



AESOP 2025 CONGRESS

Istanbul, 7-11 July



What planning needs from theorizing on place in times of global challenges

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A vibrant, sunlit street scene in a European city, likely St. Petersburg, Russia. The street is paved with cobblestones and lined with historic, multi-story buildings. A diverse group of people is walking along the sidewalk, including a couple kissing, a man walking a dog, and a man riding a bicycle. A blue street sign with Cyrillic text and an arrow is visible on the right. The overall atmosphere is lively and urban.

“Space becomes place when it is used, invested with meaning, and lived in.”

Cresswell 2004

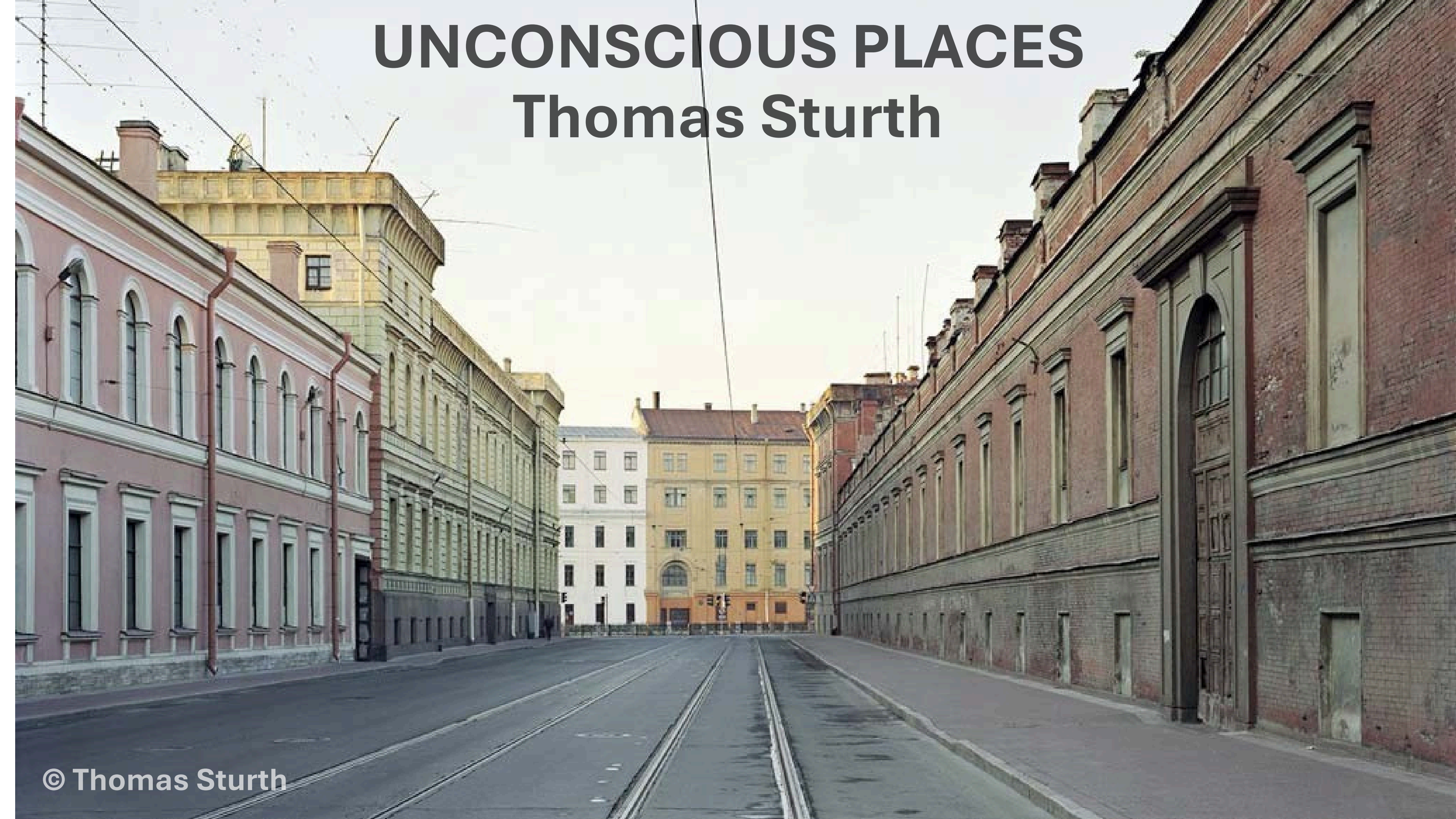



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A wide, empty street with tram tracks, flanked by multi-story buildings. The street is paved with asphalt and has white lines for the tram tracks. The buildings on the left are light-colored with arched windows, and the buildings on the right are brick. The sky is overcast.

'The translation of social purposes into space then presupposes that something is known about **how patterns of living and working can be affected, for good or ill, by the physical and spatial forms** imposed on them. In fact, beyond common-sense and accumulated experience, little is known..“

Hillier 2008



Humanistic
geographical
notion of place

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Relational notion of place



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Phenomenological notion of place

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Conclusions

- place as middle-range theory integrating theory and empirical application
- place as umbrella key word for planning as it deals with how the social meet the spatial
- more theorizing on place NOT at the expense of addressing pressing challenges of planning, but in support for it



Thank you!



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