

# Call for abstracts

International conference:

Urban Regions under Change: towards social-ecological resilience (URC 2014)

27 May 2014, HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany

## ***Purpose***

The URC 2014 conference brings together international experts and researchers from a broad range of disciplines such as physical- and social geography, planning, landscape ecology, governance, sociology etc. to discuss the topic of dealing with change in the context of urban and regional development in European urban regions. Recent years have shown an increase in the number of inter- and transdisciplinary research projects, especially on the topic of dealing with the effects of climate change. Other change related issues, such as demographic change and globalisation, show similarities in the way these issues can be dealt with in the context of urban and regional development, making it attractive to approach such questions in an integrative manner. During the conference, the latest research results and experiences from practice will be presented and discussed. To bridge gaps between the different disciplines, researchers and practitioners that take a social-ecological systems perspective on urban regions are especially invited to submit their abstracts. An important question throughout the conference will be how inter- and transdisciplinary research can foster the transfer of research results and recommendations into practice.

## ***Topics***

The presentations during the conference will be divided into two tracks, each addressing issues of dealing with change in the context of urban and regional development with a social ecological perspective on cities and urban regions. The first track addresses the challenges cities and urban regions are facing when confronted with change, whereas the second track focuses on the development of solutions to deal with change and the challenges for decision making. Both tracks however have a practice oriented approach, concentrating on the question what the results and experiences mean for the practice of urban and regional development towards resilient cities. The submitted abstracts will be reviewed by a scientific committee before acceptance.

### *Track 1: Challenges to urban development*

The papers that are presented in this track deal with the question how change manifests itself in an urban context and provide possible answers on how to deal with these challenges in the context of urban and regional development. Typical questions that will be dealt with in this track are related to how long term processes of change, such as climate change and demographic change, influence the structure and functioning of urban social-ecological systems. As such, the papers provide answers to the question which consequences these long term processes can have, but also which solutions can be found to deal with these consequences, to alter processes of urban and regional development towards social-ecological resilience.

### *Track 2: Challenges in decision making under change*

The papers that are presented in this track provide insights into the challenges of dealing with change in the context of governance and urban planning and development. The presentations on the one hand provide answers to the question how current practices in decision making processes about

dealing with change are organized and which experiences can be derived from these on-going practices. On the other hand, they deal with the question how structures of governance and urban planning and development should be altered, changed or transformed to deal with change and to increase social-ecological resilience.

## ***Keynote speakers and***

## ***Scientific Committee***

***t.b.a.***

## ***Important dates***

Abstract deadline: 21 January 2014

Paper deadline: 30 April 2014

## ***Preliminary programme***

26 May 2014:

18:00-: Get together, with dinner and drinks

27 May 2014:

9:00—10:00 Registration

10:00-10:05 Welcome by HafenCity University Presidency

10:05—10:15 Introduction, Sonja Deppisch (plan B:altic)

10:15-11:00 Keynote speech: **NN: Title**

11:00-11:45 Keynote speech: **NN: Title**

11:45-12:15 Urban and regional resilience: barriers and pathways – inter and transdisciplinary results  
Sonja Deppisch

12:15-13:45 Lunch

14:00-16:30 2 Parallel sessions, each with **six** presentations (20min)

16:30-17:00 Coffee break

17:00-17:45 Thematic insight: **Title**, Achim Daschkeit (German Federal Environment Agency)

17:45.18:00 Closing remarks

### ***Host***

Plan B:altic is an inter- and transdisciplinary research group with expertise in climate change and spatial development at HafenCity University in Hamburg. Our researchers have backgrounds in social and natural science as well as in urban planning and spatial development. We are in the closing stages of an inter- and transdisciplinary research process on climate change adaptation in coastal urban regions of the Baltic Sea region, which involved not only the merging of research disciplines, but also the inclusion of stakeholder groups throughout the research process.

### ***Special Issue***

The authors of the papers that are selected for presentation during the conference are invited to submit their articles for publication in a special issue in an international peer-reviewed scientific journal. This special issue will cover the topic of climate adaptation in European cities from a social-ecological perspective, providing insights into the multifaceted challenges of adaptation to climate change and presenting possible ways to deal with these challenges in urban and regional development. Final acceptance for publication in the chosen journal is subject to further editorial review.

### ***Funding***

The conference is funded by the Social-Ecological Research Programme of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

### ***Organisational issues***

The participation at the conference is free of charge.

**For the 'get together' on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, a fee of €30,- will be charged, including dinner and drinks.**