ASOCIAL FORMS: RECONFIGURING POSSIBILITIES OF URBAN SPACE

Fourteenth International Conference on The Constructed Environment

5–6 April, 2024
Universität Wien, Vienna, Austria
Welcome
Letter
Dear Attendees,

I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to you for the Fourteenth International Conference on The Constructed Environment, hosted by The Constructed Environment Research Network. Since its inception in 2010, our research network has annually united a diverse community of scholars, researchers, and practitioners with a shared passion for investigating the intricate relationships between constructed social and natural environments.

It is the annual conference, where we convene to exchange ideas, engage in discussions, and foster connections both online and in person. This year, our conference places special emphasis on the theme of "Asocial Forms: Reconfiguring Possibilities of Urban Space." This theme aims to stimulate research and dialogue on reconciling the growing trends of individualization, isolation, and disconnection with the creation of shared and co-created spaces. Furthermore, our four overarching themes— "The Design of Space and Place," "Constructing the Environment," "Environmental Impacts," and "Social Impacts"— will serve as platforms for exploring the latest research and findings in these vital areas. Often, these discussions will build upon previous conference dialogues, adding new perspectives and insights.

We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to engage with you either in person in Vienna this April or online, facilitating enriching discussions and learning about innovative methodologies and solutions addressing contemporary challenges. We also hope that this conference will serve as a catalyst for forging new connections and collaborations among attendees, fostering impactful research endeavours.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I extend a heartfelt welcome to the Fourteenth International Conference on The Constructed Environment. May your participation be informative, inspiring, and thoroughly enjoyable.

Warm regards,

Fabian Neuhaus
The Constructed Environment Research Network Chair
Founded in 2010, the Constructed Environment Research Network is brought together by a common shared interest in human configurations of the environment and the interactions among the constructed, social and natural environments. As a Research Network, we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions.

Constructing Place

“Form follows function,” proclaimed the modernists of the twentieth century. However, others have said before and since that aesthetics is a distinct domain of representation not necessarily or entirely determined by function. Even when form follows function, there is an aesthetic. Even when we might claim an aesthetic is a travesty, or that there has been no attention to aesthetic, the aesthetic nevertheless persists. What makes place distinctive?

Environmental Footprints: The Urban and Beyond

The built environment is inevitably in dialogue with nature. Nature provides its material sources. And the built environment invariably articulates with nature—whether that relationship is carefully premeditated or casually circumstantial. Settlement and construction have an impact; they create a footprint in their environments. In our century, concerns for the relationship of humans to environment increasingly deploy the rubric of sustainability. Is a practice environmentally profligate or prudent? Articulation with the environment has become one of the fundamental concerns of our times.

Human Spaces and Social Flows

As human artifice, our various design and construction practices shape our lives. The physical forms they leave are a humanistic legacy. However, our human experiences and interests are irreducibly diverse. So how does a constructed environment affect different people differentially? How can it be sensitive to their varied needs? How can it be inclusive? How can potentially negative impacts be anticipated and mitigated? How can a constructed environment be designed and made in such a way as to best serve the panoply of human needs?
The Design of Space and Place
Addresses the ways in which human settlements and the built environment is conceptualized, plans represented, and competing interests negotiated.

- Design disciplines and practices: architecture, engineering, industrial design, landscape architecture
- Settlement disciplines and practices: planning, human geography
- Science in the service of technology
- Information, design, modeling and geospatial technologies
- Urban and regional planning
- Local government in the planning process
- Transportation modes and structures: reconfiguring flows
- Parks and recreation in urban spaces
- Designing interior spaces
- Information flows in the constructed environment
- ‘Virtual’ space and ‘real’ space
- Place and identity
- Form and function in space: how aesthetics relates to function
- Project planning
- Inclusive design: design for human needs, sensitive to human differences, affirming rights to access
- Involving stakeholders: participatory design
- Consultation, negotiation and consensus building in the (re)design of the constructed environment.
- Aesthetic paradigms: classicism, modernism, postmodernism, constructivism and other ‘isms

Constructing the Environment
Examining the processes of constructing buildings and creating landscapes.

- Urban impacts
- Building construction
- Landscape construction
- Spaces and sites of construction: urban, greenfield, rural, remote
- From design studio to construction site: design and project planning
- Project management processes and practices
- Construction activities, processes and flows
- Time cycles, process transparency, quality management and efficiencies
- Efficiencies: prefabrication and modularization
- The construction of access to wild spaces
- Building and construction regulation
Environmental Impacts
Exploring questions of sustainability in the constructed environment.

- Materials, construction and environmental sciences
- Helping structures change, grow or end their useable lives – adaptations, renovations and recycling
- Green construction, sustainable building practices
- LEED and other environmental certifications
- Energy sources and destinations: reconfiguring grids
- Water needs and sources: refiguring demand and access
- Natural movements: floods, droughts, earthquakes and other acts of nature
- Waste creation, transportation and recycling or disposal
- Determining footprints: environmental impact analyses

Social Impacts
Investigating the social life of constructed environments.

- Social and material flows
- Functions of construction: housing, commercial, public, community
- Habitats: home, work, civic, business, natural
- Spatial cultures: the ethnography of space
- Cultural diversity and the built environment
- Globalization and its environmental impacts
- Gender and the built environment
- Disabilities and corporeal differences in the built environment
- Heritage values and practices in design, architecture and construction
- Addressing inequality and poverty in the built environment
- The global and the local: applying human and material resources
- Values, ethics and aesthetics in environmental decision making
- Leadership and management in the human geographies and the constructed environment
- Education and training for workers in the constructed environment
- Values and ethics in human and natural environments
- Research and evaluation methods in human geographies and constructed environments
- Law and regulation in and for the constructed and natural environments
- Human resources and workforces in the building and environment sectors
- Needs assessment and analysis
- Social impact analyses
Fabian Neuhaus has received his doctorate in urban planning from UCL. His research interest are temporal aspects of the urban environment. His research focuses on the topics of Habitus, Type and Ornament in the sense of Activity, Technology and Memory. He has been a guest critic at the Bartlett School of Architecture, Architecture Association AA, University of Arts London, London Metropolitan University at the Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Design, the University of Plymouth at the School of Architecture. For his Masters of Science in Urban Design at the Bartlett School of Architecture, he was awarded a distinction. He has worked with architecture and urban design practices in the UK and Switzerland as well as on research projects at universities in Switzerland, Germany and the UK. He is the principal author of www.urbantick.org.
The **Constructed Environment Research Network** is grateful for the foundational contributions, ongoing support, and continued service of our Advisory Board.

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The International Journal of Architectonic, Spatial, and Environmental Design

The International Journal of Architectonic, Spatial, and Environmental Design publishes broad-ranging and interdisciplinary articles on human configurations of the environment and the interactions between the constructed, social, and natural environments. The journal brings together researchers, teachers, and practitioners. The resulting articles weave between the empirical and the theoretical, research and its application, the ideal and the pragmatic, and spaces that are in their orientations private, public, communal, or commercial. As well as articles of a traditional scholarly type, this journal invites presentations of practice—including experimental forms of documentation and exegesis that can with equal validity be interrogated through a process of peer review. This might, for instance, take the form of a series of images and plans, with explanatory notes that articulate with other, significantly similar or different and explicitly referenced places, sites, or material objects.

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Articles published in The International Journal of Architectonic, Spatial, and Environmental Design are two-way blind peer-reviewed by scholars who are active members of Constructed Environment Research Network. The publisher, editors, reviewers, and authors all agree upon the standards of expected ethical behavior as based on the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Core Practices. For further information on policies and practices please review our Publishing Ethics Guidelines.

Journal Editor

Fabian Neuhaus
Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada

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We take research integrity seriously, following standards and best practices established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). We’re also active members of key industry associations: Association of American Publishers, Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, The Society for Scholarly Publishing, and Crossref.

To review our policy on take link below:

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- Statement on Informed Consent
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- Retractions and Corrections
- Fraudulent Research and Research Misconduct
- Transparency
- Ethical Business Practices (Ownership, Management, Governing Bodies, Access, Copyright and Licensing, Author Fees, Usage Metrics and Reporting, Data Privacy, Direct Marketing, Communication & Advertising, Editorial Team Contact Information)

https://cgnetworks.org/journals/publication-ethics

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Fourteenth International Conference on
The Constructed Environment
Founded in 2010, the **International Conference on the Constructed Environment** is brought together by a common shared interest in human configurations of the environment and the interactions among the constructed, social, and natural environments.

**Past Events**
- 2009 - Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune, India
- 2010 - University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
- 2011 - Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
- 2012 - University of Washington, Seattle, USA
- 2013 - Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port-Louis, Mauritius
- 2014 - University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland
- 2015 - UBC Robson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2016 - NU University of Science (HUS), Vietnam National University (VNU), Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2017 - Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK
- 2018 - University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, USA
- 2019 - Pryzbyla Center, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., USA
- 2020 - Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Venice, Italy (Virtual)
- 2021 - UBC Robson Square, Canada (Virtual)
- 2022 - UBC Robson Square, Canada (Virtual)
- 2023 - University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, School of Architecture, Honolulu, USA
Network Partners

The Constructed Environment Research Network is thankful for the contributions and support of the following organizations.
Asocial Forms: Reconfiguring Possibilities of Urban Space

In our cities, the built environment and physical forms play crucial roles in shaping social interactions and community building. However, many urban spaces have come to be characterized by “asocial forms,” physical structures and spaces that lack connections to other parts of the city or do not foster social interaction between individuals. These forms can contribute to a sense of isolation and disconnection among residents, leading to a fragmented and asocial society.

This conference explores the relationship between asocial forms and social life in the urban environment, examining the ways in which the design and use of urban spaces can either facilitate or hinder social interaction. Societal shifts long in the making have contributed to today’s conditions, such as suburbanization, individualization through single-family housing, car-dependent isolation, and technology that caters to the individual over the collective. It can be argued that by reconfiguring asocial forms and creating more opportunities for social interaction, cities can foster a sense of community and enhance the overall well-being of residents.

Through a critical examination of current conditions, case studies, and best practices, the conference provides insights into how urban designers, planners, and policymakers can promote social connections and create more inclusive and livable cities.
Milena Ivkovic
Public Space Designer / Civic Participation Innovator, Netherlands

"Placemaking for Good Urban Life"

Milena Ivkovic is an architect, urban planner and civic participation innovator specializing in place-led public space renewal. Milena’s experience includes working for various Dutch and international consultancies and think-tanks on holistic public space design methodologies. She managed the ISOCARP UPAT programme for in-situ participatory workshops on urban regeneration in China, Indonesia and South Africa, and led the dynamic content preparation of Placemaking Week China 2018. She has guided several multi-stakeholder, participatory field researches on the quality of public space in collaboration with YDF, UN HABITAT and UITP, in China, India and Sri Lanka. Milena has been invited to share her knowledge and experience on participatory urbanism at academic lectures conferences in more than 10 countries and has authored and co-authored several publications on the topic.

Milena is the creative director of BLOK 74 based in Rotterdam. BLOK 74 is a digital design collective with expertise in serious games and gamified simulations for collaborative urban design and scientific communication. Over the course of years, BLOK 74 projects and services have grown to include more than 10 different locations and programs across Europe and internationally. The practice developed digital and analogue methodologies on how to include a different range of actors in civic engagement and co-design of public space for the purpose of privately and publicly funded programs.

Since 2021, Milena has been leading the Association Placemaking Western Balkans, a non-profit association of urban professionals based in Belgrade, Serbia. Since its inception, Placemaking Balkans has been awarded several EU cross-border collaboration projects aimed to advance urban renewal processes using placemaking tools and methods.

She is also a Board Member of Placemaking Europe Foundation in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

6 April - 9:15AM (GMT+1:00) Vienna
Matthias Drilling
Head of Institute, University of Applied Sciences and Arts FHNW, Switzerland

"Refugee Camps: Exploring Urban Planning’s Potential to Challenge the Managerial Humanitarian Order"

Matthias Drilling is the Head of the Research Unit for Social Planning and Urban Development at the School of Social Work, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland. He studied Geography and Economics in Fribourg (GER) and Accra (Ghana) and later completed his studies in Spatial Planning at ETH Zurich. His doctoral thesis focused on the moral philosophical approach of Amartya Sen and its application to place-making processes in urban spaces. Grounded on qualitative methods and lifeworld analysis he has been alongside his academic work actively involved in practice, serving as the Director of a Swiss-Philippine human rights organization and as an advisor to national and international foundations and funding institutions. Currently, he combines the themes of urban development and life chances, particularly examining the impact of materialised structures and planning ideals on refugees and people living in extreme poverty.

5 April - 9:30AM (GMT+1:00) Vienna

Bahanur Nasya
Director, Eutropian, Austria

"Community Orientated Development"

Bahanur is an architect, researcher, and film producer. She has studied in Vienna and Barcelona where she has specialized in sustainable architecture and future proof development concepts. She is working on the COST actions "Underground 4 Value" (EU funded), with the aim to support communities throughout Europe to valorize their heritage collectively, to serve everyone and not just selected few, as well as Rural Youth NEET Observatory to increase chances for youth and create opportunities for social integration. In "Open Heritage" (H2020 funded) the aim is to extract successful models out of European best practices, while also creating knowledge sharing products (manuals, films, stories, webinars, and training). She is international project manager of “Place City” (JPI Urban Europe funded), where the international consortium develops frameworks to revitalize neighborhoods, in order to create local central hubs for the stakeholders, by using placemaking tools and methods.

5 April - 15:00PM (GMT+1:00) Vienna
Each year a small number of Emerging Scholar Awards are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2024 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

Maqsood Rezayee  
The University of Auckland, New Zealand

Christina Higgins  
The University of Surrey, United Kingdom

Hongfei Li  
The University of Washington, USA

Chukwumaobi Ibe  
Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom

Bridget Benge  
The University of Illinois, USA

John R. Weber  
The Colorado State University, USA
Mirurgia Aguilar Velázquez  
Universidad de La Habana, Cuba

Vivian Akunna Olerum  
University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Ifeolu Olusanya  
University of Kansas, USA

Abdelilah Ahnich  
Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Morocco
**Online Welcome and Training Session**

Join other delegates for a pre-conference welcome reception and training session. This special event will walk you through the CGScholar Event Mircosite so you have a rich online experience by learning how to comment and participate online. It will also teach delegates how to update their profile and Presenter Pages in order to add digital media: video, sound, other files. This will be held “live” via Zoom.

**April 4, 17:00 (5:00PM) VIENNA // 11:00 AM CENTRAL**

**Online Talking Circle**

Talking Circles are a distinctive feature of our in-person conference, and this year we are also taking them online. Talking Circles offer an opportunity to meet other delegates face-to-face, and engage in extended discussion about the issues and concerns they feel are of utmost importance to that segment of the Research Network. Participation is open, encouraged, and supported.

**April 6, 17:00 (5:00PM) VIENNA // 11:00 AM CENTRAL**

**In Person Walking City Tour Vienna - 4 April 2024**

From the Guide: “At the end of this 3 hour private walking tour (also using public transportation) you will have seen the main places of interest in Vienna’s city center: Hofburg - the imperial residence of the Habsburgs, the majestic buildings on the Ringstrasse, St. Stephen’s cathedral, the Belvedere Palace - Prince Eugene’s baroque summer residence and others.

You will get information and ideas about entertainment, cultural and culinary spots for your further exploration of the city on your own. A sense of humour complements my narrative, helping to ensure a fun and enriching experience.”

**Date**: April 4, 2024  
**Time**: 1:30PM

**Architectural Tapestry of Vienna: Modernism & Madness Tour - 4 April 2024**

From the Guide: “In this tour I want to introduce you to two contrary but influential artists/architects who have left a mark on the city.”

**Date**: April 4, 2024  
**Time**: 3:00PM
Conference Dinner: Melker Stiftskeller - 5 April 2024

Join other conference delegates for the Conference Dinner.

Description: Just a simple and authentic Viennese “Gasthaus”, a restaurant in a traditional setting in Vienna’s oldest cellar vault. We pride ourselves with cooking fresh, traditional Austrian food. Our house specialty, a slow roasted pork hog/knuckle and other well known dishes are being served all year as well as seasonal dishes made from local ingredients.

Date: 5 April 2024
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Melker Stiftskeller
Schottengasse 3, 1010 Wien
Guide to the Guide

HEADING STRUCTURE

- **Access**  Guides to Ensure **Access**
- **Navigate**  Guides on How to **Navigate**
- **Engage**  Guides on How to **Engage**

SCHOLAR MEANINGS

Everywhere you see an underlined term look to the Scholar Meanings box at bottom of page for more detailed information.

CGScholar Meanings
Access Navigate to your Microsite ...

The Event Microsite in CGScholar will be your hub for navigating the conference. If you are an In-Person delegate it’s where you’ll view the schedule, find your way around the venue, and engage with digital media and online discussion boards. If you are Online Only it is where you’ll view the schedule, find live sessions, and engage with asynchronous digital media and online discussion boards.

Visit: cgscholar.com/cg_event/events/V24en/about

Access Make sure you are Signed-In....

Before starting any session in the Event Microsite ensure you are Signed-In. If you are not Registered you’ll be prompted to do so.

CGScholar Meanings

Event Microsite: The CGScholar Event Microsite is your 'hub' for the online portion of the conference. It is where you will find your Presenter Page, sign up for special events, and view the Event Schedule.

Registered: Registering for the conference will give you access to the conference content. You can register for the conference under the 'Registration' tab on the CGScholar Event Microsite.
Navigate

From the **Landing Page** ...

The main URL for the Microsite will take you to the **Landing Page**. For both **In-Person** and **Online Only**, this top-level navigation will be the entry points for all actions, content, and social activity.

Navigate

From the **Presentations** Tab ...

The **Presentations** tab is the entry point to view all **In-Person** and **Online Only** **Presentation Pages**. The sub-navigation offers different ways of viewing the lists of presentations.

**CGScholar Meanings**

**In-Person**: An In-Person delegate is one who has registered to participate in-person at the conference venue, and online.

**Online Only**: An Online Only delegate is one who will only participate in the conference online.

**Presentation Pages**: A Presentation Page is a unique page for each presentation. If you are presenting at the conference, you can edit and upload your digital media to your Presentation Page. You can also view other delegates Presentation Pages.

**Featured**: A Featured session is one which is highlighted by the conference organizers or local hosts. In most cases, these are the Emerging Scholars Presentation Pages, but can also include Advisory Board sessions, Plenary Sessions and other notable sessions.

**Theme**: Each Research Network has a number of themes that are consistent from year to year. There is also a Special Focus theme that is unique to each conference year.

**Type**: Presentation type is how you will present. This can be a Themed Paper Presentation, or a Poster session or a Workshop.
The **Schedule** tab is the entry point to the program for all In-Person and Online Only delegates. In-Person tabs will be marked with dates and times. Online Only content is asynchronous, unless marked with date and time.

**Guide to navigating the conference schedule**

- **Tabs for each day of the conference**
- **Select** Themed Panel titles/headers to view all presentations for the themed panel. You’ll find (or be able to request) digital media to view on each individual presentation page.
- **Select** Presentation titles / headers presentations pages. On these pages you’ll find (or be able to request) digital media to view.
- **Select names to open CGScholar profiles** in the Community space in CGScholar. Here you’ll be able view their profile, add as your “Peer” and send messages.

**CGScholar Meanings**

- **Asynchronous**: Asynchronous content are presentations which are Online Only, and are not dependent on a date and time for presentation, but a Digital Media upload.
- **English and Spanish Language Sessions**: Under this drop down, you can ‘flip’ between sessions in English, or sessions in Spanish.
- **Themed Panel**: A Themed Panel is a grouping of three or four Themed Paper Presentations according to theme and topic. Each Themed Panel has its own discussion board, and title.
- **CGScholar Profile Page**: Each CGScholar user has their own profile page with headshot, bio and educational information.
- **Community**: The Research Network Community page is where you will find the latest Updates and information about what is happening in the Research Network.
- **Discuss / Discussion Boards**: The discuss button will take you to the discussion board for that session (Plenary Session or Themed Panel, for example). Here you can pose questions, comment on Digital Media and engage with other delegates.
Navigate From a Presentation Page ...

Each presenter is given a personal Presenter Page. On Presenter Pages you can read the Abstract, view or request Digital Media, or Follow the presentation. You can also follow link breadcrumbs to other presentations in the same Theme or Presentation Type.

**CGScholar Meanings**

**Digital Media**: Digital Media is the asynchronous method for delegates to view your presentation. Digital media can be an embedded video, a PowerPoint with audio, a PDF or an mp4 file.

**Request Digital Media**: If a delegate has not uploaded their Digital Media to their Presentation Page, you can request that digital media by clicking the link. The delegate will then receive an email reminding them to upload their Digital Media, and you will automatically follow that session.

**Follow**: You can follow sessions that are of interest to you so you can go back to them easily, and view the discussion boards. You can access your 'followed' presentations in the Follow tab of the CGScholar Event Microsite.
The majority of the conference sessions are themed paper presentations. Our programming team groups individual presentations into Themed Panels. You access these themed panels via the Schedule tab in the Microsite. To view or request Digital Media from a Presenter click on their individual tiles. To view a delegates CGScholar profile and/or add them as Peer click on their name.

**CGScholar Meanings**

**Themed Paper Presentations:** A Themed Paper Presentation is a 20 minute presentation (either In Person Blended or Online Only). Each Themed Panel has a discussion board for questions and comments.

**CGScholar Profile:** Your CGScholar Profile is a delegate’s profile page. It is where you can learn further about that delegate such as current affiliation, past experience and education.

**Peer:** When you add a colleague as a Peer you will be able to view their CGScholar Profile and interact with them in the CGScholar platform.
Follow Presentations ...

When you see a Follow button you can add this presentation to your Following list in the Presentation tab. Once you’ve selected Follow you’ll also receive email notifications for all comments the discussion board for that presentation.

FOLLOW FROM A PRESENTATION PAGE

FOLLOW FROM A SCHEDULE

PRESENTATIONS YOU ARE FOLLOWING

You are not following any presentations.

Presentations you are Following will appear here.
**Engage**  

**Comment in Discussion Boards** ...

**Discussion Boards** are your space to engage with the presenters and other audience members. Discussion Boards open the day before the conference and close two days after. We encourage all delegates -- In-Person Blended and Online Only -- to use these Discussion Boards to leave questions and comments for speakers. And do this in an asynchronous manner -- in other words leave a question at any time and the user, they'll get and email when you do.

**NAVIGATE TO TO DISCUSSION BOARDS FROM SCHEDULE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>13 Jan 2022</td>
<td>Plenary Session - Dr. Kathleen E Allen, Author, President, Allen and Associates, United States</td>
<td>Live - 14 January 2022: 9:00 AM CST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Jan 2022</td>
<td>Plenary Session - Dr. Spencer S. Stober, Professor, Biology, Alvemia University, United States</td>
<td>Live - 14 January 2022: 10:30 AM CST</td>
</tr>
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<td>Emphasis on Education (Asynchronous Session)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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**NAVIGATE TO TO DISCUSSION BOARDS FROM PRESENTER PAGE**

**Employees as Lifelong Learners: Characteristics and Promotion In Thai Organizations (PDF)**

Join the Discussion

**COMMENTING IN A DISCUSSION BOARD**

Add a comment...

Please keep our discussion courteous and productive.

Add Comment
With the Community...

The Event Microsite is only one space in **CGScholar**. Our general social space is called **Community**. Your Research Network has its own Community page where you’ll find the latest updates and news from the community members.
Within Community are individual CGScholar Profile Pages. Here you can view a person’s bio, send them a private message, and add them as a Peer.
If a delegate has not uploaded their Digital Media to their Presentation Page, you can request that Digital Media by clicking the link. The delegate will then receive an email reminding them to upload their Digital Media, and you will automatically 'follow' that session.
Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations—of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology’s connections with knowledge—these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect—differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

Common Ground Research Networks is not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Illinois, USA, organized and operated pursuant to the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, 805 ILCS 105/101.01, et seq, (the “Act”) or the corresponding section of any future Act.

www.cgnetworks.org
The Common Ground Media Lab is the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks. Common Ground Research Networks has been researching knowledge ecologies and building scholarly communication technologies since 1984.

Since 2009, we have had the fortune of being based in the University of Illinois Research Park while building our latest platform – CGScholar. This is a suite of apps based on the theoretical work of world-renowned scholars from the College of Education and Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign. CGScholar has been built with the support of funding from the US Department of Education, Illinois Ventures, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The CGScholar platform is being used today by knowledge workers as diverse as faculty in universities to deliver e-learning experiences; innovative schools wishing to challenge the ways learning and assessment have traditionally worked; and government and non-government organizations connecting local knowledge and experience to wider policy objectives and measurable outcomes. Each of these use cases illustrates the differing of knowledge that CGScholar serves while also opening spaces for new and emerging voices in the world of scholarly communication.

We aim to synthesize these use cases to build a platform that can become a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, one that rigorously democratizes the process of knowledge-making, rewards participants, and offers a secure basis for the sustainable creation and distribution of digital knowledge artifacts.

Our premise has been that media platforms—pre-digital and now also digital—have often not been designed to structure and facilitate a rigorous, democratic, and a sustainable knowledge economy. The Common Ground Media Lab seeks to leverage our own platform – CGScholar – to explore alternatives based on extended dialogue, reflexive feedback, and formal knowledge ontologies. We are developing AI-informed measures of knowledge artifacts, knowledge actors, and digital knowledge communities. We aim to build a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, that rewards participants and sustains knowledge production.

With 27,000 published works and 200,000 users, we have come a long way since our first web app twenty years ago. But we still only see this as the beginning.

As a not-for-profit, we are fundamentally guided by mission: to support the building of better societies and informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online scholarly communication spaces

Supporters & Partners

As they say, “it takes a village.” We are thankful for the generous support of:

And to our Research Network members!

www.cgnetworks.org/medialab
Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we engage in systemic change that averts climate catastrophe. At Common Ground Research Networks, we are committed to playing our part as an agent of transformation, promoting awareness, and making every attempt to lead by example. Our Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network has been a forum for sharing critical findings and engaging scientific, theoretical, and practical issues that are raised by the realities of climate change. We’ve been a part of global policy debates as official observers at COP26 in Glasgow. And we are signatories of the United Nations Sustainability Publishers Compact and the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Measuring

In 2022 we start the process of tracking and measuring emissions for all aspects of what we do. The aim is to build a comprehensive picture of our baselines to identify areas where emissions can be reduced and construct a long-term plan of action based on the GHG Emissions Calculation Tool and standard established by the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Reducing

At the same time, we are not waiting to act. Here are some of the “low hanging fruit” initiatives we are moving on immediately: all conference programs from print to electronic-only; removing single-use cups and offering reusable bottles at all our conferences; working closely with all vendors, suppliers, and distributors on how we can work together to reduce waste; offering robust online options as a pathway to minimize travel. And this is only a small sample of what we’ll be doing in the short term.

Contributing

As we work towards establishing and setting net-zero targets by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement and United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, and to make further inroads in mitigating our impacts today, we are participating in the United Nations Carbon Offset program. As we see climate change as having broad social, economic, and political consequences, we are investing in the following projects.

- Fiji Nadarivatu Hydropower Project
- DelAgua Public Health Program in Eastern Africa
- Jangi Wind Farm in Gujarat

Long Term Goals

We’re committing to long-term science-based net-zero targets for our operations – and we believe we can do this much sooner than 2050. We’ll be reporting annually via The Climate Neutral Now reporting mechanism to transparently communicate how we are meeting our commitments to climate action.

www.cgnetworks.org/about/climate-pledge