Program 15th meeting AESOP Planning & Complexity Workgroup

“Crossing over with Complexity: Co-evolution in Planning”

Wednesday 12th – Friday 14th April 2017

Ghent University, Department of Mobility and Spatial Planning (AMRP)

Conference venue: Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Ghent University
Jozef Plateaustraat 22, Ghent, Belgium – Jozef Plateauzaal (main entrance, turn left, end of hall)

Day 1: Wednesday 12th April
13:00 – 13:30 Coffee and registration


13:45 – 14:30 Keynote Speech by Prof. Robert Geyer
“Complexity, Pragmatism and Policy: Can we keep things simple?”

14:30 – 15.30 Round Table discussion “The ability to co-evolve”
Participants: Prof. Robert Geyer, Prof. Luuk Boelens, Prof. Gert de Roo and Prof. Filip de Rynck; Moderation: Hannes Couvreur

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 18:00 Session 1: Transitions and Co-evolution
Session-chair: Sharon Wohl

Wim van der Knaap & Joa Maouche – Are Transition Management Theory and Strategic Planning Complementary?

Gert de Roo – Spatial Planning and the Complexity of Turbulent, Open Environments: About Purposeful Interventions in a World of Non-linear Change

Sharon Zivkovic – The Co-evolution of Spatial Planning and Social Entrepreneurship in a Complex World

Barbara Tempels – Resilience From a Co-evolutionary Perspective: The Example of Flooding and the Built Environment
Day 2: Thursday 13th April

08:30 – 09:00 Coffee

09:00 – 10:00 Session 2: Thought Experiments
Session-chair: Paulo Silva
Sharon Wohl – Deploying CAS dynamics within the Urban Fabric: A Series of Thought Experiments that Illuminate Possible Trajectories
Jenni Partanen, Annuska Rantanen & Seija Ridell – Beyond Twittering: Networked Cyborg Avatars as a Challenge for Urban Planning Theory

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00 Session 3: Beyond Fixed Regimes
Session-chair: Ward Rauws
Yaara Manor-Rosner, Sayfan Borghini, Beitske Boonstra & Paulo Silva – Place Making in a Contested City: A Story of Epigenetic Tactics in Contemporary Jerusalem
Suzanne Van Brussel – Large Infrastructure Projects Bring Vested Planning Approaches to Their Knees: The Encounter with Complexity
Stefan Verweij, Katharina Gugerell & Robin Neef – Between Aspiration and Reality: Exploring Literature and Actual Practices in Infrastructure Living Labs

12:00 – 13:00 Walk to and Lunch Break at “Het Geuzenhuis”
Kantienberg 9, Ghent

13:00 – 13:45 Lecture City of Ghent: “Dealing with Complexity in Urban Renewal”

13:45 – 15:15 Guided walk through Overpoort Neighborhood

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:45 Workshop “Overpoort: Working with Complexity”

17:45 – 19:00 Social Drinks
Day 3: Friday 14th April

08:30 – 09:00  Coffee

09:00 – 10:30  **Session 4: Co-evolution between Formal and Informal**  
*Session-chair: Sharon Zivkovic*


Paulo Silva & Helena Farrall – Planning Institutions and Informality: Change with Co-evolutionary Insights

Maisa Totri-Fakhoury & Nurit Alfasi – From Abstract Principles to Specific Urban Form: Applying Complexity Theory for Analyzing Arab-Palestinian Towns in Israel

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30  **Session 5: Facilitating Change**  
*Session-chair: Luuk Boelens*


Nurit Alfasi – Toward Co-evolution in Planning: The Crucial Role of Mutual Agreement

Hannes Couvreur, Beitske Boonstra & Griet Hanegreefs – Changing the Landscape, One Conversation at a Time: Solution Focused Brief Therapy as a Complexity-sensitive Approach to Spatial Planning

12:30 – 13:30  Lunch Break @ De Vooruit  
*Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 23*

13:30 – 15:00  **Session 6: Simulation versus Real: What and how can we learn?**  
*Session-chair: Jenni Partanen*

Sofia Pagliarin & Lasse Gerrits – Real vs. Simulated Agents in Complex Urban Trajectories

Angela Ballard – Disrupting Complexity in Planning

Cristina Ampatzidou – What Can Planners Learn from Emergent Gameplay?

15:00 – 16:30  **Coffee break and Round-up session**
**Keynote**

Professor **Robert Geyer** is a member of the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, the Associate Dean for Internationalisation and Engagement and Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Lancaster University. He has been working on applying complexity thinking to public policy for the past 18 years. His complexity and policy related books include: Handbook on Complexity and Policy (2015), Complexity and Public Policy (2010), Complexity, Science and Society (2007), Riding the Diabetes Rollercoaster (2007), and Integrating UK and European Social Policy: The Complexity of Europeanisation (2005). He has published articles on complexity and international relations, health policy, education policy, drug policy, diabetes management, Europeanisation and political theory. He has also produced a small number of short Youtube videos on complexity and UK policy.

**Round Table discussion “The ability to co-evolve”**

In a round table discussion, Prof. Robert Geyer, Prof. Luuk Boelens, Prof. Gert de Roo and Prof. Filip de Rynck will discuss the following questions: What skills do planners need in times of complexity? What abilities are needed to be able to act in co-evolution? Hannes Couvreur will moderate the debate.

**Workshop “Dealing with Complexity in Urban Renewal Processes”**

In this workshop we will discuss the challenges of dealing with complexity in urban renewal processes. After an introduction by the planners at the city of Ghent about how they are currently dealing with these challenges in their practices, we will visit the project site of a urban renewal area. In the workshop, we will then reflect on how the city could deal with the complexities inherent to urban renewal processes. A couple of questions that will be discussed in this session will be: How can the municipality create an equal base if other parties involved do not see the added value of involving citizens or initiatives? What is the municipalities’ role and responsibility in making experiments or temporary uses permanent, after transition workers have left? When does a municipality facilitate initiators too much and how can they prevent this?