

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: THE POLITICS OF TRADITION

Past IASTE conferences have dealt with themes as diverse as Value, Myth, Utopia, Border and many others. This conference intends to prolong this collective reflection by foregrounding an examination of the ways in which the domain of the political and traditions in and of the built environment are intertwined. While the political in traditions has always been part of the debate at IASTE conferences, at a time of struggles globally around the meaning and the practices of political participation in making the built environment, it is valuable to address how the built environment has been shaped by state apparatuses or by citizens to advance diverse political positions, often deploying imaginaries of tradition, purportedly rejecting emerging spatial practices and political subjectivities.

Consequently, the conference will offer reflections both on the importance of the concept of tradition for the political question in itself and on the ways in which variants of governance structures face the question of tradition in the built environment. Participants are encouraged to question the practice of tradition in the production of space in relation to different regimes of politics. In addition, the conference will examine the systems of politics as a category of tradition, reflecting on how the construction and deconstruction of professional political bodies act on the built environment.

As in past IASTE conferences, scholars and practitioners from architecture, architectural history, art history, anthropology, archeology, folklore, geography, history, planning, sociology, political science, urban studies, and related disciplines are invited to submit papers that address one of the following tracks:

Track I: Traditions of Everyday Social Practices and the Shaping of Architecture and Urbanism

Papers in this track will be attentive to how everyday practices of the built environment, or the creation and recreation of the built environment by citizens, continuously produce and reproduce orders of the political, as well as political subjectivities. Emphasis will be given to the contestations between different groups under accelerating neoliberalization; how these dynamics have been reshaping the political landscapes around the world today. How does urban informality interact productively with the state apparatus in the shaping of politics, notably at a time of material struggles around the role of migrants in Europe and elsewhere? How are spaces, both urban and virtual, practiced everyday or through events of insurgence in ways that condition political futures? How do actual practices of housing and urbanity resist and subvert expert imaginations of the political? Papers in this track may confront everyday social practices and their impact on institutional politics.

Track II: Theorizing the Political from the Spaces of Traditional Environments

Contemporary research in political science and related fields rarely consider actual built environments or the implications for understanding the political in relationship to theories of space. This may also include the politics of contestation

of traditional environments and their consumption in the process of nation building. Papers in this track will address how contemporary theories of the political or of democracy, in their diversity, can learn from built environment research dealing with tradition, particularly in the cities of the global South where the majority of humans live today under conditions of neoliberalism, mass migration, and a refugee crisis. Papers also addressing the funding conditions of public infrastructure and urban renewal around the world are welcome.

Track III: The Political in Tradition and Place: An Open Track

Papers in this track will explore how tradition is deployed in architecture and in planning to support prospective imaginations of the urban that are integral to situated political-economic regime projects. Papers in this track will also address the traditions of development practices and their impact on the formation of the contemporary state and its apparatus, including in former colonial spaces, for example through the establishment of networks of standardized spaces like parks, schools, and administrative buildings. Papers considering the persistences of a rationality of colonialism in the ways in which traditions are deployed in political projects, through flexible modes of valuation or rejection of tradition, are encouraged. Papers also addressing the impact of movements like “Brexit” and “American first” on the built environment are particularly welcome.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To submit an abstract, please use the online abstract submission form: <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/login?redirect=/stages/156/submission>

Please refer to our website <http://iaste.berkeley.edu/> for detailed instructions on abstract submissions. A one-page abstract of 500 words and a one-page CV are required.

Proposals for complete panels of four to five papers are also welcome. Please indicate the track in which the panel fits. Panel submissions must include an overall abstract as well as abstracts and CVs from all proposed speakers. IASTE may accept the panel as a whole or only accept individual abstracts and place them in appropriate tracks.

All papers must be written and presented in English. Following a blind peer-review process, papers may be accepted for presentation at the conference and/or for publication in the IASTE Working Paper Series.

Contributors whose abstracts are accepted must pre-register for the conference, pay the registration fee of \$425 (which includes a special discounted IASTE membership), and prepare a full-length paper of 20-25 double-spaced pages. Registered students may qualify for a reduced registration fee of \$225 (which includes a special discounted IASTE membership). All participants must be IASTE members. Please note that expenses associated with hotel accommodations, travel, and additional excursions are not covered by the registration fee and must be paid directly to the hotel or designated travel agent. The registration fee covers the conference program, conference abstracts, and access to all conference activities, theme sessions, keynote plenary talks, receptions, the conference dinner, and a walking and bus tour of the city.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Deadline for Abstract Submission: **November 6, 2017**

Letter of Acceptance for Abstracts/Conference Poster: **January 8, 2018**

Deadline for Presenters Conference Registration: **May 14, 2018**

Deadline for Revised Paper Submission for Working Paper Series: **June 1, 2018**

Notification of Acceptance in Working Paper Series: **June 15, 2018**

Conference Program: **October 4-7, 2018**

Post-Conference Tours: **October 8-9, 2018**

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Department of Architecture of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology, University of Coimbra

Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra

CONFERENCE SITE AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Coimbra Conference Center Coimbra at the Covent of São Francisco

Quinta das Lágrimas Hotel

POST-CONFERENCE TRIPS

Following the conference, two optional one-day trips will be offered for an additional fee. Buses will depart from the main conference hotel, Quinta das Lágrimas Hotel.

Monday, October 8 – Coimbra Region: Delegates will take a bus tour to the village of Talasnal, to the newly renovated Lorrão monastery, and then to lunch at the Bussaco Palace Hotel. After lunch, the tour will continue on to the remaining chapel of the convent, the Fonte Fria staircase and surrounding gardens for opportunities to see some of the masterpieces of Portuguese religious landscape architecture. Before returning to Coimbra, the delegates will visit a winery in the Bairrada region.

Tuesday, October 9 – Porto: Delegates will take a bus tour to the city of Porto, one hour north of Coimbra, to visit the São Francisco Church, a downtown housing neighborhood built by the SAAL state housing program during the mid-1970s revolutionary period, the contemporary art museum and gardens at Serralves, and the late modernist seaside swimming pools at the suburb of Leça da Palmeira. Lunch will be held at Serralves. Before returning to Coimbra, the delegates will visit a Port wine cellar in nearby Vila Nova de Gaia.

INQUIRES

Please use the following information when making inquiries regarding the conference.

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