

PLANNORD 2022 themes

This document presents the **themes** to be used as part of the invitation and call for abstracts for the PLANNORD 2022 symposium in Aalborg, 25th-26th August. We welcome both **individual** abstracts and presentations, as well as **'joint ventures'** where a group of people suggest a session with several abstracts and presentations.

1. Sustainable Futures - SDGs, degrowth and 'green shifts'

This theme discusses contemporary and emerging 'sustainabilities' in a Nordic context. Sustainability is often talked about as a singular or something to be defined. The Brundtland report and the introduction of SDGs aims at setting boundaries for interpretations and ways to measure progress. However, academics increasingly discusses the plurality of sustainable futures, highlighting the often contradictory aims of the UN agenda. There is a need to situate sustainability in the local spatial and cultural contexts. The theme is open to various subthemes as well as both theoretical insights, practical applications, and debates related to the Nordic understanding of sustainability, such as: 1) Emergent Nordic welfare states interpretations of sustainability, 2) contextualising SDG's, 3) topical issues e.g. 15 minute city or the human scaled city including housing, mobility, experiments and the role of planning.

2. Planning during and post-Covid-19

Under this theme, we invite proposals with a focus on planning in the context of the pandemic. Proposals may include aspects that address the diverse epistemologies that derive from the impact of the pandemic on changing the everyday life in cities, on planning processes and the potential constructions of learnings, meanings, and imaginaries for a 'new normal'. The session aspires to discuss a wide array of approaches and challenges from the Nordic context and Nordic cities to understand situated experiences in time of restricted, limited or mediated social interactions. The session seeks to understand the pandemic trends of influence on Nordic planning culture, paradigms, goals, objects, approaches, and methods. Case studies can derive from Nordic research on changing urban infrastructures and policy that can accommodate new needs and impacts from the pandemic as: 1) new discourses on healthy cities, 2) urban densification strategies and neighborhood based on chrono-urbanism, 3) new forms of public formation in spaces and mobilities, 4) indoor facilities, home-based on co-working experiences and new digital urban economies, 4) participatory planning, creation of communities for human solidarity, and 5) new urban conflicts and agonisms

3. Social and urban justice – rights, segregation, gentrification, and housing

Proposals for this theme should address planning research about social and urban justice, equity, and inclusion. Subjects of the research can include for example housing affordability, right to the city, segregation, gentrification and displacement, environmental justice etc. Investigations seeking knowledge on all aspects of diversity are encouraged from race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation to geography, physical or cognitive disability, and class. The theme is open to deep qualitative studies and action research projects as well as large scale quantitative analysis that uncovers patterns related to the theme. Examples: 1) Until recently, Denmark's problem areas have been called ghettos - what has this meant, and how have problematic residential areas in the other Nordic countries been dealt with?, and 2) Since 2015, it has been possible to force developers to build 25 per cent public housing in binding local plans - how has it worked and what experiences have the other Nordic countries with inclusive / affordable housing

4. Planning theory in a Nordic perspective

Planning theory has traditionally been developed in and primarily for the Anglo-Saxon countries. This track aims at placing theory in the Nordic context by inviting contributions, which discuss planning theory from (but not limited to) a Nordic perspective. The Nordic countries is often assumed to share a common perspective on planning or a common planning culture. This track sets out to explore whether the same might be true when it comes to planning theory. Contributions to this track can include (but are not limited to): 1) attempts to theorise transformations in Nordic planning as a result of wider societal changes, hereunder increasingly neoliberalised and postpolitical societies, 2) the emergence of new planning spaces and their roles in planning, and 3) new theoretical perspectives and their relevance for planning.

5. Governance, participation, and the role of the planner

This theme is a broad call for discussing current and upcoming spatial governance trends and issues in a Nordic context. We invite researchers and practitioners to share their experiences and insights on contemporary and emerging challenges and opportunities, in connection to various development conditions and different scales of spatial planning and governance. Special attention is given to (although not exclusively) local-regional levels, planning institutions, settings and practices, participation, co-creation, and the role of the planner. We encourage discussions of changes and transformation in governance activities that seek to adjust to pressing issues of spatial development across sectors, interests and actors. Examples: 1) New participatory settings and practices and their implications to planning, 2) Tools, methods, skills of planning and planners, and 3) Placemaking, mobilisation, co-creation and transformative planning

6. Conflicts and collaborations in planning

This theme focuses on conflicting aspects of planning activities and how they are dealt with in planning frameworks and between planning actors. Planning processes are often 'centre stage' in disagreements and disputes over suggested new developments in places and areas. This seems to have increased with the pressure for planning more sustainable futures. Conflicts and resistance (e.g. NIMBY) typically arise between growth agendas and environmental, social and cultural concerns. Also, there is often dissatisfaction with inclusion and collaboration efforts in the planning process itself. The theme invites discussion of the limitations and possibilities of planning in such 'conflictual contexts', e.g. what kinds of planning conflicts and collaborations are emerging, and what can be learned from them? Examples: 1) Coastal tourism, nature protection and community development. Incl. sustainable development of 2nd homes, 2) Urban densification and high-rise building, and 3) Windmills, solar energy, and other larger 'greening' facilities

7. Perspectives of regulatory planning – challenges and opportunities

This track sets out to explore regulatory planning and detailed planning issues in its broadest sense - ranging from land policy implementation over land use / urban planning to land management. In particular are all perspectives related to detailed (local) planning welcome - both in order to compare across the Nordic welfare states, and to explore if there is, for example, a special Nordic planning regulation culture and planning administrative culture in the Nordic countries? And if so, what can we learn from each other and what can other countries possibly learn from the Nordic countries? Examples: 1) Sustainability considerations in planning - to what extent is there, respectively, should it be possible to regulate sustainability issues in e.g. binding detailed planning?, 2) Plan damages - what happens when planning that is otherwise legal results in e.g. neighbor nuisances?, and 3) Development agreements - how are they used in the various Nordic countries?

8. Spatial data management – tools, methods and digitization of planning

Spatial data is increasingly being collected about most parts of urban activity and it is increasingly essential to understand how flows of data will influence the future planning processes. Today data is used to support the decisions made in urban planning and data can enlighten and document the environmental state and give us information about air quality, traffic situations or climate related indicators. In the future, citizen science and open data will be the new normal and that could give different interpretations and create new innovations and possibilities. Combined with the growing focus on social media and alternative digital platforms this could eventually change the whole backdrop of urban planning. Data have many sources and therefore issues such as quality and ethics have become evenly important. Authorities are establishing digital planning conceptual data models, where legislation and zoning are defined by digital boundaries and searchable databases. The transition of the legal basis of planning, from analogue to digital is a challenge whether it is based on scanning or human interpretations of the analogue planning documents. Examples: 1) Sensing the city – Planning with data from environmental sensors, drones, wearables, and other digital tools, 2) Technologies, people and planning – Smart city planning, participation, digitalization, information modelling, and 3) Digital planning – Most plans are converting to new media types and how is this implemented in legislation, administration, and practical tools.