

13/12/18 DIST LUNCH SEMINAR

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Valuations and Sustainable Urban Forms**

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Liveable Urban Forms

ABSTRACT

Which urban forms and urban structures are more beneficial to achieve quality of life, economics-social prosperity, and environmental quality?

Despite the fact that cities and regions developed independently and remotely along unique historical paths, genius loci and geographical environments, an empirical regularity is systematically appearing between population size and various urban factors. The reasons of these surprising allometric relations are still under investigation and have great promise of increasing efficiency to these societies able to control the distribution of their populations size. A new quantitative scientific approach is needed and recently being developed from a truly multidisciplinary point of view to understand scaling relations of environmental, socioeconomic variables with population size. What kind of internal urban structure may induce a more liveable environment and life within cities? Even if within the intricate interplay of positive and negative feedbacks inherent in the complex, spontaneous emergence from retroactive games among countless urban actors, the outcome in terms of overall quality/sustainability of an urban form, nowadays more than ever, depends on the set of rules and regulations and its implementation. But before making these urban-territorial policies we need to understand the goals.

To make effective decisions on urban form issues, is among the most urgent needs and with the longest lasting effects, in the sustainable development arena in a world whose current urbanization dimension is unique in history.

We need new models to offer solutions to current issues of wild cementification, urban heat island effects, destruction of natural land and biodiversity, carbon emissions, congestions and related air pollution, psychological and objective well-being as well as provide an urban model to host the enormous new urban inhabitants our world must accommodate in the next few decades. The ultimate ambition of such new urban visions is to enjoy the economies of agglomeration without incurring to the diseconomies of agglomeration, manifested by sublinear and superlinear outputs, typically infrastructural the former and socioeconomic the latter.



BIOGRAPHY

Head of Urban Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change at Erasmus University Rotterdam till December 2017 when, after 9 years abroad, he resigned from that permanent contract to move back to his mother university: Politecnico di Torino.

Senior member of the Netherlands Institute of Government, Asst Professor at the Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Honorary Research Fellow at the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, University of Birmingham, academic member of the Urban Morphology Research Group in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Birmingham and a Senior Research Fellow at Portsmouth University. He worked for projects funded by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, European Commission, and other national/regional funders.

Academic and guest lecturer at the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, and ETH; guest lecturer at University College London, Vienna Technology University, Reading University, TU Delft, Utrecht University, Trinity College Dublin, University of Surrey, Bournemouth University, Heriot-Watt University, and many others.

Thursday

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h. 13,00 - 14,00

**Sala Vigliano - DIST
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