

SHORT RESEARCH COURSE

24-25 SEPTEMBER 2015

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS & TRANSITION MANAGEMENT

The Transition Academy, the next-generation academic initiative of DRIFT, invites you to a 2-day course of intense knowledge building, great debates and facilitated in-depth conversations about the forces shaping our cities. Experience and learn about designing co-creation processes for sustainable resilient futures, together with action researchers and experts on Transition Management.

In this course we invite PhD candidates and junior researchers to apply and be part of our intensive programme. We will take a closer look on the transition dynamics in cities: how to examine and understand on-going processes by bringing together driving forces and have a 'hold on' those who we conceptualise as transition frontrunners.



New Market Hall in Rotterdam

In this 2-day short-course we offer:

- ◆ an interactive intense knowledge building process in which experts on Transition Management work with you on a real-time transition management process
- ◆ a reader on Transition Management for Cities tailored for post-graduates (Master of Science, PhD) and urban planning practitioners that search for new ways to strategic environmental planning and governance
- ◆ a lecture on fitness of Transition Management as a transdisciplinary method and approach to your research problem and context
- ◆ an opportunity to visit transition experiments in the city of Rotterdam and get a grasp on what can be the follow-ups of Transition Management processes that deal and experiment with sustainability in the city.

Important dates:

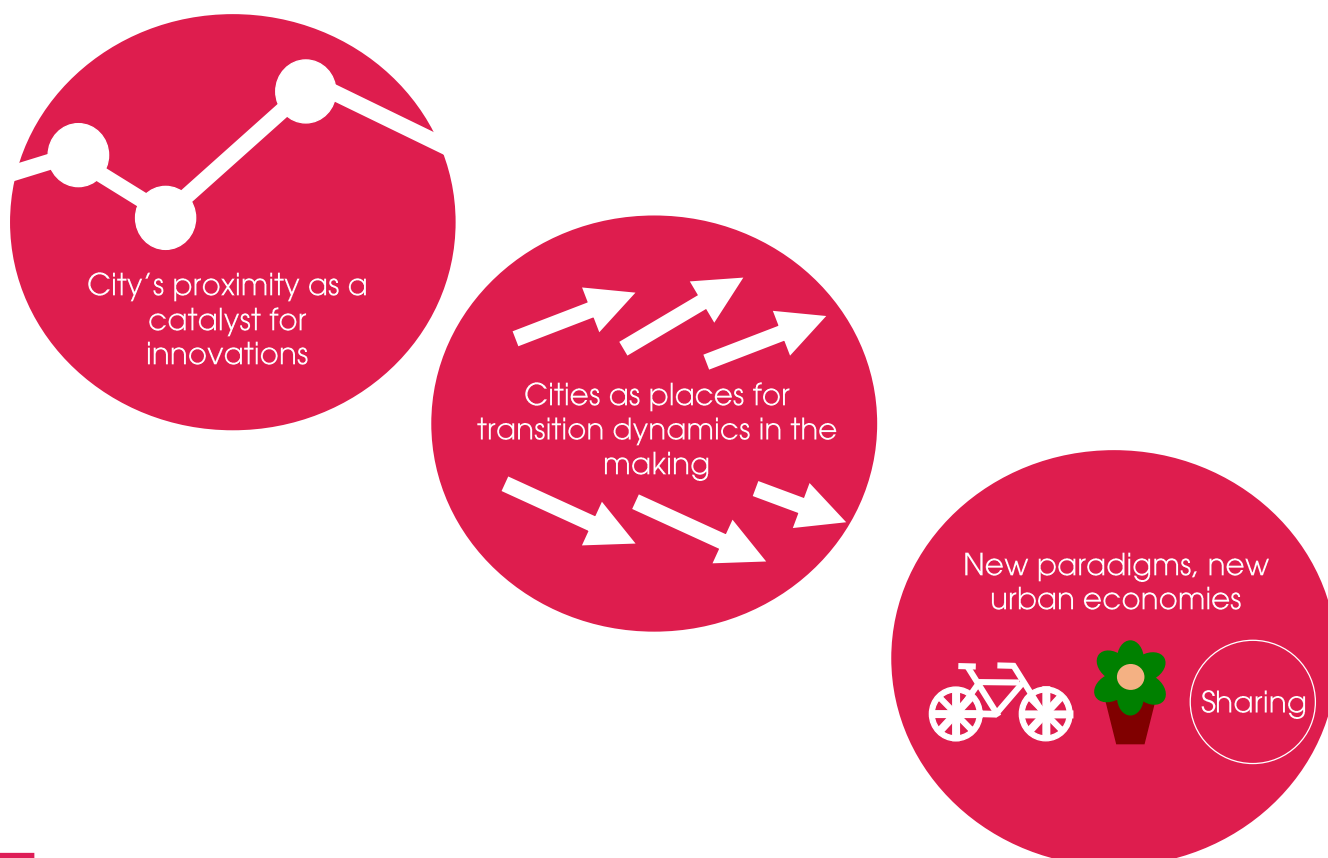
- ◆ Friday August 25: Deadline for registration including a motivation letter (500 words)
- ◆ Friday September 05: Ultimate notification of acceptance, sending of reading material & preparation instructions
- ◆ Friday September 20: Participants send their inputs to info@transitionacademy.nl
- ◆ Thursday 24 and Friday 25 of September: Course days in Rotterdam (The Netherlands)

UNDERSTAND HOW CITIES TRANSFORM

Cities can be **cradles for innovation and sustainability transitions** (Grim et al, 2008; Ernston et al, 2010; Truffer and Coenen, 2012). They are places where slow and fast transitions are initiated and accelerated as well as test-beds and seedbeds for innovations (Hodson and Marvin, 2010; Scott-Cato and Hillier, 2010; Bulkeley and Broto, 2012). Cities have social, ecological and technological assets that are essential for economic and social development locally and globally; there is thus an imperative for balancing their efforts for continuity and prosperity while ensuring a livable space for their citizens.

Increasing policy attention is put on the processes of change that takes place in cities and for cities to drive the way to **improved livability and resilience**. This shows the diversity of opportunities and conditions in cities, where challenges such as urbanization and globalization contribute to the pressure for rerouting current development pathways towards sustainability and resilience. Urban studies scholarship offers insights about how pressures of globalization and urbanization may affect current livability standards in cities (Seto et al, 2012; Buhaug and Urdal, 2013) and also problematize on the implications of an abrupt transition of cities due to unpreparedness in face of climate change, demographic changes, ageing and a cascade of financial crashes (Neeraj et al, 2009; Romero-Lankao et al, 2012).

Finding the right approaches to tap into the potentials of cities and reroute their development pathways towards sustainability and resilience is paramount. The governance of urban sustainability transitions requires **new strategic planning processes** that integrate diverse sources of knowledge and perspectives, make 'glocal' connections between local urban challenges and broader global, national and regional macro-developments and enable pragmatic decisions in a context of complexity and uncertainty. This challenges urban practitioners and scientists alike to take up a process-content thinking and to reflect on how to navigate societal complexity while mobilizing innovative and transformative societal potential towards action for sustainability.



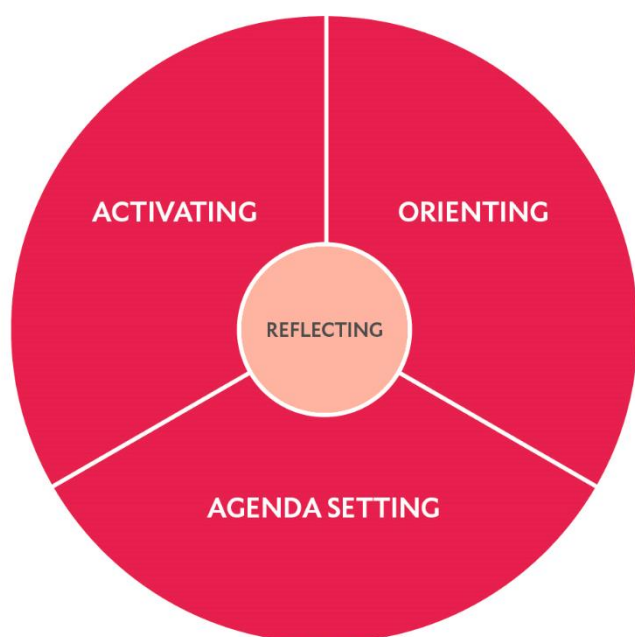
TRANSITION MANAGEMENT FOR CITIES

Tapping into and triggering urban transformations with co-creation processes

In practice, transition management comes down to a combination of developing around a common understanding of a transition challenge and **a shared ambition to drive it toward sustainability**. By using the transition perspective as a lens, transition teams develop an analysis of a particular persistent problem in a complex societal system. This could be a geographical area (from neighborhood to city, country, or region), sector, or societal issue. Based on the preliminary analysis, the transition team can identify regime and niche-actors that are potential contributors to a desired transition, who are brought together in so-called transition arenas or experiments. In and around these arenas and experiments, a shared discourse, ambition, and agenda is developed in such a way that it empowers participants and enables them to translate it to their own daily environments. Through such a social learning process, individuals start to relate to a broader common context and ambitions, creating the conditions for diffusion, self-organizational processes, and emergent innovation.

Transition management thus proposes to develop **informal networks** in which individuals and later, organizations, are provided the mental, social, and physical space to develop new ideas, common language, and ambitions, as well as new joint projects. In doing so over a longer period of time, participants will increasingly translate the transition perspective and ideas into their own operating context, while understanding the complexities, unpredictability and non-linear causalities involved. These transition management processes therewith indirectly influence and change regular policies in government, business, research, and civil society. Below the main ingredients of a transition management process are described, which in practice blend and are enacted often in parallel or at least in not specific sequential order.

Interventions facilitated and co-created with
Transition Management



Confirmed lecturers that will actively
engage in building knowledge with you
include:

Niki Frantzeskaki – associate professor on governance for sustainability transitions, is working at DRIFT since 2010 where she researches contemporary sustainability transitions and their governance across Europe (UK, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands) and in developing countries like Vanuatu, Ghana, Honduras as well as in the USA. She has applied Transition Management in Aberdeen, Delft, Melbourne and Vanuatu.

Julia Wittmayer – senior researcher at the DRIFT, Erasmus University Rotterdam, focusing on social innovation and social sustainability in urban areas and on a local scale. She is interested in the roles, social relations and interactions of actors involved in processes and initiatives aiming to contribute to sustainability transitions – with a specific interest for the role of science.

THE PROGRAMME

Thursday 24 September

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| 10:00 | Welcome and introductory round |
| 10:30 | Introduction to Urban Sustainability Transitions |
| | Interactive Session I: |
| 11:30 | - Questions and Presentations of On-going Research by Participants - Forming of working groups |
| 12:30 | LUNCH |
| 13:30 | Presentation by Nico Tilie about Rotterdam's Sustainability Plans |
| 14:00 | Group Work Session I – Sustainability Challenges from a Transition Perspective |
| 15:00 | Group Work Session II – Designing transformative visions |
| 16:00 | COFFEE BREAK with Group-Pitch-Presentations |
| 16:30 | Group Work Session III- Transition Pathways: multiple avenues to sustainability? |
| 17:30 | Transition Management in and for Cities |
| 18:30 | First reflections and closing of Day 1 |
| 19:00 | DRINKS |

Friday 25 September

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| 08.30 | Walk at the riverfront: Explanation of the different transition experiments |
| 10:00 | Insights and lessons learnt from Transition Management Applications in Cities |
| 11:00 | Interactive Session II:- Working Groups present and reflect on the Sessions I-III |
| 12:30 | LUNCH |
| 13:30 | When Transition Management 'fits' your research problem |
| 14:30 | Closing of the day and follow ups |
| 15:00 | Visit of the Fenix Food Factory, meeting the people of the sustainable food initiatives & Drinks |

Participants that would like to be eligible for ECTS credits for this course, we suggest to contact us. Estimated ECTS for this course are: 2 for taking the course, 3 for additionally handing in a research reflection within one month after finishing the course. A certificate of participation will be granted to all participants that finish the Short Research Course.

More information and registration:

transitionacademy.nl/course/src2015