

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Spatial Changes and Social Opportunities in the 21st-Century City

University of Athens

27–29 May 2026



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens
— EST. 1837 —

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



DAY 1 — Wednesday, 27 May 2026

10:00–12:00 | Registration


(Room 16) 57 Solonos Str.

12:00–12:30 | Welcome addresses, (Room 16)

12:30–14:30 | Panel 1: Migration, Mobility and Urban Belonging

Chair: Prof. Manos Spyridakis

- Mina Koukou – From Reception to the City: Migrants and Refugees, Urban Policies and Spatial Marginalization
- Panos Hatziprokopiou et al. – Migrant Inhabitation and Urban Ambience(s): Fearscape, Ethnoscape and Commonscape
- Manthos Velogiannis – Narratives and Counter-Narratives of the Changing City: The Case of Viktoria Square Region of Athens
- Eva Papatzani – Intersecting Urban Displacements: Theories and Concepts at the Nexus of Urban and Migration Studies
- Iris Polyzou – Understanding Migrant Entrepreneurship through the Migration-City Nexus. The Case of Athens' City Center
- Ismini Gatou – Cross(ing) Spatialities: Mobility, Dwelling, and Urban/Bodily Transformations in Central Athens

 14:30–15:30 | Lunch Break

15:30–17:30 | Panel 2: Urban Inequality, Housing and Spatial Justice

Chair: Dr. Stylianos Koufogiannakis

- Arina Feduinskaya - Ilya Andreev. – From Industrialization to Developer Extroversion: The Fate of Moscow's Unprestigious Inner Periphery in the Case of the Karacharov Triangle
- Thalia Trakaki – Changing Ownership, Changing Facades, Changing Residents: Violent Transformations of the Building Stock in Exarcheia Neighborhood
- Danil Mikheev et al. – Multi-Scalar Peripheralization as a Form of Spatial Injustice: The Case of Orekhovo-Zuyevo in the Moscow Agglomeration
- Dr. Eleni Tzoumaka – Home vs. Real Estate: The Housing Problem in Post-Crisis Athens and Its Socio-Cultural Implications
- Zografia Papanagiotou – The Contribution of Social Networks to Improving Urban Environments in the 21st Century

☕ 17:30–18:00 | Coffee Break

18:00–20:00 | Panel 3: Tourism, Mobility and the Reconfiguration of Urban Belonging

Chair: Dr. Ismini Gatou

- Flaviana Astone - Temporary Belonging and Symbolic Appropriation in Tourist-Driven Coastal Urbanities: Taormina as a Transnational Stage of Identity Negotiation. Preliminary Studies
- Andrea Boscoboinik - From Rural Hamlets to Alpine Urban Resorts: Tourism, Mobility and Belonging in the Swiss Alps
- Kayhan Delibaş Esin Pınar Usluer and Aynur Çam - Identity Politics and Changing Tourism Policies: Conservative Policies in Tourism Sector and its Appearances in Tourist-Driven Urbanities in Turkey
- Arsen Hakobyan - Belonging, Space and Memory in Emergency: Forced Displacement and the Afterlife of Stepanakert under Occupation
- Joseph P. Helou - The Influx of Syrian Refugees to Lebanon: Agents of Change in Tourism in Lebanese Cities

DAY 2 — Thursday, 28 May 2026 (Room 13)

09:30–11:30 | Panel 4: Governance, Commons and the Right to the City

Chair: Dr. Mina Koukou


- Elena Schipani – The City of Naples and Its Commons: Can the Naples Model Become an Alternative?
- Maria Vaiouli – State Policy and Governance Frameworks for Real Estate Asset Management in Greece: Assessing the Impact of Property Ownership and Management Registry (MIDA)
- Sofia Grigoriadou – Artistic Practices and the Right to the City in Athens and Skopje: Highlighting Spatial Changes
- Diana Kodzokova et al. – Community of Fate: Post-Socialist Urban Transformation, Urban Belonging and Social Ties in Nalchik
- Emily Pia – Transforming Narratives and Local Spaces of Migrants’ Contestation

☕ 11:30–12:00 | Coffee Break

12:00–14:00 | Panel 5: Culture, Identity, Religion and Public Space

Chair: Dr. Vasiliki Papadopoulou

- Alexandros Sakellariou – Islamic Religious Topographies in the Greek Public Space: Contested Past and Religious Gentrification
- Leonidas Bourbakis et al. – Queer Identities and Public Space in the City of Chania
- Konstantinos Theodoridis – Negotiating Inclusion and Belonging: Social Media and Youth Experiences in Cultural Spaces
- Dina Karavaeva – British Pakistanis In-Between Identities in Modern UK: Borders and Urban Spaces
- Christina Skourti – We Are Humans Like You: Assembling in Public Spaces as Embodied Solidarity

 14:00–15:30 | Lunch Break

15:30–17:30 | Panel 6: Urban Transformations, Heritage and Contestations of Identity

Chair: Dr. Marcello Mollica

- Hana Horáková - Urban Tourism in Contemporary Namibia: Imperial Nostalgia, the Colonial Gaze, and Trauma
- Elif Kanca and Marcello Mollica - Coastal performances: Tourism and Tension in Two Mediterranean Cities
- Hamlet Melkumyan - When Home Becomes a Destination: Negotiating Urban Identity and Belonging Amid Gentrification in the Touristic Town of Dilijan
- Benedetta Panchetti and Raffaella Ventura - Migration, Mobility, and the Reshaping of Ragusa's Historic Center Identity

DAY 3 — Friday, 29 May 2026 (Room 12)

09:30–11:30 | Panel 7: Digital Cities, Surveillance and Algorithmic Governance

Chair: Dr. Alexandros Sakellariou

- Maria Kazakova – How Traffic Cameras Impact Road Safety: A Case Study of Moscow Using Data Journalism Methods
- Maria Malandraki – From Technological Solutionism to Democratic Rationalization: Rethinking Smart Urban Governance


- Vasiliki Papadopoulou – Surveillance in a ‘smart’ city: an individual’s consent to the use of personal data as a social practice in urban life
- Stylianos Koufogiannakis – Algorithmic Security of Urban Space and Resistance: The Case of Predictive Policing in the United States
- Konstantinos Syros & Nikolaos Patsantaras – The Construction of Identity in Virtual Places: The Example of the Virtual Sport Identity

 11:30–12:00 | Coffee Break

12:00–13:30 | Panel 8: Urban Transformations, Capital, Labour and Tourism

Chair: Dr. Christos Bakalis

- Emiliano Pettenò & Christos Bakalis– Overtourism Pressures on Coastal Cities in the Anthropocene Epoch: An Approach to Locals’ and Visitors’ Perspectives in Venice
- Jarre Ameye & Christos Bakalis – Global Capital onto the Field: Socio-Economic Changes, Urbanization and Environmental Challenges in the Global South: A Case Study from Cambodia
- Stylianos-Ioannis Tzagkarakis - Manos Spyridakis – New Employment Trajectories and Spatial Inequalities in the Digital Era
- Fivos Papadimitriou -Spatial AI and GeoAI for Digital Cities

 13:30–15:00 | Lunch Break

15:00–16:30 | Panel 9: Everyday Urban Life, Space, Embodiment and Resistance

Chair: Dr. Stylianos-Ioannis Tzagkarakis

- Milena Pugina – An Unlikely Pet: Human-Pigeon Assemblages and Interspecies Exclusion in Russian Public Space
- Petros Tsigkas – Structure and Socio-Spatial Patterns of Contemporary City: The Case of Moscow
- Ioannis Rompas – “Here is our home...”: Underground Music Performances as a Form of Resistance Against Gentrification

16:30–17:30 | Closing Session:

keynote speech: Lila Leontidou, Emerita Professor, Hellenic Open University

Conference Information for Participants

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

57 Solonos Street, Athens

We are pleased to welcome you to the International Conference “Spatial Changes and Social Opportunities in the 21st-Century City”.

The conference venue is located in the city centre of Athens, at 57 Solonos Street, within walking distance of major landmarks, cultural sites, and public transport connections. The venue is also very close to Panepistimio metro station, ensuring easy access for all participants.

The subscription fee (30Euros) will be paid in situ, when you register for the conference. All presentations must last up to 20 minutes, in order to leave room for discussion. Rooms will be equipped with laptops and projectors, so you may bring your presentation file in a USB stick.

During your stay, we encourage you to explore the historic centre of Athens, including the Acropolis and Parthenon, the neighborhoods of Plaka and Monastiraki, as well as renowned museums such as the Acropolis Museum and the National Archaeological Museum.

The surrounding area offers a wide variety of cafés, restaurants, and everyday amenities, making your stay both convenient and enjoyable

If you encounter any issues or require assistance during the conference, please do not hesitate to contact the organizing team. Our staff will be available throughout the event to support you.

We wish you a productive conference and a pleasant stay in Athens.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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CONFERENCE VENUE

**University of Athens
Solonos 57 Building**
School of Economic and Political Sciences
Solonos 57, 106 79 Athens, Greece
(City Centre)

The conference will take place in the historic Solonos 57 Building of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, right in the heart of the city.



National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

One of the oldest universities in Southeast Europe (est. 1837) and a landmark of Athens.



NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you have any questions or need help during the conference, please contact the organizers. We are here to assist you!

**UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS
SOLONOS 57 BUILDING**
School of Economic and Political Sciences
Solonos 57, Athens

2-3 min walk

PANEPISTIMIO METRO STATION
LINE 2 (RED LINE)

EXPLORE THE HEART OF ATHENS

The Acropolis & Parthenon Plaka (Historic District) Monastiraki Square Acropolis Museum National Archaeological Museum Syntagma Square

Take some time to discover the city's history, culture and vibrant atmosphere!

HOW TO GET TO THE VENUE

BY METRO

Get off at Panepistimio Station (Line 2 – Red Line). Exit towards Panepistimiou Street. The venue is only a 2-3 minute walk away.

ON FOOT

The venue is easily accessible on foot from Syntagma, Monastiraki and Omonia.

BY BUS / TROLLEY

Several bus and trolleybus lines stop near Panepistimiou Street.

Our staff will be available throughout the event to help you with any questions or issues.

Budget Hotels & Accommodation Near the Conference Venue

- **Economy Hotel Athens**

Address: Kleisthenous 5, Athens 105 52, Greece

Budget hotel, ~8–10 min walk

- **Athens Choice Hotel**

Address: Veranzerou 45, Athens 104 32, Greece
Very affordable option near Omonia

- **Sparta Team Hotel**

Address: Menandrou 21, Athens 105 55, Greece
One of the cheapest hotels in the area

- **Alma Hotel**

Address: Dorou 5, Athens 104 32, Greece
Basic, low-cost accommodation (~10 min walk)

- **Athens Psiri Hotel**

Address: Sofokleous 32, Athens 105 52, Greece
→ Good value hotel, often around budget range

- **Athens Hub Hostel**

Address: Agias Eleousis 7, Athens 105 54, Greece
→ Modern hostel, excellent location (Psirri)

- **City Circus Athens Hostel**

Address: Sarri 16, Athens 105 53, Greece
→ Stylish hostel, affordable private rooms

- **Bedbox Athens**

Address: Polykleitou 11, Athens 105 51, Greece
→ Central hostel with very good prices

- **Safestay Athens Monastiraki**

Address: Agias Theklas 10, Athens 105 54, Greece
→ Budget hostel, rooftop, central location

- **Nubian Hostel Athens**

Address: Mavromichali 47, Athens 106 80, Greece
→ Very close (Exarcheia area), walking distance