



ENAC - INAUGURAL LECTURE

## Urbanism as a research tool

Prof. Paola Viganò

### Abstract

The lecture addresses two main topics: the role of the urban and territorial project in the actual socio-economic situation and the hypothesis of urbanism as a research tool to investigate the complexity of the city. The approach will be discussed through a fertile dialogue among projects elaborated in different contexts, between research and concrete engagement.

### Biography

Paola Viganò, is an architect and urbanist, Professor in Urban Theory and Urban Design at the EPFL (Lausanne) where she directs the Lab-U and at Università IUAV of Venice. From 1989 to 1996 she was assistant on the course of Urbanism of Bernardo Secchi at the Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia (IUAV). From 1990 to 1993 she attended the 6th cycle of the research doctorate in Architectural and urban composition at the IUAV. In 1994 she obtained the research doctorate in Architectural and Urban Composition. In 2016 the Lab-U (EPFL) research on the Horizontal Metropolis: a radical project has been part as a collateral event of the Architecture Biennale in Venice.

In 1990 she founded Studio with Bernardo Secchi, until 2014, realizing the Park

Spoornood, Theaterplein in Antwerp and the city Structural Plan; the central public spaces in Mechelen, the cemetery in Kortrijk, the masterplan and public spaces in La Courrouze, Rennes.

In 2009 Secchi and Viganò have been one of the 10 teams selected for the Grand Paris project and in 2012 they have been selected for the New Moscow project. In 2013 Paola Viganò was the first woman to receive the Grand Prix de l'Urbanisme in France.



> THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2017 AT 17H15  
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## Sustainable transitions of urban systems: a social-ecological-technical perspective

Prof. Dr. Claudia R. Binder

### Abstract

Societal transitions can be viewed as shifts between different societal regimes and co-dependent ecological and technical changes. In the past, societal transitions have been characterized by (i) an increase in urban population; (ii) an increased material and energy consumption per capita; and (iii) changes in lifestyles and institutions. Given that the share of population in cities is expected to continue to increase reaching up to 70%

by 2050, the sustainable transition of urban systems will be essential for our society. We address the following questions:

- What is the metabolism of cities and how does human action at individual, group, and societal level affect it?
- How might a potential sustainable urban system look like and how does this vision differ among actors?
- How can a transition path be conceived and how can the resilience of the transition towards sustainable development be analyzed?

For the case of the energy transition we will exemplarily illustrate the integrative approach currently developed in HERUS linking the social, ecological and technical aspects to address these questions.

### Biography

Prof. Dr. Claudia R. Binder holds a PhD in environmental sciences and a *venia legendi* in Human- Environment Systems, both from, ETHZ, Switzerland. From 2006-2009 she was assistant professor for Social

and Industrial Ecology at the University of Zurich, Switzerland; from 2009-2011 full professor for Systems Sciences at the University of Graz, Austria; from 2011-2016 she was full professor for Human Environment Relations at the Department of Geography at the University of Munich. Since March 2016 she holds the Swiss Mobiliar Chair for Urban Ecology at ENAC, EPFL. She is a founding Member of the "European Group for the Study of Socio-Ecological and Socio-Technical Systems" and a member of the working group "Spatial politics and planning for the energy transition" in Germany. Since 2016 she is research council delegate for the Swiss National Science Foundation/ Division Programme.



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