

## **AESOP Best Published Paper Prize**

### **Committee statement**

#### **for the prize to be awarded at the 2015 AESOP General Assembly, Prague**

Karina Pallagst, committee chair, July 2015

#### **Selection process:**

The **selection process** was carried out in line with procedures of previous years, including a call to journal editors for nominees, and an assessment of papers by all committee members. The committee comprises the following members:

- Karina Pallagst (Committee Chair)
- Dominic Stead
- Aspa Gospodini
- Piotr Lorens
- Umberto Janin-Rivolin
- Roelof Verhage

Following the call, 19 papers were nominated by journal editors. The committee applied a selection process which was based on the following **criteria** (similar to previous years):

Criterion 1 : Related to planning theories

Criterion 2 : Conceptual quality

Criterion 3 : Methods

Criterion 4 : References

Criterion 5 : Findings

Criterion 6 : Overall quality

Committee members ranked the papers in line with these criteria. Out of these individual assessments, a **shortlist of 5 papers** was compiled by the committee chair.

The shortlist was then subject of a second review by committee members, where the committee applied a holistic evaluation where each juror was able to express his/her overall appreciation of the papers and their qualities. This process revealed a joint opinion: All 5 shortlisted papers are very excellent and very close in ranking, and all would deserve a price. At this point, all committee members were qualitatively evaluating the papers, their individual pros and cons. Out of this qualitative profile, the committee chair suggested a final ranking, which was seconded by all committee members.

#### **Results:**

##### **The final short list stands as follows:**

1. **Mee Kam Ng**: Intellectuals and the Production of Space in the Urban Renewal Process in Hong Kong and Taipei; in **Planning Theory & Practice**, 2014, 15(1) 77-92.

2. **Willem Salet**: The Authenticity of Spatial Planning Knowledge; in: **European Planning Studies**, 2014, Vol. 22 (2), 293-305.
3. **Libby Porter**: Possessory politics and the conceit of procedure: Exposing the cost of rights under conditions of dispossession; in: **Planning Theory**, 2014, Vol. 13(4) 387–406.
4. **Charlotte Lemanski**: Hybrid gentrification in South Africa: Theorising across southern and northern cities; in: **Urban Studies**, 2014, Vol. 51(14) 2943–2960.
5. **Max Nathan and Emma Vandore**: Here be startups: exploring London’s ‘Tech City’ digital cluster; in: **Environment and Planning A**, 2014, Vol. 46, 2283 – 2299.

The highest ranked paper and thus **prize winner for 2014** is the following paper:

**Mee Kam Ng (in Planning Theory and Practice)**

**‘Intellectuals and the Production of Space in the Urban Renewal Process in Hong Kong and Taipei’**

The paper by Mee Kam Ng discusses two different urban planning systems in a comparative way. It is regarded innovative by the committee in exposing the possible roles and limitations of critical experts and inside activists (referred to as ‘smugglers’) in challenging existing institutional settings in Asian cities. With the example of two urban renewal case studies the paper sheds light on the ways planning decisions may be altered by different actors in order to preserve existing communities. The stories presented in the paper by Mee Kam Ng are both embedded in a setting where redevelopment ‘land grab-style’ stands against the conservation of functioning local communities. The papers’ focus lies on the specific situation of Asian cities, and it is vividly displaying the various interests at stake in Hong Kong and Taipei. However, the committee acknowledges that the roles of experts inside and outside administrative structures mastering planning decisions and implementations as discussed in Mee Kam Ng’s paper can be traced in planning all over the globe, adding food for thought to the planning discourse.

The paper ranked second highest (by Willem Salet) was a close runner up in the committee discussions. The committee thus decided that paper should specifically be mentioned in the committee statement for discussing a topic of value for the planning profession.