



European
Sociological
Association



Biennial Report of 37 Research Network – Urban Sociology 2019-2021

1. Name and Number of RN: 37. RN – Urban Sociology

2. Names and email addresses of:

a. Outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

Coordinator: Marta Smagacz-Poziemska - marta.smagacz-poziemska@uj.edu.pl

Co-coordinator: M. Victoria Gómez - mgomez@polsoc.uc3m.es

Co-coordinator: Patrícia Pereira - patricia.pereira@fcsh.unl.pt

Board Members:

Gabriele Manella - gabriele.manella@unibo.it

Rui Carvalho - rui_carvalho@brown.edu

Katrin Paadam - katrin.paadam@taltech.ee

Jan Üblacker - jan.ueblacker@ils-forschung.de

b. Incoming Coordinators and board members (new term after the 2021 Barcelona conference)

Coordinator: Gabriele Manella - gabriele.manella@unibo.it

Vice-coordinator: Katarzyna Kajdanek - katarzyna.kajdanek@uwr.edu.pl

Board members:

Jan Üblacker - jan.ueblacker@ils-forschung.de

Anna Bednarczyk - ankabebe@gmail.com

Madalena Corte-Real - madalena.cortereal@iscte-iul.pt

Niccolò Morelli - niccolo.morelli@unicatt.it

Jan Üblacker - j.ueblacker@ebz-bs.de

PhD Student Representative: Rui Carvalho - rui_carvalho@brown.edu

3. Activities:

a. IV Mid-term conference

In January 2021 the RN37 – in cooperation with the University of Bologna – Department of Sociology and Business Law (UNIBO-SDE) – organized the midterm conference “Urban Theory and Urban Praxis: Past, Present and Possible Futures”. The conference was originally planned to take place in Bologna, Italy, in September 2020, but due to the Covid19 pandemic restrictions, we postponed and switched it into an online format. The RN37 board coordinated the conference concept process, the promotion

and dissemination of the call for sessions and the call for abstracts submission and evaluation, the conference program (key-note speakers, sessions and chairs), the contact with the organisers and the authors, etc. For 4 months the board was supported by a PhD student from UNIBO-SDE. The IT system was provided by ESA (Zoom), hosted by four members of RN37 and one person from UNIBO-SDE.

Our call was widely spread through: mailing to the RN37 members, mailing to the national sociological associations, RN37 blog (<http://esarn37.hypotheses.org/>), websites and RN37 Facebook profile (<https://web.facebook.com/esarn37/>). To support urban researchers and to encourage people's participation in the event we decided to organize the conference without any fee for the presenting authors, session organizers as well as for ESA members non-presenters (this decision was accepted by ESA).

220 people registered (50 as session organizers or co-organizers, 140 as presenting authors or co-authors, 30 as audience). 90 people who were not ESA members also intended to register, but the RN37 Board decided not to admit them to avoid a potential overload of the Zoom system.

We had 21 panels with presentations (15 thematic sessions), 2 panels organized as roundtables, 3 key-note lectures and 2 additional events with open discussions: the business meeting and a further roundtable with the session chairs. We invited 3 keynote speakers (no expenses): 1) Ayse Caglar: Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna and Permanent Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, who talked about *Migrants within city-making processes: Looking through the lens of disempowered cities* 2) Giampaolo Nuvolati: Professor of Sociology of Environment and Territory, Vice-Rector for Public Engagement and Director of the Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan-Bicocca, who talked about *Does the city still exist? Is urban sociology alive? Provocations regarding our discipline* 3) Terry N. Clark: Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago, President of ISA RC03 Community, International Coordinator of the Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation Project, who talked about *Scenes transform cities*.

b. RN37. activities at the ESA Conference in 2021

RN37 – Urban Sociology organized 17 RN sessions, a semi-plenary session about “Covid-19 in the City: Building Positive Futures” jointly organized with RN16 – Sociology of Health and Medicine (with Antonio Maturo and Raquel Rolnik as keynote speakers) and 3 Joint Sessions: with RN01 - Ageing in Europe (“Urban ageing: Towards an enhanced spatial perspective”), with RN15 - Global, Transnational and Cosmopolitan Sociology (“Transforming cities in a global transforming world: (trans) local experiences”), and with RN27 – Regional Network Southern European Societies (“Homelessness in Southern European cities”).

c. Online information and promotion

As mentioned above, the former RN board established a Facebook profile: <https://web.facebook.com/esarn37/>, a Twitter account (@Rn37S) and a website <http://esarn37.hypotheses.org/> to communicate activities such as the publications of RN37 members, conferences and meeting calls, academic fellowships in the area of urban studies etc. to members and the general public. We have 2778 followers on Facebook. The official communication tool, exclusive for members, is the platform CiviCRM (current information sent by the coordinator).

d. Collaboration within ESA with other RNs:

In 2021 we worked with RN01, RN12, RN15, RN27 and RN35 on Semi-Plenary Proposals and Joint Sessions Proposals for the 2021 ESA Conference in Barcelona. After that, we also cooperated with the coordinators of these networks on the evaluation of the abstracts, contact with the speakers and organization of the sessions.

e. Plans for further activities of RN 37

We would like to keep the path trailed so far and continue the work we have been doing for the past five years. Our team consists of three “old” and four new members coming from different parts of Europe: Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain. This provides continuity and stability on the one hand, new energy and fresh ideas on the other. This will put us in an excellent position to both consolidate the network and work towards infusing new strategies and initiatives to improve the communication among our members, the creation of opportunities for collaboration and the dissemination of collaborative and individual work.

To do so we will:

- 1) Continue developing and expanding our online presence (website, Facebook and Twitter), and empower our members to participate more directly in the communication tools.
- 2) Organize the V Midterm-Conference in Berlin (Germany) in October 2022, entitled: “Seeing Like a City /Seeing the City Through”. For this conference we will first open a call for session proposals, to enhance the participation of members and potential members beyond individual presentations. After the list of sessions has been finalized, a second call for individual abstracts to be integrated in the accepted sessions will be opened.
- 3) Organize a 1-day PhD workshop at the V mid-term conference to facilitate the exchange and communication between PhD students and other members of the RN37. The workshop can also be a platform for the advancement of their research, so the proposed theme will be defined to foster innovative ways to apply urban research methodologies.
- 4) Support publications by RN37 members through:
 - the publication of an edited volume with contributions from the next Midterm Conference (as in the case of the monograph published by Springer in 2017 and Palgrave in 2019);
 - information and updates about publications by RN37 members (via Facebook, Twitter, website, ESA mailing list).
- 5) Develop our collaboration with other ESA Research Networks as well as other urban research networks.