

# METROPOLITAN CONFERENCE

## *Metropolitan Prospects for a Better Urban Future - Ideas, Inhabitants, Institutions*

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**Organizers:** Institute of Sociology – Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Silesia in Katowice, Observatory of Urban and Metropolitan Processes

**Date:** 10 February 2022

**Place:** Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Silesia in Katowice, ul. Bankowa 11, 40-007 Katowice

The organization of the conference on metropolitan issues results from several premises. First, it will soon be four years since the establishment of the Metropolis GZM, the first metropolitan union sanctioned by an act of the Polish Parliament. It is therefore worth taking a look at the first effects of this unprecedented institutional innovation in the Polish local government system. The second premise is the organization of the next meeting of the Metropolitan Scientific Network, whose members meet regularly in different Polish metropolitan areas, so after Gdańsk and Poznań, the time has come for Katowice, the capital of the GZM Metropolis. The third important premise for choosing the time and place of the conference is the organization of the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the World Urban Forum in Katowice in June 2022, the United Nations Conference (UN Habitat WUF11) devoted to the future of cities. The title of our conference is a direct reference to the title of the UN summit in Katowice “Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future”.

Although, in the current conditions, metropolises do not occupy a leading position in the political agenda of the Polish authorities, they are laboratories from which the future of our societies emerges. This applies both to climate challenges and the search for new models of living, working, and generating resources that would reduce the negative impact on the environment, and at the same time allow inhabitants to maintain a high quality of life, including in crisis situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the issue of embedding the metropolis as a territorial management institution in the Polish local government system still remains unsolved. There is ongoing work on the new National Urban Policy, and local government officials in different Polish metropolitan areas propose their own metropolitan bills. As is presented above, metropolises concentrate – like a lens – most of today's challenges. The aim of the conference is therefore to give the members of the Metropolitan Scientific Network, representing a variety of scientific disciplines and research approaches, the opportunity to express their views on these diverse challenges without favoring any dimension of metropolisation. Therefore, the thematic scope of the conference can be described by 3 x “I”, i.e. *ideas, inhabitants, institutions*.

The conference covers the following themes:

1. Metropolises in theoretical dimension: terms, concepts, theories, future perspectives.
2. Metropolises as complex social systems: practices, actions (bottom-up), participation, social innovations.
3. Metropolises in institutional perspective: regulations, competences, management, policies.

**The conference keynote speakers are:**

prof. Mariona Tomàs Fornés (Barcelona, Spain)

prof. Eric Champagne (Ottawa, Canada)

prof. Christophe Chabrot (Lyon, France)

**Organizational issues:**

The conference is planned as an event based on meetings and face-to-face discussions. Depending on the sanitary situation and safety regulations, the conference may take a hybrid or a completely remote form. Final information on the form of the conference will be provided by the organizers at least one month before the conference date.

The participation in the conference is free of charge. Should you be interested in presenting a conference paper, please send the abstract in English (1000 to 1500 characters) to: [obserwatoriumMiasto@us.edu.pl](mailto:obserwatoriumMiasto@us.edu.pl), with the following email title: **Abstract Submission - Metropolitan Conference 2022**. The deadline for submitting abstracts is **30 November 2021**. Notification of acceptance will be made by **31 December 2021**. We also invite young researchers and doctoral students to actively participate in the conference.

**Organizing Committee:**

dr hab. Robert Pyka, prof. UŚ – chair  
dr hab. Małgorzata Suchacka, prof. UŚ  
dr hab. Krzysztof Bierwiazzonek, prof. UŚ  
dr Grzegorz Gawron  
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prof. Christophe Chabrot (Lyon, France)  
prof. Eric Champagne (Ottawa, Canada)  
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