

Call for Paper

Panacea Green Infrastructure?

Multidimensional Contributions to Competitive and Livable Metropolitan Regions in Europe

International Conference

February 16th/17th, 2017, Essen, Germany

The conference addresses the multiple functions of green infrastructure in the sustainable transformation of cities. It aims to critically reflect the planning and implementation of green infrastructure in cities and regions across Europe. Particular attention is paid to the long-term management of green infrastructure against the background of recent economic trends in spatial development on the one hand, and new approaches of participation and empowerment on the other. Thus, the conference aims to introduce the concept of green infrastructure into political debates based on a critical review of conceptual discussions as well as planning practice.

Session 1: Social and Health Dimensions of Green Infrastructure

Urban green infrastructures throughout the last decades have been proved to play an important role as natural and social determinants of health. Despite the rapidly growing evidence concerning specific social and health outcomes, there are still major gaps in knowledge for understanding concrete pathways and the extent to which green and other urban open spaces may contribute to social wellbeing and health in cities. The session invites papers that address one or more of the following topics:

- What are the specific contributions of different urban open spaces (e.g. green, blue, grey spaces) to social wellbeing and health?
- Which causal relationships between green space availability, accessibility and health can be observed?
- How can planning and management reflect (or not) evidence about the health values of green spaces and help to reduce inequalities in health (e.g. as contribution to environmental justice)? Who are the main actors?
- Which are the evidence gaps for how to design and manage green spaces to maximize health benefits?

Session Chairs:

Dr. Thomas Classen, NRW Centre for Health, Bielefeld (Germany)

Prof. Dr. Richard Mitchell, Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow (Great Britain)

Session 2: Economic Dimensions of Green Infrastructure

This session focuses on the important insights that economic description and analysis of green infrastructure can deliver to enable better support for decision making. Of special interest is how the economic dimensions of green infrastructure relate to on-the-ground investment and delivery, how roles and contributions of different sectors (public, private, 3rd) shape the final decisions made for green infrastructure development and how congruence between payers and beneficiaries influences these processes. This session seeks to go beyond a discussion of methodological issues towards dialogue on the role of economics in spreading and fostering ecosystem knowledge across a wider range of stakeholders. The session invites papers that address one or more of the following questions:

- How is economic valuation used and implemented in green infrastructure planning?
- How is economic evidence perceived and acknowledged in planning processes between different stakeholders?
- How are economic arguments in green infrastructure provision balanced and used across different planning contexts?
- What are the main unique selling points of green infrastructure? What is it advertised for, what arguments are linked with this and do they hold with research results on (economic) benefits of green infrastructure?

Session Chairs:

Dr. Karsten Rusche, ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development (Germany)

Tom Wild, University of Sheffield (Great Britain)

Session 3: Ecological Dimensions of Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is assigned a crucial role for providing ecosystem services to support urban environmental resilience, in terms of the ability of urban ecosystems to respond to environmental threats and disturbances and at the same time strengthen liveability in urban areas. Despite an accordingly growing evidence base of this so called nature-based solutions, implementation has to face a number of barriers, ranging from transfer gaps from science to practice to inappropriateness of existing planning procedures/instruments and design approaches. Other challenges may include conflicts regarding land use decisions, stakeholders' interests and resources as well as legal and economic limits. The session invites scientific and applied papers mainly focussing on the ecological dimensions of green infrastructure, such as enhancing biodiversity, heat mitigation or storm water management, and addressing the linkages to societal and governance perspectives. Papers should address one or more of the following issues:

- What are impacts of green infrastructure to enhance environmental resilience in cities based on multiple ecological ecosystem services, and how are those impacts linked to liveability in urban areas?
- How can scientific knowledge of the opportunities of green infrastructure to enhance environmental resilience and liveability be transferred to decision-making, planning and design practice?
- Which insights into novel planning and design procedures and instruments, participation and funding models can be derived from case studies?

Session Chairs:

Dr. Stefanie Rößler, Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), (Germany)

Dipl. Ing. Wiebke Klemm, Wageningen University and Research Center (The Netherlands)

Session 4: Governance Dimensions of Green Infrastructure

As green infrastructure gains momentum and popularity as a means of making our landscapes more multifunctional, our neighbourhoods healthier and our cities more resilient to climate change, we need to reflect on how this is achieved for the long term. How can green infrastructure be sustained for the long term – landscapes, populations and politicians change at varying speeds. What place is there for green infrastructure on a long-term agenda when short-termism is pervasive in our thinking, behaviour and political decisions? Funding is crucial but when austerity measures bite, one of the first casualties is green infrastructure. This session invites papers discussing one or more of the following aspects of the long-term dimension of green infrastructure provision, planning, design and governance.

- Which strategies, concepts and instruments for the governance and long-term implementation of green infrastructure exist in metropolitan regions?
- Who is involved in delivering effective green infrastructure – do local partnerships work or is a municipal authority with a wider spatial remit better positioned to deliver the ‘greater good’?
- What funding models (e.g. endowments, trusts, contracting-out) work in practice for the long-term?
- How is ‘good quality’ green infrastructure achieved – what does ‘good’ quality mean – the more ecosystems services the better? The more naturalistic the better?

Session Chairs:

Dr. Nicola Dempsey, Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield (Great Britain)

Dr. Mario Reimer, ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development (Germany)

Deadline for abstracts: October 24th, 2016

Abstract acceptance notification: November 7th, 2016

Abstract submission requirements

The abstract (maximum 300 words) must be submitted until October 24th, 2016. Please send your abstract to mario.reimer@ils-forschung.de. A book proposal will be developed following the conference, including a selection of the presented contributions. The presentations shall have a length of 15 minutes.

Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt,
Landwirtschaft, Natur- und Verbraucherschutz
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



ESSEN
2017



EUROPEAN
GREEN CAPITAL

PROJECT



Regionalverband Ruhr

RUHR
UNIVERSITÄT
BOCHUM

RUB

SURF

ILS – Research Institute for
Regional and Urban Development

IS