

AESOP 2027 BIRMINGHAM CONGRESS – 19-23 July 2027

From Grey to Green: Planning and the De-Carbonisation of the City

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OPEN!

Dear AESOP Colleagues, Planning Scholars and Friends,

We are excited and looking very much forward to welcoming you in Birmingham for the 38th AESOP Annual Congress in the summer of 2027. The UK's 2nd city - young, multicultural, dynamic - yet marked by the impact of post-industrialisation embraces urban renewal, transformation and innovation. This year's congress theme, **"From Grey to Green: Planning and the De-Carbonisation of the City",** reflects on the competing challenges planners face around housing, well-being, biodiversity and much more while addressing the profound implications for the climate crisis and its many manifestations. Reconciling these imperatives is at the crux of contemporary urban planning practice and thinking.

The theme invites participants to explore and discuss how cities and regions can become greener (literally and metaphorically) and adapt to climate change impacts to become healthier and more resilient and thriving places. There will be important implications for contemporary and future planning professionals in respect to skills, aptitudes, knowledge regarding structures, governance, funding mechanisms and much more. There will need to be far greater interdisciplinary collaboration between disciplines but also between practice, industry, academia and the civic sector to facilitate the transition to greener liveable cities and regions.

We look forward to welcoming participants from across the globe to share insights, foster connections, and envision a shared future. Beyond the conference sessions, the city of Birmingham offers an inspiring backdrop—a living laboratory presenting various challenges, controversies and offering valuable lessons for planners from urban renewal to historic preservation, urban forests and community energy generation. Join us as we come together to foster transformations in our cities and regions toward greener, low-carbon, resilient and healthier societies and future.

In this call we invite you to submit your abstracts for the following scientific tracks for individual paper/poster presentations.

TRACK 1: Planning and Law

Laws as a catalyst for change; legal frameworks for greening/planning

TRACK 2: Mobility



Transport, land use integration and sustainable mobility planning, modelling

TRACK 3: Property Market Actors

Property market actors; financialisation, sustainability

TRACK 4: Placemaking, Urban Design and heritage conservation

Transformation potential of design

TRACK 5: Public space and urban culture

Urban experience, identity, sense of belonging and cultural landscapes

TRACK 6: Planning Education

Innovative pedagogical approaches and curricula for managing change and the grey to green transition

TRACK 7: Technologies and Methods

Emerging and classic digital technologies as methods and transformative triggers for planning

TRACK 8: Governance

Planning and democracy; Institutions, policy instruments, multi-level and/or place-based governance, legitimacy

TRACK 9: Theories

Critical approaches to planning theory, theory building

TRACK 10: Rural Planning

Rural spatial development planning, environmental conservation, food production and security

TRACK 11: Housing and Health

Planning for affordable cities, green and healthy housing and neighbourhoods

TRACK 12: Risk-Resilient Planning

Planning for mitigation and prevention of disasters, hazards and rebuilding

TRACK 13: Environment and Climate



Sharing knowledge and ideas for long-term sustainability and climate adaptation of cities and regions

TRACK 14: Inclusion

Planning for diverse, multicultural cities and societies

TRACK 15: Economics

Economic(s) of planning and land development including alternative and circular economic models

TRACK 16: Complexity and Future Transitions
Changing mindsets via novel, innovative methods and narratives for sustainable, just and green futures

TRACK 17: Ethics and Justice

Exploring (in)justices of grey to green transition, ethics and values

Please note – you may submit up to 2 individual papers for presentation per lead/presenting author. Individuals, additionally, can also be part of one round table or special session, or submit a poster.

AESOP accepts presentations with the option of a full paper submission. **High-quality papers are considered for Best Congress paper award.**

The Best Congress Paper Award (BCPA) was introduced in 2005 to recognize congress papers that stand out in terms of their relevance, quality and originality (theoretical, methodological and empirical). Clarity of argumentation and presentation is also considered. The selection is made by track co-chairs and the BCPA Committee, who encourage ambitious author(s) to submit publishable / journal-quality congress papers. The Award offers the author(s) a public recognition and visibility, a monetary grant, and an invitation to be reviewed for publishing in the AESOP's Transactions Journal. You can need to indicate your intention to submit a full paper and can also self-nominate your submission later for consideration for the Best Paper Award. For criteria and past BCPA recipients see HERE



Please visit the AESOP 2027 Birmingham website for more information!

For Questions relating to abstracts or the congress more generally, please contact us: academic.conferences@contacts.bham.ac.uk

The congress website will be continually updated with further information. Please watch out for the call for Special Sessions and Roundtables in beginning of December.

We are looking forward to receiving your submissions!

Andrea I Frank, Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, Chair of Local Organising Committee for AESOP 2027

Austin Barber, Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, Deputy Chair of LOC