



Interdisciplinary perspectives on urban sustainability: *Communicational challenges and future development prospects towards sustainable cities and communities*

Description

Sustainable urban development is one of the key goals of our current antropocenic challenges. In major cities, growing populations, increasing congestion, resource-use and waste, and the occupation of rural territories by exploitative productive processes pose challenges to sustainable development. Communicational barriers between science and local knowledge is a threat. This workshop aims to take stock and look ahead by discussing both past and planned initiatives in Sweden and Chile regarding urban sustainability and its communicational challenges, successes, and failures to engage local communities in mindset changes.

We welcome participants from all backgrounds and disciplines, e.g. social sciences, humanities, engineering, and natural sciences to engage in discussions.

The workshop will provide ample of space for exchanging ideas and experiences that could pave the way for collaborative and/or comparative research. Examples of analytical perspectives (of course not excluding others) are discursive practices, legitimation analyses, genre analyses, organizational studies, urban comparative analysis, georeferenced mapping, communication ethnography and netnography, public policy and governance analysis, rhetoric, clear language etc. Gender Equality (SDG-5) as a crucial task for a sustainable future, and the Sustainable Cities and Communities Goal (SDG-11) should always be addressed with a gender-conscious lens. Also, SDGs must address the inherent and factual violence that lays in non-sustainable development models. These models have triggered many of the ecological, social and developmental problems that the SDGs address. It will be an important concern for the workshop to address gender equality both in the design and in the communication of the goals of city planning.

Regarding future collaborations, comparative research could be especially relevant as cities in Sweden and Chile are planned differently, urban governance is different and policies regarding sustainability are focused on communities with different sociopolitical challenges. Social justice and welfare regimes are remarkably different, and the territorial governance approaches urban and rural settlements in diverse ways. Despite these many differences, most major cities work towards realizing the SDG's. But how do they do this? How are global goals translated into national and urban contexts? What are the lessons learnt from such translation processes? How do city planners work towards realizing environmental objectives without compromising social objectives? How do they escape, or not, of greenwashing strategies? How is gender-conscious urban analysis addressed in sustainable city design?

We aim to discuss how urban planning is changing its practices and goals to reach a sustainable future, and how this is communicated to citizens, authorities, small businesses, major companies, local entrepreneurs, tourist and visitors. We aim to contribute to reach this in a comparative

manner, with well documented policy briefs suggestions and joint academic publications. In the workshop, we plan to discuss how urban plans, city design, discursive practices, legislations, political bodies, documents and genres can constitute a sustainable urban planning.

We hope to contribute from the field of urban studies and urban communication to a sustainable life in cities in different contexts. These questions will guide the workshop, but could also provide the basis for future collaborations between Sweden and Chile.

Expected outcomes

Identification of common interests for sustainable urban development, both within and between disciplines e.g. transport, sustainable city planning, education and sustainable urban pedagogies, private developments and sustainable city media discourses.

Outline for future research cooperation and projects

Outline for PhD courses and master courses

Possible site-visits

We plan to invite urban activists, urban planners, local authorities, and academics to discuss which discourses impact the reach of a sustainable urban future. Through field work in the city of Punta Arenas, the workshop will analyze urban projects through an urban ethnographic approach and analyze the urban discourses that surround them through discursive analyses techniques.

This is a list of possible contacts for visits and discussions: *the mayor and the governing body of Punta Arenas, the city planning unit of Punta Arenas, small businesses about their challenges, shopping mall, shopping mall to be built, the city unit at Punta Arenas planning for future traffic solutions for Punta Arenas, urban activists and unions representatives.*

Planned activities

- Introductory discussion on the individual interest and motivation for the workshop, including outline of the researchers' disciplinary perspective and analytical tools.
- Workshop on similarities and differences between Chilean and Swedish city planning.
- Fieldwork e.g. urban ethnographic journeys.
- Identification of common interests for sustainable urban development, both within and between disciplines e.g. transport, sustainable city planning, education and sustainable urban pedagogies, private developments and sustainable city media discourses.
- Identification of research platforms and connected research themes.
- Introduction to interdisciplinary methodologies for urban and urban communication studies.
- Outline for future research cooperation and projects
- Outline for PhD courses and master courses

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