

The AESOP YoungAcademics' Times

summer 2009



Can Participation Ever Matter in Planning?

Planners Must Learn Their History to Shape the Future

"You have to take side to remain human"

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Editorial

In front of you, you see the second issue of the YA newsletter. Unlike the last version that was published at the end of 2008, from this issue onwards we hope to not only inform you on what is going to happen in the network, but provide you with the opportunity to share the thoughts of your colleagues as well.

Enjoy reading!

Vojta

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Welcome from the President

For every professional organization it is essential to have a dynamic and enthusiast group of young academics and this certainly goes for AESOP! I happened to attend last YA conference in Vienna and once again I was deeply impressed by the highly professional and learning attitude of the young researchers. As PhD researchers, many of the young academics still feel like being a student (in contrast to their fellow students who already started in practice) but actually they are specializing in research and will enter their next profession at a high and specialized level within a few years. This goes also for those of you who will stay at the university.

Your start at the university is at more specialized and academically qualified level than previous generations who used to graduate somewhere in mid career (if they decided to take this effort at all!). AESOP embarks on a double mission of both professional and scientific valorization of planning knowledge and experience and strongly builds forward on the input of a new generation of qualified researchers. The doors of AESOP already are open for young researchers.

I just mention the annual conferences and in particular also the thematic groups. AESOP established specialized thematic groups in order to stimulate the establishing of research networks. To give you an example, personally, I am involved in the institutional thematic group 'Planning, Law and Property Rights'. This thematic group has its own annual meetings and it might be interesting for you to know that PhD student Thomas Hartman (University of Dortmund) has started initiatives within this thematic group in particular for PhD students! There are nine thematic groups within the framework of AESOP, of course you will follow your own choice of interest. You may find the details on AESOPs website. I heartily welcome the new YA initiative of establishing a digital news letter!



Willem Salet
President of AESOP

YA CT News

Dear members,

Our network will hopefully offer more scientific interactions than one meeting a year.

In order to increase the interaction among members and to bring more dynamism to the YA through active member participation, the YA-CT proposes to launch the "YA Thematic Nests".

The thematic nests will be virtual groups with a specific space in the YA website. These groups will have various themes under which they will organise activities such as electronic library, webinars, online discussions, topical clinics, and expert discussion sessions.

A nest will have a focal point and members who are interested in the activities related to the focal theme of that 'Nest'. There is no restriction on the focal themes, but should be related to AESOP and YA mandates. YA may consider provision of limited financial support for the 'Nests' in due course. For more information, please contact any of the YA CT Officers.

Ajith Kaliyath

Inter-Generational Scientific Dialogue: Dream or Reality?

Beatrix Haselsberger asks what it will take for young scholars to get their voices heard in the world of planning.

Is not it true, that everybody has a dream, or at least an abstract idea, of his/her future? These dreams help us to move on towards a certain direction in life; they help us to overcome hard times and give us the feeling that there must be a light at the end of the tunnel. Thus dreams are helpful constructs as they enable us to follow particular goals and to overcome blockades. But attaining that dream is often influenced by non-transparent social forces, like the search for personal reputation, so that in the end it becomes more and more difficult to honestly articulate our desires or dreams.

Some young scholars might dream to become the professors of tomorrow, elaborating the theories for the future.

Although I must admit that becoming a professor is an appealing position to reach at a certain point in life, it should not be the main driving force why young scholars have chosen the avenue of academic life. On the contrary it should be seen more or less as a side effect which becomes reality over the years. Hence the most important question in the air is what will it take for today's young scholars to get their voices heard and consequently to become part of the scientific community.

It is true that there exists no general valid answer for this, but what I can recommend to all young scholars is to not be afraid of getting into touch with the 'grown-ups' of the discipline at any possible occasion and to profit from their personal experiences.



From the Desk of Anna Geppert,
Secretary General of AESOP
IATEUR
EA 2076 Habiter
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France



Subject: Welcome to the AESOP Young Academics Newsletter

Dear Young Academics,
Your coordination team has decided to establish an electronic letter for your network. In my capacity as Secretary General of AESOP, I am writing to you all to welcome this initiative with appreciation and hope for several reasons.
Firstly, AESOP already has its own newsletter, AESOP News, which you are also warmly invited to subscribe (free of charge) by mailing aesop.secretariat@free.fr. From our own experience, I know how helpful such a tool may be to your community, informing you about opportunities, such as PhD grants or calls for papers, and events, such as PhD workshops, YA meetings, etc. No doubt that you will soon become addicted to your Newsletter !
Secondly, being an AESOP young academic network is one step away only from the whole of the AESOP family. Your Newsletter will give us the possibility to reach everyone and all of you. We will inform you about AESOP forthcoming events in which you may play an active rôle, such as our July congress in Liverpool (more on our website www.aesop-planning.com). We will also inform our members about your Newsletter and invite them to share their useful information with you.
AESOP is actively seeking to support and integrate its emerging generation. We are proud to say that this policy has already proved a successful investment : AESOP YAN have grown to become a creative and open-minded network of young researchers, academics and students from all over the world, developing and disseminating their ideas and research results. With your Newsletter, you will be able to increase your impact and strengthen your relations.
I would like to express my congratulations for this initiative and to wish success to the YA Newsletter !
Yours faithfully,

Anna Geppert

Secretary General, Association of European Schools of Planning.

YA Meeting 2010

Let us invite you to submit a paper for the:

4th YA Meeting,
Prague 2010

dedicated to

LANDSCAPES OF PLANNING

Conference Objectives

The main aim of the conference is to provide young planning scholars a forum to debate and reflect upon their ideas with their peers as well established experts.

The conference focuses on different issues and challenges related to contemporary planning. It will incorporate a wide range of issues and perspectives into the intellectual discussions to generate a set of new and clearly articulated ideas on what should be the value system(s) of planners and planning.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION BY:

17th SEPTEMBER 2009

(to be continued)

Lessons I learnt during the last years are that generally speaking all senior academics are very open to on the one hand provide scientific comments and on the other hand to speak about their own sometimes very difficult and stony life journeys, before they reached a certain position in the scientific community.

When talking 'face to face' with established academics in the field they told me amazing personal life stories, like how a mentor kicked somebody out of university or how a father never paid attention to the efforts of his son, just because he decided to break out of the family job-tradition or how somebody got offered a job at university with the burden of marrying the daughter of the professor. What I would like to say with these examples is that young scholars can learn a lot from today's grown up academics and I must admit that in my personal case it helped me a lot to stick to my own principles and that it is worth to go for it, although it is not always an easy way.

Can young scholars ever really be heard by academics?

But besides having a dream in mind and learning from people how they realised sometimes in a rather roundabout manner to bring it to reality, the more important issue of young scholars in search of getting their voices heard is to find a solution of how they could be more involved in the scientific discourse. In this regard it needs to be recognised first of all that young academics and researcher face the continual dilemma that their needs and visions are not always being taken seriously enough.



This situation becomes very much visible at big scientific conferences, which are organised in most of the cases as platforms for established people in the field and doing so leave only very little space for young scholars to articulate their voices appropriately. Remembering the first big scientific planning conference I attended, I felt more than lost among the 500 participants. However, although I did not really enjoy it, it was a magical feeling and experience for me, being among people, whose names I knew from literature. But, what was certainly missing from my point of view was the inter-generational scientific dialogue, aiming to unite mature wisdom and youthful vigour, by bringing the people representing these two different perspectives together face-to-face.

Generally speaking, providing the platforms for inter-generational scientific discussions is not always that easy and needs to be organised precisely and energetically. The 2009 AESOP Young Academics Network's Meeting, held at the Vienna University of Technology (Austria) in February 2009 exemplifies the added value of this highly required exercise. This particular conference brought together young planning scholars of 24 nationalities from 29 different universities in 19 different countries globally.

Organised by young planning scholars for young planning scholars, it offered a platform for building up peer networks of young planning scholars. However, an invaluable element of the conference was the enthusiasdown at the others but to

Advert

There is a new website where you can debate on urban culture and public spaces.

Have a look at "SKuOR Blog"

http://skuor.tuwien.ac.at/?page_id=83&lang=en



Beatrix Haselsberger is a PhD. student at the Department of Spatial Development, Infrastructure and Environmental Planning at the Vienna University of Technology. She is a member of the AESOP Young Academic Network Coordination Team, and held the Network Chair in 2008.

The stories related in the article do not correspond to those senior academics pictured above, who were track chairs at the 2009 YAN Conference. The Regions and Regions Student Review is supplied to members of the Regional Studies Association, details on <http://www.regional-studies.assoc.ac.uk/>

Call for Papers

YA Meeting 2010

The 4th YA Meeting conference is to be followed by a three day long workshop.

Workshop Objectives

The conference workshop will encourage in strategic brainstorming and professional network development by Young Academics, a group comprising future academics, researchers, policy makers and planning practitioners. The workshop provides opportunities for junior researchers to learn key skills and develop valuable new contacts to make sense of a world of widening knowledge horizons and increasing professional conflicts. The conference is clearly articulated within the Prague Charter on Strengthening Planning Education and Professional Practice.

(to be continued)



was the enthusiastic support from established academics, who came, presented, chaired sessions, reviewed papers and challenged these young scholars. Thus, the planning concepts, theories, tools and techniques for tomorrow's planning were debated in a lively inter-generational atmosphere. This inter-cultural and inter-generational dialogue demonstrated the important impact of exchanging innovative 'fresh' ideas and mature expertise for the future of the planning discipline.

Young Academics making a difference?

Due to my role as the chair of the Young Academics Network I and my team experienced that many young people are doing very good and important research, from which the whole planning discipline could benefit, but at the same time we also recognised that the same group of people have great difficulties in finding the right platforms for their interesting and stimulating articles. In this regard I want to highlight that in 2008 the Regional Studies Association opened their magazine Regions (no. 270), in part, to contributions from young planning scholars.

This pilot project turned out to be a great success for both, the contributing authors and the readership of the RSA magazine and affirmed the importance of continuing into this direction. In this year, we are producing a successor issue, entitled Regions Student Review, which offers a unique mix of intrinsically stimulating articles as well as provides a potential insight into exciting 'fresh' research findings and ideas from young scholars on the edge who in a decade will be the taken-

for-granted experts in the field. The ongoing interest of the RSA to provide platforms, not solely for established academics, but also for young scholars demonstrates a promising showpiece of how the world of regional studies is contributing to the very much needed inter-generational scientific discussion. There is much that we as planners can take away from their approach.

Once upon a time somebody told me that being at the top do not means looking down at the others but to use this position strategically to look forward and to support and guide the next generation. Hence I would like to articulate a personal

dream of mine towards the readership of this newsletter. If all of you enable students and young academic members of AESOP to contribute more actively to the scientific discussion and moreover to help that the various AESOP activities and organs become more appealing for these group of people the inter-generational scientific dialogue will become reality amongst the ever-growing family of planning scholars, policy-makers and practitioners.

Beatrix Haselsberger



Report I/II

The PhD Seminar on Public Space in Delft University of Technology

Delft University of Technology hosted The International PhD Seminar on Public Space on the 19th and 20th of March 2009 at the Faculty of Architecture. The seminar was an initiative of two PhD candidates, Wenda van der Laan Bouma-Doff (OTB Research Institute) and Ceren Sezer (Department of Urbanism, Chair of Spatial Planning and Strategy), who are both working on public space from different aspects in the fields of sociology and urbanism.

The seminar call received wide international attention in a great range of topics and geographical logi from the fields of architecture, urban design, spatial planning, sociology, urban geography, cultural anthropology and history. The seminar hosted fifty participants who were mostly Ph.D. candidates from universities in Europe, Middle East, United States and Canada, as well as, researchers from municipalities, NGOs, and research institutes.

The presentations were organized in the form of power point and poster presentations divided into three workshops distributed

Call for Papers

YA Meeting 2010

Conference tracks:

The conference will consist of four tracks, each chaired by a senior planning academic.

Track 1: Why do master plans fail?

Track chair: Prof. Umberto Janin-Rivolin

This track aims to cover issues related to potential scope which a planning system can have in in formulating frameworks that can steer urban development. The topics that may be covered in this track may include issues of governance, policies, cultures, participatory approaches, practices and long term outcomes.

Track 2: What can be termed "good" in planning?

Track chair: Dr. Sue Brownhill

This track aims to deliberate upon the need for common ethical principles within the planning community. The topics that may be covered in this track include planning ethics, planning for the poor, accessibility issues, gender issues, planning for disadvantaged groups.

Call for Papers

Report of the 3rd AESOP YA Conference, Planning as Rear View Mirror or Crystal Ball?

Gavan Rafferty reports on the 3rd YA meeting 2009 Vienna

Between the 9th and 12th February 2009, over 40 young—and not so young—planning academics from across the world gathered in Vienna, Austria to advance the scholarly inquiry in the field of planning. Since 2007, the AESOP Young Academic's Meeting is an annual conference that provides not only a forum for intellectual exchanges in the planning discipline, but is dedicated to the needs of young planning scholars, to provide a supportive learning environment within which to discuss research and share personal academic experiences with others new to academia, and with the more seasoned track chairs.

The creation of the AESOP YA Meeting

The idea for a AESOP Young Academic's conference was born in 2006 when the AESOP YA Co-Ordination Team (CT) recognised that some young planning researchers find it difficult to position themselves at large scholarly conferences. With this in mind, the AESOP YA Meeting has been established according to the norms and practices of big conferences, but redesigned towards the smaller, less intimidating and friendlier end of the scale. This ambience is further supported by the



Can YA Meetings help to facilitate the intra-generational discussions?

fact that the event itself is principally organised by young planning scholars for young planning scholars. The past two events have attracted high-quality papers from young scholars from around the world, and have provided a dedicated forum for peer mentoring and support activities.

It's perhaps fitting that we convened in Vienna for the 2009 conference, given that it is located at the heart of Europe, on the intersection between the East and West. The composition of the conference participants, from across Europe and beyond, reflected this 'connection' and strengthened the bridging of planning cultures and traditions. While writing this review, Vienna has recently passed Zurich to take the top spot as the world's most liveable city, with the best quality of living according to Mercer's 2009 Quality of Living Survey. Congratulations Vienna! A question to ponder here is what role did the planner and the profession play in achieving this accolade?

The Conference theme

The overarching conference theme focused on 'Planning as Rear View Mirror or Crystal Ball?' Like any good crystal ball, planning, too, is a technique and means of forecasting the future;

Report II/II

in two days. The themes of the workshops were: Public Space and Neighborhood Quality, Public Space Interventions and Politics of Public Space.

The themes of the workshops were: Public Space and Neighborhood Quality, Public Space Interventions and Politics of Public Space. Each workshop is guided by a keynote speaker (in order): Prof. Talja Blokland from Humboldt University Berlin, Germany; Prof. Matthew Carmona from Bartlett School of Planning, UK; Prof. Rob Shields, from University of Alberta, Canada.

The workshops were followed by a field trip in Rotterdam organized by the "Pact Op Zuid" urban management organisation and the municipality of Rotterdam.

Based on the feedbacks from the participants, we are very pleased to report that the seminar certainly achieved its objective to provide and stimulate knowledge exchange between public space researchers. We hope that this small gathering will also be able to generate future collaboration on the studies of public space.

Ceren Sezer

YA Meeting 2010

Track 3: Can planning be Ecologic?

Track chair: Dr. Henry Hanson

Given the recent emergence of world wide concerns in environmental issues such as pollution, water supply and waste water management, waste management, energy management, disaster prevention and climate change, this track focuses on environmental aspects of planning. The topics that may be covered in this track include sustain-able development, resource management, responses to climate change and environmental regulation.

Track 4: Does heritage matter?

Track chair: Prof. Klaus Kunzmann

In the era of globalization, there is a great concern within planning to protect cultural diversity. This track therefore focuses on the issues can facilitate and strengthen genius loci of cultural landscapes. The topics that may be covered in this track include ma-nagement of town centre, issues of revitalization and heritage management, promoting urban cultures, and the role of ethnicity in urban development.

it is a process of dealing with change, anticipating future trends, as well as shaping spaces and creating places. Yet, paradoxically, planning is also strongly influenced by its past in a variety of ways: by the context in which it has operated and has evolved, and by the people that have shown example and leadership. This exposes the sub theme of this year's conference: the diversities of planning cultures, traditions and identities. This was chosen to reflect the fact that people coming from different nations deal differently with similar spatial planning issues in accordance with their own cultures, traditions and identities.

Tracks themes, keynotes addresses and awards

Over the five days of the conference more than 35 papers were presented in a variety of plenary and themed track sessions. The paper presentations took place during the second and third day of the conference in six parallel sessions grouped by sub headings according to the four major track themes (see Box 1). This subdivision of track themes allowed for better organisation of related papers and discussion topics. The quality of the papers submitted and presentations delivered was extremely high, drawing on the theoretical debates and planning practice from across the world.

The three plenary sessions had a number of high-profile international speakers that addressed different aspects of the conference themes

already mentioned above. In the first plenary session Professor Luigi Mazza, from the Politecnico di Milano, discussed the many reasons why planners should be interested in planning history, arguing that the discipline is based on 'cumulative knowledge' that requires some historical reference terms. Thus, he urges both planning scholars and practitioners to consider the need for a better understanding of planning history, for constructing a cumulative knowledge base and for understanding the nature of contemporary planning. In the same plenary session, Professor Simin Davoudi of Newcastle University demonstrated and debated the significance of public participation in the British planning system. Moreover, her paper attempted to provide a framework for developing effective participation strategies in planning. Both these papers are summarised elsewhere in this newsletter.

In the second plenary session, Petra Hirschler from the Vienna University of Technology explored cross border cooperation in Europe, raising some very interesting questions on the experience to date, such as, "would cross border cooperation exist without financial support?" and "do border regions serve as testing laboratories for European integration?". These are all very topical issues to consider in this conference, given the similar, yet different, planning traditions and cultures that exist across an ever expanding Europe. Following Petra was Associate Professor Zeynep Enilil, from Yildiz Technical University, Turkey, who

examined the failures of neoliberal approaches to urban regeneration, arguing that the pursuit of mega projects and place-marketing strategies did not provide the societal benefits expected through the "trickle-down" and "multiplier" effects. In turn, what this created was sharpened socio-economic disparities and 'cut-and-paste urban glamour zones'. Calling for action, she stressed that planning needs to confront such complex and multidimensional challenges, to reconcile the goals of economic growth with those of equity, social cohesion and quality of life. The final speaker of the second session, Professor Gert-Jan Hospers of the University of Twente, the Netherlands, entertainingly revisited the planning classic that is Kevin Lynch's 'The Image of the City' from 1960. He suggested that this publication had

Track themes and track chairs

Track 1: Past Planning and Planning Futures; Luigi Mazza (Italy) and Beatrix Haselsberger (Austria)

Track 2: Public Participation in Planning; Simin Davoudi (UK) and Vojtech Novotny (Czech Republic)

Track 3: Bridging Planning Cultures, Traditions and Identities; Petra Hirschler (Austria) and Paul Benneworth (UK)

Track 4: Cities of the Past Cities of the Future; Zeynep Enilil (Turkey) and Oliver Frey (Austria)

Box 1.



Worldcafé discussion

YA Meeting 2010

Abstracts guideline

Papers are now welcomed from young planning academics for consideration for inclusion in this conference, which will be FREE. We anticipate selecting around thirty abstracts to submit a full paper for presentation at this conference. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 17th September 2009. All abstracts must be between 350 and 600 words, excluding title, keywords and authors. The Abstracts should be uploaded through the "media centre/ YA print" section of the YA website to the track of author's desire in a *.doc or *.txt format (the abstracts will be edited).

Those abstracts selected for inclusion in the conference programme will be required to submit a full paper for inclusion in the conference pack. The paper submitted must not exceed 4000 words and 4 figures, excluding abstract and references.

For more information contact us through:

www.AESOP-YOUNGACADEMICS.net

Vojta
Chair, YAN Co-ordinating Team

impact on the planners' mindset, but apparently failed to have widespread impact on planning practice. Nonetheless, he proclaimed that the text is extremely relevant these days, particularly a term like 'imageability', were today such emphasis is on city making, iconography and branding/marketing.

The third and final plenary session, in Nelson's bar and restaurant of the host university, led by Beatrix Haselsberger, Vojtech Novotny, Paul Bennworth and Oliver Frey, was a summative track review, distilling and disseminating the key findings and messages from the track papers. Everyone benefited from having this opportunity to 'listen in' on the discussions that occurred in each track theme of the conference, and to gradually appreciate the synergies between and complementarities of everyone's research within the diverse discipline that is planning.

To celebrate academic excellence at the third AESOP YA conference, the Co-ordination Team (CT) decided to acknowledge the best paper in each track and the winners were as follows: Janez Berdavs (Track 1: Past Planning and Planning Futures); Diane Hopkins (Track 2: Public Participation in Planning); Frank Othengrafen (Track 3: Bridging Planning Cultures, Traditions and Identities); Cormac Walsh (Track 4: Cities of the Past – Cities of the Future). Furthermore, in collaboration with Dr. David Massey and the University of Liverpool an award for 'best paper in conference' was introduced, which will later be published in a forthcoming

edition of the Journal Town Planning Review. The jury had a difficult decision on selecting the best overall paper given the high quality submissions, as the report, published elsewhere in this newsletter. This was reflected in the outcome, whereby they unexpectedly selected papers from two of the above authors, Diane Hopkins and Frank Othengrafen, who have now been invited to edit their papers for publication. The collaboration with the Regions magazine continues and there will be a special issue published July 2009 dedicated to the contributions from this conference.

Roundtable session

It is also customary for YA events to include a Roundtable covering some of the softer skills involved in being a planning academic. This time, the conference chose to focus on some of the issues involved in translating a conference paper into a journal article, and identifying the kind of audience and journal best fitting with individual needs. The participants in this discussion sparked a lively debate over the right way to move an article into the public domain from a conference proceedings. Luigi Mazza, David Massey, Gert-Jan Hospers, Paul Braidford and Simin Davoudi all presented their own perspective on writing. Paul Braidford, editor of the Northern Economic Review, a policy & practice journal, argued that not every piece needed to have the highest scientific quality.



Gert-Jan Hospers argued that writing is actually a form of thinking and it is important to do as much writing as possible as a means to thinking through and dealing with the ideas that academics have – rewriting a conference paper is as much a chance to rethink the issues in the light of the experience as it is a chance to get a definable output. Simin Davoudi reminded everyone that science is a conversation and that the purpose of a paper is to participate in that conversation and to make a position heard. Scientific publishing is therefore very important for sustaining dynamism in the field, and converting conference papers into journal articles – particularly for young academics – for them to be taken more seriously.

No (serious) young academics event would be without a series of social events. So, to complement the hectic

Conference

ReGenerating Community: Arts, Community and Governance National Conference Sept 2 - 4, 2009, RMIT University, Melbourne

ReGenerating Community Conference is about ways in which global issues are being addressed locally through collaborations between artists, communities and local government.

Registrations are now open.
<http://www.cdn-generations.net.au/register.htm>

Call for Papers

YA Meeting Vienna

Slideshow



Gavan Rafferty: Report of the 3rd AESOP YA Conference, Planning as Rear View Mirror or Crystal Ball?

intellectual schedule, a social programme was devised that began with a welcome reception in Nelson's at the Vienna University of Technology, providing participants the opportunity to 'break the ice' and get to know one another, and which soon became the customary hangout. On the second evening, there was also a more formal conference dinner, in Buschenschank Gerti Huber (Wine Tavern Huber), a traditional and rustic venue located in the historic and fascinating 16th district of Vienna. What followed was a scrumptious traditional Austrian repast accompanied by an endless supply of locally produced wine. The next social dinner was in Bierheuriger zum Gangl, a quaint kind of Austrian gastro pub, which served up more Viennese specialities and traditional cuisine. We have to thank Vojtech for serenading us with his guitar playing. The evening ended with some of the night owls

frequenting a tanzcafé with its plush interior and small dance floor, which experienced several dodgy dance moves, most of them 'performed' by young planning academics!

Thanks go to...

Special thanks go to the organising committee: Beatrix Haselsberger, Paul Benneworth, Oliver Frey, Vojtech Novotny, Petra Hirschler. Without them this successful event would not have been possible. We would also like to take this opportunity to formally thank all the track chairs and guest speakers. Further thanks go to our official partners: AESOP; Vienna University of Technology; University of Liverpool and the Journal Town Planning Review. We would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors: Bundesministerium für

Wissenschaft und Forschung (the Federal Ministry of Science and Research); Stadt Wien, Kulturabteilung (Vienna City's Culture Department; Wirtschaftskammern Österreichs (the Chambers of Commerce of Austria) and Red Bull. Last, but not least, we also owe thanks to all the participants, as without you, too, this event would not be a success, or even possible!

To build on the success and momentum of the 2009 conference and previous meeting, the Co-ordination Team (CT) has already started planning next year's conference in Prague. Well, like all good planners, it's appropriate to be well organised and plan ahead! Hopefully see you Prague next year.

Gavan Rafferty,
on behalf of the YA Co-ordinating Team

Job Offer

King Saud University in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

classified as the top university in the Middle East in 2008 seeks distinguished and pioneer PhDs who have rich academic and research experience to join KSU as full time faculty members in architecture and urban design.

The quality of the applicant will be indicated by:

Publications in highly cited journals

Experience in distinguished research activities

Name of University where PhD was obtained

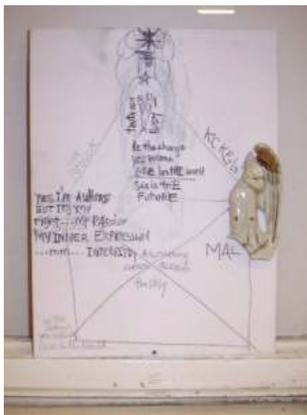
Recent graduates from well known universities are also welcome.

Advantages:
Very attractive salary packages, housing, transport and furnishing allowance, medical coverage, annual round trip tickets

Interested applicants can send their updated resumes to:

Prof. Omar Al-Attas
audus@ksu.edu.sa
www.ksu.edu.sa

Successful planning needs to organize conflicts



When asked about the reasons behind the communicative approach planning, some of my students respond as true technocrats. "We need it to sell our ideas to the people".

The belief that the planner is the expert who knows best is somehow rooted deeply into the psyche of the Dutch planning student. He is the herder and the people are his sheep.

When John Forester recently gave a lecture at our institute he described the

different roles of the planning professional. The planner is a facilitator, a moderator, and a mediator. It is an expert who knows his place and resolves conflicts.

But the planner, in my opinion, should also do the opposite. He should organize confrontations between different actors and interests. For it is conflict that forces decision-makers and project developers to think and reflect on their choices. And it is conflict that drives creativity and makes people innovative.

The planner is an expert. And as an expert, he is ideally placed to organize conflict in such a way that it is productive. He knows the interests at stake and has the vocabulary to translate these interests into spatial plans. The planner has to make sure that the conflict is not a debate between deaf, but a difference of opinion within a constructive atmosphere. The ideal planner is a facilitator, a moderator, a mediator, and the director of orchestrated conflicts.

Mendel Giezen

What You can do

DISCUSS! Young Academics attend the AESOP conference (this year in Liverpool) and often are placed in sessions with senior academics who dominate sessions discussions. We want more young academics to be discussing each others' work in conferences, making the conference a place where young academics are visible!

VOTE! We have elections for the Co-ordinating Team every year. We need a stream hard working and enthusiastic volunteers to stand for election for a two year post, to ensure YAN delivers the services its members value.

STAND! We have elections for the Co-ordinating Team every year. Every candidate writes a short manifesto setting out what they want to achieve, that gives them a mandate for their term. We need people to vote to give them that mandate to organise activities and represent young academics within AESOP. members value.

Stand! Vote! Discuss! Attend! Feed Back!

...if you want make your network function effectively

Hi there. It's been five years since the YA network was founded. The raison d'être of the network was helping young academics to establish themselves within the 'pillars' of the planning community in Europe. It took a lot of effort to get the network off the ground, and it is taking even more effort keeping it going. You may not know, but the YAN is run by a co-ordinating team who is elected by the membership to represent their interests. We organise a

conference, manage the website, and work with AESOP to create a space for young academics in their activities. But here's the problem we have no idea if we are doing things which YOU, the network members, find useful.

One of the things we are trying to do is to get a newsletter up and running. The idea with this is to share the kind of information that young academics might find interesting and useful in

advancing their own career. The central theme that we've chosen for this first fully-fledged issue of the Young Academics' Times is 'participation'. At the recent YAN conference in Vienna, that issue came back time and again as being critical to effective planning. So we couldn't help but wonder if we were allowing you the members to participate in our own network planning.



Planners, and especially those of us those dealing with participatory planning, keep complaining that people do not speak out even if there is somebody who wants to hear their voices. The final result - that the mayors do not do what the public need! So what we want to do is avoid this problem when we are running our own network. And we can't condemn those Mayors if the public doesn't tell them what matters to them, it's all to easy to

assume others want exactly the same as you. It's easy enough to say in an academic session that there cannot be an democracy without active participation, but that's the issue we find ourselves banging up against now.

The network was set up by its founder as a democratic organisation, and so that means we need active participation from you! It is the interaction that makes the difference between a

network and a heap. So we need you to make a difference to our network, and not to be passive. We want you to Stand! Vote! Discuss! Feed back!

So, we are pleased that you are reading our newsletter, but take the opportunity to get engaged more, and help us to secure the next five years for the Network!

Paul Benneworth & Vojta Novotny

What You can do

ATTEND! YAN organise their own events and activities within AESOP events. Every year there is a YAN Conference, as well as sessions at the AESOP congress. This year in Liverpool we are organising a Round Table on Winning Funding and an Award ceremony for the 2009 prize winners, so come along, learn some new skills, and support your colleagues!

SOCIALIZE! Every AESOP, we organise YAN Drinks, a free reception for members and sympathetic stakeholders. If you are going to be in Liverpool this year, come to our Drinks, our 5th Birthday Party (with a cake), and introduce yourself to some other young academics.

FEED BACK! Let us know what you think of what we are doing, and what one change you would make to make it better for you, directly by mail or through our website. As long as you are polite, all feedback is extremely useful in trying to make sure we are doing what YOU want

YA in Liverpool 09

ROUNDTABLE SESSION

July 17th, 11:00 am; Law Moot Room (E2 on the map <http://www.liv.ac.uk/maps/liverpool-university-campus-map.pdf>)

Chairing: Ceren Sezer

The 2009 'skills roundtable' organised by the AESOP Young Academics aims to assist newer academics to overcome their personal uncertainties and to encourage them to become more active in terms of winning funding. The focus of this roundtable is to allow newer academics to learn from the practical experiences and insights of more established academics in the field that have been successful in winning funding. This provides a means to consider different approaches to writing a good funding proposal, how to deal with rejections, and to highlight the practicalities of ensuring that newer academics become more confident in answering funding calls without losing sight of their main career direction. The accent on this event is to encourage an informal atmosphere and a lively inter-generational discussion.

YA in Liverpool 09

Public Participation in Planning

Simin Davoudi questions the current fashion for increasing consultation around planning decision-making.

Introduction

Participation is a contested concept and the way we interpret it depends on our understanding of democracy. At one end of the spectrum is democratic elitism, which views democracy as competition between political elites for the periodic support of the public at large. Between elections, citizens have little part to play. It is a technocratic view of democracy which regards experts and professionals as people who know best, and the ordinary individuals as lay people lacking the capacity for understanding complex issues involved in decision making.

From this standpoint, public participation is just to tap into popular views without real intention of changing the outcome of the policy process. Here, participation is used as a way of legitimizing potentially controversial decisions, and getting wider support for decisions that had already been taken by politicians and officials.

At the other end of the spectrum is participatory democracy, which is characterized by the extension of politics beyond the use of ballot box and the direct involvement of citizens in decision-making processes. Participation is seen not so much as a means to an end but as part of the ends.

It is seen as a way of self-development of individuals so that people can develop to their full potentials.

In this model, policy making takes place in a continuous interaction between citizens and the state. The emphasis is on avoiding techniques or methods which perpetuate the power differences between 'lay people' and 'experts'; between 'haves' and 'have nots'; between people of different ethnicity, gender and so on. In other words, the emphasis is on reducing the avoidable power differences between the participants, without claiming that ideal power equilibrium can ever be achieved.

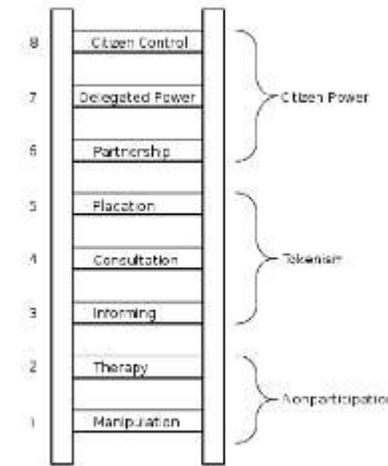
The idea is to enhance the capacity of individuals and communities to involve themselves, and to exercise greater control over decisions that affect their lives. In this model the aim is to build social capital and to engage people not just as periodic voters but also as active citizens in the governance of places. Anthony Giddens refers to it as a process of 'democratizing democracy'.

A shift from representative to participative democracy?

In post-war Britain, as in many other western societies, the primary device for enabling the public to voice their

views was through the normal channels of representative democracy. This was based on the argument that while the public can take part in politics they are not supposed to be directly involved in government, where decisions are formally made. This principle was applied across all areas of public policy until the 1960s.

Within the planning system, policies and proposals were presented to the public as a fait accompli. But this lack of public participation was not particularly seen as a problem because of a) the perceived post-war political consensus; and b) the trust accorded to experts and professionals. Planners like many other professionals were considered to be the



Call for Proposals

Call for Proposals for 2011 ESF Research Networking Programmes

A successful programme proposal must show high scientific quality and also demonstrate added value by being carried out at a European level rather than by individual research groups at the national level.

Proposals may be submitted in any scientific field.

Deadline for receipt of proposals: 22 October 2009 (16:00 CET).

Full details at www.esf.org/programmes.

Professor Simin Davoudi is Professor in Environmental Policy and Planning at the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at Newcastle University, UK and is co-director of the university's Institute for Research into the Environment and Sustainability (IRES).



Conference

European September Academy 2009

European September Academy 2009 "Intraurban cultural exchange and the urban periphery: Breathing your city through the lungs of your fellow citizen's neighbourhood" organized by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space (SKuOR), UT Vienna

Call for Participation/
Application process
URL: <http://skuor.tuwien.ac.at/>

guardians of 'public interest'. It was only in the 1960s when these ideas were challenged and not just in relation to planning but to their ways of life, as manifested in events such as the students' protests throughout the Western countries in 1968.

In planning, the physical orientation of policies and the failure to address wider social and economic problems were heavily criticized at that time. It was against this background that in 1968 the British government commissioned Arthur Skeffington to develop methods of securing public participation in planning. Since then participation has become the watchword for planners and policy makers. However, different people mean different things by it.

One of the earliest attempts to unpick its multiple meanings was a short article by Sherry Arnstein published in 1969. She used the metaphor of the 'ladder of participation' to unravel what was going on in the name of participation. At the bottom of the ladder is the extreme situation of non-participation where people have no say or power at all. At the top is a high degree of participation which empowers citizens to exercise control over what affects their lives. This is how citizen engagement is understood in a participatory democracy. The middle position, or tokenistic participation, is when people are informed about the decisions and are even consulted, but the authorities, or indeed the political elites, retain the right to make the final decisions, or to govern.



What was advocated by the Skeffington Report belonged, at best, to this middle position, namely informing or consulting without according influence. The Report had a utilitarian approach and justified participation on the basis of making planning process less contentious. Although it provided the foundation for setting up formal consultation within the British planning process, in practice its recommendations were diluted into statutory, dry, official and poorly attended consultation and publicity exercises, which alienated the experienced people.

In the 1980s-90s' neo-liberal climate of Britain, the desire to de-regulate and speed up the decision-making processes further sidelined participation in planning. The technocratic and adversarial nature of public inquiries limited participation to the most experienced organisation. In 2004, a new planning legislation required that community involvement should be frontloaded in the process of plan preparation. However, the pressure to speed up the process at the same time continues to squeeze out meaningful participatory practices.

The New Web I/III

Dear YA Members,

The Young Academics Network (YAN) is unlike any international organization worldwide. Institutionally bounded by the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP), the YAN was established in 2002 as a student-led network organization. Today, it represents approximately 400 young planning scholars across 40 countries! Prior to taking on my role as YAN representative to the AESOP Executive Committee (ExCo) in 2005/06, I took part in the Internet launch of our network as Communications officer of the YAN Coordination Team (2004/2005). The pace with which the YAN would develop thereafter was exciting, bringing with it a need to accommodate the organization's growth as well as the need to continually provide a platform for its members worldwide.

A couple of matters became apparent to me as ExCo officer in 2005. Firstly, the YAN website soon would need to accommodate future member growth. Secondly, many young European planning scholars would be restricted from attending major planning conferences as a result of transatlantic travel costs in 2006



The New Web II/III

Planning Schools Conference, Mexico City, Mexico) and 2008 (ACSP/AESOP Conference, Chicago, USA). Additionally in light of the previous and forthcoming European enlargements (2004/07) at that time, there clearly was an opportunity to engage with young Central and Eastern European planning scholars. These factors all suggested that the YAN would need to have its international image reinforced.

The AESOP ExCo were enthusiastically receptive to the suggested responses to these matters by the YAN Coordination Team, which later followed that year. The first response included the launch of our current YAN logo and suggestions for revisions to the original YAN website. The second response was the first annual YAN conference held in Bratislava (Slovak Republic) at the Slovak University of Technology (2007). The latter has been exceptionally successful with subsequent conferences held in St. Petersburg, Russia (2008), Vienna, Austria (2009) and Prague, Czech Republic (forthcoming, 2010)!

Do the ends justify the means in participation?

But, how do we know if a participatory practice is 'meaningful' or otherwise? One way to explore this is to focus on questions such as the ones listed below:

What is the subject of discussion?

Who define the issues and control the agenda?

What is the purpose of participation? Tokenistic, informative, or power sharing?

Who is the public? Do they include the 'silent voices'?

At what stage participation takes place? Is it episodic or a continuous dialogue?

What is open to influence? Clarity, transparency and accountability

How much resources are made available?

What is the mobilizing power of such resources? Etc.

To sum up, while the significance of public participation in the British planning system has waxed and waned over the last fifty years, engaging the public in planning processes has remained a persistent concern for planners. Yet, all the good will of planners can not resolve the underlying issue of where the locus of decision-

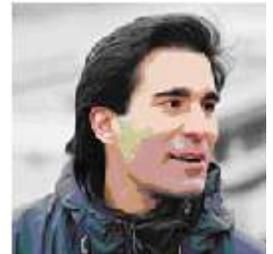
making should be. The ideal model of communicative planning, advocated in the last two decades, has not been achieved in practice.

So, rather than hoping that all planning decisions can be consensual or taken by the community, it may be more realistic to focus on the institutions by which challenges can be mounted to planning decisions, and, consider the legitimacy of the processes by which such challenges are finally decided on. The exact nature of such institutions is a question for further debate. What is clear is that the traditional democratic institutions that have been set up as part of the process of modernity are increasingly inadequate for accommodating the growing diversity of interests that are involved in spatial planning.

Simin Davoudi

The New Web III/III

And now the revisions to our website are complete! So I welcome you all to visit our website and explore its many new features, which include a blog, a new copyrighting feature for uploaded papers, and search tools for members!



Richard Nunes
Brookes University, Chair of
the YA CT in 2006

The magic of the past

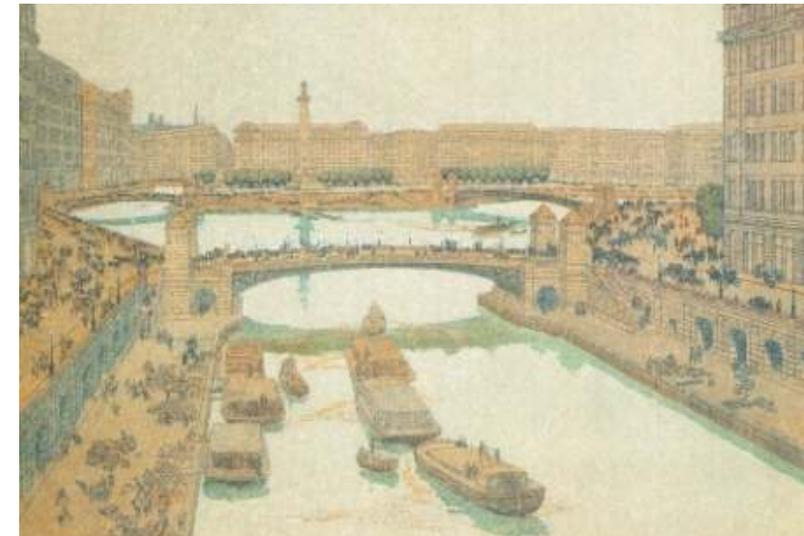
Professor Luigi Mazza argues that planners should take a deep interest in planning history

There are many reasons why planners should be interested in planning history and particularly in the technical history of planning. I'll mention only two of them, which are the preconditions for conferring an academic status on planning activities.

Firstly, for considering planning as a discipline its activities have to be based on a cumulative knowledge and have to contribute continuously to its production. The construction of a cumulative knowledge requires some

historical reference terms and we should check whether during the last century a cumulative knowledge has been produced.

Secondly, only in the long term we can understand the cultures inspiring and determining spatial change and to modify these cultures we usually need a long term action; then, to understand the nature of planning and its effectiveness a long term analysis is needed. I'll develop the argument using three examples of good practice plans.



Conference

Do not forget to attend or follow the findings of the conference:

“The future of the European City”

To be held in Vienna, 18th to 19th September 2009

<http://aesop-youngacademics.net/news.php?idnews=415>

Professor Luigi Mazza is a Professor on Town Planning at the Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy.

This article summarises the plenary paper he presented to the 3rd Young Academic Network conference in Vienna.



Three groundbreaking plans

The development plan for a Scottish town is framed around few key words: creativity, social and cultural capital. The core strategy is the cultural development which is the cornerstone and the propeller of the social and economic dimensions of the local development. The key word 'development', assumed in its various cultural, social, political economic and physical dimensions, is associated with creativity, cultural and social capital. To implement the plan's strategies, the need of consensus construction and manipulation -and of an adequate public communication of planning products- is emphasised.

The plan of an Indian metropolitan area shocks the reader not only because the many alternative solutions and the detailed economic evaluations to the public work problems, but also for the smart use of social spatial analysis and mobility models to decide about land use. The plans is based on not common descriptive techniques which are functional to the main objective: the improvement of housing condition of the poor population, which are the large majority of the city population. Social spatial analysis and mobility surveys are the tools for identifying and locating renewal strategies and re-use policies and for constructing a new geography of the city.

The variations and the implementation of the plan of a famous American city are



the agenda of an Urban Plan Commission, crowded with the representatives of local economic, financial and real estate interests. The chairman is not only mediating between the interests, but urging them to create new jobs to reduce unemployment, this is the condition for being offered good opportunities for real estate investments. Moreover, to stress the social role of the plan implementation, he organizes a vast propaganda and an education campaign, including distributing a book on the aims of the

plan in elementary and secondary schools.

The plans unveiled

The three plans show issues, objectives and methods which may be compared with other plans' to single out possible differences in the strategies, the regulations and the management of the decision processes. What is also instructive to note is the fact that the three examples date to the beginning of the last century.

YA CT Informs

The YA have started cooperation with ISOCARP, the plan is to open activities organized by the ISOCARP Young Planning Professionals to AESOP Young Academics.

Contact with practice is the best way to make a difference!

Vojta

Regions

The magazine of the Regional Studies Association

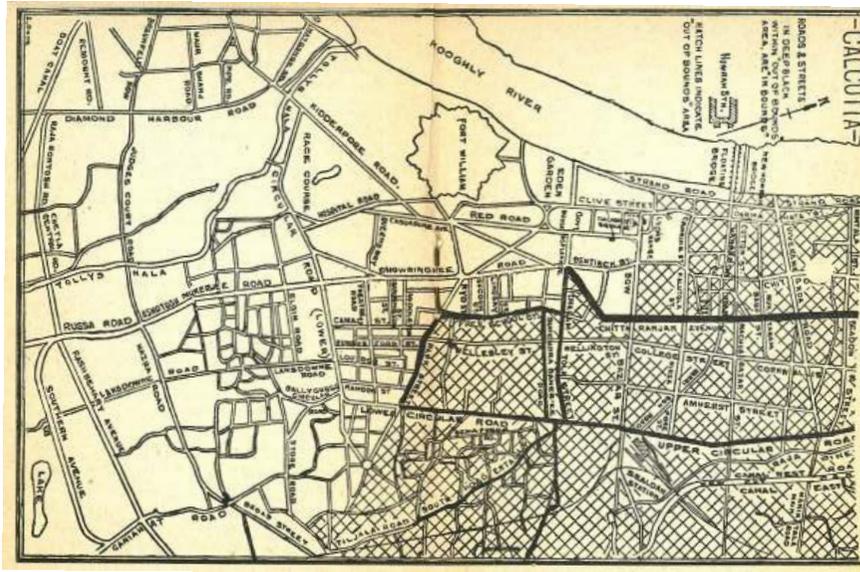
The Regional Studies Association is the international forum for regional development policy and research, and has membership drawn globally from a full range of academic and practice disciplines.

The RSA produces a quarterly members' magazine, "Regions", which welcomes submissions from students and young researchers in the field of planning. Articles tend to be shorter than traditional academic pieces, around 3,000 words, and help convey early findings to a broad audience.

In 2009, Regions produced a special issue reporting findings from the YAN Vienna Conference. RSA members can also access travel grants, conference bursaries, research network grants and discounted books, as well as reduced rates for RSA conferences.

Enquiries can be made about article submissions to Chief Editor, Frank Peck Frank.peck@cumbria.ac.uk

Association website: www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk



The 1914 P.C. Richard's plan for Calcutta

The Scottish town of the first example is Dunfermline, for which Patrick Geddes prepared in 1904 his first planning study, City Development.

The Indian metropolitan area is Calcutta: in 1914 P.C. Richards needs only six months to prepare an impressive plan for the city.

The famous Plan of Chicago (1909) is usually associated to the 'City Beautiful' Movement and not to the management of the planning processes. In 1912

Daniel H. Burnham dies, and Charles H. Wacker, chairman of the Urban Plan Commission, introduces innovative techniques of consensus building and of management of the planning process.

What have we really learned in the last century?

The three examples suggest that we need to be cautious about the idea that during the last century we faced a true knowledge improvement. In the last decades traditional planning policies and approaches were abandoned for new ones, but in a technical perspective are the new ones really new? And if any innovation occurred in planning practice, what is its real meaning and what kind of innovative knowledge?

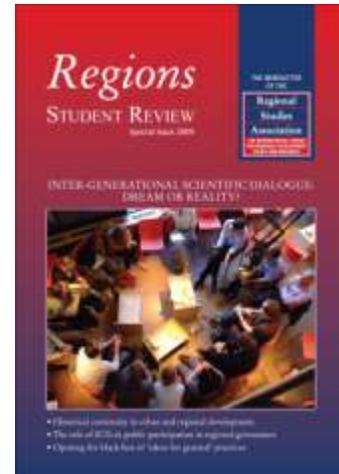
To reply to these questions, a shared theoretical framework and a time period, necessary to understand and

evaluate the change, are needed. But we soon discover that we lack a critical and systematic memory of planning theories, methods and techniques developed after the industrial revolution. In short, we lack a technical history of planning. The lack of this memory has quite practical effects: we do not have critical terms of reference to analyse and to evaluate a plan or a policy.

Moreover, without a critical memory it is impossible to capture the bonds between planning, political philosophies and visions to which planning culture, implicitly or explicitly, refers. Planning research and innovation seem presently to float in a theoretical void making very difficult to extract from planning practice and their historical contexts results to be used in the scientific debate.

There are serious reasons for arguing that, even assuming a long term changes perspective, we need a better understanding of planning history both for constructing a cumulative knowledge and for understanding the nature of planning. Without theoretical reflections on technical practices we lack adequate tools to deal with problems and aims, and to develop alternative solutions or alternative modes to pursue the solutions. Without comparable and competitive theories there is no opportunity of constructing a cumulative knowledge.

Luigi Mazza



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YA Elections 2009

There will be Elections for the YA CT
Still Neutral?

YA Elections 2009



Political involvement or neutral objectivity?

Laura Saija reflects on the challenges in maintaining ones objectivity whilst becoming involved in research

During the 3rd Young Academic Network meeting in Vienna, Professor Luigi Mazza challenged many students with his thoughtful comments, and I was lucky to be one of them. People that were in Vienna would not be surprised to hear that Prof. Mazza's comments were critical about the direction I have chosen for my personal academic life: the direct involvement in the political and planning issues characterizing the context where I work, being part of an action-research group running the first centre for University Engagement in southern Italy (LabPEAT).

During the meeting I was advised to take more care in distinguishing "the political load of research, from the role it can

assume in a real context". I am of course aware that planning knowledge cannot avoid being political, and there is the real danger that the political use of research can negatively affect it, through its misuse and loss of credibility. In particular, he was arguing that good, rigorous and, especially autonomous research must not be produced under a specific political label, in order to avoid the loss of its credibility and objectivity. In this short article, I wish to share some of the thoughts I have made thanks to professor Mazza's challenge.

Reflecting on the challenge of involvement

Paradoxically, at the origin of my decision to becoming involved with engagement, I was profoundly interested in theory. I spent the first two years of my PhD learning about the real meaning of 'knowing', discovering that all the main contemporary epistemological theories (e. g. complexity theory, hermeneutics, pragmatism) ask researchers to reduce their distance from things and phenomena in which they are interested. Such theoretical studies were in stark contrast to the role usually attributed to planning academics, namely the expectation that they will be neutral and build a sort of "box of knowledge" (list of best practices,

guidelines, etc.) to be used by practitioners and decision-makers.

Looking at my local context, Eastern Sicily, planning academics usually maintain a certain distance from the "misery" of their world. Most of them look at those good planning practices which take place far from home, searching for what should be (but is regularly not) applied by local planners. There are others who do analyze the local territory, discovering (without any surprise) that there are many things that do not work properly: the list is long and needs no rehearsal, but includes incompetent or immoral decision-makers, an inactive society, and cultural backwardness.

This helps to sustain the sense of extreme distance between local planning practices and the "good planning culture" produced elsewhere globally. To any readers asking in their minds "who cares about eastern Sicily?", let me answer that I strongly doubt that the region where I work is really the only place in the world where good research findings are systematically not applied. I really think that it is time for us as academics to stop thinking that such a distance between "what should be done" and "what is actually done" is the responsibility of some nameless other. In first place is the question of who then takes the responsibility for making a difference is it practitioners, it is



Laura Saija is a Lecturer at the Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Catania, Italy.

YA CT Informs

We have found recently that there is almost no traffic at the "Archive" section of the YA Website.

We think that that is a real pity - because one of the main reasons the YA Network was established was to create links between its members.

Indeed the authors of the articles posted there are not (yet) well established academics. They may still face the same problems you do.

Why do not you find and ask them?

YA in Liverpool 09

YA DRINKS RECEPTION

July 16th, 6:30 pm;
Hannah's Bar

The idea behind the drinks reception is to offer a place for all participating young planning scholars from the conference to come together in an informal and convivial atmosphere, and provide an opportunity for them to relax with their peers as they progress into the larger family of academic planning.

Sandwiches' and free drinks to be provided! Following the informal chat over drinks and nibbles the world famous Affordable House Band, featuring staff and students from the University of Liverpool's Civic Design Department, will be playing all your favourite tunes from 9pm onwards! Putting their local knowledge to good effect, the members from the University of Liverpool's Civic Design Department identified a highly convivial hostelry for this event, Hannah's Bar.

Hannah's Bar is located next to St. Lukes Church (the bombed out Church) on Leece Street

YA in Liverpool 09

politicians, or is it that nebulous construct 'civil society'?

Actually, in planning history many academics all over the world have demonstrated how good research can be produced out of personal involvement in the political arena. Political activism is, for example, behind most of the research produced in specific planning fields like community planning, environmental justice, and equity planning. This brings us back to the question of whether activism reduces researchers' objectivity and, consequently, the quality of their findings?

I think research quality depends not on the level of involvement but on the

intrinsic qualities of the researcher. I would even go so far as to claim that on the basis of my experiences, it is much easier for a 'bad' researcher to produce papers in the controlled confines of specialist academic journals than to keep acting, speaking and making a difference to a real planning process. Moreover, there is enough empirical evidence for saying that "neutral" and "objective" planning research claiming universal validity has often failed in addressing real world issues. Most development, globally and regionally, takes place on an unplanned basis. Regardless of the rights and wrongs of the situation, this is the reality. There are also a lot of good cultural and scientific arguments for stating that, in our history, a large proportion of good

research would have not been produced without the authors' direct involvement in the political arena.

Even if I agree with professor Mazza on the fact that researchers' political involvement is not risk-free, and that it is important to maintain critical and autonomous attitudes, I also think that those risks are worth taking, and that if we grasp them collectively we can make it easier to directly address them. Especially if we are "Young Academics", and we choose the painful academic life hoping to give our contribution in building a better world.

Laura Saija

Vale Beatrix Haselsberger

The YAN Co-ordinating Team thank outgoing CT Chair Beatrix Haselsberger for all her hard work in developing our Network

The very successful 2009 YAN conference in Vienna marked the end of Beatrix Haselsberger's year as Chair of the Co-ordinating Team of the Young Academic Network. Trixi has presided over a very successful year of activities for the association on both sides of the Atlantic, and her drive and energy have been central to this growth. Trixi has continued the tradition of staying on the team for a third year as Immediate Past Chair, and in this position her support and efforts continue to be felt to this day. This year, YA have been more

actively involved in the life of our parent association, the Association of European Schools of Planning. YAN representatives were involved in organising the AESOP Ph.D. workshop in Jotunheim National Park, Norway. At last year's AESOP Congress, jointly held with ACSP in Chicago, USA, YAN had a very busy programme. We organised a packed roundtable on how to get the most of presenting at conferences, a special session for the winners of AESOP Bursaries, and a very convivial Drinks evening at the Fado Irish pub, jointly



with the ACSP student section.

But more importantly, Trixi has been an engine behind the scenes pushing for opportunities to allow more students to get involved with AESOP and YAN activities. There is a clear link between the preparation which Trixi put into all her meetings with the AESOP management and governance groups (ExCo and COREP), and the rising level of resources which AESOP made available for us. AESOP made possible to provide funding for five students to attend the Chicago conference, and YAN were well-represented on the platform of the General Assembly. AESOP this year are

funding five places for the Ph.D. workshop in Manchester, creating more opportunities for young planning academics to learn, network and develop.

These things might seem technical, but they have created a visibility for the YAN, a visibility which Trixi levered into real activities which over 60 of you directly benefited from in 2008 and more of you will in 2009. It might be frightening to now think that we have a hard and Trixi-less act to follow, but we are lucky that Trixi has agreed to stay on behind the scenes and make sure that we are upholding the high standards that she

worked tirelessly to set. Hopefully 2009 will be the year that Trixi is awarded her Ph.D. and she can progress into the more senior ranks of the AESOP organisation where her organisational skills and raw enthusiasm will surely be welcomed.

Trixi, for all your efforts, commitment, enthusiasm and motivation, we thank you!

The Young Academic Network Co-ordinating Team
(On behalf of the 700-plus YAN membership)

YA CT Elections 09

There will be elections to the YA CT during Autumn 2009.

Your network needs hands and heads to develop sustainably.

If you find yourself active, curious and you need a place to put in your energy, the YA CT is the right place for you!

Being in YA Coordination Team is Good!

Best Paper Award: Report from the Jury

Professor David Massey provides the thinking underlying this year's awards for the Best Paper in Conference in the 2009 Young Academic Network Conference.

As it reaches its Centenary year (2009/10), the journal *Town Planning Review* has been very pleased to offer support to the AESOP Young Academic Network through offering to publish the 'Best Paper' award presented at the meeting in Vienna in February 2009. TPR regards giving support and encouragement to young authors as an essential part of its objectives. The award also included a fee-waiver for the next AESOP congress in Liverpool in July 2009.

Those who wished to have their paper considered were asked to send their manuscript to the Organising

Committee and we were very pleased at the high response rate. The papers were then reviewed by the track chairs who nominated one paper to represent their track. The nominated papers were then reviewed and ranked by a Jury comprising David Massey (*Town Planning Review*, chair), Paul Benneworth (Newcastle University, moderator), Oliver Frey (Vienna University of Technology), Gert-Jan Hospers (University Twente) and Sibylla Zech (Vienna University of Technology).

TPR and the YA Network are very grateful to the participants who took the time and effort to submit papers. Keep





planning futures) and Cormac Walsh (University College Dublin) (Track 4: Cities of the past cities of the future) as deserving the award of High Commendations.

The jury considered that Janez's paper '*Medvode, Slovenia: Planning a suburban community from communism to capitalism*' had been presented in a very clear and readable way. We liked the way his case study area and its characteristics were introduced, and the way in which he connected planning issues in Medvode to the wider social and political situations in Ljubljana and Slovenia. His detailed analysis of change in the local built environment from the mid-1980s provided the evidence of a loss of local planning capacity and coordination by higher authorities.

Cormac's paper also used a local case study approach with a degree of flair, providing an evaluation of planning and urban development over time. In '*Spatial planning and urban development in the Dublin city-region: 1980 to 2006*', he carefully introduced the reader to the emerging concept of spatial planning and the beginnings of its practice in Europe, in Ireland and the city region itself. We particularly appreciated the use of remote sensing data sets of changes in land cover over the study period and the practical link this expressed with UCD's Urban Environment and Project. Cormac's conclusions make clear that experience so far suggests that the connections between spatial planning at the city region scale are not nearly well-enough articulated with national agencies or with local planning practice.

Like Hinault & LeMond: crossing the line together

The jury then faced a dilemma. We felt that the two remaining nominations both equally deserved a 'Best Paper' award; and that was what we decided! In '*The politics of public participation: equity and power in deliberative plan-making*', Diane Hopkins (Curtin University of technology, Track 2: Public participation in planning), provided a paper which we felt was both mature in argument and professional in its presentation. Her literature review demonstrated the clear location of her case study in the discourse on communication and planning, thus raising the key issue that participation may not in itself promote equity in plan-making and explaining why this should be so.



Professor Massey is Professor at the Department of Civic Design, Liverpool University, United Kingdom, and Chief Editor of the Journal Town Planning Review. This article is a summary of the Jury Report presented at the 2009 YAN Conference, Vienna. All four cited papers can be downloaded from the Young Academic Network website, and summaries of the award-winning papers appear later in this newsletter.

Thank You

The organizing team of the 3dr YA Meeting 2009

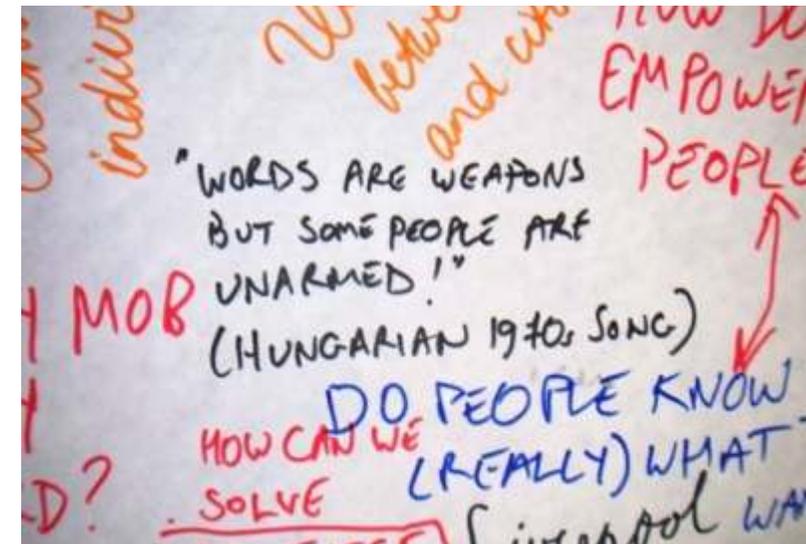
would like to express sincere thanks to the Town Planning Review for their support.

We really appreciated that support and hope that the cooperation has been mutually fruitful.

writing, without your efforts there would not even have been an award! We also thank the track chairs for their scrutiny and nominations (which was not an easy task) and to the members of the jury who read, evaluated and made the final selection.

First amongst equals?

In practice four 'very good' papers were nominated, representing a strong performance by those concerned. That made decisions very difficult for the jury, but we thought this was at least a 'good difficulty' otherwise to be described as a 'challenge'! We first recognised papers by Janez Berdavs (Primorska University) (Track 1: Past planning and



Conference

AESOP Youngacademics are heartedly welcomed to:

“Fourth International Conference on Planning, Law, and Property Rights”

To be held in Dortmund, 10th to 12th February 2010

www.plpr2010.tu-dortmund.de

We liked the way Diane used threefold research techniques to explore the 'Dialogue with the City' exercise in Perth, WA and used the results to drive her analysis and resolve the key issue in the 'Discussion' section of the paper. Her paper, we considered, opened up anew stage in the debate about the negatives of participation, the role of openness and our awareness of techniques and their use and, maybe, their mis-use.

The co-award for 'Best Paper' went to Frank Othengrafen (HafenCity

University, Hamburg, Track 3: Bridging planning cultures, traditions and identities) for his paper 'Spatial planning as an expression of culturised planning practices'. The jury was impressed by the way Frank's paper tackled head-on the national cultural diversity among the states and territories of the mosaic continent of Europe. The challenge of comparative planning studies is now opened up through the selection of an interesting theoretical framework, which looks out to other disciplines interested in similar research problems. This paper reports on a systematic way

of thinking about diversity in planning systems and the influence on them of cultural factors. The debate pivots around the contrasts to be found between the rational-scientific nature of planning in some northern European states and the more communicative, value-influenced and subjective forms and processes in some southern European states.

David Massey, on behalf of the Jury

YANEW Blog Advert

The soo-to-be-launched website of the Young Academics includes a blog section that is a space for you to share and seek ideas YAN wide.

Any member of the network may create a blog, which any member of the network can comment on.

We hope you enjoy it.



Supping with a Long Spoon

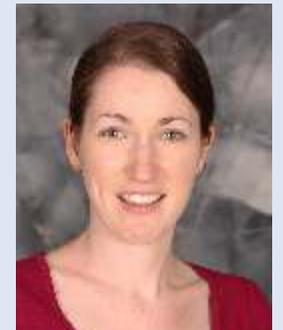
Diane Hopkins sounds a note of caution in for planners' enthusiasm for participation

In my paper, The politics of public participation: equity and power in deliberative plan-making, I explore the fundamental question: can equity be achieved in participatory planning? The paper commences with a brief overview of the theoretical origins of equity in planning and, recognising the complexity of the concept, examines the ideal of achieving equity through inclusive planning processes. Scholars commonly share the view that planning processes should be equitable and offer all parties affected by a decision the opportunity to influence the final outcome.

Participation is often posited as a technique for improving the fairness of

decision-making as part of a wider shift towards democratising planning. Some critics of this viewpoint have suggested that equity cannot be achieved through participatory decision-making because such processes can actually give greater influence to the established power-holders. In order to explore this unresolved issue, I examine deliberative plan-making which appears to offer the most hope for improving equity in participatory practices.

Deliberative plan-making is a specific form of participatory planning, a form which advocates argue can overcome power differentials between citizens and stakeholders and thereby facilitate a more equitable decision-making



Diane Hopkins completed her Ph.D. in Planning at the University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia, and has since moved to the University of the West of England, in the UK.

Meet the CT

My name is Paul Benneworth and I am a Research Councils UK Academic Fellow in Territorial Governance at the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at the University of Newcastle.

My Ph.D. research is entitled "universities and community engagement: engaging with hard-to-reach communities in the context of the knowledge economy". In my research I look at whether universities are really making a difference to all the communities they purport to reach out to, and use this to reflect on the way that the societal institution of university is evolving in the 21st century.

I was elected onto the YAN CT in 2007. My interests are in disseminating research findings - I have been involved with the Regional Studies Association and organised a number of seminars and events, and was recently the editor of Regions, their members' newsletter. I wanted to get involved with YAN to help with the dissemination of planning students research findings. In YAN, I am responsible for publications and communications, which in practice means I get involved in doing a lot of language washes!

Paul Benneworth

process. In a deliberative process, technical knowledge and lay knowledge are both valued and lay members of the public are given an equal say with the more established stakeholders of government planners and developers. In this paper I draw upon Habermasian 'communicative action' in order to evaluate the argument that deliberation removes power differences between participants of participatory processes. I also critically examine John Forester's claim in *Planning in the Face of Power* (1989) that planners have the potential to both identify power imbalances amongst actors and take action to (at least partially) rectify these differences in power. A case study of deliberative plan-making the Western Australian government's 'Dialogue with the City' process is presented in order to explore these claims.

Dialogue with the city

'Dialogue with the City' is a deliberative plan-making process which was undertaken between June 2003 and September 2004 by the Western Australian state government for the purpose of developing a new strategic spatial plan for the Perth metropolitan region. The process invited politicians, planners, developers, environmental interest groups, and laypersons to partner with the government in an ongoing dialogue about how the city should develop over the next twenty-five years. The government explicitly sought to make participants equals in both the visioning and plan formulation



stages of the planning process, and the resultant plan "Network City: community planning strategy for Perth and Peel" was presented as a true reflection of the deliberative planning process which was undertaken.

During the 'Dialogue with the City' process, participants with prior planning knowledge tended to dominate deliberative discussions and use their knowledge to steer the group decision-making. Members of the land development industry had more resources, in terms of both time and money, to devote to the process. Conversely, lay members found it difficult to attend meetings during work hours and to read the lengthy documents produced for discussion during the process. The developers

drew upon their numbers present at the meetings as well as their knowledge of planning to disproportionately steer the discussions.

Whilst facilitators were engaged to ensure that all participants contributed equally, they did not always act in a neutral, bipartisan manner. Some of the facilitators were government planners and many either had their own agendas for Perth to push or were keen to pass on their expertise to less informed participants on how Perth should develop. Furthermore, some imbalances of power were outside the control of the facilitators. For example, the Planning Minister was lobbied outside the formal process by members of the development industry, which had the effect of overturning a key decision

YA Advert

You are Heartedly welcomed to submit a paper to

The Journal of Landscape Studies

The journal invites original papers, short communications and reviews on all aspects of conservation, restoration, and management of landscape, in the broadest sense. A scientific approach is mostly required, but design approaches that provide useful and practical solutions to landscape issues are also welcome.

http://www.centrumprokrajinu.cz/nakladatelstvi_casopis1_cz.html

Diane Hopkins: Supping with a Long Spoon

YA in Liverpool 09

AESOP TPR JOINT AWARD CEREMONY

July 16th, 2:00 pm; Law Moot Room (E2 on this map <http://www.liv.ac.uk/maps/liverpool-university-campus-map.pdf>)

The joint award ceremony seeks to highlight excellent young planning scholars, who in 2009 were awarded prizes jointly by AESOP and the Town Planning Review journal. After an introduction of the different prizes awarded, the 2009 award/bursary winners will give the audience an insight into their research findings and ideas upon which their award citations were based. This will be followed by an open inter-generational dialogue/discussion between younger and more established planning academics with regards to the added value of such prizes, as well as the role of young planning scholars within the discipline of planning.

Chair: Beatrix Haselsberger
Co-Chair: Yue Tang

YA in Liverpool 09

over managing the growth of the city. The government planners were not able to sufficiently distance themselves from the development industry in order to identify, let alone attempt to rectify, these power imbalances in the process.

Participation can never wholly get round power

I draw upon the 'Dialogue with the City' case study in order to argue that there are both deliberate (avoidable, strategic) and inevitable (unavoidable, unintentional) ways in which power differences can arise between participants of deliberative plan-making.

x The inevitable reasons include different degrees of knowledge and

different levels of resources between participants as well as the persuasiveness of personalities involved in the discussions.

x The deliberate reasons centre on the way in which participatory processes are designed and the methods by which actors strategically seek to disproportionately influence the outcomes of planning processes.

While hyper-vigilant governments may be able to limit the deliberate reasons for inequalities, they cannot design participatory processes to control inevitable differences in power between stakeholders.

In response to my original question posed in this paper, I argue that it is unrealistic to assume that power differences can be removed in

participatory processes. Furthermore, planners may find it difficult to identify and mediate power differences in participatory processes. Planners may simply lack the capacity to act in a bipartisan manner, in some cases because of their close association with the development industry, and more generally due to their interests in good urban form outcomes.

Participation can thus allow the powerful stakeholders to dominate covertly because planners do not necessarily act to disrupt existing power relations. In conclusion, I suggest that we should not solely pin our desires for equity on participatory planning, and highlight the importance of recognising the limits of participation in democratising planning.

Diane Hopkins



Spatial Planning as Expression of Culturized Planning Practices

Frank Othengrafen considers the hidden importance of culture to understanding the reality of planning outcomes

Have you ever worked in international projects or contexts such as INTERREG, INTERACT or URBACT? Did you have the impression that everyone understood the project and its tasks in a similar way, or did you rather experience divergent meanings about it? Did you recently attend an international conference dealing with urban or regional development? Did you recognise any differences with regard to urban and regional planning practices, planning

methods or the 'legitimation' of planning among the participants? Or when visiting other European cities, have you ever asked yourself why these cities look so different to the city where you live?

To cut a long story short, I was in the fortunate position to experience various situations in the last five years where urban and regional planning have been understood and practiced in different ways across Europe. When asking myself





YA Elections 2009

There will be Elections for the YA CT

Think About It

YA Elections 2009

When asking myself for the reasons for these different understandings and perceptions of space or planning, and of the different structures of cities (see below), it became clear that 'culture' - the particularities of history, attitudes, beliefs and values, cognitive frames, political and legal traditions, rules and norms - causes these differences.

The inherently cultural nature of planning

Planning is a social activity and in this context best understood as an aggregate of the social, environmental and historical grounding of urban and regional development, which is influenced via tangible and intangible ways. As a result, planning systems and traditions, development processes in cities and regions, planning concepts

and decision-making always are influenced by cultural contexts and the cultural background of the people involved in planning processes.

The resulting different understandings of planning, planning systems and processes clearly affect European-wide collaboration between actors. But so far, the cultural contexts of planning have not been addressed in international research in a systematic way. I found this a good opportunity to start thinking about an analytical model which aims at understanding and upgrading processes of international cooperation as they have become increasingly relevant between European cities and regions in the last decades.

The article, based on my preliminary Ph.D. results, contributes to filling the gap by addressing the cultural dimensions of urban and regional planning. Therefore, I introduce a 'culturised planning model' to consider the 'rules of the game'. How does culture affect planning practices and in which ways can culture be utilised as a methodological tool to analyse and compare planning practices? The model is based on theoretical approaches from the management and the organisational sciences where culture is interpreted in a systematic way to figure out differences in preferences, values, norms, rules and attitudes, and to manage these (cultural) differences.

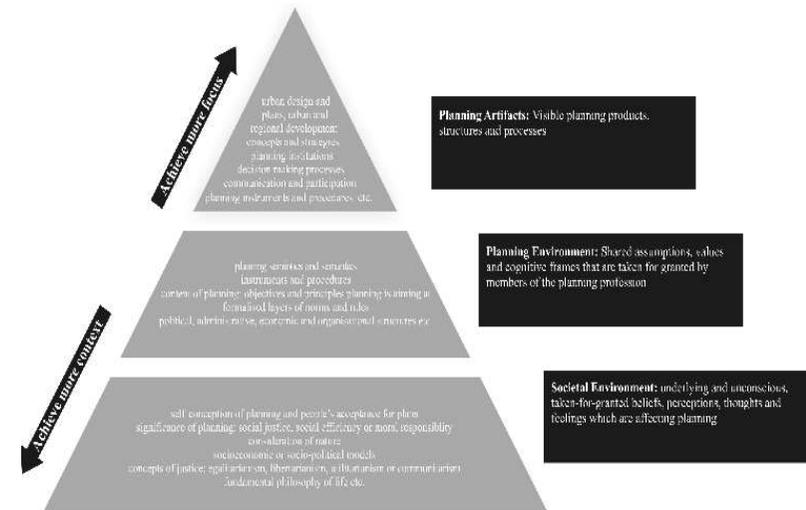
To consider the 'rules of the game' the model considers cultural phenomena of planning not only at the 'surface' (explicit) but also on a 'hidden' implicit

level (see below). Therefore, the model consists of three analytical dimensions:

'planning artifacts': the visible planning products, structures and processes which can easily be recognised and understood, e.g. urban structures and master plans.

'planning environment': the assumptions and values that are specific for spatial planning actors (e.g. urban and regional planners, urbanists, geographers etc.), among others, the objectives and principles planning is aiming at, planning traditions, the scope of planning (comprehensive planning vs. planning by projects), and political, administrative, economic and organisational structures.)

'societal environment': the underlying, unconscious assumptions which affect urban and regional planning as specific societal



YA CT Informs

To improve the networking capacity of the YA Website

we have introduced a new search engine to find members that cope with similar issues.

It is going to be a google-like whisper tool that will browse through keywords of research you have indicated during registration. When the new website is live, check out this facility.

Space for Your Column

backgrounds, e.g. the (self-) perception of planning, people's acceptance of planning, but also the consideration of nature, different concepts of justice and impacts of socio-economic or socio-political models on planning, etc.

From a cultural model to culturised planning practices

These three cultural dimensions are the basis for a systematic analysis and comparison of planning cultures and practices in the metropolitan areas of Athens, Hamburg and Helsinki. The empirical findings of my PhD, which will be further deepened and presented in a forthcoming Town Planning Review article (see Bibliography). This article takes to make a division between cities or countries where spatial development follows either a more coordinated way, or those countries where rules are more or less coincidental.

Helsinki, for example, complies with the first category, i.e. spatial development follows a system of controlled rules and regulations. In the interviews, respondents refer to the high quality of the public spaces, the good public transport system and the access to nature. In contrast, spatial development in Southern European countries and, to a lesser extent, in Eastern Europe, does not seem to follow such coordinated patterns. In Athens, for example, there are hardly any public places or parks. Additionally, no clear planning vision or strategy is visible 'unconventional' developments and 'creative' planning or

construction activities (such as illegal construction) appear to be a daily occurrence.

The described structure and features refer to the immediately obvious planning products, structures and processes when encountering, for example, the 'Finnish' culture ('planning artifacts'). These aspects are a good starting point for a better and systematic understanding of the planning cultures in Helsinki or Finland. However, they alone cannot explain the occurrence of different spatial patterns or the multiplicity of planning structures or processes and their contemporary transformations.

So when analysing the impact of culture on planning practices, I also started to look for the more 'hidden' cultural values influencing planning practices and outcomes. In Helsinki, this, among others, referred to the rational-scientific way of planning, the 'plan-led' development in Helsinki, the strong city-planning department, the situation at the real estate market (all belonging to the 'planning environment'); and the underlying and unconscious perception of 'nature, the 'romantic rural views', the late urbanisation process, the Nordic welfare model, the strong trust in political and administrative elites, and the 1981 civil war (all belonging to the 'societal environment').

On basis of the model, I also analyse Athens and Hamburg, which show different findings from that in Helsinki (more information can be found in the articles below). There are different



socio-economic development models and cultural traditions, values and attitudes responsible which structure the city or the planning structures and processes, despite the unifying and culturally homogenising power of global economic interconnections.

This again, confirms the importance of culture for urban and regional planning and development. Moreover, it emphasises the point that a dynamic perspective regarding previous, present and future-oriented planning solutions and practices is necessary, which include institutional arrangements, planning traditions as well as social attitudes and mentalities.

In my opinion, the model might contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between the cultural context and spatial planning as an operative instrument of territorial policy. By introducing culture as organising principle, the model enables to decode cultural phenomena of an area in a systematic way. Against this background and by emphasising the 'cultural turn' with regard to spatial planning, the model might also stimulate the ongoing discussion in the field of (post-modern) planning theories.

Frank Othengrafen

YA CT Informs

So, this is the end of the summer issue of the YA Times.

We hope you have enjoyed reading it.

Send us your opinions on its content and

As you can see, there is, and will be, a plenty of space for your thoughts and ideas.



Frank Othengrafen is a Ph.D. Student at the HafenCity Hamburg University, Germany. This article is an overview of his paper presented at the 2009 YAN Meeting, Vienna, which was awarded the prize of 'Joint Best Paper in Conference', and which will be published as Othengrafen (2009).