinator@iwh-halle.de

Deadline for submissions: October 15th 2014
 Authors will be informed about the acceptance of submitted papers by October 15th 2014

Organizing Committee:
 Martin T.W. Rosser (Ed.), IWH, Section of Urban Economics
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | 11.06.2015 - 13.06.2015 | Zeche Zollverein, Essen, RUHR, Germany

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SPATIAL PERSPECTIVES AND INSTITUTIONS
*Transformation Processes in Polycentric Post-Industrial Metropolitan Regions.
 The Ruhr Agglomeration in International Comparison*

The international conference is dealing with transformation processes and strategies of urban revival in polycentric post-industrial metropolitan regions and aims to facilitate a critical reflection on developments in the Ruhr Agglomeration among inner and outer perspectives.

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EURA Aims

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

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