

Two academics of the Cluster invited to participate in urban regeneration workshop in Italy

Two lead researchers of the Cluster for Sustainable Cities at the University of Portsmouth, have been invited to participate in teaching an international workshop on Urban Regeneration in Palermo, Italy.

Professor Steffen Lehmann and Dr Alessandro Melis will be teaching and giving keynote lectures in mid-November at the workshop organised by the Italian Association of Builders (ANCE) in collaboration with the University of Florence, the University of Palermo and Roger Williams University. It is expected that the outcomes from this international workshop will support concepts of future urban development and consolidation of Palermo that can be transferred and replicated to other cities.

Palermo has all the layers of history, from prehistoric times, to Greek, Roman and Byzantine, to Arab and Renaissance times, to modern times. Situated at one of the most beautiful geographic locations on the Mediterranean Sea, Palermo is an important trading centre, but the city's land connections are poor. A city of over 700,000 inhabitants, it is still struggling to recover from the devastation of World War II and the damage caused by decades of uncontrolled urban growth.

Dr Melis noted that "tourism has so far not yet flourished as in other Italian cities, and the historic city centre of Palermo is still partly in ruins, the traffic is very dense and urban poverty is widespread."

Professor Lehmann said "We are very excited to be travelling to the City of Palermo which has such an incredibly rich urban history of over 2000 years, and to be involved in developing strategies for urban regeneration. Seven decades after the war, the city centre has still not been fully rebuilt and the remains of destroyed buildings are still commonplace. Palermo has such a strong relationship with the Muslim world and is a fascinating hotchpot of immigration. We hope to make a sustainable contribution to this international workshop."



The South-Italian city of Palermo is the historical and administrative capital of Sicily.