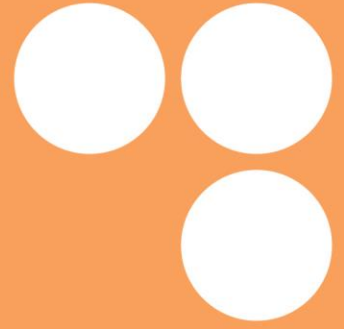


TWIN2EXPAND



# WORKING GROUP STUDIO C

15-19 MAY 2025, LONDON (ONLINE)

twinning towards  
research excellence  
in evidence-based planning  
and urban design



[TWIN2EXPAND](#) asks how evidence-based approaches to urban design and planning (EBDP) can impact real-world decision-making in support of socially and environmentally sustainable forms of urban development.

This three-year project consists of a consortium which twins the University of Cyprus with UCL Bartlett, Chalmers University of Technology, and Turin Polytechnic for purposes of furthering the dissemination of EBDP methods while encouraging their adoption beyond academia. It is funded by EU Horizon and UKRI.

TWIN2EXPAND hosts the annual Working Group Studios (WGS) in Gothenburg (Chalmers) and London (UCL). The London Working Group Studio (May 2025) will engage academics, practitioners, and the government to share and reflect on their experiences and viewpoints on EBDP. Building on last two years' WGS Cs in London, which brought together a cohort of UK-based thinkers, practitioners, and academics, this year's working group studio furthers the EBDP discussion around questions such as:

- What are the challenges in making EBDP methods more easily communicable and interpretable?
- How can a unified workflow and toolset be achieved?
- Considering the multiplicity of planning matters, how can EBDP be integrated with wider spatial analytics?

## Session A – Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – [online event](#)

**Theme:** Seamless theory and practice: adaptable, scalable and reproducible EBDP methods

Building on previous discussions about the gap between theoretical development and the practice of evidence-based planning and design, this panel seeks to explore communicable and interpretable EBDP methods. The goal is to facilitate a more seamless integration of theory and practice. These discussions will also examine the limitations of current methods and theories in urban planning and design.

SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
10:00 CET	Introductions and summary of past WGSc	Prof. Kayvan Karimi
10:20	WGSc 3 intro	Sepehr Zhand
10:30	What data tells us?	Prof. Matthew Carmona - UCL
11:15	Q&A	
11:35	Space Syntax scaling up	Dr. Valentina Maurin - SSL
12:30	Q&A and Round discussion	
12:45	Lunch break	
14:00	Theory applications in practice	Laurie Robertson – BuroHappold (TBC)
14:45	Q&A	

Online session link:

<https://ucl.zoom.us/j/92434714042>

Meeting ID: 924 3471 4042

## Session B – Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – [Online event](#)

**Theme:** A unified generation of tools and workflows

This discussion addresses the widening gap between the technical and theoretical aspects of evidence-based planning and design (EBDP). While tools and workflows develop through separate pathways, the increasing reliance on data in design and planning is shifting the process toward data and programming experts. This panel aims to bridge this divide by facilitating a conversation between spatial data and programming experts, exploring ways to integrate theoretical and technical dimensions of EBDP more cohesively.

SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
10:00 CET	WGSc quick introductions	Prof. Kayvan Karimi
10:20	EBDP tools and methodology intro	Dr. Gareth Simons
10:30	EBDP and Open workflows	Martin Fleischmann – Charles University
11:15	Q&A	
11:30	Computational Urban Desing: An AI-driven Exploration for EBDP	Professor Ye Yu - Tongji University
12:15	Q&A and Round discussion	
12:45	Lunch break	
14:15	Open tool sets development	Geoff Boeing – University of Southern California (TBC)
15:15	Q&A and round discussion	

Online session link:

<https://ucl.zoom.us/j/92434714042>

Meeting ID: 924 3471 4042

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## Session C – Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> – [Online event](#)

**Theme:** Round up, debrief, summary and dissemination

The final WGSc panel examines key challenges that limit the expansion of EBDP research while highlighting practical cases where isolated methods were adapted for scalability. It also reviews the outcomes of the past three annual WGSc events and explores strategies for effectively disseminating the provided material.

SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
10:00 CET	Mingling and reflection on WGSCs	
10:10	Discussion on EBDP matrix/conceptual model	T2X consortium
12:00	Break	
13:30	Summer school final coordination	T2X consortium
15:00	Round discussion on WGSc	
15:20	Further discussion on project and dissemination	

Online session link:

<https://ucl.zoom.us/j/92434714042>

Meeting ID: 924 3471 4042