

Application

- **Dead line for abstracts submissions: January 30th, 2017**
(Around 1 000 signs, in English or French)
- The response will be notified to the authors at the end of February 2017
- Participants with accepted proposals should send their text before the 15th of April, in English or French with two abstracts o 1000 signs in both languages, the whole article should not exceed 35 000 signs.

You may submit your proposal to: benoit.goffin@univ-paris8.fr

For further information:

<https://prcu.haiti.univ-paris8.fr>



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International Symposium - Call for Paper



From 25 to 28 April 2017 • Port-au-Prince

What kind of development for the « post-crisis » city ?

Research Program in Urban Field Study

« Port-au-Prince : entre vulnérabilités et croissances urbaines, constructions d'une métropole caribéenne »



What kind of development for the « post-crisis » city ?

Major cities in the world have experienced traumatic periods of high magnitude (natural disasters, armed conflicts) causing the deaths of thousands of their urban dwellers and their mass displacement. The materiel damage can also be impressive (destruction of buildings, devastation of infrastructure), leading to the functional and structural disorganization of the city and to deeper vulnerabilities. These periods of political conflicts or of natural disasters are expressions of a stage of acute crisis. Their aftermath calls of course for rapid reconstruction operations but it then remains the core agenda in the redevelopment of affected cities through multiple domestic and international stake holders: NGOs, multilateral organizations and local governments often weakened by the crisis. In this conference, we want to widen the issues of post-crisis reconstruction, subject to several debates, to that of the post-crisis development of concerned cities by putting public policy, land tenure or environmental issues as transversal bench marks topics. We would especially like to consider *four spatial as well as social or/and economic urban dynamics*, in the dense urban fabric or in the peripheral areas. In each panel, special attention must be given to the questioning of the role of the crisis and its importance for being the sole and most important factor in recent urban transformations.

The first panel will assess **urban dynamics**: the urban sprawl or the densification of the existing urban fabric. Are there specific processes to be observed in "post-crisis" cities? Emergence of new districts and their perennation, acceleration of these processes with pressure on urban resources, growth or decline of the urban population? What are the stakes and strategies of the various actors in these new spatial schemes? What are the roles of public policies regarding urban planning, should they address the global problem and coordinate all actions or should they just try to cope and adapt to the scattered reconstruction operations? At the end, we would like to tackle the issue on whether or not a particular model of development may be considered for post-crisis cities.

The **constitution of urban margins** is our second discussion panel: the situations before the crisis often reveal an unfair urban fabric in studied cities depicting the existence of very poor neighborhoods or slums. The destruction of housing and infrastructure, the collapses of planning rules and regulations have pushed the city dwellers to settle in temporary makeshift camps that have tendencies to last.

This is true both in the older districts and in the peripheral areas. Is the crisis a factor for the creation of urban margins and of multiplication of these spaces together with the impoverishments of previously preserved areas? What are the responses to be given by "post-crisis" urban planning: rehabilitation of slum areas or a preference towards urban renewal so as to secure land for further and sometimes more expensive legal uses? The basic question in the panel would hence deal with the increase or not of post-crisis vulnerabilities in urban margins.

The **motor and practices of economic development** in the post-crisis cities is our third panel of discussion. In most developing cities informality is widely present. Is the crisis a factor increasing informal activities? Is informality specific to the disadvantaged social groups, the displaced populations, the refugees or the recent migrants? Does the post-crisis period pave the way to the privatization of sectors of economic activities and services in wealthier neighborhoods? Would the post-crisis city be even more unfair because crossed by social "fault lines" between the "rich", globalized but locally gated areas (with their own services and private business structures) and the destitute districts being more impoverished and dependent on humanitarian aids? Is the challenge of the development of post-crisis cities beyond the reconstructions operations also to recreate a more integrative and complementary economic fabric?

Finally, we wish to discuss the concept of **urban citizenship** so as to tackle the social integration and **urban practices** of town dwellers whereas ancient or new comers. The discussions will focus on the existence of new practices influenced by the crisis and their perennation in the post-crisis periods. Do these changes lead to the emergence of new social standards? Moreover, the rapid and uncontrolled emergence of new urban districts question their social cohesion and the way of living in these areas. What are the urban practices of city dwellers living in districts born in the "post-crisis" periods: in terms of mobility, places of economic activities or sociability? In general terms, do the crisis and its implications affect urban practices? Does they encourage new avoidance behaviors regarding some spaces and attractiveness for others? Do we see the reshaping of urban citizenship among the inhabitants of poor neighborhood between the beneficiaries of aid agencies and others? The central question to raise in this panel is whether or not the crisis and post-crisis period could lead to new urban identities.