

Roundtable: Co-design for Social Creativity

**Congress: Smart Peripheral Cities for Sustainable
Lifestyles**

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- **What kind of practices are needed to drive cities towards development changes?**
- **Whose practices are relevant?**
- **What role for planning in driving transformations through practices?**

More of the same is not enough!

Why?

- **The growing complexity (the crisis of representative democracy, diversity, the globalization of culture and the economy, the rising cost of energy);**
- **the financial crisis and the subsequent economic crisis;**
- **persistently uneven development, issues of spatial quality, sustainability, equity, social justice;**
- **the problems of fragmentation (diversity);**
- **the ageing of the population**
- **the increasing interest (at all scales, from local to global) in environmental issues**

- **Dominance of the market fuelled by a neo-liberal ideology as a result cities are urged to adopt a more entrepreneurial style of planning in order to enhance city and regional competitiveness**
- **Moreover, there is a growing awareness that a number of planning concepts (compact cities, livable cities, creative cities, multi-cultural cities, fair cities, just cities, learning regions) cannot be achieved solely through physical hard planning**

Common characteristic is that challenges are structural

What kind of practices are needed to drive cities towards development changes?

- **Transformative practices focus on the structural problems in society; they construct images/visions of a preferred outcome and how to implement them**
- **The transformative invents, or creates, practices – in relation to the context and to the social and cultural values to which a particular place/society is historically committed – as something new rather than as a solution (only) arrived at as a result of existing trends.**

Transformative change:

- **focus on new concepts and new ways of thinking that change the way resources are used, (re)distributed and (re)allocated, and the way the regulatory powers are exercised.**
- **rarely occurs in instant revolutions. It is change that actually evolves in many small ways to produce an emergent pattern, which, retrospectively, comes together and becomes evident in what history may then describe as ‘a transformative moment’**

Whose practices are relevant?

Co-production:

- It provides an arena where actors can articulate their identities, their traditions, their values.
- Urges contributions from those in the system as well as those outside the system and helps to stop us seeing actors in terms of 'us' and 'them'. This implies that those who are in the system or have easy access to the system as well as those who are outside the system are involved in pointing what the issues are, what is possible in a plan or policy and what is not possible.
- Citizens as part of the action not as its object.

Co-production

- ❑ challenges more fundamental political issues as its implication for the distribution of power between citizen and state;**
- ❑ is part of a much broader shift that is emerging across all the sectors, and most obviously in those fractures between public and private;**
- ❑ forces us to think about the underlying causes of inequality and how these can be tackled and how very different ways of framing involvement of citizens are needed.**
- ❑ changes the perceptions and the approach about how plans and policies are conceived and delivered, with the objective of enabling the (structural) change needed.**

What role for planning in driving transformations though practices?

- ❑ Planners are necessarily involved by taking a stand on substantive and procedural issues.**
- ❑ planners must have practical capacities to work in the face of conflict.**
- ❑ ability to enter into conflict with political regimes as officials harbor doubts about legitimacy of any sort of public decision-making other than representative government.**
- ❑ Illustrate why planning as an activity gets mobilized, how it gets institutionalized and how far that liberates potentialities rather than builds in restrictive resistances.**

Look at citizens as hidden resources (assets; local knowledge) not drains on the system, and no process that ignores this resource can be efficient. The transformative power comes when citizens who are usually on the receiving end are actively involved. Planning no longer obsessively looks inwards to targets and procedures, but increasingly looks outwards to local neighborhoods to create supportive socio-spatial places, seeking out local energy where it exists to help deliver and broaden policies/actions/projects and seeing citizens as part of the action and not as an object.

Visioning:

- ❑ Combine both the solidity of the analysis that seeks to discover a place that might exist, and the creativity of the design of a place that would not otherwise be.**
- ❑ Work with the resistance of the established powers in the realization of transformative practices, determining how to get from here to there, what has to be changed first, and what next.**
- ❑ Conceived as a conscious and purposive action to represent values and meanings for a future to which a particular place/community is committed. This includes questioning the ‘impossible’.**

Visioning

- ❑ integrates the knowledge of what might happen with an understanding of the driving forces and a sense of what it means to a place and its citizens.**
- ❑ re-articulates values, re-assesses and re-aligns interests, allowing a participants to step away from entrenched positions and identify positive futures that they can work at creating.**
- ❑ to understand why some images present a future that certain of them would like to inhabit, while other possible futures are considered highly undesirable.**
- ❑ allows for a degree of ownership of the final product and illustrates that citizens do have a responsibility for the(ir) future.**