

Call for Papers

NESS Workshop: Incorporating the environment in urban planning

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Thematic description:

Integrating the environment in urban planning and management is a key sustainability issue, resulting in economic, health and quality of life benefits. Operative solutions to global environmental problems will require substantial action at the city scale. The role of culture – including cultural heritage as well as cultural and creative industries – is recognized in the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet, there is a gap between current knowledge and on-the-ground practices engaging culture for sustainable development. One such tool for land-use and environmental planning is Ecosystem services (ES), broadly defined as the benefits nature provides to people. It is currently gaining ground on all levels of decision-making in countries around the world, aiming to help decision-makers better understand the tradeoffs between different development scenarios. Cultural ES are consistently recognized but not yet adequately defined or integrated within the ES framework. In providing satisfactory guidance for decision-making on resource efficiency, scholars argue that ecological and economic disciplines need be combined with social sciences and humanities.

Integrating new approaches and tools such as ES in existent planning systems pose several challenges, such as strategic, administrative, political and economic challenges. This workshop focuses on the interdisciplinary inquiry on effective strategies and approaches for integrating the environment in urban planning and development, with specific focus on cultural aspects.

We especially encourage papers on:

- How to incorporate the environment in existing tools, rather than developing stand-alone approaches.
- Integrating ES in urban planning, and particularly assessment and integration of cultural ES

The NESS workshops follow a standing session format (similar to ECPR), which allows for substantive discussions on research in progress. The conference invites scholars from multiple disciplinary backgrounds in environmental social science. The overall **objective** of the **workshop** is to facilitate and encourage participation, equality and collaboration between younger and more established scholars. Each paper is expected to relate to the theme of the workshop, and the participant submits and presents a paper (or work in progress) for the discussion. Workshop participants will be asked to comment on at least one other paper in the respective workshop and participate in the general discussion of the other papers presented. Participants should only choose and attend one workshop for the duration of the conference. The ambition with this format is that the workshops allow for in-depth and

coherent discussions of the respective themes and provide opportunity for potential joint publications or other continuing collaborations between the participants.