

# Day 1 - April 10<sup>th</sup>

Venue: Campus University of Paris East  
Bienvenue Building - Room A-003

9h Coffee & Registration

9h30 Welcome address & Introductory remarks by conference organizers

## 10h-12h30 Panel 1

Urbanity Beyond Centrality

Conveners: Adèle Esposito (AUSSER) & Charles Goldblum (AUSSER)

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Contemporary configurations or reconfigurations of urbanized areas entail changes in forms (and notions) of urbanity and relations to city “centres”. These changes concern the densities and shapes of urban environments that are perceived as desirable, housing and related amenities, the organization of mobility and of urban practices, natural environments, and shapes and functions of secondary centralities (e.g. medium or small cities, but also leisure or commercial centralities). Contributions to this theme question the notion of ‘periphery’ and ‘diffusion’ and their relevance to describe contemporary processes of urbanization — insofar as the first posits that those urban spaces are necessarily defined by some form of relation (of dependence, complementarity...) to the centre; whilst the second assumes that scattered urbanization loosens or even loses its connection to an urban core that therefore would become symbolically and functionally unnecessary. The papers explore the shifting urban imaginations, representations, values, and practices that the evolving relation to urban cores involves, and discuss the implications of these changes for urban theory: can we still meaningfully speak of ‘the city’ in an era of potentially limitless territorial urbanization?

10h-10h10 Introduction

10h10-10h40 Centrality facing concentration and dispersion

Antoine Brès (Géographie-Cités)

10h40-11h10 New cities and urban transformations in Seoul since the years 2000s

Min-Ah Choi (Korea Land & Housing Corporation)

11h10-11h40 Urban sprawl in the cross border metropolis of Singapore-Johor-Riau

Nathalie Fau (Université Paris-Diderot)

11h40-12h10 Aix-Marseille Provence Métropole, political struggles around diffuse urbanisation

Nicolas Maisetti (LATTS)

12h10-12h30 Q/A + discussion

12h30-13h30 Lunch (buffet)

13h30-18h30 Fieldtrip to the département Seine et Marne, organized by Antoine Brès with Etienne Monin (only for speakers and conference conveners)

# Day 2 - April 11<sup>th</sup>

Venue: Campus University of Paris East  
Bienvenue Building - Room A-003

9h Coffee

9h30-10h30 Debriefing meeting on the fieldtrip

**10h30-13h Panel 2**

“Ordinary” urban production and transformation

Convener: Joël Idt (Lab'Urba)

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In several contexts, diffuse urbanization occurs to a significant extent in unplanned, often “informal” or even illegal ways, even as governing peripheries becomes a central issue for large-scale planning devices. This situation questions traditional categories of knowledge on urbanization processes and governance, and blurs the boundaries between planned and unplanned development, between public regulation and market, between legal and illegal processes, etc. Competing land uses, and the associated land rent and speculation, across the spectrum of urban configurations (from urban cores to scattered urban settlements) are key in these processes. The comparison between European and Asian contexts is highly relevant in regards to their radically different urban growth rates and temporalities. Contributions to this theme address questions such as: How are (changes in) land uses regulated (or not), negotiated and implemented? What are the implications of such changes on populations “already there” and on newcomers in terms of how they perceive, value and practice their living environments? How are areas of diffuse urbanization transformed over time? How are public stakeholders controlling such processes, as traditional urban policies or urban design and planning tools, suitable for cores of urban areas, do not work?

10h30-10h40 Introduction

10h40-11h10 Beyond planning: Alternative regulations and tools for public action in unplanned areas. The case of Delhi

Laure Criqui (IDDRI)

11h10-11h40 Regulation of diffuse urbanisation in the Peri-urban City: a socio-legal perspective

Romain Melot (SAD-APT INRA/AgroParisTech)

11h40-12h10 The (de)making of peripheral space by private railway companies in Japan's major city regions

Natacha Aveline (Géographie-Cités)

12h10-12h40 Planning and producing (post)-suburbs around railway stations : an analysis of metropolitan strategies and local policies in Toulouse and Nantes city-regions

Juliette Maulat (Géographie-Cités)

12h40-13h10 Diffuse Urbanisation in Transition: The Experiences of Kuala Lumpur Extended

Mega Urban Regions (KLEMUR)

Shaharudin Idrus, Abdul Samad Hadi, Sharif Shofirun Sharif Ali, Shaharuddin Mohamad Ismail, Neethu Vijayan & Ahmad Fariz Mohamed (LESTARI)

13h10-13h30 Q/A + discussion

13h30-14h30 Lunch (buffet)

**14h30-17h20 Panel 3**

Activity systems

Conveners: Andrew Marton (UVIC) & Etienne Monin (TELEMME)

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Peripheral and diffuse urbanized areas offer a distinctive range of constraints and opportunities in terms of the activities they facilitate or hinder. They also allow combinations of “urban” and “non-urban” activities on a daily basis, which in turn inform distinctive forms of “urbanity”. Of particular relevance here are combinations of agricultural and non-agricultural activities, the local production of food, and outdoor leisure activities in one’s immediate vicinity all allowed by the hybrid urban and rural nature of diffuse urbanization. Papers in this panel explore the patterns of activities and practices that develop in diffuse cities and territories and discuss whether they point to the emergence of distinctive ways of life. They also address economic interdependencies at the scale of urban regions.

14h30-14h40 Introduction

14h40-15h10 Diffuse Urbanisation: the Malaysian Experience

Abdul Samad Hadi (LESTARI)

15h10-15h40 Scaling up, scaling down: State rescaling along the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

Neha Sami (IIHS)

15h40-16h10 Diffuse urbanization in Chinese countryside. Evidences from lower Yangtze delta

Andrea Palmioli (AUSSER-HKU)

16h10-16h40 Food Production and Leisure Activity Systems in the Lower Yangzi Delta : Hybrid Spaces of Production and Consumption in a “Diffuse City” in China

Andrew Marton (UVIC)

16h40-17h10 The agro-industrialization of *desakota*, between diffusion and concentration : an analysis in the Lower Yangzi delta

Étienne Monin (TELEMME)

17h10-17h20 Q/A + discussion

17h20-17h30 Break

**17h30-19h Keynote Talk (1)**

Diffusing Urbanization: Deciphering the Spatial Assemblages of 21st Century Urbanization

Terry McGee (The University of British Columbia)

## Day 1 - April 12<sup>th</sup>

Venue: Campus University of Paris East  
Bienvenue Building - Room A-003

8h45 Coffee

**9h00-10h30 Keynote Talk (2)**

Diffuse City and Horizontal Metropolis

Paola Vigano’ (EPFL)

Discussant: Andrea Palmioli (AUSSER-HKU)

**10h30-13h00 Panel 4**

Territorial and Urban ecologies

Convener: Margot Pellegrino (Lab’Urba) & Rémi de Bercegol (PRODIG)

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Diffuse urbanization has traditionally been subject to various forms of criticism for its (mainly infrastructural) costs, its lack of social or functional diversity, and more recently its allegedly unsustainable environmental costs (in terms of land, water and energy use in particular). Papers in this session confront these criticisms to empirical evidence, especially in terms of the metabolism and “imprint” of diffuse urbanization areas and populations, and question the “superiority” of the compact city. They also reflect on the “metabolic” interdependencies between urban cores and their regional environment in terms of provision of water, food, energy and various raw materials, of flood risks, of land use conflicts, etc., and how they are (or not) regulated and managed.

10h30-10h40 Introduction

10h40-11h10 Managing Waste Flow for Sustainability Within the Diffuse Urbanization Process in The Langat Basin, Malaysia

Ahmad Fariz Mohamed (LESTARI)

11h10-11h40 Can outer suburbs resist densification and yet be durable? A polycentric and multi-scale approach

Olivier Bonin (LVMT)

11h40-12h10 Sustaining urban biodiversity and ecosystem services in the context of diffuse urbanization: a case study of greater Kuala Lumpur / Klang Valley, Malaysia

Shaharuddin Mohamad Ismail (LESTARI)

12h10-12h40 Energy assessment of suburban neighborhoods : insights from Wallonia (Belgium) and perspectives for a suburban renewal

Anne-Françoise Marique (Université de Liège)

12h40-13h Q/A + discussion

13h00-14h30 Lunch Break

**14h30-16h30 Workshop among the participants**

16h30-17h Conclusions

Contact & information : see website, URL: <https://diffuse.sciencesconf.org/>