

Working group – Focus 1: The history of urban futures.

A first research pointer lies in the contribution of the Transversal Group to a debate around the very name “Urban Futures”. A number of major current urban planning projects are part of the long-term history of urbanism. The history of big projects to redevelop Paris, London, Amsterdam, New York, Moscow, etc., as well as other major urban agglomerations or metropolises, goes back at least 100 years. Although the broad features of these projects have been extensively studied, it is worth revisiting them and holding them up as a mirror to tackle issues raised by new urban development plans. The history of planning is not just about plans. It is also – and primarily – about ideological, economic and institutional contexts where multi-disciplinary analyses can clarify contemporary public debates.

Consequently, the Group has been contributing to the history of urban projects since it was set up. For example, the study days focused on *New towns and related questions* (23 January 2015, Labex Week, Cité Descartes, coordinated by Jérôme Bazin, Denis Bocquet, Nathalie Lancret, Clément Orillard, Loïc Vadelorge), the conference on *City planning and social mobilisation in Middle-Ages Europe down to the present day* (27-29 May 2015, UPEM-EHESS-Paris 1, coordinated by Isabelle Backouche, Annie Fourcaut, Nicolas Lyon-Caen, Nathalie Montel, Valérie Theis, Loïc Vadelorge, Charlotte Vorms), and the two international conferences on *Inventing the Grand Paris building programme. Comparative perspectives on the metropolises of the 1940s to the 1960s, and from the 1970s to the Year 2000* (3-4 December 2015, Grand Palais and 1-2 December 2016 ENSAPB, collectively coordinated by Emmanuel Bellanger, Nathalie Roseau, Laurent Coudroy de Lille, Clément Orillard, Loïc Vadelorge), and the recent study days on *The role played by international conferences in the emergence of major twentieth century planning themes* (31 January 2017, ENSAPB, coordinated by Cédric Fériel and Caroline Maniaque).

Research focuses over the 2017-2021 period will seek to expand on this programme. In addition to the publication of proceedings currently being finalised, a first study day will be held in November 2017 on international conferences (coordinated by Cédric Fériel et Caroline Maniaque).