



6TH WORLD PLANNING SCHOOLS CONGRESS
FINLAND : HELSINKI / ESPOO / TAMPERE

TRACK 9: LAW

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Description:

This track explores the intersections between land-use law, real property rights and planning within the context of global environmental, social and technological transformations. Land remains a contested space where diverse legal rights and interests collide. While property rights lie at the core of these conflicts, planning is also increasingly shaped by complex legal and ethical challenges, ranging from urgent environmental justice and minority rights issues to the impact of AI-driven decision-making.

Aligned with the general theme of the WPSC 2026, contributions that examine how laws and planning systems can support sustainable, culturally and socially diverse, healthy and just environments are welcomed. Contributions may consider, for example, how legal frameworks intersect with spatial and data justice, and how planning law may reinforce or challenge historical inequalities.

At the same time, the track seeks to host rigorous research on the day-to-day role of law-based instruments in regulating land allocation, development and property rights. Contributions examining statutory planning systems, governance structures, and the legitimacy of statutory planning interventions are welcomed, including those addressing legal aspects of public participation, stakeholder engagement, and dispute resolution. Central topics also include instruments of intervention with property rights including the many modes of land value capture, land banking, expropriation and compensation, which are key to understanding how planning law mediates between conflicting interests in the face of global transformations.

The aim of this track is to bring forward recent rigorous research on these and related topics. By fostering dialogue among researchers interested in the interface between planning and law, we hope to push the international frontier of knowledge both about how various aspects of planning law operate in practice, and how they may potentially be improved and harnessed to meet the challenges of our time, balancing competing rights and responsibilities with the urgent need for equitable and sustainable development.

Keywords:

planning law; property rights; environmental harms; environmental racism; AI; spatial justice; data justice; diversity