Cities as global actors?
The new diplomacy of cities for climate change

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
29 May 2017
École des Ponts ParisTech, Champs-sur-Marne
The contemporary period is marked by a process of economic, political, cultural and environmental globalisation, unprecedented in its nature and scope. Based on the intensification of the circulation not only of material goods, money and persons, but also of imaginaries, representations, social norms and patterns, this “third globalisation” changes how societies relate to a global (or at least an ever more globalised) space; it is in particular strongly articulated with urbanisation, another major process at work.

The (most) visible side of this mutation, metropolisation, has been widely studied as regards its processes as its results. But the effects of globalisation on urban spaces, economies and societies are more diverse and affect all levels of the urban hierarchy. "New" geographies of innovation, international migrations, the circulation of cultural norms, tourism development, the rise of transnational actors involved in urban production, various forms of intensification of urban competition, links between urbanisation and global environmental change... all contribute to the profound mutations of the urban phenomenon in all its dimensions.

This serie of workshops aims to explore internationalisation as a set of constraints, opportunities and resources for urban development and policies (in other words, the ins and outs of the international action cities), retaining as a main analyser the contemporary modalities of urban production in its various dimensions: cultural and imaginary, material and technological, economic and financial, political and social.
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP: PROGRAM

8:30  Welcome coffee

09:00  Introduction
 Cyria Emeliano, University of Maine
 Olivier Coutard, CNRS, LATTs

9:30 - 11:00  Political dimensions of transnational urban diplomacy

Twentty years of transnational urban diplomacy: political results and dead ends
 Harriet Bulkeley, University of Newcastle

The globalisation of the Covenant of Mayors: why and how?
 Claire Roumet, head of Energy Cities

Moderator  Cyria Emeliano, University of Maine

11:00-11:15  coffee break

From local foreign policies to a new diplomacy of cities for the climate and beyond (the next step)
 Jeb Brugman, founder of ICLEI, Resilient cities, New York

Moderator  Olivier Coutard, CNRS, LATTs

12h:15 - 13:30  lunch break

13:30 - 15h15  One or many diplomacies of cities for the climate?

Convergences, divergences and conflicts between transnational municipal networks,
 Michele Acuto, City Leadership Laboratory, University College London

Diplomacy of cities for the climate in the light of a global political ecology,
 David Gordon, University of California Santa Cruz

Moderator  Christian Lefèvre, University Paris-Est

15:15 - 15:30  coffee break

16h-17h30  Global networking and local climate policies

The local foreign climate policy of Sao Paulo,
 Joana Setzer, Center for Climate Change Economics and Policy, LSE, London

How COP 21 affected the local climate plan in Paris?
 Yann Françoise, ville de Paris

Divest: Paris, Berlin, Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhague, new modes of political action?
 Clémence Dubois, 350.org

Moderator N. Blanc, Université Paris 7
Since the 1990s, a new diplomacy of cities has been emerging to address climate change. Born in the wake of local foreign policy experiments on the West Coast of the United States, it is spreading through the action of transnational municipal networks which contest the monopoly of international (inter state) relations to address global change issues. In reaction to the limited results of climate negotiations and to the continued influence of fossil and fissile energy lobbies at national level, some cities or city networks develop strategies to limitate GHG emissions or the impact of their climate consequences. Local governments aspire to gain importance on the international stage: to ask for more local autonomy; to contribute to solve issues that affect or will affect their economic prosperity and the health of their residents; to assert the role of cities in a context of growing internationalization and increasing economic and political competition between territories and between levels of government; and more generally to help shape economic globalization that directly affects cities.

The development of this new urban geopolitics (S. Sassen) needs to be explored: how it emerges, how it evolves, what its aims and implications are. During this one-day conference organized in Marne-la-Vallée (Cité Descartes), a range of international experts will examine and discuss these new urban dynamics, their recent developments, their economic and political dimensions, and the associated adjustments and tensions. Among the issues addressed at the conference: What are the visions and objectives of the range of existing city networks on energy and climate change? What type of energy transition do they promote, and in partnership with whom? What are the areas of agreement, but also of disagreement or contention, between these networks? To what extent have European energy transition policies stimulated this evolution? How can the recent internationalization of the European city network Covenant of Mayors be accounted for?

And in terms of global political ecology more specifically: How effective is the energy and climate diplomacy of cities? What are its main outcomes at local, national and transnational levels? Do city networks contribute to improving energy and climate justice? How do they affect the member cities’ low carbon policies? Are new forms or areas of political action emerging within these networks? Does city climate action promote more democratic energy choices?
INTERNATIONALISING CITIES

Supervision of the research program
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Participation in the international workshop is free and open to all, with registration ahead of time.

Make sure you carry an identity card or a passport.

Please confirm your attendance by signing up with your name, institution, and position:
https://www.inscription-facile.com/form/hM6LdAJ2Aa6TVmXfCLKt