



SOCIAL POLIS Newsletter: April 2011

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Workshop on Transdisciplinary research methodology in Milan cancelled

We are sorry to tell you that given the lack of interest in the Social Polis workshop on transdisciplinary research methodology (we received only a few abstracts), the workshop has been canceled. But the Social Innovation session at the ESPANET conference will be organised together with Social Polis. Sarah Habersack, Paola di Martino (together with Enrica Morlicchio and Lucia Cavola) and Jordi Vila Carrasco will present at that session.

However, the Social Polis platform still considers the theme of transdisciplinarity crucial and wants to keep working on it in the future.

We would be glad to receive any alternative proposals for other possible initiatives (at different dates and in different forms) which can be organized for continuing the work on transdisciplinary methodology.

Please send your proposals to Frank Moulaert and Davide Cassinari.

Sorry for this. Looking forward to your suggestions.

International Conference Series in Berlin: Rethinking Migration

Climate, Resource Conflicts, and Politics of Migration/Refugees in Europe

The Network Migration in Europe - in Cooperation with the University of Bremen, Research Group „Migremus“, Institute for Geography, and the Federal Agency for Civic Education – organizes the second international conference of the cycle “rethinking migration”: Climate, Resource Conflicts, and Politics of Migration/Refugees in Europe. The conference will be held in Berlin on October 13th and 14th 2011.

In public discourse, climate change and environmental changes are repeatedly represented as an essential trigger for flight and migration. It is assumed that environmental changes caused by climate change represent a significant social challenge because they lead to a worsening of many people's living conditions and increasing global inequalities. On a global level, these assumptions might be correct. To date, however, only very few studies focus on the question which impact these induced environmental changes might have on the regional and local level. On the political level, climate change is therefore not solely regarded as an environmental problem but is predominantly discussed as a resource problem and question of equality. Parallel to that, in the course of climate change, new forms of control and regulation of temporary and permanent migration are introduced globally.

The international conference is divided into three parts which trace the questions of causes, consequences and forms of appearance of climate migration/refugee as well as controversial approaches to a solution of the complex interrelation between climate and flight/migration.

http://www.network-migration.org/pr_rethinking_migration_eng.php

Upcoming events

Date	Title
07 Jul 11 - 09 Jul 11	<i>ISA – RC21 Conference: The struggle to belong. Dealing with diversity in 21st century urban settings, Amsterdam</i>
16 May 11 - 17 May 11	<i>Conference - call for Papers: Disasters – Mobility – Communications: Exploring the Links, Bielefeld</i>

Open Days 2010 Proceedings

The Proceedings of the European Open Days 2010, which took place in Brussels from the 4th to the 7th of October 2010, are now available online at the [Open Days web site](#). If you wish to receive printed copies, please send a request via e-mail to opendays@cor.europa.eu specifying the number of copies you would like to receive.

Repairing broken communities: clear village project in North Germany

Starting from April 2011, Clear Village is going to be part of an urban regeneration project in a deprived area in Kiel, Germany, bringing community involvement and engagement to a real estate refurbishment project.

The context

The area is a social housing neighbourhood close to the centre of Kiel, mainly populated with single unemployed migrants. As in many other cities, budget cuts mean councils are withdrawing from the social housing sector and selling property to private real estate companies. This leaves more power over the neighbourhood to private operators which reduce their costs and gain their rents from the council's unemployment benefits paid to the area residents.

The outcome

The role of Clear Village is to inform the residents about the ongoing renovation and promote their participation. The project will also deal with making the change visible on the building and in the surrounding areas, as well as creating a local story finalized in an exhibition. The project will begin in the summer. It aims to write a good story on how disempowered residents can be part of the improvement of their life and of their neighbourhood – therefore how they can become empowered.

Clear Village will utilise its participation expertise to promote a transformation of the area perception. It will start with an onsite survey focusing on the needs and aspirations of the residents. The outcome of this process will be used for a design brief on the refurbishment of built environment and public space.

Further information on:

<http://www.clear-village.org/2011/04/01/repairing-broken-communities-clear-village-project-in-north-germany/>

<http://www.clear-village.org/2011/04/12/was-kieler-wollen/>

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