



## **ANNUAL REPORT ON ISUF REGIONAL NETWORK ACTIVITIES – 2025**

Giuseppe Strappa (Isuf Regional Networks Coordinator)

As is now an annual custom, I present below a summary of the activities of the local Isuf networks with some comments and considerations.

In the last few months there have been some changes in the leadership of the local networks: Malgorzata Hanzl replaced Anna Kantarek as president of ISUFPolska (Polish Network of Urban Morphology) and Li Bao replaced Yinsheng Tian as president of CNUM (Chinese Network of Urban Morphology). We thank the outgoing presidents for their commitment in leading local activities and wish the new presidents good work.

As you know, the Isuf network is constantly growing and today concerns fifteen associations, ten of which are now consolidated:

CNUM, Chinese Network of Urban Morphology  
CyNUM, Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology  
ISUF-H, Hispanic President: Javier Monclús  
ISUFIran, Iranian Network of Urban Morphology  
ISUFIItaly, Italian Network of Urban Morphology  
ISUFPolska, Polish Network of Urban Morphology  
NNUM, Nordic Network: Abdellah Arbakan: (they did not send  
PNUM, Portuguese-language Network of Urban Morphology  
SNUM, Serbian Network of Urban Morphology  
TNUM, Turkish Network of Urban Morphology

while five other associations are being formed:

Arab Network of Urban Morphology (ANUM)  
Indian Network of Urban Morphology (INUM)  
North American Urban Morphology Network (NAUMN)  
Oceania Urban Morphology Network (OUMN)  
South Africa Southern Africa (ISUFSSA)

It seems to me specially exciting that, after the recent entry of the Iranian association, the expected new participants in our scientific community also come from non-European areas, definitively confirming the positive tendency to overcome the "Eurocentric" aspect that had historically characterized Isuf since its foundation.

For the Turin Conference, a round table of the Regional Networks was organized on the afternoon of June 18 on the topic of the specificities of the studies in the

different associations. This topic is very significant as it explains the very meaning of the existence of local networks.

It is noteworthy to note, in this regard, how the geographical areas of almost all the new associations proposed do not coincide with national states.

The North American network actually includes the USA, Canada, Quebec, Mexico. The South Southern Africa network is currently represented by members from South Africa and Botswana, but future co-operation will also include neighbouring and small countries of the region such as Swaziland, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique (even if already represented by the PNUM network).

The Oceania Network of Urban Morphology includes Australia and New Zealand. The ANUM Arab Network of Urban Morphology will include a large number of countries in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

These associations in formation confirm the formation of new cultural areas that do not coincide with geographical borders.

It is a topic that deserves general reflection. When it seemed, in fact, that the very notion of cultural area (intended in the broad sense of an area of shared linguistic, geographical, ethnic, religious, artistic, political characters) was disappearing, it seems that the idea of globalization itself is dissolving instead. Thus, the danger of homogenization of cultures seems to be moving away, but also the hope of an organic and collaborative world, now contradicted by the rise of protectionism and new geopolitical divisions. Perhaps we should consider contemporary cultural areas, therefore, with new eyes, as constituted by layers containing some particular aspects of the problem of urban form that overlap, intersect and whose perimeters do not always coincide.

It seems to me, therefore, that this is a theme on which to reflect in the future, starting with the next round table.

To conclude. As the details of this report show, have been carried out a large number of activities contributing to spread interest on urban morphology in its various aspects.

Other important activities are planned for the future such as, for example, the important IX Congress that will take place in Mexico City 2025 on 3 - 5 December, titled '*Ciudades y derechos humanos. Forma urbana para la justicia espacial*' (Cities and human rights. Urban form for spatial justice). Isufitaly will also resume its biennial international meetings with a conference that will be held in Naples on 18 - 21 February 2026 with the title '*City form Renewal and Urban Archaeology*', devoted to reading urban form methods and to the modern morphological value of the city's traces.

In a positive general framework, it is worth noting the problem of small local associations posed by the Cyprus Network, which is now facing challenges to sustain meaningful activities due to increased workload of the few existing members, now unable to recruit younger members to lead activities. I believe that ISUF should discuss ideas to sustain small countries' networks. I consider that some meetings dedicated to discussing online this and other problems would be useful, perhaps even during the conferences of the local networks.

I report below a summary of the activities of the various local networks:

## CNUM Chinese Network of Urban Morphology

**President: Li Bao**, email: baoli@seu.edu.cn

**Website and social media link:** <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/INss6erUwGpxUwaJLO4roA>

CNUM keeps on expanding its influence through a series of seminars, specialized courses and lectures.

The seminar "Urban Morphology in the Age of Artificial Intelligence Nanjing Symposium" was successfully held in the Southeast University (Nanjing) from March 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The seminar invited renowned scholars from China and Europe to discuss the tradition and the new frontiers of urban morphology in the age of artificial intelligence, attracting over a hundred participating students.

2nd International School on Urban Morphology was held at Zhejiang University from April 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with 30 students from 18 universities of 11 countries participating.

The "International Seminar on Urban Morpho-Science" was held in the Nanjing University (Nanjing) from October 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, aiming to explore the basic theories of urban form science, quantitative methods of urban form, and the application of knowledge in urban morpho-science, and more than one hundred researchers attended the seminar. In terms of media dissemination, Chinese WeChat public account the *Urban Morphology* published 58 articles, attracted over 4,000 new followers, and reached a total subscriber base exceeding 14,300 in 2024. In the coming year, CNUM social media will continue striving for excellence by sharing cutting-edge academic developments in urban morphology research.

In recent times, CNUM has focused primarily on:

- Traditional Street Patterns and Vitality in Chinese Cities.
- The Formation of Informal Urban Morphology in China.
- Evolution and Type Division of Traditional Town in the Greater Bay Area.
- Urban Resilience from an Urban Morphological Perspective.

In the past year, CNUM published more than 20 research papers concerning Chinese urban morphology in both domestic and international journals and academic conferences, two of which appeared in *Urban Morphology*. In this field, 10 students completed their master's degrees last year.

## CNUM Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology

**Presidents: Ilaria Geddes** and **Nevter Comert**, email: [ilaria.geddes@gmail.com](mailto:ilaria.geddes@gmail.com), [nevter.zafer@emu.edu.tr](mailto:nevter.zafer@emu.edu.tr)

**Website and social media link:** <http://www.cynum.org/members/>

CyNUM had its last council meeting on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. During the meeting the following two decisions were made:

The Network's online presence will be moved from the existing website and Facebook group to a LinkedIn page, providing simple and direct administration to all council members in order to streamline its management and increase reach to national and international audiences.

The Network will shift its main yearly activity from a regional conference to a round table. Therefore, a 4<sup>th</sup> regional conference will not take place as previously announced at the 2024 ISUF conference. The first CyNUM Round Table will be held in the fall of 2025. Note: due to the size of the country and small number of researchers working within the field of urban morphology in Cyprus, the Network is facing challenges to sustain meaningful activities. This is to a great extent due to career development and increased workload of existing members, who are now unable to dedicate effort to the Network or recruit younger members to lead activities. The Network would like to discuss with ISUF options and ideas to sustain small countries' networks.

Proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference

Editorial proofs were sent to the authors on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 with a return deadline of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Final editorial proofs are expected on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 with the proceedings published shortly after this date.

## **ISUFIran - Iranian Network of Urban Morphology**

**President:** Mazyar Abaee, email: (mzr.abaee@ut.ac.ir)

**Website and social media link:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/isufiran/>

ISUFIran activities over since September, have included management meetings, online public presentations and the newsletter. The community has hosted four online meetings, three of which focused on fundamental aspects of the field. Main concepts presented by Mazyar Abaee, schools discussed by Toofan Haghani, and applications explained by Maryam Mohammadi. Additionally, the network held a public presentation on the Spacemate, led by Pantea Alipour. Looking ahead, the plan for events includes a variety of presentations by society members and invited speakers, and a one-day event. Furthermore, ISUFIran has published the first and second issues of their newsletter. The idea of a newsletter was proposed by Vitor Oliveira in the introductory meeting and has since been developed by several society members. ISUFIran has decided to publish the newsletter quarterly to showcase the network's activities, highlighting the significance of urban morphology as a unique domain of knowledge and an instrument for expanding the network. Despite the online events that both Iranian and international colleagues will be invited, more structured programs, such as international in-person meetings, summer schools, and regional or international conferences, face significant political and economic challenges. The ISUFIran aims to address these issues in collaboration with colleagues from around the world.

## **ISUF-H Hispanic International Seminar on Urban Form**

**President:** Javier Monclús, email : jmonclus@unizar.es

**Website and social media link:** <https://isufh.org>

The Hispanic International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF-H) serves as a vital network connecting Spanish-speaking researchers in the field.

ISUF-H focuses on advancing knowledge in several key areas:

Emerging dynamics and patterns of urban form.

Intersections of Urban Morphology and Urban Design.

Methodologies for morphological research and its practical application.  
Advanced technologies for urban data collection, analysis, modelling, and simulation.

Cultural mapping techniques and applications within urban studies.

Significant Activities: VIII Congress (Valencia 2024):

The VIII ISUF-H Congress, which took place in Valencia, Spain, from October 2-5, 2024, featured the theme: '*Formas urbanas diversas para espacios en recomposición*' (Diverse urban forms for spaces in recomposition). Following the 2023 congress in Santiago de Chile, this event reaffirmed the trend of alternating venues between Latin America and Spain, with strong in-person attendance surpassing online participation. European contributions represented 60% of accepted papers (with Spain having the highest representation), while the Americas contributed 40%. Parallel sessions covered themes such as Theory and History; Spatial Analysis Methods; Cultural/Peri-urban Landscapes; Urban Processes (Resilience, Risks); Regeneration; Planning Forms; Public Space/Mobility; and Unplanned Urban Forms. Conference proceedings are accessible via the ISUF-H website. <https://isufh.org>

Upcoming Event: IX Congress (Mexico City 2025):

Looking ahead, the network is organizing its next major gathering, the IX ISUF-H Congress, to be held in Mexico City from December 3-5, 2025. The congress is titled '*Ciudades y derechos humanos. Forma urbana para la justicia espacial*' (Cities and human rights. Urban form for spatial justice).

## ISUFItaly - Italian Network of Urban Morphology

**President: Giuseppe Strappa**, email: [gstrappa@yahoo.com](mailto:gstrappa@yahoo.com)

**Website and social media link:** <https://www.isufitaly.it/> - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/465753598163674/>

Isufitaly's area of interest is urban morphology understood as a tool for reading the urban form aimed at architectural design.

The Isufitaly association is now undergoing renewal. Up to now it has been formed by nine members, without any new members being admitted in recent years. As in the last assemblies it was decided to give a new, more open character to the association by increasing the number of members, recently some have been admitted bringing new contributions to its activities. Others will be admitted in the coming months.

Since September 2024 (São Paulo Isuf Conference) a number of activities have been held within the teaching work (conferences, workshops, etc.) carried out by the association members in various Italian architecture faculties such as Roma Tre, Roma Sapienza, Bari, Parma, Florence.

- STUDY DAYS AT PALAZZO CENCI – ROME (NOVEMBER 2024)

The main shared activity carried out in this time was the organization of the studio days *Urban Form and Design*, Third seminar on international research perspectives - November 8th-9th 2024.

The study days were held at Palazzo Cenci Bolognetti in Rome. The idea behind their organization was to continue the series of annual meetings that have become traditional of the Muratorian school (and interrupted for many years) that periodically took place in Tuscan towns, organized by Cisput and dedicated to meeting foreign morphology scholars of different backgrounds.

The studio days brought together scholars from Italy and Portugal to discuss the joint research perspectives between the two scientific communities.

A volume collecting the reflections of the participants is currently being published.

- NEXT ISUFITALY CONFERENCE IN PALAZZO GRAVINA – NAPLES (FEBRUARY 2026)

The usual conference, that has been regularly organized by isufitaly for some time, did not take place. All the members of the association willingly accepted that the Isufitaly conference that was being organized in Turin be transformed into a general Isuf international conference, since there were no other proposals.

For this reason, after the last conference held in Bologna in June 2022, the 7th ISUFitaly International Conference will take place on February 2026 in Naples (Federico II University) with the title *City Renewal and Urban Archaeology - Morphological Value of the City's Traces*. Following the topics of the previous ISUFitaly conferences, dealing mainly with the relationships between urban morphology and architectural design, the seventh conference aims to pose the problem of the links between contemporary city and artefacts from the past. The theme of urban continuity/discontinuity and the role of contemporary urban architecture as a necessary intermediary, is thus posed.

ISUFitaly invite participation in the Conference by Italian and international academics, professionals and PhD students completing their research degree. A number of field survey will be featured in the city and in the surroundings to the main sites (Pompeii, Herculaneum, Flegreian Fields) where the relationship between the city and past traces is relevant.

## **NNUM - Nordic Network of Urban Morphology**

**President Abdellah Abarkan**, email: [abdellah.abarkan@bth.se](mailto:abdellah.abarkan@bth.se)

Most of the activities of the network were run in the teaching at BTH and in cooperation with the National School of Architecture in Marrakech. Master plans provided by the Swedish and Moroccan students highlight the importance of urban form and location of activities and the distribution of functions to reduce the use of energy and promote walkability and circularity. The actions are taken and designed in the development models as the 15 min city or the TOD.

Other activities of the network include research cooperation and development in cooperation with several Sub-Saharan African university and other stakeholders for the urban development. In this area a cooperation with University of Zimbabwe aims at the development of urban design guidelines to support Henare county development towards more sustainable mobility and housing. Other actions on the upgrading of housing in Nairobi are carried out in cooperation with CSUDP (an NGO called Civil Society Urban Development Platform, the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta university) and which apply social planning as platform for the implementation of Adaptive Settlement Planning Model (ASPM), which stresses the importance of local (cultural/social) conditions to develop suitable housing typology.

## **PNUM – Lusophone Network on Urban Morphology**

**President: Staël de Alvarenga Pereira Costa**, e-mail: [sapc@ufmg.br](mailto:sapc@ufmg.br) or [staedalvarenga@gmail.com](mailto:staedalvarenga@gmail.com)

**Website and social media link:** <https://pnum.fe.up.pt/en-gb>

Since 2012, PNUM has had its main objectives the development of studies related to Urban Morphology, with an emphasis on the following themes: the recovery of urban form in the countries involved, application for urban planning and cultural preservation, open space systems, space syntax, territory, challenges and future perspectives.

The PNUM is structured according to several significant activities, namely:

The organization of an annual conference that takes place every year either Portugal or Brazil. Brazil. The current conference is scheduled to happen on Porto, Portugal at 25 to 27 June 2025. This is the 13th Conference of the Lusophone Network of Urban Morphology and is entitled: "Beyond Form: Territory and Societal Challenges", coordinated by Vice President David Vianna and taking place at the Universidade Portucalense.

Revista de Morfologia Urbana:

Issue 12.2 (second half of 2024) contains: 5 articles in the Open Section, 11 articles in the Special Section with the best articles from PNUM /24, 01 article in the Perspectives section, 02 Reviews, and 04 Reports, New Releases and News sections.

Cycles of online presentations on recent themes developed by Portuguese and Brazilian researchers. For this fourth season, bimonthly meetings will be presented by Urban Morphology research groups with varying focusses. Two meetings have already taken place during 2024 and 2025.

Finally, a new activity has been put forward with the objective of bringing together join teachers and scholars interested in Urban Morphology in the state of Minas Gerais in order to promote research, education and the dissemination activities related to Urban Morphology. The intention is to use this new activity in the state, which has 11 federal universities and 77 private Architecture schools, to disseminate studies on Urban Morphology by providing short courses seminars and encouraging both under and post graduate students to continue their studies in the discipline.

Therefore, it is hope that if this proposal succeeds other Brazilian states will be stimulated to develop similar activities.

## **ISUF Polska, Polish Network of Urban Morphology**

**President – Małgorzata Hanzl**, email: mhanzl@p.lodz.pl

**Website and social media link:** (in progress): <https://isufpolska.wordpress.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/ISUF2022>

Research interests in the network: historical geography, urban revitalisation and rehabilitation, walkability and public space

Information about the most significant activities and conferences

Publications:

Hanzl, M., Kantarek, A. A., Zaguła, A., Musiaka, Ł., & Figlus, T. (Eds.). (2025). *Urban Morphology versus Urban Redevelopment and Revitalisation Proceedings of the XXIX Conference of the International Seminar on Urban Form 2022*. Springer. Open access: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-77752-3> (peer reviewed)

Kantarek A.A. (Ed.), Hanzl M. (Ed.), Figlus T. (Ed.), Musiaka Ł. (Ed.), XXIX International Seminar on Urban Form. ISUF 2022 Urban Redevelopment and Revitalisation. A Multidisciplinary Perspective. 6th June – 11th September 2022, Łódź–Kraków, Lodz University of Technology Conference Proceedings No. 2554, Lodz University of Technology Press, Lodz 2023, ISBN 978-83-67934-03-9, DOI: 10.34658/9788367934039, link: <https://repozytorium.p.lodz.pl/items/869e7c60-b7e1-4c23-b034-5bd7db8bd999>

Szmytkie R., 2024, On the Path to Urban Deconcentration Housing Construction in the Hinterland Zone of Wrocław at the End of the 20th Century, *Architektúra & Urbanizmus*, 58(1-2), 110–127. DOI: 10.31577/archandurb.2024.58.1-2.7

Jurkowski W., Kryczka P., Figlus T., Lisowska-Kierepka A., Musiaka Ł., Sikorski D., Spórna T., Sudra P., Szmytkie R., 2024, Long-term impact of railway transport on morphological development of the largest urban agglomerations in Poland, *Moravian Geographical Reports*, 32(4), 245-257. DOI: 10.2478/mgr-2024-0020

Hanzl, M. (2024). History of the Jewish Street in Opatów. In J. Koszarska-Szulc, N. Romik, & B. Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (Eds.), *(post)JEWISH... Shtetl Opatów Through the Eyes of Mayer Kirshenblatt* (pp. 135–167). Museum of the History of Polish Jews POLIN.

Hanzl, M., & Olczak, B. (2024). Social-Ecological Urbanism as a Research Perspective to Analyse Transportation Inequalities in the Region of Lodz, Poland. *Urban Planning, Transformative Local Governments: Addressing Social Urban Challenges by Bringing People and Politics Together*.

Projects:

2022 – 2024 – IDUB – Grants University of Lodz Initiative of Excellence Research University - Models of morphological transformations of large cities of the former Recovered Territories after 1945 in the context of challenges of the contemporary spatial policy – PI Łukasz Musiaka

2025-2027 ECIU University Seed 2 project, UAB, Tampere University, Aveiro University and Lodz University of Technology Y-Move – coordinator M. Hanzl

Conferences:

36th AESOP Congress "GAME CHANGER? Planning for just and sustainable urban regions", AESOP, Paris, 8-12 lipca 2024 r.

- Lisowska-Kierepka A., Kryczka P., Jurkowski J., Szmytkie R., Figlus T., Musiaka Ł., Sikorski D., Spórna T., Sudra P., Is The Suburbanization A Contemporary Process? Gis Tools In Long-Term Morphological Analysis In Suburban Areas (presentation)
- Kryczka P., Spórna T., Sudra P., Szmytkie R., Figlus T., Jurkowski J., Lisowska-Kierepka A., Musiaka Ł., Sikorski D., Morphological Inquiry Into Historical Concepts Of Urban Deconcentration And Spatial Dynamics In Polish Agglomerations (presentation)
- Hanzl M. The Nature Based Solutions framework as a tool to assess the benefits and co-benefits of the modernist housing estates in Bałuty, Lodz, Poland (presentation)
- International Seminar of Urban Form 2024 "Future horizons for urban form: disruption, continuity, expansion, and reverberation", ISUF, Mackenzie Presbyterian University, Sao Paulo, 16-20 september 2024 r. Kryczka P., Lisowska-Kierepka A., Szmytkie R., Figlus T., Musiaka Ł., Sikorski D., Spórna T., Sudra P., Spatial Patterns of Historical Suburbanization Processes in Polish Urban Agglomerations (presentation)

Workshops:

IAiU PŁ Łódź, organisation of consecutive editions of the International design charette on Urban morphology, heritage and environment, together with QUT Brisbane (Prof Mirko Guaralda), UNTAG Surabaya (Prof Retno Hastiyanti).

A note from the stage of dr Łukasz Musiaka in Portugal:

<https://www.uni.lodz.pl/aktualnosc/szczegoly/staz-naukowy-w-portugallii-dr-l-musiaki>): Dr Łukasz Musiaka from the Department of Political, Historical Geography and Regional Studies has completed a research internship in Portugal. The two-month stay in October and November 2024 was carried out at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (FEUP), founded in 1915, at the Centre for the Study of Territory, Transport and the Environment (CITTA). The supervisor of the internship was the Professor Vitor Oliveira, president of ISUF (International Seminar on Urban Form).

During his internship, Dr Musiaka had the opportunity to familiarise himself with the specifics of the host unit's operations and research directions. He attended scientific meetings of

CITTA staff and presented the results of his research on the post-war spatial transformation of cities in Poland and Europe. The leitmotif of his stay was comparative studies of the long-term consequences of the transformation of the historical centres of European cities. Dr Musiaka, together with Portuguese partners and researchers from other countries, are planning a joint project in this area. The realisation of the internship tasks was accompanied by a practical analysis of the urban form of Porto, Portugal's second largest city after Lisbon, whose history dates back to the Roman Empire.

## **SNUM, Serbian Network of Urban Morphology**

**President: Vladan Djokić, email:** [morpholab@arh.bg.ac.rs](mailto:morpholab@arh.bg.ac.rs), [vdjokic@arh.bg.ac.rs](mailto:vdjokic@arh.bg.ac.rs)

**Website and social media link::** <https://serbian-urban-morphology.tumblr.com>

In the previous year, activities of the Serbian Network of Urban Morphology (SNUM) were focused on three major subjects:

(1) post-ISUF2023 publishing and editing activities:

*Praxis of urban morphology: conference proceedings* Part 1 and Part 2 were indexed in the Web of Science (WoS)

<https://www.webofscience.com/wos/woscc/summary/96828e42-38cd-40b8-819f-c585b3a6d776-01153e15c2/relevance/1>

(2) ISUF2024 conference participation: SNUM members participated at the 30<sup>th</sup> ISUF conference titled *Future Horizons for Urban Form: disruption, continuity, expansion, and Reverberation* in Sao Paulo as authors of several papers, session chairs, and members of the Scientific committee.

(3) Research and practice (selection):

- *MorphoLab Research unit continued to implement research project FUTURE HERITAGE OF SPA SETTLEMENTS: Digital Platform for Advancing Knowledge and Innovation in Urban Morphology Approach for Environmentally-Sensitive Development in Serbia, funded by Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (2023-2026). Some of the first deliverables include D1.1. Review of methodological approaches, D1.2. Database of spa settlements, D1.3. Results of Questionnaire for the state of the art: Study of the local needs*

- SNUM members are in charge of the development of Guidelines with a Methodology for Creating Study Frameworks for Assessing the State and Prospects for Improving the Quality of Architecture, Context, and Place Identity in Urban Settlements at the Local Government Level in Serbia, as part of the activities within National architectural strategy.

- One of the SNUM members spent three months at the Research Centre for Territory, Transports and Environment (CITTA – Centro de Investigação do Território Transportes e Ambiente) at the University of Porto as a part of the Urban Studies Foundation International Fellows program.

- Research papers and book chapters:

Djokić, V., Djordjević, A., & Milovanović, A. (2025). Big data and urban form: a systematic review. *Journal of Big Data*, 12(1), 17.

Loren-Méndez, M., de Casasola Gómez, M. G., Djokić, V., Nikezic, A., Sorbo, E., Philokyprou, M., & Sakantamis, K. (2025). *Sustainable Heritage Management—Design: Notions, Methods and Techniques*. Springer Nature Switzerland. (forthcoming beginning of April).

Chapter: Field-Based Learning in Urban Morphology: Observation, Documentation and Characterization

Milovanović, A., Cvetković, N., Šošević, U., Janković, S., & Pešić, M. (2024). Synergies Between Land Use/Land Cover Mapping and Urban Morphology: A Review of Advances and Methodologies. *Land*, 13(12), 2205.

## **TNUM (Turkish Network of Urban Morphology)**

**President: Prof. Dr. Ayşe Sema Kubat**, e mail: info@tnum.org.tr, asemakubat@gmail.com, kubat@itu.edu.tr

**Website and social media link:** <https://www.tnum.org.tr/index.php/tnum/index> ,  
Instagram: @tnum\_tr, Twitter: tnum\_tr,

1. Past TNUM symposiums  
website: <https://www.tnum.org.tr/index.php/tnum/issue/archive>  
Key activities throughout the years of 2014- 2025

2. Next TNUM Symposium:

The V. Symposium of the Turkish Network of Urban will be held at Karadeniz Technical University at Trabzon in the northern part of Türkiye at May 12-14, 2025.

The 5th Biennial Conference of the Turkish Network of Urban Morphology (TNUM) continues its tradition of bringing together researchers and practitioners to explore the field of urban morphology. Since its establishment in 2014 at Mersin University, TNUM has organized a series of symposiums at major academic institutions, including Mersin University (2015), Istanbul Technical University (2018), Middle East Technical University (2021), and Konya Technical University (2023). These events have contributed to scholarly collaboration, interdisciplinary research, and the expansion of international networks, particularly through the International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF).

For this year's symposium at 2025, Karadeniz Technical University (KTU) has been selected as the host institution due to its academic background in architecture and urban planning, as well as its increasing research contributions in urban morphology. This decision was formalized through a protocol between TNUM and KTU, reinforcing the commitment to further advancing the discourse on urban morphology in Türkiye. Located on the northeastern coast of Türkiye, in the city of Trabzon, KTU is situated at the meeting point of the Black Sea region and the mountainous

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## **ISUF REGIONAL NETWORK IN THE MAKING**

## **ANUM Arab Network of Urban Morphology**

**President: Aliaa al Sadat**, email :aliaa\_alsadat@eng.cu.edu.eg)

The Arab Network of Urban Morphology (ANUM) was proposed by Professors Aliaa AlSadat and Sahar Imam from Cairo University as an emerging ISUF regional network. ANUM aims to advance urban morphology studies, promote linguistic and cultural diversity, foster academic collaboration, and strengthen ties between Arab and International researchers. It also seeks to translate key works into and from Arabic and engage actively with ISUF initiatives.

Arab countries have distinct characteristics, while sharing common ties and interdependencies. To facilitate connections with representatives across the Arab world,

the Arab League's 22 member countries were grouped into four regions based on geography, culture, and socio-political relationships:

1. North Africa I (West & Mid-Mediterranean): Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia.
2. North Africa II (East Mediterranean): Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria.
3. Arabian Peninsula & Gulf: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen.
4. East Africa, Sahel, and Islands: Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan, Comoros.

To date, ANUM has successfully connected with scholars in three of the four regions, covering eight countries (underlined and marked in red). Efforts are underway to expand representation, particularly in the fourth region. The Network will soon convene an introductory meeting with representatives to discuss its launch, potential collaborations, and joint initiatives.

## **INUM Indian Network of Urban Morphology**

**Coordinator- Dr. Arathy Gopal:** [arathy.gopal@spa.ac.in](mailto:arathy.gopal@spa.ac.in)

**Website and social media link:** <https://www.isufindia.com/>

Advisors in SPA New Delhi- Prof. Dr. P.S.N. Rao, Prof. Dr. Mayank Mathur

Advisors superannuated from SPA New Delhi- Prof. Dr. Anil Dewan, Prof. Mahavir

The Regional Chapter of ISUF in India – Indian Network of Urban Morphology (INUM) - was formed with 3 objectives:

Change in urban form in Indian cities,

Typo-morphological approach to the analysis of urban form

Assessment of urban form using modern technology.

The launching activity of INUM was held in 21-25 August 2023 with focus on the third domain on the theme 'Use of Drones in the Study of Urban Form'.

After the ISUF Conference in 2023, the proceedings of the same was made, a website designed, and proceedings uploaded. After the ISUF conference 2024, more researchers pan India interested in urban morphology were identified.

The research paper of Dr. Arathy Gopal is accepted for oral presentation in ISUF 2025 and she hopes to present in person with other faculty who may be interested. We will be available for further discussion on taking the regional chapter forward.

Additionally, Prof. Paul Sanders from Deakin University (ISUF Australia) is visiting one of the advisors Prof. Dr. P.S.N.Rao (Dean FW, SPA New Delhi) on May 20<sup>th</sup>. We really hope we can do more with more international collaboration and support from ISUF, Regional chapter in Australia and eventually host the ISUF conference in 2028 or 2029.

## **ISUFSSA, ISUF South Southern Africa**

**Convenors: Michelle le Roux (South Africa) ,Seabo Morobolo (Botswana)** email: [isufsafrica@gmail.com](mailto:isufsafrica@gmail.com)

**Website and social media:** [Bluesky:@isufsafrica.bsky.social](mailto:Bluesky:@isufsafrica.bsky.social)

ISUF South Southern Africa as an emerging network is currently represented by members from South Africa and Botswana.

For purposes of the establishment of a morphology network in our region, future co-operation and context specific continuing education; it was decided to include neighbouring and small countries of our region which includes:

Botswana,  
Eswatini (Swaziland),  
Lesotho,  
Namibia,  
South Africa and  
Zimbabwe.

A preliminary discussion highlighted that neighbouring Mozambique is already represented by the PNUM network, but welcomed to participate and contribute locally.

Key activities throughout the year 2024 – 2025:

ISUF (SSA) Virtual Sessions and Online Presentations launched 2024 Q4 (ongoing):

ISUF (SSA) started a series of ongoing virtual sessions in 2024.

The first virtual meeting served as an introduction to ISUF as an organisation, its MOU, publications, conferences, networks and platforms. ISUF President, Dr. Vitor Oliveira and Regional Networks Co-ordinator Prof. Giuseppe Strappa, introduced the organisation with presentations to invited guests from South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, extending an invitation to their involvement in our emerging network.

2024: ISUFSSA 2024-V1 Session

Topic: Introduction to ISUF

Speakers: ISUF President, Dr. Vitor Oliveira and  
ISUF Regional Networks Co-ordinator

The following session by Dr. Seabo Morobolo, University of Botswana, presents a contextual Viewpoint and framing titled: Culture and Space Transformation in Botswana's endogenous towns – A de-colonial approach.

2025: ISUFSSA 2025 V21 Session

Topic: Culture and Space Transformation in Botswana

Speakers: Viewpoint Dr. Seabo Morobolo

An initial investigation and conversations with local academics in relevant faculty and institutions and practitioners, indicates a low awareness and moreover, incorporation of urban morphology courses into local academic curricula and practice in the built environment. It was therefore decided to aim the following initial virtual sessions to sharing and illustrating a range of various approaches, methodologies and applications of urban morphology to local interested parties.

Planned upcoming ISUFSSA 2025 V22 Sessions include:

Topic: Pattern Language applications in Africa

Topic: Computational methodologies: Space Syntax an Introduction

ISUF(SSA) Online Discussion Towards Workshop on Urban Morphology

In order to encourage dialog, inclusion and facilitate access to training and further local education in urban morphology, identified by participants and interested parties, an in person workshop and discussion was agreed upon for 2025 that will include a range of academic, ngo, practice and institutional stakeholders.

ISUF(SSA) Networking and future Collaboration

ISUF(SSA) continues to network a range of potential local stakeholders and collaborators, particularly previously historically excluded, including ones with inter and transnational reach. This includes amongst others the existing Africa Network for Evidence Based Design and IFLA Network.

ISUF(SSA) has initiated discussions with potential academic partnerships that may be willing to collaborate and assist in facilitating particularly, some of the open access, introductory,

easier but well established computational methodologies and models as an entry point to existing local students. This remains an enormous untapped opportunity for the development of a context specific local program utilising well established ideas and tested, lessons developed in existing ISUF initiatives for example EU, KAEBUP UP academic programs, like Twin2Expand amongst others.

Identified Ongoing Issues for Action:

ISUF(SSA) Website:

ISUF(SSA) Increasing access and contribution to Organisation and various Activities:

ISUF(SSA) Synthesis of the Study of Urban Form in South Southern African (SSA) region:

ISUF(SSA) Identification of Context and Area specific Issues and Action for Practice and Research Areas

## ONUM Oceania Network of Urban Morphology

**President: Francesco Mancini**, email: francesco.mancini@curtin.edu.au

**Members** of the Steering group are:

Secretary A/Prof Mirko Guaralda (Queensland University of Technology)

Deputy Chair Dr Tanja Glusac (Curtin University)

President (Chair) Professor Francesco Mancini Curtin University

Dr Milica Muminovic (University of Canberra)

Professor Paul Sanders (Deakin University)

1 Annual 2025 meeting

The Oceania Network of Urban Morphology held its annual meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2025. At the meeting the position of Chair (rather than president),

It has been proposed that the steering committee, the chair, deputy chair and secretary will have a term of office of twelve months. The Terms of reference will be soon circulated among the group members.

Dr Vuk Radovic (Curtin University) Professor Paul Sanders (Deakin University) and A/Prof Paul Osmond (University of New South Wales) remain as ONUM members. Dr Alice Vialard is leaving University of Sydney to take a position at University of Hong Kong. The Steering committee invited Alice to stay as external member. Alice accepted.

The treasurer position has not been assigned yet. An Expression of interest will soon go out.  
membership

At the meeting concerns were raised about the group's status and membership, suggesting a need for a more defined structure. The terms of reference will include the process to become part of the ONUM group: it is proposed that applicants must be academics belonging to an Institution in the Oceania's region and have a proven scholarly interest in urban Morphology . Applicants will send a short resume and a 200 words statement for the Steering committee to approve the membership. A membership register will be established accordingly. No fees will be charged at this stage for the membership.

networking

The Steering Committee is in the process of contacting various associations such as the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA), the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA), and the planning Institute of Australia (PIA), the Association of Deans of Built Environment and Design (ADBED), and the Association of Architecture Schools of Australasia (AASA) of to promote the Group activity, membership and research collaborations.

2025 Symposium

ONUN proponents planned the second OUMN half-day symposium, in preparation for the ISUF 2025. The seminar will be held online and in person on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 and host six presentations followed by panel discussion amongst the presenters.

The group has set a basic website <https://www.onum.city/> which will also be the repository of the group Activity. The website construction is currently under way and will promote regional and international events (ISUF), include memberships profile and link to their publications and collaborative research outputs.

projects

Australasia Research Expertise Mapping Project

Paul Osmond stressed the importance to identify researchers and their work as a preliminary project:

Mapping research expertise and interest by reviewing profiles or using a profile.

Paul Sanders shared his work on accounting for every paper presented at conferences over the last 30 years, which could be useful for mapping the work on urban morphology. The formation of a working group is currently under way.

## **NAUMN, North American Urban Morphology Network (in the making)**

**President:** François Racine, **email:** [racine.francois.2@uqam.ca](mailto:racine.francois.2@uqam.ca)

Vice-President: Brent D. Ryan ([bdr@mit.edu](mailto:bdr@mit.edu))

Canada representative: Paul Hesse (University of Toronto) [hess@geog.utoronto.ca](mailto:hess@geog.utoronto.ca)

Mexico representative: Salvador Herrera Montes ([salvador@urbanistica.mx](mailto:salvador@urbanistica.mx))

Québec representative: Pierre Gauthier ([pierre.gauthier@concordia.ca](mailto:pierre.gauthier@concordia.ca))

USA representative: Brenda Scheer ([scheer@arch.utah.edu](mailto:scheer@arch.utah.edu))

- . Information about specific interest areas
  - Process of formation and transformation of North American built environments including urban forms, town developments, suburban and rural patterns.
  - Research exploring the notion of grid, pattern, and general layout of the different fabrics found in North America.
  - Synthesis of what could be the specific "DNA" of USA / CANADA / MEXICO built environments.
- . Information about the most significant activities and conferences
  - North American Urban Morphology Network (NAUMN) research workshop at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, Saturday 31<sup>th</sup> of May and Sunday 1<sup>th</sup> of June 2025
- . Other information:
  - A bilingual NAUMN / RNAMU website (North American Urban Morphology Network / Réseau nord-américain de morphologie urbaine) is in production and will be related as a regional network to ISUF general website. The new website should be presented during the MIT workshop.