

## **Working group – Focus 2: Contemporary uses of urban heritage**

The traditional and protective opposition between the old historic fabric and the developers of the city of tomorrow now appears to be outdated. New approaches to the history of urban heritage make it possible to get beyond a description of objects or a series of protective policies to factor in the multi-faceted – and by definition, societal – production on a number of different levels of property heritage compromises that guide the future of cities. Urban heritage, which was perceived until recently as a constraint or an imperative, is increasingly turning into a town planning driver depending on the circumstances or challenges that differ considerably from one city – or from one geographic region – to the next, or in a context of internationalisation of the whole notion of heritage. The preliminary patrimonial work involved in urban renewal also leads to redefining the research methods harnessed to diagnostic analyses, paving the way for hybrid historian expertise.

The Group's patrimonial research highlights the link between urban heritage (plot, urban form and fabric, patrimonial heritage, urban jargon) and planning (zoning, planning, urban project and design). Following the seminar devoted to "urban heritage" (2013-2014), the Group organised two study days entitled "The plot in all its forms: between history and urban forms" (18 June 2014 and 2 April 2015, UPEC and ENSAPB, coordination Corinne Jaquand, Florence Bourillon) and two doctoral workshops, "Heritage(s), cities, territories: multi-disciplinary approaches" (17 March 2016 and 15 November 2016, EUP, coordination Louis Baldasseroni, Romain Gustiaux, Paul Lecat, Loïc Vadelorge). It also organised an international conference whose objectives included testing the possibility of transposing "the adventure of city jargon" (Christian Topalov, Jean-Charles Depaule, Laurent Coudroy de Lille) to antiquity: "Talking about cities in Greek" (10-11 June 2016, UPEC, coordination Virginie Mathé). This research focus was also instrumental in organising a seminar on the history of Parisian commemorative plaques in September 2016 by Florence Bourillon and Laurent Coudroy de Lille (UPEC-Historical Committee of the City of Paris).

Among the heritage-related questions that the Group wishes to tackle over the next few years, "Urban Infrastructures" will take the form of an exploratory doctoral workshop (end-2017 or early 2018, coordinated by Louis Baldasseroni and Nathalie Roseau). The whole patrimonial question will also be a key part of the conference on "City narratives and urban changes", planned for late 2018.