

Inventer le Grand Paris /Inventing Grand Paris

Cross-perspectives on metropolitan areas from the 1940s to the late 1960s

International Conference – 3 & 4 décembre 2015 - Paris

CALL FOR PAPERS

Organizing Committee

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The third international conference *Inventing "Grand Paris"* will be held on 3 and 4 December 2015 in Paris. This conference is part of a multi-year programme on the history of the Greater Paris region, harnessing urban research in an international, interdisciplinary perspective. The first conference (held in December 2013 at the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine) began by studying the work of the Commission for the Extension of Paris in 1913; this commission is considered to be the first expression of a project to plan and organise "Greater Paris". The second conference (held in December 2014 at the Petit Palais) focused on the context of the 1934 Development Plan for the Paris Region (*Plan d'aménagement de la région parisienne*, or PARP), better known as the "Prost Plan". The third conference will aim to reassess the planning of Greater Paris between the Second World War and the initial implementation of the Master Plan for Development and Urban Planning in the Paris Region (*Schéma directeur d'aménagement et d'urbanisme de la région de Paris*, or SDAURP) published in 1965, in a comparative approach including other metropolitan areas. Like the two previous conferences, the aim will also be to cast light on current events related to Greater Paris.

1965, a milestone year in the implementation of regional planning

Against a backdrop of increased state planning and intervention, new public policies were implemented on the basis of legal, administrative and operational tools. In France as in other countries, regional development – impacted by urban demographic, economic and geographic expansion – was at the heart of this mobilisation of the state, the public sector and civil society.

During this period, the Paris region was the focal point for implementing this state planning: revision of the Development Plan for the Paris Region (PARP) in 1956, the Plan for Development and General Organisation (PADOG) in 1960, the Master Plan for Development and Urban Planning in the Paris Region (SDAURP) in 1965. How were these events connected? What institutional setup came into being, and how were the

administrative bodies in charge of planning built? Which spatial areas were involved? How can we describe urban planning thought, and what place did the landscape hold in these planning processes?

A metropolitan area, between planning and production

The conference will aim to connect this unprecedented regional planning effort with the question of how a metropolis is constructed. It will adopt a new approach to post-War suburban development, the categorisation of certain major development projects in a metropolitan strategy, the status of major projects such as La Défense, the Rungis national food market or the airports, the design and route of the RER (regional express railway) and motorways, etc. It will cast light on the interactions and conflicts between the state's desire to plan, local powers and civil society on questions of renovation and urban and economic planning. Lastly, it will potentially be an opportunity to study the regional development role played by private and public sector real estate developers.

This conference should also look at the history of the planning of central Paris (Paris Urban Planning Master Plan) and the public debate about the future of Paris. This conference will also put into perspective the Paris regional planning experience within the framework of the policies of the DATAR (*Délégation à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'action régionale*, the Delegation for Territorial Development and Regional Action) and the formation of urban communities.

Towards a comparative and connected history of metropolitan areas

The conference will also be an opportunity to position French regional planning internationally by investigating its place in the circulation of models and ideas, and its role in the international context (post-War reconstruction, Cold War, decolonisation), which affected project planning. The polycentric planning of Greater London will be examined, as will other lesser-known experiences in North America, Scandinavian or Eastern European countries, Latin America or former colonies.

The conference will also explore situations in which Paris regional planning, and notably the 1965 SDAURP, became an example to follow in other parts of the world. More broadly, we will endeavour to investigate international encounters and the circulation of the theories driving these models.

Lastly, the conference will endeavour to compare the situation of Greater Paris with planning processes underway in many other metropolitan areas during the same period. The aim will be to study the various forms – from overall visions to detailed plans – of metropolitan and regional planning internationally and through the media.

Scientific Committee

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While historiography has constantly been renewed over the past few years, this anticipated crossing of research on metropolises will certainly open up new research avenues and new approaches.

Proposals for 20-minute papers in French or English should be sent by e-mail to the following address:

inventer.grandparis@gmail.com

These should be in Word format and one-half of an A4 page maximum (about 1,200 characters), and be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae (name, address, education and degrees, current position and institutional affiliation, research areas and main publications). Submission deadline: 31 May 2015.

