PhD Workshop
Columbia University, New York, June 2017
Sciences Po, Paris, October 2017

Call for Proposals
The Matter of Cities
Excavating the “Material” in Urban Social and Technical Controversies

The Alliance PhD workshop 2017 is aimed at enabling PhD candidates/postdoc to exchange ideas and discuss their research with their peers and senior academic colleagues. Two thematic doctoral workshops are designed to immerse doctoral students in a current theoretical debate that focuses on the “socio-material” city, one at Columbia University in New York City and the other in Paris at Sciences Po. Each workshop will involve faculty and doctoral students from the Urban School at Sciences Po and the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University. A small cohort (4 students) from each university will participate in both workshops.

We welcome proposals from PhD students as well as young post-docs. They will be discussed by recognized scholars from Sciences Po and Columbia University.

Topic:
How do scholars and policymakers understand the production of goods and services, the movement of people and commodities from one place to another, governance arrangements, the establishment and defense of neighborhoods, the reception of immigrants, the disruption or accommodation of ecological systems? What sense do they make of the functioning of cities? In order to answer such questions, scholars need perspectives on the city that allow them to explain and interpret social and technical controversies, for it is in such moments that what can be done – and must be avoided – become most obvious. The issue here is the development of urban policy and planning initiatives that are more congruent with how cities actually work. To address this, the proposed doctoral workshops will focus on a robust and cross-disciplinary perspective that treats the city as a collaboration of humans and their associations, built forms, nature, and technologies. These theoretical ideas will be considered in terms of controversies currently underway in two cities: Paris and New York.

Convenors:
The convenors of the doctoral seminar are Robert Beauregard, Professor, Program in Urban Planning, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Columbia University; Marco Cremaschi, Professor, Cycle d’Urbanisme, Urban School, Sciences Po.

How to apply:
Please send a short abstract to Marco Cremaschi at the Centre d’études européennes until 15th March 2017. The selection committee is made by prof. M. Cremaschi, P. Le Galès, and T. Vitale. Abstract of 500 words shall describe research questions, data, methods, and expected findings. Funding will be provided.

The Workshop in October will be hosted by the Centre d’études européennes in Paris. http://www.sciencespo.fr/centre-etudes-europeennes/fr