Researching Cities in Europe

Network meeting of „European Urban Studies“

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, 5. and 6. February 2026

Pre- and parallel program: Colloquium_Invitation_2026_final.pdf*: 4. and 5. February 2026*

Within the frame of the Weimar Master programme „European Urban Studies“, we are working with many European partners and with many of them intensively and since many years. However, we are thinking that we are missing opportunities to link all of the partners to each other and also to open up for new partners. The main objective of this workshop therefore is to learn more about the work and experiences regarding the topics of the research of partners in and outside Europe and to share about possible network activities in teaching and research.

Thursday 5. February

17.00	Arrival and Registration
17.30	Welcoming Christian Kästner – International Office, Tonia Schmitz – Bauhaus4EU Elodie Vittu, Malin Altenby Larsen – EUPS Double Degree BUWeimar/BTH Sigrun Langner – director IfEU
17.45	Booklet presentation: **Tales of Postsocialist and Postcolonial Transformation. Perspectives from Literary and Urban Studies.**
18.00	Keynote. **Looking back on thirty years of research and teaching on Social Housing.** Gerônimo Leitão – Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
18.30	Round table. **Research on “European Cities” with IfEU-professors** (Grischa Bertram, Daniela Zupan, Frank Eckardt)
20:00	BUFFET at IfEU with guests and students

Friday 6. February

(online-streaming: https://meeting.uni-weimar.de/b/rooms/elo-hvv-rfr/join)

Climate and social justice in Urban Studies		
PANEL 1 **DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES ON PUBLIC SPACE** Urban Studies is an interdisciplinary and political field of research. With talks from architects, social workers, landscape planer, etc. this panel aims to look to disciplinary approaches to public spaces (i.e. accessility) as well as transformation processes and scenario for the future cities.	PANEL 2 **POST-SOCIALIST CITIES AND URBAN HERITAGE** Cities with a post-socialist heritage, as well as cities in other world regions affected by multiple crises (such as war or climate-related catastrophes), are facing significant challenges, partly due to destruction and complex processes of renewal. This panel brings together talks that present different approaches to urban heritage preservation across diverse contexts.	PANEL 3 **PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE** Planning cities involves questions of design, mobility, and housing, as well as issues of competencies and scale. Decision-making processes and administrative levels play a crucial role in determining whether projects are implemented—or not. Addressing contemporary challenges, particularly climate change, the speakers will share insights into governance structures and urban planning projects.

DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES ON PUBLIC SPACE

9.00am – 9:30am Talk 1. **Public spaces and Urban Culture in northern European Cities**
Mady Christine – Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland

POST-SOCIALIST CITIES AND URBAN HERITAGE

9.30am – 10.00am Talk 2. **Urban Regeneration as Memory Politics in Post-Socialist Cities**.
Doriana Musaj – POLIS, Tirana, Albania

PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

10:00am – 10:30am Talk 3. **Multi-scalar planning and emerging planning spaces**.
Sabrina Fredin, Ida Nilsson – BTH, Karlskrona, Sweden

10:30am – 11.00am Talk 4. **Planning Cities for Urban and Social Resilience: Between Climate Adaptation and Local Matters**.
Dorota Jopek, Laura Kochel and Anna Karwińska – Department of Spatial Management, Krakow, Poland

COFFEE BREAK

DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES ON PUBLIC SPACE

11.15am – 11.45am Talk 5. **Towards Inclusive Urbanism: Disability, Accessibility and Social Innovation in European Cities**.
Mabel Giraldo – University of Bergamo, Italy

POST-SOCIALIST CITIES AND URBAN HERITAGE

11.45am – 12.15am Talk 6. **Crisis and Transformation in a Mediterranean Port-City: the case of Beirut.**
Nadine Hindi – Notre Dame University, Beirut, Lebanon

LUNCH BREAK

PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

13.15 – 13:45 Talk 7. **Strategic planning and applied research across European and African contexts to address pressing challenges in climate change, urbanization, and social inclusion.**
Abellah Abarkan – BTH Karlskrona, Sweden

13.45 – 14.15 Talk 8. **From Riga Metropolitan Area Governance to Latvian small town achievements: challenges and powerful engagements** Rūdolfs Cimdiņš and Jonas Büchel – University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia

Change Room **PANEL SESSIONS**

LINK to participate https://meeting.uni-weimar.de/b/rooms/elo-hvv-rfr/join (BREAK-OUT ROOMS)

	PANEL 1 **DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES ON PUBLIC SPACE** (Room 004) Online talks in Break-out Rooms, moderated from Frank Eckardt	PANEL 2 **POST-SOCIALIST CITIES AND URBAN HERITAGE** (Room 008) Online talks in Break-out Rooms, moderated from Daniela Zupan	PANEL 3 **PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE** (Room 107) Online talks in Break-out Rooms, moderated from Grischa Bertram
2.30pm-3.00pm	Talk 9. **Human and Less than Human Future: Cities of Today and Tomorrow.** Gintaras Stauskis - Department of Urban Design, TU Vilnius, Lithuania	Talk 11. **Lessons to Learn: Decolonizing Urban Public Spaces in Contemporary Ukraine.** Svitlana Shlipchenko - Kyiew Center for Urban Studies, Ukraine	Talk 13. **Soft Planning and Territorial Governance in Lisbon: Inter-municipal Cooperation in the Making of a Metropolitan Vision.** Cristina Cavaco – University of Lisboa, Portugal
3pm-3.30pm	Talk 10. **Academic Approaches to Public Space Reactivation: the case of Zouk-Michael, Lebanon** Kristine Samra – Notre Dame University, Beirut, Lebanon	Talk 12. **Balancing Top-down and Bottom-up Approaches in Revitalising Historic Desert Settlements: Notes on Al-Qasr, Dakhla, Western Desert of Egypt** Aliaa AlSadaty - Department of Architecture, Cairo University, Egypt	Talk 14. **Tba.** Daniele Villa - Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico de Milano, Italy

EXCHANGE WITH STUDENTS & CLOSING REFLECTION

3.30pm – 4.30pm Coffee Break and **Exchange with students and alumni** on the Guided Research Project of the European Urban Studies Masters Program

4.30pm – 5pm Closing reflection: **From Meeting to Network** (Frank Eckardt, Elodie Vittu)