



Call for Abstracts / Productive Processes

Sustainable Transitions for Urban Industrial Lands

Urban industrial lands, like many other urban areas, are under pressure to change. Change might aspire for Sustainability. Change might also be silent and yet ostensible, shaped in the shadow of technological trends or even the COVID-19 Pandemic. Regardless of the reason, communities in practice and research now urgently recognise changes on urban industrial lands as integral to urban transitions that still need adequate responses. Only through policy craft and processes that are informed cooperatively by many perspectives and their interests can these responses take shape. Convening these perspectives could also improve the coherence of coordinated, economic and material flows, such as those favouring circular models and differentiated rhythms in production and consumption. Bringing together their interests in determining the transition of urban industrial lands could address needs for equitable new futures for work and employment lands. Finally, diversity along with cooperation could enhance the alignment of adaptation strategies for long-standing and climate change targets.

Unlike other urban areas, however, the recent and consequential morphology of space on urban industrial lands, require considerations beyond conventional concerns associated with environmental vulnerabilities and externalities associated with industrial activities. Rather, emerging needs expand design in policy and practice. This is observed in regenerative approaches to urban industrial lands that increasingly employ infill or vertical development and new possibilities for material upgrades to (pre)existing building stock. These ex-panding directions in design allow for intensified and alternative configurations of functions as well as ambitious reductions in emissions. Emerging demands are also unprecedented as they juxtapose competing priorities. These present tensions for stricter preservation policies and more flexible use typologies.

Current debates on urban production or the *Productive City* offer some clarity for ongoing experiences with the changes to urban industrial lands. Yet these discussions are shallow or unearth more questions of where, when, with whom and in particular, how new orientations for these lands should be directed. This call seeks out contributions responding to these questions. Contributions should flesh out more fundamental processes that forge the transition of urban industrial lands. These hopeful processes, which may build on cooperation and innovation, emphasize the keystone roles and responsibilities that urbanists and planners have in facilitating and mediating how these processes at ground zero unfold.

Also fraught with tensions, these processes are caught between the sluggish change of built or institutional structures and the accelerating tempos of economic and cultural environments. They are place-based as no process is wholly transferable to another. They are also space-specific, in that they must respond to the locational and functional conditions from the evolving and multiple configurations of stakeholders embedded into the economic, social and cultural systems of urban industrial lands. These processes are unique and universal in the final shaping and programming of industrial lands.

Contributions for pNd 1/2023 Edition

This special issue on how (planning) processes facilitate the sustainable transition of urban and industrial lands intends to establish a baseline of current experiences, common hurdles and necessary visions or values. These might clarify how (agents of) planning may contribute to transformational governance of urban industrial lands or make more coherent the many and scalar perspectives in space and over time. These might encourage or rethink the planning toolbox and its many instruments. Such a rethinking could encourage new or appropriate concepts and debates to guide communities towards the sustainable transition of cities' industrial lands. We seek contributions to this special issue that may include, but are not limited to one or more of the following themes:

- **Governance** structures, arrangements, and policies for the cooperation **and/or management** in the sustainable transition of urban industrial lands
- **Temporal and time-sensitive dynamics and patterns** and characteristics reflected in sustainable transition of urban industrial lands
- **Roles and responsibilities** involved in the coordination (in progress) for the **systemic linkages, targets, and tools for the sustainable transition** of urban industrial lands
- Co-production of **new impacts including products, services, infrastructure, and policies as well as their feedback and feedforward effects**, which might bring synergies to functions, places, and spaces through sustainable transition of urban industrial lands
- Spatial production of **new values and meanings that (re)orient or (re)invent** through the sustainable transition of urban industrial lands

Authors and Submissions

This thematic issue is intended to reflect a diversity of authors from different disciplines and backgrounds, within both academia and practice. All contributions are encouraged to include empirical observations and analyses including but not limited to single or (systematic and) comparative case studies. These might analyse processes or experiences on-site and/or from research. We welcome international perspectives beyond the German or European context. Finally, authors are also encouraged to submit a contribution based on, or updating previously written or published articles for this topic.

Submission Guidelines

Interested authors are invited to please submit an **abstract with 1500 to 2000 characters (including spaces) by 15th July 2022 to neu-denken@pt.rwth-aachen.de.**

Following steps:

- Accepted submissions will be notified by 15th August 2022.
- Finished articles are to be submitted by 15th November 2022.
- Initial reviews will be provided to authors by 15th December 2022.
- The editorial revisions, layout, and proofreading will take place during early 2023.
- Publication is planned for spring 2023.

We would like to share some notes on requirements for the manuscript in advance. Contributions to **pnd 1/2023** should:

- not exceed 35,000 characters nor go below a minimum of 12,000 characters (including spaces);
- be written in English or German;
- include references such as scientific sources, or supplementary information in the case of field reports;
- include visual material such as images or graphs.

Detailed authors guidelines will be sent to you with the notification of accepted submissions.

Publisher and Editor

The Chair of Planning Theory and Urban Development RWTH Aachen University publishes the specialist publication **pnd – rethinking planning.**

The issue 1/2023 is published and edited by Robin Chang and Agnes Förster as well as guest editors.

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