



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

Call for Papers for Workshops

for the Nordic Environmental Social Science Conference (NESS), University of Gothenburg, Sweden, June 7-9, 2022. [Link to Conference site](#)

Workshop: Urban regeneration in partnership with nature: local challenges and solutions

Workshop chairs:

Thomas. B. Randrup, SLU Alnarp

Catalina Turcu, Bartlett School of Planning, University College London, UK

Marie Thynell, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg

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Cities are rapidly growing, especially in what is perceived as attractive investment regions. In Europe and in the first industrialized regions, there are backyard cities found, as the hey-days of investment have moved on, sometimes described as *shrinking* or *ghost cities*. Such peri-urban areas, often found at the edge of cities in close proximity to the countryside, are often characterized by neglect of buildings and surrounding landscapes, as well as in social aspects, or both (Couch et al 2011; Scott & Kühn 2012; Roberts et al 2017; Bottero et als 2020; de Witte 2020). These areas tend to have higher unemployment rates than average, more wide-spread un-health, and suffer from high criminal activities. Sometimes, they are found in urban centers, as modernization has sprawled out.

This workshop **aims to investigate the potential of Nature Based Solutions (NBSs)** (European Commission, 2015) to **address both socio-economic and environmental challenges at the local level in cities, in order to strengthen social and environmental sustainability over time.** These locations have potentials to develop their local relations, both to the nature, to the local stakeholders and to the city (Randrup et al., 2020). We are particularly interested in the intersection between the social and environmental values of nature, especially in poor urban areas, exemplified in core, sub-urban, peri-urban, sub-urban, as in rural areas.

We invite papers looking at **a range of urban areas in need of or undergoing urban regeneration and NBSs**. Papers exploring drivers, barriers, interventions and/or data over time are preferred, as well as papers analyzing success or failures and discussing policy implications. The papers can be theoretical and/or empirical, and focus on a, but are not limited to, a number of topics including:

- The Million Homes Programme or sub-urban/ peri-urban developments at the intersection between urban land and rural farmlands
- Urban post-industrial decline or re-generation
- Transition communities, Healthy Cities, Resilient Cities etc initiatives
- 'Re-wilding the city' or post-COVID urban restructuring projects.

Instructions for Workshop Participants

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 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. Participants should only choose and attend one workshop for the duration of the conference, but you may send abstracts to more than one workshop. Workshop participants will be asked to comment on at least one other paper in the respective workshop, read the other papers and participate in the general discussion of the papers. 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.

Send your abstract of up to 300 words to all the workshop chairs no later than **December 15, 2021**. Chairs will respond to questions which relate to the workshop theme. For questions of a general nature (i.e. not workshop specific) they should be directed to ness@globalstudies.gu.se

The conference organizers will notify the participants of their acceptance to the workshops by **March 1, 2022**. Workshop papers are to be submitted to the workshop chairs and the other workshop participants at the latest **May 20**. May 20 is also the last day to register for the conference on the website. A workshop schedule including information on presentations, session chairs and discussants will be available on the conference website at the end of May. The workshop format only allows for very short paper presentations (ca. 5 min) and all workshop participants are expected to have read and be able to comment on the papers in the workshop.

References

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- Bottero M., Caprioli C., Berta M. (2020) Urban Problems and Patterns of Change: The Analysis of a Downgraded Industrial Area in Turin. In: Mondini G., Oppio A., Stanghellini S., Bottero M., Abastante F. (eds) *Values and Functions for Future Cities. Green Energy and Technology*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-23786-8_22
- de Witte F. (2020) Ten Policy Ideas for **re:generation Europe**. In: re:generation Europe. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-19788-9_6
- EU (2015). Towards an EU research and innovation policy agenda for nature-based solutions & re-naturing cities. Final report of the horizon 2020 expert group on ‘Nature-Based Solutions and Re-Naturing Cities’. <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/towards-eu-research-and-innovation-policy-agenda-nature-based-solutions-re-naturing-cities>
- Randrup, T.B., Buijs, A., Konijnendijk, C.C. *et al.* Moving beyond the nature-based solutions discourse: introducing nature-based thinking. *Urban Ecosyst* 23, 919–926 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-020-00964-w>
- Roberts, P.; Sykes, H. & Granger, R. (2017), *Urban Regeneration*, 2nd ed., London: SAGE Publications.
- Scott, J. W. & Kühn, M. (2012) Urban Change and Urban Development Strategies in Central East Europe: A Selective Assessment of Events Since 1989, *European Planning Studies*, 20:7, 1093-1109, DOI: 10.1080/09654313.2012.674345