



6TH WORLD PLANNING SCHOOLS CONGRESS
FINLAND : HELSINKI / ESPOO / TAMPERE

World Planning Schools Congress 2026

PERIPHERAL VISIONS - RETHINKING PLANNING

Book of Abstracts

June 2026

Hosted by:



In collaboration with:



Supported by



Affiliated with:



and GPEAN Members:





6TH WORLD PLANNING SCHOOLS CONGRESS
FINLAND : HELSINKI / ESPOO / TAMPERE

Editorial information

Title

World Planning Schools Congress 2026 PERIPHERAL VISIONS - RETHINKING
PLANNING

Subtitle

Book of Abstracts

Editor

Eva Purkarthofer

ISBN

978-952-64-9693-1

Published by

Aalto University, Finland

Publication date

June 23, 2026

Rights

This book is published open access (CC BY 4.0).

Please consult the congress website (www.wpsc2026.org) or the congress app for the presentation times and rooms, as changes might occur.



Table of contents

Keynote lectures & plenary sessions	5
Roundtables	9
GPEAN Special Sessions	52
Track 1: Accessibility and Mobility	53
Track 2: Culture and Heritage	133
Track 3: Economics	150
Track 4: Education and Skills	169
Track 5: Environment	201
Track 6: Governance	264
Track 7: Histories	345
Track 8: Ethics and Values	360
Track 9: Law	387
Track 10: Politics	399
Track 11: Practices and Actors	413
Track 12: Shelter	448
Track 13: Technologies	487
Track 14: Theories	528
Track 15: Crises	562
Special sessions	585
SS1: Activism in Peripheral Cities	585
SS2: AI and Planning Practice	590
SS4: City-University collaboration	601
SS5: Coastal Planning	617
SS6: Cross-sectoral Co-creation	628
SS7: Demographic Shifts	633
SS8: Ec(h)otoning Urban Futures	639



6TH WORLD PLANNING SCHOOLS CONGRESS
FINLAND : HELSINKI / ESPOO / TAMPERE

SS9: Empty(ing) Spaces	648
SS10: Energy Transitions	654
SS11: Extractivism	673
SS12: Feminism and Intersectionality	679
SS13: Food	691
SS15: Good City	701
SS16: Land and Soil	710
SS17: Nordic Planning	725
SS18: Open City	730
SS19: Peripheral Centralities	739
SS20: Planetary Boundaries	759
SS21: Public Interest	762
SS22: Regional Design	770
SS23: Small Towns	778
SS24: Temporality	791
SS25: Tourism	809
SS26: Transforming Industrial Regions	818
SS27: Ukraine	822
SS28: Urban Experimentation	825
SS29: Water Futures	831
SS30: Waterfronts	843
Online presentations	849

Green Carbon and Landscape

Thu 2.7.14:00-15:30, Environment A, A123 A1 | Session chair(s): Nora Fagerholm

2506 | Davide Vettore

Landscape under pressure: rethinking the role of landscape assessment in times of climate and ecological transition

Across Europe, landscape is increasingly exposed to overlapping pressures from climate change, biodiversity loss and energy transition. Within environmental planning and assessment, landscape often remains a marginal and weakly operational category, constrained by fragmented visual studies and static inventories. Building on a landscape evaluation framework, this contribution explores how landscape can be assessed in ways that respond to contemporary environmental transformations and support territorial resilience.

The research adopts a conceptual lens informed by Eugenio Turri's understanding of landscape as a culturally mediated, perceptual relation between society and territory, and Alberto Magnaghi's notion of territorial heritage as a living, place-based system of environmental, productive and symbolic values. From this perspective, landscape is not a backdrop, but a dynamic interface where environmental change, everyday practices and long-term territorial structures intersect.

Empirically, the Italian context offers a laboratory for testing landscape indicators, characterised by strong regional differences and uneven data availability. In particular, the ISPRA's "Carta della Natura" system of indicators provides a multi-scalar description of habitats, ecological value and landscape quality, offering an occasion to explore how these indicators can support Environmental Impact Assessment, and highlighting whether their current use remains weakly connected to planning practices.

Methodologically, the research combines a critical review of existing practices with the development of a framework of landscape indicators tailored to contemporary transitions. This framework articulates different families of indicators – morphological and land-use patterns, ecological connectivity and ecosystem functions, perceptual dimensions, and socio-cultural practices – and discusses how they can be operationalised using existing datasets and adapted to local specificities.

Rethinking landscape indicators is not only a technical exercise, but a way to reposition landscape at the core of environmental planning, enabling planners to read impacts, address conflicts and support informed decisions on preserving and improving landscape quality.

2748 | Federica Isola, Francesca Leccis, Federica Leone, Corrado Zoppi

Regional spatial planning and global climate change: An ecosystem service-based approach concerning two Southern Italian Regions

Climate change presents significant threats to human health, influencing both physical conditions and mental well-being. Reducing these impacts depends on keeping the carbon cycle in balance, since carbon dioxide helps control the planet's temperature by shaping the behavior of greenhouse gases. In accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement, which aims for climate neutrality by the end of the century, the objective is to keep global warming within 1.5 °C by reaching a balance between carbon released into the atmosphere and carbon removed from it. Yet the carbon that is already accumulated in

the atmosphere could still drive roughly 0.6 °C of additional warming, even if emissions ceased immediately. For this reason, attaining net-zero emissions is crucial to avoid surpassing the temperature threshold and underscores the need to understand how ecosystems store and capture carbon.

This study introduces a methodological approach to achieving climate neutrality through planning strategies, relying on the Carbon Capture Capacity (CCC) indicator to evaluate existing conditions and emerging patterns. CCC is examined together with five ecosystem services (ESs): reduction of heat stress, habitat quality, agricultural and timber outputs, scenic value, and the potential for outdoor recreation (POA). The analysis investigates spatial relationships between CCC and these ESs in Basilicata and Campania to assess how multifunctional ecosystems can strengthen carbon sequestration and support global climate-neutrality goals.

The spatial distribution of CCC is derived using the “Carbon Storage and Sequestration” module in the InVEST software, which calculates carbon stored in above- and below-ground vegetation, dead organic matter, and soils. Findings indicate that heat-stress reduction and habitat quality show the strongest positive associations with CCC, while POA has a moderate influence. Agricultural and timber production, along with scenic value, display weaker connections; however, scenic value highlights the importance of carefully locating photovoltaic and wind energy systems to preserve landscape character.

2489 | Paula-Kaisa Leppänen

Residential vegetation and its climate impacts

Challenges in densely built urban areas, such as the heat island effect and urban flooding, will be exacerbated by climate change due to abundance of impervious surfaces and the scarcity of vegetation. Preserving and enhancing urban green infrastructure is a cost-effective way to mitigate many of the problems posed by climate change. Although urban green and its climate impacts have received increasing attention, the current research has not systematically studied carbon sequestration and storage capacity of residential green spaces, and how planning practices affect the associated climate benefits. Furthermore, surveys of urban vegetation have primarily focused on domestic gardens or public green areas, often neglecting the urban yards of apartment buildings, even though they are a common urban typology and thus impact the lives of major part of citizens.

This study focuses on this research gap of residential vegetation of urban neighbourhoods and their climate benefits, especially carbon sequestration and storage. In order to understand the complexity of the topic a multi-scalar and multidisciplinary approach is required. Hence, the study examines urban vegetation through a combination of field survey, GIS-based analyses, and climate modelling. The case-studies were conducted in Helsinki.

The study demonstrates that residential areas constructed in the early 2010s exhibit lower levels of vegetation, especially large trees, compared to older neighbourhoods. This reduction in canopy cover has, in turn, diminished the climate benefits provided by residential vegetation. Our research underscores the importance of ensuring sufficient tree cover and permeable surfaces in cities with progressive climate mitigation agendas throughout urban planning, construction, and property management stages.