

S08	URBAN PRACTICE IN THE AGE OF TRANSITION
Organisers:	Bram Vannieuwenhuyze (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) Reinout Rutte (Delft University of Technology) Keith D. Lilley (Queen's University Belfast) Jaap Evert Abrahamse (Cultural Heritage Agency, The Netherlands)
Period:	Medieval/Early modern
Date:	Saturday, 1 September 2012
Time:	14:00-15:30
Room:	18

Description

In many cases, the origins and earliest urban development of our European towns are obscure, but are considered as a focal point of scholarly interest. This is mainly due to the fact that this proto-urban phase is properly considered as one of the key elements explaining the subsequent urban developments. Following the same logic, much attention was paid to 'big events' in the history of urban development, such as the construction of town walls, the creation of planned towns and urban quarters, the building of cathedrals, (urban) monasteries and hospitals or the emergence of town halls and trading infrastructure. As a result, historians and archaeologists too often stressed growth, expansion and innovation. To complete our understanding of spatial urban development, it is however necessary to emphasize other essential aspects. First, we want to shed a light on the importance of small-scale urban practise. In which way private building campaigns, local road innovation and small-scale urban planning influenced the development of the entire town? Secondly, we want to get round the emphasis on growth and expansion by focussing on periods of stagnation and/or decline ('the age of transition'). In fact, the towns were spatially transformed in this periods too, especially by small-scale operations.

In this session, we welcome papers combining these both 'forgotten' aspects of the European urbanisation process. We connect an important methodological consequence to this angle of attack, since we require that scholars try to transcend the pure local (and often anecdotic) approach of urban practise. On the contrary, we are particularly favourable to papers comparing urban practises of different cities or at different times.

Scientific Programme

1613 EUROPEAN URBAN PLANNING AFTER THE BLACK DEATH (1350-1500)

Keith Lilley (Queen's University Belfast, Ireland)

1466 THE URBAN CHANGES IN THE CITY OF ZADAR IN THE 11TH AND 12TH CENTURY

Iva Rukavina (Université Paris-Ouest-Nanterre La Défense, Paris, France)