

Special Guest Lecture

# Urban competitiveness and Sprawl: Policy re-orientations and urban form changes in Athens, Greece

Dr Ioannis Chorianopoulos

Associate Professor, Department of Geography  
University of the Aegean

Date: Wednesday, 24 April. 14:50-16:50

Venue: 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Architecture Building (N5-3)

This talk explores the process of ‘urban competitiveness’, and the implications of the re-orientation of spatial planning priorities through case-study research. It looks at Athens, an example of a ‘Mediterranean city’ which hosted successfully the 2004 Olympic Games. In this light, we examine the changing patterns of land development in the metropolitan area. Olympics-related infrastructural investments, such as the new ring road and international airport, facilitated the efficient execution of the Games. Olympic development priorities, however, sidestepped stated planning directions on metropolitan growth. Evidence presented in this talk point to a land-use change trend in the urban periphery that takes the form of unordered expansion, defined here as ‘sprawl’. Competitiveness agendas, it is argued, exacerbate unsustainable development tendencies, compromising future growth prospects.



## Biography:

Ioannis Chorianopoulos is an Associate Professor at the Department of Geography, University of the Aegean. He has taught at the LSE and has researched at the Hellenic Observatory (LSE). He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a member of the Centre for Urban Research on Austerity (De Montfort University), currently participating in the research project “Collaborative Governance under Austerity: An eight-Case comparative Study”. His academic interests and publications record focus on the themes of European Integration, urban competitiveness and sprawl, participatory governance and social exclusion.