

Sunday, Oct.12
Afternoon session
Vera Smirnova

Normative Dimension of Resilience

The main theme of this session was centered on the embedded complexities that sometimes help but sometimes diminish the capacity of urban systems to be resilient.

Starting with a theoretical proposition of a paradigm shift from a conventional understanding of sustainability to a transformative and dynamic concept of resilience as presented by Dr. Andreas Rechkemmer, the panelists addressed a number of underlying conditions and barriers that define resilient pathways of the cities.

Rapid socio-economic changes, globalization, urbanization, and interwoven characters of economic, political, and social processes, described by Dr. Per Becker, call for a more adaptive approach to resilient urban development. Dr. James Bohland, provided additional context for these issues in his statement that “the national value system may possibly create strong barriers to a general application of resilience topics in the work of local authorities, governments, and policy implementation.” These issues are embedded deeply in our culture and, therefore, require fundamental work.

Dr. Arrietta Chakos finished the session with a more applied contribution to a discussion by providing the examples of collaborative and interdisciplinary work with long term planning and policy development in the Bay area through a focus on how disasters integrate into the larger social ecosystems of human settlements.