

2_Urban design for multilevel planning

Ali Madanipour (Newcastle University, United Kingdom)

Valeria Lingua (Florence University, Italy)

Isidora Šobot (TU Vienna, Austria)

This track brings together the themes of urban and spatial design with regional design, searching for innovative, multilevel planning tools for governance in transition.

Europe faces serious challenges of managing urban and regional change, posed by globalization, climate change, population mobility and diversity, social inequality, and economic austerity. Changing urban and environmental conditions require new capacities of dealing with deep changes and of responding to the current challenges. How can democratic, multilevel planning tools be developed to address these challenges in new and innovative ways? Multilevel governance has been a key to offer the possibility of democratically coordinating the diversity and multiplicity of forces at work. Can a participatory approach and a closer relationship between planning and design at neighbourhood, urban, and regional levels be part of such a response?

Papers are invited to explore the nature of, and the relationship between, urban and regional design and transition conditions in a multilevel and interactive perspective. Theoretical, methodological and empirical papers are invited to discuss any aspect of this interface between design processes and the challenges of transition at local and global levels, including:

- How is urban and regional design responding to the conditions of globalization, climate change, population mobility, economic austerity, cultural diversity and social inequality?
- How do migration and austerity affect cities and regions and how can urban and regional design and planning respond? How can gentrification be avoided and marginality be addressed?
- What are the relationships between design, planning and governance at different local, urban and regional levels? How can multilevel planning and design relate to multilevel governance?
- How can the existing theoretical frameworks, concepts, cognitive abilities and approaches in urban and regional design be enhanced, and new ones be developed, to face transition?
- How can new, innovative, inclusive, multilevel planning tools be developed in urban, spatial and regional design?
- How can inclusive participatory approaches be integrated into multilevel planning and design to deal with the democratic deficit of strategic approaches?

Keywords: urban and spatial design, regional design, planning tools, innovation, multilevel governance, multilevel planning.