

## Peter Hall

### **2005 Balzan Prize for the Social and Cultural History of Cities since the Beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century**

*For his unique contribution to the history of ideas about urban planning, his acute analysis of the physical, social and economic problems of modern cities and his powerful historical investigations into the cultural creativity of city life.*

### **New Patterns of Urban Activity**

#### **Bartlett School of Planning at University College of London**

*Adviser for the General Balzan Committee: Keith Thomas*

The following projects financed by Sir Peter Hall with the second part of his Balzan Prize are being carried out by the Bartlett School/Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis at the University College of London. The projects stem from his studies and are carried out under his supervision:

1. *Labour Markets and Housing Markets in England.* As proposed by Sir Peter Hall, Ph.D. student Basak Demires Ozkul is working on the changing economic structure of the North West of England, one of the cradles of the English Industrial Revolution, which has been impacted by deindustrialization over the last forty years. She also continues to work on her specialist subject of housing, where she had worked with Professor Lawrence Vale at MIT. The outcome is an extremely ambitious attempt to marry two different research streams: labour market modelling and housing market modelling. She tries to understand the simultaneous operation of these two markets within her chosen region – an ideal area for the purpose, comprising two major cities that are successfully making the transition into the knowledge-based service economy, neighbouring industrial towns that are struggling to do so, and an attractive countryside to which many of the workers in the “new economy” are commuting. Basak Demires Ozkul has also worked as assistant to Sir Peter Hall on a research in a related field, published by the UK Government Office for Science as a jointly-authored publication in 2010: Government Office for Science (2010) *Long Science Review on the Influence of Significant Drivers on Land Use since 1945.*

2. *Geographical and Temporal Patterns of Information Flows in European Cities.* A very able young American who had been Sir Peter’s Master’s student, Jonathan

Reades, is working on innovative research strategies using mobile phone company data to analyse the geographical and temporal patterns of information flows in European cities. He has developed a highly productive working relationship with MIT's SENSEable City Laboratory, the world's leading research group in the field of mapping mobile phone data as a means of analysing urban activity patterns. Here he has contributed on proposals that culminated in SENSEable's installation at the MoMA in New York and in a disaster-planning research project with KPN in Holland. As a result, his work is at the research frontier and he has already published significant papers (see Publications).

3. *European Identity and Recent Immigrants into European Cities*. Dr. Francesca Recchia, who completed her Ph.D. on "Histories, Cultures and Literatures of English-speaking Countries" at the Oriental Institute in Naples in 2005, did her postdoctoral study on "European Identity" with Sir Peter Hall from October 2006 to October 2007. Her focus, stemming from her Ph.D., has been to study the problem through recent European literature by writers with multiple ethnic and cultural identities. She first produced a paper on London as seen through the eyes of contemporary novelists who are either recent immigrants or children of immigrants, and then repeated the exercise for Paris (Recchia, 2008).

About a tenth of the research sum is given to the Young Foundation (formerly the Institute of Community Studies) to finalize and pay for two studies in book form. *London Voices London Lives* was published in 2007 by Policy Press. It consists of edited transcripts of more than one hundred interviews with Londoners in eight different sample areas in and around the city. *The Polycentric Metropolis: Learning from Mega-City Regions in Europe* was published in 2006 by Earthscan Publications. 50 copies of this book were donated to the young researchers who participated in the POLYNET project, analyzing and describing flows of information and their geographical patterns in eight regions of North West Europe.

#### **Publications:**

- Andris, C., Biderman, A., Calabrese, F., Krings, G., Nabian, N., Ratti, C., Reades, J. and Rojas, F., *City Gravity*, "SEED Magazine", February 2009.
- Calabrese, F., Reades, J. and Ratti, C., "*Eigenplaces: segmenting space through digital signatures*", "IEEE Pervasive Computing", 14 August 2009.
- Hall, P., *London Voices, London Lives: Tales from a Working Capital*, Policy Press, London, 2007.

- Reades, J., F. Calabrese and C. Ratti, *Eigenplaces: analyzing cities using the space-time structure of the mobile phone network*, "Environment & Planning B: Planning & Design", Vol. 36, No.5, September 2009.
- Reades, J., *Finite State Machines: Preserving Privacy When Data-Mining Cellular Phone Networks*, "Journal of Urban Technology", Vol. 17, Issue 1, April 2010.
- Reades, J., F. Calabrese, A. Sevtsuk and C. Ratti, *Cellular Census: Explorations in Urban Data Collection*, "Pervasive Computing", Vol. 6, No.3, IEEE, 2007.
- Recchia, F., *Immigration, Politics and Violence in Urban France: Between Fiction and Facts*, "Information, Society and Justice", Vol. No. 1, December 2008.

**Statement by the Prizewinner:** *I won't promise that I shall finally solve the mystery that has been worrying me these past four decades. But perhaps, through the generous award of this prize, you may help me get a little nearer to the answer. Thank you. Peter Hall (Berne, 11.11.2005)*