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Call for papers

Confronting Urban Planning and Design with Complexity: Methods for Inevitable Transformation

12th meeting AESOP's Thematic Group on Complexity and Planning,
Manchester School of Architecture, 16th
& 17th
January, 2014

Urban transformation has increasingly become recognised as both inevitable and complex. Processes of urban change can take various forms, from evolutionary to emergent, and are driven by trans-scalar and dynamic relationships ranging from policy and infrastructure to local and bottom up agency. Working with these complexities requires innovative new approaches and tools which can incorporate and utilise the inherent potentials of urban change, within systems, transformation and retaining dynamics and adaptability. These could support spatial planners and designers in managing

Processes of urban transformation incorporate multiple and parallel assemblages of dynamic change. It is often within the comparative timelines of the processes of change and the differences between the types of transformation, that opportunities for intervention and management in such processes can be identified and negotiated. With this in mind, spatial planners and designers of the urban realm are asked to demonstrate, identify and propose innovative approaches and methodologies which utilise complexity as the filter through which morphological urban processes can be addressed in a variety of ways, from spatial acupuncture and pattern formulation, to stakeholder negotiation and policy design.

This call is aimed at exploring more closely the potentials and parallels between processes of Spatial Planning and Urbanism/Design. In particular, how the complexity sciences can create and enhance this discourse through an examination of processes of inevitable transformation. Papers may address:

- The relation between processes of planning, urban spatial design, urban transformation and complexity: –
- Approaches and tools to work with ongoing and inevitable urban transformation: –
- The potential of utilising multiple timelines and dynamic relationships between spatial development processes to enhance planning and design methodologies: –
- Complexity as the basis for communication and collaboration between planners, designers and policy makers. –

We will work towards a themed issue for the journal Environment and Planning B: Planning & Design.

Important information & dates:

- A full paper is required –
- Make sure the paper is not only conceptual/theoretical but includes also empirical and technical data suitable for publication in EPB –
- [guidelines of Environment & Planning B](#) The paper is requested to meet the –
- Deadline submission abstracts: September, 30th, 2013 –
- Acceptance of abstract: October, 31th, 2013 –
- Deadline full paper: January, 1st, 2014 –

Abstracts can be submitted my email: u.sengupta@mmu.ac.uk