

CALL FOR PAPERS
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Re-thinking North American cities... from elsewhere

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In France, North American cities (the United States and Canada) have a strong influence on ordinary representations; their omnipresence in the cultural and news media is such that we all feel we know these urban spaces, their landscapes and the lifestyles of their inhabitants. The social sciences, which are interested in cities, rarely fail to refer to them as well, particularly because much of the thinking about the city comes from the United States - the "Chicago School" is the most famous example, whose influence on sociology, and more broadly on urban studies, has been fundamental. Finally, French urban policies often draw their inspiration from across the Atlantic, and many reports refer explicitly to the American context. These vernacular or scientific representations are associated with contrasting value judgments, with North American cities sometimes seen as a model to be followed, sometimes as an urban repellent.

Based on this observation, the North American Urban Studies (EUNA) network, created in 2016 by French geographers, brings together each year French-speaking researchers and doctoral students with the dual objective of reviewing the most recent studies on North American cities in all disciplines and highlighting the specificity of the French-speaking approach in relation to research conducted by North American researchers.

This session, proposed by the coordinators of the EUNA network, aims to broaden this reflection to geographers from Europe and around the world around a main question: what does it mean to study North American cities (specifically the United States and Canada) when one is a researcher practicing outside of North America and/or from a non-North American scientific tradition? Several lines of questioning are proposed to analyze the scope of this scientific decentering:

- Do North American cities exert, in the different countries of Europe and the world, a fascination (positive or negative) as powerful as in France on society, urban policies and research?
- What place do North American cities occupy in (urban) geography and more broadly in urban studies in countries outside North America?
- How are North American cities approached in these countries, from a thematic, methodological and/or theoretical point of view? What are the main themes proposed in urban geography?
- Can we identify national or continental specificities (for example, European, Latin American, African, etc.) in the way North American cities are studied?
- What advantages and obstacles does this decentering create for researchers specializing in North American cities?

Please provide your paper title, author(s), affiliations and email addresses, a 200 word Abstract including methods and research objectives and up to 5 keywords, and send this information to each of the session organizers by the **27th of July 2021**.

Timeline:

- 27 July 2021: abstract submission to the conveners
- August 2021: feedback to authors
- August 2021: session submission by the conveners to the conference team
- 31 August 2021: notification of session acceptance