

International conference on the subject of:

**“THE CONTEMPORARY CITY. A GIANT WITH FEET OF CLAY.
The discovery of new urban frailties and the tasks of urban planning”**

CALL FOR PAPERS

For two centuries the urban areas of the planet have been in the middle of an impetuous and incessant growth, which has been pushed in the first phase by the Industrial Revolution and then by technological innovations and by the boost to globalization. According to the most recent forecast, the urban population should reach a peak of 85% by 2100 but, due to a paradox that the sector research has not yet faced, it is possible that the main agglomerations will be exhausted. If therefore, we do not know the reasons for an imminent blurring of the role of global engine of the socio-economic and environmental transformations that the city has historically done, it is however plausible that the weakening of the attractiveness of many urban areas depends exactly on the hypertrophic growth of the last decades and, consequently, on the circumstance for which the decision to move to the city no longer corresponds to the granting of a privileged *status*, nor the enjoyment of particularly favourable requirements.

It also seems clear that the future evolution of the urbanization trend is not only conditioned by an extreme generalization and by the consequent weakening of the localization factors that traditionally constitute the by-product. Indeed, in the case of a marked dematerialization of the productive system and of the interpersonal bonds that the knowledge economy is urging, it happens that the relationships that develop in the urban circuit are increasingly "liquid" and indeterminate. Thus, the city is held in this grip and it risks losing its own recognizability, with the effect of undermining the cognitive and planning tools that have been used to draw the boundaries of the most anthropized territory and to ensure its governance.

For urban studies and for the culture of plan, it seems that the time has come to fully understand the meaning and proportions of an evolution of the urbanization process that appears unprecedented. The time has also come to accept the need to combine the usual service to the public administration with the unprecedented task of working for the reconstruction of the identity values and the socio-cultural resources that the city is dissipating during its complex transition.

The thematic nucleus that this *Call* proposes to scholars and researchers is based on the awareness that a new phase in the history of cities is fast approaching and that the urban planning has to face a double challenge: on one hand, it is necessary to mobilize the intellectual resources available to analyse in depth the radical changes that are taking place in the main settlement contexts; on the other hand, it requires from the policies of the plan to offer a fundamental contribution to the reconstruction of an urban civilization that is losing the underlying motivations and the direction of a common path to take.

Conference's goals and planning

In re-proposing the formula successfully tested in the previous editions of Urbanpromo, **INU** and **URBIT** intend to provide working hypotheses and contributions of ideas to the Scientific Community by organizing an international Conference that will take place in Turin in November 2019 on the occasion of the XVI edition of Urbanpromo. The Conference is targeted at researchers, scholars and professionals currently working in universities, companies and public administration, Also **URBANISTICA** and **Planum. The Journal of Urbanism**, the leading scientific magazines of this sector, participate to this Conference. **Planum** will ensure the full and timely publication of the *papers* sent – which will be propagated and subjected to discussion already during the Conference –, the **URBANISTICA** magazine – as already happened with n. 157, n. 160 and n. 162 (in press) of the magazine – will host a large selection of *papers* considered of greatest interest in a *special issue*.

In order to more effectively address the reflection of those who intend to send an original contribution, the following thematic structure is proposed:

1. **analysis of urbanization processes**, with particular reference to the examination of new urban forms within and outside metropolitan areas and to the study of trends that are concomitant with the expansion and shrinkage of urban perimeters;
2. **identification and examination of policies that can stimulate participation in urban competition** (attraction of innovative companies, incubators and *start-ups*, urban taxation and rewards legislation, participation in European policies);
3. **reconstruction of policies aimed at reusing abandoned areas** and managing de-industrialization processes (urban *crowdsourcing* and temporary / permanent uses, reclamation and re-naturalization of ex-industrial sites, etc.);
4. **examination of conflicts and synergies between local values and global values activated by globalization** (metropolitan growth paths, evolution / involution of the economic base, effects produced by changes in the socio-demographic structure, use of endogenous socio-cultural resources as a source of innovation, etc.);
5. **detailed study of the boost to the affirmation of relational, circular and reciprocal economies**, on which to found a new paradigm of the urban economy with ambivalent effects on the attenuation of the polarization of wealth and on the accentuation of the thrust towards settlement dispersion;
6. **unanimity of the conditions of access to common goods, spaces for collective use and the main urban functions**, in order to verify the ability of urban systems to evolve towards different settlement paradigms through the use of interventions with which to affect the offer so much (endowment infrastructural), how much on demand (real-time information on traffic, reduction of forced trips, shared tracking of routes accessible to all, adoption of remote work models, etc.);

7. **study of the tendency to disintermediation, to collaborative consumption, to co-housing practices and to the use of sharing spaces and networks**, in order to verify how these factors are destined to modify collective behaviour and preferences also for the purpose of contrast the tendency to fragmentation of socio-territorial formations and urban communities;

8. **reconstruction of the processes of formation and "capture" of urban rent** also in relation to the activation of processes of *gentrification* and urban ghettoization;

9. **examination of policies aimed at improving the health, well-being and quality of urban life** with measures designed to mitigate the importance of cultural and income differences on an urban and neighbourhood scale;

10. **comparative assessment of urban policies aimed at improving the reception, inclusion, coexistence and creativity** of public spaces, services and equipment in the city, which can leverage on civic engagement and integrated urban planning can lead to proper management diversity and **community reconstruction**;

11. **reading of strategies for limiting the land use and adapting the city to climate change** also in consideration of the effects that may derive for individual and collective behaviour and for the "willingness to pay" of residents (urban densification, pedestrianization, reduction of the speed of private cars, promotion of energy autonomy, etc.);

12. **examination of the planning policies used in the metropolitan territory government**, by verifying in particular the existence of tendencies to overcome the most widespread planning models through the use of inter-scalar and integrated approaches

Conference's participation and presentation of written contribution

Participation in the Conference is open to the public. Those who wish to present a written contribution is invited to send electronically an *abstract* in Italian or in English (min. 300 – max. 400 words) to the following email address before **June 30th**: call@urbit.it. The *paper* has to indicate the name of the author/s, the institution to which they belong and the reference to one or more topics proposed in the *Call*. Moreover, it must clearly propose the thesis supported and a concise overview of the arguments and supporting data.

Authors will be informed of the acceptance of the proposal no later than **July 15th**. Before **October 20th** they will be invited to send to the email address call@urbit.it the final text of the contribution in Italian or in English with a maximum of 20.000 characters (including spaces), as well as possible figures and tables.

The layouts for Abstract and Paper's editing will be available on Urbanpromo, INU and *Planum* websites and it is strictly necessary to follow these rules for the acceptance of the contribution to the Conference.

The *papers* of the participants who are up to date with the payments will be published on Planum Publisher <http://www.planum.net/planum-publisher> before the beginning of the Conference.

Papers' scientific validation

In order to encourage a wide and qualified distribution of the most significant works sent to the organisers of the Conference, an Evaluation Committee composed of the members of the Scientific Committees and of the two magazines will be established. The Evaluation Committee will select **no less than 10 papers** that their authors will illustrate during the International Conference. Through the same anonymous evaluation, **a wider range of contributions will be selected** to be published in a **special issue of the magazine URBANISTICA**. The authors must compose the final version of their papers in a way that they are coherent with the indications of the Evaluation Committee, with the editorial rules and with the deadlines indicated by the magazine *URBANISTICA*.

Registration fee

The presentation of a *paper* at the Conference and its publication are subject to the payment of a participation fee of 300 euros (250 for the INU members). The registration for the Conference entitles participants to attend all the conferences of the XVI edition of Urbanpromo, which will take place in Turin in November 2019. This fee is reduced to 250 euros (200 for INU members) if it is made before September 10th. In any case, the author is required to send the receipt (CRO) of the payment made before October 20th, otherwise the *paper* will be excluded from the Proceedings of the Conference.

Key dates

June 30th **deadline** *abstract* submission

July 15th **notification** of acceptance

September 10th **deadline** reduced fee (250 euros / 200 for the INU members)

October 20th **deadline** *paper* submission, including fee receipt – CRO: 300 euros / 250 euros for the INU members (reduced price of 250/200 euros for payments made before September 10th)

Scientific Committee

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