

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2011

The Geographical Imagination

Session proposal form

Please fill in all the details below and return to AC2011@rgs.org by **25 February 2011**.

Session summary	
Session Title:	Perfect places: imagining urban ideals in lusophone context (XXth century)
Research Group sponsor:	Developing Areas Research Group Urban Geography Research Group
Session Convenors:	Catarina Camarinhas (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa), Cristina Cavaco (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa), Paula Morais (University College London)
Session Convenors Emails:	camarinhas@fa.utl.pt, ccavaco@fa.utl.pt, p.morais@ucl.ac.uk
Session Abstract:	<p>The session will focus on the evolution of planning ideals considering the lusophone urban experience and particularly the relations established between networks of urban planners working in different geographical contexts. The session is related to a research on urban development and the impact of planning ideals in globalised context. The session aims at exploring the connections between urban planners, planning models and the social and political contexts which have been on the background of the formation of planning ideals and practices in the XXth century.</p> <p>The case studies considered in the research are Brasília, Curitiba, Lisbon, Macao, Maputo, Oporto, Porto Alegre and Salvador. The event wishes to promote the debate among partner research groups and other professionals and academics interested in urban development, urban planning policies, the construction and diffusion of planning ideals.</p>
Keywords (max 5):	Urban planning, Planning theory, City, Metropolis, Urbanisation

Session Requirements		
Number of timeslots required in the conference programme	2	Session slots will be approximately 1hr 40minutes long, which accommodates 5 papers of 20min each including questions, or 7-10 shorter papers depending on format.
Type of session proposed e.g. papers, papers with discussant, posters, panel discussion, workshop...	Papers	The session organisers welcome innovative session formats. If you'd like to discuss a session format, please contact the organisers at AC2011@rgs.org .
Special audio visual requirements	None (data projector and screen)	Laptop with audio speakers, data projector and screen will be provided in each room. Most rooms should also have internet access (either wired or wireless). Speakers should bring their own laser pointers etc.
Any other special requests to be considered	It was suggested by DARG Chair, Dr Glyn Williams, that the session "Perfect places" be organised in sequence with the session "Researching the South African City" (due to affinity in subject).	e.g. mobility requirements, room request, timetabling request.

Session details	
Session 1	Timeslot I
Session 1 Chair	Catarina Camarinhas (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa)
Session 1 Chair email	camarinhas@fa.utl.pt

Paper 1 Title:	NOVA GOA: THE CITY THAT NEVER WAS
Paper 1 Abstract:	Occupied and refunded by the Portuguese at the beginning of the 16th century, the city of Goa was in a situation of steep decay and near abandonment a hundred and fifty years later. From 1775 to 1777 plans were made for the old city of Goa and for Pangim but were abandoned with the fall of the Marquis of Pombal. In 1843, a royal chart established a new capital: Nova Goa. The new city included the old city of Goa and two more districts Pangim and Ribandar and covered a large area, bringing promises of prosperity. This configuration changed twice during the 20th century but always brought promises of change and glory and the city was the capital of Estado da India until 1961. However the evolution of Pangim, first neighbourhood of the city, during the 19th and the 20th century, is the history of the recovery of the more modernizing and pragmatic aspects of the Marquis of Pombal's plan for Pangim, showing that Nova Goa was a city, and a capital, that never was.
Paper 1 Author:	Alice Caldeira Cabral Santiago Faria Affiliation: Univ. Paris 1
Paper 1 Presenter:	Catarina Camarinhas (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa)
Paper 1 Author email address:	alice_faria@yahoo.com
Paper 2 Title:	PORTO ALEGRE: TAMING THE METROPOLITAN SPRAWL
Paper 2 Abstract:	Founded in the 18th century by 40 couples of Portuguese settlers from the Terceira Island (Azores), Porto Alegre, underwent enormous changes during the 20th century. Through successive plans and projects applying the new ideals of planning imported from more developed societies, the small agglomeration, of late urbanization in Brazilian terms, soon flourished in its spatial organization, population and economic growth, and human development index. In the years 1950s it stood out as the 3rd Brazilian city in size and economic importance, still pioneering in the formulation of innovative projects. The 1959 master plan encompassed regulations for the whole area of intensive occupation, and adopted a centre-periphery model of spatial development. The central area, located in a peninsula at the Lake Guaíba (formed by the confluence of five rivers), seemed quite appropriate to this radial-concentric model, structured through the ancient paths that connected the capital with the hinterland. Rapid population growth, coupled with redirection of regional migratory movements, broke the course of the city spatial planning, leading to the emergence of a metropolitan region. In the 1970s Porto Alegre, the pole of the metropolitan area, housing almost one million inhabitants, saw the overflow of its residential space, pushing part of its population to remote suburbs, in areas of adjacent municipalities where indiscriminate occupation was still allowed. Twenty years later, the implementation of the new plan (1979) followed the quest for the ideals of formal models, envisioning the organization of a multi-nucleated urban structure made up of commercial poles and trade and services corridors, exclusively for the city of Porto Alegre. Ultimately, there is a trend for a change in this situation, either by the eventual introduction of mechanisms of land use control by the municipalities that make up the Metropolitan Area, or by the joint processing of problems of supra-municipal order.
Paper 2 Author(s):	Iára Regina Castello Affiliation: Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul
Paper 2 Presenter(s):	Catarina Camarinhas (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa)
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Paper 3 Title:	MACAO URBAN TRANSFORMATION: "LAISSEZ FAIRE ET LAISSEZ PASSER"
Paper 3 Abstract:	Macao has always been an interface and synonym of change. The city has been

	<p>experiencing a transnational phenomenon since the early 17th century, when its golden age attracted a vast inflow of merchants generating a strong city growth. The flow of cultures, ethnicities, classes and genders has been a constant almost since its origins, as much as its urban planning principles of 'laissez-faire et laissez passer'. Free market has always been the planner of Macao. The territory's urban form was shaped by an unusual articulation of ethnic power relations, economic and ambiguous political condition among Chinese and Portuguese political forces that was never fully clarified until 1987 (PRC-Portugal's Joint Declaration). This unique form led to the natural philosophy of individualism of an unplanned territory in which there was no space for the traditional and mercantilist patterns of trade monopolies, taxes and paternalistic regulations that were part of the period of European colonial expansion.</p> <p>Urban change in Macao was also located in unusual and a series of rapid events of urban transformation marking specific periods in time. Over the time the territory's urban form was radically transformed, its coastline was significantly altered having a direct impact in the spatial and socio-cultural form. The city resisted furious urbanisation until the 1960s when it rapidly started to expand, mainly through land reclamation. However the pace of spatial replacement was never as accelerated as it is today, and the politics of 'laissez-faire' has never been so destructive. At present a new spatial order is being imposed – as a result old places are disappearing and new ones are being formed. Macao is experiencing a 'spatial erasure' generated by the blend of two main factors: firstly the economic growth generated by the gambling industry and secondly by the inexistence of a regulative planning system. If once the politics of 'laissez-faire' originated a rich and vibrant urban fabric, its present acceleration and destructive scale is simply providing space for disappearance, displacement and strong senses of loss in the citizens. In short Macao's original landscape has been radically altered in the last decade through uninterrupted and unplanned urban transformation. Governance's current economic trends, the lack of a regulative planning system and the limitation of the heritage policies are strongly endangering the territory's spatial and socio-cultural background.</p> <p>This investigation presents Macao as an ideal place to examine the in-between, ambiguous and often contradictory processes and reactions of unlike societies, planning contexts, and their combined reflection in the urban form. It will look at the historical urban transformation in the period of 1557-1999 and how a culture of 'laissez-faire' produced a spatial setting that was awarded UNESCO's title of World Heritage in 2005; and at the same time, the same politics of non-intervention has recently generated a spatial erasure that is producing strong reactions of loss from the public in the last decade (1999-2009). In short it will look at Macao's 'spatial political economy' (Cuthbert 2005) arguing that the production of urban space is indeed part of the production of society as a whole, and its multiple driving forces, and not limited to architectural and planning participation. Nevertheless planning has an important mission as a regulator of change therefore Macao is now calling for a spatial planning strategy, integrated at the PRD city-region level, that will put an end to 450 years of a culture of "laissez faire et laissez passer".</p>
Paper 3 Author:	Paula Morais Affiliation: University College London, Bartlett School of Planning
Paper 3 Presenter:	Catarina Camarinhas (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa)
Paper 3 Author email address:	p.morais@ucl.ac.uk
Paper 4 Title:	POLITICAL TRANSITION, URBAN CHANGE AND IDENTITY BUILDING IN MACAU- 1993-2001, A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE LAST MAYOR OF MACAU
Paper 4 Abstract:	<p>Macao, the last territory under Portuguese administration, was reverted back to China on December 20th 1999, after a period of transition that lasted thirteen years, giving way to the Special Administrative Region of Macau (MSAR) of the People's Republic of China.</p> <p>A small territory with an area under 20 Km² and a population of around 450 thousand inhabitants, a fragile economy based on tourism and gaming activities, its once robust exporting industry was ailing due to the competition across the border</p>

	<p>from mainland China; dated infrastructures and decaying urban quality, due to limited public investment and the continuous stress of a growing population partly due to illegal immigration, added to the very common feeling at the time that Macau would be swallow, even if not formally but in real terms, by its bursting neighborhood along the Pearl River Delta of Zhuhai, Zhongshan, etc.</p> <p>The chances of the MSAR success were dim. Most commentators would have not bet on it. However, ten years after the retrocession of Macau to China, the outcome is quite different. How did it happen? Was it only the result of the commitment of the PRC Central Government and Macau's own administrators making sure the experience of "one country, two systems" with Macau and Hong Kong would be a successful one for the World to see? What was the role played by the last administrators of Macau, while it was still under Portugal?</p> <p>This paper is a personal account of the last mayor of Macau, where he presents the challenges face by the municipal authorities, which under very stressful and politically demanding period, organized and implemented a strategy for the improvement of Macau's urban environment, contributing at the same time to strengthen the sense of belonging of the Macau population and identity building of the place. It is a personal account of a work done by many and it's dedicated to the people of Macau.</p>
Paper 4 Author(s):	José Luis de Sales Marques. Affiliation: Institute of European Studies of Macau.
Paper 4 Presenter(s):	Catarina Camarinhas (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa)
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Session details	
Session 2	Timeslot 2
Session 2 Chair	Paula Morais (University College London, Bartlett School of Planning)
Session 2 Chair email	p.morais@ucl.ac.uk
Paper 1 Title:	NARRATIVES AND SPATIALITY: THE TALES OF HISTORIC PUBLIC SPACE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD HERITAGE CITY OF GUIMARÃES
Paper 1 Abstract:	<p>Effective legislation, technical organization and national planning are fundamental prerequisites (ICOMOS, 1967) to any official strategy of heritage conservation. The gradual development of a 'heritage debate' at the international and EU level and the succession of related events, charters and recommendations have been informing and guiding the discourse(s) of the heritage conservation framework in Portugal. The planning instruments that frame and guide conservation actions at the local level are nonetheless not always in tune with the established status quo. In Portugal, most of the professionals (and team leaders) involved in the practice of planning for conservation at local level are architects, whereas those engaged in the drafting and political production of conservation policies and legislation come from related disciplines, like geography, public policy or law. The dichotomy of disciplines between the design-led practitioners and the regulation makers results in general considerations being rhetorically formulated as policy, usually setting out objectives and requirements, but saying very little about the methodologies to be followed (Rosa Pires, 2001: 185).</p> <p>This article enquires into the emergent discourses and practices of heritage conservation in Portugal by looking in particular at the effectiveness of conservation planning policies and conservation practices in conserving and enhancing the public realm of the 'World Heritage' cities of Guimarães. The trend in other European cities has been to focus on public spaces renewal as the 'representation of the process of urban regeneration' (Hubbard, 1996: 1442), and whether this representation reflects the quality of the public realm achieved through urban heritage conservation is explored through the nature and scope of the historic centre agency and its in situ approach in the creation and management of World Heritage public space.</p> <p>(Note: This article is based on a wider research encompassing the Portuguese World Heritage Cities of Évora, Porto and Guimarães).</p>

Paper 1 Author:	Elisabete Cidre Affiliation: University College London, Bartlett School of Planning
Paper 1 Presenter:	Paula Morais (University College London, Bartlett School of Planning)
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Paper 2 Title:	THE POLITICS OF PLANNING PRESERVATION IN MEXICO
Paper 2 Abstract:	<p>With UNESCO World Heritage list designation, Mexican historic centers became a focal point for preservation and subsequently, planning. National urban planning only began in Mexico in the early 1980s, but attempts were initially hampered by economic upheaval and yet then were reinforced by the destruction wrought by Mexico City's 1985 earthquake. Distinct planning documents, targeting historic districts exclusively, first began appearing in the 1990s, with updated versions published in the 2000s. Thus, the historic centers were treated as separate entities within the urban construct, requiring particular attention and resources for the planning process and beyond. In this paper, I consider the planning documents for the three historic centers of Guanajuato, Morelia, and Oaxaca, Mexico, how they were developed, and what local, regional, national, and international planning influences are reflected in them. Mexico City has always been considered the country's laboratory for urban planning, but the planning processes in smaller cities can help highlight geographical similarities and differences, as well as reveal how the planning process might prove to be an exercise in futility where execution and enforcement are concerned.</p>
Paper 2 Author(s):	Cláudia Asch Affiliation: Syracuse University, NY
Paper 2 Presenter(s):	Paula Morais (University College London, Bartlett School of Planning)
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Paper 3 Title:	A PLANNED VERSUS AND UNPLANNED TERRITORY: THE CASE STUDY OF THE METROPOLIS OF LISBOA
Paper 3 Abstract:	<p>The urbanization of the metropolitan territories around the capital city of Lisboa has started around the 1940s. Until that time Lisboa's metropolitan territories were essentially rural lands, oriented towards agriculture and, sometimes, in coastal and river areas, towards fishing. Historical urban settlements existed, scattered throughout the metropolitan landscape and slightly linked by a fragile network of roads and municipal paths. By the middle/ends of the nineteenth century industrialization came up, bringing with it the creation of several main infrastructural axes which have functioned as a propeller for urban development.</p> <p>However, only on the 1940s and upward, stimulated by the increasing of rural exodus from the countryside to the capital city, the process of suburbanization suffered a significant impulse towards an explosive growth. Peripheral nucleus and municipalities around Lisboa started developing facing the problem of housing and the incapacity of Public Administration to solve it.</p> <p>At first (1930s/1940s), following the public urban policies of Estado Novo (the political regime at the time), urbanism and urban planning were consider a fundamental step for conceiving and controlling the urban development. According to a political decision, every town or hamlet with more than 2500 inhabitants was obliged to produce guiding urban plans. Between 1945 and 1960 several urbanization plans and legal regulation texts were drawn, giving a particular emphasis to the urban design and to the physical planning of the territory.</p> <p>However, the situation was about to change. The times that followed were characterized by the intensification of demographical growth and by the lack of housing and public planning solutions. Addressed to an expansionist period, new different ways of urbanization appeared, at this time especially driven by private stakeholders who did not follow any urban plan.</p> <p>Looking backward, this paper aims at reviewing the urbanization of Lisboa's metropolitan territories, as a planned versus and unplanned process. For that</p>

	different periods will be identified between the 1940s and 2010. In this timeline, some important milestones within the territorial planning system and the political economy will be pointed out in order to explain the approach.
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Paper 4 Title:	CENTRE AND PERIPHERY OF MAPUTO: PLANNING PRACTICES AND URBAN INTERVENTION PROCESSES
Paper 4 Abstract:	Using the case study of the city of Maputo, this article focuses on practices of planning and management of peri-urban neighbourhoods, namely those immediately adjacent to the central and urbanised centre. In the context of liberal economic policies, based on privatisation and withdrawal of State intervention, new modes of management and production of urban space emerge, influenced by the logic of free market and aimed at private investment. The urban territory is understood as an engine of economic growth, an idea that translates into the modernisation of some central neighbourhoods to the detriment of peri-urban neighbourhoods, in the gentrification of central neighbourhoods and, consequently, in the removal of less economically endowed populations to the periphery. In this context, this article aims to identify and analyse planning practices and urban intervention processes that are currently developed in peri-urban areas adjacent to the centre of Maputo, in the transition from the centre to the periphery. A reflection is also developed considering the effect of such actions on urban territories and the quality of urban life.
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Paper 5 Title:	URBAN DISPERSION AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN LUSOPHONE CITIES
Paper 5 Abstract:	Cities have grown and they have developed at great pace. In Brazil, according to Census 2010, 84.35% of the population is urban (IBGE, 2010). In Portugal there was an increase of 27.7% of the population in 1975 to 54.1% in 2002, a growth of urban population and about 95% over this period and if the trend continues, it is expected that the urban population reaches 63.6% of the total in 2015 (ADOAIR, 2010). Because of this situation, which tends to become increasingly critical, cities have grown rapidly with little or no control. This leads to the generation of urban tensions of various kinds, as well as an increase in maintenance costs of that reality. For the purpose of this study the analysis of urban sprawl will be based on statistical procedures and two large explorations: i) urban sprawl, and ii) distance to the CBD. Their relationship will be analysed with the use of urban sectors, in order to characterize the structure of cities. The object of this study is the cities of Brasilia, Curitiba, Salvador and Porto Alegre (Brazil), Macao (China), Maputo (Mozambique), Lisbon and Oporto (Portugal).
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