

# LIFE IN METROPOLITAN AREAS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

36<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL URBAN PLANNING WORKSHOP IN CERGY-PONTOISE

3 - 28 SEPTEMBER 2018

## THE FUTURE IS ALREADY HERE: HOW WILL WE LIVE TOMORROW?

Between the urgency of climate change, the dazzling speed of technological revolutions and the progressive changes in lifestyles that are linked to metropolitan transitions happening on every continent, where and how will we live tomorrow – especially, in this increasingly urbanized, ecological and digitally connected world?

## WHAT URBAN DEVELOPMENT MODELS ARE BEST FOR THE FUTURE?

How will these evolutions impact the sustainable management of metropolitan areas? What development models are best suited for metropolises? How can we move from the long-standing, planned and institutional vision of urban development to one of establishing a genuine human ecosystem?

## WHAT TERRITORIAL SCALES APPLY?

How can the different spatial and temporal scales that are integral to the daily lives of the city's inhabitants be reconciled in order to optimise the quality of life for everyone? How can the spread of built and natural spaces be rebalanced within metropolitan areas? How can we preserve the notion of a quality of life for individuals but also the community as a whole: well-being and health, clean water and fresh air for all; a flourishing and friendly life where beauty, poetry and pleasure are the order of the day?

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The workshop is open to young professionals and students (Master's level or above) of all nationalities and disciplines, such as urban planning, design, architecture, geography, photography, landscape architecture, the arts, communication... Special attention will be given to applicants specialising in economics, sociology and/or ecology. Requirements are proficiency in English (must be able to work with an international team) and full availability for the workshop's dates. The age limit is set at 30 years old. Applications must include a short essay

applying the workshop's topic to another site, either in the Paris metropolitan area or one in the applicant's home country. This work must be conducted individually so that the applicant can demonstrate his/her personal reflection on the themes being addressed by the workshop.

**Deadline for applications: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**MORE INFO AT  
[WWW.ATELIERS.ORG](http://WWW.ATELIERS.ORG)**

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DE LA COHÉSION  
DES TERRITOIRES

# LIFE IN METROPOLITAN AREAS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

All metropolitan areas – each with their own morphology, history and connection to surrounding territories – are confronted with the continuing growth of their populations. It is imperative to address key issues in view of the ever-increasing speed of global changes and transformations. In metropolitan areas, which urban development model is best for which lifestyle? What actions must be taken in response to the urgency of climate change? What stance should be taken in light of the meteoric pace of technological revolutions?

## THE METROPOLITAN TRANSITION: CHANGES TO OUR LIFESTYLES AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCALES!

Across every continent, metropolitan areas are home to an increasingly significant proportion of the population. By 2050, cities that are already oversaturated today will come to host 75% of our planet's total population. What drivers must be triggered to ensure a qualitative evolution for the lives of city dwellers?

Growth, urban sprawl and employment zones are now creating vast territories with no clear boundaries. What are our new geographical references in metropolitan areas? What balance can be found between urban and rural spaces? What complementarities exist between the city centre, peripheral territories and interregional areas?

In these large-scale configurations, city dwellers must contend with a wide variety of new experiences and rhythms of life, whether they are tied to home, work, leisure or travel practices on a daily basis. How can the space-time aspect of metropolitan living be examined? How can the global scale be reconciled with the local?

New usages are appearing as citizens innovate, create and interact in new fields and different spaces. How can we encourage this type of shared economy in order to strengthen social links, especially where they have already disappeared? How can we ensure that the attractiveness of metropolitan areas on a global scale benefit all metropolitan inhabitants? What role does culture play in the dialogue and solidarity between these different scales?

## THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS: THE FUTURE IS ALREADY HERE!

A genuine 'technological breakthrough' is underway, the result of a series of successive revolutions that have been occurring since the late 20th century. Its major impact on the evolution of social relations and behaviours can already be seen. How can it be harnessed to help in the organisation of metropolitan life?

The ways in which we live, have changed in this new world, that is in constant transformation. New technologies (digital technology, nanotechnologies, biosystems engineering, cognitive robotics, etc.) now hold the lead and are redesigning cities.

What does urban life look like with self-driving cars, intelligent motorways, telework, e-health, and digitally connected objects and homes? What form of coexistence will prevail that integrates all of the practices being sought today and the expected innovations?

How can we support the growing power of the connected city, which carries with it as many risks of exclusion and security, as it does opportunities to develop new uses, such as new services, tools and methods of urban management?

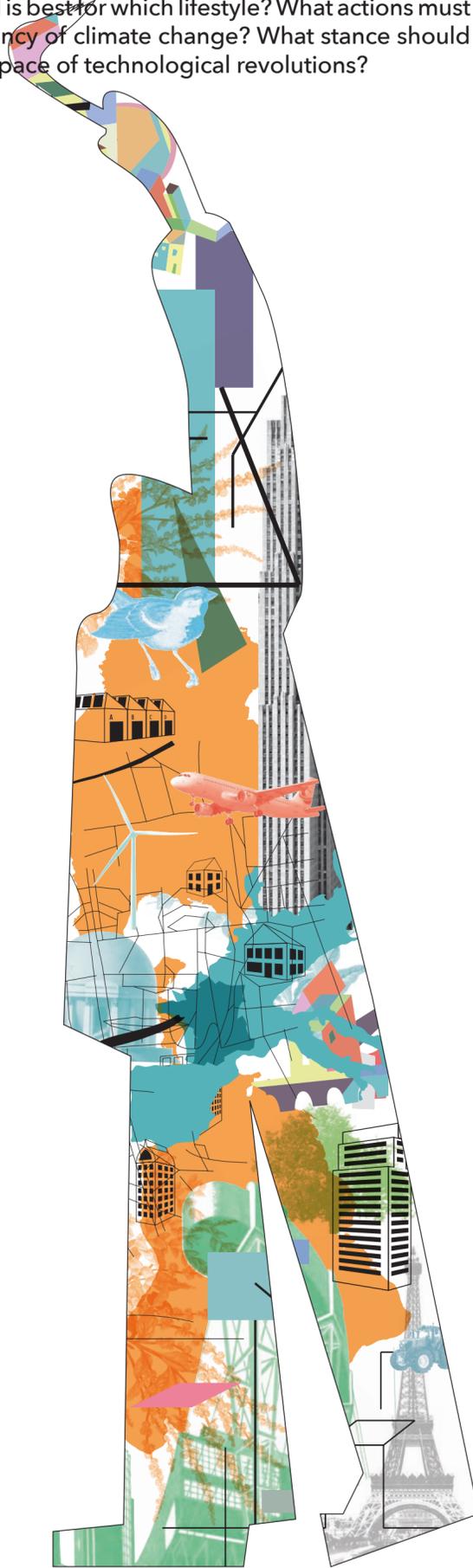
## CLIMATE CHANGE: A CRUCIAL ISSUE NOW!

The impact of climate change calls into question the lifestyles and futures of citizens in big cities. How can we encourage the many private and public initiatives that are emerging in response to this challenge?

Greenhouse gases, waste accumulation and the depletion of energy and other natural resources are a threat to our future. The urgency of the climate situation calls for audacity and the re-examination of spatial planning strategies: density vs. sprawl, land prices, the role of infrastructure, transportation networks, agricultural management...

Each day, metropolitan residents face these challenges and must reassess their ways of travelling, heating and lighting... What roles do cities play in view of these new needs and practices? How can a sustainable and innovative metropolis reconcile itself with nature?

Climate change also challenges the future situational and nourishing roles of agricultural lands in metropolitan areas. How can we produce as close as possible to the places where urban dwellers are concentrated?



## EVOLUTIONS IN THE PARISIAN METROPOLITAN AREA: A TERRITORY OF STUDY!

Paris is an iconic city: the Seine, the Eiffel Tower, the capital of France, the most visited city in the world... Paris is also the central metropolis of Greater Paris, an entity of 7 million inhabitants served by a new 200 km automated metro that acts as a «belt» linking its ways through the loops of Paris's existing suburbs. It is also a residential area that extends far beyond its regional administrative boundaries. The alternating travel between home and work towards the Île-de-France's regional conurbations equals nearly 370,000 trips per day.

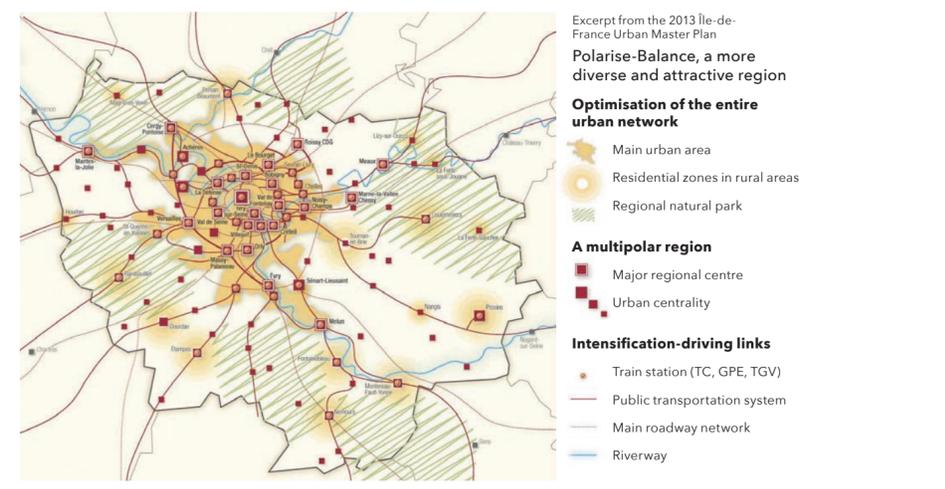
How will the capital region absorb the growth of its population in the future and the land needs it will generate? How can new ways of living and working be taken into account? How can the needs for agricultural production areas be met? What interfaces can be created between Paris's Inner and Outer loops? What impacts will territorial breaks caused by the greenbelt of regional nature parks have? How can we free ourselves from the administrative interpretation of the Île-de-France and reconsider the notion of interregional territories?

The Paris metropolitan area is undergoing major changes... The issue is no longer the desire to redesign a strategy or master plan that would serve as a forecasting tool. Rather, it is a matter of reflecting on a development approach that bears the test of time – a time that allows for the transitions and adaptations required by the acceleration of economic, technological, social and cultural changes.

To help usher along the new revolutions to come, it is therefore necessary to step back from a top-down planning approach. This is why life within metropolitan areas is the starting point for the reflection proposed by Les Ateliers. That said, the 2018 workshop is especially interested in the initiatives, experiments and examples of creativity being carried out by young people and their multicultural views on "metropolisation" and the various evolutions that accompany or impact it.

This creativity should also find its inspiration in geography, landscapes and urban forms; in other words, it must combine the BEAUTIFUL and the USEFUL.

This shared reflection will be enriched by international exchanges that will enable us to examine the singularities, strengths and weaknesses present in the development of Paris's metropolitan area in regards to other changes happening around the globe.



Demography and surface areas of a selection of urban zones around the globe  
Sources: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_urban\_areas\_by\_population

## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION AND THE WORKSHOP'S CALENDAR

### LES ATELIERS

Les Ateliers de Cergy is a small organisation, but one that represents a vast network of professionals, students, researchers, universities, local decision-makers and private actors all over the world. For the last 35 years, the association has brought together twenty-some students and young professionals from various nationalities and backgrounds to work on-site each September as part of interdisciplinary teams (architecture, urban planning, engineering, ecology, landscape design, sociology, economy, the arts, etc.). At the end of the workshop, the teams present their proposals to an international jury presided over by local authorities. Team projects combine long-term outlooks for the territory with illustrated action plans, providing a range of projects to local decision-makers. Since its inception up to its current state, with a network of over 2,500 former participants, Les Ateliers has taken the approach of an open-minded and multi-scaled investigation of complex subjects, which has allowed it to distinguish itself from and within institutional settings.

The young, international, and interdisciplinary character of the teams invites a fresh perspective and solicits new ways of representing a territory, its tensions and its opportunities.

### WORKSHOP CALENDAR

The workshop is prepared collectively – through exchanges, debates and shared reflections, as well as through a series of public events organised on the subject – by a team of passionate members, experts and local professionals from the Île-de-France region.

**24 November 2017:** Global distribution of the call for applications to recruit participants from a variety of disciplines/nationalities.

**28 January 2018:** Deadline for workshop applications. Participant selections to be announced in February.

**February - September 2018:** Exchanges organised between participants and the pilot team through a digital exchange platform, development of research documents and reflections, and the publication of the Context Document or «Keys to the Territory» presenting the field of study in detail.

**3 September - 28 September 2018:** Workshop dates. Field immersion with visits and conferences, group work, exchange forums to discuss participants' ideas and the international jury on Friday, 28 September.

### AN ORIGINAL APPROACH

This 2018 workshop is exceptional due to the topic, the issues that it points out, and all the disciplines and actors to mobilise all along the process. Moments of exchanges and debates will be crucial. An international working seminar took place the 25th Sept. 2017 in order to launch the process and another working seminar will take place the 12th April in order to fix the questions for the participants work.

"Metropolitan Evenings" will be held, welcoming key speakers. They will be hosted by a committee of experts assembled by Les Ateliers around 4 main themes: the ecological and solidarity transition, harnessing the digital revolution to build collective intelligence, new home-work relationships, and cultural and economic attractiveness.

**Dates in 2018 : 8<sup>th</sup> Feb., 8<sup>th</sup> March, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> June**

### WHO CAN APPLY?

Twenty-one international participants with diverse profiles will be selected to work in teams led by professionals, local actors and institutions. The workshop is open to young professionals and students (Master's level or above) of all nationalities and disciplines, such as urban planning, design, architecture, geography, engineering, photography, sociology, economics, landscape architecture, ecology, the arts, communication and so on.

### HOW TO APPLY

Please read the workshop's Workbook N°1 and Topic Document. Complete the registration form, which will be available on Les Ateliers' website (ateliers.org) beginning 1 December 2017; and submit it, along with:

- » A CV/Resume of one to two pages maximum.
- » A short personal essay taking the workshop's topic and applying it to another site, whether in the Paris metropolitan area or in the candidate's home country. The purpose of this essay is for applicants to engage in a personal reflection on the themes being addressed prior to the workshop. The work is to be completed individually (3-4 pages in A4 format or 2 pages in A3 format).

**Requirements** Proficiency in English (must be able to work with an international team), full availability for the workshop dates, and an age limit of 30 years.

**Requests for information and documentation** lavie@ateliers.org  
**Deadline for applications** 28 January 2018  
**Time and place** The workshop will be held in Cergy-Pontoise from 3-28 September 2018.