

The background of the cover is a high-angle aerial photograph of a city, likely Stockholm, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings, streets, and green spaces. The city extends to the water in the distance.

Annual Report 2018

The Centre for the
Future of Places

KTH Centre for the Future of Places

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Cover image

View over Vasastan, Stockholm
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This is 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.

Mission statement

- The Centre for the Future of Places will investigate the challenges facing our regions, metropolitan cities, towns and neighborhoods in the achievement of a more sustainable, resilient, livable, just and inclusive urbanism.
- The Centre will focus upon 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.
- More broadly, the Centre will investigate topics relating to the contemporary and future urban condition, development, planning, design and the urban form and placemaking processes of the city. It will take as its principal professional concern the evolving role of urban planning and design within broader interdisciplinary fields, and their impacts upon human environments and social life.
- The Centre will provide a link between the research resources at the KTH School of Architecture and the Built Environment and the wider professional practice community. The public communication and dialogue will occur through research, education, social media, symposia, roundtables, colloquiums, debates, conferences, exhibitions, and publications.
- Finally, the Centre for the Future of Places will ensure that its 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

“Synchronicity is an ever present reality for those who have eyes to see.”

~ Carl Jung

I am very proud and delighted to introduce and present to you the Centre for the Future of Places Annual Report 2018 and to welcome you to the KTH – Royal Institute of Technology, School of Architecture and Built Environment. This is our second annual report at the Centre for the Future of Places (CFP) and it records the research, academic conversation, teaching and outreach activities carried out in 2018.

It provides an opportunity for me to thank all those who have worked so hard and diligently on the wide range of projects and, our core supporters, the Axel and Margaret Ax: son Johnson Foundation.

I would like to thank and offer my deepest gratitude to the foundation for their generous support and firm commitment to urban city research on the highest international level.

CFP in 2018 has stepped deeper into the ongoing 15 research projects; being firmly committed to attaining and sustaining the highest level of quality in our research and associated programs and projects as well as major push for internationalization on all levels.

Since the initiation in September 2016, and especially during 2018 CFP's staff and researchers have contributed to over a 100 new academic publications: peer reviewed journal articles, scientific publications, books, book chapters, book reviews and research reports.

The 'crown jewels' were the publication of the world class anthology "The Post Urban World" (Haas Tigran and Westlund Hans, Eds. Routledge) which featured some of the leading urban minds of today as well as Daniel Solomon's Love Vs. Hope – Housing and Society (Schieffer) and Charles Wolfe's Renewed Edition of Urbanism Without Effort (Island Press) and finally Michael Mehaffy Cities Alive (Sustasis Press).

Apart from hosting events at the KTH, our website and social media presence has continued to grow over the last twelve months. Reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of our work, over 30 presentations, talks, seminars, symposiums, roundtables and interviews have had happened within the CFP real, at a range of institutions and academic environments.

CFP has been partnering internationally, especially at the Conference on Main Streets at the University of Chicago, the ongoing UN Habitat partnership and other notable placemaking events and venues. The extremely popular new Ideopolis Seminars and Delphi Roundtables have blossomed during 2018 while the roller-coaster flagship of events – the one and only – Athena Female Distinguished 20 Scholar Series continues and goes into 2019.

CFP's four major thematic research groups (tiers) continue at the same pace: Urban Form and Human Behavior, Sustainable Urbanism, Housing and Urban Spaces, and Emergent Urban Transformations. Within these four thematic areas and with the coordination of the four curators (senior researchers) the Centre has been able to initiate 15 research projects some of them in collaboration with leading institutions around the world such as ETH Zürich, TU Vienna, UCL Bartlett, University of Chicago, and in 2019 MIT as well as London School of Economics.

Through all our research projects in the four thematic fields – from sustainable urbanism, urban form and human behavior, urban transformations to housing and urban spaces (all focusing on public spaces) CFP's staff have established strong relationships to other international research nodes and centers of learning as well as department and research within KTH.

As a result, the research environment within the Centre continues to thrive, with around 15 researchers working across our portfolio (in house as well as affiliated), supported by an effective administration and communication staff.

As we look towards the near future, over the next 12-month period we will develop a new biennial research theme that will focus on Livable, Viable and Intelligent Smart Cities and Public Realm Futures. This will further expand our research program within the four thematic groups/tiers i.e. continue or complete all projects under our four core research strands but especially strengthen the international ties and upcoming work with UCL Bartlett in London and LCAU at MIT in Boston. We continue to develop the cooperation with UN Habitat and our other university partners such as TU Wien and ETH Zürich. Strengthening the ties between research and practice by supporting researchers to cooperate and to practically implement their research results is a central aspect of what we need to do in the coming two years.

In 2019 we will also see a number of new exciting titles - publications - emerge from the Centre being published by leading publishers around the world as well as in two Nordic ones, Stolpe and Nordic Academic Press.

A number of high priority events awaits the center in 2019, such as The World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, the joint 2nd ABC (now called Apollo) Conference at Harvard in Cambridge, Symposium at ANCB The Metropolitan Laboratory, UNECE Geneva Policy Conference and Symposium, The Iceland Expert Public Space Seminar (Pegasus Symposium), two Delphi's and two Ideopolis as well as the initiation of Centre's first podcasts programs.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the research and administrative staff at CFP, and the continuous support we receive from external agencies, but especially Ax:son Johnson Foundation, Kurt Almqvist, Viveca Ax:son Johnson and Peter Elmlund as well as the President of KTH, Sigbritt Karlsson.

I sincerely hope you are able to keep in touch with our ongoing and growing activities over the course of coming months by visiting cfp.abe.kth.se and following us on social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn. Do join us for this important and exciting journey through 2019, and welcome to CFP!

Dr. Tigran Haas
Director, CFP, Associate Professor of
Urban Planning and Urban Design
Stockholm, March 2018





Research

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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 as 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.

Biennial Research Theme: Urban Disclosures and Cities for All

The Centre for the Future of Places is engaging a two-year research theme on the twin subjects of “Urban Disclosures and Cities for All”.

We see these two key subjects, implicitly gaining prominence in the coming years based on the United Nations Habitat III conference, held in Quito, Ecuador, during October 2016, where akin issues should be developed further through implementation of the conference outcome document, the “**New Urban Agenda**”, which is strategically aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 on ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’.

We aim to make a substantial academic and practical contribution to this discourse looking at these two key subjects as one integral research theme.

Toward this aim, we will be collaborating with a diverse but strategically selective network of researchers, theorists, faculty, policy makers and graduate and post-graduate students, working to examine these issues and their relation to the complex and often contradictory phenomena now emerging in our existing cities, conurbations and other urban settlements around the world. Specifically for the biennial theme during 2017-2018, the Centre for the Future of Places will examine these two emerging and converging subjects as one united theme:

Urban Disclosures:

- What are the main political, social, cultural, physical and economic forces shaping urban societies, ones that are making the new urban landscapes, something which goes well beyond the notion of a new visual urban order?
- How does this theme manifest itself in the issues of public space more specifically?

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 urban development?
- How does the structure and management of public space contribute to, or inhibit, that process?

These two-in-one united themes offer now a useful “lens” through which the researchers in the Centre may investigate the role of public space systems and the citizens within them, making a practical and useful contribution to the evolving science of cities in a rapidly urbanizing world, one that claims to value equity and inclusivity, but at the same time brings economic, spatial and social polarization.

Cities are critical to challenging global inequality and promoting inclusive growth. However, recent research into the economic value of diversity within a networked city may offer powerful counter-arguments, and a more convincing and motivating path to implementation.

The idea of owning public spaces is both complex and controversial. The emerging signals of large scale corporate ownership that has the potential to dampen diversity and dynamism of the city and worsening affordability for everyone are omnipresent.

This phenomenon also carries the signs of the growing economic strength and the rise of demand for urban living, where the need for human-friendly cities with more public investment and better public spaces are in focus. So the emerging question and issue in becoming is if ‘high’ real estate actually values functioning urbanity?

Projects

Synchronicity - A New Approach, Explanation and Theory of Unus Mundis Cities

Researcher:



Tigran Haas

Synchronicity - A New Approach, Explanation and Theory of Unus Mundis Cities (Society, Urbanism and Technology) is a research project that will conclude with a book of texts/essays on urbanism/city/society and technology.

The approach and Assertion/Hypothesis is novel utilizing 'Synchronicity' as a new paradigm of cities based on the concept, first introduced by analytical psychologist Carl Jung, which holds that events are "meaningful coincidences of a higher order" if they occur with no causal relationship yet seem to be meaningfully related.

It binds the latest thinking on cities through interdisciplinary and holistic approach using Grounded Theory as one of the leading explorative and qualitative strategies of research inquiry. As the late William J Mitchell of MIT observed, 'that it is impossible to predict the futures of cities, and certainly unwise to try because there are too many uncertainties and random contingencies and there is an indeterminacy effect'.

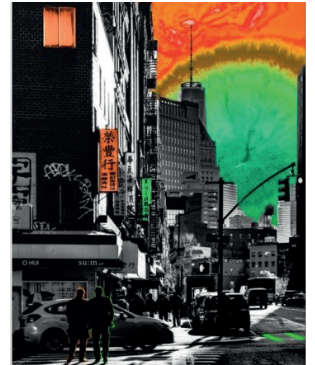
Synchronicity provides a new theoretical and practical understanding of urbanism and cities. It does so by reexamining the architecture, urban planning and urban design disciplines relationship to urban space and urban populations and by reframing the paradigms and their principles and approaches in a way that by incorporating the city's many elements, signs, patterns, symbols and images as well as

assemblages - via meaningful coincidences and deeper order, imagined for more than a single element by a single approach, then urbanism of cities becomes something else much more powerful, elemental, systemic, wide-ranging; this engages the imagination, provides a concrete basis for debate about what might be desirable and achievable for our cities.

The research project, through Grounded Theory and the idea of Synchronicity will be a study of places, symbols, patterns, environments, occurrences, orders, codes, serendipities, and systemic connections in cities.

Cities that will be observed are Boston, Zurich, Vienna, Stockholm, Dubrovnik, London, Berlin, San Francisco, Prague, and Geneva.

The final output book - Synchronicity - will examine the patterns and codes as well as emerging system of spaces, flows, and practices in a series of short essays, snapshots of the condition of plural western world cities in the twenty-first century, but also a new approach for understanding a higher order and a hidden dimension of urbanism - one that incorporates technology, built environment, transportation, energy, telecommunications, and social, economic, cultural, political and structural flows of the city.



The Public Space Database Project

Researchers:



Setha Low



David Brain



Vikas Mehta



Michael Mehaffy

Growing out of the previous Future of Places partnership with UN-Habitat, the Public Space Database Project is a **compilation of the most significant research literature on public space**, with findings relevant to current policy, education and practice. Among the topic addressed by the research is:

- why public space is important for cities' economic, social and ecological performance; how it is used in different conditions by different populations;
- how it can be created and maintained;
- how it declines; and how governments, professionals and stakeholders can create, protect and improve successful public spaces.

The database is intended as a key resource toward the **implementation of the New Urban Agenda**, the outcome document of the United Nations' Habitat III conference. as part of the Centre's current Memorandum of Understanding with UN-Habitat.

Key participants now at the Centre (and formerly with the Future of Places partnership) played roles in developing the language of the New Urban Agenda as it addressed the topic of public space.

Background: Since at least the 1960s, a large body of field research literature has accumulated on public space and city design. Nevertheless, there is still no central platform that connects the work that has been done, or that facilitates dialogue for greater cross-pollination between disciplines. Perhaps this lack of an evidence base for policy and practice is one reason why - despite the scientific and empirical evidence, good will and necessity - many cities still don't get public space right.

Designing safe, sustainable and healthy cities is the outcome of complex dialogues between many stakeholders, all with their own agenda. 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. To decrease the distance between practitioners operating in silos, platforms are needed where expert knowledge can be found in one place with a common terminology.

The purpose of the Public Space Database Project is precisely this: to collect relevant research from different academic fields, and merge it into one body of knowledge accessible and understandable by all. To enable a joint language on public space within which all identified research could be organized, a number of categories, called meta-data, were created.

The meta-data is developed collectively by the academic research team, and consists of a set of information categories that are used to amalgamate similar research phenomena into cross-disciplinary groups, independently of their origin in any specific academic discipline.

With the support of a capable and highly motivated team made up by academics and practitioners, the database reflects a systematic effort to consolidate research findings, and bridge the epistemological gaps between disciplines. By mapping out and categorizing past and current knowledge, the database will furthermore be an invaluable resource for identifying gaps in knowledge and research, to better target new and needed research.



Physical and virtual meetings with the database research project group in Stockholm. Photo: Marta Marko Tisch

The research team includes leaders in the field of public space research, together with sub-teams of their graduate students: Professor Setha Low (anthropology and environmental psychology) and two students at City University of New York; Professor David Brain (sociology) and two students at New College of Florida; and Professor Vikas Mehta (urban planning and design) and one colleague at the University of Cincinnati.

The team also relies on a board of advisors, including eminent scholars from other institutions.

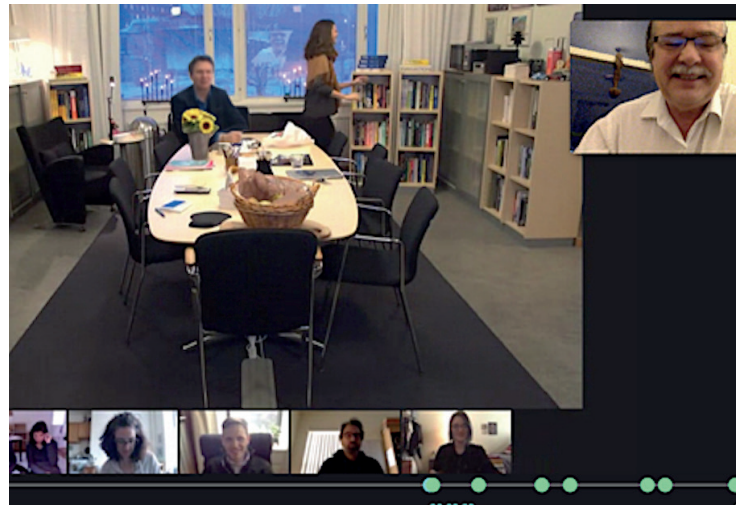


Photo: Michael Mebaffy

Who Owns the City

Researchers:



Hans Westlund



Elisabetta Troglio



Jing Jing



Asifa Iqbal



Cornelius Uittenbogaard

“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. Sassen's article is 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 with the intent to investigate differences in the ownership structure in central and suburban areas of Stockholm.

The first part of the project has 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.

Data collection is still ongoing and will be finished before december 2020. The project is staffed by a few part-timers: Hans Westlund (10% Project leader), Elisabetta Troglio (20%, will be reduced to 5-10%, Data collection), Jing Jing (10%, Data collection). There have been plans for engaging a postdoc in the project, but due to economic reasons, this has not yet been realized.



Why Public Space Matters

Researcher:



Setha Low

Book Summary:

This book takes up the challenge of realigning urban priorities and demonstrating the psychological, social, infrastructural and environmental importance of public space. Working with the Center for the Future of Places in Stockholm, Sweden, the right to public space was added to the New Urban Agenda passed by the United Nations in December 2016. The mandate now is to convince the general public and find new ways of supporting the planning, design, management, and funding of public space.

The first step is to make available evidence of why public space matters to individuals, neighborhoods, regions and states. A second step is to examine why some cities and towns are losing their historically valued public spaces—or not building new ones—due to a variety of encroachments including disuse, displacement by commercialization, private development, secured access and social exclusion.

The final step is to identify what can be done to promote public spaces at the grassroots level through participatory research and action, and globally through international groups working together on guidelines for the planning and design of social just, integrated and inclusive public spaces.

In order to accomplish this agenda, this book is organized around four queries:

- Part I answers the basic question what is public space from a historical, cultural and contemporary planning and design point of view. It begins with a broad definition that includes neighborhood parks, plazas and libraries, but extends to the street system, waterways, transportation infrastructure and environmental linkages.
- Part II lays out why public space matters and highlights reasons why you (the reader) should care. It takes a hard look at the psychological, social, environmental, economic and political outcomes of successful public spaces and how they produce a flourishing society through contributions to health and well-being; economic resilience and the informal economy; cultural heritage and collective memory; creativity, play and learning; environmental sustainability; and social justice.
- Part III pinpoints contemporary threats to public space and how they can be transformed into opportunities to revitalize and promote new uses.
- Part IV discusses what can be done to improve and protect public space in the future. It offers guidance on how to undertake grassroots research and utilize local knowledge to take back public space and contribute to a better world.



Photos: Setha Low

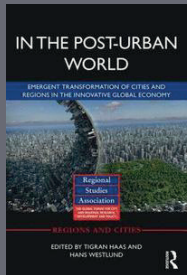
Cities for All

Researcher:



Hans Westlund

The project “Cities for all” takes its starting point in the hypothesis on the “post-urban world”, developed in Tigran Haas’ and Hans Westlund’s book “In the Post-Urban World”, and in which the following aspects are highlighted:



In the Post-urban World
Emergent Transformation
of Cities and Regions in the
Innovative Global Economy

Edited by Tigran Haas;
Hans Westlund

- Dissolution of the traditional urban-rural dichotomy
- The emergence of polycentric city regions with a mosaic of actors, activities and land use
- The rural areas outside the city regions are becoming less and less important
- The expanding city regions are densified but also enlarged
- The basic driving force is the knowledge economy and its expansion
- New social, economic and spatial gaps emerge in the city regions

The project aims at producing a book about the Stockholm region and its spatial and social transformation. Professor Hans Westlund at the Centre for the Future of Places is project leader and Dr. Özge Öner at the University of Cambridge is also engaged in the project. This is the book’s planned table of contents:

1. Introduction.
2. From the Isolated State and its Hinterland to City Networks and their Hinterworlds. Spatial Theory from the Agricultural Era to the Post-Urban Knowledge Economy.
3. Post-Urban City Regions: A research Overview.
4. Choosing the Greater Stockholm Region
5. The Spatial growth of the Stockholm Region: From a City with a Hinterland to a Labor Market Region and its Extension
6. The Spatial Mosaic: Land Use and its Change in the Stockholm Region
7. The Spatial Order of Economic Activities. Location of industries and sectors
8. Labor, its location and movements (commuting)
9. External migration. From where and where to?
10. Internal migration and segregation (after income, education and country of origin)
11. Social Capital in the Neighborhoods. Years of living/inhabitant turnover
12. Public Policy, privatizations and individualization (from public housing to condominiums; choice of schools and elderly care; projects for deprived areas...)
13. The Hinterworld of Stockholm
14. Conclusions and implications for further research

Cities in context

Researchers:



Charles R. Wolfe



Tigran Haas

The “Cities in Context” Project began in January, 2018, based on C.R. Wolfe, “Forget ‘Smart’—We Need Context Cities,” Planetizen, December 17, 2018. The Project purpose is to integrate—as a best-practices guide—methods to blend globalism (networks of interconnection between people and place) with local context (vernacular, and/or unique city histories and cultures), at multiple urban scales.

The four main Project goals and accomplishments for 2018 were as follows:

Goal 1 was to design and implement a research agenda and companion book proposal and commission related student work. Throughout 2018, four masters-level students assisted with the Project, including completion of a preliminary literature search, assistance with preparation of panel questions and topics for the Delphi Conversation discussed below, and commencement of work on a Stockholm case study regarding the appropriate context for location of a flagship Apple Store.

From September-December, C.R. Wolfe finalized and presented a research agenda and a detailed, Project-associated book proposal to three publishers (Wolfe, Emlund, and Haas, *Preserving a City’s Culture and Character: Principles and Best Practices*). Alternative publishers were confirmed in February 2019 with expected manuscript completion in early 2020.

Goal 2 was to complete a revised edition of Wolfe, C.R. *Urbanism Without Effort* (UWE) (Island Press, 2013) for publication as a revised edition in 2018/19. UWE (and it’s later, more

applied companion, *Seeing the Better City*, (Island Press, 2017) frame the “Cities in Context” baseline approach, arguing for threshold establishment and contextual analyses of local built, sociocultural and intangible urban environments.

As planned, C.R. Wolfe completed the revised UWE manuscript in March. In January, 2019, Island Press released the paperback *Urbanism Without Effort*, rev. ed. 2019. The work is slated for Swedish translation by Bokförlaget Stolpe later in 2019 and will be excerpted in Portuguese in *Revista Smart Cities* magazine in Spring 2019.



Stockholm, Odenplan, Photo: C.R. Wolfe - UWE

Goal 3 was to plan, organize and conduct an extensive Delphi Conversation in Stockholm in September, 2018 on the “Cities in Context” theme, with international academics and practitioners.

“The Delphi Conversation III—Cities in Context,” took place in Stockholm as planned with two London practitioners from the business and community advocacy sectors, and two American urban design and planning academics.

The panel discussed the elusive definitions of “authenticity” and “local context” in planning for urban change, the role that each plays in contributing to the perceived success or standing of a city (including city rankings and quality of life surveys), and how to balance local identity, uniqueness, or historic/vernacular architecture and culture with urban impacts of global business and tourism trends.

The panel members also discussed how to measure a city’s uniqueness, and at which scale, and concluded that such measures must be holistic and not data-driven. The panel members concluded that what is authentic to a city can only be appropriately planned for if carefully analyzed based on local conditions.

Each panel member also contributed and discussed experience in the United States, Europe and Asia (including the Indian subcontinent and the United Arab Emirates), based on photographs of urban growth and change that showed different degrees of adherence to a city’s particular circumstances, and conveyed the roles played by locally-oriented leaders and the private sector.

The discussion was moderated by C.R. Wolfe.



Photo: C.R. Wolfe - UWE

Goal 4 was to author several short articles in respected online publications on the “Cities in Context” theme and related social media, bringing attention to the Centre’s work. C.R Wolfe authored three short Planetizen articles in 2018 that related to Project subtopics of urban context, character and authenticity. Two were reproduced in the Congress for the New Urbanism’s CNU Public Square.



Panelists of Delphi Conversations III, Photo: C.R Wolfe

The future of cities - digitalisation and climate change

Researcher:



Mattias Höjer

During 2018, Professor Mattias Höjer was engaged by the Centre for the Future of Places to lead a new area of research looking into cities, digitalisation and climate change. During 2018 a number of activities related to the area were carried out.

During the first part of 2018, Mattias was a member of the Government's Innovation Partnership Program Smart cities. He led a working group focusing on more efficient use of building space and got several opportunities to present the work on this theme for the Minister of Housing and his State Secretary. Mattias also took part in the working group working on social aspects of the future smart city.

In May 2018, Mattias visited Sidewalk Toronto and Sidewalk Labs in New York, for a meeting with Rit Aggarwala, Head of Urban Systems at Sidewalk labs. Plans are to explore environmental potentials and risks with the new way of building cities that Sidewalk is creating. During autumn 2018 plans for the project had to be changed when it turned out that funding for a licentiate 2019-2020 would not be possible.

During autumn 2018, a Master thesis "Optimisation before growth – New property formations for a resource efficient use of the existing building stock" was written by Lucio Luque. Lucio and Mattias wrote an application to E2B2/the Swedish Energy Agency based on ideas from the thesis, with the aim to explore potentials of new property formations.

This would have become a licentiate project under CFP, but it seems the application will be rejected.

In August 2018, we started a prestudy together with RISE and the real estate company Trianon on alternative ways to measure energy efficiency in buildings. Specifically, we are looking into how new housing directly facing the mall Rosengård can use opportunities in the mall to reduce the space of the new apartments.

During spring 2018, we joined an IVA-project (the Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences) on more efficient use of commercial spaces. The project is lead by IVL and Vasakronan, and we intend to take a co-leading role during 2019. The project will continue until 2020.



Preliminary plans for Rosengård, Malmö. Photo: Trianon

Urban Morphologies and Frontages

Researcher:



Conrad Kickert

Funded by the Ax:son Johnson Foundation, this project analyzes street-level frontage transformation between 1911 and 2017 in the two case study cities of Birmingham, England and Vancouver, Canada.

These case studies are part of a research project on an important but overlooked element of walkable and sustainable cities: the relation between buildings and public space.

This research project studies why interesting and interactive street frontages are under threat, and what we can do to turn the tide.

Urban scholars may agree what they are fighting for in their quest for interactive frontages, but no one seems to understand of what they are fighting against. Without knowing why our streets are lined by inactive buildings in the first place, how could we ever escape our ground floor stalemate?

By demonstrating the forces and patterns behind frontage transformation in Europe and North America, this project will shift and inform the debate on their reactivation.

A detailed study of a century of transformation of street frontages in four representative cities in Canada, the United States, England and The Netherlands unveils an unprecedented insight on how the interplay between the changing ground floor economy, new technology, urban planning and social circumstances have influenced frontages. This project specifically studies their urban cores, as the most significant transformation has occurred here.

The case studies demonstrate that the deteriorating relationship between buildings and streets goes far deeper than the commonly

assumed explosive mixture of automobility and Modernism. Instead, frontages represent an intricately connected ecosystem of single agent decisions responding to external economic, cultural, political and technological forces, behaving in common and recognizable patterns that can inform policy and design.

With this knowledge, the project aims to generate an informed path forward by providing best practice policies, designs and strategies to reactivate frontages.

The project draws and expands on the dissertation work of its main author, Conrad Kickert on interactive frontages in The Netherlands and the United States. Dr. Kickert has presented his work to audiences at the University of Berkeley, the University of Toronto, the Bauhaus Institute, TU Delft, and the KTH Stockholm.

The case study mapping has been completed in the summer of 2018, drawing from various archival sources including mapping, reports, directories, and databases. Currently, a team of students, urban designer Conrad Kickert (University of Cincinnati) and economist Rainer vom Hofe (University of Cincinnati) are analyzing the resulting database of frontages for a paper on the locational patterns of ground floor retail decline, to be published in a top-tier peer-reviewed journal.

Furthermore, the mapping is currently expanded with narrative sources to describe the forces behind frontage transformation. The combination of mapping and narrative description will be compiled into a book project, currently under review by Routledge.

Geographies of Age - Cooperation with TU Wien and ETH Zurich



Researchers:



Sabine Knierbein Stefan Lundberg Marie Antoinette Glaser

The research project “Geographies of Age: Older people’s access to housing and to urban life” is a cooperation with the Centre for the Future of Places (CFP), KTH Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm (Sweden) and the ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE, ETH Zurich (Switzerland).

In the context of an aging population, age-friendly cities and living environments will become increasingly important. In order to facilitate inclusive cities but also common concepts of ageing in place, not only appropriate and affordable housing options are required, but also attractive public urban spaces which offer a variety of barrier-free and no/low-cost indoor and outdoor opportunities for heterogeneous social interactions.

Parallel to this activity the Centre hosted the Interim-Workshop Phase 2 in Vienna for all partners from 15-16 January 2019 with a focus on research methodologies for an in-depth research of the selected case study sites, inviting different actors from praxis, academia and administration in Vienna additionally to the partners from Stockholm and Zurich.

Against this background, KTH Stockholm, TU Vienna and ETH Zurich are carrying out a joint research project entitled “Geographies of Age. Older people’s access to housing and urban life”. The goal of the project is to propose options for public policies as well as actors on the housing market in the three growing cities to enhance age-friendly urban environments and to prevent loneliness and social exclusion

among elderly. The project pursues an exploratory mixed-methods approach consisting of quantitative data and literature on the housing markets and their different impacts on the housing situation of elderly in the chosen cities with differing welfare systems. Combined with qualitative methods such as go-along interviews, socio-spatial mappings and participatory dialogue workshops, a rich picture of the interrelation between everyday practices, economic conditions and the built environment is obtained. Contrasting older people’s access to housing and urban life in different geographical urban settings has proven fruitful in order to shed light on the complex issue of age-appropriate living environments.

The project aims at exploring social and spatial dimensions of age-friendly living environments from different local perspectives in three growing cities. The following questions will be raised for analysis: What constitutes age-friendly living environments? What role do different public spaces play for the social inclusion and access to urban life of older people? What do everyday practices of elderly at the interface of housing and public space look like? Answers will be woven into policy recommendations to local decision makers.

Research activities

During 2018 the project Geographies of Age and Loneliness has been doing different activities in connection to this project. The research is

conducted by three different universities: KTH, ETH in Zürich and TU in Vienna. The three cities are in a way relatively similar in terms of size and number of inhabitants. The housing market is different though which will be described in the different dissemination that will take place towards the end of this year.

The year 2018 started with meetings between ETH and KTH where the research plan was discussed and finally established. The project will run for three years and has just started the second year. TU in Vienna was invited to broaden the study and their main focus is on public spaces whereas ETH is more into housing and KTH is taking the lead in the aspect of loneliness.

The first year the ageing situation in the different cities were analysed through desktop studies of statistical data and for each city there is now a description of the situation for the elderly in terms of housing. Data such as where do the elderly live, what kind of housing do they live in and what is the overall demographic trend for the cities? Are they getting older or are they not affected by demographic changes? The picture looks a bit different between the three cities.

The team at KTH were visiting Zürich and Vienna in August 2018 and were looking at housing for elderly in Zürich and new house buildings in Vienna where big sites are undergoing development and creating new apartments for the citizens.



*Picture 1 and 2 Witikon Zürich, picture 3 Alfred Adler Strasse, Vienna
Photo: private*

In Stockholm special attention has been put on Loneliness which is an important part of the project. Elderly living in the near suburb of Farsta has been approached through an

information meeting held at the local library of Farsta. The library encouraged a meeting in their facilities as it is a normal hub for many activities for elderly.

Farsta is also interesting as being one of Stockholm ABC-cities built during the 50-th and they are still showing a high degree of both business, leisure and inhabitants using their center as a strong alternative to the inner city of Stockholm. It is in many ways self-contained without a sign of being losing its attraction.

The project found it to be an excellent place for both discussing loneliness and public places. A first workshop has been done and two more is on their way.

The project has encouraged master students at the school to make their thesis within the project and during the spring there are three master students working on different angles of the research; one is about loneliness among elderly but also among young students.

Vienna and Stockholm will be compared to one site in Netherland where young students live for free in a house block primarily built for old people.

The student lives for free but with the obligation to help the elderly with different things in their everyday life. Is this a way to combat loneliness is the question? Another student is looking into the elderly's use of public places in the center of Stockholm. The students work is complementing the research of the team.



Some members of the research team in Stockholm.

Photo: Marta Marko Tisch

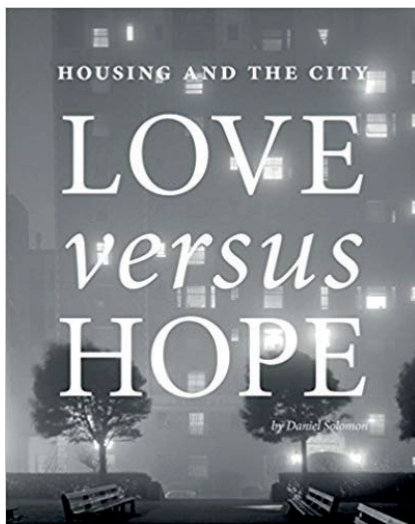
Housing and the City – Love vs. Hope

Researcher:



Dan Solomon

Daniel Solomon has written an engaging new book “Housing and the City, LOVE versus HOPE”—placing his own fifty-year career in a century of broad conflict between two antagonistic conceptions of the modern; one which sought to eradicate the pre-modern city and another that treated it with reverence.



Cities surround us, housing defines our existence, our minds are flooded by the apparent reality and what we perceive as real, what we perceive as important, what do we love, what we dislike and what we hope it will improve someday. Roaming the world today enriches our lives bringing forward different cultures, different apparent realities, a different “real”, sometimes grim, sometimes cheerful. And yet, often we do not see the difference. One happens to glance at Rome a day and on Amsterdam another, proceeds towards Copenhagen and returns home to Paris, Berlin, Munich, Cologne, Prague, Budapest or Bucharest and wonders, what was the difference between these place, what I loved about one and disliked about the other, why Prague felt similar to Bucharest but better and

yet Bucharest is renown as the “little Paris”?! Why Berlin feels beautiful yet distressed while Rome slides into one’s heart in an instant?! Have you ever wondered what made you feel at home in a completely new city? Have you tried to understand a city and the urban fabric around you? If you ever shown interest in housing and the city, this books is for you, whether you are a professional; an urban planner, an architect, designer or an avid travel, this book will amaze you.

Housing is a matter of great urgency around the world. In cities that drive technological change and staggering wealth, there is a fierce struggle over two different models of creating affordable living conditions for working people, the poor, and immigrants. In this thoughtful book, Solomon explores the successes and failures of cities such as San Francisco, Paris, and Rome in a century-long battle between the so- called City of Hope, which sought to replace traditional urban fabric with more rational housing patterns, and the City of Love—love of the city’s layered history and respect for its intricate social fabric.

Solomon demonstrates how the City of Hope has repeatedly failed its social purpose and driven a hot wedge into society’s latent divisions, while the City of Love has succeeded as the portal of assimilation and social harmony. Interwoven with stories from Solomon’s own fifty-year career, this engaging book adds a powerful new voice to the housing discussion. It will appeal to planners, architects, and lay people interested in cities as places of continuity, resilience, and refuge
Text by Anton G.

Urbanism Without Effort - Book

Researcher:



Charles R. Wolfe

How do you create inviting and authentic urban environments where people feel at home? Countless community engagement workshops, studies by consulting firms, and downtown revitalization campaigns have attempted to answer this age-old question.

In the new, revised, paperback edition of *Urbanism Without Effort*, Chuck Wolfe argues that “unplanned” places can often teach us more about great placemaking than planned ones.

A whirlwind global tour, *Urbanism Without Effort* offers readers inspiration, historical context, and a better understanding of how an inviting urban environment is created. The original 2013 e-book was the foundation for the author’s later, and longer work, *Seeing the Better City* (2017).

From impromptu movie nights in a Seattle alley to the adapted reuse of Diocletian’s Palace in Split, Croatia, Wolfe searches for the “first principles” of what makes humans feel happy and safe amid the hustle and bustle of urban life. He highlights the common elements of cities around the world that spontaneously bring people together: being inherently walkable, factors that contribute to safety at night, the importance of intersections and corners, and more.

In this age of skyrocketing metropolitan growth, he argues, looking to the past might be our best approach to creating the urban future we dream about.

Wolfe believes that these common elements are most interesting when they occur organically—seemingly without effort.

He contends it is critical to first isolate these spontaneous and latent examples of successful urban land use, before applying any prescriptive government policies or initiatives.

Wolfe provides something rare in contemporary urbanist writing—rich illustrations and examples from real life—both historical and current.

His writing about the past and the future of urban form offers readers inspiration, historical context, and a better understanding of how a sustainable, inviting urban environment is created.

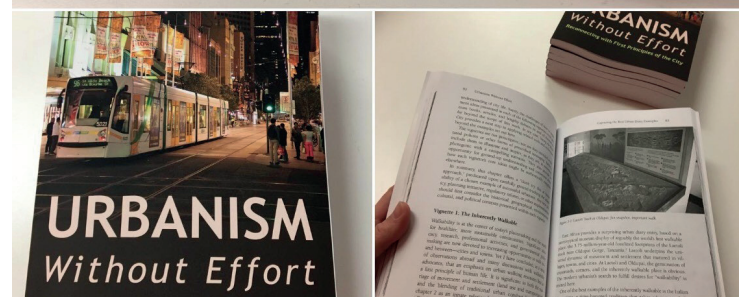


Photo: private

The importance of main streets and the opportunity for migrant economies

Researcher:



Rosa Danenberg

The public space agenda

Global processes such as urbanization and migration have led to growing local diversity and intensity in urban environments. Consequently, what is important for the well-being of people in cities increasingly emerges as focus for ensuring the livability, inclusion and resilience of cities. Therein, the public space agenda is at the center of this shift, recognizing the benefit of spaces for its ecological diversity, creative and economic exchange and dynamic social interaction. Observing the emerging field of public space research, cities are however challenged with the decline in quantity and quality of public space.

Streets as public space

Both global institutions and academic scholars ascribe value to ‘streets as public space and drivers of urban prosperity’ and appraise the role of streets as important everyday spaces that afford social interaction, social cohesion and personal well-being. In particular, a re-surge of interest in main streets reveals synergy arising from its dual functions: both performing as a transport artery road and public space, both connecting to the surrounding neighborhood and other city districts, both attracting both locals and visitors, and lastly both accommodating social and economic exchange, global and localness of economic activities, and local merchants as well as chain stores.

Hyper-diversity on main streets

The growing local diversity and intensity has profound consequences for the character of main streets. The activities, attitudes and lifestyles now adopted by city dwellers are no longer bound to socio-economic and ethnic grouping, but reach a state of hyper-diversity. The effects of globalization on the local economy and social networks are increasingly visible in public space, in particular on main streets. Herein, the migrant economy is observed as an appearing entrepreneurial practice on streetscapes and providing crucial neighborhood services.

Main streets and migrant economy in Stockholm

My research focuses on studying the emerging trends and processes on main streets in the era of e-commerce and chain stores. The effects of varied fine-grain scales of plots and plates for migrant economies is the first paper published (Danenberg et al. 2018). Future papers discuss, firstly, the growing numbers of condominium associations and its effects on ground floor activities for the main street’s place attachment and authenticity, and, secondly, the coexisting global and local social networks anchored in the main street as an effect of hyper-diversity.

Urban Depth – Strengthening Ties between People and City They Live in (working title)

Researcher:



Jing Jing

The rapid urbanization and transition processes of this century are leading not only to more people living in more cities, but living in urban areas that are growing bigger, denser and more complex. Cities may strive to become smarter, greener and more dynamic but they also face a myriad of challenges to create an environment for people to be healthy, happy and productive.

Many cities host an ageing population, and despite technological advances that allow people to connect more easily via a screen, 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 threat to human well-being 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 of Kungsholmen in Stockholm city opened a telephone line for elderly whom felt lonely and wanted to communicate with somebody (2018).

While there is a considerable body of literature on loneliness in the fields of philosophy, history, psychology, neuroscience and gerontology, etc. there are relatively few studies that examine its relation to urban planning and design. How can planners and architects begin to understand the complex issue of how urban form and planning impact upon people feeling isolated or lonely?

The overall goal of my research is to investigate the dynamics between public space and how it does or does not serve people that may be vulnerable to experiencing loneliness. It aims to help further understanding of the role that the planning and design of public space can have to address loneliness in the urban environment.

The research takes a transdisciplinary approach, which is necessary to study a problem as complex and multi-faceted as loneliness in the urban environment. Following my research plan for the first two year phase of my project, I have so far performed an extensive literature review and performed a study on the conceptualization of public space. This study employed a multiple sorting procedure, which is a methodology derived from environmental psychology. It aimed to learn about the first target focus group's (elderly 65+ in Stockholm city) conceptualization of public space in general, and in particular the places they would go in situations when they are alone or felt lonely. A paper will be produced based upon this work in the first half of 2019. A second paper drawn from the literature review is being produced in parallel, and I expect to deliver this by June/July.

This research contributes directly to CFP's thematic research area- Urban Form and Human Behavior. It also intersects with the project GoAL – Geography of Ages and Loneliness at many levels providing opportunities to both draw upon learning from that program and provide insights that may support its activities.

Partnership with UN-Habitat: Research, White Papers, Conference Events, Pilot Projects

In January 2018, the Centre entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with UN-Habitat to collaborate on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of the 2016 United Nations conference on housing and sustainable development.

The Centre committed to delivering a number of resources and working with partners on implementation pilot projects.



Signing an MOU with UN-Habitat and CFP. L-R: Michael Mehaffy, for the CFP; Shipra Narang Suri, Coordinator of the Urban Design Branch of UN-Habitat; and Saidou N'Dow, Head of Legal Office, UN-Habitat.

Among the deliverables currently under way or completed to date:

- **Book project**, “Why Public Space Matters,” to be used as an informational document with stakeholders in implementation projects. (Setha Low)
 - **White paper**, “Valuing the benefits of public space systems,” to be used as an informational document with stakeholders in implementation projects. (Michael Mehaffy)
 - **Research paper**, “Engaging Informality in the New Urban Agenda” (Mehaffy, Haas) (In press for Berkeley Planning Journal)
 - **Research paper**, “From the Athens Charter to the New Urban Agenda” (Low, Mehaffy) (In press for Journal of Public Space)
 - **Special Issue on Public Space, Urban Design International** (completed)
- **White paper** for the national government of Vietnam, “Addressing Rapid Urbanization through a Public Space Agenda: Developing a Vietnam Pilot Project for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (Kyle Farrell, Michael Mehaffy)
 - **Case study paper** for the government of Chengdu, China, “Portland: Regional Green Planning” Part of a larger UN-Habitat project, “Research on International Experience and Trends of Park City Indicator System.” (Michael Mehaffy)



CFP representatives Michael Mehaffy and Setha Low with UN-Habitat representatives, meeting to assess public space projects and provide research resources, Photo: private

In addition, the Centre partnered with UN-Habitat on several conferences and meetings to progress the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, presenting research and findings for policy and practice, including:

- **UN High Level Political Forum** in New York, co-organized session titled “Quantifying the Commons,” on development of SDG 11.7 and its indicators.
- **Expert Group Meeting** in Stockholm in September 2018, co-hosted sessions on development of indicators for SDG 11.7.
- **AfriCities conference session** on “Overcoming the Loss of Green and Public Spaces in Urban Africa.”
- **AfriCities conference workshop** on “Creating Safe, Inclusive and Accessible Public Space in Urban Africa: From Inventory to Implementation.”
- **Wuhan Placemaking Week**, China, session on “Why Public Space Matters: Research on Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits.”

The Centre is also collaborating with UN-Habitat, Canadian NGO HealthBridge, and other partners, to provide research capability for several pilot projects in the development of public space, including projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Centre will continue to collaborate on these and other deliverables of the partnership.



Setha Low presenting TESS for UN-Habitat representatives. Photo: private



Workshop on public space at the AfriCities conference in Marrakesh. Photo: private

Memorials to the Holocaust victims. History, design, impact. Cases of Belarus and Sweden.

Researcher:



Maryna Semenchenko

This research report examines the chosen memorials in Sweden and Belarus and identifies how these spaces were formed.

Both of the Belarusian memorials are located on a territory that used to be a part of the Minsk ghetto during the Second World War.

While Belarusian experience of the war and the Holocaust was dramatic, Sweden was remaining officially neutral. Such different backgrounds require a brief introduction into Belarusian and Swedish sociohistorical contexts. Due to an attention that this study pays to discursive space, this report also briefly describes the politics of memory that were

formed in Soviet and contemporary Belarus and modern Sweden.

Literature and media review as well as a work with archival documents allowed to discover how the design of the studied memorials was formed and what actors were involved in their creation. In turn, media review in combination with direct observations and interviews shed light on social practices that have taken place around the chosen memorials.

Therefore, this research comprehensively analyzes physical, social and discursive spaces and their relations that together formed three memorial sites in Minsk and Stockholm.



Memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe, Berlin. Photo: private

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Charles R. Wolfe

Peer-Reviewed

- Wolfe, C.R., *Urbanism Without Effort: Reconnecting with the First Principles of the City*, rev. ed. (Island Press, 2018), books available in December 2018.

Non-Peer Reviewed

- Wolfe, C.R., Tavares, S. and Sellars, D. "Thinkers in the Tropical Shade: Empowering Lessons for Livable Places," *Planetizen*, June 28, 2018, republished in *CNU Public Square*, July 13, 2018, and *Australian-American Fulbright Commission's Minds and Hearts*, August, 2018.

- Wolfe, C.R., “Overselling Utopia? The Urbanist’s Dilemma,” CNU Public Square, October 15, 2018.
- Wolfe, C.R. and Haas, T., “Cities in Context,” ongoing paper and book and research underway at Centre. See related Delphi Conversation III, September 7, 2018, C. Wolfe, Moderator
- Wolfe, C., “A View of Seattle from the Outside Looking In,” Crosscut, August 6, 2018. See <https://crosscut.com/2018/08/view-seattle-outside-looking>
- Cardoso, F. and Wolfe C., “AS CIDADES NÃO PODEM SUBSTITUIR OS INPUTS HUMANOS OU ARRISCAM-SE A FICAR IGUAIS A TODOS OS OUTROS LUGARES,” Smart Cities Revista (Portugal), February 2018 (online version published June 7, 2018)
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Stefan Lundgren, KTH

- A. Laya, J. Markendahl, S. Lundberg. Network-centric business models for health, social care and wellbeing solutions in the internet of things. *Scandinavian Journal of Management*. Volume 34, Issue 2, June 2018, Pages 103-116
- A. Brosson, A. Öhman, S. Lundberg, MP. Chutchin, L. Nygård. How accessible are grocery shops for people with dementia? A qualitative study using photo documentation and focus group interviews. *Dementia. Senior City*, Book Ed. Tigran & Cars

Setha Low, CUNY New York

- Low, S. (Ed.). (2018) *Routledge Handbook of Anthropology and the City: Engaging the Urban and the Future*. London and New York: Routledge. (To be released September 15, 2018)
- Mehaffy, M. and S. Low (in review) *From the Charter of Athens to the New Urban Agenda: Implications for Urban Form and Public Space*. *Journal of Public Space*.
- Low, S., Buchbinder, S., and Panagiotopoulos, H. (in review). *Sweetheart Condos*. *International Urban and Regional Planning Journal*. Special Issue, C. Mouat (Ed.).
- Low, S. (in review). *Public Space and Diversity*. *Urban Design International Journal*. Special Issue, T. Haas, P. Elmlund and M. Mehaffy (Eds.).
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David Brain, New College of Florida

- David Brain. “The Practice of Urbanism: Civic Engagement and Collaboration by Design.” Pp. 51-66 in Mahyar Arefi & Conrad Kickert (eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Bottom-Up Urbanism*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Conrad Kickert, University of Cincinnati

Books

- Kickert (2019). *Dream city: the rise, fall and rebirth of downtown Detroit*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. Expected date of publication: spring 2019.
- Kickert (under review). *Life on the edge: the death and life of ground floor frontages*. Research for manuscript in progress, under review by Routledge.

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- Arefi, Kickert (2018). *The Palgrave Handbook on bottom-up urbanism*. London: Palgrave Press.

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- Kickert (forthcoming). *Urban retail*. In: Talen (2019). *A research agenda for New Urbanism*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

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- Kickert (forthcoming). *Trends and unknowns in urban retail*. Invited paper in special issue of *Journal of Urbanism*.
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Sabine Knierbein, TU Wien

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- Knierbein, S. and Viderman, T. (2018) *Public Space Unbound. Urban emancipation and the post-colonial condition.* New York/London, Routledge.
- Knierbein, S and Viderman, T (2018) *Space, Emancipation and Post-Political Urbanization.* In: Knierbein, S and Viderman, T (eds) *Public Space Unbound. Urban Emancipation and the Post-Political Condition.* Pp. 3-19.
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- Knierbein, S, Kraenzle, E and Wall, E (2018) *Excursion to East London: Urban Agendas caught between local needs and global pressures. Exploring urban presents.* Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, TU Wien (Ed.), ISBN 978-3-902707-42-0. Wien.

Vikas Mehta, University of Cincinnati

Books

- Frederick, M. and Mehta, V. (2018). *101 Things I Learned in Urban Design School.* New York: Three Rivers Press, Crown Publishing, Penguin Random House.

Book chapters

- Mehta, V. (published July 2018 with official release in 2019). *Space, Time and Agency on the Indian Street.* In M. Arefi and C. Kickert (eds.), *Handbook on Bottom-up Urbanism.* London: Palgrave.
- Mehta, V. (2018). *Neighborhood Authenticity and Sense of Place.* In L. Tate and B. Shannon (eds.), *Planning for AuthenticITIES.* New York: Routledge.

Journal articles

- Mehta, V. and Bosson, J. K. (2018). Revisiting Lively Streets: Social Interactions in Public Space. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*.
- Mehta, V. (2018). Streets and Social Life in Cities: A Taxonomy of Sociability. *Urban Design International*, special issue on Future of Public Space.
- Mehta, V. and Mahato, B. (2018). Measuring the Robustness of Neighbourhood Business Districts. *Journal of Urban Design*.
- Brown, R., Carr, V., Mehta, V., and Kochanowski, L. (2018). Children, Youth and Environments: A Call for Research, Practice, Action and Policy. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 28(1), 1-8.

Rosa Danenberg, doktorand KTH

Peer-reviewed:

- Danenberg, R., Mehaffy, M., Porta, S., & Elmund, P. (2018). Main street plot scale in urban design for inclusive economies: Stockholm case studies. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers-Urban Design and Planning*, 1-10.

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- Danenberg, R. & Haas, T. (2018). New trends in bottom-up urbanism and governance-reformulating ways for mutual engagement between municipalities and citizen-led urban initiatives. In *The Palgrave Handbook of Bottom-Up Urbanism* (s. 113-129). Springer International Publishing.

Mattias Höjer, KTH

- Höjer, Mattias, and Kristina Mjörnell (2018) 'Measures and Steps for More Efficient Use of Buildings', *Sustainability*, 10(1949)
- Ringenson, Tina, Mattias Höjer, Anna Kramers, and Anna Viggedal (2018), 'Digitalization and Environmental Aims in Municipalities', *Sustainability*, 10(1278)
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Conferences Events

World Urban Forum Kuala Lumpur



The seminal conference during 7-13 February 2018 in Kuala Lumpur brought together 25 000 people from around the world to focus on the theme “Cities 2030 – Cities for All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda”

Several members of the Future of Places team gathered at the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. That document, focusing on how to create better quality cities, was developed at the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016, and later adopted by consensus by all 193 member states of the United Nations. The agreement is a result of a unique consensus among all participating states and sets out a common vision and global standards for urban development in the coming decades.

The Future of Places network played a key role in developing aspects of the New Urban Agenda, particularly its focus on “well-connected and well-distributed networks” of public space, as a key framework for sustainable urbanization.

Over four years, the forum gathered some 1500 researchers, practitioners, government officials, NGOs and citizens from 700 organizations in over 200 cities and over 100 countries.

Now the attention is on implementation, and the Centre for the Future of Places, a new research hub, will link with other hubs internationally to develop platforms of knowledge-sharing.

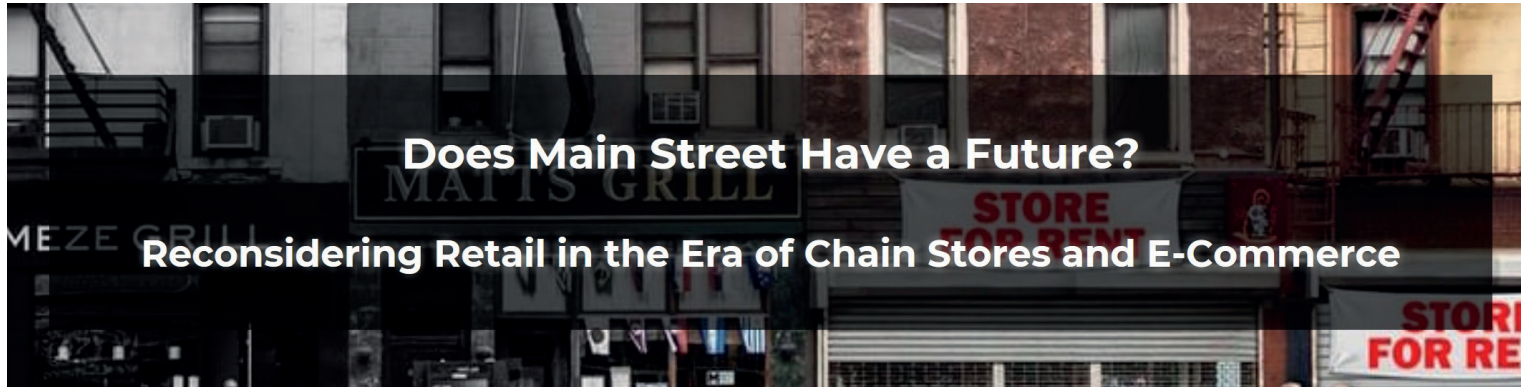


*CFP representatives Kyle Farrell and Michael Mebaffy at WUF9.
Photo: private*



Michael Mebaffy and Setha Low presenting at WUF9. Photo: private

Reconsidering Retail Conference University of Chicago



In cooperation with the University of Chicago and Professor Emily Talen the Centre for the Future of Places organized a one-day symposium and exhibition on the 1st November 2018.

Conference summary:

Neighborhood-based retail used to play an active role in the life of urban neighborhoods. In many cities, a variety of factors, including most recently online shopping, have contributed to the long decline of small, independent retail establishments, rendering, according to some critics, Jane Jacobs' vision of activated street life via small business ownership a nostalgic illusion. Scholars, however, have long recognized that neighborhood-based services are essential for neighborhood stability. Neighborhoods that have been able to provide local services and facilities –small groceries and other outlets serving daily life needs –have been shown to be more stable, often with a higher sense of community and an ability to promote social networks of interdependence.

The conference brought together researchers to evaluate the current status and viability of existing retail that is small, independent, and neighborhood-based. What is the current status and future prospects of what has been known as “main street.” Is neighborhood based retail still viable?



Speakers of the conference, Photo: private

Jointly organized by:



The Strip Urbanism & Beyond: Las Vegas from the Inside Out

11 June 2018 - International One Day Conference
Jointly organized by the Centre for the Future
of Places, KTH Graduate Master's Program in
Urbanism Studies (MUSE), UN Habitat Partner
Universities

Speakers:

- Robert Fishman, professor of architecture and urban planning, Taubman College of Architecture and University of Michigan; Talk: Detroit Linear City: Lessons for Las Vegas
- Stefan Al, Dutch architect and associate professor of Urban Design at the University of Pennsylvania and is a Visiting Professor at Tongji University and a 2018 TED Resident. Talk: The Strip: Las Vegas and the Architecture of the American Dream
- Catherine Borg, visual artist and scholar using photography, video, installation and drawing to examine and reflect cultural

narratives. Talk: Scouted - The Search for a Cinematic Vegas

- Aseem Inam, Professor and Chair in Urban Design at Cardiff University in the UK, and Director of TRULAB: Laboratory for Designing Urban Transformation, a pioneering research-based practice. Talk: Frontstage/Backstage: Las Vegas and Relationality in Urbanism
- Leah Meisterlin, urbanist, GIS methodologist and Assistant Professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. Talk: Antipublic Urbanism: Las Vegas and the Downtown
- Jesper Meijling, architect and writer conducting postgraduate research at KTH. He has a background as a producer at Swedish Radio in society, politics and economics.

The conference has been recorded by CFP Media Production Team.



Photo: Tigran Haas

Cities for All: Gentrification, Public Space, and the Tools of Placemaking

The Centre for the Future of Places was a proud sponsor and co-organizer of the “Cities for All” conference that took place 12-13 April 2018 at Färgfabriken in Stockholm.

How can cities, civil society and professionals meet the challenges of growing gentrification, displacement, and loss of affordability, especially in city cores? How can they maintain quality of life, cultural heritage, economic vitality, and other benefits of urban living? What role does public space provide in creating a forum for all within the city - and how can this forum be made available to all? These questions were all related to the central themes of the conference. Stockholm is one of the fastest growing cities in Europe, and one of the most segregated.

Even though new developments are furthering segregation, there is a momentum in Sweden to make a change in the model of urban development. Inclusion and feminism have historically been topics at which Sweden has excelled, and they have become increasingly prominent in the urban debate.

A relevant conference, indeed. Cities for all connected the Swedish context with international research and European practice of placemaking. Placemakers from all over Europe gathered to show best practices from their countries. Each keynote speaker and workshop leader discussed their areas of expertise, but there were two important guiding themes throughout all the talks and sessions.

The first guideline was gentrification and segregation. For placemakers, themes of gentrification and segregation are infrequently our motivation for action. Yet, these two processes are realities that are affecting our work and our

cities every day. That is why it is paramount that we make explicit how our actions influence these two processes, and vice-versa.

The second guideline was actionable-knowledge for placemakers. The purpose of this conference was not to dwell on the problems, but to share and develop tools and strategies that will help us to solve these problems. Therefore, we asked speakers to be explicit about the tools and strategies that are related to their topic. It is also our goal to think about how placemaking can help to tackle these issues, and work in ensuring that urban areas are places for everyone.



Photo: private

“Cities for All” has been organized as a collaboration between STIPO, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Future of Places Research Network, the City at Eye Level and Tertius. The conference is made possible because of the contribution of our dozens of active partners from the European Placemaking Network.

In cooperation with:



Expert Group Meeting

From Site to System: City-wide Public Space Strategies

Stockholm and Ängelsberg
24-26 September 2018



Background - Public Space-led Urban Development

When planning focuses on providing adequate supply of connected public space with a view to supporting adequate density, it is possible to move forward with infrastructure, land subdivision and development in a more efficient and sustainable way. The link between public space and urban development needs to be understood in each context and legal framework in order to prevent the creation of unmanaged and/or public space deficiencies common to many cities.

The benefit of preparing a city-wide strategy/policy is the protection and creation of a network of high-quality public spaces, which, with city-wide distribution, may help governments to reduce inequalities. Without a clear strategy/policy, however, it is difficult for local governments to prioritize, spend and plan resources and to show how much public space is valued, and to mitigate the negative impacts of site specific interventions (e.g. gentrification). A strong strategic policy framework, supported by urban design, is core. Surprisingly, not all urban plans contain sufficient guidance for the creation, layout and design of public spaces. City-wide policies and strategies should ensure planning, design and management of public spaces at different scales, from the site to the block to the neighbourhood to the whole city and even beyond to the functional metropolitan region.

Key objectives of the Expert Group Meeting:

- Reviewing UN-Habitat's draft compendium of city-wide public space strategies

- Documenting lessons learnt and defining how city-wide public space strategies have been articulated with city development plans
- Evaluate the rule of thumb that up to 50% of a city's area be dedicated to public space (i.e. 30% to streets and sidewalks and 15-20% to parks and other open spaces)
- Defining criteria for evaluating -assessing city-wide public space strategies/policies and their implementation
- Defining possible thematic entry points (e.g. biodiversity, environment, social harmony, economic development, walkability, etc.) for a model city-wide public space strategy
- Outlining the central ingredients of a city wide public space strategy / what are the bare minimum contents (design, uses, financing, component on activities being promoted e.g. art, etc.)
- How can national policy aspects support the cities in developing city-wide strategies and support cities in monitoring SDG 11.7.1



*"City-trip" with the Expert Group Meeting participants.
Photo: private*

Almedalen Visby 2018

4 themes for a sustainable placemaking future were discussed in Almedalen under the umbrella of Safer Sweden and the Centre for the Future of Places with prominent guests: practitioners, civil society, policy makers and professionals.

- How do we get security and the crime prevention work in urban planning?
- BoTryggt2030 - sustainable and safe urban environments: who is responsible?
- BID - a new way to reduce crime and increase security
- Placemaking - we create attractive, safe public spaces

In a short time, many new homes and new areas will be built. We should not repeat mistakes as to which ones are expensive today. How is it ensured that safety and security are taken into account in future urban construction? How can one make conscious choices in the design of the physical room? Our cities are designed by a number of different actors with different areas of responsibility, both geographically and socially.

Is it just a municipal task to make sure everyone feels safe in our cities?

What role does the real estate companies have?

What can business and civil society do? How does the research come in?

One way to reduce crime and increase security is through site collaboration where the municipality, property owners and other actors join together in a non-profit organization and take joint responsibility for a locally defined area, so-called BID.

What international experiences are there and how do the opportunities in Sweden look? Unsafe urban spaces that are not used are a well-known problem. What are the success factors for a place being attractive and safe?

The world over, placemaking has been applied as a method of creating attractive, safe places. Through placemaking, places are planned with the purpose of making people want to be in and use places.

The people at the site create a social control, which reduces the risk of crimes and order disruptions and increases security. How do we be in the important room between the houses and create places with an identity?

Coorganized by:

Tryggare Sverige, PPS and the KTH Centre for the Future of Places – Cluster of Seminars on Placemaking, Security and Safety



Photo: private

The Athena Lecture Series



The Centre for the Future of Places offers 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. The Athena Lecture Series invites 20 world class female scholars to KTH in 2017-2019.

During their visit, the invited guests present their scholarly and creative research in a public lecture. The lecture is followed by an engaging discussion with the public, led by a moderator. Planned alongside the lectures are often a variety of activities designed to provide students & faculty the opportunity to further engage with the lecturer.

In 2018 The Athena Lecture Series has grown to be a well-known and popular event series among students, researchers and the external public alike.

This year, the following scholars have presented at the Athena Lecture Series:



Professor Setha Low,
The Graduate School CUNY



Professor Susan S. Fainstein,
Harvard University



Professor Ann Forsyth,
Harvard University



Professor Fran Tonkiss,
London School of Economics



Professor Christine Boyer,
Princeton University



Professor Anne Vernez Moudon
University of Washington, Seattle



Professor Rachel Kallus,
Technion Israel



Professor Rachelle Altermann,
Technion, Israel



Professor Ellen Dunham-Jones,
Georgia Tech



Professor Nina-Marie Lister,
Ryerson University, Toronto

The Delphi Conversations Series



The Delphi Conversations are long-form roundtable discussions tackling urbanism topics from the perspective of academics and practitioners alike. While urban design is the overarching theme, we focus especially on the role of public spaces in encouraging social diversity, economic mobility and vibrant, livable cities.

The Delphi Conversations began in 2017 and continued with two panel discussions in 2018. Due to a grown interest and to make the event more accessible for the public, we decided to change the format and moved the event from a studio to an open venue at KTH Library.

The Delphi Conversations III - Cities in Context



Photo: Kevin Billingham

This episode, recorded on September 7th 2018, spotlighted issues around 'authenticity' in urban design, and featured:

- Manish Chalana, University of Washington
- Amy Hochadel, Future Cities Catapult, London
- Anne Vernez Moudon, University of Washington
- Maria Adebawale-Schwarte, Living Space Project.

Moderator:

Charles R. Wolfe, CFP Visiting Scholar

The Delphi Conversations IV - Understanding (our) urban nature

The episode was recorded on December 3rd 2018 and featured:

- Nina-Marie Lister - Ryerson University, Toronto
- Michael Mehaffy- KTH Centre for the Future of Places
- Karin Nordström - Founder of Hellolittlefuture
- Hanna Erixon Aalto - KTH School of Architecture and the Built Environment

Moderator: Hélène Littke - Ekologigruppen



Photo: Marta Marko Tisch

The 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 are succeeded by a high-level panel of three guests discussing and analyzing the theme.

In 2018 the Centre for the Future of Places invited two scholars to present at the Ideopolis Exchanges. Both talks attracted a dedicated public and generated lively discussions afterwards. The plan is to continue with two talks a year in 2019 and 2020.

Architecture or Apocalypse

Srečko Horvat - philosopher, author

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?

Panel discussion:

Pernilla Hagbert, KTH

Catharina Gabrielsson, KTH

Helen Runting, KTH

Just Sustainabilities in Policy, Planning and Practice

Professor Julian Agyeman - Tufts University, Massachusetts, USA

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.

Agyeman is known today as a critical urban planner 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.

Panel discussion:

Karin Bradley KTH

Mattias Höjer, KTH

Andrew Karvonen, KTH



Julian Agyeman



Srečko Horvat

The Centre for the Future of Places Event Dictionary

1. The “Delphi Conversations™” (Roundtables)



The roundtable discussion will be an opportunity for the invited international participants to get together in an informal setting to examine issues of urbanism as they relate to their specific interest, practice and research. There is no formal agenda: the participants will determine the discussion points as one goes along but the moderator will have some key themes for discussion. It is usually four guests and a moderator. The Delphi (Oracle) Conversations are being taped every time and can include a live audience. Two Delphi's are planned per year.

2. The “Athena Lectures & Talks Series™” (Talks)



The Athena Talks Series is an annual international conference on a leading urbanism paradigm and its relationship to the phenomenon of Public Places and Urban Spaces, while Athena Lectures is an ongoing series of high level talks with invited guests. The Athena Talks also include the twenty internationally distinguished urban studies female scholar's lectures; by bringing the brightest minds, most engaging speakers, and influential people to KTH campus, the Center wants to encourage thought-provoking conversations and genesis of new ideas.

3. The “Pegasus Symposium™” (Seminars)



The symposium or seminar is meant as, either a smaller limited group of people meeting or a larger gathering in form of a smaller conference for the public discussion of some topic especially one in which the participants form an audience and make presentations.

The Pegasus Symposiums will always focus on a ‘burning’ issue within urban planning and urban design and will include guest speakers from Nordic, EU and other countries. The symposiums will often have a moderator and keynote speeches followed by panel discussion and a possible workshop session.

4. The “Apollo Gatherings™” (Conferences)



The Apollo Gatherings are focused on organizing or co-organizing major international conference(s), either in Sweden or internationally as standalone or in co-partnership. Apollo is primarily an academic gathering when it comes to speakers and tracks - a conference for researchers (also not necessarily academics) to present and discuss their work. Together with academic or scientific journals, the Apollo Gatherings will provide an important channel for exchange of information between researchers and promotion of the center's ideas internationally.

5. The “Agora Discussions™” (Ideas)



The Agora Discussions are internal meetings of the researchers in the Centre with a few invited guests. They are weekly or biweekly incubators for new ideas in the field, especially ideas relating directly to public spaces. It's an arena for discussions not for presentations, though at times such happen but in a short manner. Current issues and state of the art literature in the field is discussed and debated as well as new ideas that are presented from a different point of view. Together with these sessions, the Centre has a weekly or biweekly “fika” arranged.

6. The “Civitas International Series™” (Lectures)



The Civitas International Series is a continuation of guest talks that were an integral part of Civitas Athenaeum Laboratory (CAL), a platform integrated into the Centre for the Future of Places (CFP). Civitas is a mix of lectures, talks and seminars given by guests within urban and regional studies at the School, Department and KTH, but always having the center as the host for this. The physical built environment and its interaction with the social structures of today’s cities is a complex field and the talks focus on that in different macro/meso/micro scales.

7. The “Athene Noctua™” (Interviews & Podcasts)



The Noctua series is focused primarily on “one to one” interviews with leading placemakers within different disciplines and areas of work related to the public realm. In addition to that a podcast, or generically netcast, is an episodic series of digital and video audio files – talks & interviews - which can be download and listen to. A podcast is an audio program, like a radio show, that is made by the Centre’s staff and then posted to the Internet for open access downloads and listening to. Often Athena Noctua will include both in one.

8. The “Athenaeum Assembly™” (Meetings)



The assembly’s purpose is to enable a public facility to meet for open discussion on a special topic. The Athenaeum is primarily concerned with the global urban agenda and world urban forum topics, i.e. also all things pertaining to the global south as well as the developed world.

The assembly might take form of a conference but more often a specialized meeting of decision and policy makers, professionals and activists as well as academics. The assembly is often placed and executed in an international setting and done together with the partners.

9. The Ionic Retreats™” (Outings)



The Ionic retreat is another internal activity of the Centre where the researchers and the staff meet maximum twice a year in a retreat for 2 days and discuss the modus operandi of the center, upcoming activities, research projects, staff issues, international meetings, strategic issues, financing and other things. At this time, the academic board, or some of the members, will be invited via skype/conference call/live media to participate in some sessions. Also an invited, inspiring international speaker might join for the opening of the retreat.

10. The “Ideopolis Exchanges™” (Colloquiums)



The Ideopolis Exchanges – colloquiums - an academic meeting or seminar usually led by a different lecturer and on a different topic – is special in the sense that at each meeting presentation will center on a controversial and hard-sensitive topic aimed at empowering the audience through hard talk to break the conventional boundaries and deconstruct hard talk issues in a novel way, but promoting an inclusive, enriching culture of dialogue of mutual benefit. The talk will be succeeded by a high level panel of three guests discussing and analyzing the theme.

Communication Outreach



The message

Both in its strategic communication and by operative outputs the Centre for the Future of Places aims to position itself as follows:

- an international hub for research about the future of places
- produces interesting and relevant results
- serves as a collaboration of researchers from the areas of architecture, housing, urban and regional studies
- a living venue where several scientific disciplines and fields work together

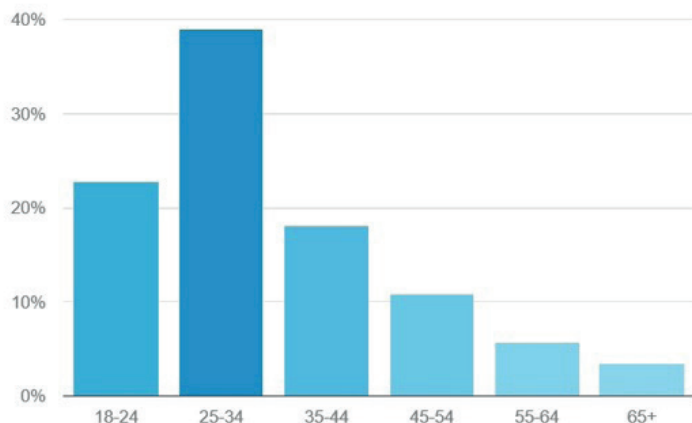
The target groups:

- researchers and the research community
- students and teachers at KTH and other universities in Sweden and internationally
- companies, authorities, organizations with an interest in the themes we tackle

Website

cfp.abe.kth.se

In 2018, the Centre's website has become more established and continued to serve as a focal point in our communication.



39% of the visitors are between 25 and 34 years old.
(source: Google Analytics)

Achieved

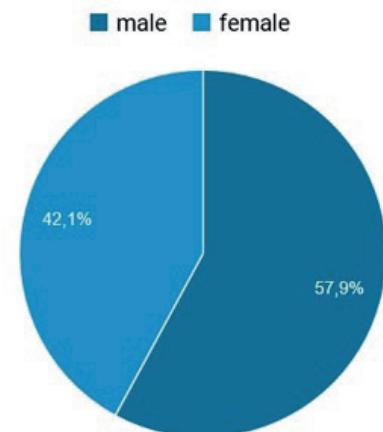
During 2018, we managed to achieve a significant growth of public at all our channels and by that we have been able to inform a wider group of people about the Centre's research, news and activities.

Thanks to an active presence on different communication channels, to our collaborations with universities worldwide and nevertheless to our researches who participate at numerous international conferences, the Centre for the Future of Places has become widely recognized among researchers in the field of urbanism.

| Sidvisningar ? | Unika sidvisningar ? |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 100,12 % | 123,71 % |
| 8 643 kontra 4 319 | 6 698 kontra 2 994 |

Both site visits and unique site visits grew in 2018

(source: Google Analytics)



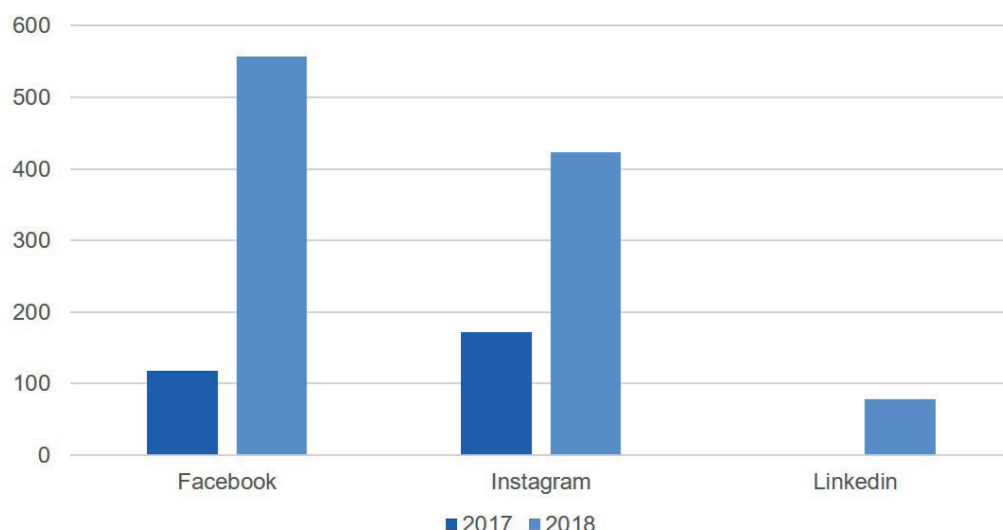
A majority of the website's visitors are women.

Social media

The Centre for the Future of Places manages a joint **Twitter** account with the Ax:son Jonson Foundation's Future of Places network. Thanks to this shared effort, our Twitter channel is by far the most popular among our social media channels and with its **23 683 followers** produces the most effective outreach.

The Centre is also present on **Facebook** and **Instagram** where our channels are attracting more and more people and have generated an exponential growth of followers in 2018. Our **LinkedIn** page has only started a few months ago but already shows a modest increase of followers.

The increase of followers in 2018



The number of followers of the Centre for the Future of Places social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) in December 2017 and in December 2018

Media Production

The Centre for the Future of Places has its own media production team that produced more than 70 films during 2018 and also manages the CFP Youtube channel.

The team records seminars, conferences and other events arranged by the Centre and makes interviews with researchers at international conferences.



*The film team at work, recording one of the Athena Lectures.
Photo: private*



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 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 at Tufts University
for his outstanding contribution to the field
of social justice and ecological sustainability,
environmental policy and planning at Tufts
University, Medford, Massachusetts



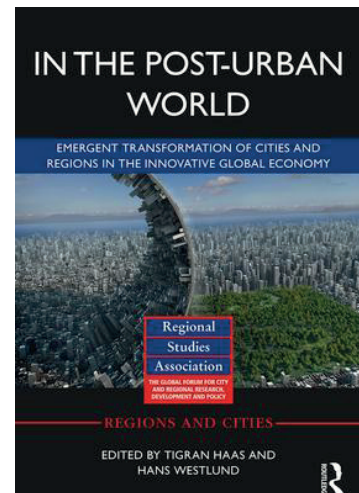
Dr. Emily Talen, Professor of Urbanism, University of
Chicago
for her outstanding contribution to the field of
urban planning, urban design, geographical
sciences and urbanism in general.

Awards 2018

“In the Post-Urban World” won the 2018, Regional Studies Association Best Book Award

In the Post-Urban World, Emergent Transformation of Cities and Regions in the Innovative Global Economy, by CFP director Tigran Haas and Hans Westlund has won the 2018, Regional Studies Association Best Book Award.

This is a wonderful accolade, not just for the editors but for the Centre for the Future of Places and the amazing line-up of authors in this book. We are grateful for their time and ideas they gave in and for this book.



ACQ Global Awards

The Centre for the Future of Places was honoured to receive the ACQ Global Awards 2018 in the category of “Europe - Knowledge Center of the Year, Urban Planning/Urban Design”

Director Tigran Haas was delighted to win in the category of “Europe - Game Changer of the Year”.



Corporate Vision Magazine Award


The Centre for the Future of Places has, two years in an row, won the Corporate Excellence Award in the category of:

Most Innovative in Engineering and Technology 2017 and 2018



Building the Future of Urban Development

The KTH Royal Institute of Technology's Centre for the Future of Places is an ongoing research thinktank which aims to establish and promote sustainable urban development. In May they were named in Corporate Vision's annual Corporate Excellence Awards, with the title of Most Innovative in Engineering & Technology, for their work as a world-leading institute in Sweden. We profiled the centre to find out more about their extraordinary work.

 The Centre for the Future of Places (CFP) exists to fulfil one primary aim; to fuel a discussion on the shift of thinking about urbanism in strictly rigid terms – the 'hardware'-objects of the cities, buildings and infrastructure, but more so on the software, the people and places that inhabit the space. To build on that idea organically; the true understanding of urban development lies in the observation of people and places - to carry on the metaphor - and how they interact with the hardware of the system, their environment. Think desire paths, but on a much grander, and more complex, scale. It's an idea that is very contemporary; a sort of post-modern approach in urban planning. Also, it goes wildly against the prevailing school of thought, and would represent a paradigm-altering shift if the centre succeeds. Ultimately, they believe that true urban sustainability – creating and maintaining an environment that is healthy- lies in understanding

this holistic view, and cannot simply be forced through a fragmented grasp of the mechanisms at play.

Further, as part of their five-year plan to achieve their goal, they are looking to become the foremost experts in the area; developing metrics for analysing public spaces, producing white papers, and developing research proposals and grants.

As the driving force behind this novel field, CFP have focused their research on four complimentary areas of research;

- Urban form and human behaviour
- Sustainable urbanism and housing
- Public places and urban spaces
- Emergent global transformations

CFP plans to alter the discussion through collaborative interdisciplinary research projects, round tables, debates and conferences. Essentially, being present and vocal at any



international gathering where new ideas in urbanism are the focus. By all regards, CFP is more than qualified for the title of Most Innovative in Engineering & Technology, with their plans to reinvent the field of urban planning, creating an accurate, more precise model of urban development.

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Master's programme in Urbanism Studies (MUSE)



A special outreach of the Centre for the Future of Places (CFP) is the educational graduate program in Urbanism Studies at KTH, School of Architecture and the Built Environment.

This one-year master's programme is aimed at graduates from the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and city planning who are specifically concerned with design issues of the public realm and the effects these have on social life and human behavior.

The focus is to deepen theoretical and design knowledge, changing the mindset of professionals regarding the importance and value of the public realm in the design of our cities.

The rationale behind Urbanism Studies is for professionals to understand and work in interdisciplinary urban design and city planning teams, coupled with the growing desire for cities to establish new and different forms of urban living. As the goal of this programme is to move design thinking from objects to places, our core urban studios and modules differ from traditional studios/modules in several ways.

The approach involves in-depth explorations of urban design issues by combining five topic-based modules situated within the three studio courses. Ongoing seminar reading series and urban film studies are included in the studios.

The integrated final thesis project builds upon the previous three studios and five modules. It is a unique composite work synthesizing all of the results of previous work into a final product that students can utilize as a portfolio of their one-year studies at KTH.

This is a “living book” of accumulated knowledge from the beginning that will act as an advanced postgraduate theoretical, strategic and design portfolio. The project can be achieved in the form of an essay, design project, installation or urban movie.

The degree project also includes methodologies in urban design research, public life studies and researching the city, plus a research seminar focused on thesis preparation.

Furthermore, students are offered the opportunity to be exposed to and collaborate with the guest faculty from some of the leading built environment (Urbanism) programmes in the world: ETH Zürich, TU Berlin, UCL Bartlett in London, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston, as well as some others. This offers students a fantastic global collaborative opportunity on a wide range of real world cases.

Urbanism Studies are externally supported and partly financed by the Ax:son Johnson Foundation.



Governance and Staff



The following people contributed to the work of The Centre for the Future of Places in 2018



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



Mattias Höjer
researcher
Professor in
Environmental Strategies
and Future Studies, KTH



Stefan Lundberg
researcher
Associate Professor
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Urban and Regional
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Asifa Iqbal
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Professor
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CUNY



David Brain
guest researcher
Professor
New College of Florida



Charles R Wolfe
guest researcher
Urbanism consultant,
Author



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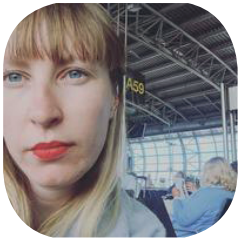
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Susan Hellström
administrator
KTH



Juan Grafeuille
financial officer
KTH



Ragnar Lund
guest researcher
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
- Dr. Charlie Gullström Hughes - 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 - 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

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
- Professor Suzanne Hall, London School of Economics, LSE Cities
- Professor Charles Bohl, University of Miami
- Professor Douglas Kelbaugh, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Professor Malcolm McCullough, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Professor Matthew Carmona, University College London, Bartlett
- Professor Sarah Williams, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT

