



University of Bologna
Department of Sociology and Business Law

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS (1st STAGE)

Urban Theory and Urban Praxis: Past, Present and Possible Futures

IV Midterm Conference
Bologna, Italy, 2-4 September 2020

European Sociological Association (ESA) - Research Network 37: Urban Sociology
Università di Bologna

Description: The year 2020 commemorates the 100th anniversary of the death of Max Weber. Unquestionably recognized as one of the forefathers of Western Sociology, Weber's scholarship is notable for its breadth and its ability to connect the spheres of economics, politics, and culture in the study of Western and non-Western societies. Alongside his many indirect contributions to the field of Urban Sociology, Weber also focused directly on urban spaces, particularly in his *The City*, a posthumously edited volume (1921) later incorporated in his *Economy and Society*, where he tried to lay the foundations for a systematic theory of urbanism and urban development.

For this conference, we take the centennial anniversary of Weber's death, and the 99 years since the publication of *The City*, as an opportunity to reflect about the past, present, and future of cities, urban theories and urban practices, *through and beyond* the works of Weber.

The last century has provided us with a wealth of theoretical perspectives on the city and its development, from ecological theory *à la* Chicago School, to neo-Marxist and political economic approaches, to the more recent advent of poststructural, postmodern, and postcolonial urban studies. Different methods of analysis have accompanied these changes, from urban (ecological) modelling, to the use of quantitative, qualitative (especially ethnographic), and case-based (oftentimes comparative) approaches. And cities and urban livelihoods have themselves changed considerably in recent decades, in interaction with macro-level processes such as international migration and the commodification and globalization of cultural artifacts and economic activities.

We encourage contributions looking at urban changes, as well as focusing on recent and contemporary processes of urban development broadly conceived, in all cases with a vision towards social action and the creation of better cities and urban experiences for the future. In other words, in this conference, we are interested in uncovering: 1. What are the past, present and future developments of urban research (urban theory)? And, 2. How have cities, both in and through the multiple actors living and working in/on them, themselves develop(ed) in the past, present and future (urban praxis)?

Conference themes: For the next midterm conference we will first open a call for session proposals. After the list of sessions has been finalized, a second call for individual abstracts to be integrated in the accepted sessions will be opened. *For the sessions*, while all submissions bearing on a topic related to the sociological study of past, contemporary, and future cities from a theoretical and/or applied perspective are welcome, contributions on the following topics/themes are especially encouraged: (1). Classical and contemporary urban theories and theorists, (2). Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary methods of urban research, (3). Urban politics and urban actors, (4) Processes of urban growth and urban restructuring, (5) Urban stratification and urban inequality, (6) Identities and subjectivities in the contemporary city, (7) Urbanization in a global context. If the session you intend to propose does not directly fit with any of the topics outlined, please submit your proposal as an open submission in the submission form (8).

Sessions format: We expect the majority of sessions to follow a traditional format based on an open call for abstracts (at a later date) and equal time allocation (expectedly 15 minutes, in time slots of 90 minutes) for each participating presenter. Nonetheless, session proponents are encouraged to consider other formats, such as: author-meets-critics sessions, open panel debates, roundtables, and lightning talks. The specificities of these formats will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. For session proponents wanting to propose a session in a non-traditional format, please contact the organizing committee as earlier as possible, no later than two weeks before the final deadline to assess the viability of that format.

Language: As a rule, English will be the official language of the conference. Session proponents who would like to submit a session in a language, or languages, other than English, please contact the organizing committee as earlier as possible, no later than two weeks before the final deadline to assess the viability of that format. In any case, please note we the organizing committee will not be able to provide translation support during the conference.

Session proposal guidelines: Session proposals should include the following items:

- *Session title and topic:* The title should be informative and concise. Information about the topic (out of the previous list) most fitting should also be provided (note: if the session you want to propose does not directly fit any of the topics or conference themes outlined, please sign-up for "8. Open Submission").
- *Organizer(s):* Names, affiliations and contact details of the session chairs/proponents.
- *Session format:* Traditional format, author-meets-critics, open panel debates, roundtables, lightning talk sessions.
- *Session participants:* Sessions must *not* include a predetermined list of participants, as they are expected to lead to an open call for abstracts at a later date.
- *Session abstract:* **500 word maximum**, excluding the previous items.

Please send proposals to: rn37.esa@gmail.com until January 10, 2020.

Individual abstracts (2nd stage): After decisions have been made regarding the sessions accepted for the conference, an open call for individual abstracts (of single authored or coauthored works) will ensue.

Key dates: Please watch out for the following key dates. Please note that these dates are final and there will be no extensions.

- November 11, 2019: Call for sessions opens.
- January 10, 2020: Session proposal deadline.
- January 20, 2020: Notification of session organizers.
- February 3, 2020: Call for individual abstracts opens.
- April 3, 2020: Abstract (individual papers) submission deadline.
- April 30, 2020: Notification of abstract presenters.
- May 2 – May 31, 2020: Early-bird registration for individual participants and registration for session organizers.
- June 1 – June 15, 2020: Full rate registration for individual participants.
- September 2 – 4, 2020: IV Midterm Conference of the ESA-RN37, Urban Sociology.

IV Mid-Term Conference Fees (€)

	ESA MEMBERS		NON ESA MEMBERS	
	Band 1	Band 2	Band 1	Band 2
PhD or M.A. student - early bird	60	40	80	60
Regular - early bird	120	80	160	120
PhD or M.A. student	80	60	100	80
Regular	160	120	200	160

Band 1 countries: Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Chile, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland, Guam, Hong Kong SAR/China, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Rep., Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao SAR/China, Malta, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sint Maarten (Dutch part), Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Martin (French part), Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Virgin Islands (U.S.).

Band 2 countries: Everywhere else.