Doughnut Cities: Within a History of Urban Design
Our Agenda

- Co-Research
- Your Input
- Snapshot of Results
- Panel Discussion
- Expert Reflections
- Q&A
Who is Who?

Dr. Sofia Greaves  
Initiator & Panelist

Patrick Léon Gross  
Initiator & Panelist

Luciana Maia  
Co-Organizer

Dr. Leonora Grcheva  
Panelist

Prof. Simon Goldhill  
Panelist
How can our city become a home to thriving people, in a thriving place, while respecting the wellbeing of all people and the health of the whole planet?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our city</th>
<th>Four Lenses</th>
<th>World</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ECOLOGICAL CEILING</strong></td>
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<td>How can our city respect the health of the whole planet?</td>
<td>How can our city respect the wellbeing of all people?</td>
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<td>How can all the people of our city thrive?</td>
<td>How can our city be as generous as the wildland next door?</td>
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<td><strong>SOCIAL FOUNDATION</strong></td>
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<td>Local aspirations</td>
<td>Global responsibilities</td>
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## New Economy Policies & Frameworks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pluralistic beyond GDP</th>
<th>Redistributive justice &amp; rights</th>
<th>Regenerative human actors</th>
<th>Politicizing beyond growth</th>
<th>Transformative multi-level</th>
<th>Accessible storytelling</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green New Deal</td>
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<td>✓/x</td>
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<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>Circular Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doughnut Economics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
#1 Change the Goal

**From 20th-Century Economics**

GDP

**To 21st-Century Economics**

Donut

Adapted from: Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist, Random.
#2 See the Big Picture

From 20th-Century Economics

Self-Contained Market

To 21st-Century Economics

Embedded Economy

Adapted from: Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist, Random.
#4Get Savvy with Systems

From 20th-Century Economics

Mechanical Equilibrium

To 21st-Century Economics

Dynamic Complexity

Adapted from: Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist, Random.
#5 Design to Distribute

From 20th-Century Economics

Growth will even it up again

To 21st-Century Economics

Design to Distribute

Adapted from: Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist, Random.
#6 Design to Regenerate

**From 20th-Century Economics**

Growth will clean it up again

**To 21st-Century Economics**

Design to Regenerate

Adapted from: Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist, Random.
“To what extent can we deepen that analysis and look at things like history, and power, colonial legacies and the benefits that places in the global north have accrued disproportionately relative to other parts in the world because of those histories.”

- DEAL, 2021
Sassanian Firouzabad, Iran, 3rd century BC
Abbasid Baghdad, Iraq, 8th century BC.

Dashly Oasis, Bactria (Northern Afghanistan) 2000BC.
• Small selection of examples
• There is a tradition of conceptualizing the ideal city in circular ways
• Consistent themes and problems
• Examples building upon each other’s legacy. What is the legacy of the doughnut?
Circular Economy

A circular economy entails markets that give incentives to reusing products, rather than scrapping them and then extracting new resources. In such an economy, all forms of waste, such as clothes, scrap metal and obsolete electronics, are returned to the economy or used more efficiently. This can provide a way to not only protect the environment, but use natural resources more wisely, develop new sectors, create jobs and develop new capabilities.

“the goods of today are the resources of tomorrow at yesterday’s resource prices”

UNCTAD’s work on the circular economy started in 2015 with a collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation on resource-circularity potentials in large economies like India and China.

Circularity is already part of many lines of work within UNCTAD, such as activities on tackling fossil fuel and fisheries subsidies. Resource circularity cannot be promoted in international value chains just by promoting and enacting national rules. While companies have made strides in improving their social and environmental footprints, privatizing public policy through voluntary sustainability standards and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) falls short from this task. In a world where most trade happens in parts and components in highly globalized value chains, promoting global resource circularity goes through international rules and cooperation, as well as individuals and consumers empowered with education.

UNCTAD works on the circular economy by encouraging discussions and activities seeking to bring value out of waste streams, by encouraging discussions around collaborative economy sectors, by the examination of innovative business models and encouragement of consumer awareness and behavioural shifts. In partnership with other international organizations, UNCTAD’s work on the circular economy at the national and multilateral level comes this important theme to the service of the international community.
1) Is the doughnut an ideal city?

2) Where do you see similarities and differences?

3) If you are working in a city where the doughnut is being used as a tool, can you think of any practices which fit with or reject the ideal city tradition?

4) Do you have any other examples from history or associations you think are interesting to discuss relative to the doughnut? What pops up in your head when you think of the doughnut?
In setting out the walls of a city, the choice of a healthy situation is of the first importance... [so] that it may not be obnoxious to the pestilential blasts of the hot winds. 1.4.1-12.

If any one doubt this, let him study the different natures of birds, fishes, and animals of the land, and he will easily perceive the truth of these principles. 1.4.7.
Harmony

Since nature has designed the human body so that its members are duly proportioned to the frame as a whole...

in perfect buildings the different members must be in exact symmetrical relations to the whole general scheme. 3.1.4-5.

• Health
• Beauty
• Harmony
• Strength
• Proportion
• Justice
• Economy
Economy

In this respect the architect is to avoid the use of materials which are not easily procured and prepared on the spot.

It cannot be expected that good pit-sand...or marble, can be procured everywhere in plenty...they must, in some instances, be brought from a distance, with much trouble and at great expense. 1.2.8.
Justice and Integrity

Moral philosophy will teach the architect to be above meanness in his dealings, and to avoid arrogance: it will make him just, compliant and faithful to his employer; and what is of the highest importance, it will prevent greed from gaining an ascendancy over him: for he should not be occupied with the thoughts of filling his coffers, nor with the desire of grasping every thing in the shape of gain, but, by the gravity of his manners, and a good character, should be careful to preserve his dignity. 1.1.7.
Imposed concepts of civility, barbarity and progress
• A harmonious city should achieve an ideal relationship between man, the natural environment and built environment

• Built to embody a set of ideals

• Justified by a knowledge claim: expertise

• Generally underpinned by colonial assumptions and concepts
Legacy of a text: Later readers of Vitruvius’ theory produced their own interpretations of the ideal city.


Urban planning innovations legitimised by pursuit of ideal standards & apparent continuity with authoritative tradition


Palmanova, 1593. Giulio Savorgnan
Layouts and technologies become symbolic of ‘health’ and ‘beauty’, which drives development.
The way the city is represented also drives development

The most essential needs surely are adequate space, light and air. No city will ever be an ideal city unless it provides those essential conditions for all the people.

'Town and country must be married, and out of this joyous union will spring a new hope, a new life, a new civilisation.'
Page of statistics on prostitution in different cities. Italian planning manual, 1912.

“The main goal of a smart city is to optimise city functions and promote economic growth while also improving the quality of life for citizens by using smart technologies and data analysis.” (TWI Global)
"Mr. Robert Boyle, whose name stands pre-eminent in the domain of the science of ventilation, has followed his father’s footsteps in devoting his life and fortune to the elucidation of the subject of ventilation, having personally preached the gospel of fresh air in almost every country in the world, and spent over three-quarters of a million sterling in developing his ideas on the subject."

Councillor and Guardian.

A SANITARY CRUSADE through the Continent of America.
A SANITARY CRUSADE through the Far East (India, China, Corea, Japan).
A SANITARY CRUSADE through South Africa.
A SANITARY CRUSADE through Australasia, Polynesia, Java, Borneo, Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, Siam, Burmah.
A SANITARY CRUSADE through Europe.
A SANITARY CRUSADE through North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Tripoli, Egypt, The Soudan).
A SANITARY CRUSADE through Iceland and the Faroes.
A SANITARY CRUSADE through the West Indies and South America.
A SANITARY CRUSADE round the World.
DEAL Medical Rhetoric

“Thanks to the inheritance of 20th-century economic design, today’s high-income economies are degenerative and divisive by default.”

“Getting into the Doughnut calls for economies that are both regenerative and distributive by design.”


“We use the exercise to identify our cities’ pain points.”
DEAL ‘Diagnostics’
Purity / Danger

“Seeing the diagram with Australia’s overshoot you couldn’t even fit it on the screen, you had to scale it down, it was just horrifying”

“We are so privileged we are so...it really shook me up a lot I think, and others as well”
Conclusions

• Doughnut appears to fit into tradition of imagining the ideal city in a circular way

• Similar ‘ways of seeing’: medical and moral

• Adopts established guiding morals, redefines and adds its own

• A ‘21st century’ expression of our ideal culture: it is a 21st century ideal city?
DEAL’s values

**CARE**
for people and planet

**PLAYFUL CREATIVITY**
through continuous innovation

**COLLABORATION**
inclusive and participatory

**OPENNESS**
based on high trust

**RECIPROCITY**
willingness to share

**CONVICTION**
in transformation and its urgency

**AGILITY**
adaptive to people and context

**INTEGRITY**
in putting ideas into practice

**EXCELLENCE**
we aim to do things well
Ideal type versus reality

- Tension between ideal/real enables urban planning (not always good)

- Legacy of De Architectura shows us how innovation can be legitimised by a flexible label

- Can be technocratic: not always good for everybody, normative

- Need plurality: there is no ‘Doughnut City’
Ideal

Reality?

Wassily Kandinsky, Composition VIII, 1923.
Thank You”
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Enter the code

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If you got curious...

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