

Call for Papers

AACCP2025

Exploring Urban Fabric – Variable Boundaries and Value Assessment

University of Helsinki & AACCP Network | 20-23 May 2025 | Helsinki, Finland

The Department of Cultural Studies / Archaeology at the University of Helsinki, in collaboration with the Architecture, Archaeology, and Contemporary City Planning (AACCP) network, invites researchers, practitioners, and experts from various fields to participate in a symposium exploring issues related to cultural heritage, urban development and city planning. The symposium, featuring two days of sessions along with pre- and post-symposium excursions, will take place at the University of Helsinki from May 20 to 23, 2025. The event aims to foster a deeper understanding of the interactions between past, present, and future in shaping urban environments.

Theme: Exploring Urban Fabric – Variable Boundaries and Value Assessment

This symposium seeks contributions that investigate the multifaceted nature of urban boundaries — both tangible and intangible dimensions — and their impact on urban development, governance, heritage management, site evaluation, and social inclusion. We invite contributors to critically examine the ways in which boundaries are constructed, reinforced, and sometimes erased within the urban fabric, with an emphasis on various aspects such as cultural, historical, spatial, social, temporal, and regulatory boundaries.

How do these boundaries shape our perceptions of urban spaces and histories? In what ways do urban policies and planning practices reinforce or challenge these demarcations? And how can a deeper understanding of urban borders contribute to more inclusive and sustainable urban futures?

We welcome contributions on, but not limited to, the following themes:

- The integration or division of historical and contemporary urban elements
- Constructed vs. perceived boundaries and value assessment.
- Divided or unified spaces in the evolving urban landscape.
- Boundaries between city centers, suburbs, and surrounding environments.
- Boundaries between disciplines, fields, organizations, and actors in urban studies and development, and how they influence collaboration and decision-making.
- The role of urban planning and development in shaping cultural heritage and urban identities.
- The influence of legislation and policies on the scope and limits of urban archaeology, preservation, and evolution.
- Urban design examples that challenge traditional / existing boundaries and promote inclusivity.
- Comparative studies and case studies of boundary-crossing urban development models in different contexts.

Submission Details

Please submit abstracts of no more than 300 words outlining the key themes and arguments of your proposed presentation. **Abstracts should be sent via email by April 14th, 2025** to liisa.h.seppanen@helsinki.fi and / or liseppa@utu.fi

Participation, registration, and programme

We welcome warmly all participants, with or without contribution, from various fields interested in issues related to cultural heritage and urban development in the symposium. While we warmly encourage on-site participation to facilitate in-depth discussions and networking opportunities, online participation will also be available for those unable to attend in person.

The symposium will consist of pre- and post-symposium excursions as well as two seminar days featuring presentations, discussions, and guided city walks in Helsinki.

The pre-symposium excursion on 20 May will take us to the **city of Vantaa** – a young city, officially founded in 1974, and located in the immediate vicinity of the Finnish capital, Helsinki. However, the roots of the city are much deeper, reaching back almost 10,000 years. These ancient layers are mostly hidden underground, but the prehistoric past of the area is reflected in various ways throughout the urban landscape. During the excursion, we will visit the so-called Ancient Park of Jokiniemi and one of Vantaa's city centers, Myyrmäki. The Ancient Park of Jokiniemi has been established on one of Finland's largest and best-researched Stone Age settlements. Myyrmäki, also built on a significant Stone Age site, is the location of one of the largest known Stone Age cemeteries in Finland. In both Jokiniemi and Myyrmäki, the Stone Age heritage has been brought to life through street art and other creative means.

The **post-symposium excursion**, taking place on **23 May**, will lead participants to **Suomenlinna**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and historic sea fortress located on an island just off the coast of Helsinki. For further information about the site, please visit: <https://www.suomenlinna.fi/en/>.

The excursion includes **guided tours focusing on the island's history, marine archaeology, architecture, and contemporary life**. These tours will be conducted by an **architect and an archaeologist**, both of whom reside on the island and are intimately familiar with its heritage and current context. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to visit **museum exhibitions** that explore the island's rich past and offer insights into the wider Baltic Sea region, including the environmental challenges posed by human activity.

The **final programme** will be published by the **end of April**, following the evaluation of submitted abstracts.

Registration is required for all participants by **4 May 2025** via the link provided below. Please ensure that you begin the registration process by selecting the appropriate **registration type** to access the correct fee category.

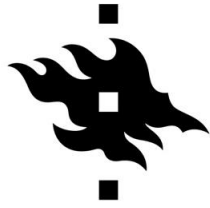
<https://onlinepayments.it.helsinki.fi/product/aaccp2025-exploring-urban-fabric-variable-boundaries-and-value-assessment/>

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact liisa.h.seppanen@helsinki.fi and / or liseppa@utu.fi

We look forward to your contributions, active participation, and inspiring days filled with lively discussions in Helsinki.

Organizing committee

Liisa Seppänen, University of Helsinki
Kristiina Mannermaa, University of Helsinki
Mika Lavento, University of Helsinki
Per Cornell, University of Gothenburg
Giorgio Verdiani, University of Florence
Hannele Kuitunen, University of Tampere
Laura Hesso, University of Turku



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



AACCP

ARCHITECTURE ARCHAEOLOGY AND CONTEMPORARY CITY PLANNING
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM