

## **Global young academics & practitioners assembly**

### COORDINATORS

Karel Van Den Berghe

*Ghent University, Belgium*

*Karel.VandenBerghe@ugent.be*

Mohammed Saleh

*University of Groningen, Netherlands*

*mohamed.saleh@rug.nl*

### PANEL

Nadia Caruso

*Chair of AESOP Young Academics, Politecnico di Torino, Italy*

*nadia.caruso@polito.it*

The AESOP Young Academics Network (<http://www.aesop-youngacademics.net/>) is a loosely structured branch of AESOP, which encourages the active participation and exchange of academic work. From PhD students to Post-docs and those starting out in academic positions, the YA Network provides a platform through which the academic leaders of tomorrow can share ideas in an open and inclusive environment, challenging and supporting one another in the attainment of superior academic output. The young academics network has two core aims: - make AESOP a challenging environment for young academics; - open up the structure of AESOP to better encourage young academic involvement. Creating a challenging environment: - form a network of young academics within AESOP; - initiate activities for young academics; - make the AESOP congress more attractive for young academics. Opening up the structure: - ensure that attention is paid to the particular wishes and needs of young academics in the activities of AESOP; - use the opportunities offered by internet to make the organization more accessible and interactive, and to disseminate useful information. Participants and discussants: • Coordination Team of AESOP Young Academics • Other academic association (like young members of ACSP, AECURN, etc.) The roundtable concerns the need of networking among the young academics and practitioners in the field of planning and

urban studies. The aim of this meeting is to share the common knowledge and experience among the different young academics associations, coming from different academic communities. The roundtable will be held by the recognized association AESOP Young Academics Network and has the goal of interact with other young scholars and practitioners from all over the world strengthening the link and the relations. During the roundtable AESOP YA will present work and activities of the network, showing their specific identity and possible common points of interests and partnership with other young academics networks. The main activities and projects of AESOP YA are: YA annual conference and other events (PhD workshop, joint conference sessions, etc.), online open access journal “plaNext”, YA blog, YA booklet series “Conversation In Planning”. The roundtable will be a chance to meet and discuss. The debate will be around challenges and issues of young academics and practitioners, focusing on possible joint initiatives among the different networks and congress participants. Joint activities could be organised in the future, like joint events and conferences, common call for papers for journals in the planning and urban studies field, and partnerships in research projects. The roundtable is open to all the participants of the Congress, to share their ideas and to get to know the young academics realities. The aim is to involve firstly the others young academic associations (like AECURN and other groups), but the floor would be open to suggestions and comments from all the Congress participants in order to understand what are the needs and the ideas from and for the global young academic community.