*Updated Session Program – 24.04.2026*

***Urban Studies Conference 2026, Tampere (7- 8.5.2026)***

***Arpa A, Ranja H, Salla E, Nora F***

## 13. Envisioning green cities to support justice and wellbeing for all

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**07-05-2026 Thursday**

**Session I: 13.15-14.45**

## 01

### Experiencing Restoration and Cultivating Regeneration Across Urban and Natural Environments

Miia Heikkilä

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How do forests and urban green spaces contribute to wellbeing, and how might restorative experiences in these environments support more just and inclusive relationships between people and nature in cities? In this presentation, I explore restorative experiences not only through their tangible and visible qualities but also through the subtle, often intangible atmospheres, cultural resonances, and embodied sensations that shape our sense of restoration across different green environments.

The presentation draws on my doctoral research examining restorative experiences in Finnish forests and Japanese gardens through phenomenological and qualitative walking interviews with citizens in Finland and spatial practitioners and designers in Japan. By attending to these lived encounters, I explore how restorative experiences may cultivate regenerative attitudes and practices, suggesting that restoration can be understood as a relational process that extends beyond human wellbeing alone. Bringing together cross-cultural perspectives, I aim to broaden current understandings of restorative experiences and their potential to foster more caring, reciprocal, and empathic relationships with the environment and more-than-human world. Building on these insights, I discuss how nuanced experiential and cultural understandings of restorative green environments can inform planning and design practices that support wellbeing, responsibility, and hope in cities.

## 02

Authors: Eveliina Kunnaton, Aalto University, School of Arts, Design and Architecture Elisa Lähde, Aalto University, School of Arts, Design and Architecture

**Title: Walking with landscapes: embodied encounters in the biocultural landscape of Saari Manor**

Abstract: This presentation explores how embodied, dialogical, and situated methods can support relational and ethically grounded approaches to landscapes, fostering mutual wellbeing among human and more-than-human communities. The biocultural landscape of Saari Manor—an artist residency owned by the Kone Foundation in southwest Finland—provides a rich setting for this inquiry. Walking interviews, a method that combines movement, conversation, sensory perception and reflection, are used to discuss residents' experiences and interactions with the landscape of Saari. Residents of the manor guide the researchers through personally meaningful routes in the landscape, discussing their experiences with local (or other) ecologies, memories, and environmental sensibilities.The analysis of the interview material traces how relationships to the landscape emerge and transform, highlighting the events, encounters, and perceptions that shape multispecies awareness. Positioning landscape walks as both a research method and a design-relevant practice, this work contributes to discussions on how landscape architecture can respond to ecological crises by cultivating inclusive, participatory, relational, and ethically grounded approaches. Rather than aiming to produce exhaustive knowledge of a site, walking fosters receptivity to the agencies, rhythms, and temporal scales already present. We further argue that walking can serve as a tool for generating knowledge for planning and design, while also functioning as a mode of participation and co-learning. In this way, it can support landscape analysis and planning processes that move toward more holistic approaches grounded in mutual wellbeing and respect for both human and more-than-human communities.

Keywords: Landscape walks, biocultural landscapes, mutual wellbeing, more-than-human

## 03

Minna Chudoba Dr. Sc.Tech., M.Arch., Senior University Lecturer, Head of Unit Tampere University/ School of Architecture P.O. Box 600 33014 Tampere university, FINLAND

**Wandering with Poetry: A Guide to Unplanned Urban Nature**

Planned urban greenery often consists of park areas or trees strategically placed along streets. Thus, green environment tends to be ordered and controlled, set in its place. However, it is difficult to completely control living things. Trees shed leaves and pollen, marking the yearly cycles of nature. In addition, vegetation invites other urban dwellers, such as insects, birds and mammals, who may leave traces of their existence in the built environment, sometimes resisting the neatly planned urban order. The transitory signs of unplanned nature in urban spaces are often overlooked by humans. One may need a special sensitivity to note their presence. Such a sensitivity has been expressed by writers of urban poetry, who have succeeded in depicting chance encounters with unplanned urban flora or fauna. This presentation tracks the unplanned nature observations of an urban walker, whose autoethnographic wandering around the city of Tampere is guided by poetry. The two chosen local poets (Eeva-Liisa Manner and Arto Lappi) have both walked this city, claiming the urban spaces for themselves, while noting the fleeting signs of more-than-human existence. In their poems the urban experience has been enhanced by nature references, intertwining the materiality of the expected order with unexpected resistance. This resistance is as much a part of the urban experience as the planned city with its orderly grids. Sensitivity to sensory experience is one key to understanding the city in its many temporal and seasonal layers, as a multi-species home environment. Keywords: urban poetry, nature, order, resistance.

## 04

### Evaluating Small-Scale Green Infrastructure for Thermal Comfort and Environmental Justice: A Microclimate Study in Helsinki

**Sherry Ghasemi, LAB University of Applied Science**

Urban green infrastructure is increasingly recognised for its potential to support human well-being and climate adaptation, yet in practice it remains undervalued and weakly integrated into urban decision-making, particularly in densifying cities. This gap raises questions of environmental justice, as unequal exposure to thermal stress can restrict who is able to use and benefit from public spaces.

This study investigates how small-scale green infrastructure interventions can influence outdoor thermal comfort in a Nordic context, using the Oodi Library plaza in central Helsinki as a case study. The research applies ENVI-met microclimate modelling to simulate different scenarios involving vegetation and water-based elements, analysing their effects on thermal comfort indices across summer and winter conditions. Pedestrian behaviour and spatial use are examined in relation to microclimatic conditions to understand how environmental comfort shapes access to public space.

The results indicate that limited, isolated green interventions produce modest improvements in summer thermal comfort, while seasonal effects vary significantly. These findings highlight both the potential and the limitations of symbolic or minimal greening strategies, suggesting that without systematic integration, green infrastructure may fail to deliver equitable well-being benefits. Rather than presenting green elements as universally beneficial, the study demonstrates the need for evidence-based criteria to guide their design and placement.

By providing a quantitative framework for evaluating microclimatic impacts, this research contributes concrete tools for justice-oriented green space planning. It supports a shift toward planning approaches that consider climatic exposure, accessibility, and long-term resilience, helping to envision urban green infrastructure that more effectively supports shared well-being under climate change.

## 05

**Presentation Abstract – David Gough, MARELD**

**Wildness in the heart of the city: Lessons from Jubileumsparken, Gothenburg**

Jubileumsparken in Gothenburg offers a living laboratory for rethinking how urban green infrastructure can advance justice and multispecies wellbeing in densifying cities. Initiated through dialogue with the citizens of Gothenburg and developed incrementally through prototyping on post-industrial riverfront land, the project integrates ecological restoration, social inclusion, and climate adaptation within a participatory planning framework. This presentation shows how Jubileumsparken, rather than treating human health, biodiversity, and technical resilience as separate agendas, exemplifies the potential of urban green infrastructure to foster intertwined social, ecological, and institutional transformation.

The park combines new and restored wetland areas, tidal landscapes, and diverse planting schemes with public amenities such as swimming facilities, saunas, and open meeting spaces. These layered functions support stormwater management and habitat creation while ensuring broad public access to the waterfront, which has historically been dominated by infrastructure and industry. In doing so, the project addresses both environmental and spatial justice by opening the riverfront to the public while simultaneously strengthening habitats for other species.

Equally important is the long-term co-creation process that shaped the park. Non-profit organisations, local residents, schools, and civil society groups were actively involved in design, construction, and ongoing management, expanding representation in decision-making and embedding local knowledge in the development of the park.

Drawing on long-term involvement in the project from competition and early prototyping through design, implementation, and current management, this presentation critically examines both the successes and the challenges from Jubileumsparken for planning urban green infrastructure that supports justice and multispecies wellbeing. The case highlights how participatory processes, ecological restoration, and multifunctional design can help cities respond to climate change, biodiversity loss, and growing demands for inclusive urban nature.

**Links**

https://landezine.com/jubileumsparken-play-learn-park-and-blue-park-by-mareld-landskapsarkitekter/

https://landezine.com/wildness-in-the-heart-of-the-city-jubileumsparken/

**07-05-2026 Thursday**

**Session II: 15:15 – 16:45**

## 01

**Title: Exploring the meanings of nearby trees to support the 3-30-300 rule**

Trees are an essential element of urban environments to improve the well-being of all urban residents. A new standard and measure for the amount and distribution of urban greenery, the 3-30-300 rule, has been developed as a guideline. It recommends that everyone should see at least three mature trees from their home windows, every neighborhood should have a tree canopy cover of at least 30 %, and everyone should have access to a green space within 300 meters from their home. However, the presence of trees does not guarantee that experiences with urban nature are of high quality – how people perceive the urban green also matters. Our goal is to study the number of nearby trees and the meanings attached to them in two neighborhoods in Turku, the VI District of City Centre and Halinen, by implementing a map-based online survey. We explore these meanings through the lens of instrumental, intrinsic and relational values of the IPBES nature values typology.

Our preliminary findings show that the 3-criterion is achieved well in Halinen, while more than a quarter of the respondents from VI District do not have the minimum of three trees visible from their home, which raises concerns about the uneven distribution of the benefits of urban green. The nearby trees are associated with a variety of social, cultural, environmental, personal, and emotional meanings, mostly connected to the relational and instrumental values of nature. These meanings reflect the respondents' relationships with trees, which seem to be somewhat different for residents of different kinds of neighborhoods.

Anni Simola

University of Turku

## 02

### Implementing the 3-30-300 Rule in a 3D Planning Support System for Co-Planning Urban Greenery

Petri Kangassalo, Doctoral researcher, Aalto University

Trees are an essential part of urban greenery, providing numerous ecosystem services. To ensure that these benefits are equitably distributed, the 3-30-300 rule has been developed. It aims to ensure that cities retain enough tree cover for citizen well-being and climate adaptation. This rule recommends that each citizen should see at least three trees from their home, live in a neighborhood with a minimum of 30% tree canopy cover, and have access to a high-quality public green space within 300 meters (Konijnendijk, 2022).

To align planning proposals with the 3-30-300 rule, digital tools could be used to analyze the adherence to these thresholds within urban development scenarios (López et al., 2025; Lund & Nordh, 2024). The aim of this research is to integrate the 3-30-300 rule analysis into the Virtual Green Planner (VGP), a self-developed 3D planning support system designed for co-planning of urban development scenarios. This integration will allow for real-time analysis, temporal assessment, and fast iteration of the planning proposals to achieve the thresholds set by the rule. This will complement the regional green area factor analysis whose integration into VGP is already under research.

### References

Konijnendijk, C. (2022). The 3-30-300 Rule for Urban Forestry and Greener Cities.

López, M., Marco, A. D., Anav, A., Sorrentino, B., Paoletti, E., Manzini, J., Hoshika, Y., & Sicard, P. (2025). The 3–30–300 rule Compliance: A geospatial tool for urban planning. *Landscape and Urban Planning, 261*, 105396.

Lund, E. J., & Nordh, H. (2024). Do we have enough space for the trees we need? *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, 96*, 128365.

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## 03

### Urban Trees as Providers of Multispecies Well-Being in Growing Cities

Green infrastructure is widely recognised as a key strategy for providing ecosystem services in growing cities. Trees, for instance, maintain biodiversity by providing habitats for multiple species, regulate the local microclimate, support physical and mental well-being, and enhance environmental amenity. These multiple benefits highlight the significance of urban trees within urban sustainability strategies.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy and Nature Restoration Regulation establish quantitative targets for tree canopy cover and vegetated surfaces for urban ecosystems. The 3-30-300 principle underscores the importance of the amount of trees at the neighbourhood-level for residents' well-being, recreation and access to urban nature. Despite this recognized need, empirical and multidisciplinary evidence on the benefits of urban trees and their contributions to human and nonhuman species' well-being remains limited.

My PhD (begun in 2025) investigates how urban trees contribute to multispecies well-being, focusing on cooling, biodiversity, and psychological and physical well-being. My objective is to examine how urban densification and growth affect urban trees and the benefits they deliver and maintain in residential areas. The study examines both quantitative and qualitative dimensions. Research employs a mixed-methods, multiple-case design in growing Finnish cities, integrating atmospheric, social, ecological, and landscape-architectural expertise. Data are collected via spatial analysis, field surveys, literature review, and participatory methods.

Preliminary case-study findings demonstrate that prevailing development practices yield a homogenized urban fabric with extensive impervious cover, limited soil-based vegetation, and insufficient space for large-maturing trees. Sustainable growth therefore requires greater attention to site-specific conditions and green infrastructure. Protecting and expanding tree canopy and permeable surfaces are key strategies.

**Jenni Karhapää, Doctoral Researcher**

Aalto University, Department of Architecture, Espoo, Finland

## 04

### The 3-30-300 rule for urban greenery and mental health: Associations in urban residents in Finland

**Authors**: Tytti P. Pasanen[1], Vuokko Heikinheimo[2], Maija Tiitu[2], Anne M. Karvonen[1], Timo Lanki[1,3,4], Kati Vierikko[2], Jaana I. Halonen[1]

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**Työryhmä**: 13. Envisioning green cities to support justice and wellbeing for all

The 3-30-300 rule for urban planning consists of tree aspects of urban greenery: visual (≥3 trees), availability (≥30% canopy cover) and accessibility (<300-meter-distance). Meeting the rule in urban areas is, nevertheless, globally rare. This has complicated the examination of its effects on residents' health and well-being. We tested whether meeting the 3-30-300 rule is associated with mental health in Finland where urban greenery is relatively abundant.

We conducted a survey for Finnish urban residents (n = 5879) in 2023 including questions on green window view, mental well-being (WHO5 scale), anxiety (GAD7) and depressive (PHQ9) symptoms. We linked responses with several geospatial indicators of the 3-30-300 rule: trees close to home, neighbourhood canopy cover, and distance to the nearest green area. We specified both linear (with robust estimator) and logistic regression models, controlling for socio-demographic and housing-related factors and urban structure.

Most of the respondents (50-65%) met the 3-30-300 rule regardless of the used indicators. In the robust linear models, meeting the rule was not associated with mental well-being or anxiety symptoms. We observed an association with fewer depressive symptoms (b = -0.21, 95% CI [-0.40; -0.03]) but only when the '3 trees' component was measured as a self-reported green view.

The result showing fewer depressive symptoms for residents meeting the 3-30-300 rule align with prior evidence on urban greenery. Prospective studies should address the health effects of changes in urban greenery and examine whether other thresholds than the 3-30-300 rule are more appropriate in the Finnish / Nordic context.

**05**

FT Tiina Männistö-Funk, Akatemiatutkija
Suomen historian oppiaine, Turun yliopisto

**Kaupunkipuut toivon ankkureina – historiallinen näkökulma**

Tutkimuksessani puiden roolista 1960–1980-luvun suomalaisessa ja ruotsalaisessa kaupunkiaktivismissa havaitsin, että puilla oli symbolisen roolin lisäksi rooli materiaalisina toimijoina kaupunkitilassa. Käsitteen ”local authority” (de Certeau 1980) avulla analysoin, miten puut läsnäolollaan tekivät kaupungista asuttavan ja haastoivat teknokraattisen kaupunkisuunnittelun ja siihen yhdistyneet poliittiset ja taloudelliset intressit.

Olen tarkastellut arkistomateriaalin ja painettujen lähteiden avulla erityisesti kahden aktivistiryhmän toimintaa, suomalaisen Liikennepoliittinen yhdistys Enemmistö ry:n ja ruotsalaisen Stadsmiljögruppenin. Tarkastelussa selvisi, että sekä Suomessa että Ruotsissa aktivistit käyttivät kaupunkipuita osoittaakseen kaupunkiympäristön epäkohtia ja esittääkseen vaatimuksia ja visioita paremmasta. Aktivistit käyttivät puita hyödykseen suoran toiminnan tempauksissa sekä median huomion herättämisessä. Puille ja luonnolle oli sinänsä annettu tilaa myös modernistisessa ja funktionalistisessa suunnittelussa, osina toimivaa kaupunkia, mutta aktivistien toiminnassa huomiota saivat tietyt puuyksilöt ja -ryhmät sekä puiden hyvinvointi, jonka nähtiin heijastelevan kaupunkiympäristön tilaa ja laatua.

Kaupunkipuut olivat sinänsä harvoin aktivismin keskiössä. Merkittäviin poikkeuksiin lukeutuu toukokuussa 1971 käyty taistelu Tukholman Kungsträdgårdenin jalavista. Tutkimukseni perusteella nimenomaan kaupunkipuut kuitenkin auttoivat olennaisesti kehittämään uutta ympäristötietoisuutta, josta sittemmin versoi laajempi suoran toiminnan keinoja hyödyntänyt luonnonsuojeluliike. Puut toimivat siltana, joka yhdisti alkujaan paikalliset huolet kaupunkiympäristön muutoksesta yleisempiin ympäristökysymyksiin. Vanhat ja suuret puuyksilöt nousivat myös edustamaan sellaista paikan henkeä, jota aktivistit halusivat puolustaa.

Historiallisen tarkastelun perusteella esitän, että vanhojen puiden ja myös muiden pitkään säilyneiden luonnonelementtien säilyttäminen kaupunkitilassa on tärkeää, paitsi biodiversiteetin ja ekosysteemin sekä viihtyvyyden kannalta, myös koska ne läsnäolollaan edustavat pitkän aikavälin perspektiiviä kaupunkiympäristöön ja tukevat siksi säilyttävää, vaalivaa suhtautumista myös muihin kaupungin aineellisiin ja aineettomiin puoliin.

**08-05-2026 Friday**

**Session IV: 14:00 – 15:30**

## 01

### Diverse nature values in municipal decision-making: toward regenerative urban governance

The EU's Circular Economy Action Plan calls for a shift toward a regenerative growth model that gives back to the planet more than it takes. The Nature Restoration Regulation introduces binding targets for ecosystem restoration, including greening of urban environments. Yet the IPBES assessment on valuation of nature shows that political decisions still tend to prioritise marketbased instrumental values over relational and intrinsic ones. As a result, sustainability goals often remain at the level of strategic rhetoric rather than shaping everyday municipal governance practices.

This presentation explores how diverse ways of valuing nature could support a shift toward more regenerative urban governance. Regenerative approaches emphasise strengthening human-nature interdependence and enabling cities to contribute to ecological renewal rather than merely reducing harm. Drawing on this perspective, the study examines how different understandings of nature shape municipal decision-making and the framing of urban nature.

Empirically, the analysis is based on qualitative, semi-structured interviews with municipal decision-makers. Findings suggest that while decision-making is often guided by technocratic planning frameworks and measurable indicators, many actors also express perspectives that resonate with regenerative thinking. These include attention to ecological restoration, care for urban nature as a shared living system, and recognition of the multiple ways residents relate to urban environments.

At the same time, tensions emerge between established governance practices and these broader perspectives. Opening space for a wider range of nature values and experiences can help reframe urban decision-making toward regenerative principles. By highlighting how diverse understandings of nature surface within municipal governance, the presentation contributes to discussions on envisioning greener cities that advance wellbeing for all.

Writers: Tuuli Kassi (presentator), Elisa Lähde (Aalto), Riikka Tapaninaho (TAU)

## 02

### From Global Targets to Local Plans: Adapting OECMs for Finnish Municipalities

Abstract: Achieving international biodiversity goals increasingly requires conservation beyond traditional protected areas; a necessity underlined as urban densification impacts green spaces crucial for multispecies wellbeing. Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) have therefore emerged as a complementary instrument for recognizing lands that deliver long term biodiversity outcomes despite not being primarily designated for conservation. Yet little is known about how local public authorities interpret OECMs within their existing planning systems. Through a two-stage Delphi method, this study investigates how Finnish municipal experts perceive the relevance, feasibility, and legitimacy of OECMs in their local contexts. Hence, this work contributes to broader discussions on justice oriented urban green by demonstrating how municipal experts negotiate multispecies needs within institutional and political realities.

The findings reveal broad, yet conditional, municipal interest in OECMs, particularly for safeguarding recreational green spaces, municipal forests, and other secondary conservation areas as a complementary layer to statutory protection, especially where other forms of designation are politically or administratively challenging. However, perceived constraints include limited resources, gaps in biodiversity data, unclear eligibility criteria, and uncertainties about long term implications of OECM designation. Importantly, our results emphasize territorialization processes; adapting OECMs to municipal context depends on locally demonstrated ecological and practical benefits rather than compliance with national or international targets. While flexibility associated with OECMs can increase their political acceptability, they also raise concerns over ecological credibility and “paper parks”. Our results highlight the need for state level guidance and shared inter-municipal learning to enable meaningful, locally grounded implementation of OECMs within municipal biodiversity governance.

**Presenter: Kaisa Jaalama**

Authors: Jaalama, Kaisa; Joenaalto, Ilona; Oinonen, Iikka; Nieminen, Hanna; Hällfors, Maria; Vierikko, Kati; Heikkinen, Risto K.; Kullberg, Peter

**03**

## ASSOCIATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES WITH PERCEIVED HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE: A COMPARISON OF ACTIVITY SPACE MODELS

Marjo Seppänen[1], Kamyar Hasanzadeh[2], Maija Toivanen[3], Terhi Ala-Hulkko[1], Anna Kajosaari[4], Marketta Kyttä[1]

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Associations between built and natural environment and human health and well-being have been extensively studied. However, previous research has often relied on administrative boundaries or simple buffers around home locations to measure environmental exposure, while these approaches may not accurately capture the complexity of individuals' mobility. In this study, we utilise activity space modelling based on individual data gathered through Public Participatory GIS (PPGIS) questionnaire in Espoo, Finland (n=2,261 adults aged 18 to 85) to examine how various environmental exposures are associated with perceived health and quality of life. We compare the home range model with the individualised residential exposure model, while also considering the mono- bi- or polycentric structure of participants' activity spaces. Several environmental factors related to biodiversity, geodiversity and built environment are calculated within these activity spaces, and dominance analysis will be used to find out which environmental factors are the most relevant for perceived health and quality of life. By providing more accurate estimates of environmental exposure, our study contributes to the broader discussion on planetary health, highlighting the interconnectedness of human and environmental well-being.

## 04

**Ecosocial recovery for a better inclusion, justice, and wellbeing in a multispecies community – Examples from Pansio-Perno, Turku**

Authors: Misa Tuomala (University of Turku/City of Turku), Kia Andell (City of Turku), Juha Hiedanpää (LUKE), Aurora Kortelainen (Tampere University), Himansu Mishra (LUKE), Siiri Päivike (City of Turku)

Abstract

Environmental crises pose huge challenges for cities and significantly impact the wellbeing of humans and other species. Nature-based solutions (NBS) can be one response to those challenges. However, up to the present, there has been a lack of inclusion of human residents, other species, and ecosystems – the multispecies community – in the planning and implementation of NBSs. That could cause unjust and dysfunctional solutions that are unable to safeguard long-term sustainability.

In the COEVOLVERS project and its seven Living Labs, we study how NBSs and urban green can support the reciprocal relations and wellbeing of humans and the rest of nature. We argue that planning and implementing NBSs requires a coevolutionary understanding of how those solutions developed, established, and changed over time. It is important to develop NBSs that are just also from the perspective of vulnerable groups and other species, supporting multispecies justice.

At the Pansio-Perno Living Lab in Turku, we have introduced a concept of an ecosocial recovery – an approach that simultaneously focuses on improving the wellbeing of humans and the rest of nature and recognises the interconnectivity of those. We aim to integrate knowledge about affordances and the ecosocial potential of the area into city development by using various methods and tools developed, piloted, and applied within COEVOLVERS, such as multispecies stakeholder analysis, Umwelt walks, environmental and behaviour observations, and the NatureNex application. Through our approach, we consider other species as stakeholders and actors. Through ecosocial recovery, it can be possible to find solutions for ecological and social challenges in a just way, strengthen local engagement and participation, and bring hope in the era of environmental multicrisis.

**05**

# Caring with/in place

## *Future-oriented practices of care in local initiatives in Gothenburg, Sweden*

Malin Bäckman and Virpi Timonen, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki

**Abstract:**

Drawing on relational perspectives of care and understandings of place as an assemblage, we discuss how engagements in local initiatives can be understood as practices of care. We focus on two local initiatives in Gothenburg, Sweden - an allotment garden and a neighbourhood house - that exist alongside the city's otherwise largely growth-oriented urban development. The empirical material used forms part of a study focusing on environmental and material legacy-making, where a total of 35 persons living in and around Gothenburg were interviewed. In this presentation, we focus on two participants whose engagements went beyond minimising their environmental traces to actively contributing to shaping specific places in the city.

As assemblages are emergent and made up of various interdependent living and non-living beings contributing to shaping future trajectories, we approach the places related to the initiatives as made up of more-than-human interdependencies where no actor is alone in control of realities coming into being. Nevertheless, we show how (human) participants involved contribute to shaping the initiatives by caring with/in specific places which relate to 'urban greenery' in various ways. Taking a Constructivist Grounded Theory approach that combines inductive and abductive techniques of data analysis, we argue that the research participants' practices of caring with/in place can be understood as future-oriented legacy-making practices. Such practices have the potential to foster attentiveness towards other-than-humans while contributing to maintaining and shaping the future of specific places in the city. Finally, we reflect on how engagement in these types of 'green' local initiatives can contribute to generating hope in cities otherwise largely driven by extractive urban development.

## 06

### Spatial Integration of Urban Green Infrastructure in Higher Education Campuses: Evidence from Aalto University

*Gianni Talamini, Aalto University*

Urban green infrastructure is key to multispecies urban environments, facilitating not only ecological connectivity but also access to the restorative and health-promoting benefits of nature for urban populations. Among these populations, university students represent a particularly vulnerable group, as they are disproportionately affected by mental health challenges associated with academic pressure, financial constraints, and processes of social adaptation. In this context, the integration and design of green infrastructure within university campuses assume heightened significance.

This paper presents ongoing research focused on the Aalto University campus, originally planned by Aino and Alvar Aalto, with subsequent contributions by Elissa and Alvar Aalto. The study systematically examines the spatial integration of green infrastructure, employing quantitative metrics such as accessibility, proximity, and adjacency to built structures. A comparative analysis is conducted between the original master plan and the present-day configuration of the campus spaces.

In addition, the research investigates the longitudinal transformation of the campus following the establishment of Aalto University in 2010, with particular attention to patterns of urbanization and landscape modification over time. The paper also critically engages with contemporary debates on the role and integration of urban green infrastructure in higher education settings, highlighting the diverse institutional and socio-political forces that shape these discussions.

The findings indicate that, unexpectedly, despite intensified urban development in key areas over the past fifteen years, the current campus layout outperforms the original plan across all evaluated spatial metrics. Concurrently, the recent building additions perform poorly, particularly in regard to accessibility and proximity to nature. The paper aims to stimulate scholarly dialogue and contribute to broader discussions on the future of green infrastructure in tertiary education settings in Finland and beyond.