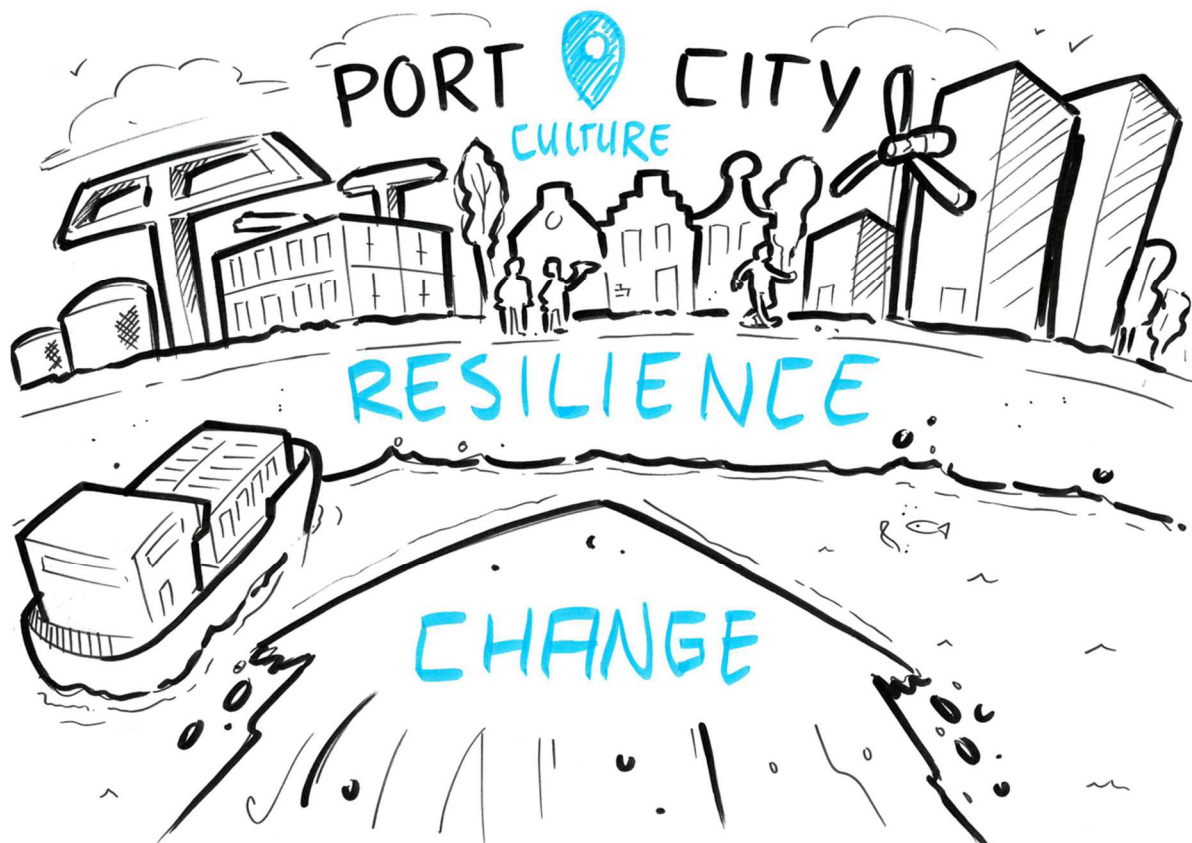


Call for PhD Proposals: Port City and Region Futures

Under the auspices of the Graduate School of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology, the Leiden Delft Erasmus (LDE) Research Program PortCityFutures, launches the special PhD programme PortCityFutures. Interested candidates who are qualified to pursue PhD-level research work are invited to submit their applications before 1 December 2019.



Institutional research agendas

This open call for PhD dissertation proposals is aligned with the research agendas of the Leiden Delft Erasmus research program PortCityFutures (portcityfutures.nl). The PhD candidates applying for PortCityFutures' will be hosted by the Chair History of Architecture and Urban Planning at TU Delft.

PortCityFutures Research Program

The LDE research program PortCityFutures explores port city region relationships with a focus on soft values. It argues that a better understanding of port-city cultures and shared values of stakeholders is crucial in setting strategies towards sharing the port-city space in the European as well as an international context. Independent analysis from academia and cultural institutions is needed to develop maritime mindsets: a shared awareness of all stakeholders—public, private, citizen—of the unique legacies and assets that the presence

of water and port activities engenders in a port city region. We argue that these maritime mindsets are the foundation for future-oriented and creative policy and development needed to address the current challenges in port city regions, and for the development of engaged citizens. Humanities, social science and design-based research as practiced in the Leiden Delft Erasmus consortium can help develop new participatory practices. These are needed for port, city and regional development that involve diverse groups of citizens in their port city region.

The LDE PortCityFutures research program aims at interdisciplinary research and the integration of spatial, social and soft values of port city regions, as defined by economic developments, public-private interaction (governance) and spatial relations. It argues that hard values of technological innovations alone are insufficient to address the multiple contemporary challenges of the ongoing energy, digital, social transitions. Such questions, including the theme of sustainability in the port city region,¹ remain an undeveloped part in port and maritime studies. We posit that a new multidisciplinary methodology is needed to critically assess the long term spatial and social dimensions that are inherent in port city regions over time and ultimately improving the relations among all stakeholders of port city regions (people, businesses, and government).

This socio-spatial methodology shall allow us to comparatively assess the role of soft values of social and cultural elements, of institutions and the built environment. The methodology can bring out how landscapes of port-cities are the result of interaction between people and nature, and how these interactions are informed by social, symbolic, and environmental values. To do this we will combine historical GIS based mapping of port city regions with social science methods (interviews, quantitative analyses, visual methods and ethnographic fieldwork) and close analysis of social and institutional relationships, within governance practices, and civil society initiatives. Based on a deep mapping, critical, historical, social and cultural analysis we will develop participatory activities in which groups from civil society are involved in order to develop spatial strategies, design projects, educational strategies and policy recommendations.

The goal is to highlight the importance of soft values in port city regions and to establish them as part of future policy making and planning. As Girard (2010) claimed “a port is not only a work of engineering but also of architecture. (...). Through history, the port itself has become a ‘monument’, where people meet, communicate and enjoy the site” (p. 163). These positive values need to be re-evaluated in order to set the conditions for a sustainable port city region. Combining the expertise of scholars in the LDE area (anthropology, geography, history, business, spatial sciences and design, our project uses the Rotterdam The Hague area as point of departure for international comparisons through time and space. Our goal is to use shipping networks as the framework for defining comparative case studies. We will start with a comparative investigation of port city regions around the North Sea and then expand our methodology to the Mediterranean and other areas, always starting from the sea/the foreland to explore the port city region.

¹ Özispa, Nergis, and Gamze Arabelen. "Sustainability issues in ports: content analysis and review of the literature (1987-2017)." SHS Web of Conferences. Vol. 58. EDP Sciences, 2018.

Position

The research group doesn't offer paid PhD positions at this moment. PhD candidates must cover an annual tuition fee of 5.000 euro over a period of four years. Additionally, by Dutch law applicants must provide proof that they have sufficient financial means to cover their own living expenses, with a minimum of 1.400 euro per month. The PortCityFutures program will support accepted candidates in their application, among others by providing support letters to scholarship providers.

The Department of Architecture will provide accepted candidates with the following services:

- Participation in the doctoral education program of the Graduate School of Architecture and the Built Environment and other relevant activities organized in the Department of Architecture (TU Delft), and within the LDE consortium
- Supervision by professors and other researchers during the various phases of the doctoral dissertation (including monthly seminars and peer review colloquia),
- Active support for conference presentations, conference organization, and publication of peer-reviewed papers
- Collaboration with international professional and port-city organizations to develop international networks and collaboration in organizing conferences and public events

Where applicable and possible, financial and organizational support for relevant research and travel. Provision of flexible workplace, access to work facilities, and laptop. Access to TU Delft campus facilities.

Assessment procedures

After the first year, the candidate will have to submit to the evaluation process by peer review. The review panel of both external and internal jurors will assess the research work for its quality and rigour. If approved, the elaboration and completion of a PhD thesis is expected to take approximately three more years in total, including a successful public defense of the dissertation. If the quality and progress is found unsatisfactory, the PhD project will have to be terminated.

Carola Hein will serve as first promoter in TU Delft. Collaboration with other members of the LDE PortCityFutures group is encouraged. PhDs can also be done under supervision of two of the participating universities. Prospective candidates will have to contact their preferred promotor and daily supervisor.

An overview of all doctoral regulations of TU Delft can be found here:

https://d1rkab7tlqy5f1.cloudfront.net/BK/Onderzoek/Graduate_School_A_BE/Doctoral_Regulations_TUD.pdf

The candidates are expected to focus on the following activities:

- Writing a Ph.D. thesis
- Submitting research results for publication in peer-reviewed academic journals
- Presenting papers at (international) conferences
- Organizing and participating events, discussions groups, seminars and workshops

Qualifications

The successful applicant must hold a master's degree (MSc. Arch. or M. Arch.) or equivalent degree in Architecture, Architectural or Urban History, Urban Studies, Urban Geography, GIS, etc.

The applicant's MA thesis testifies to well-developed research skills, including the ability to formulate relevant and creative research questions and hypotheses, descriptive and analytical skills, and a clear and persuasive style of writing. Furthermore, any previous teaching and/or professional experience will be considered helpful.

The applicant has an excellent command of English, in reading, writing and speaking, and should be able to work both independently and as part of a team. The applicant is able to work independently and has a solid foundation in interdisciplinary research methods. GIS skills will be a plus. The applicant will be able to work across disciplines and time periods and be able to link academic analysis to design.

Additional Graduate School requirements are stipulated here:

<https://www.tudelft.nl/bk/onderzoek/graduate-school-a-be/finding-a-position/>

Submission requirements

Cover letter

The applicant should elaborate on personal motivations, interests, and aspirations in relation to the LDE PortCityFutures research program TU Delft.

Full CV

The CV should contain comprehensive information on academic and professional experience and a complete record of publication.

References

Please send names of three potential references.

Research Proposal

The proposal should include the following elements:

- Dissertation title
- Abstract (300-500 words, including 5-10 keywords)
- Introduction to proposal (approx. 1500 words)
- Preliminary outline and/or table of contents (one page)
- Planning, incl. overview of sources and research (one page)
- Value, ambition and/or uniqueness of proposed dissertation (one page)
- Preliminary, critical bibliography (max. five pages, incl an explanation of the selection, 300-500 words)
- Writing examples (e.g. master's thesis, papers and essays, max. three items).

Additional

A statement from a LDE PortCityFutures faculty member.

Copy of Master's degree

Financial Information

Selection

The deadline for submission is December 1st 2019

Contact Information and submission: Carola Hein, c.m.hein@tudelft.nl

Selection Process

Members of the LDE PortCityFutures group will screen the proposals for qualification. After the initial screening, they will communicate with the candidates and invite them for an in-person or skype interview and presentation.

Review criteria for selection are: relevance to the call, originality in approach, command of the subject-matter and overview of the state-of-the-art of the research field, demonstration of critical reflection on the subject matter, eloquence and overall impression.

Successful proposals will be endorsed for a scientific and financial validation by the department. Based on the interview, presentation and the scientific and financial validation, the Department of Architecture will accept the selected candidates. In certain cases, the research group coordinators may ask the candidate to revise the proposal for a follow-up meeting.

Time Schedule

- Submission of Proposals: 1 December 2019

- Interview and Presentation: by 15 December 2019
- Notification of Acceptance: 1 January 2020

- Start of Research Work: spring 2020/ to be discussed with candidates
- One-Year Review: spring 2021

- Completion: December 2024