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GAME CHANGER? **PLANNING FOR JUST AND SUSTAINABLE** **URBAN REGIONS**

Track 06: Governance

GOVERNANCE - Planning and democracy: contradictions, failures, and agonistic alternatives in shaping urban spaces and in urban planning practices

Chairs:

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Can conflicts and contradictions be at the heart of urban policy-making and planning practices? After decades during which viewing the production of space from a 'governance' perspective (for instance, focusing on the dialogues, partnerships, negotiations, etc.) appeared to be commonsense, times are ripe now, more than ever, either for critical assessments and for experimental alternatives to this narrative. Conflicts are no longer systematically seen as problems. Through local experiments and networked exchange, urban political communities have started addressing tensions, contradictions, and failures of established governance practices. In doing so, they are turning critique and agonistic engagement into opportunities for cooperation and materials for innovation in urban planning and policies. At the core of these new emerging practices is the struggle for recovery and – as it were – for the reinvention of the role of the public in producing urban policies. New local democracy experiments thus dwell on a problematisation of governance that highlights such contradictions as well as the quest for alternatives.

This track aims at exploring the current state of local planning and governance as practices developing in a dialectic environment of de- and re-politicisation in agonistic arenas where the struggle for change is at the same time a struggle for new formats and principles of co-production that is at least partly based on conflicts, tensions and contradictions between stakeholders. The track welcomes contributions that aim at promoting scholarly analysis of current practices dealing with issues such as:

- emerging contentious issues of urban development, for which planning and governance struggle to find effective balances of divergent positions and interests;
- experimental governance initiatives by introducing new patterns of interaction and leaving some room for conflict;

- the role of conflicts and contradictions in urban planning techniques and in public policy instruments, which bring technical debates to a political level.
- new forms of public-civic cooperation potentially capable of introducing policy change and institutional innovation, despite (or rather thanks to) the tensions that can exist in this type of situation;
- directions towards overcoming formal-institutional 'invited' citizen participation and towards 'inventing' new forms of participatory governance;
- critical reflections on achievements of the 'new municipalism' in reinventing urban governance as well as on the mid-to-long-term challenges facing it.

Co-Production As A Planning Strategy. Insights From Implementing Urban Climate Shelter In Schoolyards

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Cities play a crucial role in advancing climate ambition, given the challenging objective of limiting the temperature increase to 1.5°C. European cities are exploring planning and designing solutions to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and address the impacts of climate-induced extreme events, including challenges arising from elevated temperatures and the intensification of the Urban Heat Islands (UHI) effect. Despite the ongoing efforts of cities, there is a need for improvement in integrating local climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

Urban Climate Shelter (UCS) is an initiative that aims to transform schoolyards from traditionalist approaches, based on impervious surfaces and low-albedo materials, to more sustainable, natural, and resilient approaches, which are beneficial for adapting cities to climate change and citizens' quality of life and health. This initiative draws inspiration from best practices found in recent years, with a specific emphasis on the "Refugis Climàtics" in Barcelona and "OASIS - Schoolyards" in Paris. Both projects prioritize a participatory approach, involving tasks distribution and engagement of both adults and children. It advocates for bottom-up approaches, engaging diverse stakeholders, and stimulating citizen participation beyond those with specialized knowledge.

The paper aims to explore UCSs in schoolyards, portraying them not only as cooling islands but as spaces where co-production becomes tangible. Fostering active participation in co-design and co-production processes proves essential for translating policy into physical results, with the alignment of science, policy, and practice serving as a powerful catalyst for development. In addition, co-production integration faces challenges within various planning systems, emphasizing the need for a deeper understanding of urban governance. The measurement of co-production becomes imperative as a tool for promoting good governance.

UCS's approach transcends mere physical transformations, they signify a shift towards fortifying governance structures and raising awareness about how urban spaces can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This marks a departure from traditional approaches, introducing experimental governance initiatives that embrace new patterns of interaction and deliberately allow for some level of conflict. The essence lies in recognizing that schoolyards extend beyond their conventional role and can evolve into spaces for broader community use. Through participatory co-production and co-design involving citizens, solutions are customized to meet their needs and preferences. This approach fosters a sense of ownership and active engagement within the community, aligning with the principles of an experimental governance model that encourages diverse planning practices.

Keywords : co-production, participatory governance, urban regeneration, climate change adaptation, planning practices