

Keynote Addresses:

16:30 – 19:00 **Monday 7 July 2025**

Venue Cemal Reşit Rey (CRR) Concert Hall

Opening

Urban Political Ecology: Prefigurative Planning for a Climate emergency

Maria Kaika

University of Amsterdam

Planning Istanbul in Hard Times with(out) Great Expectations

H. Tarık Şengül

Middle East Technical University & *Coordinator of Istanbul Plan 2050*

09:00 – 10:30 **Tuesday 8 July 2025**

Venue Yıldız Technical University, Congress Centre, Davutpaşa Campus

Welcome Addresses

Just Sustainabilities in Policy, Planning and Practice

Julian Agyeman

Tufts University

The Paradoxical Potential of Interregnum: Exploring Opportunities for Transformative Planning in Times of Crisis

Ayda Eraydin

Middle East Technical University

09:00 – 10:30 **Wednesday 9 July 2025**

Venue Yıldız Technical University, Congress Centre, Davutpaşa Campus

After Green Growth: Satiation As the Strategic Impulse for Spatial Planning

Federico Savini

University of Amsterdam

The green transition challenge. Social and environmental inequalities in housing

Yuri Kazepov

University of Vienna

Keynote Speakers

Monday 7 July 2025

Urban Political Ecology: Prefigurative Planning for a Climate emergency

Maria Kaika

University of Amsterdam

In this talk I argue that Urban Political Ecology's (UPE) ontologies, epistemologies, and methods are not simply an academic exercise; they are scientific developments that make academic research more relevant to the politics of climate change. UPE unsettles 'traditional' understandings of 'cities' as ontological entities separate from 'nature', and develops methods to examine how urbanization is inseparably and metabolically interlinked with flows of capital, labour, and resources, and with the metabolism of the entire biophysical world. In the talk, I propose ways forward, to replace the currently dominant catastrophism over climate, with new forms of prefigurative politics and use values to promote socio-political action for 'impossible' solutions. I draw partly upon the books: [Turning Up the Heat: Urban Political Ecology for a Climate Emergency](#) (Kaika, Keil, Mandler and Tzaninis (eds), 2023; Manchester UP); and [Class Meets Land: the Embodied History of Land Financialization](#) (Kaika and Ruggiero, 2024, U of California Press)

Planning Istanbul in Hard Times with(out) Great Expectations

H. Tarık Şengül

Middle East Technical University & Coordinator of Istanbul Plan 2050

The recently completed Vision 2050 Action Plan took as its starting point the intersecting global crises expected to define the 21st century, recognizing that their most dramatic consequences will be felt in metropolises like Istanbul. The Action Plan aims to address these vulnerabilities in order to create a more sustainable and resilient Istanbul.

In line with this perspective, the recently launched upper-scale planning initiative—namely, Istanbul Plan 2050—asserts that the aggressive and expansionist growth model that has shaped the city in recent decades is no longer sustainable due to the high social, geo-ecological, and economic costs it generates. Rather than preventing vulnerabilities, this model in fact amplifies them. While a number of mega-projects targeting ecologically sensitive zones well outside the built-up areas are being promoted, the existing built environment—and the lives of millions of Istanbul residents—remain under imminent threat from a major earthquake. Similar vulnerabilities appear in the form of the degradation of the environment and the ecological services as well as the inability to regenerate livelihoods for large segments of society caught in cycles of unemployment and social precarity and housing crises.

Rejecting the paradigm of so-called 'expansionism' and 'creative destruction'—which legitimizes opening up non-urbanized ecological areas to development and encourages redevelopment within the existing built environment—Istanbul Plan 2050 instead embraces a logic of compactness that centers on the reproduction, repair, and resilience of the urban fabric, while addressing accumulated damages and inherent vulnerabilities head-on.

The emphasis on the existing built environment and its vulnerabilities—requires not only attention to the whole, but also a deep understanding of the particularities and singularities that compose it. Accordingly, the planning process is structured around three interrelated and concurrent working groups. While the upper-scale planning team is responsible for coordinating the overall process and critically assessing the macro-level functioning of the city such as land use distribution, urban expansion patterns, and spatial justice. The sectoral and thematic teams focus on more defined fields ranging from transportation, infrastructure, geosciences, ecology to the city's economy and social structures, across both general and particular dimensions. A third working group focuses on İstanbul's 39 districts, analyzing them together with district municipalities in relation to their singularities and unique characteristics.

Such a triadic focus acknowledges the planning process as a synthesis of generality-particularity-singularity interactions by drawing upon an assemblage perspective which moves beyond the top-down vs. bottom-up binary, creating space for defining planning as a democratic, multi-scalar, and multi-actor/actant process.

Tuesday 8 July 2025

Just Sustainabilities in Policy, Planning and Practice

Julian Agyeman

Tufts University

In his talk, Julian will outline the concept of 'just sustainabilities' as a response to the 'equity deficit' of much sustainability thinking and practice. He will explore his contention that who can *belong* in our cities will ultimately determine what our cities can *become*. He will illustrate his ideas with examples from urban planning and design, food justice and the 'Minneapolis Paradox'."

The Paradoxical Potential of Interregnum: Exploring Opportunities for Transformative Planning in Times of Crisis

Ayda Eraydin

Middle East Technical University

As the ideological frameworks of post-neoliberalism and post-modernism approach their endpoints, we find ourselves in a transitional phase, a period Antonio Gramsci described as the *interregnum*, where the old order is dying but the new has yet to be born. This in-between moment, marked by uncertainty and disorientation, also holds the paradoxical potential for transformation. Contemporary planning discourses, which once aimed to serve bridging and corrective functions, have increasingly fallen short, remaining largely rhetorical and fragmented. In this context, the interregnum compels us to reimagine the role of planning in the face of systemic crises. Rather than seeking immediate solutions within the constraints of failing paradigms, we must instead foster collective imagination to conceptualise and construct alternative futures. This paper argues for a reorientation of planning thoughts toward a "post-neoliberal" ethos grounded in transformative, inclusive and anticipatory approaches that embrace the uncertainty of the interregnum as a generative space for systemic change.

Wednesday 9 July 2025

After Green Growth: Satiation As the Strategic Impulse for Spatial Planning

Federico Savini

University of Amsterdam

Green growth is currently the dominant paradigm in spatial planning. This approach equates living standards with economic wealth and assumes that technological innovation can reconcile the increase of financial wealth with ecological targets. However, it is increasingly evident that green growth fails to achieve social and ecological objectives. Today, growth aggravates, rather than preventing, unprecedented levels of global inequality and ecological destruction.

Spatial planning has long been aware of these issues but has not changed course. Instead, it has confined itself, with limited success, to managing green growth. Planning promotes green, nature-based, circular, and smart innovations, to create economic resources to be then captured for social purposes. So far, however, this approach has failed to make essential services and spatial qualities more accessible or affordable. It has also fallen short of sustainability targets.

Instead, it has trapped planners in an endless cycle of fostering economic competitiveness on the one hand, while seeking to mitigate the negative social and environmental impacts of this process on the other. To address worsening affordability and ecological crises, planning tends to further increase the transfer of public wealth into private hands.

The talk will begin by exposing the limits of planning for green growth. It will demonstrate that the expansion of urban centers relies on the exhaustion of land and labor, both in affluent and in poorer regions. This has intensified the power divides between rich and poor, urban and rural, imperial core and periphery. Simultaneously, it has trapped planning in a vicious cycle of growth promotion and green management, which is increasingly difficult to navigate.

Next, the talk will introduce a new planning paradigm, which prioritizes satiation: the fulfillment of essential needs through the provision of essential services. Satiation refers to expanding essential services for the many by intentionally reducing excessive wealth and environmentally harmful activities. The focus on meeting needs can foster just and regenerative relationships between urban areas and their global hinterlands. Satiation is the core of both postgrowth and degrowth critiques of current economies.

The talk underlines that the need for satiation has gained momentum in planning and argues that planners have the tools already to bring this impulse to life. An increasing number of planning scholars and practitioners are aware of the limitations of their existing frameworks and toolkits. What is lacking, however, is the public and political support required to embrace an alternative planning paradigm: a strategic impulse. The talk will address this strategic challenge and explore pathways for institutional change that build on existing practices **to create planning futures that** overcome the limitations and impasses of green growth.

The green transition challenge. Social and environmental inequalities in housing

Yuri Kazepov

University of Vienna

In the last decades, we witnessed the development of a relatively new line of research on the role of welfare policies addressing the social consequences of the ecological crisis and of the *green transition*. Concepts such as *sustainable welfare*, *just transition*, or and eco-social justice, have been used to portray the challenges ahead and the need for a paradigm shift. The urgency to challenge the current unsustainable growth model went parallel to the need to explore and investigate how welfare policies should address societal needs within ecological limits and planetary boundaries. The presentation will explore this relationship addressing *housing* and *environmental policies* and their entanglements.