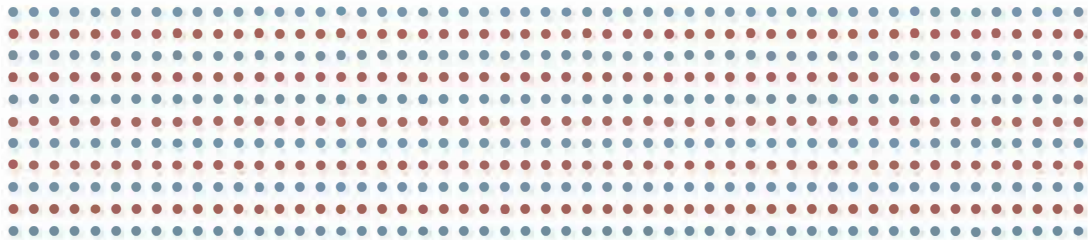




AHEAD OF THE GAME?
Reversibility, sufficiency and care in the
context of urban transitions
AESOP 2024 PhD Workshop FINAL REPORT





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1. Theme

Ahead of the game

Reversibility, sufficiency and care in the context of urban transitions

Faced with rapid and massive transformations, urban planning practice is compelled to change its core principles. Once land consuming, it must now be attentive to land take dynamics. Once delivering rigid infrastructural projects, it must now cater for increasingly diversified and everchanging needs. Once relying on massive resources, it must now find ways to mend the urban fabric without depleting much. Planners have to look ahead when it comes to buildings inherited from modern times or big events like the Olympic Games and adapt them to the challenges of the future. But how to plan today the inheritance of future generations? Planning differently becomes all the more difficult in a world of emergency and uncertainty, where short-termism, urgency and endless experimentation prevail. Catering for space reversibility, planning with a frugal attitude, caring about humans and non-humans, for the living and non-living... such guiding principles could help to deal with the urban fabric left "after the game" while planning "ahead of the game".

The workshop was held under excellent conditions. The participants were very pleased with the relaxed yet studious atmosphere. The ice-breaking activities have allowed to creation very soon a pleasant dialogue between participants. The mentors have been very engaged and really enjoyed the discussions.

2. Local Organizing Committee



PACTE-IUGA

Charles Ambrosino

Historian and planner, **Charles Ambrosino** is a Professor of Urban Planning. He teaches urban design, urban, landscape and planning theories, and contemporary issues on urban development. His research works and publications in scientific journals (Riurba, Espace géographique, Projets de paysage, Revue de géographie Alpine, Espace et Société, Géocarrefour, Métropolitiques, EspaceTemps.net, Urban Planning International, Territoires en mouvement, Métropoles, etc.) focus on three main themes : (1) the links between artistic practices, creative economy and urban transformation; (2) city making in the age of experimentation; (3) the epistemological renewal of urban planning through the theoretical and conceptual cross-fertilisation between urban design, landscape studies and transition studies. Using Grenoble as an example, his latest book, 'La métropole géographique et ses urbanismes' (Ed. Autrement, 2022), explores the relationship between urban policies and metropolitan geographies and landscapes, with a view to increasing urban resilience.



PACTE-IUGA

Federica Gatta

Federica Gatta is an architect and urban planner. She trained in Architecture at Roma Tre University and obtained a PhD at the University of Paris-Nanterre. She is today an associate Professor in Urban Planning at Grenoble Alpes University where she has coordinated different international and interdisciplinary master's degrees. Her work mixes the spatial approach of architecture and urban planning with the theory and tools of anthropology and explores the role of ethnographic methods in spatial design practice. She focuses on the observation of the relationship between urban policies and organized civil society in the space transformation processes. She is the author of publications in French, English and Italian reviews based on ethnographic research on French and Italian case studies raising the issue of the role of social critique in the city project; the evolution of participation policies in planning; the use of qualitative methodologies in urban planning and urban studies.



PACTE-IUGA

Adriana Diaconu

Dr. Adriana Diaconu is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Urban Planning and Alpine Geography (IUGA) of Université Grenoble Alpes and a researcher at Pacte Social Sciences Research Unit. She is trained in Architecture, Urban Planning and Social Sciences and holds a PhD from University Paris 8. She is interested in international comparisons and transfers in the management of urban transformations and has coordinated international Master’s programs in urban planning at IUGA (Mundus Urbano, in cooperation with TU Darmstadt, and Transformative Urban Studies). She is involved in European research networks on the theme of sustainable and affordable housing (OIKONET and MSCA-ITN RE-DWELL) and in national research projects in France, such as “The Sale of Social Housing” (USH) and POPSU Métropoles (PUCA). Her research and publications address housing and transformations in housing systems through alternative practices and experimentations. Her recent work focuses on the relation between social and environmental challenges in housing, on vulnerability and access to housing for the homeless and on the interrelations of social policies and city management.



PACTE-IUGA

Frédéric Santamaria

Frédéric Santamaria is Professor of spatial planning at Grenoble Alpes University. He is a member of the Pacte social science research laboratory. He has a degree in Political Science from the *Institut d'études politiques de Bordeaux*, and a doctorate in Spatial Planning and Geography. His teaching focuses on spatial and urban planning, as well as research methods in these fields. In research, he has worked on European spatial planning and on the issues of spatial and urban planning in small and medium-sized towns. He has taken part in several projects as part of the ESPON (European Territorial Observatory Network) programme. He has published book chapters in French and English, and articles in several French, foreign and international journals (Town Planning Review, Belgeo, Transactions) in connection with his research topics, and is a member of editorial boards of journals including Transaction of AESOP.

3. Mentors



TU Dortmund

Benjamin Davy

Ben Davy is a former Chair of Land Policy, Land Management, and Municipal Geoinformation (TU Dortmund University) and since 2019 Visiting Professor of Law (University of Johannesburg). He was President of the International Academic Association on Planning, Law and Property Rights (PLPR) and of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). He was Essay Editor of *Planning Theory*, co-editor of the *Town Planning Review*, and a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. Ben is member of the editorial board of *Planning Theory and Practice* and co-coordinator of the AESOP Thematic Group *Planning Theories (plural)*. He has published on planning theory, property, border studies, and spatial justice.



Cardiff University

Juliet Davis

Juliet Davis is a Professor of Architecture and Urbanism and Head of School at the Welsh School of Architecture. She trained originally as an architect. She worked for nearly ten years in architectural practice before returning to university to study for a PhD in 2007. Supported by an AHRC doctoral award, she wrote this at the London School of Economics' 'Cities Programme', focusing on exploring the impacts of the early stages of regeneration connected to the 2012 Olympic Games. Following the PhD, she took up a Senior Lectureship at the Welsh School of Architecture in 2012. Today, Juliet Davis is the author of two books and numerous other publications reflecting interests in issues and potentials of design connected to urban change and regeneration, megaevent-led transformation, the role of the past in urban futures, care, health and wellbeing. Her research has been funded by UKRI, Grosvenor, Cardiff University, The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art and others.



Passages-IATU

Jean-Michel Roux

Jean-Michel Roux is a qualified planner and a full Professor in Urban Planning at the Institute of Planning, Tourism & Urbanism of University Bordeaux Montaigne (IATU) and researcher at Passages (CNRS - National Centre for Scientific Research). He has been Director of the Planning Institute of Grenoble and deputy director of the research in social sciences at Grenoble Alpes University. He teaches studios in France and abroad for which he was awarded in 2019 AESOP Excellence in Teaching Prize (Association of European School of Planning) and Prix PEPS for excellence in teaching (2019). His research focuses on relationships between cities and the stadia (architecture,

ambiances and publics), history of urbanism, urban morphology and planning education



Sciences Po

Eric Verdeil

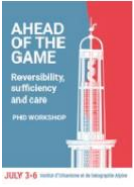
Eric Verdeil is full professor in Geography and Urban Planning at Sciences Po. He teaches at Sciences Po Urban School and is researcher at the Center of International Studies. After his PhD at Paris-Panthéon Sorbonne University (2002), he was research fellow at CNRS in Lyon (2003-2015), and spent several years at IFPO, the Institute in the Near East in Beirut (Lebanon). His research initially dealt with urban reconstruction and planning in war-torn countries, specifically Lebanon. He then focused on the political ecology of urban infrastructure, in Middle Eastern Cities as well in France. His latest books are *Atlas des mondes urbains* (Presses de Sciences Po, 2020), *Atlas of Lebanon. The new challenges* (with G. Faour and M. Hamze, 2019, IFPO) and he coedited with S. Jaglin the theme issue « Electrical Hybridizations in Cities of the South », in the *Journal of Urban Technology* (2023).



Politecnico Torino

Ianira Vassallo

Ianira Vassallo is Architect and PhD in Spatial Planning and Public Policy. Since 2016, she is a lecturer in Urban Planning and Urban Design at the Polytechnic University of Turin. She deals with practices and projects of transformation of the contemporary city. On this topic she conducted her doctoral research at the IUAV University of Venice, published several articles and edited (with M. Cerruti But, A. Kercuku and G. Setti) the volume *Urban Tensions. Research on the changing city* (Letter22, 2017). Since 2018 she is a member of the research group City&Production Lab within which she carries on a reflection on the metamorphosis of Turin's production system in the last 30 years. On this topic she published several articles and participated in the EUROPAN XIV "Productive Cities" design competition. She is a member of the Association L'ABSUS - Laboratory for Subsidiarity" Piedmont section, within which she deals with the relationship between commons, communities and urban transformation practices.



4. PhD Students

Below is some basic information about the PhD students who applied and participated in the AESOP PhD workshop in Grenoble 2024.

4.1 SUMMARY OF THE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

A total of 78 applications from 17 countries were received as a result of the call for applications. Of those who applied, 57% were female and 43% were male. The breakdown of applications is as follows.

Number of applications	Nationality of PhD students
21	Italy
9	Germany
7	United Kingdom
4	Portugal
3	Turkey
3	Austria,
31	Australia, Belgium, China, Czechia, Denmark, France, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

4.2 INFORMATION ON WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

After the technical and scientific assessment, 35 PhD from 20 countries qualified for the workshop and 11 were inserted in a waiting list. In the end, the workshop was paid for by 28 participants (including five with a bursary) and attended by 33 participants.

The participants in the workshop are listed below, along with the topics of the abstracts that were submitted.

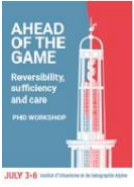
SURNAME	NAME	COUNTRY	UNIVERSITY	KEYWORDS/Thesis Titles
Abe	Sachi	Austria	TU Wien	Degrowth planning, Postgrowth planning, Urban degrowth
Arillotta	Giorgia	Italy	University of Naples Federico II	functional dimension, temporary uses, urban planning, urban regeneration
Barabas	Agota	Germany	HCU Hamburg	Adaptable, Efficient, and Inclusive: Exploring the Role of Multifunctional Urban Spaces in Contemporary City Planning
Bauchot	Augustin	Australia/United Kingdom	University of Queensland & University of Exeter	Urban governance; Locally-led adaptation; Infrastructure; Informality; Fiji

Borrello	Marida	France/Italy	Aix-Marseille Université & Università di Roma "La Sapienza"	Spatiality of Social Innovation - Landscape Project - Qualitative Parameters - Transitional Spaces - Multi-Level Democracy
Butti	Stefania	Italy	Università degli studi di Bergamo	Urbanisme et vieillissement
Chapman	Eleanor	Germany	Technical University of Munich	justice; urban greening; transformation
Chidanandaswamy	Lekhana	Australia	University of Sydney	The Nexus of Smart Urbanism, Climate Change and Informality in India
Dang	Ngoc Thao Linh	Australia	Monash University	tourism-driven waterfront redevelopment in Da Nang city, Vietnam; values of stakeholders, participation, "right to the city"
Del Canto	Nicolas	United Kingdom	University of Liverpool	Quantitative research on the impacts of planning deregulation for transforming office space into housing in the UK
Del Fiore	Marco	Italy	Politecnico di Torino	European territorial cooperation, major infrastructural projects in the Italian Alpine region
Di Lucchio	Caterina	Italy	Politecnico di Torino	Beyond urban regeneration: decoding narratives, instruments and socio-spatial transformations in the European context
Douglas	Ellis	United Kingdom	Newcastle University	Towards a conceptualisation of an ethics of reversibility: a reflexive deconstruction of the united nation sustainable development goals
Jessen	Mette Juhl	Denmark	University of Copenhagen	Regional planning and climate adaptation - Shifting perspectives and imagining new narratives
Keskin	Eylem	Turkey	Izmir Institute of Technology	Campus as a living lab: towards a resilient and sustainable model for izmir institute OF TECHNOLOGY GÜLBAHÇE CAMPUS
Lev	Moran	Germany	KIT Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Frankfurt University of Applied Science	Postwar modernist housing, hybridity, urban hybridity, urban transformation, Frankfurt nordweststadt
Lin	Lirray	Hong Kong	Department of Urban Planning and Design, HKU	Public participation, urban renewal, deliberative process, triangulation
Ludovici	Lucia	Italy	Politecnico di Milano	Informal Urban Biodiversity In abandoned areas. Embracing the ecological potential of Italian brownfields
Maia	Daniel	Portugal	University of Porto	Nourishing Urban Resilience through a Territorial Food Systems Approach
Pauli	Alba	Italy	University of Bologna	On vertical farming: architectural project and urban strategies

Petrov	Alexander	United Kingdom	University of Liverpool	Industrial heritage, regeneration, adaptive reuse, public-private partnership
Prigkou	Stamatia	Greece	University of Thessaly	Interventions at Historic City Centers: Contemporary Challenges and Practices
Righetto	Eleonora	Italy	Università luav di Venezia	Social impact assessment in urban regeneration project of social infrastructures
Rios	Cauê	Portugal	University of Porto	Bottom-up mobilisation: the role of social movements in sustainable mobility transitions in global south and north
Rusconi	Isabella	Portugal	DINÂMIA'CET_ISCT E-IUL	Participation and institutionalisation: methodologies and democratic innovations in the production of cities. A comparative analysis of the participatory systems in Barcelona, Bologna and Lisbon”
Schermer	Mark	Austria	BOKU University	Do we mix greening policies the just way? Policy makers awareness towards green gentrification
Schmid	Eliane	Luxembourg	Luxembourg University	Creating the Urban Citizen in Hamburg and Marseille: A Trans-Urban History of Public Urban Green Spaces during the Postwar Period (1945-1973)
Smith	Andrew	United Kingdom	University of Hertfordshire	Planning; Car Dependency; Housing; Performance-gap; Decarbonisation
Song	Saebom	Germany	Karlsruher Institute for Technology	Sociotechnical Evolution and Imaginaries of Open Data Initiative and Smart City in the Republic of Korea
Stanley	Alexander	Germany	Hamburg Univeristy	On telling tales, straddling scales and wagging fat tails: US and EU climate governance approaches for coping with deep uncertainty in comparative perspective
Stolz	Beatrice	Norway	NTNU Trondheim	Architectural qualities, values, circularity, neighbourhood scale
Trabucco	Isabella	Italy	Università degli studi di Firenze	Formulate an urban design approach by reading biopolitics in the climate crisis era.
Vida	Mara	Romania	“Ion Mincu” Univeristy,	Navigating Development in Metropolitan Areas: A Historic Landscape Approach with Emphasis on Greenery and Urban Sustainability

4.3 SUMMARY OF THE BURSARY CALL

In May, a pre-selection process was conducted to identify 12 bursary candidates based on specific criteria, including submission of a bursary request, geographical distance, origin from



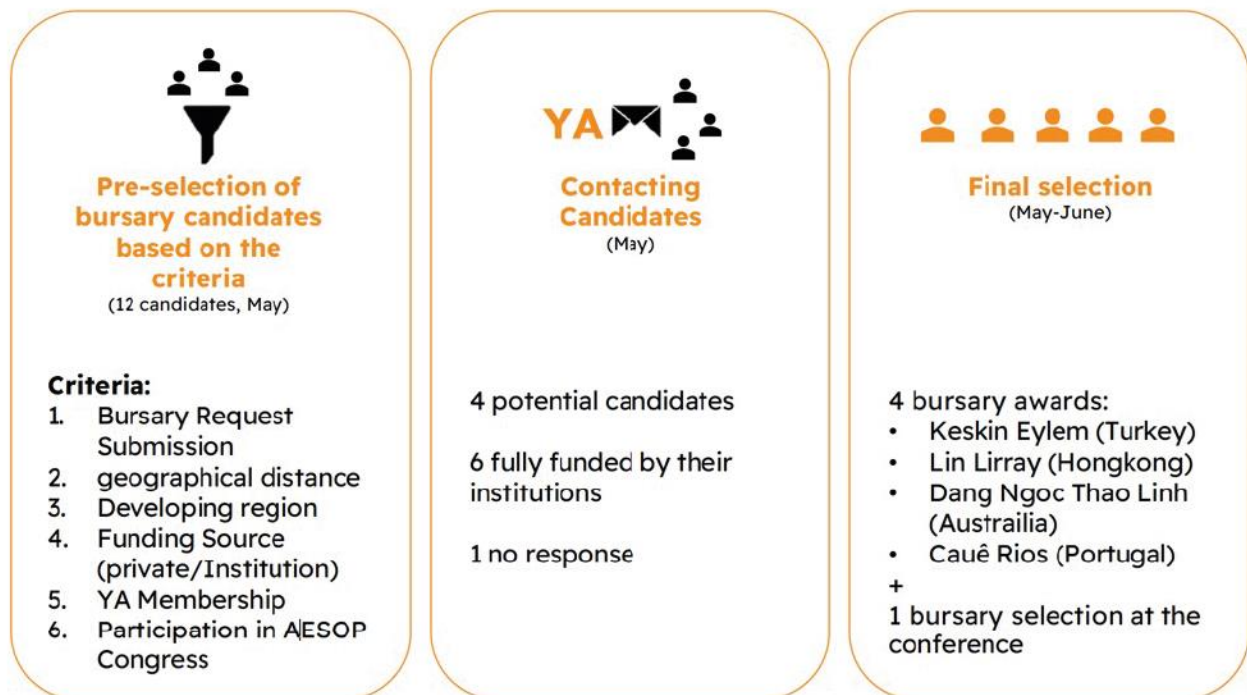
a developing region, the type of funding (private or institutional), membership in YA, and participation in the AESOP Congress.

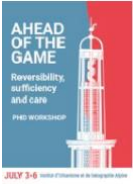
Following the pre-selection, four potential candidates were contacted in May, while six others were already fully funded by their institutions, and one candidate did not respond.

By May-June, four bursary awards were finalized, going to Keskin Eylem from Turkey, Lin Lirray from Hong Kong, Dang Ngoc Thao Linh from Australia, and Cauê Rios from Portugal. Additionally, one further bursary was reserved for selection at the conference.

The fulfilment of the above criteria was assessed by the LOC and the representative of the Young Academics Network of AESOP, SaeBom Song.

Data on bursary applications is shown below:





5. Programme

The workshop programme included the following main sections:

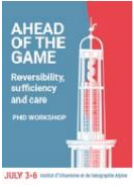
JULY 3RD

1 pm to 2 pm Arrivals and registrations

2 pm to 6 pm *Ice Breaking*

The issues of reversibility, sufficiency and care have been used as a starting point to discuss the different subjects of the PhD candidates. The notions have been the basis of the first ice-breaking discussion on the form of a “world café”. The concept of care was the one that most brought together the participants' views and approaches.





'Workshop presentation AESOP YA presentation *'Walking on Grenoble'*

A presentation of the historical, geographical and planning context of Grenoble has been made by Professor Charles Ambrosino. A big image of the city was on the floor and has been used to support the presentation. Professor Jean-Michel Roux presented the history of the Planning Institute of Grenoble.



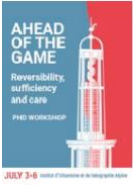
7 pm Dinner at *Ici Grenoble – 8 rue du Vieux Temple*

JULY 4TH

8 am Breakfast

9 am - **Juliet Davies** - *'In Search of the Caring City'*





11 am Parallel working groups

Four groups were organized and supervised by two mentors. This group division has been done on more general themes: environmental sustainability, urban regeneration, socio-spatial justice, and regional and landscape planning. The first two sessions have been dedicated to short presentations of the thesis with comments from the mentors.

1 pm Lunch

2 pm to 6 pm Parallel working groups and individual meetings with mentors

During individual meetings, students had the possibility to speak with one mentor about their thesis on both methodological, theoretical or ethical questions. Each student had 30 to 45 minutes with the mentor.

7 pm **Reading landscapes of an alpine metropolis** - *Le téléphérique de Grenoble quai Stéphane Jay*

The group climbed the Fort de la Bastille to observe the city of Grenoble from the mountain. This allowed the mentors to extend the presentations on the history of the town and its urban layout.



JULY 5TH

8 am Collective breakfast

9 am - **Ben Davy** - ‘A Planner walks into a bar’



11 am *Parallel working groups*

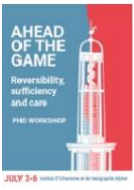
On the third day, students and mentors worked to raise common questions about doctoral research in planning.

1 pm Lunch

2 pm to 6 pm *Thematic workshops*

The thematic workshops treated some important research design and ethical questions that have guided the common reflections of students: the role of narratives, the relation with the supervisor, the use of alternative scientific writing methods, the co-production with non-academic actors. Each couple of supervisors has proposed a format of discussion going from classical debate to the sharing and commenting of images and texts produced by the students.

Thematic Workshop	Mentors
Environmental Issues	Charles Ambrosino and Ianira Vassallo
Urban Regeneration, Objects and Narratives	Juliet Davis and Federica Gatta
Socio-Spatial Justice	Ban Davy and Adriana Diaconu
Regional And Landscape Planning	Eric Verdeil, Jean-Michel Roux and Frédéric Santamaria



7 pm Social event



JULY 6TH

9 am to 12 am Final plenary session

The challenges of contemporary urban research for PhD students.

Each group presented its shared work on Saturday morning. The presentations have been very interesting because they have deployed the characteristics of complexity and uncertainty in urban research. The presentations underlined: the issue of the reflexivity of the researcher in the act of translation between different disciplines and different work fields, the role of design thinking and sensitivity in planning research, and the vulnerability of both urban spaces and research production facing political and environmental contemporary contexts.





July 3rd

8:30

9:00

10:45 Arrivals

12:45 Registration and sandwiches

14:00 Ice breaking
Workshop presentation
AESOP YA presentation
«Walking on Grenoble»
Hall Territory building

16:00

16:30

19:30 Dinner at Ici Grenoble
8 rue du Vieux Temple

July 4th

Breakfast

Juliet Davis
«In search of the caring city»
Amphitheater Geography building, ground floor

Group works*

Lunch

Group works

Break

One to one and free time

Reading landscapes of an alpine metropolis
Téléphérique de Grenoble, quai Stéphane Jay

July 5th

Breakfast

Ben Davy
«A planner walks into a bar»
Amphitheater Geography building, ground floor

Group works

Lunch

Thematic workshops (by choice)**

Break

One to one and free time

Social event at Rocky Pop hotel

July 6th

4 Groups pitches
Amphitheater Geography building, ground floor

Departures

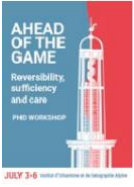
*Group 1 T204, group 2 T205, group 3 T206, group 4 T207
Territory building second floor

** 1# The role of narrative in urban and planning research
Room T204

2# Supervising your supervisor: what can and should you expect from your supervisor?
Room T205

3# Alternative scientific writing: filmic methods
Room T206

4# Co-producing the research with non-academic actors
Room T207



6. Venue

An AESOP PhD workshop in Grenoble

In 2004, Grenoble hosted the 18th congress of the AESOP about *Metropolitan planning and environmental issues*. Twenty years later, the AESOP PhD Workshop 'Ahead of the game' will take place at [the Institute of Urban Planning and Alpine Geography \(IUGA\)](#), one of the 23 departments, schools, and institutes (training and research units) of the [Université Grenoble Alpes](#).

Based in the *Cité des Territoires* at [14-14 bis Avenue Marie Reynoard \(Grenoble\)](#), IUGA is located in the Vigny-Musset district south of Grenoble, right next to the Villeneuve district and close to the École Nationale Supérieure de l'Architecture de Grenoble (ENSAG).

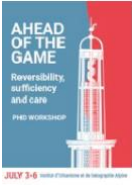
How to come to Grenoble?



Heart Of the Alps

Grenoble is in the eastern part of the **Auvergne Rhone-Alps region**, in southeastern France, in the Isère department. As such, it sits at **the crossroads of northern and southern Europe**.

- **161 000 inhabitants within the city limits**
- **440 000 inhabitants in the greater Grenoble area (49 communes)**



The city is surrounded by **3 mountain chains, creating an exceptional setting:**
The Chartreuse, Vercors, and Belledonne mountains.

Getting by train, bus and carpooling

Find, compare and book your [train](#), [bus](#) and even carpooling option with [Blablacar](#) to get to Grenoble thanks to our partner [Tictactrip](#)!

You can also choose directly your tickets for:

- [Paris-Grenoble](#)
- [Marseille-Grenoble](#)
- [Lyon-Grenoble](#)
- [Geneva-Grenoble](#)
- [Milano-Grenoble](#)
- [Torino-Grenoble](#)

A Few Distances

- **Grenoble - Paris:** 574 km
- **Grenoble - Nice:** 343 km
- **Grenoble - Strasbourg:** 535 km
- **Grenoble - Geneva:** 147 km
- **Grenoble - Barcelona:** 631 km
- **Grenoble - Berlin:** 1.257 km
- **Grenoble - Milan:** 438 km
- **Grenoble - Turin:** 236 km

Things to know about Grenoble

Grenoble, a city in the mountains...and vice versa!

What strikes people first is the natural setting of the city, carefully surrounded by impressive mountains, which themselves harbour restless torrents and deep forests. On the rounded hills, secret valleys snuggle with natural prairies and farmland. Here, man and nature learn to live together in reassuring harmony.

