



The Swedish School of Planning
Blekinge Institute of Technology
Karlskrona, Sweden

Call for abstracts 12-14 November, 2014

On November 2013, The Swedish School of Planning organized an International Seminar on the theme of “Planning for Sustainable Urban Form”. The seminar gathered about 30 participants, from different countries, representing a broad disciplinary field, ranging from planning to architecture. The meeting was successful in providing a forum to debate on sustainability with focus on planning and urban form, and an opportunity for PhD-students to meet with senior researchers and internationally recognized scholars. In an attempt to support the continuity of this meeting, the Swedish School of Planning is organizing the Second International Seminar on November 12th to 14th, 2014.

We invite scholars to submit abstracts on the following broad subjects:

1. Planning processes in changing governance networks

Contemporary spatial planning handle issues of long lasting sustainability in diffuse governance networks who, in turn, handle increasingly fragmented and porous territories, contested planning spaces and a continuously changing mixture of public and private affairs. Responsibility is under these conditions limited and many important actors participate as long as their own interests are satisfied, rather than contributing to fulfill long time goals. This session want to discuss how spatial planning handles this under these circumstances. Can spatial planning build long time commitment without having to regulate land use and impose strict design schemes thought to be sustainable in the long run? And how can spatial planning handle uneven power relations during the process of writing visions for, and implementing a sustainable future? Whose story will prevail?

2. Urban form, agency and sustainable development

A participatory approach and the inclusion of various stakeholders and ordinary citizens in the urban planning and design processes are considered fundamental for a sustainable development. The concept of sustainable development is however complex, contested and negotiated and the mix of several sustainable dimensions makes trade-offs the rule even in so-called win-win situations. The relationship between the social and physical forming of cities, between how people use, shape and live in space and the materializations of urban forms are equally complex. The city could thus be seen as a complex interaction between socio-spatial and economic processes and practices, filled with controversies and negotiations regardless of scale and level, and it's urban form shaped by these practices and processes in both intentional and unintentional ways. The interlinked relations between physical, legal and policy design, economic and organizational processes and strategies as well as the everyday life by the users over time shapes the physical outcomes of planning and design as well as the material condition

provide a frame for socio-spatial practices. In this mesh of practices where would we find the agency for sustainable development? With this point of departure, this session seeks to investigate the inter-linkage between urban form and sustainability. Is it relevant to talk about a sustainable urban form and, if so, how would it perform, what would it look like and who are the designers of such a form? Or, is it even possible or desirable to define such a consistency?

Keynote speakers include:

Prof Albena Yaneva, University of Manchester (UK)
Prof Tore Sager, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway)
Prof Em Jeremy Whitehand, University of Birmingham (UK)
Prof Simin Davoudi, Newcastle University (UK)
Assoc Prof Elena Cogato Lanza, EPFL (Switzerland)
Prof Heng Chye Kiang, National University of Singapore (Singapore)

Members of the School's Advisory Board will also participate:

Prof Peter Larkham, Birmingham City University (UK)
Prof Stefanie Dühr, Radboud Univ Nijmegen (Netherlands)
Prof Ali Madanipour, Newcastle University (UK)
Prof Halina Dunin-Woyseth, Oslo School of Arch and Design (Norway)
Dr Kaj Noschis, EPFL (Switzerland)
Dr Ingrid Appelblom-Karsten, Plan- og Bygningsetaten Oslo (Norway)
Olov Schultz, National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Sweden)

In the hope of shedding some light on the processes of planning, urban form and sustainable urban development, the **Swedish School of Planning at the Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona/Sweden**, organizes an International Seminar on **November 12-14, 2014**. The seminar is organized jointly with the **Nordic Network of Urban Morphology**, which was established in 2006 to promote research and practice in the field of urban studies, urban planning and design. Four international experts in the field of planning, urban form and sustainable development are invited to give key lectures on the themes listed above.

The seminar will address these issues in two sessions:

- 1- Planning processes in changing governance networks
- 2- Urban form, agency and sustainable development

The seminar and the two sessions are open to researchers and doctoral students for paper presentation, and are therefore invited to submit abstracts on the themes proposed.

The deadline for submitting abstracts and registering is September 15th, 2014. Abstracts should be sent to Abdellah.abarkan@bth.se. Accepted abstracts will be notified by September 30th.

Abstracts should be 300-500 words in length and set out the topic as well as method of investigation and (when possible) final or preliminary conclusions.

Accepted doctoral students and researchers are offered free participation in the seminar.

The Swedish School of Planning at BTH is also able to offer accepted students accommodation in Karlskrona to doctoral students (shared rooms, youth hostel) at no cost.

The number of places at the seminar is limited.

Preliminary programme

Thursday 12 November	Friday 13 November	Saturday 14 November
12-14: Arrival, registration	8-10: Plenary lecture	8-12: Parallel sessions
	10-12: Parallel sessions	
	12 -13.30: Lunch	12-13.30 Lunch
14-17: Keynote presentations by invited speakers	13.30-15: Parallel sessions / plenary lecture	14-17 City Tour
	15-17: Plenary lecture	
19- Dinner		

Established in 1989, Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) in Karlskrona, Sweden, has developed into Sweden's leading institution for educating urban and spatial planners. The Swedish School of Planning at BTH runs five programmes (BSc and MSc) in spatial planning and faculty members undertake research on a wide range of topics in the field of planning and urban development.

Karlskrona is located in south-east Sweden and is a UNESCO World Heritage city of approx 65 000 inhabitants. Karlskrona is easily accessible by direct train from Copenhagen/Malmö/Lund, as well as by plane from Stockholm or ferry from Gdansk in Poland.