

TERRI TORIAL TURN!

**Towards just, ecological
and collaborative urbanism**



145 Institute of Urbanism

**PROGRAM
SYMPOSIUM
15.–16.09.2022**

TERRITORIAL TURN!

Towards just, ecological
and collaborative urbanism

The symposium elaborates on changes, values and framework conditions of urbanism. The discussion on theoretical concepts and ideas, as well as pioneering practical urban design propositions should contribute to actively think, plan, design, and implement an ecological and equitable urban future on a territorial scale.

Urbanism is the art, science and technology of developing human settlements. It is less about the buildings themselves than about their arrangement, relationship to each other and connection to the environment and the people. Crises have influenced the discipline of urbanism as much as they have had an impact on the development of the various urbanism movements. Currently, the pandemic, war conflicts but also the challenges of climate change, e.g. through increasing severe weather events, have once again confronted us with the fragility of the built environment, its sustainability and relationship with its territory. It thus raises the call for a rethinking of the goals and means of urbanism. In the face of immense environmental and social challenges, a paradigm shift in planning approaches is needed.

The Territorial Turn! Symposium organized by the Institute of Urbanism under the direction of Prof. Aglaée Degros offers the opportunity to actively discuss and exchange with keynotes, presenters and panel discussants on potential changes and solutions for a territorial turn. It will explore new framework conditions and values in urbanism. Panelists and the public are exploring large-scale proposals as well as micro scale initiatives, by looking for approaches that replace the predominantly building-oriented attitude in favour of an increased appreciation of the territory in its urban forms but also its social dynamics and ecological values.

145 Institute of Urbanism

Symposium Team
Prof. Aglaée Degros, Dr. Eva Schwab
MSc Jennifer Fauster, Dr. Sandra Guinand

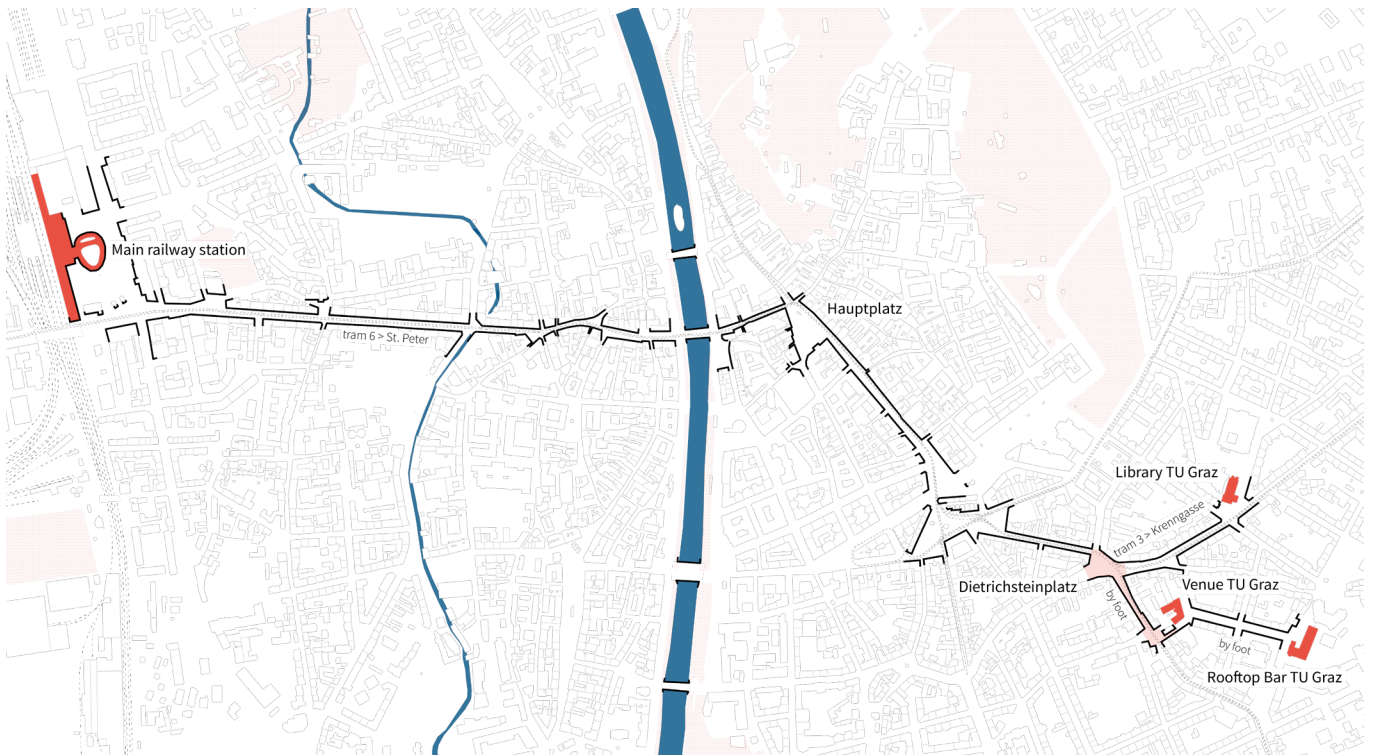
Event locations

KOEN Building - Symposium venue
Kronesgasse 5/1st floor, 8010 Graz,

Rooftop Bar - Apéro | Award Ceremony
Stremayergasse 16, 8010 Graz

TU Library - Book presentation
Technikerstraße 4/ 4th floor, 8010 Graz

Public transport
Main railway station - Dietrichsteinplatz
Tram line 6 > St.Peter



Content

Territorial Project

Introduction

Program

Book presentation - the day before

Symposium - Day 1

Urbanism Fellow Graz Award Ceremony

Symposium - Day 2

Closing Plenary

Detailed Information

Territorial Turn!

Who owns the ground?

How to deal with transformation?

How to repair the territory?

How to negotiate common vision?

How to work with existing urban qualities to secure territorial continuities?

Further Symposium Proceedings

Presenters

Institute of Urbanism

THE TERRITORIAL PROJECT

Prof. Aglaée Degros
Institute of Urbanism, TU Graz

In 1944, US-American civil engineer Harold Fisk¹ mapped the history of the meandering Mississippi River's transformations, reminding us of the power and dynamics of the natural environment. It confronts the built human settlement, legible in black on the map, composed orthogonally to this territorial immensity readable in its colored meandering traces. It is a reminder that the still-common abstraction of figure ground plans, expressing the morphology of the settlement, has made us forget that the white interstitial space enhancing the black built masses is a dynamic space with its own value.

Restricting urban design to the relationship between built-up (black) and non-built-up (white) surfaces can offer a kind of comfort, or even nostalgia, when confronted with the enormity of the challenges and complexity of the current environment facing the discipline. Pursuing this line of reasoning, Mathias Rollet, in his book dedicated to obsolescence,² wonders if we could imagine the same one approach frozen in time in other disciplines. While respecting the Hippocratic oath or Newton's principles, medicine and physics evolved; they have been enriched by the complexity accumulated since their foundation and they have opened up to embrace, for example, quantum physics or biomedicine without the discipline disappearing or dissolving into another. In this sense, urban composition is one of the roots of urban design—this study of fullness and emptiness, of the height of volumes, and of density is one of its foundations. But one must dare to confront it with the current dynamics of our living systems in order to give the discipline back its relevance.

Today, these living dynamics can be frightening and create solastalgia,³ as they seem so complex and appear to be in full transition under the effects of climate change. They represent both an ecological and a social challenge. Human settlements are exposed to more extreme climatic conditions: avalanches, floods, torrential rains, desertification, etc., and these conditions are generating more and more social inequalities. In his latest publication, Bruno Latour⁴ links these challenges to each other. The crises connected to climate change only increase social inequalities by creating different “planets” for the “haves and the have-nots.” In order to face these challenges, the discipline must become deeply rooted in its environment, taking into account its ecological systems of water and vegetation, etc., without being limited to an ecological answer or being opposed to a social response.⁵ Very often economy is opposed to ecology, the demands of development opposed to those of nature, questions of social injustice to the prosperity of the living world. The discipline must therefore challenge growing spatial inequalities and injustices. As Bernardo Secchi⁶ highlighted, it is the responsibility of the urban designer to deal with spatial inequalities. A fair process must thus be put in place to develop a just project. It is no longer a question of giving all inhabitants the same built standard, as in modernity, but rather of giving each

person a different type of space which leads to the same level of quality of life. And for that, the project must be developed specifically with the inhabitants. A project which integrates ecological and social issues without seeing any contradiction becomes a territorial project.

Such a territorial project is not limited to a single place defined by the property line but situates the project site within a wider area connected to ecological systems and their metabolism. The metabolism of a site's system does not end at geopolitical or legal boundaries but continues beyond them: A stream does not stop at the boundaries of a site; an avalanche does not come to a halt at the line defining a municipality. The project site can be transformed in such a way as to participate in larger systems or even strengthen them. This is the case for the recent urban transformation projects linked to the uncovering of watercourses in several European cities. Here, project and territory enrich each other. The spatialization of the wider systems within a project site can take place within a building itself, such as when ecologizing or reusing existing structures. But it can be achieved even more effectively by focusing on the space between the buildings. The interstitial space is the space which allows for the location of ecological networks such as water and vegetation. In order to make this spatialization possible, its value must be recognized, and it must be shared fairly to allow for the integration of the ecological systems.

Territorial projects are mostly urban. They have moved away from an urbanism based on progress and modernity to a more ecological and social project. The territorial project, even if implemented in urban areas, concerns the whole territory. This approach is largely non-existent in the peri-urban or hypo-urban milieus. Those milieus are the inherited environments of progress par excellence still largely shaped by a pattern of excessive resource consumption. Shamiyeh describes the peri-urban⁷ as resembling a tapestry of scattered buildings, a collection of individual elements where each plot is built with no concern for its obsolescence, for collectivity or ecology, linked only by a sea of asphalt. The peri-urban, hypo-urban, and infra-urban are the actual milieus in transition where we should now implement a territorial vision.

1 Fisk, Harold: "Ancient Courses of the Mississippi River, Plate 22, Sheet 9." US Army Corps of Engineers (Engineer Research and Development Center. Engineering Geology and Geophysics branch). Geological Investigation of the Alluvial Valley of the Lower Mississippi River: Vicksburg, 1944.

2 Rollet, Mathias: *L'Obsolescence: Ouvrir l'Impossible*. Geneva: Metis Press, 2016.

3 Der Stress, der durch Umweltveränderungen hervorgerufen wird. Siehe Albrecht, G. et al.: "Solastalgia: The Distress Caused by Environmental Change." *Australasian psychiatry: bulletin of Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists*, 15 Suppl. 1, 2007, 95–98.

4 Latour, Bruno: *Où atterrir? – Comment s'orienter en politique*. Paris: La Découverte

5 Schwab, Eva: "Sustainability and justice in the territorial project," in: Aglaée Degros et al.: *Basics of Urbanism*, Zurich: Park Books, 2021

6 Secchi, Bernardo: *La città dei ricchi e la città dei poveri*. Bari: Laterza, 2013.

7 Shamiyeh, Michael in: Feiersinger, Meuwissen, Pretterhofer. *Urbanism. Approaches to Urbanism in Austria*. Vienna: edition selene, 2002.

14th September | the Day before

06:00 pm

Book presentation

TU Library 4th floor
Technikerstraße 4, 8010 Graz

Foundations of Urban Design

Book presentation by

Marcel Smets Emeritus Prof. KU Leuven

in discussion with

Andrea Jany University of Graz - Regional Centre of Expertise
Klaus Klaas Loenhardt TU Graz - Institute of Architecture and Landscape

Chair:

Markus Monsberger
TU Graz - Institute of Urbanism

APÉRO

15th September | Day 1

08:00 am

WELCOME | CHECK - IN

TU KOEN building

Kronesgasse 5

09:00 am

Territorial Turn!

Petra Petersson *Dean Faculty of Architecture & Aglaée Degros Head Institute of Urbanism*

Bauhaus Earth Charter

Philipp Misselwitz *BAUHAUS EARTH*

09:55 am

Who owns the ground?

How to design the territory?

Keynote by **Susanne Eliasson** *GRAU - Good Reasons to Afford Urbanism*

Papers by **Slobodan Veleviski, Marija Veleviska, Elena Andonova, Irena Milojeska |**

Tommaso Pietropolli

discussion with

Marcel Smets, Susanne Eliasson, Andrea Jany,
Alexandra Würz-Stalder, Julia Fröhlich

Chair: Sandra Guinand

12:25 am

LUNCH BREAK

TU KOEN building

Kronesgasse 5

15th September | Day 1

01:30 pm

How to deal with transformation?

Can obsolescence inspire a renewal of the discipline?

Keynote by **Stefan Rettich** *University Kassel - Fachgebiet Städtebau*

Papers by **Johannes Bernsteiner | Beatrice Galimberti**

discussion with

Han Meyer, Stefan Rettich, Maik Novotny,
Anselm Wagner, Anna-Maria Jäger
Chair: Radostina Radulover-Stahmer

04:05 pm

How to repair the territory?

Unbuild environment. Why is it relevant now?

Keynote by **Eva Pfannes** *OOZE Architects and Urbanists*

Papers by **Julio de la Fuente & Natalia Gutiérrez | Ward Verbakel**

discussion with

Marcel Smets, Eva Pfannes, Karl Steininger,
Andreas Lichtblau, Isabel Stumfol
Chair: Anna Bagarić

07:00 pm

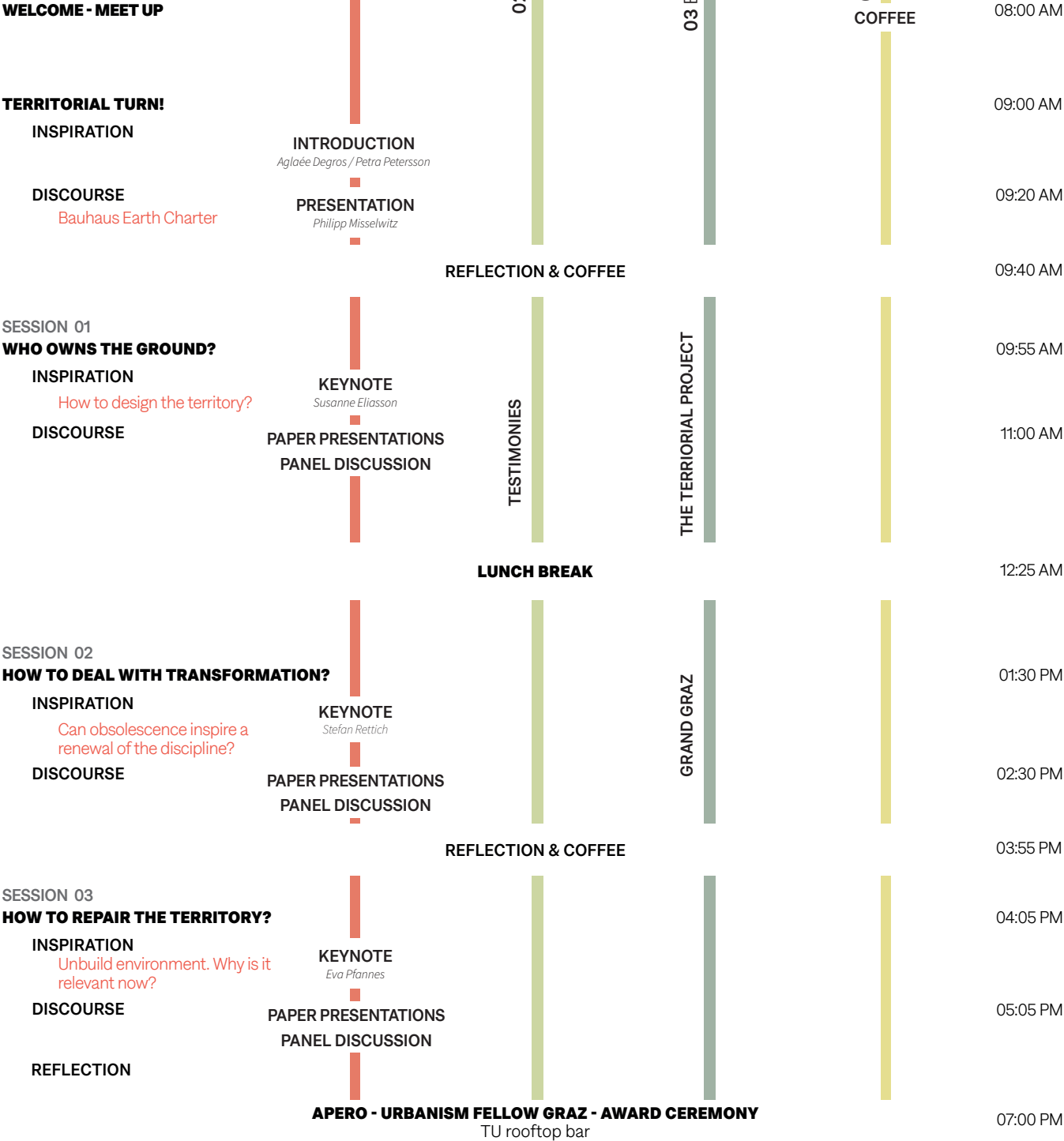
APÉRO

URBANISM FELLOW GRAZ - AWARD CEREMONY

*TU Graz Rooftop Bar
Stremayergasse 16*

15th September | Day 1







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Urbanism fellow Graz

award ceremony

Urbanism fellow Graz

The award honors leading thinkers in urbanism and their effort to implement an ecological and equitable urban future on a territorial scale.

This year the award goes to Andrea Krupski von Mansberg and Elias Molitschnig.

Andrea Krupski von Mansberg is Head of the Department of Urban Development and Mobility for the city of Bregenz. She receives the urbanism fellow award for her visions of public space and the transition in mobility.

Elias Molitschnig works at the Carinthian Government on spatial planning and building culture and in this role has promoted procedures to secure and support building culture and reduced soil consumption in the Carinthian capital Klagenfurt as well as in small towns and villages. This initiative merits an urbanism fellow award.

The award ceremony is followed by a get-together / aperó with drinks and fingerfood.

When: 15th of September, 06:30 pm

Where: TU Graz rooftop bar, Stremayrgasse 15, 8010 Graz

16th September | Day 2

08:00 am

WELCOME | CHECK - IN

TU KOEN building

Kronesgasse 5

09:00 am

How to negotiate common vision?

How to shift to a territorial vision?

Keynote by Paola Viganò EPFL Lausanne & IUAV Venice

Papers by Stefan Devoldere | Lilli Lička, Hannes Gröblacher

discussion with

Han Meyer, Paola Viganò,
Günter Getzinger, Oskar May,
Chair: Eva Schwab

11:50 am

Territorial Turn!

Closing Plenary / Knowledge Transfer

Paola Viganò, Han Meyer, Marcel Smets,
Judith Schwentner, Christine Braunersreuther, Bertram Werle, Günter Riegler
Chair: Aglaée Degros

01:00 pm

LUNCH BREAK

TU KOEN building

Kronesgasse 5

AFTERNOON

02:00 pm - 03:00 pm

How to work with existing urban qualities to secure territorial continuities?

Learning from? Historical Practices

Guided Walk

with

Sophia Walk

Meeting point:

main entrance TU KOEN building

Kronesgasse 5

Caring for? Territorial Practices

Talk | EUROPAN

by

Socrates Stratis

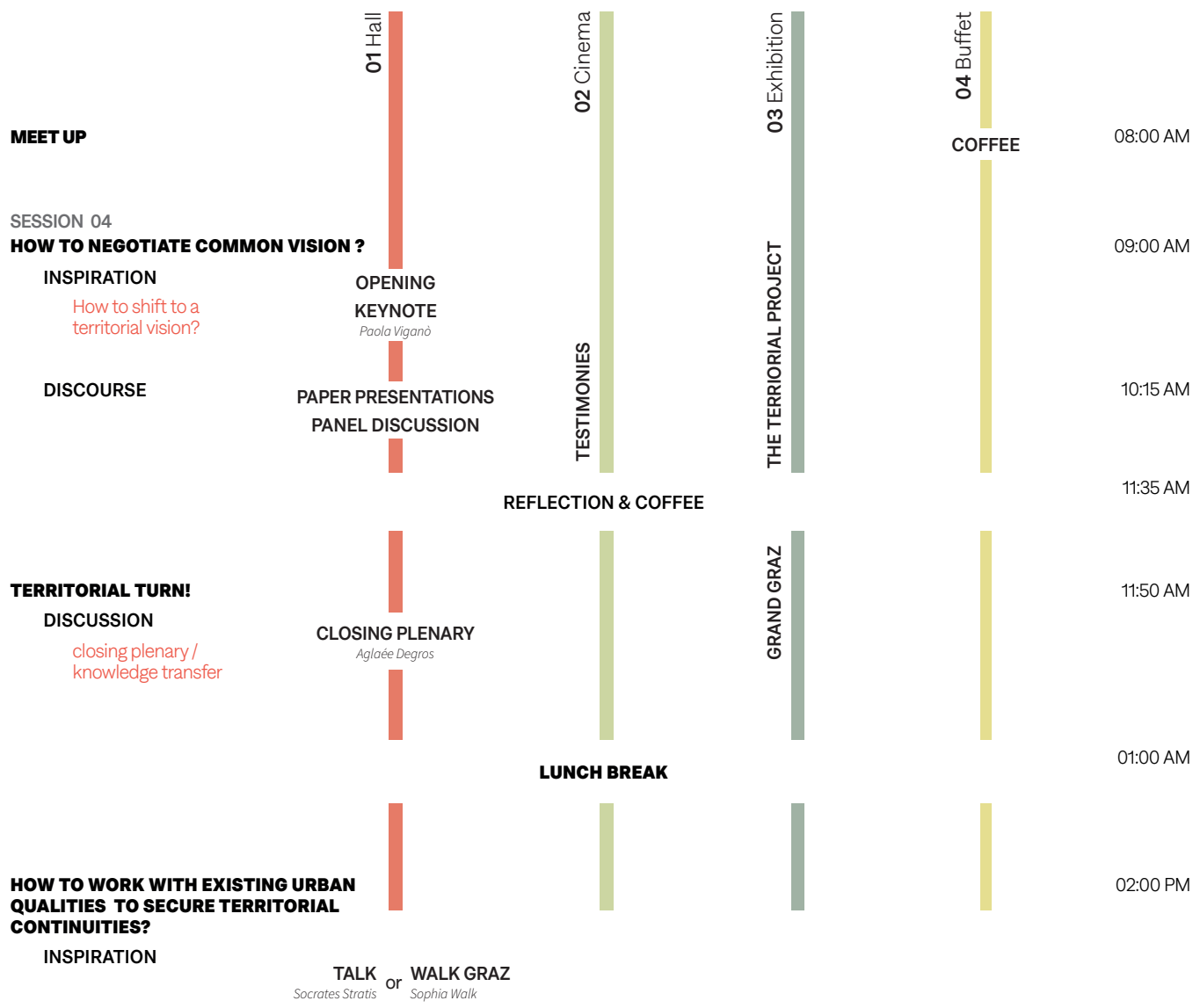
Meeting point:

TU KOEN building main hall

Kronesgasse 5

16th September | Day 2







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Territorial Turn !

Closing Plenary / Knowledge Transfer

Closing Plenary

The Closing Plenary will summarize the two-day symposium and its achievements, by discussing how these recommendations could be taken forward.

Recommendations and actions on how a TERRITORIAL TURN! can be implemented in Graz will be discussed, in order to be able to respond to the social and environmental challenges. Thereby changes in urban planning, its instruments and the vision for future socio-ecological urban interventions, actions and developments will be elaborated. Together with Prof. Paola Viganó (EPFL Lausanne, IUAV Venice), Prof. Han Meyer (TU Delft) and Prof. Marcel Smets (KU Leuven) and representatives of the City of Graz - Dr. Judith Schwenter (Vice Mayor, City of Graz), Christine Braunersreuther (representative for Elke Kahr, Mayor City of Graz), Bertram Werle (urban planning director, City of Graz) and Dr. Günter Riegler (city councillor for culture and economics, City of Graz) this knowledge transfer will take place - chaired by Prof. Aglaée Degros - to form concrete actions for Graz.

When: 16th September, 11:50 am

Where: TU Graz KOEN hall, Kronesgasse 5, 8010 Graz

We would like to express our special thanks to the Faculty of Architecture, TU Graz as well as our sponsors and partners for their support.





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