



Biennial Report 2020–2021

The Centre for the Future of Places



KTH Centre for the Future of Places

Postal address
Teknikringen 72
100 44 Stockholm
Sweden

Web

www.cfp.abe.kth.se

Email

futureofplaces@abe.kth.se

Social media

Twitter: [@FutureofPlaces](https://twitter.com/FutureofPlaces)

Facebook: [KTHFutureofPlaces](https://www.facebook.com/KTHFutureofPlaces)

LinkedIn: [KTH Centre for the Future of Places](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kth-centre-for-the-future-of-places)

Instagram: [Kthfutureofplaces](https://www.instagram.com/kthfutureofplaces)

Design

Matilda Lindqvist, Prime Weber Shandwick

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In this report, we highlight the research carried out in 2020–2021 at the KTH Centre for the Future of Places and share the scientific output and impact that we, along with our partners achieved during this period.

Where appropriate, this report uses hyperlinks in the text to help the reader find articles, publications and websites.



CFP

KTH Centre for the Future of Places (CFP) is an international research hub around the concept of public spaces and beyond, within the disciplines of urban planning and urban design.

Our main focus is on research and development of an international and inter- and multidisciplinary network, transmuting the theory and practice of city-building.

CFP aims to establish and promote sustainable urban development by shifting the urban discourse from the hardware-objects of the cities (buildings and infrastructure), to the software-spaces of the cities (places and people), in order to advance the importance of creating and maintaining healthy and livable cities on the long run.

We envision a networked community of leaders actively working across sectors, frontiers and disciplines to build a more just, sustainable, and prosperous world.



Mission

Investigate the challenges facing our regions, metropolitan cities, towns and neighborhoods in the achievement of a more sustainable resilient, livable, just and inclusive urbanism.

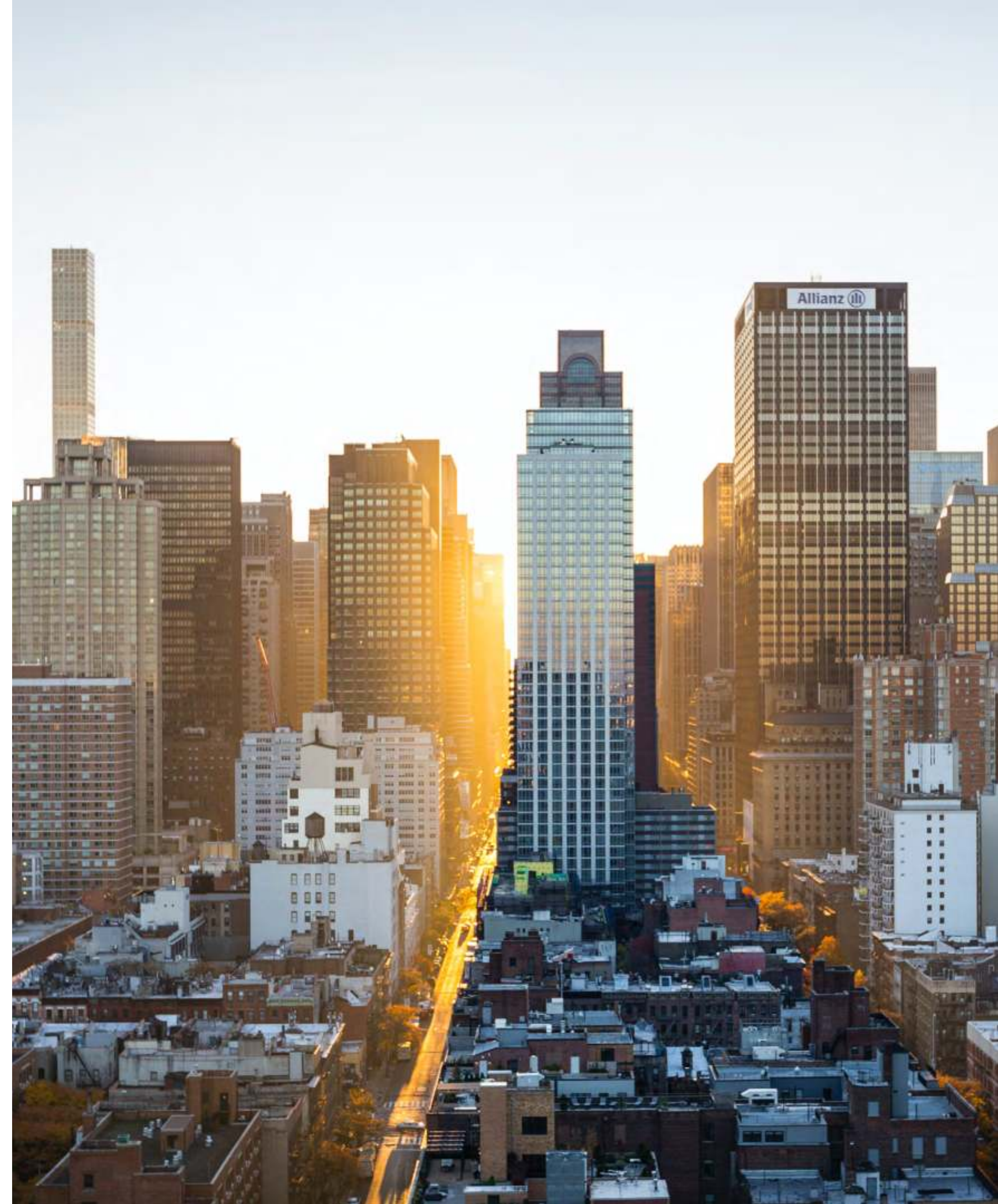
Explore the contemporary and future urban condition, development, planning, design and the urban form and placemaking processes of the city. Our concern is the evolving role of urban planning and design within broader interdisciplinary fields, and their impacts upon human environments and social life.

Focus on the urgent topic of public space, its role as an essential urban framework, its degradation under current global urbanization processes and the reforms that will be needed to achieve the public space goals of a “New Urban Agenda” as defined in 2016 by United Nations member states.

Provide a link between the research resources at the KTH School of Architecture and the Built Environment and the wider professional practice community.

Create a public dialogue through research, education, social media, symposia, roundtables, colloquiums, debates, conferences, exhibitions, and publications.

Ensure that our output complies with the most stringent standards of academic scholarship as well as ensuring practical relevance and human benefit. The desire of the Centre is to raise professional and public appreciation towards urbanism and its impact on the city and the responsibility for creating a better life for all citizens.





Director's Words





As we take a look back at the two years 2020–2021 that are almost ending, years like no other, we see the great lasting lesson of 2020–2021 in “nurturing the human connections, the delightful, dedicated, caring, creative, inspiring people all around us”, as a sage colleague of mine from MIT said some time ago. We were not together, but we were as one. The important thing is that we have encountered obstacles, personal losses, hardship, social exclusion and loneliness, fragmentation of our work, cracks in personal networks and bonds, delay in work and many other calamities that COVID-19 pandemic brought, but we prevailed.

It is always with some sadness that one announces the last annual report in the 5-time year span of the Centre for the Future of Places (our CFP as we like to call it), i.e., the phasing out after 5 years as it was initially planned. Due to things completely out of our control and absolutely not as a result of our research actions or inactions (on the contrary we have done things that others would have only dreamt of doing in such a ‘short’ span of time), the main funder due to various reasons of lack of additional budgets, project and personal changes at the Foundation and focus on other issues, has deemed to pull the plug: therefore, it will be impossible to continue. Also due to further budget restraints during 2020–2021 we had been going at a lower, colder speed, but nonetheless focusing clearly on deliverables and outputs. With that said, we are eternally grateful to the Ax: son Johnson Foundations infrastructure support, i.e., the main funding for the center from 2016–2021, especially to Viveca Ax: son Johnson, Kurt Almquist and Peter Elmlund for making this possible.



THE CENTRE FOR THE
FUTURE OF PLACES

I would probably use this re-quote for all of us: "I've (we have) seen things... seen things you little people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion bright as magnesium... I (We) rode on the back decks of a blinker and watched C-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhäuser Gate. All those moments... they'll be gone - LIKE TEARS IN THE RAIN" [From Blade Runner, the iconic epitaph monologue from Roy Batty (portrayed by Rutger Hauer) during the scene in the Final Cut]. I hope those moments will not be lost like tears in the rain and also the amount of awards CFP and myself as the director got in this period is the testimony of that great work, as well as amazing project deliverables, events, books, scholarly papers, engagement in society, media presence and other. The amazing Urbanistica Podcast Series of all our Book Authors and the exciting new publishing house situated within the Centre and the Better Cities Group, the all-new Athenaeum Scholarly Press, and they still keep coming in, as if we were and have been part of a Blade Runner world for sure...

Well, as I said, due to COVID19 we have all been in certain hibernation though centers work has continued unabated. Our production in books and papers has been huge; almost all projects have been completed up to September now and will be done until December 2021 when we finally close the doors of our work. Close Cooperation with TU Vienna, ETH, UCL London, Harvard, MIT, University of Chicago, CUNY NY, University of Cincinnati, New College of Florida and other places has gone great. The numerous projects dealing with Geographies of Age, Public Space Database, Authenticity and Culture of the City, Streetscapes, Urban Loneliness, Who owns the City, Street Frontages, Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods, Architecture Apocalypses,



Synchronicity and the City, Aesthetics of Urbanism, Women Urbanists Reclaiming the City, Post Urban World, Experimental Cities and Living Labs, Smart Cities & Beyond, Urban Empires, Revisiting the Psychology of Place, New Pattern Books, Legacy of Jane Jacobs and Christopher Alexander, Urbanism Without Effort Revisited, Housing of Love & Hope, Public Space that Matters, Tendencies in Urbanism, Urban Civic Commons, Paradigms in Urban Planning and Design, Public Places during and after COVID-19 and many more are just a testimony of the massive and almost unreal work that has been done in the Center.

Therefore, I would to thank all members and affiliates of CFP for a fantastic work done. The wonderful events such as Delphi Debates, The City Space Architecture led series on public space and covid19, the upcoming three debates led by ORIS on urbanism and cities beyond the pandemics, the cooperation on the Journal of Public Spaces, the IMCL conference on Livable Cities (and Suburbs) for all, the work with and for UN Habitat, the media presence in general and a plethora of other things that members, affiliates and partners of CFP have done during the pandemic is nothing more of superb. That notwithstanding, many more things could have been done, and have been planned for the next sequel of five years, though now they will have to wait for better times and new funders to arrive on the scene and utilize the amazing body of knowledge this Hub and Clearing House of Excellence has done. In that vein, my gratitude goes to KTH central, which has given us flying colors in the CFPs evaluation of five years' work and especially the Vice President Annika Stensson Trigell, President Sigbritt Karlsson and Philip Von Segebaden, Development Office Director at



KTH; Also a huge thanks to former President of KTH Peter Gudmundsson and former Dean of the School of Architecture and the Built Environment, Stellan Lundström and former Faculty Dean/Provost Folke Snickars for enabling the Centers life at KTH in 2015/2016. Thanks also goes to the current Vice Dean Mats Wilhelmsson for support.

So, I invite you to look at this wonderful Bi-Annual Report (final one) of the Centre for the Future of Places. And as Barack Obama, former American President, once said: Today we continue a never-ending journey to bridge the meaning of those words with the realities of our time...and be assured we will be back, in one form or the other, as actually we have never left... I hope you are able to keep in touch with our current phasing-out activities over the coming months by visiting [our website](#) but also keeping an eye open for yet, new and exciting things to come in the future...



Tigran Haas

PhD Director, CFP Centre

Associate Professor of Urbanism

October 2021, Stockholm



Research





Themes





Urban Form and Human Behaviour

The research work around this theme primarily seeks to understand how the urban form and the dynamic processes that compose our cities and places shape urban experience. The challenge of this work is to develop methods and theoretical frameworks to bring together the analysis of urban structure from a normative and explorative perspective with a broadly qualitative investigation of individual and community perceptions, experiences and narratives.

The concept of place is closely connected to urban form and has a direct link to social life; therefore, the relationships between characteristics of the physical environment and the humans using it, between the context and human responses will be examined in detail. The research will evolve a knowledge base for urban design decisions and a unique collection of urban codes and patterns for understanding the city.

The Centre is interested in exploring how form & meaning, physically, socially and virtually is perceived and communicated and what implications these impacts and consequences have on people's behaviors. Previous studies in different fields akin to urban planning and design, such as sociology, geography, architecture, environmental psychology, economics, etc. have explored people's social behavior and relationships with urban space. However, the focus and research concern here will be about the matter of spatial tools, frameworks and models by which changes in urban form and human behavior can be better understood visualized and worked with.

Sustainable Urbanism

Sustainable Urbanism reflects the complex and converging issues of climate change and urbanism and the transformations they induce on the built environment.

The Centre will analyze and work with these transformations that pertain to the way we plan, design, build, maintain, govern, and use our cities. The radical transformation of how cities work implies, for most urbanists, a radical change in the way they plan and design. Inquiries around this theme hope to clarify new approaches to urban and landscape transformations, involving elements such as retrofitting, retail planning, culture and heritage issues, new ecologies, as well as new forms of infrastructure and transportation in the system of our cities. Additionally, the research will also analyze and discuss the paths to sustainable and resilient cities, more energy efficient neighborhoods

and districts and sustainable, green and landscape urbanism trends that will help shape and organize the city, thus enhancing and securing the urban futures in uncertain times ahead. The investigation is geared towards finding a more comprehensive understanding of urbanism at the regional scale that would then in turn provide a better platform to address climate change and climate stabilizing efforts. The social and economic benefits of regionalism seem to present themselves as the objective for future urban development if we are to have cities that are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. In that respect, the research considers the spatial implications of all three aspects and connects the micro, meso and macro levels through the concept of the Regional City.



Housing and Urban Spaces

Provision of adequate, just, dignified but also ecologically and socially sound housing, integrated into all systems in the urban realm also plays an important role in our research.

Aside from issues connected to urban form and planning, there is a need to also look into the role residents and citizens should and could play in determining the urban quality of their dwelling condition in a contemporary and ever changing democracy.

Community and social sustainability are a strong focus of our investigations. The physical design of communities to promote social sustainability is important but not the only element. New visions for neighborhood housing redevelopment should support human, economic, social, cultural recovery and renewal.

The view on urban spaces will be an all-encompassing one: a city's streets,

parks, squares, and other shared spaces have been seen as symbols of collective well-being and possibility, expressions of achievement and aspiration by urban leaders and visionaries, sites of public encounter and formation of civic culture, and significant spaces of political deliberation and agonistic struggle. They are spaces that allow and facilitate a coexistence of different categories of people.

Urban spaces offer great cultural, economic and social values restoring the identity of cities and enhancing the lifestyle of its citizens giving them opportunities for new experiences. We often think of amenities as quality streets, squares, waterfronts, public buildings, and other spaces that have economic social and environmental value. The attitude towards urban space has gradually changed rediscovering their importance an integral part of urban identity of cities.

Emergent Global Transformations

In the last few decades, many global cities, towns, and municipalities have experienced unprecedented economic, social, and spatial structural change. Today, we find ourselves at the juncture between entering a post-urban and a post-political world, both presenting new challenges to our metropolitan regions, municipalities, and cities. Specifically, these challenges are of a spatial, economic, demographic, ecological, cultural, and social nature. Megacities and many declining regions and towns are experiencing an increase in the number of complex problems regarding internal relationships, governance, and external connections. The Centre's investigation recognizes how forces of structural and emergent change contribute to shaping the urban landscape and living infrastructures exploring different measures for the reinvention of cities. The importance of the digital and social media and

network society in general, with its specific transformation and creation of new public spaces is still not adequately explored. Last but not least, investigations will also focus the attention to the developing world, especially the informal city and the hyper transformations happening in these urban landscapes. In particular, a growing disparity exists between citizens that are socially excluded within declining physical and economic realms and those situated in thriving geographic areas.

Within the prospering regions, leading anchor institutions and companies have connected with start-ups and business incubators to accelerate growth, talent, and innovation.



Projects





Terra Publica – The Public Space Database Projects

RESEARCHERS

Setha Low

David Brain

Vikas Mehta

Michael Mehaffy

Tigran Haas

PROJECT LEADER

Anna-Paula Jonsson



Terra Publica, project previously called the Public Space Database project, was concluded and administratively handed over by the CFP during the fall of 2021. The project was initially created to build a database for empirical public space research, with the aim of gathering research on public space from different disciplines, in one place. Over time, a meta- data language was created that now categorizes each article and creates a synthesized body of knowledge that allows for cross-disciplinary analysis of research produced from the 1960s and onwards.

Visit us at: <https://terrapublica.org/>

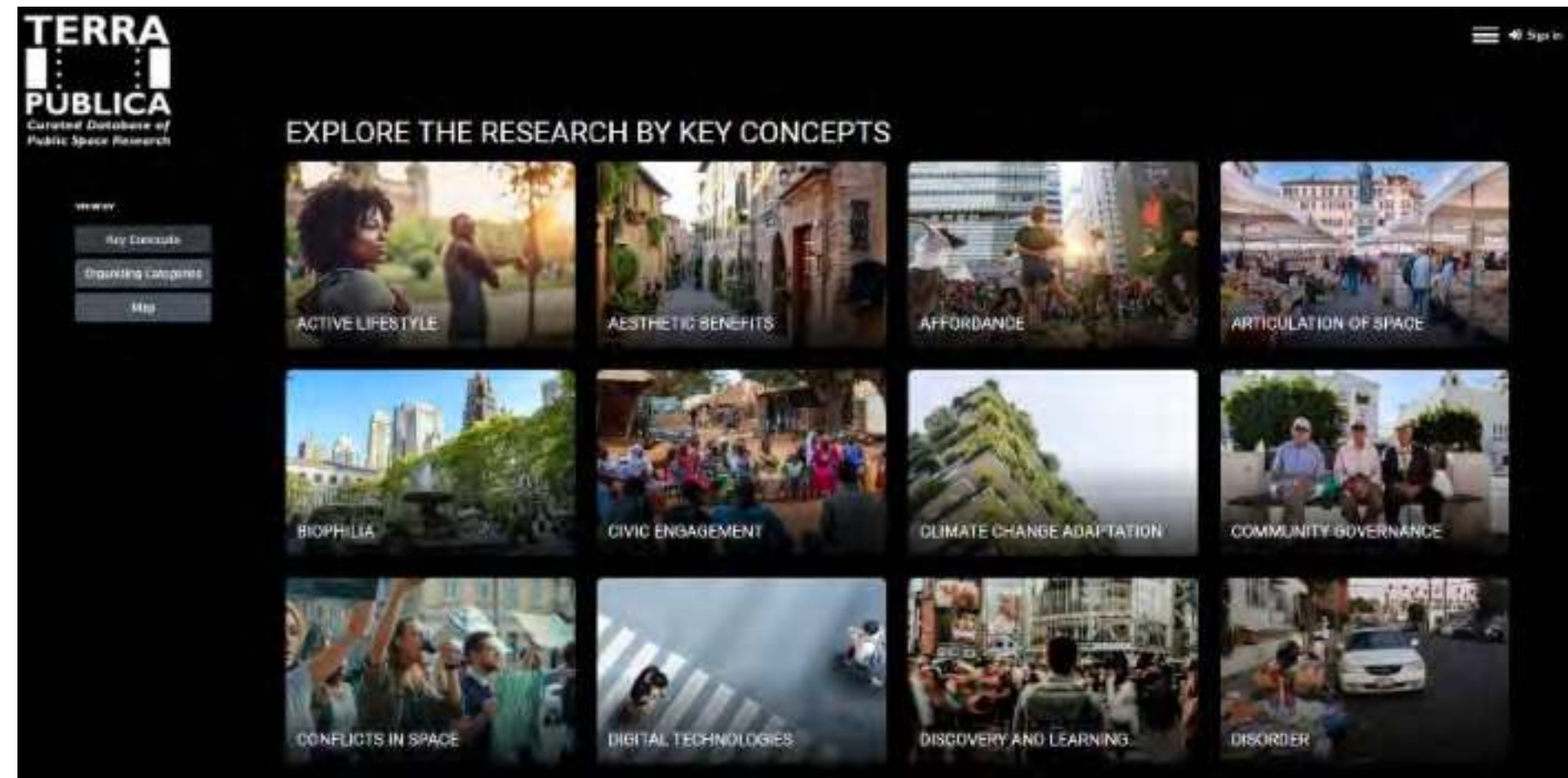


Figure 1

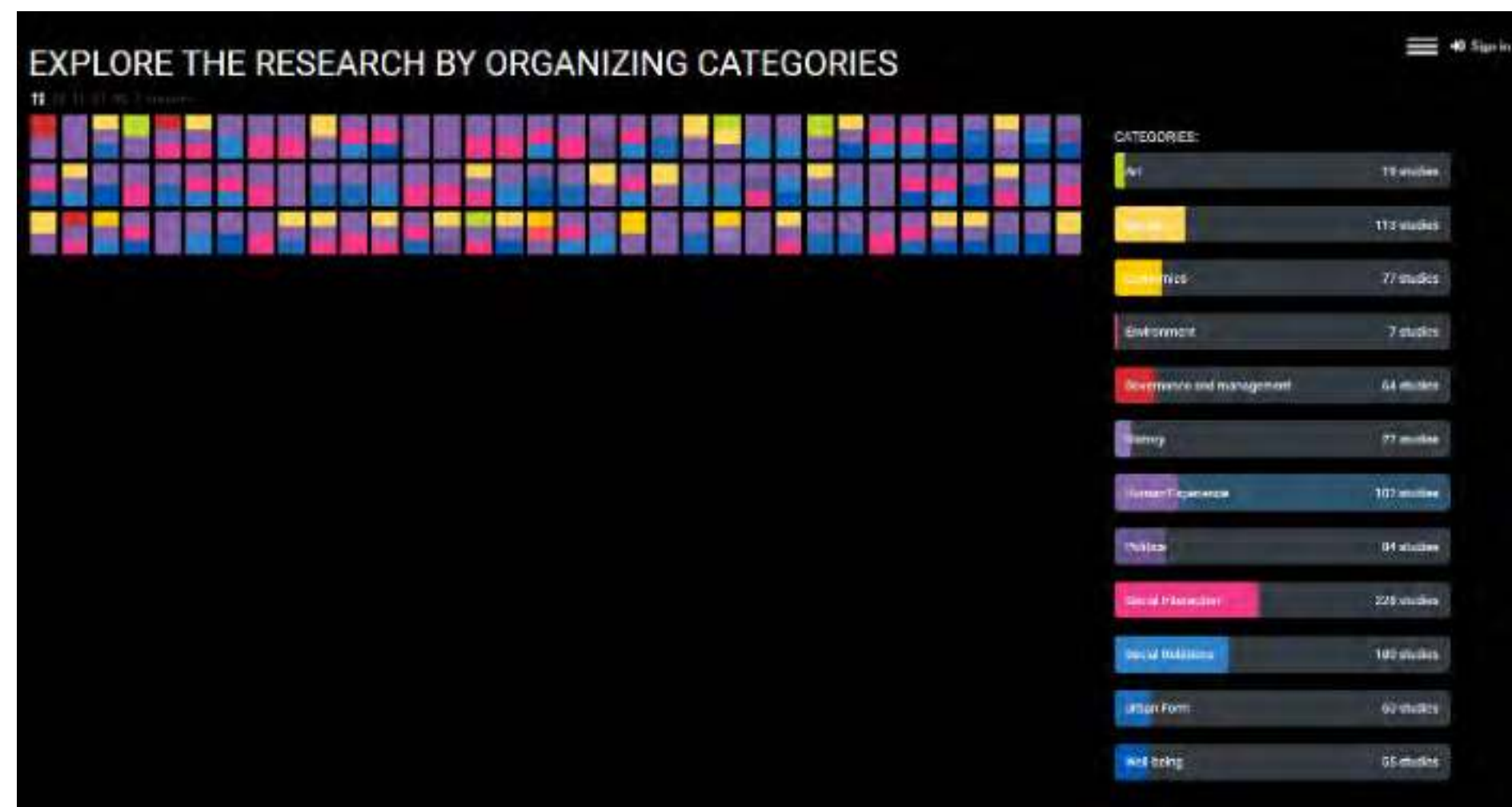


Figure 2

During 2020 and 2021, a website was created that allows visitors to interact with the content. It has been designed so as to both enable targeted searches using terms from the meta-data language or free search terms, with Boolean operators, as well as to encourage visitors to explore the research more leisurely. For example, a visitor to the terra public website can explore research by clicking on images featuring key concepts such as 'aesthetic benefits' or 'biophilia', and receive access to articles that relate to these concepts (see Figure 1.)

Visitors can also create a visual snapshot of how different categories of research are represented together in academic articles, by interacting with the Organizing Categories function that has been designed by representing each category by a specific color (Figure 2). Features like these were designed to make the research as accessible as possible for non-academics, as well as to create a reliable and rich resource of research for academics with more targeted research aims.

The CFP and collaborating institutions all agree that designing safe, sustainable and healthy cities is the outcome of complex dialogues between many stakeholders. Urban form depends on the know-how of a plethora of actors; Architects, Urban Planners, Academics from different disciplines, Politicians, Traffic planners, and Engineers, to name a few.

And herein lies one of the great values and missions of the project, since the Terra Publica page enables different professionals to access cross-disciplinary research in an easy and intuitive way for their own distinct purposes.

With over 500 articles gathered and categorized to date, the database will now be managed by a consortia made up by the collaborating academic partners of the project: University of Cincinnati (lead by Prof. Vikas Mehta), New College of Florida (lead by Prof. David Brain) and City University of New York (lead by Prof. Setha Low). The CFP extends a heartfelt thank you to financing by the Ax:son Johnson Foundation and Peter Elmlund, the creator of the project, as well as to the valuable project management support and development from Project Leader Anna-Paula Jonsson.



Geographies of Age

RESEARCHERS

Marie Antoinette
Glaser
Sabine Knierbein
Stefan Lundberg



Geographies of Age (GoA), a collaboration between CFP/KTH, ETH in Zürich and TU Wien.

The project is about Lonely and Older people's access to housing and to urban life and was finalized in the pandemic year of 2020. A final report has been delivered in June 2021. The report has been written by the research team in Stockholm, Zürich and Vienna. It is a compilation of various texts that have been produced during the project. The compilation and editing have been carried out by the project manager in Stockholm.



During 2020, the project Geographies of Age (GoA), found it difficult to carry out planned interviews and activities due to the pandemic. There were no meetings with the elderly who were isolated for a large part of 2020. In Zurich, all interviews had already been conducted, while Stockholm had a large number of meetings and interviews which has started at the end of 2019 to be continued in 2020, could not be completed as intended. The interest on the part of the elderly to conduct interviews by telephone or video was extremely limited and had to be discontinued. However, some contacts with the municipality's officials could be carried out.

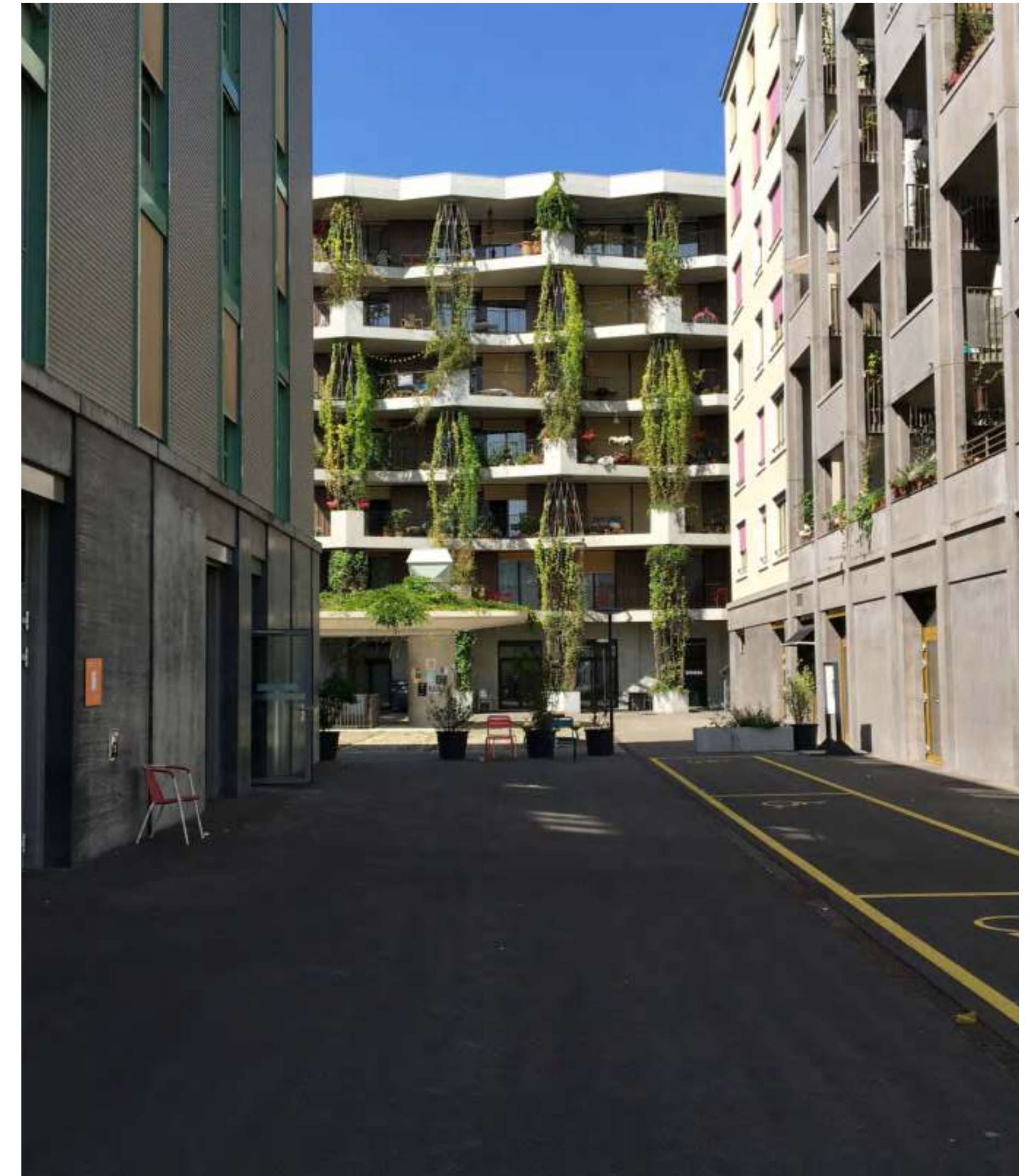
In Vienna, the focus in this period was on compiling a book "Care and the city" in which the entire research team participated in one of the chapters led by Vienna and Zurich. Work began with a seminar in December 2019 at TU in Vienna. That work has now resulted in a publication.

KTH, together with the universities ETH in Zürich and TU in Vienna, have during 2018 and 2020, been conducting research collaboration about old people and the city. The background is the demographic changes in the world. The overall question is "what kind of new need does the cities have to fulfil and how?"

We could see that the housing situation and in particular the availability of affordable housing looks different within the OECD. In Switzerland, a larger proportion (44,8%) of those with low incomes have to spend a large part of their income on housing, compared with both Austria (23,6%) and Sweden (41,9%). House price indices in the three cities have developed differently. In Stockholm and Zurich, the house price index has risen in much the same way by 6,5% in the third quarter of 2020 compared to the corresponding period a year earlier, 6,4%, respectively, while the index in Vienna has risen by 9,3% (OECD, 2021).

The vision of age-friendly cities and ageing in place (which allows the elderly to stay as long as desired and possible in their familiar home environment) can be facilitated by digitalisation, urban renewal, new housing arrangements, services and so on. At the same time, it is partly the same factors as growth and renewal in the city, limited access to suitable housing, physical and social barriers to access to public spaces and services, family mobility and changing family patterns that contribute to reducing the quality of life for primarily older elderly people. This potentially increases the risk of isolation and loneliness.

The result shows that in Stockholm there are approximately 950.000 people in Stockholm 2017. Of these, about 15% are over 65 years old and 4% over 80





years of age. It is approximately the same proportion of women as men in the city. The inhabitant prognoses until 2027 shows very small changes. The city will grow by 100 thousand. People 65+ will grow slightly and children between the age of and fifteen will go down a little. The ageing of Stockholm follows a pattern of when the different areas were built. The suburb districts on the maps illustrates the metro lines going out from the inner of the city. The longer from the city you get the younger the area is. There are no places in Stockholm which is especial populated with old people. The policy behind this is the Age-in-place philosophy and is supported by Swedish municipalities.

The house market is acting on its own. That means that there is no overarching control or assessment to secure housing for elderly. For the vast majority of elderly, living in older days is about staying in the regular housing market, usually in a dwelling for a long time.

As booming economic centre, Zürich attracts a large number of well-educated younger people with the effect that the city of Zürich is getting younger.

The production of housing stock in the city of Zürich mainly stems from three periods: Firstly, the period of industrialization in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century; secondly, the period of

economic boom after the Second World; and thirdly, the period of economic growth since 2000. The majority of households is tenants. In 2015, 86,6% of the housing stock were rental units. At average, persons over 65 years stay in their dwellings for 21 years and persons over 80 years for 40 years. Many elderly people live modestly. Whilst they are able to stay in their existing apartments, benefiting of favourable leasing rates due to longstanding contracts, they financially manage. If their building is refurbished or re-developed, their fragile financial situation is destabilized. Even small increases in monthly accommodation costs can over-burden elderly tenants.

For years, the city of Vienna has been in a phase of demographic growth that is foreseen to continue within the next decades. The housing market in Austria is traditionally based on a well-controlled and regulated housing system with historically rooted tenancy laws, a complex subsidy regime and the strong role of limited- profit housing companies. But the housing market has come under increasing financial pressure through neoliberal tendencies with new protagonists surfacing, such as for-profit companies and international investors. Austria is a country that has traditionally had a large rental sector with 43,1% of the housing stock being rented and 47,8% in owner occupation and the rest in other tenures. Vienna holds a unique position with a low ownership rate of 19,1%. In Austria, nearly 80% of new





residential construction, from single-family homes to multi-storey apartment blocks, benefits from some public subsidies. By today, the City of Vienna owns 220.000 apartment units out of approx. 959.000 existing units. In addition, 21% of the total housing stock is subsidized housing managed by limited-profit housing companies or other developers bound to the regulatory frame of subsidized housing in Vienna.

In summary, it can be said that in some respects there are significant differences between the three cities and in how their housing markets work, but life as an elderly person is strikingly often very similar. The needs look the same no matter where people live. When old famous restaurants disappear, they are missing from the elderly who felt at home there. When friends pass away, loneliness becomes difficult for some to cure while others find social existence in the activities that are arranged for the elderly.

Good housing for the elderly with access to natural meeting places is important to plan in as the cities grow. Already seeing how life rolls on is valuable for those who have difficulty getting out on their own. It reduces the feeling of being isolated.





[Download the final project report of "Geographies of age"](#)



Why Public Space Matters

RESEARCHER

Setha Low



The project's mission for funding was to write a book on "Why Public Space Matters." The goal was to articulate the Center for the Future of Places (CFP) goals by examining the impact of public space on social justice in the city. I was guided by the following principle, *Cities for All*.





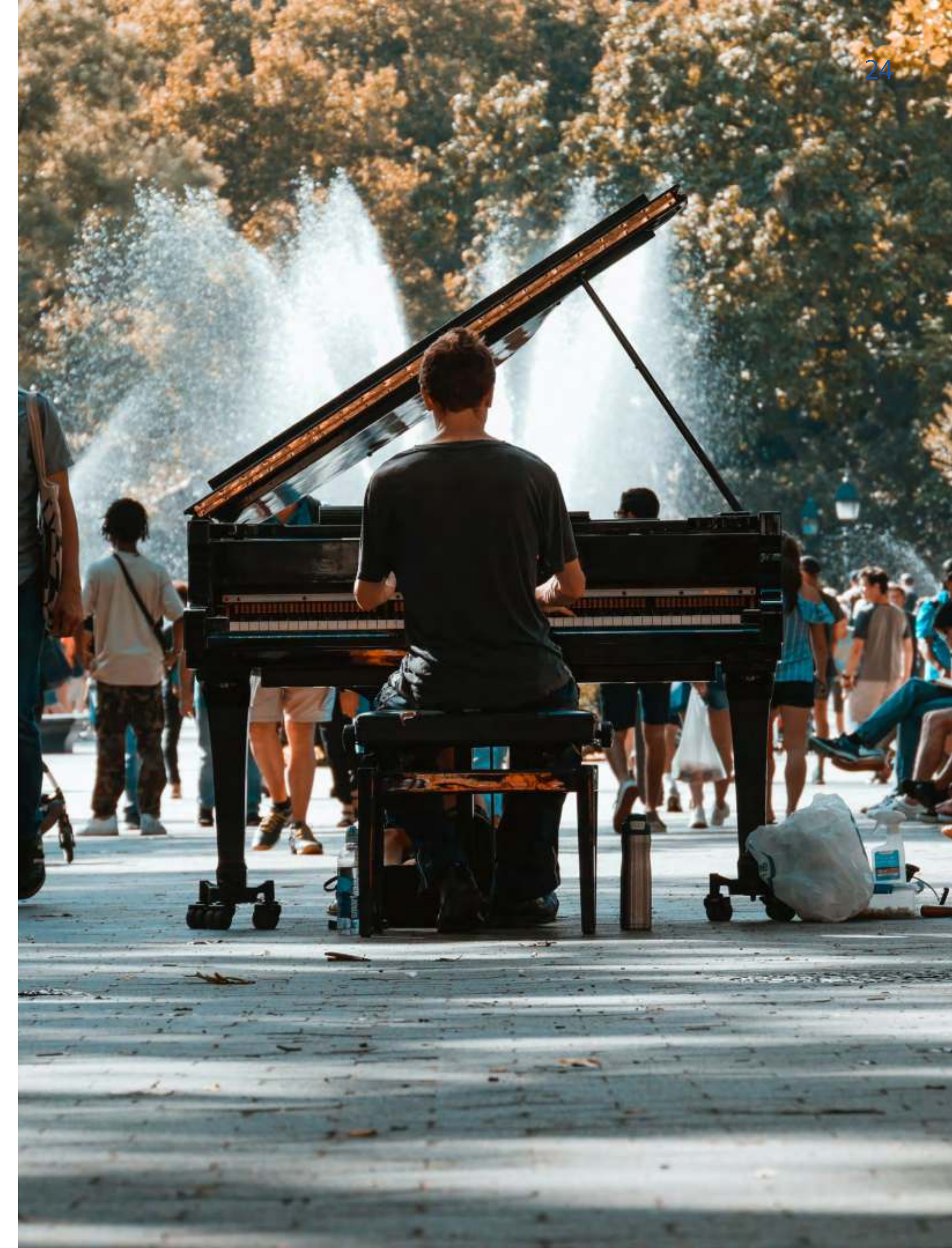
Cities for All! *Is there a right to the city?* How can cities become more inclusive, convivial, just, democratic and progressive places that embrace cultural pluralism and diversity of people as a hallmark of sustainable development? How does the structure and management of public space contribute to, or inhibit, that process?

Further, although the New Urban Agenda recognizes the importance and role of public spaces in cities, it does not yet give a clear articulation of what public space actually means or how it functions. Thus, it seemed critical to articulate a written vision that capture the essence of an equitable, human-centered urbanism.

The premise, then, of “Why Public Space Matters” is that public space is a design/set of social relations/infrastructure that can transform cities by offering a diversity of users an inclusive and ideally welcoming place to be in the city. I was concerned that the emphasis of “public spaces are drivers of prosperity” that is promoted by the Project for Public Spaces does not critically examine the increasing privatization and securitization of the public realm much less the increasing inequality and social injustice visible in cities both in the Global North and South.

The majority of my 2020-2021 activity was researching, archiving, organizing the vast literature on public space, identifying the most important aspects of public space and social justice and complete the writing of a book that would appeal to a broader public. I have hired an editor to be sure it is readable as well as obtained a contract from Oxford University for publication. The book will be submitted January 2022 and be published the same year.

Under the rubric of the Center for the Future of Places I have also been giving a series of public space related presentations on zoom and completed articles and chapters on the relationship of COVID and public space.





The Journal of Public Space Producing public knowledge on public space

RESEARCHER

Luisa Bravo



The Journal of Public Space

In 2019 KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Centre for the Future of Places entered into an agreement with City Space Architecture, a non-profit organization based in Bologna, Italy, and became a key partner of The Journal of Public Space, established by City Space Architecture in partnership with UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. The Journal of Public Space is registered in Italy with ISSN 2206-9658, and it is published by City Space Architecture.



The Journal of Public Space

www.journalpublicspace.org



The first issue was launched at Habitat III, the United Nations conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, held in Quito, Ecuador (2016).

Expanding current scholarship on public space

The Journal of Public Space is the first-ever open access, academic, interdisciplinary journal entirely dedicated to public space, it has been conceived and initiated by Dr Luisa Bravo, the Founder and President of City Space Architecture and a guest researcher at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Centre for the Future of Places, who is leading the journal as Editor in Chief and Journal Manager.

Established on a well-consolidated global network of scholars and professionals, The Journal of Public Space is committed to expand current scholarship by offering a global perspective and providing the opportunity for unheard countries to speak up and to discuss neglected as well as emerging topics that are usually side-lined in mainstream knowledge. The Journal of Public Space is addressing social sciences and humanities as a major field and is interested also in attracting scholars from other disciplines. [Author guidelines.](#)

As a proper public space, The Journal of Public Space is free, accessible, and inclusive, providing a platform for emerging and consolidated researchers; it is intended to foster research, showcase best practices, and inform discussion about the more and more important issues related to public spaces in our changing and evolving societies.

Research excellence

A double-blind peer review process, based on a distinguished board of editors and editorial advisors, ensures the quality and high standards of research papers.

The Journal of Public Space aligns itself with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) best practice guidelines for dealing with ethical issues in journal publishing and has adopted the COPE guidelines which the journal members (Scientific Board, Advisory Boards, Editorial Board and the Journal Manager) have agreed meet the purposes and objectives of the Journal. [Publication ethics.](#)

Open access policy

The Journal of Public Space provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge. The Journal of Public Space does not require authors to pay any article processing charges (APCs) when submitting an article for possible publication, so it qualifies as a Diamond Open Access Journal.

The Journal of Public Space is published through Open Journal Systems (OJS) as part of the [Public Knowledge Project \(PKP\)](#).

Research production and dissemination

In 2020 and 2021 KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Centre for the Future of Places contributed to the production and dissemination of seven issues of The Journal of Public





Space and the publication of more than 120 peer-reviewed articles and has also supported the process of engagement of qualified academic scholars for the double-blind peer review, together with high-level professionals from UN-Habitat. Dr Tigran Haas provided academic guidance as a member of the Strategic Advisory Board and of the Scientific Board, and as part of the Editorial Team.

Global impact at the 10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi
In 2020, The Journal of Public Space was showcased at the 10th World Urban Forum (WUF10) in the exhibition space managed by City Space Architecture (the publisher), and developed in cooperation with 16 global institutions, including KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Centre for the Future of Places.

The Journal of Public Space and City Space Architecture have been included in the Abu Dhabi declared actions, the official outcome of WUF10 to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: they made a commitment to work on universal accessibility, in partnership with World Blind Union and to publish a special issue on universally accessible public spaces for all, be published in 2022 and launched at the 11th World Urban Forum in Katowice. The Abu Dhabi Declared Actions: one year of implementation.

COVID-19 initiative

In 2020, in the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Journal of Public Space launched the online initiative '2020: A Year without Public Space under the COVID-19 Pandemic',

co-developed by City Space Architecture and the School of Architecture at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and supported by KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Centre for the Future of Places. A Year Without Public Space.

As the pandemic was moving across different continents and urban conditions, through this online initiative public space scholars and activists exchanged experiences of care, solidarity, entrepreneurship, academic perspectives, artistic interpretations, and creative practices of human resilience, throughout 20 webinars, from May to September 2020. The initiative engaged more than 100 speakers globally, including representatives from UN-Habitat, and more than 2700 registered attendees from over 80 countries. It culminated in a two-day online symposium in November 2020, hosted by The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Post COVID-19 public space: global discussions

In 2021, The Journal of Public Space has promoted a series of webinars and talks on the post COVID-19 public space, supported by KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Centre for the Future of Places, aimed at global outreach and engagement, developed in cooperation with Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) and Project for Public Spaces in the United States, and with Urban Research and Development Center, Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus.





Indexing and impact factor

In 2021 The Journal of Public Space has started the process of indexing in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and in Scopus, for academic recognition, and has submitted an expression of interest to join CLOCCKS for digital preservation.

It has been also included in the list of Diamond Open Access Journals affiliated to the [Project JASPER](#) managed by DOAJ.





Who owns the city

RESEARCHERS

Hans Westlund
Elisabetta Troglia
Jing Jing



“Who owns our cities – and why this urban takeover should concern us all” was the title of a debate article by Saskia Sassen, published in The Guardian, November 24, 2015. In the article she claimed that the “massive foreign and national corporate buying of urban buildings and land that took off after the 2008 crisis signal an emergent new phase in major cities” and that “we are seeing a systemic transformation in the pattern of land ownership in cities: one that alters the historic meaning of the city”.





Sassen means that the corporate overtake of buildings and whole blocks, destruction of functional neighborhoods and replacing them with luxury offices and luxury apartments is a threat to the diverse, complex and incomplete system we call cities. In fact, even if such a development means a densification of the city, it also means a de-urbanization when diversity is replaced with a rectified, homogeneous culture of the new global gentry.

Sassens article was an important source of inspiration for the project “Who own the city” at KTH’s Center for the Future of Places”. The project started in the spring of 2017. Twelve focus areas were identified at the beginning of the project (April 2017) with the intent to investigate differences in the ownership structure in central and suburban areas of Stockholm;

The chosen districts are characterized by distinct urban structures as followed by the planning ideals and social-economic conditions from which they generated. Homogeneous residential districts with large plot size and few owners (Tensta, Rinkeby, and Bagarmossen), dense urban areas with both large and small plot size and various ownership constellations (Södra Kungsholmen, Fleminggatan, Odengatan, Norrmalm, Karlavägen, Hornsgatan, and Götgatan/Sofa), new infill projects and large plot sizes (Västra Kungsholmen, and Västra Liljeholmen).





The project focused on creating a database (shapefile) with relevant information on the real estate ownership – such as ownership, mother company, nationality, transaction year – and relevant physical data – such as plot size, total built area and main functions.

SNI codes for both mother and daughter companies are included in order to give a better overview on the type of companies investing in the Real Estate of Stockholm city.

Research and staff

The project has resulted in one publication, a book chapter that scrutinized ownership changes in Norrmalm over time. A conclusion was that foreign buyers so far still own just a small fraction of the real estate in Norrmalm. The project was staffed by a few part-timers on 10 – 20%: Hans Westlund (Project leader), Elisabetta Troglia and Jing Jing. Due to lack of resources, the work in the project ceased during 2019.





Urban Backstages – Cooperation with Theatrum Mundi

RESEARCHER

Elahe Karimnia



Urban Backstages is a research project that focuses on the design and provision of infrastructures for cultural production in four European cities – London, Paris, Glasgow and Marseille – taking the form of a detailed case-study led publication and set of propositional design and planning tools for city-makers.



Saskia Sassen and Richard Sennett of Theatrum Mundi





The project follows ethnography methodology including different instances of purpose built and adapted cultural infrastructure. In each place [case study] we documented the design, management, funding, activities they support, and the extra-economic values they produce for their surroundings, and the kind of urban fabric they are situated. The data collection and documentation for London and Glasgow case studies have been completed and this process is followed up for Paris and Marseille during 2020. In London and Glasgow 40 interviews were conducted, and 27 interviews were selected for use on the database. We also used other methods such as document analysis, including policy document, planning proposals, and newspaper articles. Recently, we tried a participatory method through an exchange programme between Glasgow and Marseille [3 days in each city and involving 8 actors in total] to analyse and compare different concepts and models of cultural infrastructure in each city through a series of visits, conversations and a workshop.

Our recent approach for sharing the research can be summarised in three innovative formats we took:

1. With the help of professional graphic and interaction design studio, we have started a brand new and innovative way to bring data together and created a database to archive and structure our data. The outcome also encompasses visualisation of data and the complex relationships between them. The database has been completed for London Glasgow, Marseille and Paris in 2020.

2. We have decided to move our approach to writing up the research on from producing one major report for each city, to producing a wider range of articles and mini-publications, allowing us to focus on specific questions. We have upcoming articles with MONU, Faktor, and Lo Squaderno journals, as well as existing mini-publications on extra case studies in London and Buenos Aires.
3. We created an ethnographic short film to present the results of London case studies, exhibited in our exhibitions in Glasgow and Buenos Aires, and received really well by different range of audience. Our goal is to use this approach for other case studies and to make a film of the whole project including all four cities/case studies.

[Download the case study “Benign Neglect”](#)

[Download the Fieldwork Journal #1: London](#)

[Read more about Theatrum Mundi](#)





Urban densification and housing development for whom? A critical investigation of local sustainability and placemaking in London and Stockholm

RESEARCHER

Catalina Turcu



Recent studies discuss at length the extent of the current housing crisis in cities such as London and Stockholm. The densification of core areas and new housing development have been earmarked by both cities as solutions to this problem, alongside sustainability and placemaking commitments to deliver sustainable housing as well as socially vibrant communities. Emerging evidence, however, points to the contrary: the sustainability and placemaking agendas are employed by both cities as a ‘veiled declaration’ for property-led development, which in turn can lead to segregation, gentrification and urban inequality.



Our study adds to this body of evidence and aims to advance debates on densification and housing. More specifically, it contributes to critical debates on how sustainability and placemaking are delivered at the local level, especially in relation to housing urban vulnerable groups such as social tenants in London and immigrants in Stockholm.

Two research questions are posed: 1. What type of housing is delivered through urban densification projects? 2. How do sustainability and placemaking agendas shape housing delivery? Conceptually, the project draws on a relational understanding of urban density whereby the material, social and political aspects of densification are contingent to each other and shaped by a continually unfolding locality (Kytta et al 2016; McFarlane 2015; Kjærås 2020). Methodologically, I draw on case study research design, secondary analysis of data and semi-structured interviews with urban stakeholders. The case studies are examined: Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London and Royal Seaport in Stockholm. They are both flagship large-scale regeneration projects developed on brownfield industrial land and heralding high sustainability and placemaking claims. Our study finds that both cities face major challenges in housing the poorest at these two cases. This can be explained by the city approach to spatial densification, housing affordability and sustainability.

London and Stockholm have clearly laid-out top-down plans underpinning spatial development: London focuses on inward brownfield densification to preserve the Green Belt which contains sprawl, while Stockholm deploys a growth strategy





which relies on polycentricity integrated with ‘green wedge’ control. The spatial strategies are dominated by elements which reflect the environmental dimension of sustainability and rely on objective measures of density such as the Density Matrix, Density Minimum Standards in London, and population and job density, and transit proximity in Stockholm. There is little overall consideration for subjective measures of density, however, this seems to change in Stockholm which is shifting discourse towards ‘perceived density’, a nod to social sustainability and a growing ethnically diverse population in recent years.

The production of affordable housing (social housing in London and rental housing in Stockholm) is problematic in both cities. London’s social housing is hindered by the scarcity of vacant land which has caused only ‘gentle’ densification and brownfield redevelopment at a very slow pace. In Stockholm, rental housing is burdened by high labour and construction costs which have pushed immigrants to the ‘outskirts’ or ‘less expensive areas.’ Urban densification is deployed as a mechanism to tackle London’s housing shortage, while in Stockholm has a more strategic claim and harbours an urban expansion agenda. The study’s final findings will be published in the *Journal of Housing Studies* and *Journal of Urbanism*.





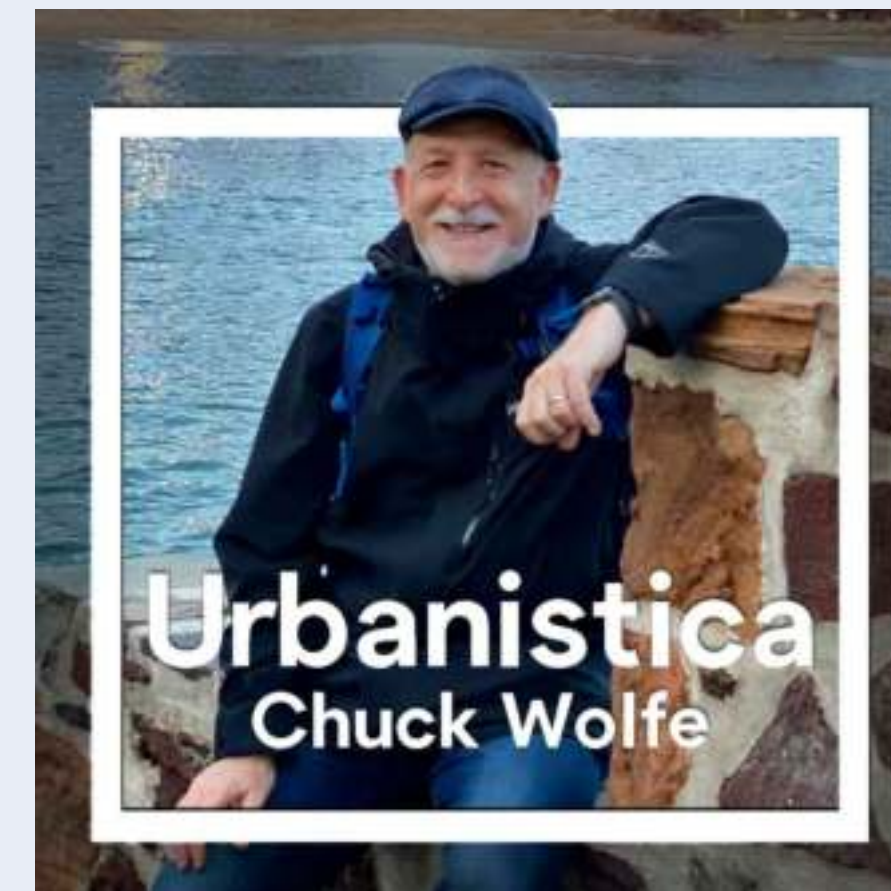
Sustaining a City's Culture and Character

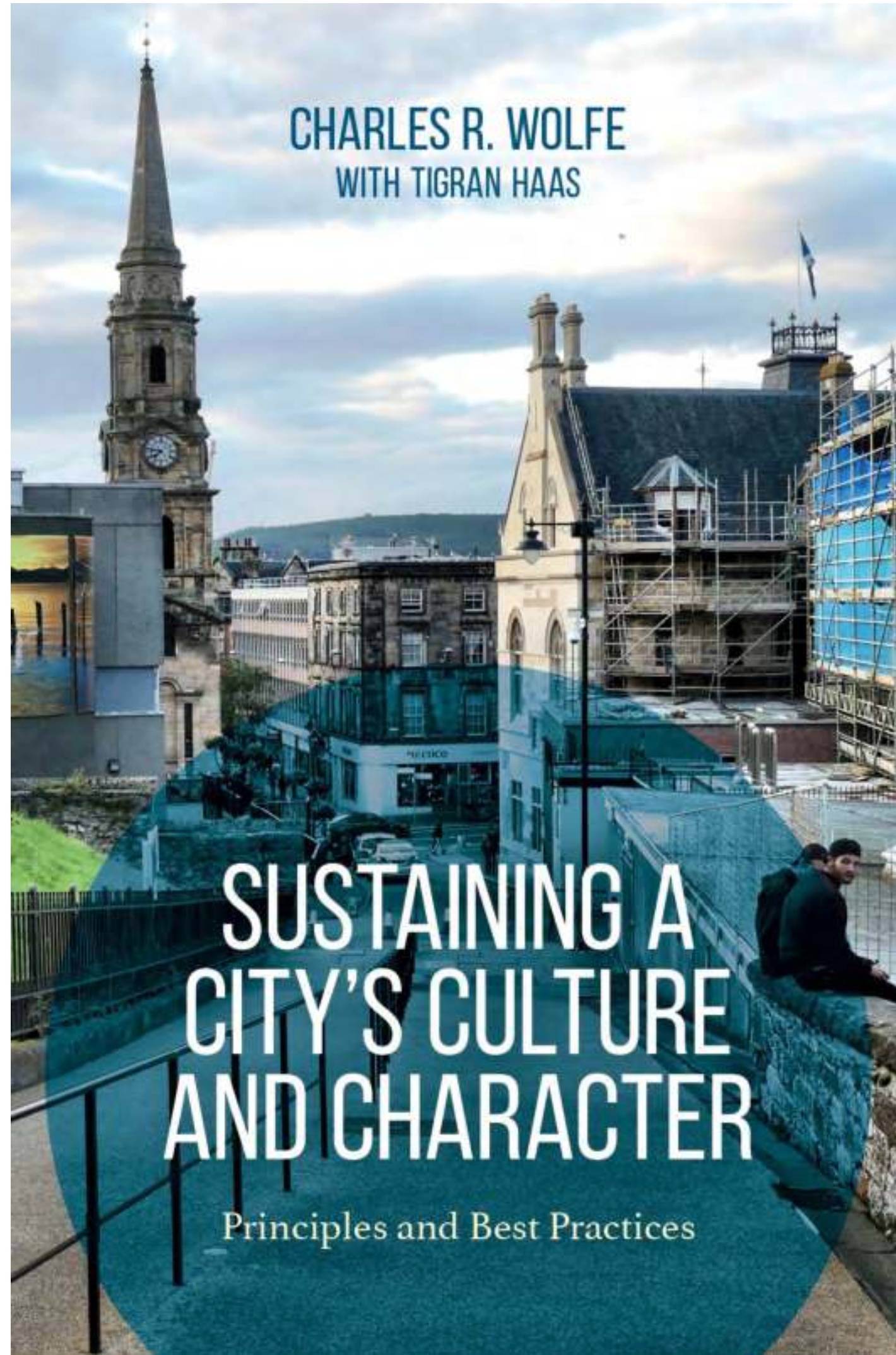
RESEARCHER

Chuck Wolfe



The book “Sustaining a City’s Culture and Character” (American release, February 22, 2021, UK and European release, Spring 2021) focuses on how to understand the innate identity of an urban place. The book provides a catalogue of techniques that emphasize “bottom up,” resident-based input. Such input includes local history, building forms, natural and open spaces, cultural assets and tradition, and related policy, planning, and regulatory examples.





The book has received positive attention during its “release season,” spanning American, Australian, United Kingdom, and European launch dates, and events via Zoom, podcast, radio, print, and online publications.

Books are now readily worldwide at bookstores worldwide, through digital outlets such as Amazon and AmazonUK, or directly from the publisher.

Main activities and media features

Initial book launch activity featured “Place Parts, A Sustaining Place Companion,” comprised of 18 short videos addressing book concepts and approaches—often with live guests—see the Place Parts series elsewhere on this site, and on the Place Parts YouTube Channel

Summer 2020: “LEARNING the City: Beyond the Urban Diary,” The Journal of Public Space

January 6, 2021: Excerpt, “A Farewell to One Size Fits All Urbanism,” CNU Public Square

February 2: Urbanistica Podcast

May 27 and June 1: Features in Cornell AAP “Conversations” and Newsletter, Cornell University Ithaca, NY

June 2: Delphi Conversation V, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm





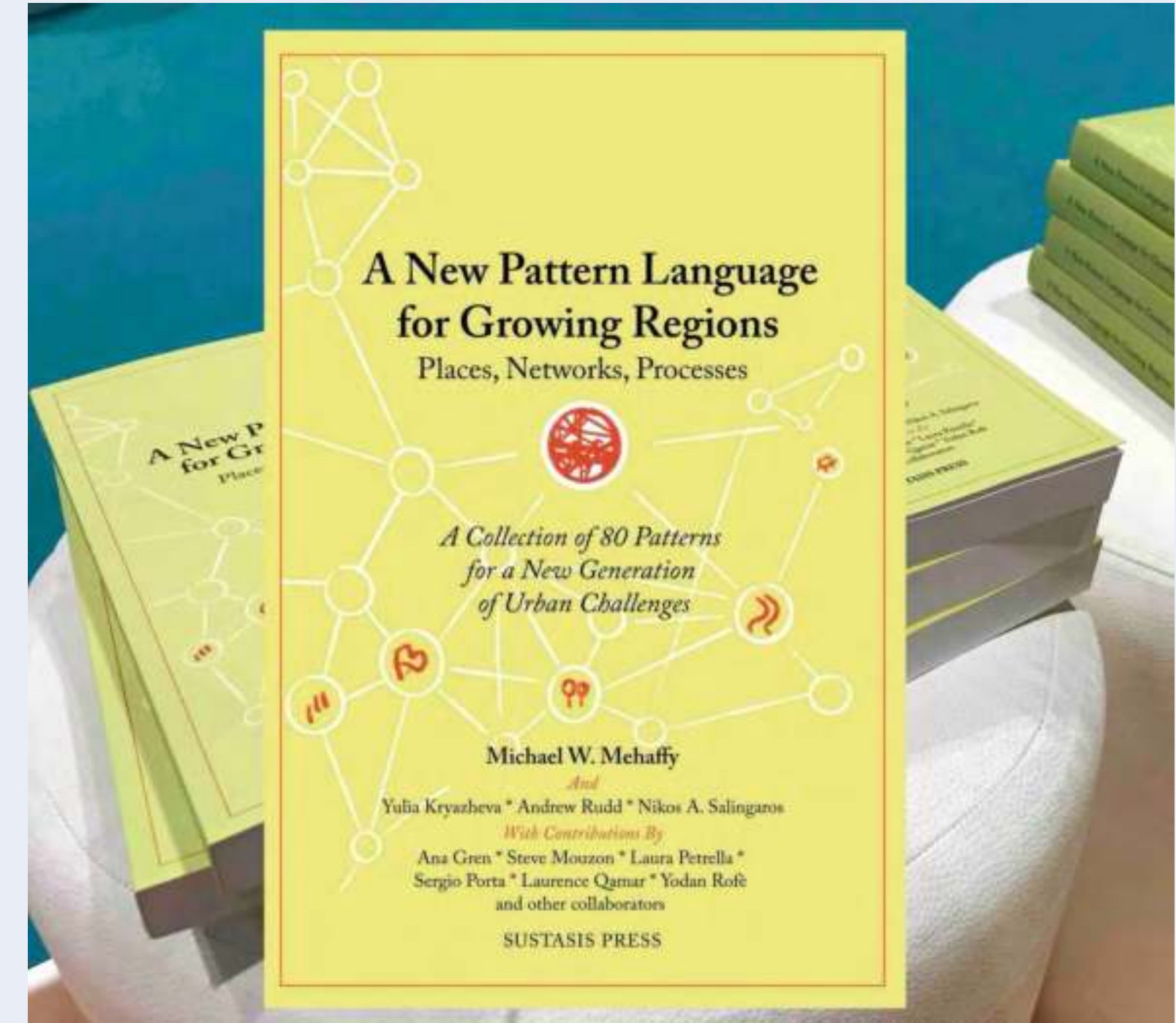
Partnership with UN-Habitat: “Public Space Research into Implementation for the New Urban Agenda”

RESEARCHER

Michael Mehaffy



The Centre for the Future of Places has been working closely with UN-Habitat in a partnership outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2018, and currently being renewed through 2021. The Centre serves as a research hub for implementation of the New Urban Agenda, a framework international agreement adopted with acclamation by all 193 member states of the United Nations, portions of which were developed in part by Centre personnel.





Among the projects:

- 1) publication of books, book chapters, research articles, and edited special issue research journals;
- 2) compilation of a database on public space research;
- 3) development of a white paper of conclusions available on the UN-Habitat website;
- 4) assistance with implementation of pilot projects, including meeting with public officials, civic leaders and the media;
- 5) participation in international conferences and public events, disseminating the Centre's findings;
- 6) further dissemination through websites, videos, and professional articles.

Categories of outreach

The project has had wide impact across many sectors and partners:

- **International Agencies:** Partners and collaborators in events and publications include UN-Habitat, UN Environment Programme, and The World Bank.
- **NGOs:** Partners include HealthBridge (Canada), King Salman Center for Local Governance (Saudi Arabia), and Sustasis Foundation (USA).
- **Academic partners:** The Centre has current or former collaborations with personnel and/or departments at ETH Zurich, TU Vienna, MIT, Harvard, UCL, University of Chicago, University of Newcastle, City University of New York, University of Cincinnati, New College Florida, Ben Gurion University, University of British Columbia, and others.
- **Students:** The Centre's personnel have lectured and presented its work to students at other institutions including Harvard University, Yale University, the University of Chicago, Da Nang University of Technology, Prince Sultan University, Cape Town University, Khalifa University, and others.



Our work with the Centre for the Future of Places has led to an increased understanding among the governments we work with about the importance of public spaces, and the CFP will be instrumental in helping us evaluate and document policy actions that can be applied to other cities and nations.

Kristie Daniel, Program Director for Livable Cities, HealthBridge



Key publications and high-level meetings in 2020–2021

Mehaffy, M., Kryazheva, Y., Rudd, A., Salingaros, N. (2020). A new pattern language for growing regions. Stockholm: KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sustasis Press, and UN-Habitat.

Rudd, A. and Mutai, J. (Eds.) (2020). City-wide public space strategies guide. Nairobi: UN-Habitat with KTH Centre for the Future of Places.

February 2020, World Urban Forum, networking session on “Public Space in the New Urban Agenda: Partnerships for Research and Practice,” Abu Dhabi, UAE.

February 2020, World Urban Forum, networking session on “Public Space in the New Urban Agenda: Partnerships for Research and Practice,” Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Mehaffy, M., Kryazheva, Y., Rudd, A. and Salingaros, N. (2020). A new pattern language for growing regions. (Compilation of best practice standards from the New Urban Agenda.) Stockholm: Centre for the Future of Places, UN-Habitat and Sustasis Press.

Rudd, A. (ed) (2020). City-wide public space strategies: A guidebook for city leaders. Nairobi: UN-Habitat and Centre for the Future of Places.

June 2020, presented webinar session, “Emerging Tools and Strategies for Public-Private Collaboration,” for the “Innovative Development Tools’ webinar by the Urban Maestro managed by UN-Habitat Europe and partners, and funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme, over Zoom.



Our collaboration with the Centre for the Future of Places at KTH has built a lot of understanding and collaborative mechanisms. And I think that process was so fundamental to influence the global thinking on the issue of public space.

Laura Petrella, Head of Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-Habitat





MIT LCAU – KTH CFP Cooperation and Partnership

RESEARCHERS

Alan Berger
Tigran Haas
Sarah Williams



Research / Projects

Centre for the Future of Places with the leadership of Dr Tigran Haas entered an exciting partnership with the Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism (LCAU) at MIT (situated at the world-famous MIT Media Lab and The MIT School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P), Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP). Since its establishment in 2013, the LCAU has sought to define the field of advanced urbanism, integrating research on urban design with processes of urbanization and urban culture to meet the contemporary challenges facing the world's cities.



Drawing on MIT's deep engagement with urban design and planning, architecture, and transportation, the center coordinates multidisciplinary, multifaceted approaches to advance the understanding of cities and propose new forms and systems for urban communities. The partnership was initiated with the Director Professor Alan Berger, professor of landscape architecture and urban design where issues of suburbia, infrastructure development, smart cities and autonomous mobility and ecological resilience as well as transformations in housing were in focus. All these issues were akin to CFP and the development of a coming biennial research program on humanizing Smart Cities and transformative justice in housing and infrastructure development. Dr. Haas is becoming appointed as a Guest Research Scholar at LCAU.

Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic a lot of things were put on hold and ran, more or less, on cold engine. That notwithstanding continued communication and development as well as dissemination of ideas happened as well as strategizing over the broadening of MIT-KTH partnership beyond the Senseable Lab (with Professor Carlo Ratti at the helm) took place. During this period, Dr. Sarah Williams was named the new director of the Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism, an Associate professor of

technology and urban planning to lead LCAU with a research focus on planning, design, construction, and retrofitting of urban environments for the 21st century. Sarah combines her training in data science, urban design and planning, and landscape architecture to create communication strategies that expose urban policy issues to create civic change, what she calls the process of Data Action. LCAU and CFP have the same interest, or an intersecting juncture of fields related to the issues of that brings together the creativity and entrepreneurship of diverse disciplines to reinvent city design and policy. Main elements of LCAU mission are also part of CFPs Mission: commitment to establish a new theoretical and applied research platform to create knowledge that can be used to transform the quality of life throughout the urbanized world via collaborative interdisciplinary research projects, intellectual discourse, and dissemination through leadership forums, conferences, publications, and teaching.

As the two centers look into the future the issues of climate change through equitable resilience frameworks will form a link in developing a joint research project or -and program agenda, but also two living labs of Stockholm and Boston will provide vibrant and transformative incubators for new ideas.





Urban Depth – Strengthening Ties between People and City They Live in

RESEARCHER

Jing Jing





Urban loneliness? An overlooked challenge for sustainable cities

Many cities host an ageing population, and despite technological advances that allow people to connect more easily via a screen (Turkle, 1997), more urban residents today may experience loneliness than ever before. Loneliness, which often associated with depression, recently has gained attention from governments as a critical challenge to human well-being (Holt-Lundstad, 2010) and has led to several new initiatives to address it. In the UK, for example, the Prime Minister launched the government's first loneliness strategy (2018). In Sweden, several organizations have set out special program for elderly to social activities and address the loneliness issue, and last year the district Kungsholmen of Stockholm city piloted a campaign to address elderly loneliness (2018).

Loneliness and social isolation are not new phenomenon, though it might be peaking at a new historic level globally – as it is recognized as a severe threat to public health (Cacioppo, 2018; Miller, 2011; Hawkey, 2010). It is particular acute during the covid-19 pandemic. Three cohorts are identified as social groups who are hit most by the pandemic – older adults 60 years and older, single female aged 19-26, ethnic minority immigrants with lower wage. (Hertz, 2020). Epidemiology studies has firmly established the correlation between social connections, health and longevity (Murthy, 2017; Stessman, et. al., 2010). However, the view on loneliness as a public health issue has not yet begun to be mainstreamed as a public planning challenge

though new learning on the subject suggest that maybe it should be. Recent researches in sociology and psychology have shown neighborhood environment to be an impactful variable effecting loneliness. Higher level of neighborhood satisfaction has been found to correlate to lower level of self-reported loneliness, higher level of sense of belonging and community engagement (Weijs-Perreé, et al., 2015). Transportation studies have found that car ownership is seemingly associated with lower level of self-reported loneliness as it provides flexibility to bring people to travel in between places for social activities (Delmelle, 2013); multiple modes and higher frequency of public transportation are found to correlate to lower level of loneliness (van den Berg, 2011).

These suggest that urban neighborhood environment and transportation aspects are crucial infrastructures relevant to social interactions and social activities, which can impact the different risk levels of experiencing loneliness. However, it is not clear in the existing literature which conditions (physical, social and cultural) of neighborhoods are more likely to facilitate social interactions, bonding and mutual support which in turn may mitigate loneliness and enhance well-being. The research aims to provide initial learnings to fill this gap in the current knowledge.

The study has developed a novel methodology for the inquiry, building upon methods employed before the pandemic, namely multiple sorting tasks (MST) and focus group, and digital MST and walk-along interviews which

developed during 2020. The methodology is proven to be effective in exploring perceptions of public space and its potential for people that are vulnerable to loneliness. The procedure integrates qualitative and quantitative aspects and obviates the challenge of people articulating how they interact with their surroundings, especially being aware of what features of their environment are influencing them. The results reveal the significance of place and in particular public space (perceived by people) in relation to urban loneliness. Two scientific peer-reviewed paper have published, and another two will be produced during 2021/2022.

Jing Jing is a PhD Fellow in the Division of Urban and Regional Studies at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology. She holds both a Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Planning and Design from KTH and also a Master of Art in Environmental Design from HUST Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China. Her current research focuses on the rising phenomenon of urban loneliness and how the design, use and access to public space may impact upon it.



Description of Licentiate project

The Licentiate candidate is Anna-Paula Jonsson. Anna-Paula is an industrial candidate with the Ax:son Johnson Foundation, affiliated with the Centre of the Future of Places. The candidate is two years into her candidacy. Her Licentiate project is carried out at the ABE School, in the Division for Urban and Regional studies (URS), at KTH.

[Watch an interview with Anna-Paula Jonsson \(in Swedish\)](#)

RESEARCHER

Anna Paula Jonsson



The research problem of the Licentiate project concerns Municipal governments' planning for sustainable development of the visitor industry, including both local and international visitors. The research aims to contribute to knowledge of how planning processes conducive to sustainable tourism development are designed and operationalized, and of the underlying principles and ideologies that underpin such planning processes. As part of a broader objective to contribute towards a sense of high quality of life for urban residents, the research objective is ultimately to improve understanding of the conditions in which a growing visitor industry is leveraged to contribute to a city's vision for itself, instead of being an end in its own right.

Background for the research problem

Sustainable tourism development is often associated with a reversal of so called overtourism, increasingly experienced and observed in European heritage cities. Common features of overtourism include overcrowding in public places, local businesses catering increasingly to visitors rather than residents, short-term rental of flats rather than to permanent tenants, and loss of cultural heritage. Generally, the phenomenon implies the idea of undesirable impact from tourism on local culture and economy. This process can elicit strong feelings of discontent among residents (as well as tourists) as it is often associated with a gradual molding of a place vis-à-vis its role as a tourist destination, rather than a locality that serves its residents in their own right.



Some well-known examples where this process can be observed and studied include Barcelona, Amsterdam and Florence. During the last few years, Stockholm is also beginning to see localized cases of overtourism in places such as Gamla Stan and in parts of the Royal National City Park, Djurgården.

The covid-19 pandemic has highlighted another aspect of sustainability, namely undertourism. In this context it is taken to mean a situation where a local economy built on the tourism industry can no longer make ends meet due to decreased tourism demand (as was and is the case in many European destinations since the spring of 2020 and the covid-19 outbreak). It can also refer to a locality which has the potential to leverage tourism development for its own visions of development, but does not.

Research on how to achieve sustainable tourism development - as per the definitions used here - has been produced progressively since the late 1980s. The resulting body of knowledge has in turn been translated into policy recommendations and a comprehensive toolbox of policy instruments for public management of sustainable tourism development. Generally, the features of such recommendations include tight public management across sectors due to tourism's cross-sectoral impact, and the use of measuring instruments for planning such as forecasting of balanced tourism demand in relation to a destination's capacity (planned or existing) to receive visitors. Nonetheless, the dominating approach to tourism development in European destinations has been





market led, and public efforts and funds have been not only separate from broader plans for urban development, but also centered on marketing of the destination with the intent of growing tourism demand independent of available supply.

The research project

Some theories argue that the misalliance between the effective governance features for tourism in many European cities, and those governance features recommended by organizations lobbying for sustainable tourism development (e.g. UN WTO), are due to the underlying governance principles of the government in question. The theory is that in the case of misalliance, the ideology and resulting governance principles are simply not compatible with the recommended governance features for sustainable tourism development. Should such theory be correct, a change in effective governance features can be interpreted to reflect a change in the underlying principles for governance as well.

Recent research has illustrated that some cities now have tourism strategies, and some of these are also incorporating policy instruments with the intention of developing tourism more sustainably (E.g. Paris, Barcelona and Amsterdam). This begs the question of why these developments are emerging now, and whether they are indicators of governance features that align with those recommended by, for example, the UN World Tourism Organization, or of something else. Additionally, it raises questions about what this says about potential changes in the underlying changes in political ideology and governance principles.

To understand the above, the Licentiate project is designed to examine Stockholm, Amsterdam and Vienna to compare strategy documents for tourism development and the corresponding effective governance features. This includes studying the underlying planning processes and how these are designed, as well as the ideology and governance principles that underpin these planning processes. To collect data, interviews have been conducted with planning officials in Stockholm, and additional interviews are planned for Vienna and Amsterdam with stakeholders from relevant organizations in the city administration, tourist organizations and academia.

The main research objectives this project hopes to fulfill include to better understand the underlying ideological features and principles of planning processes that are associated with cases of more socially sustainable tourism development. This understanding can hopefully contribute to development of theory on the governance principles that are in place where tourism develops more sustainably, and how such principles explain the development of planning processes observed to develop tourism.



Publications





Tigran Haas

Publications

Mehaffy, M. and Haas, T. 2020. The Key Factors of Success for Curating Main Streets, Journal of Engineering and Architecture, December 2019, Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 5-17, ISSN: 2334-2986, American Research Institute for Policy Development Peer Reviewed

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Wolfe, R. C. with Haas, T. 2020. Sustaining a City's Culture and Character: Principles and Best Practices, New York & London: Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group (Book) ISBN: 978-1538133248; Peer Reviewed

Haas, T. 2020. Enabling Intragenerational third places as New Incubators of Sociability and Placemaking in Times of Transition. Scholarly Journal of Psychology & Behavioral Science. 4(2)-2020. 418-422 SJPBS (Opinion Article) Peer Reviewed

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Mehaffy, M., Haas, T. and Elmlund, P. 2021. What Still Matters in a City. The COVID-19 Pandemic Offers a "Teachable Moment": Illustrating that Public Spaces Must Simultaneously Connect us, and Protect us too, The Journal of Public Space, 2020 | Vol.5, no.3 ISSN 2206-9658 Peer Reviewed

Kourtit, K., Nijkamp, P. and Haas, T. 2021. The city of opportunity: designing Cities 4 people. IN Neal, P. Z. and Rozenblat, C. (2021) Handbook of Cities and Networks (Research Handbooks in Urban Studies series) Edward Elgar Publishing: Cheltenham Glos, 273-293 Peer Reviewed (ISBN: 978 1 78811 470 7) in PART IV NETWORK PROCESSES WITHIN CITIES.



Setha Low, referred publications and important lectures. 2020–2021

Publications

2021 Plenary Speaker, Social Justice, Culture and Public Space, EDRA, Detroit

2021 Plenary Discussant, Disaster Social Science and COVID-19 in Latin America, University of New Orleans

2021 Keynote Speaker, Creative Place-Making, Kennesaw University,

2021 Keynote Speaker, Tidal Basin and Memorial Parks, Washington, D.C.

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Michael Mehaffy

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Luisa Bravo

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Sarah Williams

Applying machine learning and geolocation techniques to social media data (Twitter) to develop a resource for urban planning S Milusheva, R Marty, G Bedoya, S Williams, E Resor, A Legovini *PloS one* 16 (2), e0244317 2021

Using Public-Private Data to Understand Compliance with Mobility Restrictions in Sierra Leone I Ndubuisi-Obi, Z Ran, Y Li, CA Navalkha, S Williams, L Tsai *Urban Informatics and Future Cities*, 33-49 2021

Data Action: Using Data for Public Good S Williams MIT Press 2020

Can crowdsourcing create the missing crash data? S Milusheva, R Marty, G Bedoya, E Resor, S Williams, A Legovini *Proceedings of the 3rd ACM SIGCAS Conference on Computing and Sustainable* 2020

Jing Jing

Recent Scientific/Popular Publications
2021 Gabauer, A.; Glaser, M.; Christensen, L.; Lehner, J.; Jing, J.; Lundberg, S.

Geographies of Ageing – Hidden Dimension of Care in Stockholm, Zurich and Vienna, in

Gabauer, A.; et al. (edt.) *Care and the City*, Routledge, London, New York. (Book Chapter)

2019 Jing, J.; Canter, D.; Haas, T. *Conceptualizing Public Space Using a Multiple*

Sorting Task–Exploring the Links between Loneliness and Public Space. *Urban Science*. 2019, 3, 107. (Peer Review)

Jing, J. *Micro Urban Renewal - Community Gardens in Shanghai*, in

Danenberg, R.; et al. (eds.) *The City at Eye Level for Kids*, Stipo. (Book Chapter)

2018 Iqbal, A.; Uittenborgaard, C.; Jing, J. *Vem Äger City? Och Spelar Det Någon*

Roll? in *Stockholm City – Stadskultur, demokrati och spekulation*, Sumfundet S:T Eriks Årsbok 2018. (Book Chapter)

Jing, J. *Nordic Cities, in Northern Europe*, CITIC Press, Beijing, ISBN: 978-7-

5086-9117-6, 2018 (in Chinese language) (Book Chapter)

2016 Jing , J. *Built Environment for Children – the Stockholm Experience, Far East*

Press, Shanghai, ISBN: 978-7-5476-1104-3. (in Chinese language) (Book)

2015 Jing, J.; Haas, T. *The Built Environment for Children – Insights from the*

Stockholm Experience. At the 52nd International Making Cities Livable Conference, Bristol,

UK. (Conference paper + oral presentation)



Outreach





The Athena Lecture Series

The Centre for the Future of Places offered a rich series of lectures by internationally recognized scholars in the field of urban sociology, architecture, urban design, urban and city planning and landscape architecture and presented 20 world class female scholars at KTH 2017 – 2021.

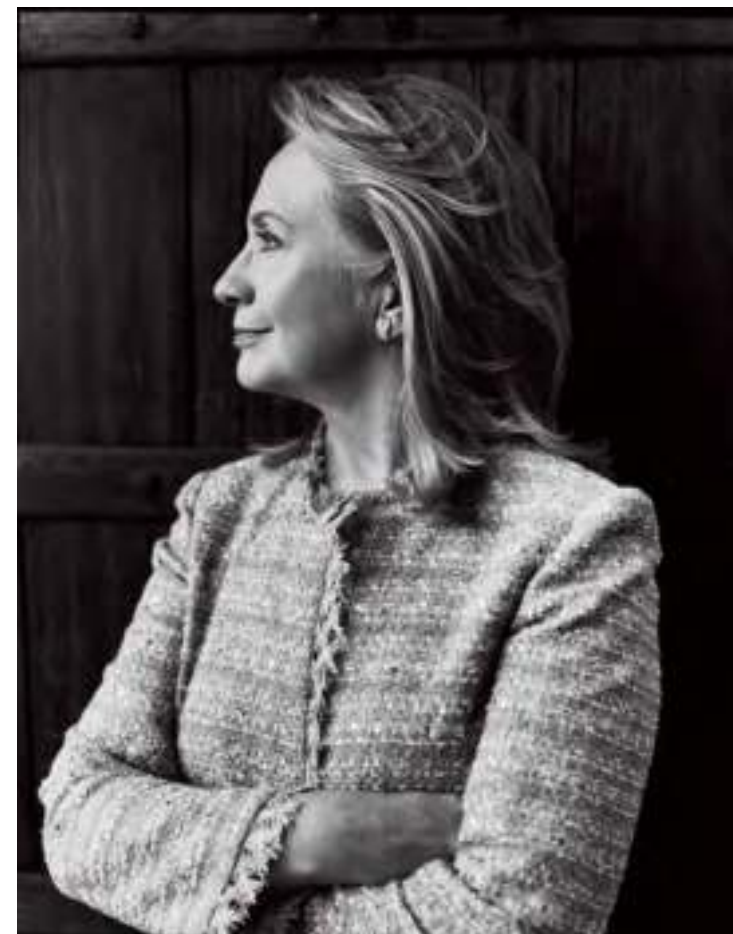




During their visit, the invited guests presented their scholarly and creative research in a public lecture. The lecture was followed by an engaging discussion with the public, led by a moderator. Planned alongside the lectures were often a variety of activities designed to provide students & faculty the opportunity to further engage with the lecturer. During its existence “The Athena Lecture Series” has grown to be a well-known and popular event series among students, researchers and the external public alike. The series has even earned international attention. ETH Zurich decided to adopt the series and arranged their own Athena events in 2020.

“ The Athena Series is one of the most powerful ideas I’ve heard about and I would encourage everyone to read the book when published, particularly if they are interested in women’s perspective on cities...

Hillary Clinton, American politician, diplomat, lawyer, writer, and public speaker



[Watch all episodes of Athena Lecture Series on CFP’s YouTube channel](#)

Athena
Lecture
Series

World
Class
Female
Scholars



Spring 2020
ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE
ETH, D-ARCH



Athena Lecture speakers included:

Christine Boyer Professor of Urbanism and Urban History, Princeton University

Margaret Crawford Professor of Architecture, Urban History and Theory, University of California, Berkeley

Galen Crazz Professor of social and cultural Bases of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley

Dana Cuff Professor of Architecture/ Urban Design and Urban Planning UCLA

Ellen Dunham Jones Professor and Director of Urban Design, Georgia Tech

Nan Ellin Founding Dean of the College of Architecture, Planning & Public Affairs, Arlington

Ann Forsyth Professor of Urban Planning, Harvard University Graduate School of Design

Karen A. Franck Professor of Architecture, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Rachel Kallus Professor, Architecture & Town Planning, Technion Israel Institute of Technology

Setha Low Professor of Environmental Psychology, Anthropology & Women's Studies, University of New York

Susan Fainstein Professor of Urban Planning, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design

Saskia Sassen Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology Columbia University

Emily Talen Professor of Urbanism, University of Chicago, Social Sciences

Fran Tonkiss Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics (LSE)

Sharon Zukin Professor of Sociology and Urban Culture, Brooklyn College New York

Anne Whiston Sprin Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT

Emma Waterton Associate Professor in the Geographies of Heritage, institute for culture & society, western Sydney university

Rachelle Alterman Professor of Urban Planning & Law, Technion Israel Institute of Technology

Nina-Marie Lister Professor of urban and regional planning, Ryerson University Toronto

Anne Vernez Moudon Professor of Urban Design and Planning, University of Washington Seattle





Delphi Conversations

Watch all episodes of Delphi
Conversations on CFP's YouTube
channel

”The Delphi Conversations” series is a combination of urbanism issues that will tackle design and planning for social diversity, i.e. the different ways that public space enables (or hinders) social diversity. The conversations touch upon a bit on the ways that residence-based diversity complicates public space — sometimes successful, sometimes not, also conception of public space and value of public space for cities and residents and finally conversations will turn to how to explore, observe and improve urban spaces, through the art of observational urbanism with special focus on public spaces; all in a free-flowing 1.5h conversation.

During 2020-2021 we arranged the following digital Delphi Conversations:

Delphi Conversations V – Sustaining Culture and Character Inclusively in a Post-Pandemic World

The future of our cities and the urban life has become more hotly debated than ever in the wake of the huge upheaval brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Terms such as authenticity, culture, character, and uniqueness—already contested terms before the pandemic—loom large in creating the form of the evolved, inclusive city. But what do they really mean?

Shannon Nichol, Founding Principal, GGN - Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Seattle, Washington

Dr. Manish Chalana, Associate Professor, Department of Urban Design and Planning, University of Washington, Seattle

Dr. Cara Courage, arts and urban researcher, curator and commentator, London/Brighton, UK

Delphi Conversations VI - Public Space in the New Urban Agenda: Research into Practice

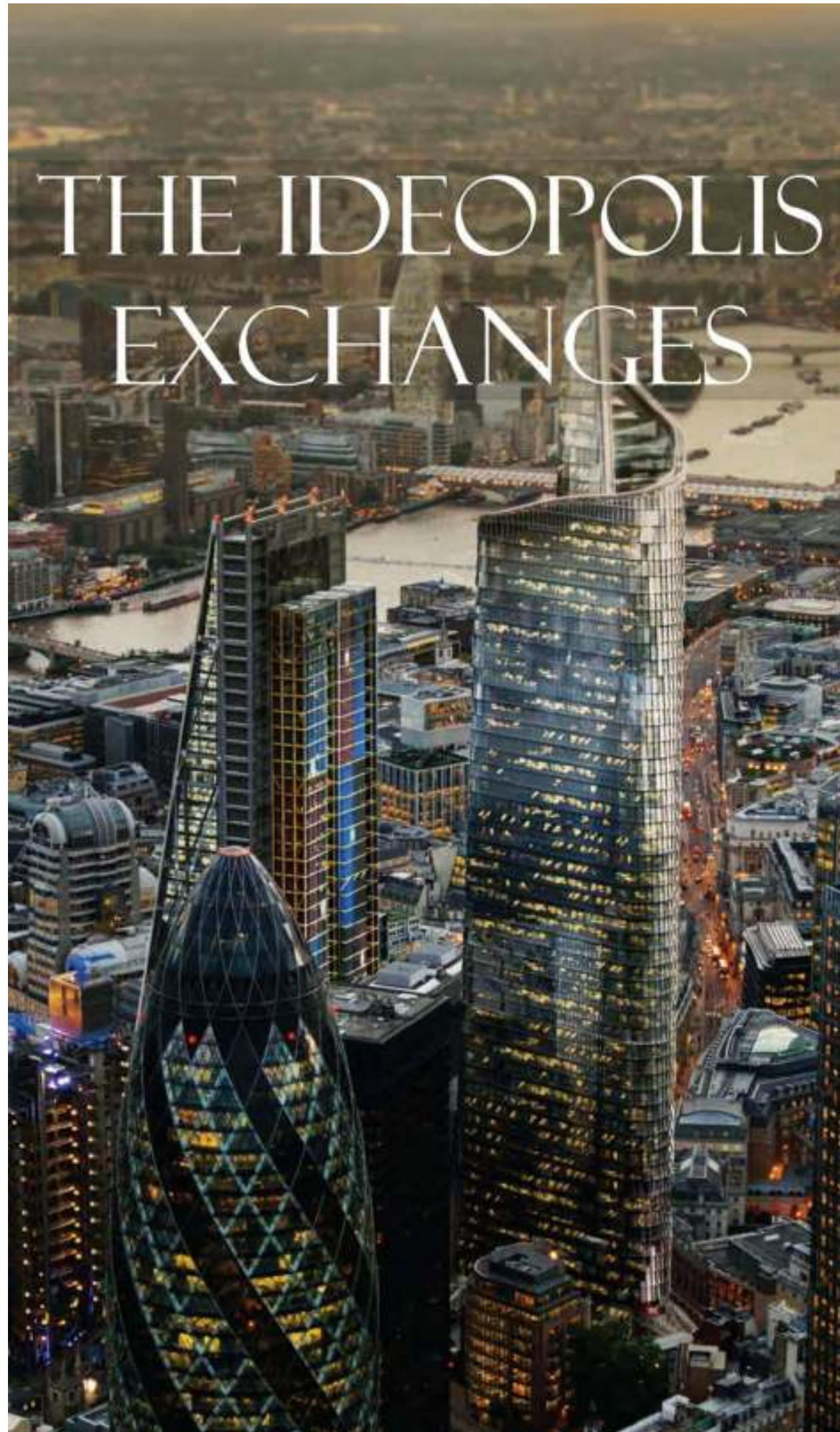
Panelists: David Brain, New college of Florida
Patrick Condon, University of British Columbia
Setha Low, The Graduate School, City University of New York
Shilpa Mehta, University of Cincinnati
Vikas Mehta, University of Cincinnati
Yodan Rofé, Ben Gurion University of the Negev



Ideopolis Exchanges

The Ideopolis exchanges (colloquiums) are academic meetings or seminars led by a different lecturer and on a different topic.

These talks are special in the sense that each of them focuses on a controversial and hard-sensitive topic aimed at empowering the audience through hard talk, to break the conventional boundaries and deconstruct hard issues in a novel way, but promoting an inclusive, enriching culture of dialogue of mutual benefit. The talks were succeeded by a high-level panel of three guests discussing and analyzing the theme.



The Ideopolis Exchanges included among others:
“Science, Biophilia, and the Evolution of Architecture”
– Dr. Nikos Salingaros, University of Texas

Professor Salingaros is the author of six books on architectural and urban design, translated into six languages, and over 120 academic papers. His work emphasizes deriving evidence-based rules for the built environment using scientific methods. His work links human-scale urbanism to developing architectural movements such as P2P Urbanism, the Network City, Biophilic Design, Self-Built Housing, Generative Codes, and Sustainable Architecture. Professor

Salingaros has collaborated with the visionary architect and software pioneer Christopher Alexander, helping to edit the four-volume work on The Nature of Order during its twenty-five-year gestation.

Julian Agyeman: Just Sustainabilities in Policy, Planning and Practice

Just sustainabilities: the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now, and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, whilst living within the limits of supporting ecosystems.

Julian Agyeman is trained initially in Geography and Botany (B.Sc.), Conservation Policy (MA), and finally Urban Studies (Ph.D.). He is better known today as a critical urban planning and environmental social science scholar. His combined science and social science background, together with extensive experience in local government, consulting, working

for, and board-level advising of NGOs and community-based organizations, helps frame his perspectives, research and writing. This allows him to thrive at the borders and intersections of a wide range of knowledges, disciplines and methodologies which he uses in creative and original ways.

Srećko Horvat - Architecture or Apocalypse
Super-rich building bunkers, escaping to New Zealand or sending cars to space, while on the other side refugees escaping wars or climate change. The world seems to be going in a dangerous direction, fake nuclear alarms and possible real nuclear threats lurking from a simple tweet. But what if we should first deconstruct the apocalyptic narrative and what if, instead, we should understand precisely the thinking of the Apocalypse as a possible way out? What if it is Architecture itself that carries a solution to our today's predicament?

Srećko Horvat is a philosopher, author and political activist. The German weekly Der Freitag called him as "one of the most exciting voices of his generation" and he has been described as a "fiery voice of dissent in the Post-Yugoslav landscape". His writing has appeared in The Guardian, Der Spiegel, Newsweek and The New York Times.

[Watch all episodes of Ideopolis Exchanges on CFP's YouTube channel](#)



Cities and Spaces of Urban Life Beyond COVID19

Organized by the KTH Centre for the Future of Places and Oris House of Architecture, Zagreb, part of the festival Days of Oris 21

Slovenian-born political philosopher, cultural critic and one of the leading philosophers of his generation Slavoj Žižek, said in 2012 that:

”...We are faced today with a grave threat, not one solely based on the fact that we don’t have answers to burning problems in society, but even more to the point that we don’t poses a clear apprehension of what the main problems are and clear understanding of their real dimensions...”





How little did he know that those words would resonate so hard and so sounds in the COVID-19 crisis, climate change effortless and endless unwillingness to change and adapt, the injustice and lack of global equity and equality in black lives matter and beyond, the massive rift between rich and poor and the endless expansion of city and metropolitan regions (hyper urbanization) beyond our wildest dreams, and last and not least the Post pandemic world we are entering in terms of major micro, meso and macro changes we are about to engage and enter into. As someone noted well, public spaces are the physical manifestation of the common good and also the mirror and the living indicator of a country's level of culture and civilization.

All of this has to be questioned and valorized under the new life of "newest normality" or "renewal of the old re-normal" after the pandemic has left us for good. As Bjarke Ingels said once, "the city is never completed. It has a beginning but it has no end. It is a work in progress, always waiting for new scenes to be added and new characters to move in". Now that the COVID19 moved in, the issue of micro changes in our households and working spaces through the meso transformations of retail, leisure and everyday public life in city's district and neighborhoods down

to the macro metro, regional and global transformations, will have to be taken into account; nothing will ever be the same in the new "brave" world of digital media and networked society.

Three amazing panels on Themes of: Post-COVID19 Cities & Beyond , Towards Post-Pandemic Spaces and The New Normal "crack open" these afore mentioned issues from micro, meso and macro perspectives through looking at how automation, digitalization and other technological advancements has changed us, how just or unjust our societies are, how the changes of working environments and patterns of everyday life might change forever; can cities be transformed into an expression of the deeper egalitarian dream of our time, or will they end up in a dystopian unjust nightmare of smart(er) cities as another leading philosopher of our time, Srecko Horvat, warns us of; what can (specific) cities do to meet these challenges and can we really reach the level of resilience, adaptation and transformation in the midst of the looming darkness of the climate change crisis that Greta Thunberg constantly warns us about or are we incapable of any changes and we have learned absolutely nothing from COVID-19 crisis? Let's talk!

[Read more about Days of Oris](#)

Panels featuring Saskia Sassen, Julian Agyeman, Edward Glaeser and many more...Moderated by Tigran Haas, Hrvoje Mrduljas and Srecko Horvat...





Urbanistica Podcast

The Center of the Future of the Places had a collaboration during 2020–2021 with Urbanistica Podcast to spread the knowledge of CFP through conversation and storytelling.

Urbanistica Podcast is an international podcast based in Stockholm, Sweden. It's about the making of smarter and more livable cities for people. Urbanistica Podcast has listeners from more than 110+ countries (2021-09-09 statistics). The podcast is available on different podcast applications and also on Youtube.

Mustafa Sherif, an Urban Planner at AFRY, Stockholm, Sweden, is the founder and the host of Urbanistica Podcast. By inviting different researchers from The Center of the Future of the Places they explore together different aspects and challenges of our future cities. In the podcast, Mustafa also gives space for the researchers to share stories from behind the scenes during the research period at CFP.



Here is the list of the episode that is published episodes (the number of the episode, the title and the guest from CFP):

- #219 After the Apocalypse – Srećko Horvat
- #214 Public Space – Vikas Mehta
- #212 A Smart City – Andrew Karvonen
- #198 Why Public Space Matters – Setha Low
- #196 Ground floors – Conrad Kickert
- #188 Exploring a new urbanism book – Michael Mehaffy
- #184 The future of street-based retail – Rosa Danenberg
- #180 KTH & TU Wien Visiting Professorship Program in Urban Studies – Sabine Knierbein
- #173 Sustaining a City’s Culture and Character – Charles Wolfe
- #165 Urbanization and beyond – Tigran Haas



[Listen to all CFP podcast episodes](#)



Athena City Accolade

Athena City Accolade is given by the KTH Centre for the Future of Places to distinguished scholars with substantial body of work that have during the scope of their career expanded, enriched and advanced the field of interdisciplinary knowledge within urbanism studies and beyond.



The CFP Athena City Accolade has been given so far to:

Dr. Setha Low Professor City University of New York
For her outstanding contribution to the field of Anthropology, Space, Place, Ethnography & Qualitative Methodology at CUNY.

Dr. Julian Agyeman Professor Tufts University
For his outstanding contribution to the field of social justice and ecological sustainability, environmental policy and planning at Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts.

Dr. Emily Talen Professor of Urbanism University of Chicago
For her outstanding contribution to the field of urban planning, urban design, geographical sciences and urbanism in general at the Division of Social Science, University of Chicago.

Robert Cervero Professor Emeritus University of California, Berkeley
For his outstanding contribution to the field of urban and regional planning, transport science, sustainable transportation policy and planning and land use planning at the Institute of Urban and Regional Development, UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design.

Richard Florida Professor University of Toronto
For his outstanding contribution to the field of urban economics, city planning and management, urban policy and governance, as well as urbanism in general at the Martin Prosperity Institute at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Folke Snickars, Professor KTH Stockholm, Sweden
For his outstanding contributions to the field of urban and regional studies, urban economic theory and policy, transport studies, metropolitan development, and regional science in general.

Additional Recipients will be Professor Matthew Carmona, Professor Ali Madanipour, Professor Rachele Alterman and Professor Steffen Lehmann



Miscellaneous

CFP Research Affiliate Professor Vikas Mehta met with US Vice President Harris to discuss public space as infrastructure. Professor Mehta pointed out the importance of public space and its social infrastructure, finding strong agreement from the Vice President.

April 30 2021 met US Vice President Kamala Harris with a group of experts on public transit and public space as a key component of an infrastructure package currently proposed by the Biden administration. One of them was Vikas Mehta, Professor of Urbanism at the University of Cincinnati and

Affiliated Researcher at the KTH Centre for the Future of Places. “Good transit equals vibrant communities,” Harris told the roundtable assembled at the University of Cincinnati. “So if we think about it in terms of an investment in public transit, it is an investment in job creation, it is an investment in improving communities, it is an investment increasing access to opportunity.”

Professor Mehta emphasized that the transportation network needs to be seen as including public spaces, including streets and sidewalks.



Watch the roundtable discussion with Vice President Kamala Harris





Book release – Srećko Horvat: After the Apocalypse

As an output of our joint project with author Srećko Horvat, the book "After the Apocalypse" was published in February 2021.

In this post-apocalyptic rollercoaster ride, philosopher Srećko Horvat invites us to explore the Apocalypse in terms of 'revelation' (rather than as the 'end' itself). He argues that the only way to prevent the end – i.e., extinction – is to engage in a close reading of various interconnected threats, such as climate crisis, the nuclear age and the ongoing pandemic. Drawing on the work of neglected philosopher Günther Anders, this book outlines a philosophical approach to deal with what Horvat, borrowing a term from climate science and giving it a theological twist, calls 'eschatological tipping points'. These are no longer just the nuclear age or climate crisis, but their collision, conjoined with various other major threats – not only pandemics, but also the viruses of capitalism and fascism. In his investigation of the future of places such as Chernobyl, the Mediterranean and the Marshall Islands, as well as many others affected by COVID-19, Horvat contends that the 'revelation' appears simple and unprecedented: the alternatives are no longer socialism or barbarism – our only alternatives today are a radical reinvention of the world, or mass extinction.

After the Apocalypse is an urgent call not only to mourn tomorrow's dead today but to struggle for our future while we can.





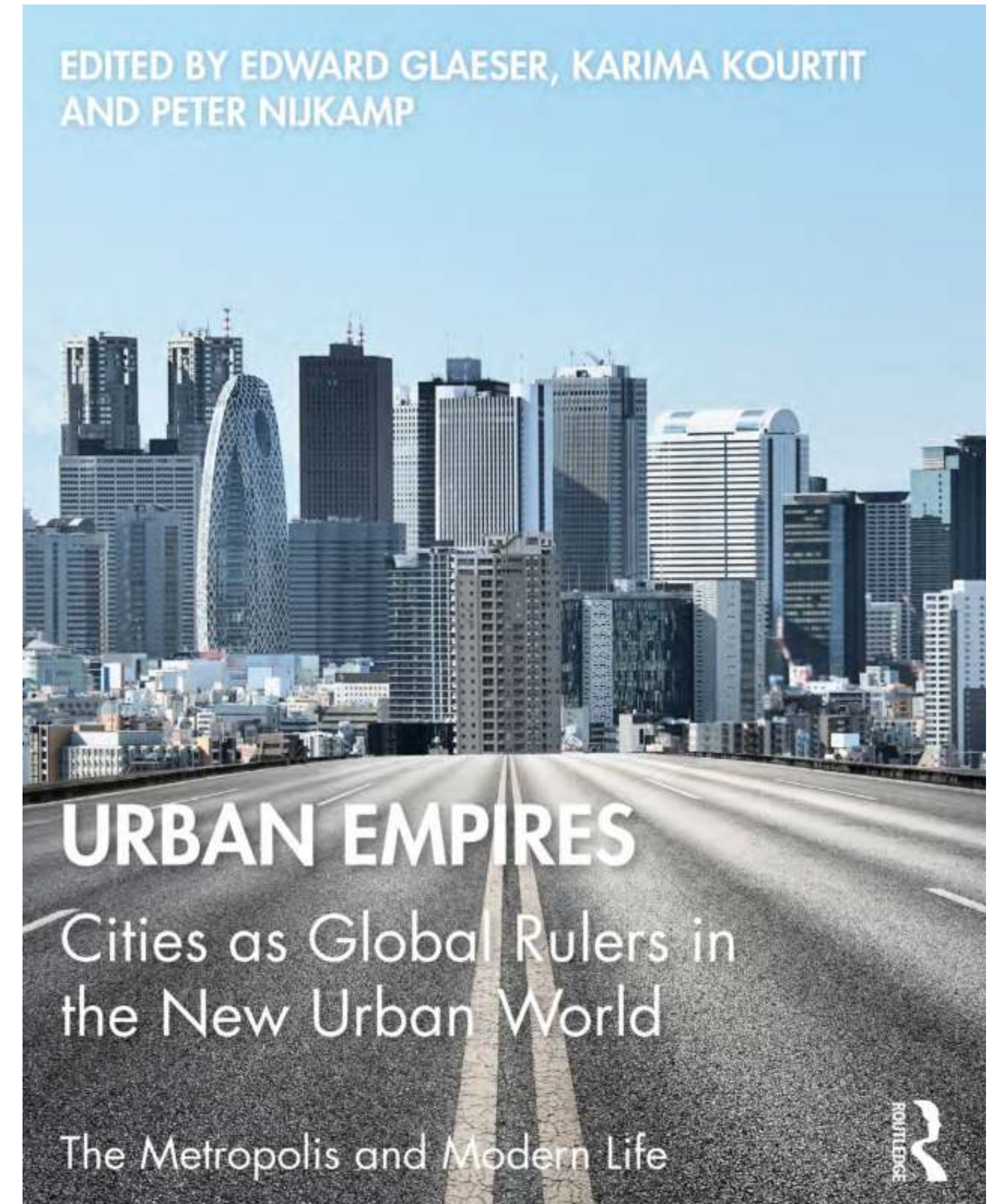
Book release: Urban Empires: Cities as Global Rulers in the New Urban World

This book, published in November 2020 is devoted to 2019 Conference at Harvard University, Cambridge, organized by the Centre for the Future of Places, Harvard University and Regional Science Academy.

We live in the ‘urban century’. Cities all over the world – in both developing and developed countries – display complex evolutionary patterns. Urban Empires charts the backgrounds, mechanisms, drivers, and consequences of these radical changes in our contemporary systems from a global perspective and analyses the dominant position of modern cities in the ‘New Urban World’.

This volume views the drastic change cities have undergone internationally through a broad perspective and considers their emerging roles in our global network society. Chapters from renowned scholars provide advanced analytical contributions, scaling applied and theoretical perspectives on the competitive profile of urban agglomerations in a globalizing world. Together, the volume traces and investigates the economic and political drivers of network cities in a global context and explores the challenges over governance that are presented by mega-cities. It also identifies and maps out the new geography of the emergent ‘urban century’.

With contributions from well-known and influential scholars from around the world, Urban Empires serves as a touchstone for students and researchers keen to explore the scientific and policy needs of cities as they become our age’s global power centers.





”Companion to Public Space” – a new book by CFP guest researcher Vikas Mehta

The Companion to Public Space draws together an outstanding multidisciplinary collection of specially commissioned chapters that offer the state of the art in the intellectual discourse, scholarship, research, and principles of understanding in the construction of public space.

Thematically, the volume crosses disciplinary boundaries and traverses territories to address the philosophical, political, legal, planning, design, and management issues in the social construction of public space. The Companion uniquely assembles important voices from diverse fields of philosophy, political science, geography, anthropology, sociology, urban design and planning, architecture, art, and many more, under one cover. It addresses the complete ecology of the topic to expose the interrelated issues, challenges, and opportunities of public space in the twenty-first century.

The book is primarily intended for scholars and graduate students for whom it will provide an invaluable and up-to-date guide to current thinking across the range of disciplines that converge in the study of public space. The Companion will also be of use to practitioners and public officials who deal with the planning, design, and management of public spaces.

The book was edited by CFP guest researcher Vikas Mehta who is part of the Public Space Database Project and Daniel Palazzo.

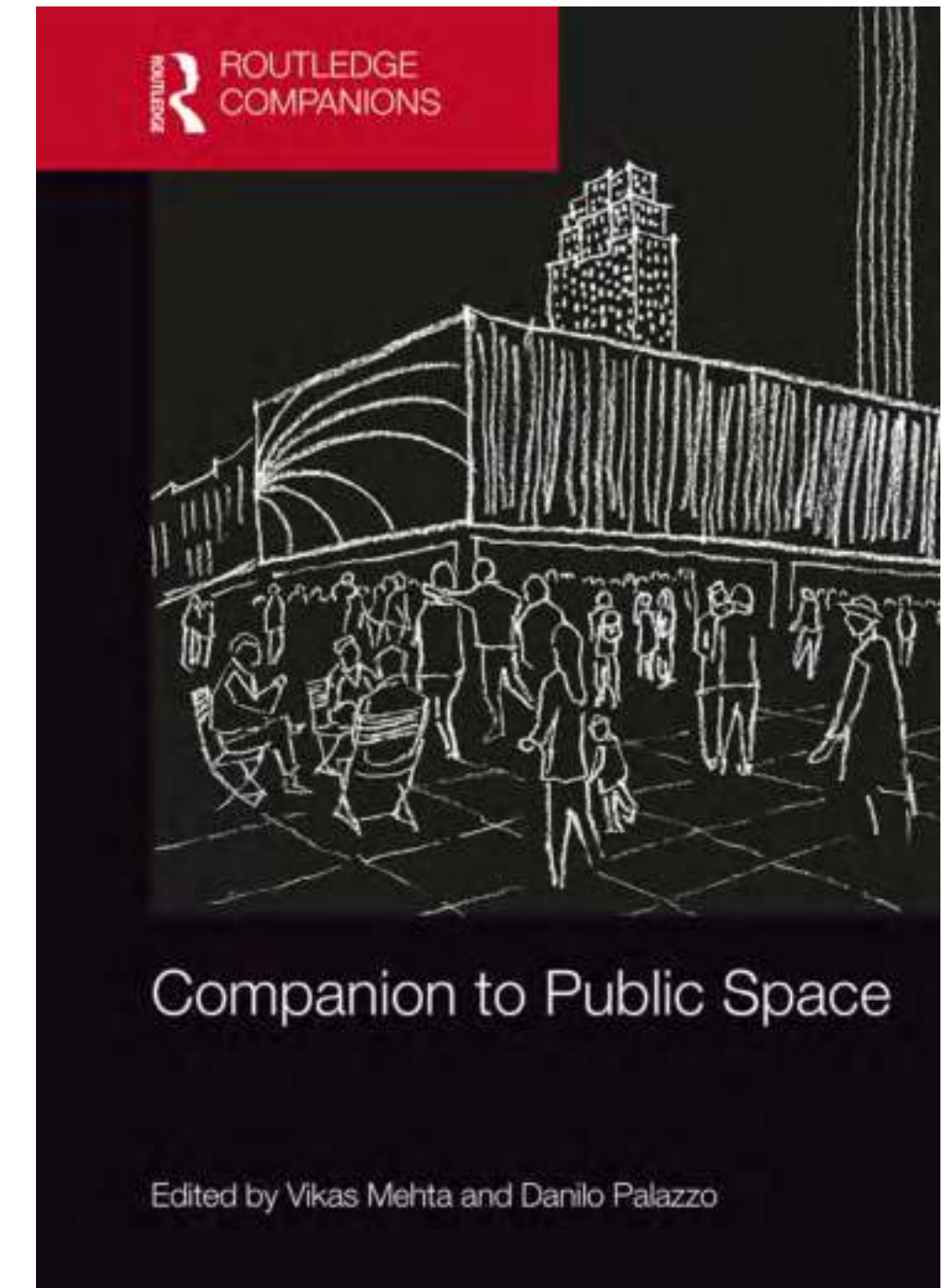
The following CFP researchers are also represented in the book:

- Elahe Karimnia and Tigran Haas – Appropriation of public space: a dialectical approach in designing publicness
- Setha Low – Social justice as a framework for evaluating public space
- Luisa Bravo – Public Space and the New Urban Agenda: fostering a human-centered approach for the future of our cities
- Sabine Knierbein – Public space and the political – reconnecting urban resistance and urban emancipation
- Michael Mehaffy and Peter Elmlund – The private lives of public spaces

How COVID-19 is threatening our health in more ways than one

Our drive-through lifestyles have already fueled a dramatic rise in obesity-related illnesses, and the pandemic could make it worse – or we could do something about it. A blog post by Dr. Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH and Michael Mehaffy Ph.D.

Read the post COVID-19 is threatening our health in more ways than one (livable-cities.org).



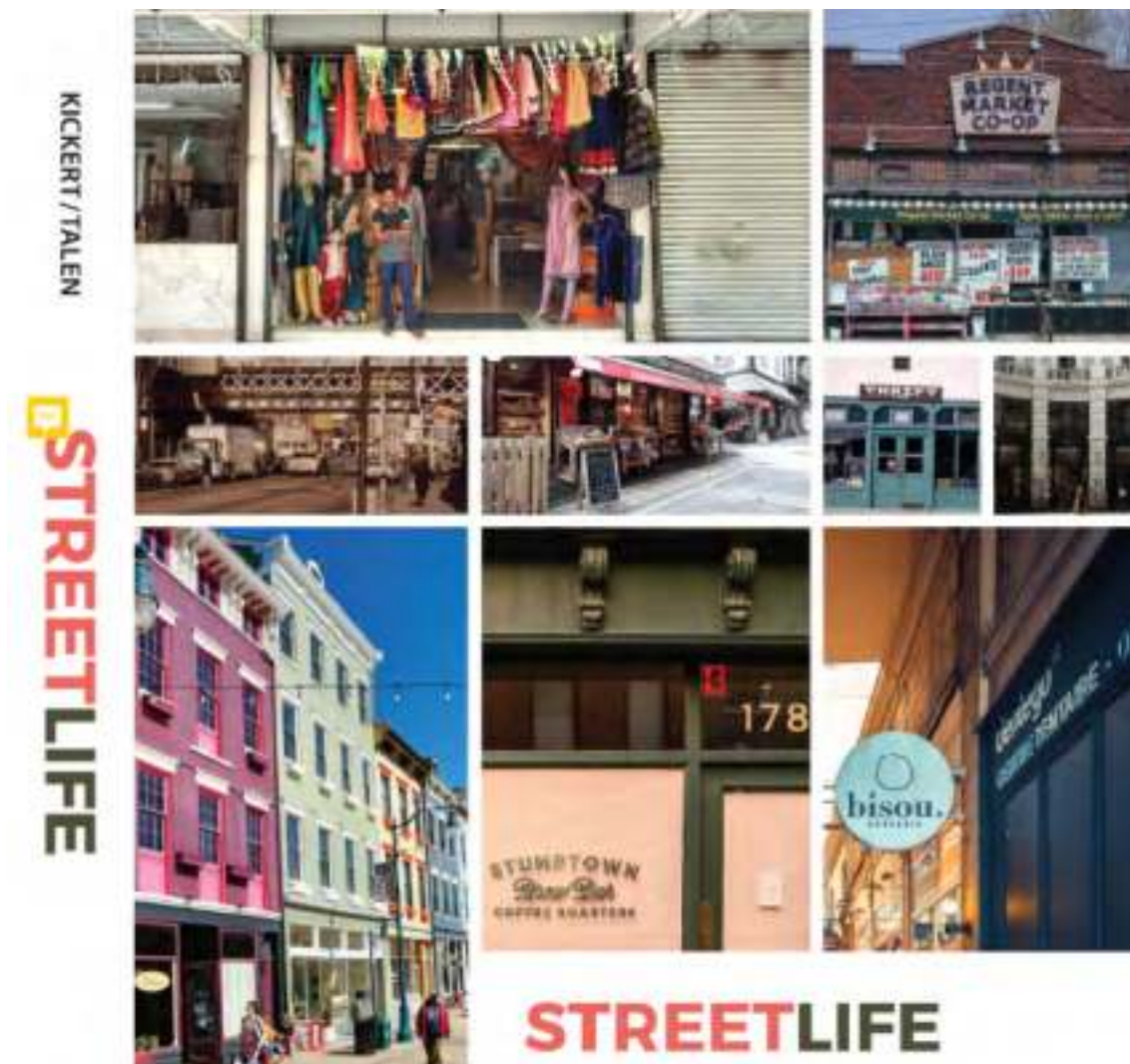
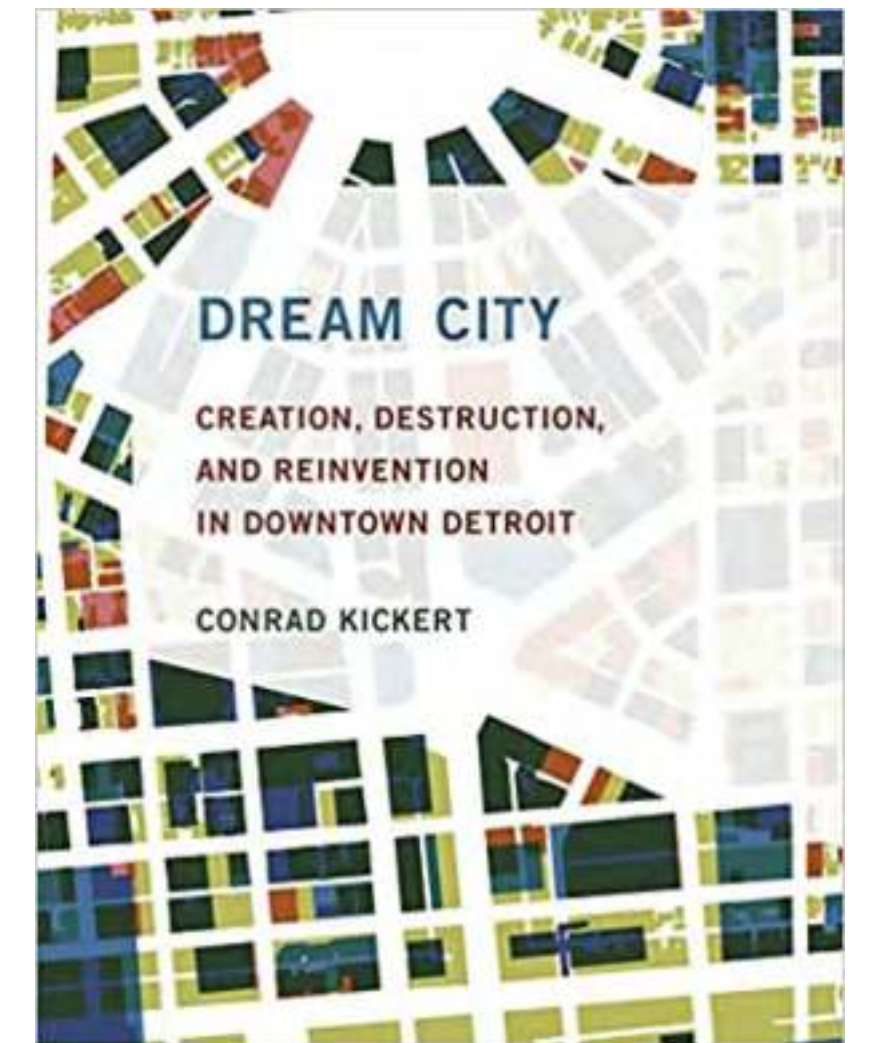


CFP researcher Conrad Kickert won IPHS Prize

We are glad to announce that our guest researcher Conrad Kickert, University of Cincinnati, has won the 2020 IPHS Bosma Prize in Planning History Innovation with his book "Dream City: Creation, Destruction and Reinvention in Downtown Detroit".

The committee finds that the book Dream City – Creation, Destruction and Reinvention in Downtown Detroit is excellent, innovative, and well-deserving of the Bosma Prize. The committee praised your meticulous research that addresses Detroit with the respect, complexity, and depth that the case deserves. Committee members commented on the structural choice of seasonality, and how it further complicates the many fates and cycles of the Downtown and its metropolitan circumstance. The conclusion in particular, "A New Beginning: The Past as the Future," underscores the complexity of conjugating urban pasts (fabric, economy, social groups, politics, etc.) forward.

The Downtown as a locus for a forced chronological recognition demonstrates precisely the hubris, and ensuing crisis, of a Fordist pattern of urban production. The committee also recognizes the additional efforts in grant writing that enabled the high-quality maps and images. They are superb. The work is as insightful as it is challenging, and truly exemplifies the qualities that the Bosma Prize celebrates.





Awards

The Centre for the Future of Places was honored to receive a number of awards in 2020–2021. The following collage highlights a few of those.





Governance and Staff





The following people contributed to the work of The Centre for the Future of Places in 2020 and 2021



TIGRAN HAAS
Director Associate Professor of
Urban Planning and Urban Design, KTH



MICHAEL MEHAFFY
Senior researcher Urbanist,
Architectural theorist, Urban
philosopher



HANS WESTLUND
Researcher Professor in Urban and
Regional Studies, KTH



STEFAN LUNDBERG
Researcher Associate Professor KTH



ELISABETTA TROGLIO,
Researcher Urban and
Regional Studies, KTH



LUISA BRAVO,
Guest researcher,
UN-Habitat



DAVID BRAIN,
Guest researcher, professor
New College of Florida



MARIE ANTOINETTE GLASER
Guest researcher ETH
Wohnforum



SETHA LOW
Guest researcher Professor
The Graduate Center, CUNY



CHUCK WOLFE
Guest researcher
Urbanism consultant, Author



ELAHE KARIMNIA
Guest researcher, associate
Theatrum Mundi



ALAN BERGER,
Guest researcher,
Professor MIT



SABINE KNIERBEIN
Guest researcher Professor,
TU Wien



CONRAD KICKERT
Guest researcher University
of Cincinnati



VIKAS MEHTA
Guest researcher Associate
Professor, University of Cincinnati



ANNA-PAULA JONSSON
Industrial PhD Fellow Urban and
Regional Studies, KTH



SARAH WILLIAMS
Guest researcher Associate
Professor, MIT



ROSA DANENBERG
PhD Fellow Urban and Regional
Studies, KTH



JING JING
PhD Fellow Urban and
Regional Studies, KTH



MORGANE SCHWAB
Research assistant
Ax:son Johnson Foundation



CATALINA TURCU
Guest researcher UCL Bartlett,
London



MARTA MARKO TISCH
Communications manager, KTH



KEVIN BILLINGHURST
Senior editor, media production
KTH



JUAN GRAFEUILLE
Financial officer KTH



THERESE GELLERSTEDT
Administrator KTH



SUSAN HELLSTRÖM
Administrator KTH



Steering Committee

The activities of Centre for the Future of Places is led by a steering committee with an advisory function. The steering committee promotes the common interests of the parties. The steering committee consists of five members who agreed to participate in the work of the steering committee and are listed below:

Chair:

SOFIA RUDBECK – MSc in Engineering, Lund Institute of Technology, SVP Marketing and Sales at Bonava, a leading housing developer in Northern Europe

KTH representatives:

PROFESSOR MATS WILHELMSSON, PhD., Vice Dean of the School of Architecture and the Built Environment at KTH

MARIA HÅKANSSON – Architect SAR/ MSA, is a University Lecturer and Senior Researcher at KTH School of Architecture, the Architecture Technology division and Former Director of Center for Sustainable Communication

Axel and Margaret Ax: son Johnsons Foundation representatives:

DR. PETER LUTHERSSON – docent in Literature Science, Uppsala University, former Main Culture Editor in Svenska Dagbladet and the Director of Atlantis Publishing House

PETER ELMLUND – BSc in Economics, Lund University, Director of Urban City Research and FOP Forum and former Vice President of Axess Publishing

Advisory Group

The Centre for the Future of Places has an Advisory Group which consists of some of today's leading urban academic luminaries:

- Professor Manuel Castells UC Berkeley and University of Barcelona
- Professor Saskia Sassen Columbia University
- Professor Edward Glaeser Harvard University
- Professor Rahul Mehrotra, GSD Harvard • Professor Fran Tonkiss, London School of Economics LSE Cities
- Professor Richard Florida University of Toronto

Academic Board

The Centre for the Future of Places Academic Board consists of eight global academics and leading experts in the field:

- Professor Emily Talen, Chicago University
- Professor Setha Low, CUNY
- Professor Matthew Carmona, UCL Bartlett, London
- Professor Julian Agyeman, Tufts University • Professor Neema Kudva, Cornell University
- Professor Ali Madanipour Newcastle University
- Professor David Gouverneur, UPENN
- Professor David Canter University of Liverpool
- Professor Fulong Wu UCL Bartlett, London
- Professor Hubert Klumpner, ETH, Zurich
- Professor Alan Berger, MIT

Affiliates

- Professor David Canter, University of Liverpool
- Professor Emily Talen, University of Chicago
- Professor Setha Low, City University of New York
- Professor Margaret Crawford, University of California, Berkeley
- Professor Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, University of Miami
- Professor Timothy Beatley, University of Virginia
- Professor Steffen Lehman, University of Portsmouth
- Professor Julian Agyeman, Tufts University, Boston
- Professor Margrit Hugentobler, ETH Zürich
- Professor Mahyar Arefi, University of Texas, Arlington
- Professor Robert Cervero, University of California, Berkeley
- Professor Alfredo Brillembourg, ETH Zürich
- Professor Ali Madanipour, Newcastle University
- Professor Aseem Inam, Cardiff University
- Professor Sasha Tsenkova, University of Calgary

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