

Preface

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This Conference Proceedings volume contains the written versions of contributions presented during the 26th International Seminar on Urban Form Conference, held in Nicosia, Cyprus, July 2nd – July 6th, 2019, hosted by the Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology (CyNUM).

The Conference provided a setting for discussing theoretical and methodological transdisciplinarity in urban morphology. The topic of the conference, *Cities as Assemblages*, encouraged deliberation on the processes of urban emergence and transformation from a relational perspective, as well as consideration, in research methodologies and design approaches, to the relationship between physical and human elements. The aim of conference was to address the challenges currently faced by urban morphology: bridging the gaps between different approaches, developing cross-disciplinary studies, and integrating research and practice. The themes of the conference covered theory (emergence, relationality, social sciences, and the scope of limits of urban theories), methods (embedding and combining different approaches), urban design (urban morphology and building typology) and contextual topics (conflict, divided cities and port cities) relating to the location of the Conference. Approximately 220 presentations were delivered in 45 parallel sessions.

This present volume includes 49 contributions from all themes, focusing on specific sub-themes: emergence, relational theories, the social sciences and urban morphology (theory), embedding different approaches into the study of urban morphology (methods) and Mediterranean port cities in a global context (focus). The papers included in this volume were, in most cases, presented within the same sessions.

Under the theme of theory, the papers discuss the notion and mechanisms of emergence in the formation of socio-spatial relations, debate the idea of cities as assemblages for the description of emergence and also discuss the contradictory and multi-faceted nature of urban design.

The papers within the theme of methods present a variety of mapping techniques focusing on quantitative approaches, applications of concepts and narrative tools through critical analysis, and diachronic analyses of urban development. There is a strong focus on three-dimensional form, the relationship between built and open spaces, and public space more generally. The socio-cultural dimension of form in the relations between building typology and urban space features prominently as a key to analysing the impact of design and everyday life on the public realm.

In the urban design theme, public space and its use remain core elements of analysis, but with a stronger focus on the impact of the design of recent development projects, in particular transport projects, including road systems, public transport and walkability. New and subur-

ban neighbourhoods, gated and houseboat communities, industrial and waterfront areas were also subjects of research

Finally, in the focus theme, a small number of papers cover comparative analyses of port cities and their evolution in the Mediterranean and in Asia.

This volume offers a variety of the different papers that were presented at the Conference, providing a permanent record of the fruitful knowledge exchange that took place during the four days of the event, touching upon many important aspects of urban morphology and producing insights, which I believe will be invaluable for the future development of the field.

I would like to thank all participants for their contributions to the Conference programme and to these Proceedings. My special thanks go to the keynote speakers: Prof. Wendy McClure, Prof. Alan Penn, Prof. Giuseppe Strappa and Prof. Anne Vernez Moudon, who shared their latest research insights through highly engaging and stimulating presentations, reported in the journal *Urban Morphology* 23(2). Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF) Council for their continuous support for the organisation and delivery of the Conference.