

The SIU annual Conference will be preceded by a PRE-CONFERENCE scheduled to take place on 6 June, 2018 dedicated to the presentation of the doctoral theses selected as finalists of the GIOVANNI FERRARO AWARD.

TOPICS OF THE CONFERENCE

Do cities still exist in the way they have been traditionally defined? What is the form of the urban development processes at the regional and global scale? What projects, what instruments and what government policies is it possible to design for territories and societies in transition? How can the right to the city, social cohesion, spatial justice and the (re)construction of places be ensured in the process of transformation of settlement systems?

Urban settlements are undergoing a turbulent period of morphological and social change, of which it is worth underlining the following aspects:

- the blurring of boundaries between urban and suburban, between centre and periphery, between city and countryside, between inside and outside;
- the growing differentiation (cultural, social, functional, symbolic) of the peri-urban and ex-peripheral territory and the diffusion of urban life-styles at the territorial scale;
- the non-linearity of the gradient of urban density from the central nucleus to the external territory and the surfacing of urban condensations in marginal and intermediate areas;
- the dynamics of de-centering and re-centering, with the creation of new polarities within and outside metropolitan areas;
- the persistence, and often strengthening, of polycentric city networks at both the regional and sub-regional levels, often linked to specific physiographic contexts and historical matrices;
- the creation or consolidation of supra-regional corridors that link, not only in terms of infrastructure, urban systems, metropolitan areas and regions, subverting material and institutional boundaries;
- the development of a omnidirectional and unpredictable system of tangible and intangible movements and transfers of people and things, and the dialectics between stocks and flows, settlements and corridors, barriers and communications;
- the diffusion of an increasingly ramified network of circular economies, of shared work and activities, of experiences of self-produced housing, of social maintenance of the heritage and the landscape, of processes of social self-organisation;
- the richness of the processes of building and re-building of places through the direct commitment of the inhabitants, inter-institutional and social collaboration, interactive planning and project experimentation.

The XXI National Conference of the Italian Association of Urban Planners of 2018 addresses topics related to the spatial, urban planning and social results of the transition that is underway and on the adequacy of the cognitive systems, design and planning tools and horizons of meaning regarding urban planning and design, focusing the discussion on three key words: *boundaries*, *movements*, *places*.

The category of *boundaries* includes the scales and areas of planning and governance, spatial partitions and openings, boundary delimitation and connections involved in this phase of urban and regional transition, redesigning a new geography, variable and uncertain, of urban, social and institutional life.

It is the extraordinary explosion of *movements*, of the new communication technologies, of the old and new forms of mobility, of the transfer of people and things, of ideas and cultures, that characterise urban and social transition, often in a contradictory way, connecting and liberating worlds and people, while at the same time holding back and detaining them, creating new opportunities for relationships and imposing new walls and barriers.

It is finally the *places*, and maybe even the *cities*, of the new urban geographies to assume a decisive role in the attempt to achieve social and environmental sustainability, quality of life, development of interactions and new proximities, stemming from the old and new networks of social resilience, from the central role of the inhabitants and from processes of collective adaptation, evolution and self-organisation.

WORKSHOP 1.
**BEYOND BOUNDARIES:
TOWARD URBAN
REGIONALISATION**

**POST-METROPOLIS
REGIONAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT
PROCESSES IN ITALY AND THE WORLD**

Regional urbanisation processes are characterised by the reduction of the gradient of density between the centre and the periphery, the increased blurring of the boundaries between city and countryside, and the processes of cultural and social differentiation of the suburban and peripheral territories. A new urban form emerges, a city which is globalised and extended, 'densely reticulated', with a 'high intensity of information', which can be referred to also by developing the important Italian tradition of research on urban dispersion and poly-nuclear settlements.

The *workshop* will address the following research questions. What are the processes of socio-spatial transformation in the large urban areas of the various Italian regions? Are the traditional categories used for interpreting the features of urban development (density, agglomeration, centre/periphery), still capable of grasping the distinctive features of the recent processes of urban transformation in Italy? What are the implications in terms of urban planning and policy design derived from the post-metropolitan transition and from the transformation of social and material boundaries?

**THE BIO-REGIONAL PARADIGM FOR THE
PROJECT OF "RE-TERRITORIALISATION"
(RE-EMBEDDING) OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

The large contemporary urban settlements that resulted from the concentration of population, services and functions, both legitimate and illegitimate, which during the industrialisation phase covered in cement plains and valleys, also produced the depopulation of the rural areas and the countryside. These phenomena caused a contraction and simplification of settlement systems, concentrating them in plains and loosening at the same time the historical relationships with the surrounding territorial systems. There has been a drastic decrease in the quality of urban life and of social vitality within the territorial system and an increase in critical issues that concentrate in the urbanised plains (for example problems related to water shortage).

w1.1

w1.2

The bio-regional project intends to establish new and complex balances that can re-qualify and reunite the large urban settlements within their socio-territorial systems, addressing through strategic actions the solution of critical issues, working toward the management of territorial metabolisms (for example through the recording of eco-systemic services) and the valorisation of territorial heritages. It seems necessary to use multi-scalar and multi-disciplinary approaches to the project that can integrate the various founding components of regions, in other words those related to *economic* (regarding the local territorial system), *political* (regarding the self-governance of places, both residential and productive), *environmental* (regarding the territory as an eco-system), and *dwelling* (regarding the polycentric ensemble of cities, boroughs and villages) elements, capable of re-establishing new forms of long-term relationships between cities and the countryside, aiming to new forms of territorial equality and spatial justice.

**GOVERNANCE, INTER-INSTITUTIONAL
(AND NON INTER-INSTITUTIONAL) COORDINATION
AND COOPERATIVE PLANNING**

Governing the territory with success seems to be the main motivation subtending the diffusion of collaborative practices between public entities and between these and private entities at all levels and in all areas. In a phase of weak government (at least in various European scenarios) and with incomplete or meagre agendas, it is the practices, even minute, which are active not only in Italy, that often give meaning to administrative operation.

In this context, the session will explore these issues beginning with the following questions:

w1.3

- 1) what types of *governance* are emerging in contemporary territories?
- 2) how is it possible to overcome the traditional inter-institutional coordination, and with what agendas? Furthermore, cooperation between territories can be non-institutional, not imposed by norms, but rather more free and open, linked to voluntary cooperation for determining planning and programming actions based on the model that has set forth by the European Union for some time now, that is a cooperation of purpose.
- 3) What are then the possibilities and limits of *governance* in relation to the forms of settlement diffusion under observation? Which cases and contexts seem to be more advanced and which more backward? Do forms of procedural rationality, which are a relevant aspect of urban planning, hinder or foster the processes underway?

WORKSHOP 2.
**MOVEMENTS,
FLOWS,
CROSSINGS**

**NEW MOBILITIES AND DIALECTICS
BETWEEN PLACES AND
CORRIDORS IN CITIES AND TERRITORIES**

In order to grasp the new phenomenology of material and virtual dislocation of people and things in contemporary society, a paradigm shift is necessary, a *mobility turn*. The *new mobilities* include different movements in terms both of trajectory and of objective: “mobility concerning money laundering, drug traffic, toxic waste and garbage, infections, urban crime, asylum seekers, arms traffic, human traffic, slavery and urban terrorism”, as Urry has pointed out. It is a complex phenomenon in which the play of movements is threaded with a system of barriers and containments, “whether in the shape of infrastructures, physical-geographic obstacles, rules and regulations, social or political practices which contest and bend movements and displacements in the physical and social spaces”, as Söderström has written.

w2.1

In European policies for the valorisation of the *cultural heritage* and of the *Sustaina-*

ble Tourism Programme (2016) the specific topic emerges of the new *Routes* (nature hikes, religious, cultural), along which the new tourism flows rediscover and redesign old corridors that intersect the European landscape and seem to give life to the narrative dimension of Claudio Magris' *Paesaggi – Passaggi* (*Landscapes - Passages*). In this context, the *workshop* discusses the new forms of mobility in the dialectics between places and corridors in relation to planning strategies aimed at managing the uncertainty and instability of cities and of territories in transition.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND (RE)CONSTRUCTION OF PLACES

Population movements characterise in a compelling way the transformations of contemporary cities and societies: a complex reality made of displacements, both local and global, legal and illegal, regional and international, driven by economic necessity or by the dangers of war, by environmental disasters, climate change or the simple desire for a better life. Populations move from the countryside to the city and sometimes in the opposite direction, from the South to the North and often the other way around, from the centres to the peripheries or from the peripheries to the new centres. Subtle movements belonging to the ordinary lives of the common people, which act as powerful vehicles for transformation and the generation of spaces, informal settlement traces, often spontaneous, marginal.

w2.2

Both research and policies have attempted to analyse and govern these phenomena, experimenting with new definitions in order to grasp the various aspects involved: *migrancy, dislocation, displacement, expulsion, banishment*. Interpretations are equally differentiated: from those which see population displacements as a cruel consequence of global neo-liberalism to those that see the lack of regulations concerning migration as a subversive practice, to mention two opposed views.

The workshop proposes to investigate on the one hand the spatial effects of population movements on cities and territories, as well as the way in which migration trajectories are superposed to consolidated physical and social structures, often generating and negotiating with them new hybrid formal/informal ways of dwelling; and on the other the consequences derived from phenomena in movement on the design of urban and regional policies (both in the places of origin and destination of the displaced populations).

BEYOND THE AUTOMOBILE. INNOVATIVE FORMS OF MOBILITY FOR URBAN AND TERRITORIAL REGENERATION

Some recent legislative initiatives (national network of bicycle paths, interior areas strategy, law for the support of small municipalities, ministerial guidelines concerning urban plans for sustainable mobility) indicate the necessity for the scientific community to critically address two fields of practices and their related interrelations: one concerning extra-urban mobility conceived as a project for the territory; and another regarding the reorganising of mobility at the urban scale, understood as the focus for policies and strategies of social and technological innovation, as well as integrated regeneration and sustainable development.

w2.3

The purpose of this *workshop* is to discuss proposals and projects for urban and territorial regeneration based on innovative approaches to mobility and transportation, aimed at orienting the future of settlements toward forms of organisation that are less dispersive of the land and the energy available and therefore more sustainable and resilient to environmental and socio-economic change.

The *workshop* proposes, on the one hand, to address the topic of sustainable mobility at the territorial scale – bicycle paths, roads, the re-use of secondary railways, etc. - as

an opportunity for establishing policies and projects for development, labour and social inclusion, attempting to redefine the role of the various public and private stakeholders, of institutions, companies and collective entities; on the other, the *workshop* underlines the new integrated and sectorial planning models, innovations in the field of public transportation, the management of flows, the affirmation of *shared mobility* services, the re-usage, disassembling and re-conversion of existing transport infrastructures and the relevance of mobility on the new urban regeneration strategies.

WORKSHOP 3

RETURN TO

**PLACES:
URBAN METABOLISMS
AND PLACE-MAKING**

RESILIENCE, REGENERATION,

CO-EVOLUTION OF URBAN SYSTEMS.

PROJECT THEMES, METHODS AND EXPERIENCES

w3.1

The project for resilient cities and urban regions constitutes – and will do so in the future – one of the most fertile and relevant fields for innovation in terms of policies, strategies and interventions on contemporary urban developments, interior areas and rural contexts, aimed at the reactivation of a co-evolutionary relationship with the environments in question, in a phase in which climate change makes interventions urgently necessary. The *workshop* will discuss the use and innovation of integrated, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectorial approaches from a multi-scalar perspective, aimed at the management of the urban and territorial metabolism (energy, food, waste, etc.), settlement self-sustainability and self-government of communities. The capacity of re-interpreting places of nature and public spaces, constantly confronted with social and economic practices with which the said spaces interact, is also greatly relevant. Despite some recent interesting signals, there is still a significant delay in the field of urban planning and design in terms of the adoption of strategies and perspectives, both medium and long-term, which have these objectives in mind.

Resilience and regeneration are two concepts which, although derived from other fields of study, can lend themselves to multiple and not always concurring interpretations. Their efficient use and ways of application in the field of urban planning and design is therefore a topic that is open for debate.

**NEW URBAN METABOLISMS AND SPATIAL
RELATIONSHIPS REGARDING
SERVICES, WELFARE AND RELATIONAL,
CIRCULAR AND RECIPROCAL ECONOMIES**

w3.2

The transition of settlements constitutes an opportunity for a radical re-thinking of the issue and for the regeneration of territories and of service activities, as well as of economic and social exchange activities which today are in crisis due to the various, and not always linear, phases of “growth”. This permits/requires the creation of new “circular economies”, of forms of intangible *welfare*, social capital and economic equity, and at the same time requires/demands new spatial relationships for the creation of a reticulated system of neo-centralities that enhances the quality of places and ensures valuable spaces for the new economies.

The request for the re-territorialisation of settlements raises the problem of the reconstruction of the appropriate ways for ascribing value to plural and long-term settlement structures and heritages, such as “gene pools” - social, physical, biotic – that generate co-evolutionary forms of endogenous development. The paradigm of a *new urban and territorial metabolism* at a regional scale constitutes a possible reference frame for linking the discourse and tools of territorial policies, perspectives and scenarios of spatial recomposition and polycentric settlements, metropolitan cities, strategies and programmes for local development based on heritage values and the “productive chorality” of Italian regions.

w3.3

WAYS AND MANNERS FOR (RE)USING THE BUILT HERITAGE, BOTH HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY

If urban planning and design have historically constructed their paradigms on the management of the dynamic processes of urban growth, today, in a period of demographic decline, at least in Western cities, new project developments are aimed at urban and environmental regeneration and re-qualification. Thus in this phase the reconstruction of places as complex contexts of dwelling, provided with centres and identities that valorise in a project minor elements that have often been discarded by contemporary dynamic processes, such as backlands and marginal or intermediate areas, takes on a fundamental role. The reconstruction of places can thus serve as a link between dense contexts with a rich historical heritage and large urban developments without quality that have recently sprouted throughout the territory.

The necessity thus emerges of ascribing a contemporary sense to the built heritage, working on the gap between the original spatial structure and its contemporary relational meaning. To intervene on the existing heritage can therefore mean to rethink some parts of the urban fabric which are not always recognisable and are often excluded from the goals of urban policies and projects, yet are fundamental and accessory to the most evident and important development processes.

At the same time, public spaces built on the basis of urban development standards adapted to urban growth represent an important and influential field of work, with different spatial organisations and structures in the various regions of our country. To rethink the role, as well as the forms and mechanisms for regulation fifty years after they were established is an act of responsibility and of outlook which can strengthen the processes of construction and reconstruction of places.

The proceedings of the conference will be published as usual by Planum in the series devoted to the SIU by the Donzelli Publishing house in Rome. Additionally, this year an *instant booklet* will be published which gathers the summaries of the *workshops* and of the plenary sessions for a quicker diffusion of the contents of the conference.

ABSTRACT Abstracts should not exceed 3,000 characters (spaces included) and must include the following information:

- a. title, author/s, contact information, affiliation, three key words
- b. an indication of a first and second preference regarding the workshop in which the applicant wishes to participate
- c. thesis
- d. main arguments
- e. methodology/case study/comparisons, etc.
- f. expected results.

DEADLINES Abstracts must be sent to the following email address for their prior approval at the latest on **Monday 12 February, 2018: conferenzasiu2018@gmail.com**. The scientific committee of the SIU will inform applicants of the acceptance of their proposals on **Monday 26 February, 2018**, and subsequently the coordinators of the workshops will provide detailed information regarding the discussion of the contributions in the workshops.

Papers – of a maximum of 20,000 characters (including spaces), in addition to figures and tables – must be sent to the said email address no later than **Monday 30 April, 2018**. As usual, full papers of participants who have covered their registration fees entirely will be published in Planum Publisher <http://www.planum.net/planum-publisher>. Moreover, the best papers written for each workshop of the Conference by authors under 40 will receive a special mention.

REGISTRATION FEES All participants to the XXI SIU Conference in Florence must pay the appropriate fees as follows:

Non-SIU members

Senior 180 € / Junior 90 €

(reduced to 170 € and 80 € if paid in full by May 15, 2018)

SIU members (individual or affiliated to an institutional partner)

Senior 150 € / Junior 70 €

(reduced to 140 € and 60 € if paid in full by May 15, 2018)

Individual registration to SIU for 2018

(not compulsory if affiliated to an institutional partner)

Senior 120 € / Junior 60 €

Participation in the conference + individual registration to SIU for 2018

Senior 230 € / Junior 110 €

(reduced to 220 € and 100 € if paid in full by May 15, 2018)

Note 1: Senior is understood to mean all full-time staff of universities and public administrations of any age, as well as all participants over the age of 40.

Note 2: the list of institutional partners of SIU is published in the following website:

www.societaurbanisti.it

FORMS OF PAYMENT Payment of the registration fees must be made prior to the conference using one of the following methods:

★ by bank transfer to the following bank account in the name of:
SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DEGLI URBANISTI Via Bonardi 3, 30133 Milano
at: Banca Popolare di Sondrio
IBAN IT29J0569601620000010007X37 BIC SWIFT POSOIT22
payment description: CONFERENZA SIU FIRENZE 2018

★ by credit card: from February 27, 2018 **in the section regarding the XXI Conference 2018** of the following website: **www.societaurbanisti.it**