



10<sup>TH</sup> N-AERUS CONFERENCE  
CALL FOR PAPERS  
English | Spanish | French

We are proud to announce the 10<sup>th</sup> N-AERUS conference titled: “Challenges to open cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East: shared spaces within and beyond”.

The conference will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2009. The organising and hosting institution is: the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies –IHS- in Rotterdam.

N-AERUS is the European Network Association of European researchers on Urbanisation in the South. The organisation aims to explore fundamental issues of contemporary urbanisation in an international context, to mediate between research, planning and policy, and to develop a dialogue with institutional partners in developing state-of-the-art urban policies. The network was established more than 15 years ago and serves as an open platform for hundreds of researchers from Europe and beyond.  
<http://www.n-aerus.net>

IHS is an international centre focusing on the management of urban development of the School of Economics (ESE) and the Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) of the Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands, operating on a global scale by offering post graduate education, training, advisory services and applied research. IHS was selected as the winner for the [2007 UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Award](#) for leading the way as a global centre of excellence and knowledge through its high quality training programmes in housing, urban management and urban environmental management and planning. In 2008 IHS celebrated its 50th anniversary. <http://www.ihs.nl/>

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**“Challenges to open cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East: shared spaces within and beyond”**

Openness is considered as:

*...referring to the porosity and permeability of urban spaces, since even gated communities are both 'open' and 'closed', as are ghettos. People are constantly moving into, through and out of urban spaces, yet not everyone is free (nor able, nor wants) to travel or communicate everywhere (Pile, Brook et al., 1999, 359).*

The conference intends to provide a discussion platform to explore one spectrum of contemporary urban processes by focusing on the diverse understandings of the notion of open cities. An underlying assumption is that contemporary cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East are driven by dual processes of spatial, social, cultural, economic and political integration and exclusion. Such processes help shape the openness, or the degree of being closed, of urban areas in reference to themselves or in relation to their hinterland and beyond. It is also assumed that there is a complex "open – closed" continuum determined by globalisation processes on the one hand and the need to maintain local identities and values on the other hand. Therefore the degree of being open, and/or closed, is understood as a relative notion depending on contextual and specific circumstances, which is on the other hand detached from biased judgements, e.g. socio-spatial segregation is not always (or necessarily) a negative condition, and if it is, it does not necessarily refer to marginal and poverty driven sections of the city.

In summary, when we think of open cities we make a distinction between openness *within their boundaries*, from a social, spatial and political point of view (socially segregated cities versus integrated cities), and *cities as open across their outside boundaries* (inclusive or exclusive cities).

Possible contributions are invited to challenge mainstream concepts of inclusion/exclusion, or segregation/integration and/or to explore alternative models, such as the dialectical and contextual approach described above. They are invited to explore these issues in the contexts of cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, aiming to learn from differences in their experiences. The papers can focus on the understanding of open/closed systems within and beyond. All forms and degrees of openness in urban contexts can be addressed in the papers. Case studies are highly welcome, as well as papers which advance theory.

### **Questions that can be addressed in the conference papers:**

Papers are encouraged on any topic of relevance to this conference including:

- Issues and practices
- Planning and policy
- Strategies, methods and tools
- Impact of scientific research on the practise of urban planning and policy

These topics can be addressed through focussing on:

**1. The open city within**

Papers under this theme should analyze the open or closed city, within its city boundaries.

**2. The open city beyond**

Papers under this theme should analyze the open or closed city in relation to its context, which can be at the global, national and regional level.

**Date and time table:**

1 June:	Submission of abstracts
26 June	Notification of abstract selection
1 September:	Submission of full papers

Abstracts of 300 words should be submitted in .rtf or .doc and submitted at [calls@n-aerus.net](mailto:calls@n-aerus.net). Please visit the N-AERUS website <http://www.n-aerus.net> to find the call for paper document in three languages (English, French and Spanish)

**Abstracts should:**

1. Define a title
2. Provide 5 key words
3. Explain the relevance of the paper
4. define the objectives, tools, methods and findings
5. Propose a structure of the presentation
6. A separate file should include the contact details as well as a brief description of the author. These details should not appear on the main abstract file

Papers will be selected by an independent scientific committee composed by IHS and N-AERUS representatives, though a blind refereeing process. After the conference a selection of the best articles will be published.

**Funding:**

A limited number of (partial) IHS fellowships will be available for excellent papers, to support the participation of some researchers or practitioners from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Candidates are encouraged to indicate their wish to be considered for funding when submitting their abstracts.

**Accommodation:**

Some low-cost accommodation will be available for participants. Relevant details to apply for low-cost accommodation will be provided on the conference website <http://www.n-aerus.net> along with supplementary information on additional accommodation at special negotiated rates.

**Costs:**

No registration fee accompanies attendance of the conference. There will be however a charge for all participants to cover the costs of documentation, lunches and coffee/tea and an optional excursion.

**Link N-AERUS conference to The International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR):**

The International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) is an international urban research biennale founded in 2001 on the conviction that architecture is a public concern. It promotes public understanding, thought and debate on architecture and urban design, its theory, practice, and role in society today. The 4th IABR, *Open City: Designing Coexistence*, opening on 24 September 2009, is exploring, documenting, and designing strategies for coexistence in today's cities. The question how architects and urbanists can stimulate concrete forms of social, cultural, and economic coexistence, will motivate its program of exhibitions, publications, documentaries and radio broadcasts, debates, master classes, lectures, workshops and conferences, both in Rotterdam and Amsterdam. Updates on the IABR activities during the N-AERUS conference can be found both on the N-AERUS and IHS website.

*The IHS team:*

Forbes Davidson, Marijk Huysman, Alonso Ayala, Anirban Pal & Maartje van Eerd

*The N-AERUS Coordination Group:*

Peter Gotsch, Harry Smith & Eleni Kyrou