

ISUF Council meeting, Krasnoyarsk, Russia, July 2018

A meeting of the Council of ISUF took place on 4 July 2018 immediately before the ISUF 2018 Conference held at the Siberian Federal University in Krasnoyarsk. This report summarizes the principal matters covered.

Matters arising from the previous meeting

Teresa Marat-Mendes drew attention to the need for specific sessions to strengthen collaboration between ISUF's regional networks.

President's report

Secretary-General Kai Gu reported on behalf of the President, Wendy McClure. He noted that he was retiring after two terms in office and was being replaced by Vítor Oliveira. Thanks were extended to the hosts of the conference in Krasnoyarsk, especially Irina Kukina. Thanks were also recorded to Richard Whitehand for his management of the ISUF website, Michael Barke for his handling of financial matters, Jeremy and Susan Whitehand for their editing and management of the journal, and Kai Gu for his pivotal role as Secretary-General.

Secretary-General's report

It was reported that when Vítor Oliveira had completed his term as Secretary-General he would become President in succession to Wendy McClure. In response to a proposal by Giuseppe Strappa, it was agreed that a committee should be set up to review the Constitution of ISUF. Tolga Ünlü was elected to Council and Nadia Charalambous was co-opted onto Council.

The publicity and size of the journal, and the quality of submitted papers, were discussed. Publication by a commercial publisher was not currently favoured.

The organization of meetings of individual Regional Networks at ISUF Conferences was proposed and the importance of the autonomy of the networks was affirmed.

Irina Kukina provided a detailed report on matters relating to the Krasnoyarsk conference. She noted that the 158 participants were expected to make a total of 146 presentations. The Russian

Federation and China were the most represented countries based on the geographical provenance of participants.

Treasurer's report

Presenting the pre-circulated report of the Treasurer, Michael Barke, it was noted by the Secretary-General that the financial position of ISUF continued to be strong. The reduction in the balance in comparison with the previous year reflected the substantial size of contributions to joint research projects by Regional Networks and an increase in the cost of production and distribution of the journal. Although there is scope for supporting further research initiatives, the outcomes of recently funded projects needed to be assessed.

Webmaster's report

In presenting the report of the Webmaster, Richard Whitehand, Vítor Oliveira noted that the number of unique visits was now approximately 4900 per month – an increase of more than 10 per cent compared with 2016/17. The online journal section continued to be by far the most heavily used part of the site. The conference section remains the most visited non-journal page. The most downloaded articles have continued to average over 200 downloads per month.

Editor's report

Thanks were expressed to Kwang-Joong Kim, who retired from the Editorial Board at the end of 2017. Yinsheng Tian was welcomed in his place.

The types of contribution to *Urban Morphology* have been similar to those in recent years. The number of individual items carried has continued to be very large for a journal of this size. Authors have continued to be widely spread geographically. The large majority of authors in the volume for 2018 do not have English as a first language. The number of unsolicited full-length articles submitted was similar to that in the previous year. The mean time-lag between the receipt of an article from an author and the communication of a decision to that author was just over 3 weeks.

Future conferences

Ayşe Sema Kubat made a presentation on behalf of Şebnem Önal Hoşkara and Nadia Charalambous, providing further information on the ISUF Conference in the University of Cyprus, Nicosia, in 2019. Proposals for the hosting of subsequent conferences in Salt Lake City, USA and Guadalajara,

Mexico were presented. Decisions on these would be taken by the full membership of Council.

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Twenty-Fifth International Seminar on Urban Form, Krasnoyarsk, Russia, 5–9 July 2018

The Twenty-Fifth International Seminar on Urban Form was organized by the Siberian Federal University and chaired by Irina Kukina. Its theme was ‘Urban form and social context’. There were 13 sub-themes: ‘Urban morphological theory’, ‘Urban morphological methods and techniques’, ‘The evolution of urban form and social influences’, ‘Urban form and technology’, ‘Fringe belts and present-day influences’, ‘Historical urban fabric’, ‘Urban landscape: history and socio-cultural transformations’, ‘Architectural typology: history, development, trends’, ‘Urban identity’, ‘Urban regeneration and new urban designs’, ‘Tools of analysis’, ‘Post socialist urban form’, and ‘Teaching urban morphology’. There were 158 participants and 146 presentations. The Russian Federation and China were the most represented countries.

At the opening of the conference, Jeremy Whitehand, Pier Giorgio Gerosa and Alexander Slabukha were the keynote speakers. In his video presentation entitled ‘Taking a long view: two centuries of urban morphology’, Whitehand highlighted two characteristics of urban morphology: its multidisciplinary nature and its relationship to ecology. It is the multidisciplinary nature of urban morphology that has been one of the essential characteristics of ISUF, in which different schools of thought, notably Conzenian, Muratorian, Versailles, and Berkeley, came together. Whitehand described how this multidisciplinary nature was in the early years dominated by the fields of geography and architecture, but was later enriched by contributions from planning, history and archaeology. He showed that urban morphological research has been growing both in the number of papers produced and the number of journals in which that research is published. He related the early phases of urban morphology to the distinction between cultural landscape (Schlüter, 1899) and natural

landscape (Von Richthofen, 1883), emerging out of the concept of landscape put forward by Ritter (1865). He explored the potential of the fringe-belt concept in developing the interrelationship between urban morphology and ecology. Though it originated out of academic research, notably in the work of Conzen (1960) following the study by Louis (1936) on Berlin, Whitehand argued that the fringe-belt concept had relevance to planning practice.

Following Whitehand, Gerosa examined the changes in cities, such as Bellinzona, Lugano and Krasnoyarsk, through cartographic representation of urban form. In his presentation ‘Society, geopolitics, icono-cartography, historical atlases and urban forms: thoughts from a case study’, he argued that in the early-nineteenth century travellers tended to conceive of nature as a component of urban form in their drawings, whereas in later periods in their focus on the city centre they envisaged the city as a personality. He suggested that cartography might be interpreted as a means of representing paradigm changes in the socio-political context of society. The session was completed by Alexander Slabukha’s brief examination of the evolution of the urban form of Krasnoyarsk.

Keynote speakers on the second day addressed changes in the urban form of Russian cities. In his paper on ‘Spatial imbalance of urban development of settlements and ways of its solution in modern conditions’, Mikhail Shubenkov focused on the changing role of cities associated with recent developments in technology. He defined cities as centres for the transfer of knowledge and the development of decisions and recommendations. He drew attention to the emerging need to find new ways to develop spatial policies to tackle the problems of changing societies and to sustain the continuous development of cultural heritage. In a presentation on ‘A comprehensive view of the

evolution of the urban spatial structure of the largest post-Soviet cities in Russia', Galina Ptichnikova examined the changing structure of Russian cities with populations of approximately 1 million people in the post-socialist period. Changes in urban form in these cities are evident in the new high-rise residential and commercial developments, and in large-scale district-wide urban development projects. New projects give little or no consideration to the morphological characteristics of the surrounding environment. Cities that have hosted global events have been prone to more rapid changes. Ptichnikova concluded that the results of morphological analysis of the development of contemporary Russian cities could be used to predict the urban structure of future development.

In the last keynote of the second day, Elena Akhmedova investigated the urban development of Samara as an industrial city in relation to national policies for developing smart cities. 'The triad of development agents' aims to bring smart university, smart park-plant and smart city together to invoke a sustainable urban development not only in the Samara region but in the Russian Federation as a whole.

Among the keynote presentations on the third day, Andrey Bolshakov addressed a method to analyse the changing street network through identification of connectivity, adaptation, stability and variability. In his presentation on Irkutsk's downtown street network and quarters, he suggested a scientific basis for the strategy of reconstruction of the historical Irkutsk downtown in relation to aspects of sustainable development. Alexey Krashennnikov discussed the accessibility and connectivity of places in his presentation on 'Cognitive urbanism and urban design of the built

environment' and investigated the influence of this on the development of public spaces.

The closing session was the General Meeting, which included the reports of the President, Secretary-General, Treasurer, Webmaster, and Editor of *Urban Morphology*. Vítor Oliveira was welcomed as the new Secretary-General, following Kai Gu's very successful two terms in that position. On behalf of Nadia Charalambous and Şebnem Önal Hoşkara, Ayşe Sema Kubat provided further information about the next ISUF conference, which is to be held in the University of Cyprus, Nicosia from 2 to 6 July 2019.

In the course of the coffee breaks participants found a congenial atmosphere for discussion (Figure 1), and there were opportunities for closer examination of Krasnoyarsk in a half-day bus and walking tour of old Krasnoyarsk. After the conference, many participants took part in post-conference tours. These included visits to Divnogorsk, the National Park of Krasnoyarsk Stolby, and the historic city of Yeniseisk.

The Organizing Committee, especially Irina Kukina, deserve all praise for organizing this successful conference. In relation to the keynote presentations, while Jeremy Whitehand exhibited a concise framework for the development of urban morphology, other colleagues provided in-depth insights into the historical development of, and recent changes in, Russian cities. The link between urban morphological theory and practice was a significant matter of discussion, as was the teaching of urban morphology, and questions were raised about the relation of urban form to social context. Looking forward, this successful conference raised expectations about the ISUF conference to be held next year in Nicosia, Cyprus.



Figure 1. Conference participants in one of the coffee breaks (photograph by Tolga Ünlü).

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Portuguese-language Network of Urban Morphology (PNUM): President's Report 2017/18

This report describes the recent activities of the Portuguese-language Network of Urban Morphology (PNUM). My second term as PNUM President (after the first one between 2011 and 2014) began in August 2017 at the close of the Vitória conference, in Brazil. There I stressed the importance of the work developed by the former PNUM President Teresa Marat-Mendes (ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa). At that same conference Staël de Alvarenga Pereira Costa (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais) was elected PNUM Vice-President. David Viana (Nottingham Trent University), Eneida Mendonça (Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo) and Karin Schwabe Meneguetti (Universidade Estadual de Maringá) were elected members of the PNUM Council.

After one year in Brazil, the annual conference of PNUM returned to Portugal. The 2018 conference took place in Porto, in the Faculdade de Arquitetura da Universidade do Porto, from 18 to 20 July, being co-ordinated by Teresa Calix (Universidade do Porto). The conference focused on the transformation of territory and was structured in three main parts. The first part was on urban forms and it included debates on methods, techniques and tools; elements and patterns; collective and private spaces; and systems, networks and landscapes. The second part was on processes, addressing themes such as agents and participation; regulation and action; and urban regeneration and built heritage. Finally, the third part was on purposes, including discussion on theories and utopian thinking; new paradigms and challenges; and teaching.

Moving in a different direction, from Europe to South America, this year's workshop of the Portuguese-language Network takes place in

Maringá, in the Brazilian state of Paraná. Based at the Universidade Estadual de Maringá, over 6 days between 27 September and 19 October, it is co-ordinated by Renato Leão Rego, Karin Schwabe Meneguetti and Gislaïne Beloto (Universidade Estadual de Maringá). It focuses on the processes of growth of this planned city and the cities of Sarandi and Paçandu, paying particular attention to the relationship between urban morphology and ecology.

The *Revista de Morfologia Urbana* is in its sixth year of publication. In the last 5 years it has included contributions by about 90 authors. The last number of the *Revista*, published in December 2017, comprised three papers and two viewpoints. The topics covered were methods for urban form description and explanation; exploration of the temporal geography of social encounters; processes of production and transformation of urban form in Brazilian coastal cities; the Catalan school of urban morphology, based on the work of Manuel Solà-Morales i Rubió; and, finally, 'ideas' and their influence on urban form, taking a historical perspective.

The PNUM annual conference, the annual workshop and the journal are the three main components of the Portuguese-language Network. They offer its participants and readers a stage for debating and applying the main theories, concepts and methods for the description, explanation and prescription of the physical form of cities.

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First Conference of the Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology (CyNUM), Nicosia, Cyprus, 16–18 May 2018

This is a particularly active year for ISUF and for its regional networks. Six conferences are taking place between May and October 2018: in Nicosia (CyNUM), Krasnoyarsk (ISUF), Porto (PNUM), Zaragoza (ISUF-H), Bari (ISUF Italy) and Istanbul (TNUM). The first of these events, the CyNUM conference ‘Urban Morphology in South-Eastern Mediterranean Cities’, took place between 16 and 18 May in the United Nations’ buffer zone of Nicosia at three sites: the ‘Home for Cooperation’, the ‘Ledra Palace Hotel’ and the so-called ‘Chateau’. The conference was organized in parallel to the meeting of the AESOP Thematic Group for public spaces and urban cultures. There were 50 presentations (from 70 submitted abstracts) and 80 participants coming from 10 countries.

The first day of the conference started with a keynote presentation by Ayşe Sema Kubat (Istanbul Technical University) on the fringe-belt concept as developed within the historico-geographical approach to urban morphology, illustrated with an application to Istanbul. The theme would continue to be debated on the second day in a presentation by Saloumeh Kahouei and Nevter Zafer Cömert (Eastern Mediterranean University) with an

application to Nicosia. The changes introduced by the division of the Cyprus capital in 1974 offered room for debating the transformations taking place in the plots that constitute the different fringe belts of the city (perhaps most evidently expressed in the Inner Fringe Belt). The day continued with three parallel sessions – on some fundamental topics in urban morphology such as urban evolution, heritage conservation and analytical methodologies – and with a keynote speech by Wendy Pullan (University of Cambridge) on justice as everyday life. An opening reception at the Home for Cooperation (between the two parts of the divided city) offered the participants the opportunity for extending the debate initiated in the various sessions of the day.

Kayvan Karimi (University College London) opened the second day of the conference with a presentation on urban conservation in historical centres. Drawing on a large number of cases – from European to Anatolian and from these to North African cities – analysed under the framework of space syntax, Karimi discussed what urban conservation is, why we need to think about it, and what are the major challenges involved in undertaking



Figure 1. Nicosia ‘walkshop’ (photograph by Aminreza Iranmanesh).

urban conservation projects. Four parallel sessions on urban sprawl and fringe belts, urban forms and social phenomena, urban design and revitalization, and on the design of buildings were included in the second part of the morning and in the first part of the afternoon. Two keynote speeches concluded the second day of the conference. Ali Madanipour (Newcastle University) addressed the relation between social justice and public space. Karl Kropf (Oxford Brookes University) discussed adaptation and addition in the typological process. Drawing on the role and importance of 'ideas', Kropf showed how some 'pathologies' can emerge in the process of their implementation and how 'cure' can be developed (by staying active and understanding the role of the design ideas of process and crisis). As in the first day, a dinner at the Chateau extended the debate into the evening.

The morning of the last day included a 'workshop' in the city (Figure 1) and two keynote speeches addressing the topic of injustice, first linking it with urbanization (Tarek Osseiran, UN-Habitat Lebanon) and then addressing urban uprisings and liberal democracies (Mustafa Dikec, Ecole d'Urbanism de Paris). The afternoon started with a session on urban conflicts and was concluded with a round table discussion on teaching different

approaches in urban morphology. This discussion included both established approaches such as the historico-geographical, the process typological and space syntax, and an emerging relational approach. Vitor Oliveira (Universidade do Porto), Giuseppe Strappa (Sapienza Università di Roma), Kayvan Karimi, and Sabine Knierbein (TU Wien) discussed the potential of each approach to be complemented by others; the most effective ways to integrate the different analytical tools; the use of the different morphological theories, concepts and methods; and the ways of exposing students to these different approaches.

The conference, organized by Nadia Charalambous (University of Cyprus), Nevtter Zafer Cömert and their colleagues, is a key stage in the establishment and development of CyNUM. The high quality of the organization also offers an exciting picture of what will be the 26th ISUF Conference taking place in Nicosia in July 2019.

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Seventh Conference of the Portuguese-language Network of Urban Morphology (PNUM), Porto, Portugal, 18–19 July 2018

This was the second time that the Universidade do Porto had hosted a PNUM conference. It took place on this occasion within the Faculty of Architecture – a building designed by Álvaro Siza. The conference main theme was 'Production of the territory: forms, processes, mission'. Teresa Calix co-ordinated the Organizing Committee, which also included Ana Silva Fernandes, Bruno Moreira, Daniel Casas Valle, Mariana Abrunhosa Pereira, Nuno Travasso and Sara Sucena (all from the Universidade do Porto).

At the beginning of the first day, in an auditorium named after Fernando Távora (another architect and pedagogue from the Universidade do Porto), Teresa Calix and Vitor Oliveira opened the conference, welcoming participants, keynote speakers, staff, and the scientific committee. They set the scene for the two-day programme of 25 sessions and some 190 presentations. Contributions from Brazil were the most numerous, followed by those from Portugal. Other parts of the world represented were Spain, Mozambique, Macau and

Morocco.

The periods of discussion following the presentation of papers were particularly valuable in enriching the various perspectives addressed. These covered such matters as the impact of large infrastructures on the configuration of urban form, the role of mobility systems in assuring multiple urban relations, the dichotomy between the state and private investments in housing initiatives, gentrification, the contribution of new digital tools and 'traditional' approaches to urban morphology, new ways of teaching urban morphology, and city planning and urbanism.

At the end of the first day, Vitor Oliveira, introduced his new book, published by Springer, *Teaching Urban Morphology*. This contains chapters by Michael Barke, Tolga Ünlü, M. R. G. Conzen, Giancarlo Cataldi, Nicola Marzot, Meta Berghauser Pont, Michael P. Conzen, Kai Gu, Giuseppe Strappa, Frederico de Holanda, Emily Talen, Sophia Psarra, Fani Kostourou, Kimon Krenz, Marco Maretto, Peter Larkham, Richard

Hayward, Ivor Samuels and Karl Kropf. The book has a preface by Jeremy Whitehand.

The invited keynote speakers – Álvaro Domingues (Universidade do Porto), Luís Lage (Universidade Eduardo Mondlane), Humberto Kzure-Cerquera (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro) and Helena Roseta (Cidadãos por Lisboa) – covered such matters as public housing, urban policies, local governance, and urbanization processes in Portugal, Brazil and Mozambique. Some of the main challenges regarding the ways in which territory is created in different geographical areas and the role of urban morphology within these processes were discussed.

In the closing session, after the final words from the conference co-ordinator and the President of

PNUM, Gislaïne Beloto (Universidade Estadual de Maringá / UEM) announced the next PNUM conference. This will take place in the city of Maringá, Brazil in 2019. She will also be involved in the PNUM workshop that will be held in 2018 at the UEM. This will be a preparatory step towards the next PNUM conference, a call for abstracts for which will be made soon. Further information about this event will be available on the conference homepage.

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