



1st Symposium of the AESOP Thematic Group  
Transboundary Spaces, Policy Diffusion, Planning Cultures

**TRANSBOUNDARY SPACES, POLICY DIFFUSION  
AND PLANNING CULTURES:**

**NEW CHALLENGES - WAYS FORWARD**

University of Kaiserslautern  
September 19-20, 2016

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

<b>Deadline for Abstracts:</b>	<b>May 30, 2016</b>
Abstract Acceptance Notification:	July 29, 2016
Deadline for Papers:	October 28, 2016

*The AESOP Thematic Group on Transboundary Spaces, Policy Diffusion, Planning Cultures and the University of Kaiserslautern cordially invite proposals for contributions to the 1<sup>st</sup> Symposium of the AESOP Thematic Group Transboundary Spaces, Policy Diffusion, Planning Cultures.*

## **Background and aims**

The Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) (<http://www.aesop-planning.eu/>) has for many years hosted tracks focusing on European territorial cohesion, transnational and cross border planning within the context of its annual congresses. In order to support a more pronounced scientific discourse around these issues, the AESOP Thematic Group on Transboundary Spaces, Policy Diffusion, Planning Cultures ([http://www.aesop-planning.eu/blogs/en\\_GB/transnational-and-cross-border-planning](http://www.aesop-planning.eu/blogs/en_GB/transnational-and-cross-border-planning)) was launched on the occasion of the last AESOP annual congress held in Prague in 2015, by scholars from a large number of European universities with a scientific focus in the field.

AESOP Thematic Groups are working groups on specific themes established in order to create more effective platforms for debate and discussion amongst AESOP members. Within this framework, the AESOP Thematic Group on Transboundary Spaces, Policy Diffusion, Planning Cultures aims at creating and growing a network of researchers interested in, broadly speaking, the Europeanisation and internationalisation of spatial planning, and the various forms it takes: from the creation of new, softer planning spaces and corresponding governance arrangements, to the change of policies and practices through 'travelling ideas', the institutionalisation of territorial governance, etc.

To contribute to this objective, the symposium will engage a number of scholars all over Europe and their specific research experience. Thematic sessions will allow for scientific presentations in 'paper sessions'. In addition, debate will be encouraged with more open formats such as the 'fishbowl method'. The symposium will also arrange a discussion on the thematic group's road map for joint future research. A half-day field trip will offer the possibility of insight into / debate about specific spatial areas concerned with transnational and border aspects.

## **Issues for Debate**

The activities of the AESOP Thematic Group on Transboundary Spaces, Policy Diffusion, Planning Cultures are centred on exchanges on research and studies focusing on spatial planning in a European or international context, including cooperative approaches to spatial planning and a rescaling of planning functions to 'unusual regions' or supranational spaces. Differences in planning cultures, and how they influence such collaborative planning approaches, are of interest in this context, as are discussions about planning instruments, policies and practices in such soft planning spaces. International and European research on how planning ideas travel and how policy diffusion takes place (and who the agents of change are in these processes) are another key interest for this group, as are discussions on theoretical and methodological aspects of conducting meaningful cross-national comparative research in the field of spatial planning.

## Call for papers

In this light, the first TG symposium, to be held on 19 and 20 September 2016 in Kaiserslautern, Germany, will welcome contributions on the following thematic areas:

1. **Transboundary spaces and territorial cohesion.** The EU concept of territorial cohesion is being increasingly used to frame spatial planning and regional development policies at different spatial scales. Moreover, issues related to territorial cohesion are often dealt with through multi-actor initiatives that focus on flexible, transboundary spaces, functional regions that stretch across political and administrative boundaries, and are often challenged by the 'boundedness' of how spatial planning is conceived and organised. Papers in this session are invited to discuss the multi-actor and multi-level nature of policies aiming at promoting territorial cohesion, focusing in particular on the role and features of spaces of governance.
2. **Planning systems and planning cultures.** At a certain time in history all countries have deemed it necessary to establish some effective procedure to resolve conflicts between competing land uses. Normative frameworks were introduced in each country in order to establish the principles empowering public authorities to monitor and control territorial development and prepare plans, regulations and concepts, identifying what types of development should be permitted and where they would be allocated. The diversity of planning systems in Europe is therefore the result of the specific histories and geographies of places, and the way these interact with institutional structures, cultures and economic opportunities. Papers in this session will be invited to reflect upon the heterogeneity of planning systems, cultures and practices in Europe, providing theoretical and empirical considerations on the matter.
3. **Policy Diffusion, and the Europeanization of spatial planning.** The idea that diffusion of good practices can lead to policy improvement has become an accepted wisdom within national as well as international arenas and networks. This approach of learning and exchange of good practices has become a key focus for European Union policy-making and implementation, yet it is not always well understood what makes policies work well in some contexts, but not others. Also, such learning processes, and the implementation of EU policies in domestic contexts more generally, leads to different 'Europeanisation' effects in different regions, and more research is needed to understand how EU-wide policies are interpreted and shaped by domestic actors and contexts. Papers in this session are invited to present theoretical and empirical observations concerning the Europeanization of territorial governance and spatial planning as well as policy transfer and diffusion.

## **Abstract Submission Requirements**

We warmly invite researchers interested in these topics of transboundary spaces, policy diffusion and planning cultures to participate in the first symposium of the AESOP Thematic Group, and to present their research and ideas. Please see the draft programme of the symposium below, and observe the following guidelines for abstract submission:

- **Each conference participant will contribute to the event presenting a paper**
- The Abstract (of **maximum 1.000 words**) and the registration details must be submitted by **May the 30, 2016**, following the instructions included in the attached application form.
- A journal special issue and/or book proposal will be developed following the symposium, including a selection of the presented contributions.
- Therefore, full papers to be considered for this publication of 7,000 – 8,000 words should be delivered shortly after the conference, but no later than **October the 28, 2016**.

The participation to the event is free of charge. However, participants must provide for their transportation to the venue and for their accommodation.

**If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Symposium Secretariat in the person of Patricia Hammer ([patricia.hammer@ru.uni-kl.de](mailto:patricia.hammer@ru.uni-kl.de))**

## **Scientific Committee**

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Beate Caesar (University of Kaiserslautern)  
Giancarlo Cotella (AESOP TG Coordinator)  
Stefanie Dühr (AESOP TG Coordinator)  
Karina Pallagst (University of Kaiserslautern)

## **Symposium Organisation**

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## Preliminary Program

**Venue:** University of Kaiserslautern, Faculty of Spatial and Environmental Planning

## Program

### September 19

- 13:30 - 14:15    **Registration**
- 14:15 – 14:30    **Welcome and introduction**  
Annette Spellerberg, Dean, Faculty of Spatial and Environmental Planning  
Karina Pallagst, University of Kaiserslautern (Germany)
- 14:30 – 15:00    **Keynote speech European integration at the crossroads (working title)**  
Andreas Faludi, TU Delft (The Netherlands)
- 15:00 – 16:30    **Parallel sessions I: Theory and methods (papers selected following a call for papers)**  
*presentations and discussion*
- Transboundary spaces and territorial cohesion**  
Moderator: Karina Pallagst, University of Kaiserslautern (Germany)
- Planning systems and planning cultures**  
Moderator: Stefanie Dühr, Radboud University (The Netherlands)
- Policy Diffusion and the Europeanization of spatial planning**  
Moderator: Giancarlo Cotella, Politecnico di Torino (Italy)
- 16:30 – 17:00    **Coffee break**  
**Mobile display: CODE24 – Rhein-Alps-Corridor & student work**
- 17:00 – 18:30    **Parallel sessions II: policies (papers selected following a call for papers)**  
*presentations and discussion*
- Transboundary spaces and territorial cohesion**  
Moderator: Kirsten Mangels, University of Kaiserslautern (Germany)
- Planning systems and planning cultures**  
Moderator: Beate Caesar, University of Kaiserslautern (Germany)
- Policy Diffusion and the Europeanization of spatial planning**  
Moderator: Patricia Hammer, University of Kaiserslautern (Germany)
- 19:00            **Reception & dinner**

## **September 20**

- 9:00 – 11:00     **AESOP working group meeting**  
Moderators: Giancarlo Cotella & Stefanie Dühr  
Discussion of agenda and next steps
- 11:00 – 11:30     **Coffee break**
- 11:30 – 12:45     **Fishbowl discussion**  
Moderator: TBA
- 12:45– 13:00     **Conclusions**  
Karina Pallagst, University of Kaiserslautern (Germany)
- 13:00 – 14:30     **Lunch**
- 14:30 – 18:00     **Field trip: border region experience**