

Activity and Financial Report

Young Academics (YA) Network

July 2017

Introduction of the new YA Coordination team

We are very pleased to congratulate the newly elected members of the Young Academics network Coordination Team (CT):

- Irene Luque-Martin (University of Seville)
- Daan Bossuyt (University of Amsterdam)
- Lukas Gillard (Technical University of Munich)

Together with Aoife Doyle (secretary), Anaïs De Keijser (chair) and Karel Van den Berghe (senior advisor) they build up the current YA Coordination Team. At this point the network would equally like to thank our former members Dana Shevah, Mohamed Saleh, and Nadia Caruso (senior advisor) for their on-going support and fruitful contributions into the network.

Elections

The elections were held in the second half of May. This enabled a strong encouragement of YAs at the YA conference to run for the elections. With 87 total votes casted the strong increase in votes has been sustained. The timing of the elections equally enabled the new CT to be up and running before the annual congress, which wasn't the situation last year.

General Statistics

The YA network currently consists of 1425 registered members of which 42 are considered active members. The challenge posed at this moment, is how we can engage more members to be active. How could we engage the three people who ran for the CT but were not selected for example?

Finances

The AESOP Young Academic Network budget was exceptionally 6000€ for the period from 01.01.2016 - 30.06.2017. In addition to that 208,67€ was transferred to the YA account from Taylor & Francis. This led to a total budget of 6 208,67€. 1524,96€ is the remaining amount of the budget in the mentioned period. Thanks to the fact that one CT member failed to participate in the YA conference as well as the fact that the timing of the elections made it impossible for any of the new CT members to join the annual congress the YA was able to stay within the budget. As can be seen from the financial overview hereafter 158,45 Euros were spent on bank costs (this is a significant amount of the overall budget).

AESOP YA Financial Statement 01.01.2016 - 30.06.2017	
Allocation	Totals
Budget	€ 6.208,67
YA Conference - Ghent 2016	789,00 €
AESOP annual Congress - Rio de Janeiro 2016	1.142,00 €
YA PhD Workshop - Leuven 2016	183,00 €
DROPBOX	99,00 €
Networking	18,00 €
YA Conference - Munich 2017	2.294,26 €
Bank costs	158,45 €
TOTAL	€ 4.683,71
Balance (surplus)	€ 1.524,96

Website

The AESOP Young Academic website is currently being updated. For most changes the CT is dependent on Christos to implement structural and organizational changes to the website. Specific task division have been made within the new CT to divid the different responsibilities linked to the website (Secretary, Communications Officer, Content Manager of the website, Structural Changes Overview).

AESOP PhD Workshop

The 2017 AESOP PhD workshop was hosted at the University of Aveiro (5-8 July 2017). The theme was ‘ Spaces of dialog for places of dignity: challenges for planning research ’ . The main role of the CT has been to support the Local Organizing Comity (LOC) as well as the promotion of the event through social media, the network website and newsletter.

The 2018 AESOP PhD workshop will be hosted in Karlskrona, Sweden (5-8 July 2018). The theme will be “Exploring hope through planning” . The LOC is currently having monthly Skype meetings with representatives of the CT.

YA Conference 2017

The 2017 YA conference in Munich has been extremely successful. The conference theme was “ Planning and Entrepreneurship: Planning and Public Policy at the Intersection of Top-Down and Bottom-up action” . Thanks to the active and pationate involvement of the LOC (lead by Lukas Gilliard & Fabian Wenner) the conference managed to get support from different sponsors and managed to independently covert he budget of 13 356,15 Euros (German Research Foundation, TUM Department of Architecture, City of Munich: Department of Labour and Economic Development, ehret+ klein, TUM Graduate School, Urban Progress, Schnitzer). A total of 53 participants attended the conference, which was split into four tracks chaired by: Prof. Dr. Klaus Kunzmann, Prof. Richard Kingston, Assoc. Prof. Dr. phil. Sabine Knierbein, and Prof. Dr. phil. Ignacio Farias. From each track the best paper had been selected to be published in DISP – The planning Review. However, two of these papers have not been accepted for publication. A selection of 10 papers was equally made to be published in the 7th edition of PlaNext (to be published in January 2019).

YA Conference 2018

The University of Groningen LOC send in an extensive and well supported bid to host the 2018 YA conference. The theme is “ Navigating Change: Planning for societal and spatial transformations” . They already have the support and financial commitment of the faculty’s research institute (URSI) & Sustainable Society. They plan to offer 3 partial travel grants of 300 euros to increase the inclusiveness of the

conference. They currently estimate a budget of 13 800 Euros. The LOC shows an active involvement of both new and older YA members.

Conversations in Planning - YA Booklets

Many YAs are involved in this project. A certain delay is currently faced in regards to the publication of the booklets. The temporary solution proposed would be to publish the finished booklets online in the meanwhile, while waiting to get funding for hard-copy publications. Funding has been a major issue in the last year and a half which has led to the postponing of different expected publication deadlines.

YA Blog

The YA Blog has a world wide audience. Since its creation in March 2014 the blog has had 132 posts. Currently the blog has between 800 – 1500 visits per month with approximately 100 dedicated followers. The Editorial team of the blog is currently developing a new idea to invite graduate schools to host series of posts.

PlaNext – YA Journal

plaNext has currently eight members in the Editorial Board. Two of them have recently joined us through a call for new members. Those are:

- Chandrima Mukhopadhyay who is a visiting faculty at CEPT University, Summer Winter School, India
- Mafalda Madureira who is an assistant professor from the University of Twente, Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), the Netherlands

PlaNext and Transaction are currently coordinating their efforts to develop an Open Journal Publication that can eventually be used as a Digital publication platform for AESOP publications. Currently, plaNext is hosted by AESOP on the AESOP homepage. PlaNext is currently improving its organizational structure to improve its operational system by assigning defined roles to the Editorial Board members and by improving the operational mechanisms. Currently it is a challenge to reach out for the wider network of AESOP and YA. Limited contributions from AESOP and AESOP-YA are received. The national representatives and other members need to have an active role in spreading the word about PlaNext and in communicating the Open Call for papers when sending it out.

Networking & other events

The Young Academics network is collaborating with ICS-ULisboa on a one-day seminar entitled ‘Transforming knowledge for an era of Planetary Urbanization? Questioning the role of social sciences and humanities from an interdisciplinary perspective’.

The Young Academics network is collaborating with PUSH on the second ‘Urban Thinkers Campus’ in Palermo (6-8 April 2018). Supported by the United Nations, the purpose of the event is to translate the global principles of the New Urban Agenda in concrete urban policies at local level. The CT is part of the steering committee (represented by Aoife Doyle) involved in the evaluation of contributions.

During the YA conference in Munich, The ACSP (Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning) send a young academic representative to come and participate in the event and learn from how we organize and structure our network. It is inspiring to see that our young academic network is considered a best case example to learn from within these contexts.