

# **RT15 | PLANNING URBAN WATERFRONTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE**

## **Chairs**

- Dirk Schubert, HafenCity University Hamburg

## **Speakers**

- Michael Hebbert, UCL London
- Piotr Lorens, Gdansk Technical University
- Pedro Ressano Garcia, Lusofona University Lisbon
- Paolo de Martino
- Jose.Sanchez, HCU Hamburg

## **Description**

While the history of ports and port cities goes back to the 5th millennium BC, port and urban planning became separate disciplines only in the 18th century. Industrialization, urbanization, steamships and the growth of trade implied new technologies and a demand for more space in ports. City and port became separated and in the inter-war period additional port areas had to be developed. The retreat of land-uses from the traditional harbour areas near the city centre went through several phases in the next decades. Generally, the history of waterfront planning and the following projects can be described as a sequence of deindustrialisation processes and the global containerisation of goods handling. The history of planning at the interface of ports and port cities is a new trans-disciplinary topic that can help us learn from the past and integrate our unique port heritage into current and future waterfront transformations.

City and port will be (and must be) more separated in the future, as they serve distinct functions, fulfill different requirements, and are controlled by different actors, stakeholders, planning cultures, and temporalities. The re-integration of former port areas into the urban fabric is a complex planning task. Developers are pushing for (most) profitable uses, whereas cities have more diverse goals. Urban planning that includes heritage preservation and transformation has historically been an important factor for redevelopment strategies that re-integrate former port areas into the city.

Environment became a highly sensitive topic for most communities and future solutions that integrate adaptation to climate change increase the complexity. Attempts to reconnect city and port are gaining increased importance as shown through the works of groups such as the AIVP and RETE.

In this Round Table experts and researchers will discuss sustainable and resilient strategies for urban waterfronts from the perspective of both ports and port cities, which try to overcome

the spatial and functional separated perspectives for port and city, but are looking for a holistic urban perspective, which tries to (re-)integrate port and city. We'll focus the discussion on London, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Lisbon and Gdansk.

Contributions from other colleagues are welcome.

**Key Words:**

Planning History, Urban Waterfronts