



# Atlantic Crossings Revisited

*Urban Policy and Planning Transfers Workshop New York – Paris*

**October 3 - 4, 2019**

*Columbia University Global Centers | Paris  
Reid Hall, 4 Rue de Chevreuse, 75006 Paris, France*

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## WHERE & WHEN

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Columbia University Global Centers | Paris Reid Hall  
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# WORKSHOP THEMES

Each presentation is organized around one of the following **transatlantic urban policy transfer** themes and its subtopics:

## 1. Urban policy traditions and quests for innovation

- Case studies about the historical implementation of "imported" policy programs
- Historical comparative approaches to neighborhood planning outcomes

## 2. Governance strategies aimed at promoting inclusivity

- Strategies of regulation and speculation through cycles of metropolitan growth and crisis
- Tools, networks of knowledge, and data-driven approaches that fuel such strategies

## 3. Insurgent policy transfers and reformulations from below

- Rise of alternative agents of policy adoption and implementation favoring more transparency and participation
- Case studies approaching the different scenarios in which reformulations from below take place

**\*The pages to follow provide background information for each theme and pose key questions and provocations to be addressed during presentations and discussions\***

## Theme 1: Urban policy traditions and quests for innovation

Nearly twenty years ago, Daniel Rodgers published his seminal work, *Atlantic Crossings* (2000), a history of ideas addressing how policy transfers shaped contemporary cities in both the US and Europe. As he traced the genealogy of policy transfers between the two regions, he wrote that "*one finds oneself pulled into an intense, transnational traffic in reform ideas, policies, and legislative devices*" (2000, 3). Rodgers gave scholars and practitioners alike a roadmap for future transatlantic work as "*one begins to rediscover a largely forgotten world of transnational borrowings and imitation, adaptation and transformation*" (2000, 7).

Inspired by Rodgers' words, this theme encourages the exploration of urban policies' journeys across contexts. How do planners and policymakers understand the genealogies of *ad hoc* policy transfers seeking to address the challenges currently encountered in metropolitan governance, neighborhood planning, the reception of immigrants, and the disruption or accommodation of ecological systems?

How might today's exclusionary policy outcomes or pro-growth imperatives be analyzed through a retrospective lens?

Now more than ever, we need historical perspectives and theoretical framings that allow us to explain and interpret how policies developed and how they might be expected to unfold when implemented. It is through such efforts that what can be done – and what must be avoided – becomes clear.

*Presentations housed within this theme are encouraged to employ historical and comparative approaches to understanding how the conditions of the past influenced today's policies. The application of new theoretical frames and historically sensitive analytical lenses to our understanding of policy transfers will foster richer understandings of urban policies, their implementation, and their outcomes.*

## Theme 2: Contemporary governance strategies to foster inclusive growth

In France as in the US, several urban policy programs are currently referred to as incremental, piecemeal, neoliberal... They trigger both unabashed celebration and heated contestation. They even constitute powerful platforms for the political ambitions of elected officials and community representatives alike.

Policy transfers are the talk of the town in modern governance, and carry many promises for progressive mayors like Anne Hidalgo, Bill de Blasio, and Sadiq Khan, who are co-authoring op-eds and jointly crafting city programs. Cross Atlantic transfers were influential for the co-signers of the Paris Climate Act (2016), and the crafters of the 2016 agreement to apply lessons from New York's Inclusionary Zoning model to Greater Paris.

It is in this context that several policy programs establish themselves as go-to alternatives, capitalizing on the public and private sectors to ensure the provision of such services, with all the issues such a scenario can entail.

Comparisons of contemporary metropolitan strategies regarding growth extend and complicate Theme 1's historical approach. They allow for the discussion of the timeliness of policy transfer research from a practical and methodological standpoint.

*Presentations housed within this theme are therefore encouraged to revisit how these practices are being implemented today and, most importantly, attempt to reformulate how they should be circulating across national contexts.*

### Theme 3: Discretionary expertise and reformulations from below

Paris is well on its way to achieving records and reaching milestones related to green policies, support of culture and the arts, the circular economy, and other important policy areas. But at the same time, it faces a housing crisis, peaks in inequality and polarization, and challenges to its sustainable goals. New York is also a proverbial global city for such a paradox.

While both cities have attempted to replicate best practices intended to address challenging trends such as ethno-racial segregation, the concentration of poverty, homelessness, affordable housing production, or climate change, efforts in these areas still often fail to produce the expected outcomes.

This is partly because *ad hoc* policy transfers often rely on discretionary expertise, without considering end-users or the grassroots reformulations from below that happen in both contexts. Because the success of urban policy programs often hinges on how granular, local context impacts implementation, comparing and contrasting how policies are received and reformulated from below in New York, Paris, and elsewhere allows us to complicate more standard, top-down policy evaluations that discuss both their implementation and associated outcomes with little consideration for those on the ground.

*The presentations housed within this theme will question top-down programs by exploring their impacts and implementation from the ground-level, with a focus on local context. These ideas will also show how local influences in one context can eventually shape how policies are applied elsewhere.*

## SPEAKERS & PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

### 01 Urban Policy Traditions & Quests for Innovation

Panel 9.15 am - 10.45 am

**Robert Beauregard** | *Columbia University*  
**Peter Kemp** | *University of Oxford*  
**Patricia Pelloux** | *Paris Urbanism Agency APUR*

### 02 Contemporary Governance Tools to Foster Inclusive Growth

Panel 11.00 am- 12.45 pm

**Lance Freeman** | *Columbia University*  
**Jean-Louis Missika** | *Deputy Mayor of Paris*  
**Howard Slatkin** | *Deputy Executive Director for  
Strategic Planning for the New York City Department  
of City Planning*  
**Laura Kurgan** | *Columbia University*

### 03 Insurgent Policy Transfers and Reformulations from Below

Panel 2.00 pm- 3.45 pm

**Marion Waller** | *Deputy chief of staff of  
Jean-Louis Missika, Deputy Mayor of Paris*  
**Louis-Xavier Leca** | *Le Carillon – Non profit*  
**Marie Baléo** | *La Fabrique de la Cité -Think Tank*  
**Hiba Bou Akar** | *Columbia University*