

Cool Planning: Changing Climate and Our Urban Future



## **54<sup>th</sup> ISOCARP CONGRESS 2018**

1-5 Oct. Bodø, Norway

# **Call for Contributions Papers, Case Studies and Session Proposals**

Deadline: 31 of March 2018

# Call for Contributions

On this warming planet, with its population more than 50% urban, we urgently need cooler cities and towns. And good urban planning can help deliver them. The aim of ISOCARP's 54th Annual Congress is no small feat: the Society is calling on the best and brightest of the planning profession to come to Bodø, Norway and tell us how to save civilisation. Nothing less.

Bodø itself is cool in both senses of the word: this quaint and human-scale seaside town is located only 80 km inside the Arctic Circle. The location of the conference is significant: The Arctic has been affected by an unsettling mix of air and ocean phenomena, to the point where many reputable scientists now openly speculate about the possibility of an abrupt and catastrophic climate 'shift', rather than the commonly discussed climate 'change'. Whether shift or change, the planet's 'refrigerator' may indeed be irreversibly broken. If this is the case, the new Arctic climate will not stay there – it will affect the entire globe. The level of risk is without precedent in human history.

This sets the agenda of the 54th Congress as one of the most ambitious in ISOCARP's history. We believe the future of civilisation now more than ever depends on the way we plan and manage our cities and towns. Their role in the evolving planetary climate drama is three-fold – cities and towns are the villains; the victims, and the potential saviours. Villains – because urban areas are the principal consumers and polluters of the tiny habitable layer on our

planet we call the 'biosphere'. Victims – because more than half of humanity lives in urban areas, and almost all of them are exposed to some form of climate impact. Saviours – because the possible remedies and solutions can be applied efficiently, effectively and in time, only when populations are concentrated. So the root cause of, and the solution to, the global climate crisis are fundamentally urban.

Planning responses fall into two camps: Sustainability and Resilience. Sustainability has been for some time the code word for our aggregate efforts to mitigate the process of climate change. Resilience is a relatively new buzzword which describes our attempts to prepare for, and adapt to, those impacts of changed climate which now appear inevitable. This Call for Contributions thus recognises that not only is human-induced climate change our new reality, but also that Sustainability/Mitigation and Resilience/Adaptation are two conjoined agendas, both indispensable for our survival.

There is considerable and ever louder debate among scientists and policy shapers about the relative weight of the two agendas. The underlying contention is about just how serious and urgent our situation is, and therefore which agenda of the two should take precedence. As the Congress organisers, we take no sides in this ongoing debate. However, we certainly encourage contributors to state their feelings about whether a 'global (urban) emergency' should be declared, or not yet. Then,

## 1 THE GLOBAL VIEW: Climate Change Impacts, Sustainability and Resilience

- Climate change and towns, cities and regions – how are, and will, they be affected?
- Climate change scale and pace – which narrative should planners take as credible – the optimistic view that 'we still have enough time to mitigate and adapt', or the pessimistic view that 'we must declare a global emergency'?
- Sustainability/mitigation vs resilience/adaptation agendas – what are the corresponding urban planning paradigms, and which one do we prioritise?
- The role of national, state, regional and local authorities – what is it, and what does that mean for statutory planning?
- Climate change-induced migrations and climate refugees – how do we plan for them?
- The future of planning – is it turning into disaster and risk management?

## 2 SPOTLIGHT CITIES: Planning for Coastal Cities, Remote Towns, and High North Cities

- The impacts - what are the main categories of actual and expected impacts?
- The risks - what locations and types of urban areas are particularly at risk?
- Coastal towns and cities – adaptive strategies?
- Towns and cities in remote/rural/mountainous areas – adaptive strategies?
- Towns and cities in and near the Arctic Circle – adaptive strategies?
- Urban size, form, location and site: what makes a place more sustainable and resilient?

## 3 CLIMATE-PROOF CITIES: Planning for Weather, Water, Food and Energy

- Towns and cities in hot and arid areas – adaptive strategies?
- Towns and cities in hot and humid areas – adaptive strategies?
- Towns and cities in moderate climates – adaptive strategies?
- Towns and cities in cold climates – adaptive strategies?
- Green infrastructure, ecosystem services, storm-water management
- Urban agriculture: how to integrate food, fiber, fuel production?
- Energy conservation, generation, storage and distribution
- Risk management, climate-induced disaster response, recovery and rebuilding

accordingly to the stated view, we expect the authors to position their papers and case studies at any point on the continuum between the optimist view - which still stresses mitigation and the sustainability agenda - and the pessimist view - which argues that it is too late for sustainability and that from now on we must focus on adaptation, resilience and sheer survival.

We encourage this full range of views both because of the series of catastrophic weather events witnessed in 2017 - and then a few more in early 2018 - and because the discussion on whether climate change is 'accelerating' and whether we are already experiencing 'abrupt' or 'runaway' climate change, is now openly present in the mainstream media and in government policy deliberations. Again, we encourage the authors to declare their own - or their organisations' - perception of the risks involved. After all, this is not new to planners; town, city and regional planning has never been free of the struggle to assess future risk.

Yet another big dilemma for planners these days is whether required mitigation and adaptation strategies should target urban form - especially shape and density - or urban processes which produce the form. After half a century of experience with the widely popular concept of 'compact city' we know that this is a good idea, but one difficult to implement in the era of mass auto-mobility, and ubiquitous electricity, telephone and internet. Compact urban form policies typically hit obstacles in implementation. And even when implemented, they often under-deliver in terms of

the environmental and social benefits originally expected. It appears then that planning instruments should not be targeting urban form, but urban flows that generate it. In other words, that our policies should target 'urban metabolism' - the aggregate flow of resources, energy and information. Or, to be less abstract, the technologies, economic models and cultural attitudes that maintain that metabolism at an untenable rate and volume, producing dangerous level of dependency.

Having said that, it is still true that form affects flows, just as it is true that flows generate urban form. Following this rationale, we conclude that tackling form in ways which will curb flows, while simultaneously regulating flows in ways which will force incremental transformation of form, is the only way to generate sophisticated, radical, truly innovative urban planning, urban design, urban policy and urban economic solutions. These are the solutions that offer hope of navigating the challenging age of climate change.

Radical innovation is the only way to attain 'cool planning' - which in turn is supposed to deliver 'cool' cities and towns. 'Cool' in both senses of the word - as places desirable for living and doing business, and places with a metabolism brought down to the level at which this small planet can support them in perpetuity.

There is no alternative. On a warming planet, cooler cities are the only option.

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## 4 TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Clean, Green, Smart and Resilient

- How does the 'urban technology nexus' (IT, CT, ET, TT, BT) affect urban metabolism?
- Infrastructure systems: how do we reinvent the concept and the configurations?
- ICT and the 'smart city'; 'sentient city'; 'wise city'; 'green intelligence'
- Disaster preparedness and 'smart resilience'
- The future of transport technology and infrastructure
- The future of energy technology and infrastructure
- The future of building and construction technology
- Urban form, urban flows and the design for smart, adaptable spaces
- What are the economic opportunities in technological innovation for sustainability and resilience?

## 5 SOCIAL NETWORKS: Citizen Participation, Urban Governance and Cultural Transformation

- How will climate change affect citizen participation and local democracy?
- Governance, management, administration and planning systems
- Social networks, collaboration and the role of ICT
- Citizens' beliefs, attitudes and behavior, green lifestyles, local politics and culture
- The role of race, age and gender issues in planning for climate change
- Sustainability and resilience in urban tourism

## 6 CONTEMPORARY PLANNING PRACTICE: Projects and Paradigms

- Demographic, social, cultural, political, economic, technological change: which forces are driving the transformation of planning practice today?
- Disruption, experimentation, innovation and creativity in planning: should they be part of local government planning. Or, the official planning should rather 'play it safe' in an unsafe world?
- New economic paradigms and the city (ecological; steady-state; circular; shared; people-centered; knowledge; creative - economy): how do we plan for their spatial consequences?
- Examples and models: large scale public and private projects world-wide;
- Master planning and urban design: case studies world-wide.
- Buildings, infrastructure and property development: new energy, water, waste, safety and security standards.

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While the focus of the 54th Congress is on climate change, we wish to remind the attendees and contributors that all ISOCARP congresses are also opportunities for all planners worldwide to come and share their professional experiences, whatever the dominant issue may be. With that in mind, we have provided Track 6 as the 'general purpose' congress stream. Here, we invite all papers and case studies from our colleagues' current or recent research and practice which may not necessarily address the threat of climate change, but nevertheless qualify as 'cool planning'!

## Submit your abstract for:

### Paper:

- **Academic contribution** consisting of a paper and a presentation
- The paper will be included in the Congress Proceedings with an ISBN number (only for authors attending the conference)
- Each year ISOCARP submits the Proceedings to Conference Proceedings Citation Index – Web of Science.

### Case Study:

- **Professional contribution** to the planning practice consisting of a presentation on a specific project, proposal, plan, design, existing or work-in-progress development etc.
- Submitting a paper is optional, but highly recommended
- Abstract (and paper if submitted) will be included in the Congress Proceedings.

### Session Proposal:

- Session proposers have to identify and coordinate all the session speakers
- Sessions will be 90 minutes long
- Discussion or interaction with the audience is highly encouraged
- Formats other than the traditional presentations are encouraged, including: point/counterpoint, panel discussions, single speaker, moderated debate, interactive workshops, round tables, etc.
- All speakers need to register for the congress
- An abstract of the session proposal is mandatory and will be included in the Congress Proceedings.



## General Rapporteur of the congress is Professor Dushko Bogunovich.

City Planner – Urban Designer – Architect – Educator

Dushko Bogunovich is Professor of Urban Design and Planning, and Dean of the Faculty of the Built Environment, Arts and Science at BA ISAGO University in Botswana. He now lives in Gaborone. His permanent residence is in Auckland. There, Dushko was Associate Professor of Urban Design at Departments of Architecture, and Landscape Architecture, at New Zealand's largest polytechnic, Unitec Institute of Technology. He taught under- and post-graduate courses, and conducted research

and consulting in: urban planning, environmental policy and sustainable development. His research focus is on Auckland, Christchurch and the NZ urban system in the context of global urbanisation and the challenges posed by the acceleration of climate change.

Dushko's formal qualifications are a Dipl-Ing degree in Architecture (Sarajevo); Masters in City Planning (Penn); PGDip in Management (Cyprus); PhD in Regional Planning (Belgrade); and Post-Doc in Sustainable Urban Development (UC-Berkeley). Dushko has been a member of ISOCARP since 1984; was twice a Fulbright Scholar; worked on UN projects; has won major urban design competitions; and had been a visiting professor at the universities of Oxford, Bologna, Genoa, Wismar and Milan Polytechnic.

### Key dates:

31 March - Deadline for abstract submission

15 July - Deadline for submission of contributions (papers, cases studies, session proposals)

31 July - Early bird registration

### More info:

For the latest information go to:

<https://isocarp.org/2018congress/>



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