



**Frontiers of
Planning**

**ISOCARP
Congress
2013**

**BRISBANE
Australia
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Congress Theme

ISOCARP's 49th World Planning Congress asks: What is effective planning practice at the global frontiers, whether planning for the local community, or mature metro, or mega-city, or vast urbanizing region? Speakers and delegates will re-assess the lessons from the past and future practice at the new frontiers. Valuable lessons can be gained from both successes and failures. Contemporary urbanization is different from past city development. Above all else we have now entered the urban millennium so cities and city planning are critical to the majority of the world's now urbanized population. In this sense we have entered a "new world." The scale and speed of change challenge the traditional plans of governments in rapidly changing urban regions. The drivers of urbanization may still be what they have always been – agglomeration advantages, economic opportunity, more exciting lifestyles, and intensified interactions – but their impacts are now multiplied many times over.

While traditional physical planning and urban form and design are still critical for sustainable outcomes they may need new thinking and new styles of planning practice to be effective. Effective new styles of planning practice will build on past successes, if planners can find better ways of applying what they already know. Discovery and new approaches are needed as well. The 2013 Congress seeks abstracts according to three topics to address the theme of frontiers of planning. We seek cutting edge contributions towards this theme from a diversity of planners and urban specialists including practitioners, teachers, researchers, policy makers and urban managers. We also seek abstracts on any relevant topic of city and regional planning as part of our International Planners Exchange. Such abstracts may include best practice cases, planning methods and strategies.

Furthermore, we invite abstracts on the topic of planning education as part of the Forum on Planning Education. At issue is whether we're doing it right. The 2013 Congress will offer concurrent tracks to correspond with the three topics, exchange, and forum. Authors should review the guidelines for Abstract and Paper Submission. If you want your paper to be peer reviewed by ISOCARP's Peer Review Panel, please note your request in your abstract. For 2013, ISOCARP will accept and publish both peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed papers.

Topic 1: Migration as the new face of change

Large-scale demographic changes driven by migration are already a fundamental force in urbanization and are likely to increase. Population movements take many forms: shrinking cities left behind when people move to urban agglomerations; permanent movements of economic migrants; massive shifts of people serving seasonal or tourist industries; temporary migrants to resource-rich regions; flows of rich opportunists and flows of desperate refugees. These seismic demographic changes have created new urban challenges. Migrations call for new ways of thinking and new models of planning practice. *Stimulating Questions:*

- *Have large-scale demographic changes stemming from migration resulted in positive or negative social integration?*
- *What is the role of planning in socially fragmented cities?*
- *How can urban infrastructure keep pace with expanding temporary and permanent residents?*
- *Are new or re-shaped models of planning practice required to address the increase in migrations?*

Topic 2: Valuing what already exists

Rapid urban change overwhelms city centres, neighbourhoods, farms, forests, landscapes, landmarks; on the other hand urban decline leaves these resources stranded. Planners are called upon to manage change while protecting what is valuable, valued, culturally precious and essential to life. Planners also prepare urban redevelopment plans and promote development in established urban cores as a strategy to curb urban sprawl into farms, forests, and protected watersheds. In doing so planners must juggle the need to protect historic and heritage areas with the need to house more people within our existing urban fabric. *Stimulating Questions:*

- *How do cities protect or create their identities given rapid urbanization and how do they adapt to change?*
- *What strategies should be used to evaluate the tradeoffs between urban renewal, gentrification, protection of historic sites and neighbourhoods, and the inevitability of urban expansion?*
- *How can existing assets be valued and compared with future assets? In short, what planning practices have been shown to succeed, what works, what doesn't?*
- *Are new or re-shaped models of planning practice required to protect what already exists?*

Topic 3: Community and stakeholder engagement

The world has become interconnected. We now can share information across continents and regions with a click of a mouse. But are we really communicating with each other? Or are we simply overloading our computers and brains without truly engaging each other? And of specific relevance to city and regional planning, are we fully engaging the important stakeholders in our communities? Successful plans almost always involve successful community engagement. The late American author and planner Sherry Arnstein developed a “ladder of public participation” that posts nine steps of participation ranging from “manipulation” at the bottom of the ladder to “delegated control” and “citizen control” at the top. Modern planners are familiar with these steps and realize that securing the support of important stakeholders can be the critical step in making a plan a reality. Planners are developing new techniques and strategies to address competing interests and reduce conflict. *Stimulating Questions:*

- *What have we learned about community engagement? Are there new techniques, including digital ones, and strategies that allow us to better engage our stakeholders? Do these techniques and strategies differ by scale, culture, and regions?*
- *Is there ever enough community engagement? When do we know whether our strategies have taken hold? How do we measure success or failure?*
- *Are “delegated power” and “citizen control” viable or reasonable objectives for making plans for complex, fast-changing mega cities and regions?*
- *Are new or re-shaped models of planning practice required for community engagement?*

International Planners Exchange

Papers for the exchange are invited on any relevant topic of city and regional planning and may include best practice cases, planning methods and strategies. Some examples include:

- *International best practices in urban sustainability, in designing and implementing projects, and in policy, including eco-efficiency, low-carbon sustainability, resilience, risk management, green economy and post-growth initiatives.*
- *Innovative methods, including poverty alleviation, participation, financing, intelligent infrastructure systems, digital tools for spatial analysis, visualization, monitoring and evaluation.*
- *Academic contributions including urban geography, urban economics, urban sociology, spatial planning theory, globalization, urban systems and modelling.*

Forum on Planning Education: Are we doing it right?

Planning education should prepare practitioners to exercise influence at the frontiers of planning. Planning programs must recognize the multiplicity of agendas and contenders for urban leadership. Planners may need new skills in order to be effective in our ever-changing cities. Planning education programs vary around the world. The same is true for accreditation bodies that certify or license planners. Universities often specialize, in many cases emphasizing physical planning and design. Such schools are often linked with cognate disciplines such as architecture and landscape architecture. Other universities seek to train generalists with an applied social science emphasis. Recognizing the importance of compromise and negotiation, many new programs require training in organization theory and politics. Accreditation and certification organizations often evaluate different skills. Do our planning education and certification programs need to be retooled?

Stimulating Questions:

- *How well is planning education meeting the needs of the planner to cope with dynamic urban change?*
- *Should we be teaching prospective planners different skills?*
- *Should we be certifying and licensing planners in a different way?*
- *Are we doing it right or are changes in order?*

For 2013, ISOCARP will conduct both an interactive forum and paper sessions to explore these stimulating questions. We invite planners from the professional, academic, and managerial levels to offer their perspectives about planning education and ask whether our universities and accrediting bodies are teaching and certifying the right skills to meet the challenges of the global frontier.