

## **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

### **Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)**

#### **The 5<sup>th</sup> Young Academics Meeting 2011**

**'Diversity in Urbanism: *Learning across cultures and disciplines*'**

**Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands**

**16-18 February 2011**

The YA Meeting is an annual event organized by the Association of European Schools of Planning / The Young Academics Network (YAN) in collaboration with a host university. The meeting aims to bring together young planning scholars, who are in the beginning of their academic career (Ph D students and post-docs), and to provide a forum to debate and reflect upon their ideas with established academics. Each year the meeting focuses on different issues and challenges related to contemporary planning.

The next year the meeting will be host by Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands. It will take place on 16-18 February 2011 at the Faculty of Architecture in TU Delft. On behalf of the Department of Urbanism, we would like to invite you to submit an abstract to the Young Academics Meeting 2011. The theme of the meeting is '**Diversity in Urbanism: *Learning Across Cultures and Disciplines***'. It consists of three tracks: Cross-national Studies, Resilience Thinking in Spatial Planning and Design, and Citizen and Community Engagement in Urban and Rural Development.

The following text provides brief explanation about the theme and tracks. For more information about conference, abstract format, date and deadlines please visit our website at [www.ya2011.net](http://www.ya2011.net) or contact us via [ya2011-bk@tudelft.nl](mailto:ya2011-bk@tudelft.nl).

### **Introduction**

The world has turned into a global village. But diversity in the ways that agents, communities or societies deal with seemingly common events or common problems remains. This diversity is shaped by local conditions. The notion of 'diversity' has recently taken centre stage in various academic fields as an important factor that is argued to boost the adaptability and sustainability of social and ecological systems. The concept has gained a position of influence in our contemporary lexicon in urban and regional studies and spatial planning, and thus warrants further attention and study. However, do we really understand the complexities inherent in these relationships? Is diversity a necessary component of the content and processes in spatial design and planning? What are the consequences of the diversity agenda on urban studies, particularly its connections to spatial

design and planning?

The YA Meeting 2011 will offer an opportunity to discuss diversity and difference in spatial design and planning and urbanism – diversity across countries, cultures and disciplines. We will raise awareness of the multiple notions of planning and design, variation in planning practices, and the very different conditions in which planning operates. We will give special attention to the potential benefits (and weaknesses) of cross-national comparisons and international case studies, the value of ‘resilience thinking’ in spatial planning and design, and diverse practices in citizen and community engagement in urban and rural development. Details of the three tracks are as follows.

**Track A\_Cross-national Studies:** *Knowledge, technology and policy transfer, and universal design in diverse local conditions*

As territorial boundaries blur, planning theory and practice has come under wider influences beyond the nation state. Planning and design practices are informed by practices in other countries and sometimes there is specific transfer of technology, knowledge and policy to deal with perceived common problems. Universal solutions are offered in analysis, planning and design. But experience has shown how difficult it is to transfer successful policies or designs from place to place. Many scholars have drawn attention to the importance of local conditions in both understanding and planning spatial development.

Nevertheless, the use of cross-national comparative research, international case studies and ‘reference projects’ are increasingly used to support planning, policy-making and urban design. The variable results of these approaches demonstrate the advantages and pit falls of this methodology.

This track addresses the questions of what is the importance of ‘local conditions’ for spatial analysis, design and planning? What can we learn from the previous experiences in practicing knowledge, technology, and policy transfer as well as universal design across nations? Which are the conditions determining a success in knowledge, technology and policy transfer as well as universal design?

**Track B\_Resilience Thinking in Spatial Planning and Design**

The concept of resilience draws attention to the value of diversity in coping with risk and uncertainty in urban and rural development. The concept was first introduced in the ecological field in the 1970s. During the 2000s the notion of the ‘resilient city’ has emerged in connection with rising awareness of climate change. Spatial planning policy is now taking up the concept, especially in areas of great risk such as coastal regions. But understanding of the idea of resilience is fragmented and practical experience and evaluations are limited.

This track addresses new demands for resilient urban and rural development. What is the importance of ‘resilience thinking’ for urban analysis, design and planning? Does urban resilience offer a new paradigm for design and planning or is it merely a reincarnation of sustainable development? What strategies/projects/plans/instruments/policies are important for creating resilient cities? What are the main characteristics of the changing built and natural environment and their relations to urban resilience?

**Track C\_Citizen and Community Engagement in Urban and Rural Development**

Since the 1960s, community involvement in the urban regeneration process is increasingly promoted in liberal democratic states as means of reducing the gaps between professionals such as planners, designers, developers and governments, and users who are local communities or those who will be affected by urban development. This provided opportunities for citizen involvement and recognition of the frequently regressive effects of planning on weaker groups in terms of the distribution of public resources, social cohesion and quality of life. Indeed, urban planning and regeneration provide the first examples of systematic public engagement in the policy making process in countries such as the UK, US and the Netherlands. Since then, there have also been countless experiments in approaches to participation and consultation.

Given this, this track highlights the issues of how community involvement in urban transformation processes have evolved alongside new forms of urban governance? How grassroots participation has influenced recent urban policy, frameworks of implementation and the planning practice? What have been the instruments and strategies to produce urban change?

### Draft Programme

Day 1_16 February 2011	
11.30-12.00	Registration
12.00-12.30	Opening ceremony
12.30-13.30	Keynote speaker#1_Cross-national studies
13.30-15.15	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
15.15-15.30	Coffee break
15.30-16.40	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
17.00-18.00	Social Event
Day 2_17 February 2011	
09.00-10.00	Keynote speaker#2_Resilience thinking in spatial planning and design
10.00-10.15	Coffee break
10.15-12.30	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-16.30	Workshop/ Field trip
18.30-21.00	Dinner
Day 3_18 February 2011	
09.00-10.00	Keynote speaker#3_Citizen and community engagement in territorial development
10.00-10.15	Coffee break
10.15-12.00	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
12.00-13.30	Lunch+Working group meeting
13.30-15.15	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
15.15-15.30	Coffee break
15.30-16.15	Concluding Speech and Closing ceremony (Prof.Vincent Nadin)