

Call for papers

# DYNAMICS OF PERIPHERY

International conference & PhD colloquium  
Hannover 19.-21. 05. 2017

organised by:

Regionales Bauen und Siedlungsplanung  
Fakultät für Architektur und Landschaft, Leibniz Universität Hannover

Dipartimento di Architettura,  
Università degli Studi di Palermo

DAAD Hochschuldialog Südeuropa  
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**The territorial and architectural dimension of peripheries.** Starting from a perspective of architecture, urban design, and territorial planning, the conference aims at a design and research approach towards an innovative role of peripheries. It explicitly opens up to related economic, ecological, social and cultural studies. The focus is set on projects, plans, narratives, conceptualisations, scenarios, and strategy-building for peripheries as accelerators of change in sustainable territorial futures.

**Peripheries are for real.** Peripheries seemed to vanish in the diffuse cities and in the digital era. Effectively quite the opposite happened, a refreshed discussion about territorial polarities, about inclusion and balances between city and countryside is emerging. Spatial figures and spatial processes make economic and social change visible, they also constitute potentials to influence change, by accelerating or freezing transformations in various scales. Starting from what in actual cultural and political debates is seen as "outside", since their main focus are metropolitan cores, and from the observation that 60% of people in Europe are living not in urban centres of more than fiftythousand inhabitants, the conference takes a fresh glance at the crucial role of rural-urban linkages, streams, and connections. It calls for a debate why and how to focus on territorial capital, creativity of culture, polarities and diversities, green and blue growth, productive landscapes, cultural ecologies, and an overall reshaping of common horizons of territories.

**A habitat vision** of rural and urban polarities is put forward as innovative answer to monodirectional debates that are actually calling mainly for social and economic stabilisation. In Italy peripheries are e.g. focussed with the *National Strategy for the Inner Areas* (2014), in Germany they are addressed by various regional policies and recent research e.g. in *Landflight—Growth or Shrinkage?* (BBSR 2016) or *Baukulturbericht* (2016). The main focus in both countries is directed towards infrastructural support for shrinking areas. Landflight in the South of Europe is actually enforced by high unemployment of young people, that is also related to a search of perspectives for urban centres. Migration movements and refugees are further calling for new linkages between city and country, in Italy, Spain, and in Germany. Re-settlement, re-cycling, re-connection of peripheries are new phenomena, noted e.g. in the Alpine Space. This conference wants to take a step forward, it calls for observing potentials and enhancing dynamics in peripheries.

**Peripheries are everywhere.** The focus of the conference therefore extends from remote to suburban and city-core peripheries: to large areas in Europe with potential relationalities. Effectively it calls for reconfiguring these outdated categories. The overall fragmented nature of European spatial setups can be re-addressed by a hybrid understanding of peripheries: mosaic territories, archipelagos, open islands, permeability, performativity, reponsivity and hybridity are some of the concepts open for discussion. They consequently draw two lines of inquiry for the conference: to extend the notion of peripheries from sectorial indicators towards a more complex spatial relationality and towards the inclusion of externalities. And it strengthens the call for new approaches and concepts in architecture, urban design, and territorial planning. The relevance of an action-oriented, space and place centred contribution of architecture towards political and cultural debates in Europe can take a fresh input from looking at *Dynamics of Periphery* for places of work, living, and culture.

**Peripheries are precious reserves of resilience** to reactivate the urban metabolism in post-metropolis, more and more archipelagos and lattices of places and no more satellite systems. Even if declining suburbs still contain active cells (active communities, landscapes, agriculture and manufacturing) that can restart the jammed evolution mechanism, passing from a dangerous steady state of metropolis in expansion without developing to a dynamic neighborhoods in progress without consumption. The conference intends to discuss which policies, projects, and actions can reactivate the potential energy of the peripheries to be the dynamism of a new development model.

**The idea of territorial creativity** as base for innovative arts, entrepreneurship, and communities, also aiming at development more than at mere valorisation of heritage, actually is one of the most discussed themes in cultural and economic policies in Europe. A territorial focus in this debate is seen as a main objective of *Dynamics of Periphery*.

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## Scientific committee and Peer reviewers:

Maurizio Carta (University Palermo), Carlo Gasparri (University Naples Federico II), Manuel Gausa Navarro (University Genova), Carles Llop Torné (University of Technology Catalonia), Mosè Ricci (University Trento), Jörg Schröder (University Hannover)

## Applications:

The abstract should provide:

- name and contact data
- affiliation; for PhD candidates also: thesis supervisor
- short CV
- title and abstract of the contribution (max 3.000 characters incl. spaces)
- 10 main bibliographic references

Please send your application until 20.03.2017, to the scientific directors:

- Maddalena Ferretti, ferretti@staedtebau.uni-hannover.de
- Barbara Lino, barbara.lino@unipa.it

The scientific committee will select the contributions for the conference and colloquium. For the colloquium, respondents will be chosen to answer to the PhD candidates presentations, in consideration of the proposed themes. All proceedings will be in English.

## Book publication:

The conference and colloquium contributions will be published as book.

## Organisation:

The conference and the PhD colloquium is organised

by: Abteilung Regionales Bauen und Siedlungsplanung, Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Jörg Schröder,  
Fakultät für Architektur und Landschaft, Leibniz Universität Hannover,

and by: Dipartimento d'Architettura, Prof. Arch. Maurizio Carta  
Università degli Studi di Palermo,

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