Sustainable Cities in the Nordic-Baltic Region 2019

SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN THE NORDIC-BALTIC REGION 2019

Preliminary tasks - note 2 parts!

A) Individual task: due October 20th, 2019
B) Meet your team (in FB) and map stakeholders
October 20th-October 31st, 2019

30 %

Sustainable Cities in the Nordic-Baltic Region
October 31st - November 3rd, 2019
@ Tallinn, Estonia

55 %

Reflection

Short essay: due November 13th, 2019

15 %

PRELIMINARY TASKS

General information

The aim
The aim of the pre-tasks is to familiarize students with the social-ecological components of sustainable development. The intention is to focus on eco-social aspects and perspectives instead of concentrating only on ecological sustainability, social justice or the built environment – in order to reflect on just what the nature of the city is and whether it would be possible to design urban environments that are beneficial to ecosystems while also offering better environments for people. With these preliminary tasks, students collect 25 examples (one per student) of beneficial social-ecological systems, critical perspectives and/or relationships on the course website and start a discussion within their teams about what aspects and issues to focus on, this to be well prepared for the intensive days of October 31^rst through November 3rd 2019.

Instructions for the completion of the preliminary tasks
Please note that there are two pre-tasks before the intensive days: first an individual task and then a mutual one with your team.

Due dates

1) The first pre-task should be sent to Jonna Similä (jonna.simila@hanaholmen.fi) by **Sunday October 20th** In addition, there should be an ongoing discussion on each team's Facebook group from **October 20th-October 31^rst.**

Communication channels

Course website (public): Find here general information on the course**.** Also the final outcome of the course will be visible here: https://www.hanaholmen.fi/en/culturalcentre/sustainable-cities-2019-2021/

- Course Blog (closed, password protected, only for participants and organizers): The pre-assignments will be uploaded here continuously and at the latest after deadline *the 20th of October*. https://sucinobare.wordpress.com. Password: "Tallinn2019".

- Course Facebook group (for all participants and organizers): https://www.facebook.com/groups/2362784470642084/.For general information sharing regarding the course and free discussion, as well as for getting to know all the participants and organizers. This Facebook group is a platform to continue conversations also after the intensive days during the course.

- Team Facebook group (secret, only for your own team and teachers): Discuss here the pre-assignments of your team from October 20th until the 31^rst of October– these links will be sent later.

TASK A
 "Individual task": An example of a social-ecological system; due on the 20th of October

1. Read the Albano booklet (KTH & Stockholm Resilience Center) for concepts and definitions - this is a required background reading for the course: http://www.stockholmresilience.org/download/18.3ebb718712ed6075a67800089/1381790126503/albano-english.pdf

2. Prepare a blog post that will be shared with all participants of the course:

- Find an example of a beneficial social-ecological system or relationship from your hometown, campus or other familiar place. The Albano booklet will give you ideas of what to look for! In addition, browse the blog The Nature of Cities (https://www.thenatureofcities.com/) and select a critical perspective or reflection point relevant for your example and this year's special themes (see point below).

- Describe your example and the perspective concisely. You may also use images and graphs. The length of the blog post should not exceed 4 pages, and the number of images/graphs is limited to three.

- A narrative, journalistic approach is welcomed to improve readability - some examples may be found here: http://landarchs.com/10-cities-that-are-reinventing-the-relationship-with-their-rivers/

- The Albano example presents different design components - what kind of components can be found in your example?

- Pay attention to different scales:
  1) "small" scale – the immediate place
  2) "medium" – e.g. the campus area, the city or the city district
  3) "large" scale – the connection to the surrounding environment

- This year Sustainable Cities in the Nordic Baltic Region has a few special themes: mobility, well-being and seasonality. Therefore, reflect on the role of these themes in your city's development or means of enhancing wellbeing in the place or area that you have chosen to examine. What affects health and wellbeing in a city? Are these themes taken into account in the development of the place/area you have chosen? How do mobility, well-being and seasonality related to the social-ecological system thinking in this case? If these themes do not seem to have a role at all in your case, reflect on that and try to find examples on how these themes could have been integrated into your case, using the social-ecological approach.

- Note that the aim of the course is to explore the possibilities of social-ecological approach in urban planning. The cases that you can explore do not necessarily have to be limited to the physical environment. For example, there might be apps or services that are interesting in this context!

- Examples of residential courtyard uses:
  From your cities of origin, please have a look around at the courtyard areas between residential building and describe (from your observations and own experiences) the different ways in which people use them, what kind of activities take place here? More transitory or staying activities? If the latter, then which kind?

3. At the end of your text, attach a short description of the writer (yourself). Describe your academic background in relation to the social-ecological approach: How have social-ecological issues or related themes been handled in your previous studies and/or professional practices?

4. Send your presentation as a Word file to jonna.simila@hanaholmen.fi by **20th of October**. All presentations will then be uploaded to the course blog. These presentations will be visible to all participants of the course.

Familiarize yourself with the literature! You do not necessarily need to read everything in depth, but please relate to some of the literature in they essays you write:

Post-socialist residential courtyards

Estonian Academy of Arts (2018). City Unfinished. Prefabricated housing districts in Tallinn, Lasnamäe. URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AF4sjhQ2nNw6moutYgg6mCpRX9rWojGu/view

Dixon, Megan (2013). Transformations of the Spatial Hegemony of the Courtyard in Post-Soviet St. Petersburg. Urban Geography, 34 (3), 353-375.

Neugebauer, Carola S.; Sgibnev, Wladimir; Tuvikene, Tauri (2019). Conclusion: Infrastructure and post-socialism in theory and practice. In: Tuvikene, Tauri; Sgibnev, Wladimir; Neugebauer, Carola S. (Ed.). Post-Socialist Urban Infrastructures (213–222). Abingdon & New York: Routledge.

Pakina, Alla and Aiman Batkalova (2019). The green space as a driver of sustainability in Post-Socialist urban areas: The case of Almaty City (Kazakhstan). *Belgeo*, 4 | 2018. URL : http://journals.openedition.org/belgeo/28865 ; DOI : 10.4000/belgeo.28865

Sard, Kaia (2018). ON MY WAY IN LASNAMÄE – ANALYZING DWELLERS MOVEMENT IN COURTYARDS (LIIKUDES LASNAMÄEL –ELANIKE LIIKUMISE ANALÜÜS SISEHOOVIDES). MA thesis. Estonian University of Life Sciences (in Estonian with english summary)

Tuvikene, Tauri (2010). From Soviet to Post-Soviet with Transformation of the Fragmented Urban Landscape: The Case of Garage Areas in Estonia. Landscape Research, 35 (5), 509–528.

The case area of Mustamäe

Main topics: The main topics the case study is related to: Socio-ecological sustainability, Sustainable mobility and residential car use – challenges of an increasing automotorisation, neighborhood/nearby greening, urban renewal, (post-)socialist city planning.

Annus, E. (2015). Footsteps and Gazes: Mati Unt's Mustamäe'. *Urban Semiotics: The City as a Cultural-Historical Phenomenon*, 65-87. [www] http://www.eki.ee/km/annus/2014%20Footsteps%20and%20Gazes%20Mati%20Unts%20Mustame_in%20Urban%20Semiotics.doc

Tuvikene, T. (2015, August). Governing of housing estates: materiality and urban mobility in mustamäe, tallinn. In *Presented at the RC21 International Conference on the Ideal City*. [www] http://www.rc21.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/D1_Tuvikene.pdf

Viires, P. (2003). Mustamäe metamorphoses. *Koht ja paik/place and location. Eesti Kunstiakadeemia, Tallinn*, 395-403. [www] http://www.academia.edu/download/8404470/2Artikkel_II_viires.pdf

TASK B

"Meet your team" & "Map different stakeholders" online, from the 20ᵗʰ of October until the 31ʳˢᵗ October 2019

Competition teams will be organized to form multinational and transdisciplinary teams. The teams are invited to closed Facebook groups on the **20ᵗʰ of October.** After the deadline for pretask A, we will post another task for you in your team's Facebook group that you should complete together as a team. This task will be related to the case area in Tallinn. The task should be completed before the course start on October 31ʳˢᵗ, 2019.

The Facebook groups are also intended to be platforms for sharing and elaborating ideas with your team. You should read at least your team members' blog entries – and of course it is better if you check out a whole lot! You will find these discussions in your team's private FB-group, so make sure you take part in each of them:

- You have now read your team members blog entries. Reflect on how your backgrounds have affected the approaches you and your peers have chosen in your blog entries?
- What did you learn from the other members' blog entries (similarities/differences compared with your own post and area you described in it)?
- Have you ever been to Mustamäe, the location of this year's case in Tallinn? If yes, do you find any social-ecological elements there? If no, are you able to find these elements from the material given in the project webpage?
- Other greetings to your team members?

– We are looking forward to reading your blog posts and seeing you in October!