

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Contradictions Shaping Urban Futures

Sustainable vs. Unsustainable Urban
Development and Growth vs. Degrowth.

The EURA Conference 2021
May 6 & 7



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Abstract: The abstracts explore how contradictions related to sustainable vs. unsustainable urban development and growth vs. growth are shaping our cities. Together the abstracts show how themes and contradictions intersect, are interrelated, but often contested among actors who seek, in their own way to shape their cities. The book contains 68 abstracts organised under six sections: Environmental sustainability, climate change and mobility, Social sustainability and inclusiveness, Urban economic sustainability, degrowth and smart city, Urban governance and participation, Urban and regional planning, Urban planning and design.

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Contradictions Shaping Urban Futures

Sustainable vs. Unsustainable Urban Development and Growth vs. Degrowth

At a time when an increasing share of the global population is living in urban areas, there is a need to re-examine the role(s) cities take in coping with contemporary challenges and contradictions. The EURA conference takes as its inspiration Robert A. Beauregard's book (2018) '[Cities in the urban age](#)' as well as increasing polarizations and protests in cities, accelerated by the pandemic, where different groups take to the streets to make their voice heard. Both the book, the protests and the ongoing pandemic underline that urban policies and issues matter, have impact beyond the urban sphere and are worth fighting over.

In this online event, on May 6 – 7, we will explore how contradictions related to *sustainable vs. unsustainable urban development and growth vs degrowth*, are shaping our cities. The contradictions are not fixed, but intersect and are contested among actors who seek, in their own ways, to shape their city.

Sustainable urban development models, strategies, policies and tools are operating in nearly every geographical and political context around the world. Urban spatial development and growth measures of cities are essential as they influence economic performance, public health conditions, and determine social cohesion and segregation. These measures vary widely in different geographical contexts as regards available approaches, policy instruments and forms of implementation. Compact city policies, for instance, focus on reducing the negative impacts of urban development on the surrounding environment, while green cities place emphasis on green infrastructure and local self-supply within cities themselves. Differences in policy interventions and planning practices are largely due to the miscellaneous drivers that urban regions experience today: multi-locality of live-work arrangements, migration, economic pressures, concentrated growth and transport challenges.

With this point of departure, we welcome and look forward to presentations and engaged debates and possibly contradictions and disagreements about our urban futures.

Oslo, May 2021

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“Boa_Ma_Nha, Maputo!”

Investigating strategic planning and design tools to deal with (un)balanced rural-urban development in Maputo Province.

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Abstract:

“Boa_Ma_Nhã, Maputo!” (Polisocial Award 2018) is a research project based at Politecnico di Milano in partnership with Mondlane University (Maputo, Mozambique) and the Italian Cooperation Agency (AICS, Maputo), in cooperation with other locally operating NGOs and institutions. The project is framed in a larger international cooperation initiative named PIMI: “Programa de Investigação Multisectorial Integrada: Estudo para a Promoção do Desenvolvimento Territorial Integrado da Região de Boane, Moamba e Namaacha”.

“Boa_Ma_Nhã, Maputo!” is thus focused on the eastern part of the Maputo Province and questions the role and capability of existing (or alternative) planning tools in determining sustainable development despite the challenges faced by this territory. Among them, the most evident and urgent are: the changing rural-urban balance due to demographic growth, migrations and progressive urbanization; the local effects of climate change, with water competition and aridification; deforestation; food and water insecurity; access to energy; critical border dynamics; socio-economic and governance weaknesses. All these conditions make the peripheral districts of the fast-growing Maputo metropolitan area, a fragile territory in need of appropriate tools to strategically drive growth in a synergic inter-scalar perspective. Research activities includes desktop and fieldwork research, production of cartographies, data models and scenarios, by experimenting a transdisciplinary integrated methodology. The main objectives of the projects are: producing strategic territorial development guidelines framed in a water-energy-food nexus perspective; supporting capacity development; and drafting the feasibility study for a local development project to test potential and effective implementation processes of the general strategy. Findings and results will be discussed.