



Aesop/Acsp 2008 Bridging the Divide: Celebrating the City

Round table title: Vulnerability vs. Resilience. Visions for cities future

Round table proposal by: Resilience and Risks Mitigation Strategies
AESOP thematic group

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keynote speakers

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Roundtable organisation

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Roundtable topics

The roundtable focuses on risk mitigation strategies in urban contexts as a key principle of cities
policies towards sustainable cities systems visions. The goal is to promote discussion and
comparison of different experiences, approaches, and positions.

1_Resilient cities: planning and resilience

The first topic focuses on the role of the resilience concept in strategic planning and /policies.

Two declinations:

1. Resilience VS strategic planning: the resilient urban system could be a key vision for the
development/renovation of urban and metropolitan areas. The risk mitigation and
environmental instances could be integrated in the strategic vision towards sustainable
and resilient development strategies.
2. Strategic planning VS resilience: the risk mitigation polices have to be integrated in
planning processes and projects in relation to design instruments (regional planning –
building design). How is it possible to deal with unintended consequences of urban
containment and other anti-sprawl measures that increase development pressures on
hazardous areas, such as landslide-prone slopes, floodplains etc.

2_Resilient cities: space and time dimensions

Resilience and risk mitigation policies require a systemic approach to design. The second point
of discussion could focus on space and time dimensions. How is it possible to integrate this kind



of different time/space dimensions in the planning/design process towards safer cities?

3_ Risk mitigation and environmental topics

How to integrate protection of natural values (e.g., wetlands, open space) with hazard mitigation efforts in urban areas? The third point focuses on the sustainable side of mitigation strategies. Risk mitigation strategies and sustainable planning could be integrated and used to build resilience cities.

4_ Coping with residual risk

How to deal with residual risk in flood hazard areas protected by structural works, such as levees? The importance of residual risk was one of the key lessons from New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina. There are a number of other areas in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world where this is also an important issue (e.g., in the U.S., Sacramento in California and Houston in Texas or Dresden in Europe).

Roundtable organisation

The AESOP thematic group on “resilience and risk mitigation strategies” involves a large group of European and American researchers (as keynote speakers and participants) with the aims to focalise and identify the main and relevant topics for the round table. According to the goal to promote a debate, the idea is to concentrate the first part of the roundtable on selected brief presentations, leaving space for the debate phase.

References:

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3. Godschalk, D.R.; “Urban Hazard Mitigation: Creating Resilient Cities.” *Natural Hazards Review*, 4, no. 3 (August, 2003): 136.
4. Kreimer, A.; *Building Safer Cities: The Future of Disaster Risk*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2003.
5. Pelling, M.; *The Vulnerability of Cities: Natural Disasters and Social Resilience*. London; Sterling, VA: Earthscan Publications, 2003.
6. Steiner, F.; Faga, B.; Sipes, J. and Yaro, R.; “Mapping for sustainable resilience”, Cap. 4 in *Rebuilding urban places after disaster. Lesson from Hurricane Katrina* in Birch, E. L. and Wachter, S.M., editors; 66-77, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006.
7. Vale, L.J. and Campanella, T.J.; *The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
8. Wheeler, S.; *Planning for Sustainability: Creating Liveable, Equitable, and Ecological Communities*. London; New York: Routledge, 2004.