

Workshop no. 1

Reflecting on the Role of the Master's Thesis in Planning Sustainable Futures: Interdisciplinary Masterclass as a Learning Arena Across Institutions and Planning Schools

Organized by: SITRAP (Centre for Integrated and Transdisciplinary Teaching in Planning)

Elin Børrud, Anja Standal, Tin Phan, FUS (Tromsø) Arild Buanes, and Andrea Frank

Location: Admiralen, Bikuben

Email main coordinator: anja.standal@nmbu.no

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14:00 - 14:10 Welcome and Introduction: What is SITRAP and interdisciplinary master class? by Elin Børrud, professor NMBU and centre leader SITRAP.

SITRAP - Centre for integrated and transdisciplinary teaching in planning. The masterclass is a program that seeks to transform the traditional individual thesis into a collaborative learning arena where students from different disciplines jointly address real-time challenges such as spatial planning, landscape, urban transformation and circularity, climate change, biodiversity, marine ecology, public health and in doing so, push universities to recognize and support collaborative academic communities;

14:10 - 14:25 What is FUS Masterclass and NUPS? Presented by Arild Buanæs, Ass. Professor, The Arctic University of Norway.

FUS and NUPS aim to build collaborative national and international learning arenas that connect planning students across institutions and disciplines, moving planning education beyond the isolated thesis model toward practice-oriented, networked learning;

14:25 - 14:50 Group work theme 1. Supervision and experiences. Facilitated by Tin Phan, SITRAP

This discussion highlights different perceptions of the master's thesis across spatial planning programs, pedagogical approaches that work or struggle in practice, the gap between teacher ambitions and student realities in interdisciplinary learning, and how evolving planning practices challenge traditional supervisory roles and competencies;

14:50 - 14:55 Short break

14:55 - 15:20 Group work theme 2: Collaborative learning arena, across study programs. Facilitated by Tin Phan, SITRAP

This discussion focuses on how interdisciplinary collaboration is facilitated in different educational settings. Central questions include how such collaboration can be formalized within existing regulations, how mutual understanding of interdisciplinarity is developed among students and staff, how different study programs interact in shared learning arenas, and how institutions can retain and build knowledge from these initiatives moving forward;

15:20 - 15:30 Concluding remarks by Dr Andrea Frank PhD. University of Birmingham

International perspectives, Remarks on what is happening in the educational planning field, Themes, supervisor-teacher roles, interdisciplinarity and collaborative approaches