



EPICamp V: Sustainable cities and regional transitions Illuminating city–hinterland co-evolutionary relationships

Online EPICamp hosted by BOKU Vienna
Call for Participation primarily aimed at early career researchers

DATE: 31 March/1 April 2022

Application deadline for active participation: 7 March 2022

This EPICamp is part of the EPICUR Research project. More info on EPICUR Research can be found at the end of this call.

Rapid urbanisation turns cities into highly dynamic building blocks of sustainable development. Urban sustainability is regularly examined in relation to the living environment, its design, supply of ecosystem services, its appropriation and transformation, both on an object scale (e.g., what do streets or urban green spaces look like, how can they be transformed along the mobility shift and what are their effects) and on a larger scale (e.g., green space provision and green space justice), and includes both immediate and long-term effects of the XXI century crisis such as effects of climate change or the COVID-19 pandemic on societal needs, expectations, and behaviour. Sustainability at the urban scale is thought of not only as an interdisciplinary, cross-cutting issue between different topics like urban landscape planning, mobility, urban environmental justice, or waste management, but also as tightly related to the relationships with the urban hinterland.

Cities are already characterised by a relatively low per-capita resource use and emissions as compared to national averages. However, cities also heavily draw on complex supply chains from their national hinterland or from other countries, inducing significant resource use and emissions elsewhere which increases the overall ecological footprint of goods and services consumed by city residents. Considering this spatial disconnection between production and consumption is essential in urban sustainability analysis. Consequently, cities have to be thought of as embedded in their regional rural hinterland, as well as in the wider national and global economy and in a multi-scale and multi-layer ecosystem services system. Promoting local circular commerce and reducing outsourcing of environmental burdens in production chains may allow reducing emissions, ecological footprints, and increasing care for the environment. This EPICamp will identify contemporary challenges and best practice examples for cross-border, interdisciplinary research collaboration.

List of keywords and sub-themes (other related topics are welcome):

1. Relationships between cities and rural hinterland in the context of sustainability
2. Urban and regional sustainability transition and environmental justice
3. Urban metabolism, incl. trade and resource footprints
4. Renewable and efficient energy production
5. Landscape and urban planning
6. Green infrastructure, nature-based solutions and human-nature interactions in urban context
7. Social aspects of urban sustainability transformation and citizen engagement in decision making
8. Digitization, smart cities and bio-cities
9. Water and solid waste management, resource use, and circular economy
10. Urban remediation to recover the land and the original value
11. Built-environment and land take, incl. land sealing
12. Sustainable transportation and mobility
13. Urban climate change mitigation and adaptation
14. Urban and peri-urban ecosystem services and biodiversity
15. Public health in urban areas and role of landscape planning, incl. COVID-19 related issues

Submissions and Participation

EPICUR invites scholars, NGOs including public institutions, institutes, social organizations, funding agencies, infrastructure providers (such as archives, libraries, museums etc.), business etc. to come together and share their insights, concerns, needs and vision for the future. There are **three options for participation in the EPICamp**:

- 1) **Participation with Thematic Contribution:** you may submit a proposal for one of the following potential formats. As EPICamps are non-traditional gatherings, so are potential submissions. We invite prospective participants to apply with innovative and creative formats as well as submissions that are more traditional in format but aim for inter- and/or transdisciplinary exchange. Applicants may choose one of the following proposed formats or add their own:
 - **Pitch Presentations** (not more than 5 slides / 5min) / virtual posters introducing current research as well as research ideas
 - **Open Discussion Groups:** please submit topic/theme along with three discussion questions
 - **Workshops & Skill Presentations:** please submit a short paragraph outlining the particular topic/method/skill you wish to address in a mini-workshop
 - **Plenary Presentation**, ca. 30min (we particularly encourage Early Career Researchers to submit in this section)
 - **Other formats:** please describe the format and content
- 2) **Participation with Organizational Contribution:** you can offer to moderate a format (open discussion), facilitate group interactions, or report on sessions in which you participated. Applicants will receive their assignments and guidelines from the organizing team.
- 3) **Participation as an active attendee:** you can also simply join the EPICamp as a participant actively listening and contributing to the discussions and networking activities.

ALL applications, regardless of the manner of participation, must be submitted through this form [<https://forms.office.com/r/LSEYZ23Xv8>]. We highly encourage you to fill out all relevant sections with care, as matchmaking and networking events will be based on these responses. Please note that the EPICamp will take place online.

Applications must be submitted March 7, 2022 for due consideration, with the exception of the third option registration, which will be considered until March 30, 2022.

You can contact the EPICUR organizing team (epicur-research@mail.uni-freiburg.de) for all questions.

Disclaimer: Equity – Diversity - Inclusion

EPICUR is an alliance dedicated to the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion and aims to provide a space that is welcoming and encouraging to all scholars, particularly those, which have been traditionally underrepresented in academic environments. We, therefore, welcome all suggestions and ideas that help us make this event as inclusive and useful to the EPICURian community of researchers as possible, with special regard paid to the need of early career researchers. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at any point before, during or after the EPICamp.

EPICUR

EPICUR, *the European Partnership for an Innovative Campus Unifying Regions*, is a first-generation European University Alliance, dedicated to shaping European Society in Transition through the development of collaborative inter- and transdisciplinary teaching and learning. With support of Horizon 2020, EPICUR establishes a complementary research and innovation agenda. Initiating a bottom-up process, **EPICUR aims to connect Early Career Researchers (ECRs)** in new European networks. With the help of several open fora – the so-called EPICamps – EPICUR seeks to foster the formation of research groups across disciplines and national borders, who address one of three societal (EPI-) challenges: **sustainability, mobility/migration/identity, public health**. Under the umbrella of these EPIChallenges, EPICUR will organize six EPICamps throughout 2021/22, each narrowing in on different aspects of these broad themes and inviting a diverse round of researchers and societal partners to exchange ideas. Following the EPICamps, researchers in collaboration with external partners, will have an opportunity to compete for grants to grow their emerging research networks (the EPICradles) and transform research ideas into EPIClusters: collaborative, challenge-based research projects run by ECRs.

EPICamps – New Collaborative Formats

As societies struggle to address and govern increasingly complex challenges which defy the bounds of modern states, governmental institutions, such as the European Union, turn to research communities to provide answers. According to the European Commission (EC) and its funding schemes, this requires a new – larger and more intensive – collaboration between researchers across Europe and in all research fields. With its support of European University Initiatives, the EC thus seeks to contribute to the establishment of research collaborations reflecting the diversity of Europe.

Expanding the concepts of traditional scientific conferences and workshops, **EPICamps will be open gatherings engendering new partnerships and serving as seedbeds for research ideas beyond the scopes of single disciplines or fields**. Thus, EPICamps will feature various formats, ranging from short presentations and panel discussions to academic matchmaking events and interactive ad-hoc discussion rounds, from virtual posters and project exhibits to search/offer blackboards. EPICamp will offer emerging scholars the opportunities to present their research, interests, and ideas as well as discover and meet with peers who complement and expand their work. To foster manifold exchanges, the EPICamps – in addition to thematic sessions – will also give room to researchers and non-university partners to connect over questions of methodology, tools, ethical queries and data management, didactics, science communication and other aspects of academic pursuits.