



ISUF
NICOSIA
2019

XXVI INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON URBAN FORM CITIES AS ASSEMBLAGES

July 2nd - July 6th
Nicosia, Cyprus

Book of Abstracts

Cities as Assemblages

The *Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology* hosts the ISUF2019 conference in Nicosia, Cyprus. The conference aims to address the embedding of different theories and approaches within methodologies analysing the urban form.

Relational theories have wide implications for the study of the urban form, not just in terms of how we conceptualise cities and describe the processes of their emergence and transformation, but also for the design of methodologies that more than ever need to consider a variety of city components – not just physical elements, but also human groups and the connections between them. Furthermore, such theories highlight the relevance of the urban form to the construction and negotiation of the social as well as the power of connections between social entities at different scales in shaping our cities. Both these reflection are particularly relevant to the focus themes related to the location of the conference: group formations and negotiations within cities influencing ethnoreligious tensions, political movements, social segregation and urban conflicts more widely, as well as the particular status of port cities often in the past more linked to other port cities than their hinterland and, still to the present day, the first point of arrival of migrant groups and the city-location of choice for tourism.

Although the relevance of relational theory for the fields of geography and urban studies has been touched upon by a number of research articles, the theories have not been reflected upon with great depth and no conferences on the impact and the potentialities of relational theories for urban studies have so far taken place. Discussion on the implications of such theories specifically for the study of urban morphology has been even scarcer, may these be in relation to Conzenian, typological or space syntax approaches.

Relational theories open up new avenues for the study of urban morphology and for the development of multidisciplinary methodologies. They can provide a framework for the analysis of the physical and social processes that are involved in the shaping of the urban form, which also addresses aspects such as historical processes or the distributions of variations across a population in order to fully explain the emergence of cities and the processes of persistence and change.

Although relational theories are suggestive of themes for research on urban development and links to various methodological techniques could be drawn, they tend to be indeterminate due to the complexity of the theorisation of cities as assemblages, where the components and processes could be innumerate and hence emergence can hardly follow any specific rules. The concept of assemblage and the functioning of assemblages as presented by De Landa is relatively clear but remains an analytically-unspecific concept which does not provide a strategy for analysing social assemblages and explain the properties of the whole (since there is a high level of contingency in the interaction between the parts and potentially infinite scales at which social processes can occur).

The ISUF 2019 conference theme addresses the embedding of different theories and approaches within methodologies analysing the urban form: all such potentialities afforded by relational theories to urban morphology are explored throughout the conference sub-themes:

Theory 1: emergence, relational theories, the social sciences and urban morphology. This is really the key theme of the conference and the most relevant concept (emergence) to urban morphology. Papers presented under this theme are about how cities come into being and transform. Subthemes include all elements of relational theories that relate to urban morphology: scales, historical processes, material and human components, capabilities and connections between components, territorialisation and deterritorialisation.

Theory 2: the scope and limits of urban theories. We are using the concept of cities as assemblages in order to encourage discussion about the latest, as well as the older, trends in urban theory. This theme is about the critique of application of relational theories to urban studies, fragmentation of methods, the attention to the particular and the need to bring specific research findings back to more general theories. Subthemes include the main theorisations of the city: cities as organisms, cities as artefacts, cities as machines, cities as systems of flows and networks, and how to take steps forward to build a more mature theory of the city.

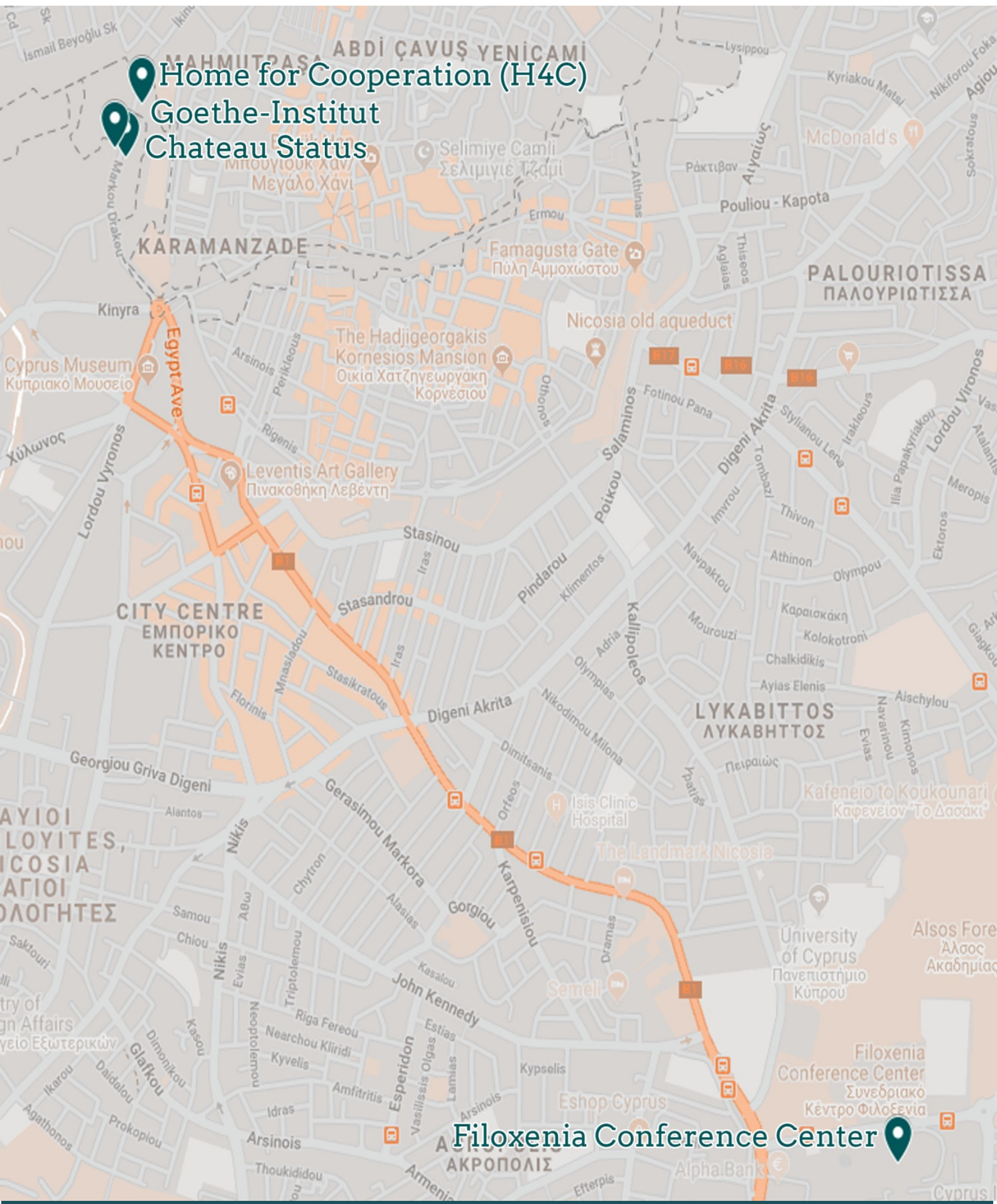
Methods 1: embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology. This theme is about the need to further develop multidisciplinary within urban morphology, layering different perspectives applied to fringe belt analysis: spatial, social, economic and planning, and filling in the gap when practically applying methodologies (e.g. what to do if data is not available).

Methods 2: combining Conzenian, typological and space syntax approaches. This theme is key to understanding the development of urban morphology and take it forward. Work on this has been initiated, for example at the 2014 ISUF conference and through the morphologies meeting at the Bartlett School of Architecture. The initiation of a research project applying all approaches to the same case study is something that was suggested at the 2014 ISUF conference. Paper presented under this theme, describe the latest research done in combining different approaches and suggest how further developments can be made.

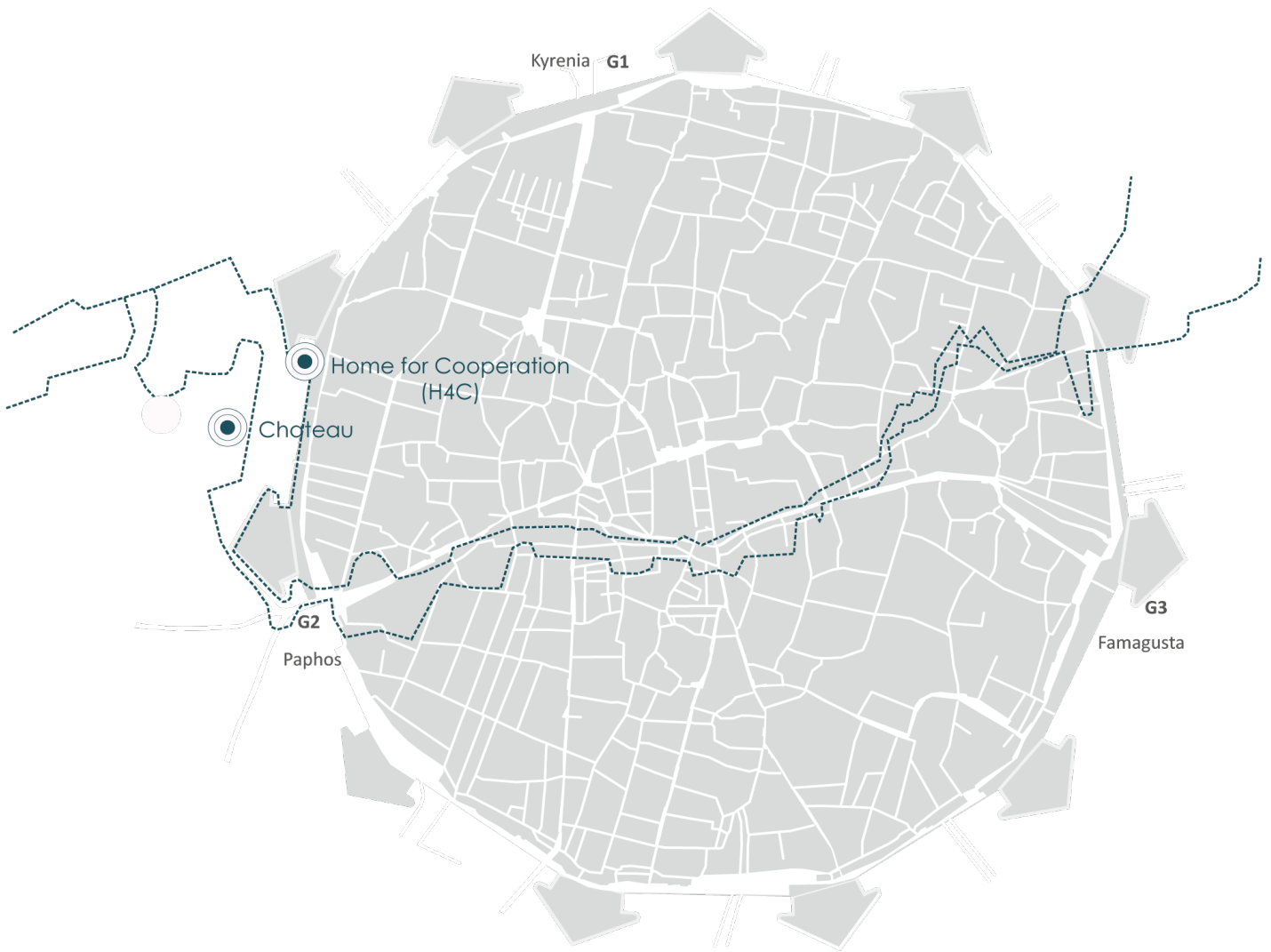
Focus 1: urban conflict and divided cities and Focus 2: Mediterranean port cities in a global context. Both focus themes are strongly related to the location of the conference and both are extremely topical and relevant to context of increasing migrations flows within the Mediterranean. Subthemes of Focus 1 include issues of segregation and cohabitation, issues of public space use, comparative analysis of divided cities and a special subtheme dedicated to design and architecture on regeneration projects. Focus 2 is broadly about the Mediterranean as a sea of unity and division and could function in the context of a regional pan-Mediterranean

network. Subthemes of Focus 2 include comparative analyses of Mediterranean cities and comparative analysis of port cities and a further special subtheme dedicated to design and architecture on waterfront developments.

Venues



Nicosia Buffer zone

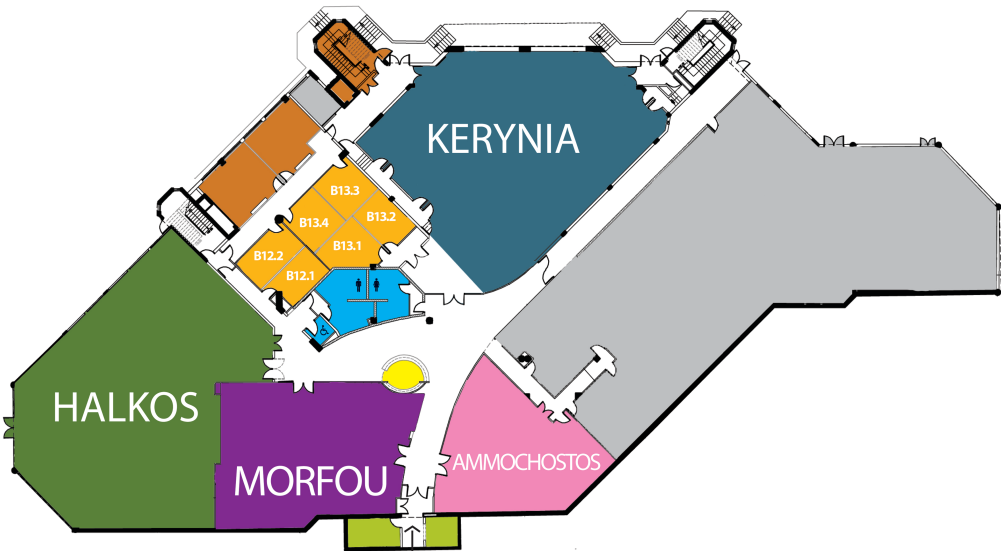


Filoxenia Conference Center Floor Maps

Ground Floor



Basement



From Ground Floor

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- **Nevter Zafer Comert**, Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus

Programme

Wednesday, 03 July

08:00 – 08:45 Registrations (Filoxenia)

08:45 – 09:15 Opening Address (Zenon Kitieus)

09:15 – 10:00 **Keynote I – Alan Penn** (Zenon Kitieus)

Parallel Sessions (Filoxenia)

10:00 - 11:30 Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology.

Methods 2 : combining Conzenian, typological and space syntax approaches.

Theory 1 : emergence, relational theories, the social sciences and urban morphology.

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design A

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design B

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design C

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:30 Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology.

Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology.

Theory 1 : emergence, relational theories, the social sciences and urban morphology.

Theory 2 : the scope and limits of urban theories.

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design A

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design B

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 - 15:30 Transport to Buffer Zone (BZ)

15:30 - 16:30 **Nicosia Urban Form** (Chateau, BZ)

EPUM Round Table (Chateau, BZ)

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee Break (Chateau, BZ)

17:00 - 18:45 Focus 1a : urban conflict and divided cities.

Focus 1b : urban conflict and divided cities.

Focus 1c : urban conflict and divided cities.

Focus 1d : urban conflict and divided cities.

19:00-21:00 Welcome Reception (Chateau, BZ)

Poster Presentations (Filoxenia)

12:00 - 13:30 Poster Presentations

Thursday, 04 July

08:30 – 09:00 Registrations (Filoxenia)

09:00 – 10:00 **Keynote II – Ann Vernez Moudon** (Zenon Kitieus)

Parallel Sessions (Filoxenia)

10:00 - 11:30 Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology.

Methods 2 : combining Conzenian, typological and space syntax approaches.

Theory 1 : emergence, relational theories, the social sciences and urban morphology.

Theory 2 : the scope and limits of urban theories.

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design A

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design B

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:30 Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology.

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design A

Theory 2 : the scope and limits of urban theories.

Theory 2 : the scope and limits of urban theories.

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design B

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design C

13:30 - 14:45 Lunch Break

14:45 - 16:15 Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology.

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design A

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design B

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design C

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design D

Poster Presentations (Filoxenia)

12:00 - 13:30 Poster Presentations

Friday, 05 July

08:30 – 09:00 Registrations (Filoxenia)

09:00 – 10:00 **Keynote III – Wendy McClure** (Zenon Kitieus)

Parallel Sessions (Filoxenia)

10:00 - 11:30 Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology.

Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology.

Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology.

Theory 1 : emergence, relational theories, the social sciences and urban morphology.

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design A

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design B

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:30 Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology.

Theory 1 : emergence, relational theories, the social sciences and urban morphology.

Focus 2 : Mediterranean port cities in a global context.

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design A

Urban Design : urban morphology, building typology and design B

13:30 - 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 - 15:30 Book Launch – Jeremy Whitehand (Zenon Kitieus)

15:30 - 16:15 Keynote IV – Giuseppe Strappa (Zenon Kitieus)

16:15 - 16:45 Coffee Break

16:45 - 18:45 General Assembly and Closing (Zenon Kitieus)

20:30 – 22:30 Farewell Dinner (Chateau Status – Buffer Zone)

Poster Presentations(Filoxenia)

12:00 - 13:30 Poster Presentations

Methods 1 : embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology

Thursday, 04 Jul

12:00 - 13:30

Room: Elia

Chair: Yingchun Li

12:00 - 12:15

“Plot by plot urbanism”. Mapping post-socialist changes in urban tissues of Krakow and Belgrade

A.A. Kantarek¹, V. Djokic², K. Kwiatkowski³, A. Niković⁴, W. Korbel³, A. Djordjevic⁵, I. Samuels⁶

¹Assoc. Prof. DSc, Ph.D., Arch. Eng., Cracow University of Technology, Warszawska street 24, Krakow 31-155, Poland

²M.Sc., Arch., PhD., Full professor, Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra, 73/II, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

³Ph.D., Arch., Eng., Cracow University of Technology, Warszawska street 24, Krakow 31-155, Poland

⁴Ph.D., Arch. Eng., Research Fellow, Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia, Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra, 73/II, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

⁵M.Arh. Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, Bulevar Kralja Aleksandra, 73/II, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

⁶AA Dipl., Msc., ArB, MRTPI, UMRG, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston Birmingham B15 2TT, United Kingdom

Political ideologies of the Soviet Union resulted in deep cultural and economic transformations in post WWII Poland and Serbia (Ex-Yugoslavia) including profound changes to urban space and planning. Time of war destruction, neglect of inherited urban structures and the modernist doctrine of urban development led to functional zoning based on modernist spatial concepts. Accordingly, social systems led to land nationalization, elimination of private property resulting in centralized city planning and especially large urban housing complexes. Political changes at the end of the twentieth century returned to policies based on democratic systems and a decentralized economy with private land ownership. After nearly 30 years (Poland) and 15 years (Serbia), it is possible to see successes and failures in the system and the implementation of spatial changes. Faced with today's challenges to implement sustainable solutions, post-socialist cities must respect the existing urban structure while achieving the best possible use of existing investment.

This paper aims to present the first findings of the project on post-socialist urban form currently being undertaken with the support of ISUF, Faculty of Architecture-University of Belgrade and Cracow University of Technology. Through the historical evolution and a general analysis of the planning contexts, a comparative discussion will be focused on understanding the characteristics of the current urban form. Research on particular cases, Krakow and Belgrade, can not only help to reveal varieties of conditions to which similar urban tissues have been exposed but can also open up methodological discussion on tools and technics for reading post-socialist urban form.