SPECIAL TRACK

Globalization and Cities on the U.S.-Mexico Border

URBAN AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION 46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
San Diego March 16-19, 2016

Call for Participation
Track Co-Chairs:
Tito Alegria (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte-COLEF, Mexico)
Mirle Bussell (UC San Diego, U.S.)
Melissa Floca (UC San Diego, U.S.)
Rene Peralta (Woodbury University, U.S.)
Lawrence A. Herzog (San Diego State University, U.S.)
Keith Pezzoli (UC San Diego, U.S.)

The United States-Mexico border region has been one of the most important laboratories on the planet for understanding globalization and the changing nature of urban life. Global phenomena like transnational manufacturing, free trade and the international division of labor have all had important implications for urban space in this region. More than 10 million people today live in transfrontier metropolitan regions that blanket the nearly 2,000-mile boundary from Matamoros–Brownsville in the east to Tijuana–San Diego at the western terminus. Along the California–Mexico border, some 30 million vehicles and nearly 75 million people cross between California and Mexico each year. Urban neighbors are thrust into a complex transnational space of life, work and global security. In addition, the border region is a highly complex and fragile ecosystem that demands a twenty first century sustainable development strategy, which must somehow be managed by two distinct national governments. The challenges for researchers and policy makers are considerable. Further, the border region continues to face the prospect of increasing “re-bordering”, or the imposition of paradigms of homeland security that bump up against efforts to engage in cross-border cooperation. This dialectic between a shared trans-border regional approach or a hardening of the border for security purposes represents one of the critical dilemmas for the twenty first century. Scholars must find ways to navigate and overcome this divide.

The Urban Affairs Association (UAA) is North America’s leading urban policy research association engaged in understanding emerging issues and looking for feasible solutions from a multidisciplinary perspective. For more than forty years the UAA has brought together social scientists, public administrators, planners, and others interested in urban affairs to exchange information, experiences, and ideas on the most important urban issues. In light of the conference location in San Diego, on the California-Mexico border, the 2016 UAA conference will include a Special Track on Globalization and Cities on the U.S.-Mexico Border.

Proposed themes in this track include, but are not limited to:
- Regional planning and cross-border economic development
- Housing: solving the problems of colonias, urban sprawl and the failed Mexican suburban policies of the 1990’s and 2000’s
Urban planning across the border: examples of cooperative land use, transport, environmental and other projects along the border

- Structuring of urban land use, subcenters, and transportation: the role of markets and residents
- Maquilas and the future of the assembly plant approach along the border
- Poverty and income inequality along the border, and policy approaches to address this.
- Climate change, carbon offsets/caps, ecological restoration and the cross-border region
- Problems of crime and urban violence
- Mega-projects along the U.S.-Mexico border (transport infrastructure, ports of entry, and other large scale projects)
- Trade initiatives and border dynamics
- Sustainable border cities: air/water pollution, and approaches to sustainable planning
- Food, water, energy and trans-border bio-regional justice
- Comparative urbanization: U.S.-Mexico and other international borders
- Urban design and architecture along the U.S.-Mexico border
- Art, public space and the U.S.-Mexico border: the role of art in downtown revitalization

The UAA encourages empirical and theoretical papers on urbanization processes, governance, public administration, planning, urban design, related topics of importance to border cities. Policy related papers on housing, health, education, employment, welfare/family security, transportation, economic development, infrastructure, environmental protection, historic preservation, provision of social services and other topics are all appropriate. We encourage the participation of all professionals (from public, private, nonprofit sectors) committed to cross-border sustainable and equitable urban development.

ABSTRACT/PROPOSAL SUBMISSION SITE OPENS: June 1, 2015 ***Please read all submission and conference policy guidelines (provided on the UAA website) before submitting your proposal or abstract.

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT/PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 1, 2015

WEBSITE OF THE EVENT: www.urbanaffairsassociation.org

UAA OFFICE CONTACT: conf@uaamail.org