



Transition histories

Co-chairs

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The Special Session at AESOP2019 will offer research-based historical perspectives on the conference theme Planning for Transition.

Over the long twentieth century many transitions have been planned for. The very concept of collective planning implies thinking about economic, social, cultural, political, technical or ecological futures, and envisaging trajectories to be followed or avoided.

Never stable, the planning movement's imaginary 'Cities of Tomorrow' have shifted even further and faster than the real-world cities they seek to transform. We invite papers that show how futuristic projection has shaped the planning of cities and regions, and the dialectical process whereby transition strategies have taken shape, been challenged, morphed, and switched.

Examples might include:

- 19C sanitary infrastructure and the transition to germ theory;
- Planning for the infrastructure of mass mobility;
- The embrace of electrification as a neo-technic power source;
- Reformist projects of colonisation and garden cities;
- Plans for the transition to aerial transport;
- Plans for the transition to state socialism;
- Mid-20C strategies of transition to a plan-based 'third way' between competitive capitalism and ideological fascism;
- Highway design for 100% motorisation;
- Plans for the sustainable city.

Transition Histories is open to all genres of historiography including biography, history of ideas, accounts of networks and associations, mapping, thematic policy studies or historical geography. We encourage papers that explore the histories of challenge and response, showing how each transition has implied shifts in the role and tasks of planning, its rationalities and related institutions.