CALL FOR PANELS
Virtual TRIALOG Conference 2021

Changing voices?

European Civil Society in the Global Urban Development Discourse

8. - 11. September (online)

Civil society's engagement in urban development in Africa, Asia and Latin America provides a complex picture which can be interpreted in many different ways. This year's TRIALOG conference aims for a critical self-reflection of past and future roles of European civil society and academia. While assessing the roles and impacts of these Civil society Organisations (CSOs), and the transitions and reform processes they underwent, we also would like to discuss its way forward: What will be the new roles for the coming generation of CSOs?

Despite their continuous growing importance for global social, economic, and environmental development and sustainability, urban areas in Africa, Asia and Latin America struggled receiving attention and support. This negligence was also caused by their perception of being predominantly rural, which the North was forcing on "developing countries" and justified that governments denied the national populations their right to urbanize and transform.

In this context, a diversifying landscape of Europe-based civil society and academia stepped into the important role of critically reflecting on prejudices and challenging the hegemonic interpretations of development. This included NGOs like OXFAM, Action Aid, Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung and VENRO, academic institutions like the DPU of the University College London, the IHS, SPRING, and networks like HIC and N-AERUS. Such associations and networks were created to provide greater visibility and to promote alternative ways for development, by exchanging on, learning and informing about the conditions and dynamics in the Global South. Civil society has since then contributed to broaden the discourse in Europe. It has also helped to shape our common understanding of urban development today.

We are calling for proposals for open format panels in parallel sessions that contribute to one or more of the aspects below. Applicants for panels will be responsible for writing a call for papers or other relevant contributions for their panel, which will be published on the TRIALOG website and can be further distributed in all accessible networks. (Paper) contributions should either provide insights into practise, informed experience (in an association or a related project), or other (empiric) evidence or based on research.

This list provides potential main themes with examples that illustrate the topic. Thinking outside the box is welcomed and other perspectives to address the overarching conference title are welcomed.

Civil Society Contributions over time

- o Value and change of *content contributions* to the discourse in the last 30 years,
- o Historic role of Civil Society in the urban discourse and their visions, e.g. in relation to the HABITAT conferences and other milestone events,
- o CSO actors engaged in *knowledge creation and exchange*,
- o The different regional spectra of *actors in the urban realm and their perceptions*

Opportunities and challenges for CSO establishment and performance

- o Change management in civic societies in terms of institutional sustainability,
- o Processes of civil *society institutionalization and establishment,*
- o bureaucratic challenges and the resilience of such organizations,
- o its *organizational and membership culture*, a CSO, its identity and diversity, timeliness, economy of CSOs, etc.)

Perceptions and reputation, networking and interactions of CSOs

- o Interface between practice and theory - a tightrope walk
- o Partners' perception from outside Europe,
- o Reflecting social change, changing members and values,
- o Adaptive capacities or conformist behaviourism,
- o Underlying political notions in CSOs: reformist or value conservation
- o CSO's scale of action and networking.

Useful Information for Panel Organizers

We invite all interested individuals and organisations to apply for preparing a panel. As panel organizer we expect you to actively engage in soliciting papers or other valuable contributions for your panel and also moderate and collect the content of the presentations or discussions. TRIALOG and IHS aim for a conference that brings together academics as well as reflective practitioners. Your panel can be leaning to one of these audiences, or aim for a mixed participation.

Requirements for Panel proposals and structure

A panel should:

- o Comprise three to five presentations or other relevant contribution (such as discussion format) and should also allow for a discussion with the audience (slots for panels during the conference are 90 minutes).
- o Or, comprise a minimum of three and a maximum of five discussants, in addition to the chair.
- o The chair should act as moderator of the panel, and can also act as rapporteur, if there is no other person available.
- o The panels may be organized in English, German or another language, as long as panel organizers are able to ensure that translation for non-English and non-German speakers is provided and an English summary of the panel proceedings will be presented in the plenary.

Panel proposals should include:

- o The title and brief description of max 250 words, including information about the background and desired contributions of the potential presenters' (abstracts can be submitted at a later stage).
- o The proposal should be written in the main language to be used by the panel.

How and when to apply?

Proposals can be submitted via the submission form available until 22. May 2021 on TRIALOG's website https://www.trialog-journal.de/en/association/conferences-agm/
or here: https://form.jotform.com/211076386714053

By 20 June 2021, we will publish the accepted panels and respective calls for papers on our website and via email (conference@trialog-journal.de). When the panels are decided, a call for abstracts will be announced.

How to proceed afterwards?

Proposals for papers and contributions will be submitted to TRIALOG. Once a paper or contribution abstract is received for your panel, TRIALOG will acknowledge receipt and you will be notified. It is up to the panel organizers to accept or reject proposals. You should also make suggestions to paper and contribution providers on improving their proposal to meet the following criteria. It may be advisable that you, as the author/s of the proposal for the panel, will serve as chair to the panel, otherwise you should appoint a chair. You may also choose to have a discussant to the panel.

We aim for a geographically balanced participation and especially encourage participation from "voices less heard".

See you soon online!