INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION on PLANNING, LAW, AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

"Law is an essential element of planning" announces the International Academic Association on Planning, Law, and Property Rights (PLPR). The association bridges the gap between planners and lawyers. In February 2010, more than 120 academics from Australia, Asia, Africa, North and South America, and from all over Europe participated in the Fourth International Conference on Planning, Law, and Property Rights at the School of Spatial Planning, TU Dortmund. The increasing number of participants within the last years demonstrates the demand for a platform of experts in the field of Planning, Law, and Property Rights. The submitted abstracts passed a double-blind review. 94 presentations have been scheduled in 21 sessions. They addressed controversial and pressing issues, dealing with land use regulation, theories of property rights, expropriation, land use control, poverty, or management of natural resources. Despite this wide scope, all presentations had in common a strong interest in spatial planning issues, law, and property rights.



Professor Walter Grünzweig, associate rector for academic affairs and international exchange, proudly welcomed the academics from different disciplines at the School of Spatial Planning - "the very center, the very core, of our university" - as he mentioned. He expressed his admiration for Dortmund planners due to "their unusual way of thinking, synthesizing different approaches and questioning accepted, standard answers". It was interesting for him to see how many of the presenters "will be questioning established truisms, criticize procedures that are carried out in the name of law, or use legal arguments and principles against inequitable means of coercion, expropriation or environmental destruction. Many presenters here seem not only to analyze but also present, implicitly or explicitly, advocacy for improve



ment of unjust or imperfect situations". In his keynote speech "Government or Governance? The Challenge of Planning for Sustainability in the Ruhr", **Professor Michael Wegener** put the trend from government to governance into question. Professor Wegener explained that "in Germany, Federal and Länder governments have increasingly withdrawn from national and regional planning and delegated re-

sponsibility for spatial development to local governments or private actors with the aim to reduce bureaucracy and strengthen citizen participation". He claimed for a "reinforcement of democratic decision making at the lowest possible level of government at which not particular interests but the common welfare is pursued" and concluded that "for an increasing part of spatial planning decisions this will be a higher level of government than the local level".



The topics of the sessions addressed the core issues of the relation between planning, law, and property rights, like land management, regulatory practice, expropriation & compensation, or land rights. A session was held on theorizing planning & law to investigate the basic principles of PLPR. Other sessions were about specific contents, regarded from a perspective of PLPR, like history & heritage, challenging climates, planning law & housing, and land & the city. The conference demonstrated the wide scope of PLPR and its members' research. Professor Greg Lloyd summarizes the session called "So many the use of land" as an excellent session with two presentations with a solid audience which was impressive given.

Philip Booth, the chair of the session "Commercial property" concludes the four presented papers took the debate well beyond the limits of property development economics and had the great virtue of being usefully complementary. In addition to the presentations, **Professor Benjamin Davy** showed his poster exhibition "Faces of Land Policy". The figure below shows important keywords of the session topics during the conference.



The young academics of PLPR assembled for the PhD roundtable during the 2010 conference, chaired by Dr.Thomas Hartmann. The aim of the session was to get in touch, learn from each other and help each other. In this manner, the 20 PhD students virtually conducted a PhD speed dating. The participants explained each other the three conclusions of the own thesis in a short talk, which Americans call the "elevator talk". Afterwards, all participants of that particular session split of in four groups, each creating a word cloud of keywords - "social justice", "real estate", "legislation" and "stakeholders". These posters reflect the concerns of PhD topics within PLPR on one hand, on the other hand the roundtable showed that all PhD students within the association have common issues to research about. This is a result that encourages future PhD activities of PLPR.







The founding president of PLPR, Professor Rachelle Alterman, chaired a roundtable on land use regulations and compensation rights. She presented her new book on this topic. It has been explored in a discussion to what extent systematic comparative research can indeed be valuable for cross-learning about alternative legal norms and their policy implications.

Professor Harvey M. Jacobs, and Professor Ali Madanipour delivered inspiring keynote speeches at the end of the conference. "Shaping the Property Rights Debate in the U.S. and Europe: The influence of Neo-liberal Advocacy Organizations" was the topic of the keynote speech from Professor Harvey M. Jacobs. He spoke about the causal relationship between advocacy and changing policy discourse on property rights and planning. By reflecting on the history of property rights movements in the USA and analyzing the network of conservative policy advocacy organizations, he showed that such advocacy has a substantial influence in the USA and Europe. Professor Ali Mandanipour spoke about "Social exclusion and inclusive public space". By using impressive images he explained "why public spaces have become a subject

In the end of the conference, the general assembly of PLPR elected their new executive committee. Leonie Janssen-Jansen, Ben Davy, Thomas Hartmann and Michelle Oren form the new committee.

The Local Host Committee, Ben Davy, Thomas Hartmann, Heinz Kobs, Kathrina Schmidt and Gabi Zimmermann passed the traditional PLPR flag over to Eran Kaplinsiky, who is the representative of the Local Host Committee in 2011 organizing the next conference at the Faculty of Law, University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. Information on the conference will be posted at the homepage of PLPR (http://planning-law.socsci.uva.nl/).

of debate and contest" and he showed that they "have become exclusive spaces for the better off". He completed his speech by giving a perspective and discussing the dimensions and implications of making accessible planers through inclusive processes. Moderated by Professor Benjamin Davy, Professor Jacobs and Professor Madanipour had a discussion on their topics with the audience. In this manner, the keynote speeches successfully completed a conference full of innovative, fruitful, and sometimes controversial discussions.



Finally, the conference in Dortmund showed how the PLPR association bridges gaps between different disciplines and generates new and inspiring research ideas about pressing as well as controversial topics.



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Local Host Committee Dortmund 2010: Benjamin Davy, Thomas Hartmann, Heinz Kobs, Kathrina Schmidt, Gabi Zimmermann Conference Website: www.plpr2010.tu-dortmund.de

Conference in Edmonton, Canada 2011: www.law.ualberta.ca/plpr2011

Executive Committee of the International Academic Association on Planning, Law, and Property Rights: Leonie Janssen-Jansen (president). Benjamin Davy (vice-president), Thomas Hartmann (secretary general), Michelle Oren (PhD coordinator) Association Website: planning-law.socsci.uva.nl