



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



I.A.M. Public Space 2024

Exploring values of the management of public space

June 3-5 Alnarp, Sweden

Call for abstracts

The second International Academic symposium on Managing Public Space (I.A.M. Public Space) will explore the nature and necessity of values for the management of public space through the themes:

Why Management? | How to Manage? | Who is Managing?

To attend, submit your 300 word abstract before Feb 15th 2024
Onsite attendance is limited and based on an accepted abstract
A live-stream of the symposium will be open for everyone

For more information and abstract submission go to
www.slu.se/iamps2024





I.A.M. Public Space 2024 Intent and aim

The second International Academic symposium on Managing Public Space intends to bring together researchers, policymakers and practitioners from across the globe focusing on the management of public space. We relate to all infrastructure assets under public and private management which include streets, squares, bridges, sewers, parks, trees, etc. The symposium is hosted by Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Wageningen University & Research (WUR) and the Dutch foundation of Managing Public Space (MPS).

The purpose is to upgrade the discussion and establish a forum to discover public management issues, to broaden and deepen the understandings of what management of public space is and can be. The context is public spaces as a whole, including the entire life cycle of all different assets and functions in public space. From planning and design to management and maintenance, including possible organisational and practical adjustments and replacements.

We do this based on the three overarching themes, each with a number of subthemes

For information on each subtheme, please visit www.slu.se/iamps2024



I.A.M. Public Space 2024 Session themes

Why Management?

The discussion of values will be centred on the definition and spatial expressions of management of public space. We will explore the pursued values, reasons, relevance or overall purposes that guide decision-making in management of public space. Addressed aspects can include climate change, biodiversity loss, inclusivity, mobility, accessibility, or community engagement, and how such aspects can be balanced and prioritized against other priorities, such as economic development and safety concerns.

Subthemes:

- **Values of management: past, present, future**
- **Conceptual and theoretical inquiries**
- **Gaps and prospects for future research**

How to Manage?

The discussions of how to manage will reflect on the institutions, operational processes, and long-term strategies involved in the management of public space. This includes exploring governance challenges such as conflicts between different stakeholders, power imbalances, and bureaucratic inertia. Additionally, it will be considered how management of public spaces can promote sustainable behaviour among users, and how best practices for maintenance of public spaces can be developed to minimize their environmental impact, including the use of smart technologies. Best practices on how integrated approaches to management across planning, design, construction and maintenance can be achieved within internal governmental processes are welcomed.

Subthemes:

- **Governance aspects of management & maintenance**
- **Best practises, including smart technologies**
- **Management for sustainability**



I.A.M. Public Space 2024 Session themes

Who is Managing?

The discussions of who is managing will reflect on the managers and their roles, but also on the user groups, needs, behaviours, and choices of management of public space to accommodate and facilitate public spaces for all. Focus will be on approaches and strategies that managers can use to ensure relevant, welcoming and safe public spaces for all. This includes how public spaces can be managed with local communities to become inclusive and accommodate the many diverse needs, e.g. of people with disabilities. We would like to explore the manager roles and management approaches making public spaces foster a sense of community and social connection, and how public space management can address such spatial justice concerns.

Subthemes:

- **Inclusivity**
- **Multifunctionality**
- **Participation and user engagement**



I.A.M. Public Space 2024 Programme

Sunday 2nd of June

Day for pre-symposium excursion – t.b.a.

Monday 3rd of June

- 09:30 – 10:15 Welcome to I.A.M. Public Space 2024
- 10:15 – 11:00 Keynote 1 – **Why Management?**
- 11:00 – 12:00 Presentations session 1a (3 parallel subtheme sessions)
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 – 15:30 Presentations session 1b (3 parallel subtheme sessions)
- 16:00 – 17:30 Guided tour in Alnarp Park / Walk and talk
- 18:00 – Dinner in Alnarp

Tuesday 4th of June

- 09:00 – 09:45 Keynote 2 – **How to Manage?**
- 10:00 – 12:00 Presentations session 2 (3 parallel subtheme sessions)
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 – 16:30 Bus excursion in the Scania Region

Wednesday 5th of June

- 09:00 – 09:45 Keynote 3 – **Who is Managing?**
- 10:00 – 12:00 Presentations session 3 (3 parallel subtheme sessions)
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 – 14:15 Plenary discussion on Why, How and Who
- 14:45 – 16:00 Discussion of formalising a network, incl. planning of the 3rd I.A.M. Public Space 2026