

Call for Papers

Foresight Special Issue on Urban Futures: Anticipating a world of cities

"Ancient Greece had city-states – in 100 years we will have city-worlds"

~Sirikka Heinonen, Neo-Growth in Future Post-Carbon Cities, 2013

The speed, scale, and scope of urbanisation in the past decades are unprecedented in world history, and the trend is expected to continue for some decades to come. Urbanisation leads to both a larger number of megacities with over 10 million inhabitants as well as rapidly growing smaller towns and cities. Economic activity and growth are largely urban, but so too are unemployment/joblessness and poverty. Such urban concentration of population and economic growth also creates significant societal and environmental challenges. Faced with critical global issues such as climate change, mobility of goods and people, and emerging infectious diseases, cities are fast becoming the simultaneous epicentres of problems as well as of opportunities and solutions, as they are looked to as the key players in addressing some of these challenges.

While they are fuelled by diversity and entrepreneurial dynamism, cities also remain the loci of major political conflicts, driven by racial and cultural tensions and diverging citizen values, which are increasingly propelled by the proliferation of digital media. The trend of urbanization is also accompanied by efforts in various parts of the world to decentralize political and administrative functions to local governments so as to enhance good governance. These rapid changes, especially in developing countries in Africa, Asia and other parts of the world, impose great challenges for city planning and management.

This mix of factors indicates that cities can be considered not just as a concentration of people, but as a highly complex concentration of interrelated opportunities and challenges. While city planners have long utilized their toolbox of methods for analyzing various socio-economic trends and land-use patterns, the traditional methods of projecting and forecasting are proving inadequate, given increasing uncertainties, risks and complexities that cities face now. The use of future-oriented technology analysis (FTA) methods can help planners and policymakers to understand this complexity, anticipate impending changes, and begin engaging more robustly with future scenarios – normatively, but importantly also adaptively. A wide set of anticipatory methods have been applied to various issues and settings, ranging from urban development and transportation to natural disasters and urban security. However, we still need to learn more about how anticipatory intelligence and governance can be systematically applied to help cities engage with their looming and complex realities.

The journal *Foresight* is therefore preparing a special issue on 'Urban futures: Anticipating a world of cities'. The Issue will draw partially on papers presented at the 2014 [International Conference on Future-Oriented Technology Analysis](#), and additional invited contributions. The Guest Editors are inviting additional contributions on the use of anticipatory approaches regarding the following topics:

- New approaches to city governance, citizen participation, etc.
- Foresight for cities in different categories (e.g. macro-regions such as BRICS, megacities, regional development, linkages between urban and rural areas)
- The role of regional (smart) specialisation strategies

- Topical anticipatory exercises (e.g., on energy, food security, water, sustainability)
- Cities and innovation

The deadline for the submission of papers for consideration is **15 June 2015**.

Foresight is an international, peer-reviewed online journal concerned with the study of the future. Detailed information about the journal, submission instructions, and Author Guideline are available at: <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/loi/fs>

The Guest Editors

Dr. Geci Karuri-Sebina (SA Cities Network), Mr. Karel Haegeman (EU-JRC), and Prof. Apiwat Ratanawaraha (Chulalongkorn University).

Enquiries: karel-herman.haegeman@ec.europa.eu