Foreword by Mr. Khetha Zulu, the SACPLAN Chairperson

The year 2020 will be a year that is remembered for many years to come. With the Covid-19 pandemic and the National Lockdown to contain the spread of the disease, the way that we communicate, the impact on communities and the built environment will be with us for a number of years to come.

This pandemic forces planners to reassess the way we do planning. It has been said that the rapid spread of the disease had been as a result of the densities within our cities. Undoubtedly, this analysis is proven to be correct to some extent. It poses a challenge to physical planning norms and what, as the profession, had been advocating for as measure for sustainable development. Even more challenging is, how do we address areas with limited resources to address this issue of density?

During the strategic planning session held by SACPLAN earlier this year, the importance to finalise the identification of work for planners was identified as an important priority for SACPLAN. SACPLAN reworked the previous Regulations into a set of Rules and will start with the consultation process with Voluntary Associations where after this consultation will be further rolled out. In this regard we would ask that you get involved. We are also rolling out the new registration certificates with a limited duration validity. These certificates will also be used as “confirmation of good standing”.

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Some of the articles covered in this Issue are testimony to the hard work as community of urban and regional planners we’ve put in on a continued basis.


We also read from two planners that attended the World Urban Forum or WUF. Each WUF focuses on a particular theme relating to implementation of the UN’s human settlements or habitat agendas which it adopts at a UN Habitat summit every 20 years. The focus of the recent WUF10 in Abu Dhabi (held on 8-13 February 2020) was on ‘Cities of Opportunities – Connecting Culture and Innovation’.

The Talking Transformation Podcasts, anchored by Mr Peter Ahmad, were included as part of the SACPLAN CPD activities. The Talking Transformation Podcasts are open conversations addressing contemporary city building and spatial transformation issues in South Africa. Access to these podcasts are available on the SACPLAN website.

The African Centre for Cities (ACC) launched a Survey on Corruption and Integrity in the Planning Profession as part of a Research Project. This will assist the ACC to dig deeper to understand the specific moral pressures and ethical challenges that bear down on the local profession in its daily practice. You are therefore requested to complete the survey. You will find the link in the article. The information you provide is Anonymous and will remain Confidential.

The SAACPP provides us with interesting court judgments and legal challenges.

The “WHAT I WISH I KNEW: the ‘unconference’ Conference” was held on 28 November 2019. The South African Planning Education Research Project (SAPER), in partnership with SACPLAN, hosted an exciting yet unconventional planning event. The conference was influenced by research focussing on South African planning education and the profession at large.

Finally, a new website which we believe is more user-friendly and content-rich has just gone live. We trust that this initiative will improve the service to the community of planners.

SACPLAN is also inviting all planners and partners to continuously update the Council on planning highlights in their areas of work so that we can share our common stories through the newsletter and other platforms.

Finally, a heartfelt best wishes to all colleagues during this hard time we going through and for the impact that we will live with beyond. Let us do our part as guided by our government and stay safe for our sake and those around us. May God bless us all!

Happy Reading

Due to the Nation-Wide COVID-19 Lockdown the SACPLAN Offices will be closed until further notice. As a result, we would have limited access to some of our email addresses.

For any Financial queries please send you query to: accounts@sacplan.co.za

For General queries or request for information please send an email to: planner@sacplan.co.za

We will be accessing these emails from time to time and respond. During this trying time, we wish you all the best and ask that you stay safe.
ABOUT THE CORONA VIRUS

COVID-19 is the name for the novel coronavirus that was detected in Wuhan, China in 2019 and has now been declared a global pandemic, with nearly 4 million cases worldwide and this is increasing on a daily basis. Symptoms include a runny nose, sore throat, dry cough, and fever. As with most infectious diseases, not every infected person will become ill, and most of those will only develop mild symptoms and quickly recover. Of the nearly 4 million known cases worldwide, about 6.88% have been fatal and this percentage has been increasing as well. This is much higher than the seasonal influenza and even the SARS epidemic of 2009. From the data available it appears that risk of dying increases with age with those over 60 having nearly double the risk than younger people. It also appears that persons with underlying diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or lung problems or with compromised immune systems are most at risk.

It is as present believed that the virus is spread through droplets exhaled or expelled by coughing or sneezing. It is recommended that the best way of preventing becoming ill is to frequently wash one’s hands with soap or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser and avoid touching one’s face and thereby introducing microbes into one’s mouth, nose or eyes.

PLANNING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious diseases can only spread where there are enough people to infect and where high densities permit the easy spread of the microbes. Hence cities have historically suffered far more than sparsely populated rural areas from bacterial diseases (the plague, cholera, typhoid, TB) and viruses (smallpox, measles, influenza, Ebola). It was the presence of infectious diseases that contributed to the rise of the planning profession.

The solution to reducing the incidence of infectious disease was clean water, safe sanitation and well-built, safe and dry housing with light and air: these improvements have been considered the greatest contribution to urban health of the past 200 years. Clean water, safe sanitation and sound housing remain so important to human health that they are consistently among the international development goals. Conversely, when the access to safe water, sanitation and housing is absent or limited, the residents become more exposed to infectious diseases. The stress of poverty and an inadequate diet also lower the immune system, increasing risk of infectious diseases. These are the people most at risk to contract COVID-19 while those living with HIV may have an even higher risk.

The challenge for planners is to improve the living conditions of especially the poorest communities through the upgrading of informal settlements, improving the quality of water and sanitation to all inhabitants of the city and increasing their access to healthy food. We need to learn from the lessons of the past: our health depends on healthy living conditions of all citizens.

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1 https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/
2 https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/
NEW SACPLAN WEBISTE GOES LIVE

SACPLAN has a New and Revamped Website

On 2 April 2020 the new SACPLAN Website went live. Quite a few changes had been made. Some of these changes include an Events Calendar showing events both locally as well as internationally. In this regard we request planners to notify SACPLAN of any upcoming events (both physical as well as online) that we can add to the events calendar. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown you are requested to confirm with the organisers directly whether there are any changes to the dates and / or location of the events.

The Consultants list has a new look and consulting firms are requested to check if there are any updates and / or amendments to the information on the website. Please forward such changes to planner@sacplan.co.za.

We have added a Jobs portal where urban and regional planning jobs are uploaded on a regular basis. If you are aware of any positions (either in your organisation or other) please forward that to SACPLAN as well.

Some of the other new information are “Resources and Forums”, and “Video’s and Media”.

Once you are logged in you can update your information online and download your new registration certificate. This new registration certificate also serves as your “confirmation of good standing”. We have built into the new certificate the possibility for the certificate to be verified. You also have access to Tenders as well as new Research.

Some of the existing sections had been strengthened and made more user friendly.

What is coming?

We are currently finalising an online Registration Form which will be making the submitting of an application for Registration in any of the categories much easier.

We will also be rolling out an online CPD points submission form.

If you have any suggestions for further amendments please send these to SACPLAN.
SACPLAN became a Signatory to the GPN World Planners Abu Dhabi Declaration 2020


The declaration outlines the values and roles of planners in regional and urban development. The declaration will help guide discussions with stakeholders and the general public to elevate the understanding of planning and its key role in all communities. Among the key elements of the declaration are promoting the sustainable development goals, social equity, participating, and good governance.


SACPLAN first became a signatory to the GPN Vancouver declaration in 2017.

SACPLAN Signing the GPN World Planners Abu Dhabi Declaration 2020

Seated (left to right) – Mr Martin Lewis – CEO SACPLAN and Mr Khetha Zulu – Chairperson SACPLAN
Standing (left to right) – Mr Nsodiseni Musetha (DALRRD), Ms Thuso Morake (SACPLAN Council Member), Dr Yandisa Mashalaba (SACPLAN Council Member), Dr Hope Magidimisha (SACPLAN Council Member), Mr Andile Cekiso (SACPLAN Council Member), Dr James Chakwizira (SACPLAN Council Member), Ms Maartje Weyers (SACPLAN Appeal Board Member), Ms Manako Matemane (SACPLAN Council Member), Mr Peter Dacomb (SACPLAN Council Member).
CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK IS ALSO A TOWN PLANNING ISSUE

Challenges in the South African Context

"The fact that rapid urbanisation and increasing international travel render epidemic outbreaks a global and not simply a local phenomenon, imply that it is important for all countries to take necessary measures to counter this threat."

Dr Hangwelani Hope Magidimisha-Chipungu
SARChI Chair for Inclusive cities
Academic leader for Planning and Housing at University of KwaZulu-Natal

Towards the end of 2019, the world has witnessed the outbreak of a new strain of virus that had not previously been identified in humans. The Novel coronavirus was detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan (Hubei province). The World Health Organisation swiftly declared a public health emergency of international concern at the end of January 2020, as infections spread rapidly within China. Since then an increasing number of cases have been confirmed outside of China, including South Africa. The situation is evolving rapidly.

The fact that rapid urbanisation and increasing international travel render epidemic outbreaks a global and not simply a local phenomenon, imply that it is important for all countries to take necessary measures to counter this threat. The first line of defence against the pandemic is surveillance: monitoring human and animal populations to spot outbreaks and contain them quickly. The South African government has assured its citizens to not panic as they are prepared to fight and contain the coronavirus outbreak. Now that South Africa has confirmed at least 38 cases of coronavirus infection (at the time of writing), we are at a crossroads: coronavirus has not yet reached (or at least we don’t know if it has reached) epidemic proportions in South Africa.

Despite governments efforts to fight and contain the coronavirus outbreak, significant gaps, challenges and unevenness exist with regards to pandemic preparedness. Progress toward preventing the spread of corona virus has been uneven, and many parts of the country have been unable to meet basic requirements for compliance. When epidemics or pandemics hit, they usually hit the poor first and worst. We have known this for a while. This history has exposed gaps related to the timely detection of disease, availability of basic care, tracing of contacts, quarantine and isolation procedures, and preparedness outside the health sector, including coordination and response
mobilization. In a country with high inequality like South Africa, these gaps are especially evident in resource-limited settings of townships and informal settlements, and threaten to pose dire implications for what may happen during a coronavirus outbreak in these settings. In the light of this revelation, there is therefore an opportunity to pre-empt the worst of coronavirus effects through concerted action to reach those furthest behind. I therefore submit that coronavirus outbreak is also a Town Planning issue and planners can influence the trajectory of this virus.

Given the variable, the current strategy that SA is employing is not sufficient to contain the virus. The strategy indeed needs to be recalibrated. We must start moving beyond national systems and prioritise interventions in hard-to-reach areas. Many of these locations within South Africa may be remote, with health facilities and other services beyond the reach of people in poverty. Urban informal settlements are hotspots for the spread of diseases, and so targeting these areas of extreme poverty through health interventions alongside provision of proper water and sanitation services and other forms of sustainable developments would offer a longer-term solution to preventing the spread of the outbreaks and at more reducing or prevent death. All of this points to a critical need to situate the response to the coronavirus within wider risk-informed development strategies, to ensure the inclusion of those furthest behind, who may otherwise face the worst effects of the pandemic in the months ahead.

Despite growing international and national attention, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) surveillance remains weakest in marginalised areas at greatest risk. Such areas are short of water and sanitation infrastructure and health facilities. They struggle for clean drinking water on a daily basis. Water to wash their hands on regular basis might seem to be a luxury they cannot afford. The underinvestment in preparedness in these communities reflects the painful choice facing poor and marginalised communities with high disease burdens. These weaknesses mean that in poor communities, isolated outbreaks are likely to go undetected for a longer time and, thus, to smoulder and spread. In such circumstances, we will all be doomed. Coronavirus does not discriminate.

Regardless of where a pandemic starts, once underway, the poor tend to bear the brunt. They have weaker health and poor infrastructure systems and limited capacity to handle surges in cases. These distributional inequalities are likely to play out within South Africa. In facing coronavirus pandemic, people are advised to avoid public places like markets or public gathering, to maintain personal space and quarantine. Contrary to this intervention measure, the very nature of marginalized communities like informal settlement is a very high concentration of people or households in a small piece of land with very high interaction of people and domestic animals. These areas need to be paid attention to, lest they serve as ticking time bomb for us all.

Since poor populations face a higher spark risk, a greater chance that an outbreak will spread in these communities, and a higher likelihood of health and worse off mortality shocks, pandemic preparedness efforts must preferentially target these poor and marginalised communities whose livelihoods are already precarious. Without vigorous efforts to secure equitable access to basic services for everyone, we are doomed to face the worst pandemic ever seen in the history of this country. Coronavirus outbreak is also a Town Planning issue.

“Regardless of where a pandemic starts, once underway, the poor tend to bear the brunt. They have weaker health and poor infrastructure systems and limited capacity to handle surges in cases.”
THE LEGAL ANGLE

News from the Consulting Profession on Interesting Court Judgements and Legal Challenges

Like it or not – the planning profession is undeniably entangled in a veritable web of legislative provisions which plays an important role in the day to day activities of planning practitioners.

A recent court judgment of the Northern Cape High Court (Kimberley) sheds some light on questions surrounding a municipality’s obligation with regard to a local land use scheme and spatial planning and its land use management by-law and the protection afforded a land owner in the context thereof. (Case Reference: Van Heerden JJ//Appeal Authority i.r.o. Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality and Others 2849/2017).

In a different matter yet to be decided by a competent court, a legal challenge has been presented to the City of Cape Town pertaining to the composition of its Municipal Planning Tribunal and the absence of a political representative (typically a municipal councillor) on such tribunal. Depending on the outcome of the aforesaid matter, it may hold important implications for the planning profession (both within the municipal sphere of government and for planning practitioners in private practice).

In the first matter, an owner of an erf in the Vanderkloof Township fronting on the banks of the Vanderkloof Dam in the Northern Cape Province was aggrieved by structures erected by an adjacent land owner, and more particularly the impact thereof on view sheds (towards the Vanderkloof Dam), privacy and related considerations.

The property in question falls within the land use scheme of the Renosterberg Municipality whilst certain conditions of title pronounce on building setbacks and related development controls. The judgment in this matter confirms that the offending building structures had been erected in a manner which did not comply with the local land use scheme nor with certain limitations stemming from the conditions of title. Notwithstanding, the municipality had approved the building plan for the offending structure and construction was completed.

Apart from the aforesaid difficulties, it also appears that certain parts of the offending structure had been erected in a manner which encroached over the common boundary line separating the neighbouring properties.

The judgment explains the dreary tale of the complainant and his endeavours to convince the municipality that the matter had been dealt with incorrectly and that he had suffered prejudice as a result. The record shows that the municipality had all but ignored the complaints and had simply approved the later land development applications by the respondent in his attempts to remedy the problems associated with the land use scheme, the conditions of title and the building plan which had been approved contrary such provisions.
The court’s judgment also dwells on the importance of conditions of title and the protection which property owners may derive from same, whilst criticising the evidently flagrant disregard for such matters displayed by the municipality. In this regard the Court made reference to prior judgments including Malan and Another v Ardconnel Investments (Pty) Ltd 1988 (2) SA 12 (A) and Van Rensburg and Another NNO v Naidoo and Others NNO, 2011 (4) SA 149 (SCA).

In the end result the application to court was successful (in favour of the complainant) and the various decisions of the municipality were indeed set aside by review. The principle of knowingly “committing a sin” and later asking for forgiveness, is relevant here. Both the scheme and conditions of title were ultimately enforced to the benefit of the complainant.

With reference to the second matter, a property owners association with interests in the Greenpoint area of Cape Town has lodged an application to Court seeking relief to set aside decisions of the Municipal Planning Tribunal in having:

• approved the removal of certain conditions of title relevant to properties earmarked for redevelopment; and

• approved the amendment of the provisions of the local by-law (land use scheme) to allow redevelopment which, in the opinion of the property owners association is out of kilter when compared to the existing urban fabric of the affected part of Green Point.

Part of the relief sought in this matter pertains to the composition of the Municipal Planning Tribunal (MPT), as provided for in the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (SPLUMA)

The application to court alleges that the composition of the MPT is unconstitutional and that local residents should be represented by their properly elected councillor(s) for the area.

Whilst the matter remains to be determined, the possible implications of a successful court battle by the Greenside Property Owners Association may result in the composition of MPT’s changing dramatically in time to come.

Whilst much may be said regarding the ability (and often the lack thereof) of certain MPT’s (as they are currently structured), the principle remains that the decisions of the MPT will be taken by persons other than politicians. MPT members with knowledge and experience of the technical aspects pertaining to the use and development of land, the interpretation of local municipal policies and the manner in which the land use scheme and its provisions should be applied currently serve this function. Narrowly focussed political considerations are bound to run the risk of scuppering any good intentions of SPLUMA to bring about well informed technical decisions.

It is rumoured that certain other metropolitan municipalities and interest groups may elect to join the aforesaid court case, given the potentially far reaching consequences which may stem from a court judgment which opens the door to political interference.

Time will tell.
Civil society, NGOs, governments, and multilateral institutions all repeatedly call for improved or ‘good’ governance – yet they seem to speak past one another. Governance is in danger of losing all meaning precisely because it means many things to different people in varied locations. This is especially true in sub-Saharan Africa. Here, the postcolony takes many forms, reflecting the imperial project with painful accuracy. Offering a set of multidisciplinary analyses of governance in different sectors (crisis management, water, food security, universities), in different locales (including the African Union and specific regional contexts from West Africa, Zambia, to South Africa), and from different theoretical approaches (network to adversarial network governance, and beyond), this volume makes a useful addition to the growing debates on ‘how to govern’. It steers away from offering a ‘correct’ definition of governance, or from promoting a particular position on postcoloniality. It gives no conclusion that neatly sums up all the arguments advanced. Instead, readers are invited to draw their own conclusions based on these differing approaches to and analyses of governance in the postcolony.

As a robust, critical assessment of power and accountability in the sub-Saharan context, this collection brings together topical case studies that will be a valuable resource for those working in the field of African international relations, public policy, public management and administration.
This handbook contributes with new evidence and new insights to the on-going debate on the de-colonization of knowledge on urban planning in Africa.

African cities grew rapidly since the mid-20th century, in part due to rising rural migration and rapid internal demographic growth that followed the independence in most African countries. This rapid urbanization is commonly seen as a primary cause of the current urban management challenges with which African cities are confronted. This importance given to rapid urbanization prevented the due consideration of other dimensions of the current urban problems, challenges and changes in African cities. The contributions to this handbook explore these other dimensions, looking in particular to the nature and capacity of local self-government and to the role of urban governance and urban planning in the poor urban conditions found in most African cities. It deals with current and contemporary urban challenges and urban policy responses, but also offers an historical overview of local governance and urban policies during the colonial period in the late 19th and 20th centuries, offering ample evidence of common features, and divergent features as well, on a number of facets, from intra-urban racial segregation solutions to the relationships between the colonial power and the natives, to the assimilation policy, as practiced by the French and Portuguese and the Indirect Rule put in place by Britain in some or in part of its colonies.

Using innovative approaches to the challenges confronting the governance of African cities, this handbook is an essential read for students and scholars of Urban Africa, urban planning in Africa and African Development.
GRID PLANNING IN THE URBAN DESIGN PRACTICES OF SENEGAL

Authors: Liora Bigon & Eric Ross

This book explores the entanglement of African and Western cultures of grid planning in urban Senegal from pre-colonial times up to the present. The most important and significant urban centers of historic Senegambia and modern Senegal, a mostly Muslim country of West Africa, are examined. What is revealed is a continuous deployment of grid planning in the configuration of towns, villages, neighborhoods and cities since the sixteenth century. Both endogenous African and exogenous colonial traditions of grid planning have been used, simultaneously but often quite separately, to lay out settlements. The indigenous Senegambia grid plan first characterized elite pre-colonial settlements, such as royal capitals and centers of Islamic instruction, before it was popularized and mass-produced by Senegal’s mystical Sufi orders during the colonial era. This autochthonous tradition culminated in the mid-twentieth century design of the great shrine city of Touba. The French grid plan, for its part, characterized nearly every type of colonial settlement, from mercantilist ports like Saint Louis to the prestigious colonial spaces of Dakar, capital of a French empire in Africa, to enumerable peanut marketing rail-towns (escales). Though the two grid-planning traditions were initially quite distinct in origin and symbolic significance – royal prerogative, Islamic propriety or efficient exploitation of the land and control of its people – they have become inextricably entangled with each other over the course of history. This book explores this entanglement in order to: (a) create a truly global urban history to replace the otherwise Eurocentric meta-narrative of urban planning and design; (b) enhance Islamic Studies by situating sub-Saharan Africa’s urbanism within mainstream research on the Muslim World; (c) shift the discussion from a determinist genealogy of vernacular versus Western urban patterns towards a more dialectic, entangled and processual approach to the production of space; and (d) highlight the role of African agents in shaping the continent’s cities, even at the height of formal colonialism. The book is primarily intended for scholars engaged in the fields of urban history, architectural and urban planning history, world history, African studies, Islamic studies, urban geography, cultural studies and art history.


SPATIAL PLANNING IN SERVICE DELIVERY - TOWARDS DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE IN SOUTH AFIRCA

Authors: Magidimisha, Hangwelani Hope, Chipungu, Lovemore

This volume presents a detailed synthesis of the historical, present-day and future state of service delivery in South Africa. The generation and distribution of services in any geographical space has been and is always a source of inequality in human society. Thus, in the context of spatial planning, space is the major factor through which distributive justice and sustainable development can be achieved. To examine the continuation of spatial inequality in service delivery, the authors employed both qualitative and quantitative research methods in a multi-pronged approach, utilizing empirical data from the Vembe District in Limpopo, data from the South African Index of Multiple Deprivation, and representative attitudinal data from the South African Social Attitudes Survey. Ultimately, this study examines spatial differences in living environments with a focus on the distribution of household services and discusses strategies to achieve spatial equality.

The Table of Contents consists of the following 13 Chapters:

1. Spatial Inequality: An Introduction;
2. South Africa in a Context;
3. Hegemonic Global Influences on Service Delivery: A Theoretical Retreat;
4. Methodological Consideration;
5. Resilience in Service Delivery;
7. The Development Ideology of South Africa as a Rainbow Nation;
8. Re-living Socialism in a Neo-liberal Dispensation;
9. “We Have a Better Story to Tell”;
10. The Quantitative and Qualitative Manifestations of Spatial Inequality in Vhembe District;
11. Citizen Participation in Planning: Balancing the Equation Between Equitable Involvement and Equitable Service Distribution;
12. The Spatial Implication of Service Generation; and

Seeking Urban Transformation. Alternative Urban Futures in Zimbabwe tells the stories of ordinary people’s struggles to remake urban centres. It interrogates and highlights the principle conditions in which urban transformation takes place. The main catalysts of the transformation are social movements and planning institutions. Social movements pool resources and skills, acquire land, install infrastructure and build houses. Planning institutions change policies, regulations and traditions to embrace and support a new form of urban development driven by grassroots movements.

Besides providing a comprehensive analysis of planning and housing in Zimbabwe, there is a specific focus on three urban centres of Harare, Chitungwiza and Epworth. In metropolitan Harare, the book examines new housing and infrastructure series to the predominantly urban poor population; vital roles played by the urban poor in urban development and the adoption by planning institutions of grassroots-centered, urban-planning approaches.

The book draws from three case studies and in-depth interviews from diverse urban shapers i.e. representatives and members of social movements, urban planners, engineers, surveyors, policy makers, politicians, civil society workers and students to generate a varied selection of insights and experiences. Based on the Zimbabwean experience, the book illustrates how actions and power of ordinary people contributes to the transformation of African cities.

About the Author: Davison Muchadenyika

Davison Muchadenyika is an urban planner who has worked for universities, nongovernmental organizations and international development agencies. Between 2015 and 2017, he read for his PhD at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. He was a research fellow at the African Centre for Cities and Climate System Analysis Group, both at the University of Cape Town. There, he conducted research in Lusaka, Maputo and Windhoek.


http://www.africanbookscollective.com/books/seeking-urban-transformation
The latest version of the Town and Regional Planning Journal (No 75 December 2019) special edition (peer-reviewed academic literature) is now available electronically and published on the online platform. The link is: http://journals.ufs.ac.za/index.php/trp/issue/view/426. The contents if this issue are as follows:

**COMMENTARY:**
- Land reform in South Africa - Commentary by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development: Branch Spatial Planning and Land Use Management. [Click to read...]

**REPORT:**
- Municipal urban land release and acquisition – SALGA’s proposals to facilitate spatial transformation and inclusive economic growth through efficient urban land governance and management approaches (Neo Molefe, Seana Nkhahle). [Click to read...]

**BOOK REVIEW:**
- Sustainable: The war on free enterprise, private property, and individuals. Author: Tom Deweese (Das Steyn). [Click to read...]

**ARTICLES:**
- Exploring some of the complexities of planning on ‘communal land’ in the former Transkei (Tanja Winkler). [Click to read...]
- Land tenure regularisation for sustainable land use in informal urban settlements: Case study of Lalaouia and Mesguiche, Souk Ahras, Algeria (Fatma Zohra Hafsi, Nadia Chabi). [Click to read...]
- Examining women’s access to rural land in UMnini Trust traditional area of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (Nontobeko Khuzwayo, Lovemore Chipungu, Hangwelani Magidimisha, Martin Lewis). [Click to read...]
- Land grabbing in Botswana: Modern era dispossession (Chadzimula Molebatsi). [Click to read...]
- Reflections on expropriation-based land reform in Southern Africa (Anele Mthembu). [Click to read...]
- Adaptive resistance amidst planning and administrative failure: The story of an informal settlement in the city of Kitwe, Zambia (Ephraim Munshifwa). [Click to read...]
- Customary system as ‘constraint’ or ‘enabler’ to peri-urban land development: Case of Kisumu city, Kenya (Edwin Wamukaya, Musyimi Mbathi). [Click to read...]
- Urban land reform in South Africa: Pointers for urban policy and planning (Marie Huchzermeyer, Philip Harrison, Sarah Charlton, Neil Klug, Margot Rubin, Alison Todes). [Click to read...]
- Different values lead to alternative approaches to the land debate in South Africa (Das Steyn). [Click to read...]
- Land (and settlement) reform post-expropriation: Shifting the focus to the ‘Sustainable Human Settlement Development’ imperative (Mark Oranje, Jeannie van Wyk). [Click to read...]

Please note that Town and Regional Planning Journal is now included in the Norwegian and SciELO SA list:
**Norwegian:** https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/KanalTidsskriftInfo.action?id=494324&bibsys=false
NEW REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Statistics for Applications Approved during the March 2020 Assessment

New registration category and gender distribution

- **85.9% Candidate Planners**
  - 122 registrations
  - 57 male
  - 56 female

- **11.3% Professional Planners**
  - 16 registrations
  - 9 male
  - 7 female

- **2.8% Technical Planners**
  - 4 registrations
  - 4 male
  - 0 female

New registration distribution between Planning Schools

*International Registration: 1 Candidate Planner from the Technical University Berlin*
Talking Transformation Podcast Information in Support of Professional CPD

Peter Ahmad
SACPLAN: Professional Planner

Introducing the Talking Transformation Podcast: An open conversation addressing contemporary city building and spatial transformation issues in South Africa.

The recently launched Talking Transformation Podcast is seven months old in February 2020! 17 episodes are in the bag and available to download and listen free of charge! There’s no charge or fee associated with the podcast! Slowly but surely an archive of material and perspectives is being made available to assist planners and others to reflect on and continue conversations that all too often are being forgotten about or missed in the daily activities.

What’s more SACPLAN is working directly with the podcast to consider...
ways of contributing to the Continuous Personal Development (CPD) requirements that SACPLAN has introduced. There’s no charge or fee associated with the podcast! Slowly but surely an archive of material and perspectives is being made available to assist planners and others to reflect on and continue conversations that all too often are being forgotten about or missed in the daily activities.

It’s been presented to provide a platform and a voice for built environment professionals and interest groups who are working towards transforming places and spaces here in South Africa. And it’s dedicated to the individuals and community groups who are driving the formal and informal process that shape South Africa’s cities and spaces.

We’re operating in an increasingly difficult global and national environment. Fake news – both the real and the imagined - and populism are threats to undermining our ability to communicate. Unemployment is sky-rocketing; commissions are exposing some scandalous activity within the state and corporate South Africa; the economy is failing and complex issues of housing, sanitation and land tenure remain perennial challenges to households, communities and institutions alike. The Talking Transformation Podcast is focused on reflecting on and celebrating achievements and milestones: the success stories and opportunities that are out there for us to all learn from.

As Talking Transformation Podcast anchor, Peter Ahmad suggested: “I’ve been a keen follower of podcasts for a number of years but it’s always struck me that local, South African content about our towns and cities is in short supply. Lots of people come and visit and put us under an academic microscope but I’m not sure how many podcast about it. So the plan is that with the support of colleagues past and present and personalities from across the country we use the Talking Transformation pod to explore successes and review approaches used since 1994. Spatial transformation is big news right now...political destinies are being shaped by the successes or failures; critics suggest little has changed within our fragmented and racially divided spaces. There are just so many different elements and complexities at play and the aim is to break it down into a series of episodes for listeners to engage and digest diverse themes.”

The podcast has already considered a range of topics including informal settlement upgrading, property markets, land and tenure reform, the National Development Plan and trauma and violence in communities. Skills development and the relevance and challenges of our traditional planning skills set have also been challenged in the series so far. Interviews have been concluded and lined up with some of the leading practitioners in the country across the public and private sectors, academies and the NGO spectrum.

“We are deliberately trying to balance the views of the private sector, academia and advocacy groups. Our aim is not to provide definitive answers but to provide a series of perspectives and reflections – allowing the listener to decide if it makes sense or not.”

Those involved in the Talking Transformation podcast do so in a voluntary and personal capacity. No funds are generated and time and recording infrastructure is from the team’s resources.

Although the team have worked in different government and private institutions, non-government organizations and academia none have any formal training or broadcasting background. “We record and prepare these episodes in our spare time to assist our listeners and our ourselves in coming to terms with the challenges at hand. As the project grows – it has already exceeded our initial expectations – we will approach a number of the professional registration bodies and see how we can use these to support the professional development certification. SACPLAN are first up in this regard!”

The team involved want it to be professional and quality presentation and they look forward to hearing from you with ideas on how they can improve their efforts and perspectives.

You can follow the podcast – and leave your vocal comments if you want to contribute to a topic - via https://anchor.fm/talking-transformation-po

You can also follow the podcast’s activities via the twitter page: https://twitter.com/TalkingTransfo1
CITIES OF INTEGRITY

Research Project at the African Centre for Cities Launches Survey on Corruption and Integrity in the Planning Profession

By Dr. Laura Nkula-Wenz, ACC Researcher

Corruption is a pertinent and increasingly central problem in urban development globally. When corruption renders infrastructure, housing, and urban development dysfunctional, ill tailored to public needs, or even discriminatory to specific neighbourhoods or social groups, it hardwires unjust and inequitable relations into the very fundaments of our cities. Hence, addressing corruption in urban development constitutes a key challenge for policymakers, practitioners, scholars and citizens alike1.

As introduced in the November issue of this newsletter (Issue 3), the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town under the leadership of Prof. Vanessa Watson has been conducting research on the nexus of corruption and urban development in South Africa and Zambia. Working together with the national professional planning bodies – the Zambian Institute of Planners (ZIP) and SACPLAN respectively – we are particularly interested in exploring the potential for harnessing professional integrity in the planning community to safeguard cities against corruption.

It is widely accepted that “[p]lanning is fundamentally an ethical activity as it raises questions about what should be done, for whom and by whom, and with what benefits or losses”2. In other words, planners are constantly balancing a vast array of diverse interests. In our day-to-day practice, we are frequently forced to make trade-offs between competing interests and conflicting objectives, such as environmental protection, social provisions, cultural needs and economic growth. Our decisions thus directly impact on the lives and livelihoods of different social groups, particularly in contexts marked by high levels of informality and inequality (e.g. in terms of gender, income, race etc.).

The discretionary scope afforded to planners for interpreting and spatially translating plans, policies, and programmes thus exposes us to undue influence and potential manipulation from different fronts. Operating at the junction of competing state systems, private sector interests, and different citizen groups, we often feel the pressure from developers, landowners, political party representatives and other administrative departments to compromise our professional principles and commitment to the public good in favour of particular interests.

While our initial interviews and research engagements with practicing planners in both South Africa and Zambia have confirmed the pertinence of the issue, we still need to dig deeper to understand the specific moral pressures and ethical challenges that bear down on the local profession in its daily practice.

Hence, we need YOUR HELP!
Please take 15 minutes to complete our survey by clicking on the following link:
https://forms.gle/65GRJKuaPkvBsfeJ7

The information you provide is ANONYMOUS and will remain CONFIDENTIAL. The data will be stored in strict accordance with the University of Cape Town’s Research Data Management Policy.

Your responses will help us to better understand how South Africa planners actually encounter and navigate common urban corruption challenges. Furthermore, your input will assist us in gaging the current ‘integrity landscape’, i.e. existing practices of supporting integrity in the local planning profession and how you as a planner are making us of it. Ultimately, the goal is to both strengthen existing institutional mechanisms and find new and innovative avenues for promoting ethical planning and integrity in the profession.

We greatly value your opinions and ideas and thus appreciate you taking the time to respond!

We will share the survey results in an upcoming edition of the SACPLAN newsletter in the second half of this year. You will also be able to find updates and more information on our project by visiting https://www.africancentreforcities.net/programme/gi-ace/.

We also welcome anyone who would be interested in sharing their views and experiences in a personal interview. For this, please get in touch with Dr. Laura Nkula at the African Centre for Cities via laura.nkula@uct.ac.za

WHAT I WISH I KNEW: THE ‘UNCONFERENCE’ CONFERENCE

An Unconventional Planning Event

By Stuart Denoon-Stevens

On 28 November 2019, the South African Planning Education Research Project (SAPER), in partnership with SACPLAN, hosted an exciting yet unconventional planning event, an ‘unconference’, in Johannesburg. This event was influenced by three years of research between the University of the Free State (RSA) and University of Birmingham (UK), which focused on South African planning education and the profession at large. The theme that inspired the days’ proceedings was termed ‘What I wish I knew’.

The aim for the day was to bring together practising planners with the SA SAPER team in a more intimate/relaxed setting and identify and consolidate practice lessons and individual stories. Central to these interactions was the idea of being able to learn from each other’s experiences, challenges and perspectives and to find ways to improve the South African planning fraternity.

The morning started with an icebreaker, ‘Rock Around the Clock,’ as a means of setting the tone and enabling multiple and quick introductions between strangers. From there we moved into a session where we used a gallery styled setup to present various quotes from the SAPER research interviews, as well as work from Dr Laura Nkula-Wenz from the Cities of Integrity project at the African Centre for Cities. The intent of the gallery was to provide participants with a chance to walk around and engage with the research on their terms. Each participant was encouraged to place a small note on quotes with which they agreed, or on those which made them uncomfortable. For example, one of the quotes was, “I don’t think all planners out of all professions, out of all the programs are equipped to deal with informality. However, I do think that there is a realisation, it must be across the board, that informality is something we have to plan for and with.”

Some of the responses included comments such as:

“Iformality is the single biggest challenge we face, yet too little teaching and practice relate to it.”

“Iformality, especially the second economy, cannot be wished away, in post-apartheid planning it needs to be incorporated into design[s] where appropriate.”

This approach allowed us to see what participants felt about some of the key issues we had identified in the research, and allowed participants to see what other participants felt about topics; in a sense creating an indirect, anonymous, dialogue between participants.

From there the conference continued onto small group sessions of around 7-10 people each, which started with a prepared input from the group facilitator and then allowed for group discussions. Some of the key themes that came from this session included:

- Rethinking roles – what is a ‘good’ town planner? Qualities discussed included communication, mentorship, innovation, constant growth, etc.
- Conversations and knowledge: It was argued that one of the core qualities of effective planning is having conversations with the right people to gather their insights.
• Young planners: Being a young planner was compared to a professional ‘adolescence’ where you need to reinvent yourself to find your niche.
• Planning and integrity: This was argued not just to be the absence of corruption, but also the making of the best plans within the constraints of the resources available.
• Finding support: Core to effective planning is building networks of support.
• Motivation: purpose inspires allies and provides ways to add value.

After lunch, we continued with the collaborative effort of designing a planning guide which was facilitated by Dr Elsona Van Huyssteen. We called it the “thrivevel guide to planning” with the hope that these lessons will enable people to not just merely survive but thrive within the profession. This was done by creating a physical abstract model of the guide, using everything from paper cups to craft sticks. Some of the key messages that came from this session were, again, a focus on networks, on the necessity of having a solid foundation of theory and practice, and the importance of keeping an open mind. One really pertinent quote was, “there will always be challenges, don’t despair! There is always a way out.”

The day concluded with the final touches from the graphic harvester Grant Johnson, who explained the graphic he had produced of the outputs of the event, with which we intend to create a guide for planners on how to thrive in industry (currently being drafted).

A personal reflection for me on this event, as a planning educator, was the importance placed on communication and networks. In planning education we tend to focus on knowledge and technical skills; for example, teaching students GIS, data analysis, and topics such as environmental planning, planning law and the like. To some extent, we still teach planning students to be technical experts, professionals who can make plans and write reports.

While this is obviously important, the main feedback we seemed to get was that planning was
less an exercise in being an expert and more an exercise in being a ‘middle man’ between a number of stakeholders. As such, skills such as relationship-building, leveraging support, communication, mediation and the like are critical. The question then is how do we start to teach young planners these skills, and to what extent are these best learnt in practice, and how should universities be responding to this challenge? What is certain is that the response will need to be a move away from conventional teaching methodologies, and need to adapt skills from disciplines such as social work, psychology and business into planning education. This has the potential to become an exciting area of innovation in planning education.

In this vein, I would like to conclude with a quote from one of our earlier interviews with planning practitioners that provides an excellent summary of this idea:

“Walking that line between planning fundamentally being about whom, because that who you plan for, that’s who implements your plans, who approves your plans, who funds your plans, who commissions your plans. That’s all people. And the more technical aspect of the discipline understanding the complex network of by-laws. Understanding hard physical limits like flood mains and soil conditions and dolomite. …. Because if you a technical expert but you have no social skills, you not going to get anything on the ground. ….If you socially very fluent but can’t put together a good technical plan, you gonna get things on the ground but they gonna be lousy. …. So, constantly working as a person between the troubled past and a less troubled future, between a technically determined profession and a socially fluent phenomenon.”

[Special thanks to Geoff Bickford for being MC; Rehana Moosajee (The Barefoot Facilitator) for assisting with program development; the organizing and facilitation team, namely, Rouve Bingle, Thapelo Chacha, Mischka Dunn, Jennilee Kohima, Lucia Leboto, Tokelo Nche, Emmie Smit, Thandeka Mlaza-Lloyd, Thomas Stewart, Refilwe Khabe and Elsона van Huyssteen, for your hard work; Grant Johnson for the graphic harvesting; the NRF and the ESRC / Newton Fund for funding this event (funding codes 105399 and ES/P00198X/1 respectively), SACPLAN for partnering with us, Dr Laura Nkula-Wenz from the Cities of Integrity project at the African Centre for Cities for the quotes facilitation and your general inputs; the wider SAPER team for their ongoing support, in particular, my co-PI, Dr Lauren Andres; our presenters for preparing inputs for the planning optimist session; and all the attendees for making this event the success it was.]

‘What I wish I knew’ Attendees

Key themes
The History of UN’s World Urban Forums

By Professor Marie Huchzermeyer, School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand. (Her attendance of Habitat III, WUF9 and WUF10 was made possible through the Wits TU Berlin Urban Lab, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)).

The World Urban Forum or WUF manifests a two-yearly rhythm of government, municipal, private sector, academic, civil society and citizen engagement around matters of human habitat. Each WUF focuses on a particular theme relating to implementation of the UN’s human settlements or habitat agendas which it adopts at a UN Habitat summit every 20 years. Following adoption of the New Urban Agenda or NUA at the Habitat III summit in 2016, WUF9 in Kuala Lumpur in 2018 focussed on ‘Cities for All’, and WUF10 in Abu Dhabi 8-13 February this year on ‘Cities of Opportunities – Connecting Culture and Innovation’.

WUF10 marked two decades of the World Urban Forum initiative within the UN. South Africa played a special role in the inaugural WUF1 in 2002, which was hosted in Nairobi where UN-Habitat is headquartered. Not only was WUF1 chaired by former Housing Minister Sanki Nthembi-Mahanyele, its deliberations also informed UN-Habitat’s preparations for World Summit for Sustainable Development (Rio+10) hosted by Johannesburg later that year.

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WUF has its origin in the restructuring of UN’s Human Settlement initiative from a centre (UNCHS (Habitat)) into a fully-fledged programme (UN-Habitat) in 2002. The UN arranged for the new programme’s governing council to meet every second year, and for the World Urban Forum to meet every other year. WUF’s role is to provide advice to UN-Habitat’s Executive Director while coordinating global support for implementation of the UN’s human settlements agendas.

WUF has grown from a conference of around 1 200 delegates in its first iteration to a mega-conference catering for over 20 000 delegates. WUF10 organisers expected to attract more delegates than the over 23 000 that reportedly attended the previous WUF. However, attendance at WUF10 was in the order of 13 000. In the closing session, the Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif thanked delegates for the courage to travel despite the coronavirus. Masked workers on public transport in the city and in the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, as well as instructions for thorough hand-washing procedures were a reminder of the possible health threat derived from mingling with other travellers.
Beyond the fear of contracting the virus, attendance was curtailed by the hospitality and transport costs of the host city. Many civil society organisations use their travel to such events to connect with and to strengthen local civil society organisations and their urban campaigns within and outside of WUF. The host country’s track record of restrictions on activists and movements led some civil society organisations to boycott WUF10. This also limited diversity and the potential for rigorous debate among participants at WUF10.

Following outcomes of Habitat III in 2016, UN-Habitat had undergone a review which, among other findings, required the organisation to diversify its stakeholder engagement, thus allowing for more diverse voices to be heard. At WUF9 in 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, the UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif had recently taken up her position. In the opening session of WUF9, she called for frank discussion, seemingly steering against a trend that international relations research has identified with global summitry, namely performative behaviour and the side lining of critical voice.

As with sports mega-events, cities bid for the honour of hosting WUF. Since WUF1 which was on the African continent, three WUFs have taken place in Latin America, two in Asia, two in Europe, one in North America and one in the Middle East. WUF11 will take place in 2022 in the former Russian mining town Katowice, and the call is open for the hosting of WUF12 in 2024.

Whereas sports ‘mega-events’ such the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup have a much higher attendance than WUF and even Habitat Summits have reached (attendance at Habitat III was close to 30 000, with 50 000 reported exhibition visitors), WUF has taken on mega-event functions for host cities. These include city branding and place-marketing, and the use of the event as an accelerator or commitment for infrastructure investment. The latter, as exemplified by WUF9 and 10, have largely been limited to cycle lanes, thus nowhere near the scale of the infrastructure commitments South Africa made for the hosting of the FIFA World Cup.

Mohd Sharif seeks to encourage lasting benefits of WUF hosting for citizens. At WUF10, Sharif took a step against the tendency of hosts to make a once-off gesture towards the theme of the conference. She committed WUF host cities/governments to ensure ongoing WUF legacies in the host cities, launching a network of host cities and requesting them to report at future WUFs.

What WUF offers is in large part determined by actively participating organisations, which have a window period in which to propose either networking, training or side events. At WUF10, 20 networking events ran in parallel at any one time, concurrent with events in the main programme such as dialogues and roundtables. Organisations attending with several delegates are able to strategically spread across the programme, and to draw together a diversity of lessons.

A ‘Team South Africa’ initiative of South Africa’s national Department of Human Settlements connected South African government, consultant, NGO and academic delegates and attempted to draw together collective lessons. A session in the Human Settlements Indaba early in March will seek to reflect on these and take them forward. One message that no delegate could miss was the attention given to data. Private sector and non-governmental innovations notwithstanding, one hopes that Team South Africa will drive home an urgency to resource Statistics South Africa.

For individual delegates, WUF’s programme is difficult to navigate and the vast extent of what is on offer lends a profound feeling of compromise and always missing out. However, the long corridor or forum at the ADNEC that leads past various venues all the way to the exhibition centre and plenary hall, if nothing else, offers the overwhelmed individual delegate encounter and networking opportunities, a further reason why many organisations and individuals brave the odds to attend this sizeable gathering.
Within the UN’s World Urban Forum 10: Cities of Opportunity

By Puvendra Akkiah, SACPLAN Council Member, Member of the WUF 10 United Nations Advisory Board for Declared Actions and Global Taskforce Representative.

In many respects, culture can be regarded as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda have put culture at the cutting edge of current discussions on urbanization. Culture and cultural diversity are sources of enrichment, grounded in human rights principles and therefore provide an essential contribution to the sustainable development of urban areas. Today, the idea of culture – comprehended in its broader sense of knowledge, art, belief, capabilities, habits, morals and behaviours – plays a crucial role in city growth more than ever before. The cultural diversity of cities that fosters inclusivity, tolerance and participation, is therefore widely viewed as a social asset, which can be harnessed in a variety of ways. Urban areas contain the cultural diversity, creative capital, vitality, social infrastructure and career choices to help attract the skills and talent required to generate and maximize this knowledge. With 55 per cent of the global populace residing in urban areas, and with cities becoming more heterogeneous, cultural diversity has important implications for how urban areas are planned and managed to ensure that everyone living in the city can access its benefits and cultural advantages.

Likewise, how cities are planned and managed will have a direct impact on the safeguarding of the world’s cultural heritage and how the residents of these cities will be able to live their lives in holistic and sustainable ways. Cities are centers of excellence and hubs of innovation often deployed to address a wide range of challenges, for example ensuring that all residents of the city have access to adequate and affordable urban essential services including water, mobility, security, solid waste management and...
renewable energy. In the context of urban areas, culture and innovation are inextricably linked and engaged in a continuous process of refining each other. The city with its concentration of people, ideas, and resources serves as a catalyst to initiate and sustain innovation. The rapidly changing urban context provides the opportunity for the intersection of culture and innovation and to address persistent and emerging urban challenges. It is against this backdrop that the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) had as its theme: “Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation”.

WUF 10 participants showcased their commitments to securing strong partnerships, and calling for multilevel and collaborative action to achieve sustainable urbanization, raise the global climate ambition, and respond to the challenges of the decade as one humanity.

Participants from local governments argued that local service providers are integral to foster culture (through concrete examples such as libraries, and cultural facilities) as well as to achieve the global goals. Local and regional governments called to keep the spirit of multilateralism alive to transform the model of governance and to put people at the forefront of local planning. The role of culture and identity in peacebuilding was explored, in particular, by participants from the global south, who identified the necessity of planning cities for everyone.

Gender mainstreaming was identified as an essential component for equal access to the city by everyone. Men and women interact differently with cities, and these inequalities show themselves at different levels. The role of local and regional governments in taking action and ensuring gender-responsive public policies will allow anchoring protective spaces for all of the people in cities. Participants further argued for the inclusion of heritage in urban planning, in particular in areas where it is most threatened, and to evaluate the impact of our actions on our urban heritage to ensure respect for cultural diversity. Mapping cultural rights and robust communication among all stakeholders, in particular with the civil society and cultural groups, will allow for creativity and development to flourish in cities.

Culture and sustainable urbanization are inextricably linked. This statement resonated with speakers, who argued that cultural rights, related to basic services, are essential for sustainable development. Throughout, participants reiterated the importance of learning from one’s cultural identity and applying the lessons learnt to truly integrate culture as a strand of global solidarity, asking questions about what heritage entails for the younger generations and how to foster ownership on cultural heritage and identity in a globalized context. Cultural diversity was hailed as an essential lever to link local and global heritages, peace, and the achievement of the global agendas.

One of the other key themes of the World Urban Forum was an innovation. Participants argued for embracing technology as a tool that will allow local governments to thrive and allow a more direct relationship with our citizens, and to train communities to make the best use of them.

Representatives from the cultural sector argued that innovation is not born in a vacuum and that our heritages, cultures, and identities are in and of themselves essential for change. History needs to be considered, and lessons learnt brought forward, to ensure that innovation comes from the ground-up and is linked to the identities of the people. Embracing technology, however, does not mean being shaped by it. Some voices argued for understanding innovation as a concept that went beyond technology and called for bridging the gap between territories that are more adapted to new technologies and to make use of technologies in ways that would harness the potential of communities, instead of allowing technology to lead the future of humanity as a separate entity.

Participants referred, once again, to essential service provision as integral for the achievement of the global goals, and argued that community involvement is essential for local ownership of the agendas. Women empowerment, citizen engagement in public affairs, and participatory planning were seen as key areas for creating livable cities, accessible to all.

As we enter the decade of delivery of the Global Agendas, the message for the World Urban Forum was clear in that, cities are central to the achievement of the global agenda’s. The Declared Actions provided an overall call to actions for various sectors of society.
While dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, we need to plan ahead to be more health resilient as a largely urban species. This needs to be combined and aligned with our imperative planning challenge to halt and reverse global warming and critical loss of biodiversity.

Therefore, we must move away from oil, gas and coal to reduce pollution, reduce various other environmental concerns and mitigate the processes of anthropogenic climate change.

Today, because most of the human population lives in cities and the trend of massive (and frequently unordered and uncontrolled) urbanisation is accelerating, the urban areas are in the foreground of this “battle for the future”: to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

To win this battle many cities and local authorities are already developing new approaches to urban planning, but efforts need to be stepped and scaled up in this Decade of Action to implement the SDG’s by 2030.

These new plans and strategies will include ideas associated with reshaping the overall city structure, including redistribution of uses, rethinking the transport system, greening of the urban structure and the provision of people-oriented design solutions to make our cities more health-resilient.

Within these plans are new considerations about the nature of economic development and concerns to insure proper employment. And, as usual, the needs and expectations of local communities are a central part of this planning discussion. All of these elements constitute the core of the process to achieve sustainable urban and regional development designed to achieve health- and climate-responsive actions and policies. Since our cities differ a lot, reflecting the various geographies and cultures of the world, it is hard to define one set of solutions that will work globally. Globally acclaimed planning principles need a place-based and people-centred approach.

As cities produce their own place-specific plan – which may be generically referred to as their...
“Urban Green Deals” – a wealth of experiences is developed containing ideas to understand the problems, recognise possible solutions and identify ways to implementing changes. These Urban Green Deals are about ensuring the well-being of citizens while profoundly changing the way cities operate within the ecosystem. In light of this effort, the main purpose of the congress is to discuss how these Urban Green Deals may be shaped, which of the issues are most important in particular settings, how to plan and implement them, as well as discussing how they can contribute to the Global Agenda.

The Gulf States have been largely developed thanks to oil and other non-renewable resources exports. Their fast growing and thriving smart cities as forerunners in the region and beyond. At the same time, the cities and states in this region are facing environmental, social and economic consequences of this model of development. Therefore, there is a growing understanding of the need for complex action to solve these problems. Hence, the Gulf-cities’ leadership has initiated and propagated the need for a new planning paradigm of carbon-neutral, liveable and loveable, knowledge-based cities that has inspired planners and decision-makers from all over the world.

Capitalizing on our successful ‘Cool Planning’ 2018 World Planning Congress in Bodø, Norway and other previous congresses dealing with various issues and topics important to the concept of Urban Green Deals, this Congress will-in addition to the broad global perspective-explore the adaptation of climate-responsive planning to ‘hot places’ such as Doha and peer-cities in other arid-climate regions. Planning practices that work for cool and hot places should be helpful for all other cities across the volatile hot-cool spectrum.

Obviously, while exploring the contours of the Post-Oil City, the Doha Congress will provide a unique platform to draw these contours with the pen of the Post Covid-19 Urban Planning Paradigm.

The 2020 World Planning Congress will be staged in Msheireb Downtown Doha, a unique and ambitious downtown urban regeneration project. It revived the old district with a new architectural language that is modern, yet inspired by traditional Qatari heritage and architecture. Msheireb Downtown Doha aspires to become a new social and civic hub in the centre of the city – where it is enjoyable to live, work, experience culture and simply walk or cycle around with family and friends – and therefore a great place to host the ISOCARP Congress.

ISOCARP Congresses rally a fine sample of urban and regional planners from across the globe and they also provide a unique platform for dialogue with decision-makers and other urban and planning stakeholders, both from the Global South and the Global North.

The 56th World Planning Congress marks the 55th anniversary of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP). It will mark the end of ‘Urban October 2020’ and is the gateway to the 71st World Town Planning Day, held yearly on the 8th of November.

For more information, visit https://doha2020.isocarp.org/.
SPECIAL ISSUE: SACPLAN AND THE TRP JOURNAL CALL FOR PAPERS

Building Resilient Cities and Communities in the Face of Climate Change

In the face of uncertainties associated with climate change, building adaptive capacity and resilience at the city and community level emerges as an essential and timely element of planning. South Africa, and indeed the African continent are not immune to the vagaries of climate change - hence the need to be proactive through the diffusion of knowledge and ideas. Undertaking such measures is critical since it will help to:

• Build cities and communities that are resilient
• Timeously respond to climate change pressures
• Design tools for mitigating uncertainties associated with climate change
• Design, develop and implement policies and plans that guide development in the face of climate change.

The uncertainties of climate change require urgent attention in the management of cities coupled with designing, developing and implementation of policy and planning tools that can arrest or mitigate the vagaries of this natural and anthropogenic phenomenon. This equally calls for innovative research and sharing of knowledge in order to further mitigate the negativities associated with the vagaries of climate change. In this regard, building resilient cities and communities seems to be a befitting title that can contribute towards our shared challenge.

The Town and Regional Planning Journal together with SACPLAN, are dedicating a special issue of the journal in 2020 to explore how urban and regional planners can achieve this goal of building resilient cities and communities. This special issue will have a wide range of topics that are related to the building of resilient cities and communities including.

We are hereby inviting both scholarly articles as well as review articles (papers that have a strong practical implementation aspect) on the mentioned topics.

SPECIAL ISSUE TOPICS:
1. Inclusive Cities
2. Right to the city
3. Cities Adaptation
4. Sustainable Development
5. Intelligent City Development
6. Smart City Movement in South Africa
7. Disaster Mitigation and City Response
8. Inclusive Economic development
9. Smart Land use and Land Allocation
10. Inclusive Livelihood development and Urban Poverty Nexus
11. Urban Agriculture and City Resilience
12. Smart Governance and Spatial Planning

PROVISIONAL TIMELINES FOR WRITING:
Submission deadline: Draft papers: 28 June 2020
Papers under review: July-August
Comments send to authors: August – September
Author revisions of peer-reviewed papers: October 2020 (two weeks)
Special issue published: December 2020

Journal Contact details: http://journals.ufs.ac.za/index.php/trp/about/contact

More information on the journal and guidelines on the formatting of papers can be found in the journal at http://journals.ufs.ac.za/index.php/trp/index

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