

International Research Meeting

“Environmental Psychology, Architecture, Urban Studies and Neuroscience”

Collaboration Spain & China research groups

A Coruña 9-11 September 2026
CITEEC – School of Architecture UDC – Faculty of Educational Sciences

Organised by

People-Environment Research Group
CITEEC

With the sponsorship of

Vice-Chancellorship of Research and Transference
GADISA

And the collaboration of

IAPS - Sustainability Network; Centro de Formación PRAXIS; and Institute of Psychosocial Studies and Research “Xoán Vicente Viqueira”



IAPS-sustainability
network



praxis
centro de formación



Xoan Vicente Viqueira
Instituto de Estudos e Investigación Psicosocial

Agenda

9 September 2026

09:00 Coffee and informal introductions

- Distribution of materials

09:30 Institutional Opening at the CITEEC - Social Psychology Lab for Transitions towards Sustainability. - Welcome and Overview

- *Welcome remarks by the Director of CITEEC, Prof. Fernando Martínez Abella (10').*
- *Welcome words by the Vice-Rector of Research of the UDC, Prof. Jerónimo Puertas Agudo (10').*
- *Welcome words by the Director of the School of Architecture, Prof. Miguel Abelleira Doldán. (10')*
- *Introductory message from the Chinese academic delegation, Prof. He Hui & Prof. Xu Leiqing. (10').*
- *An introduction to the Meeting: Aims and main research lines of the People-Environment Research Group. An overview., Prof. Cristina García-Fontán, Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning, and Coordinator of the People-Environment Research Group, University of A Coruña, Spain (10').*

10:00 Current Challenges and Opportunities for a Joint Research Agenda in the Social Sciences between Galicia, the EU and China

- *Overview of current EU-China academic collaboration in the social sciences. Marina Martínez, CDTI Brussels.(15')*
- *The strategic role of environmental psychology in understanding human behaviour in changing environments: The TiBeRIUM project. Ricardo García Mira, Professor of Social Psychology at the University of A Coruña; Fernando Bruna, Associate Professor of Economy at the Faculty of Economy – University of A Coruña; Cristina Garcia Fontán, Associate Professor of Architecture – University of A Coruña. (15').*
- *Healthy City Planning and Design: Planning Guidance of Intergenerational Shared Community Public Spaces, Prof. He Hui, Professor of Urban Planning at the Huazhong University of Science and Technology, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Wuhan, China. (30').*
- Q&A

11:00 Coffee-Break

11:30 Keynote lecture: Professor Leiqing Xu, Tongji University, Shanghai, China



- *Environment Design and Theory Research in the Perspective of Public Health*, **Prof. Leiqing Xu**, Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University, College of Architecture, Shanghai, China (40').
- Q&A

12:15 Emotions, Memories and Narratives

- *Affective Responses to Urban Spaces: A Computational Approach* – **Prof. Xia Zhang**, Professor at the School of Urban Design, Wuhan University, China (20').
- *Place-Based Environmental Memories – Health, Human Rights and Psycho-social-cultural Impacts of Clean Energy on Communities Displaced by Hydroelectric Dams in Brazil* – **MSc Fernanda Blanco Vidal** – Pre-doctoral researcher at The Graduate Center of City University of New York (CUNY) (15')
- *Climate Narratives, Consumption Reduction and Perceived Agency* - **Dña. Carolina Farias**, Pre-doctoral student. Program of Social and Behavioral Sciences UDC. (15').
- Q&A

13:15 Place, Culture, and Emergencies

- *Making and Unmaking Place: Symbolic Construction, Sense of Place and its Cultural Erosion* – **Prof. Yolanda Pérez Sánchez**, Professor of the School of Architecture of the UDC –. (15')
- *Research and knowledge transfer in emergency architecture and development cooperation. Projects in Mozambique and Senegal*. **Prof. Patricia Muñiz** Professor of School of Architecture University of A Coruña, Spain (15').
- Q&A

13.45 Wrap up by Prof. Cristina García Fontán & Ricardo García Mira (10')

10 September 2026

09.30 Neuroscience & Healing Environments, Water Conservation and New European Bauhaus

- *Healing Environments and Neuro-architecture*. **Dr Dancheng Meng**, Dr in Engineering, Post-doctoral researcher at the Laboratory of Neuro-Architecture, Tongji University, Shanghai, China (30').
- *Predicting Water Conservation Behavior in Communities Around Mountains: Testing the Theory of Planned Behavior*. **Prof. Fredy S. Monge Rodríguez**, Investigador Distinguido “Beatriz Galindo” – University of A Coruña, Spain (15').



- *New European Bauhaus and Health Project* – **Dr Beatriz Piñeiro**. Government of Galicia – Department of Health, Santiago de Compostela, Spain (15’).
- Q & A

10:30 Coffee-Break

11:00 Restorative environments, therapeutic landscape

- *The Camino de Santiago as a Wellbeing Infrastructure: An Environmental Psychology Perspective on the Restorative Potential of Culturally Significant Natural Environments*. **Prof. Mar Durán**. Professor of Social and Environmental Psychology, Coordinator of the ULTRAMAR Research Group, and IDEGA researcher. University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain (15’).
- *The Camino de Santiago as Therapeutic Landscape: Socio-territorial Notes from PILGRIM-APHY-TOUR Project*. **Prof. Lucrezia Lopez**, Professor of Geography, director of the CETUR, and IDEGA researcher. University of Santiago de Compostela. Spain (15’).
- Q & A

11:30 Landscape, architecture for cooperation and health

- *Integrating Climate Risk into Cultural Landscape Policy: Lessons from the Revision of Spain's National Cultural Landscape Plan and Historic Gardens* – **Cristina García Fontán**, Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning, and Coordinator of the People-Environment Research Group, University of A Coruña, Spain (15’).
- *Role of sustainable design strategies in encouraging long-term use of garments*. **MSc Aryasree Kuttiattoor Veetil**, Pre-doctoral researcher at the CITEEC – University of A Coruña, Spain, (15’).
- *Health policy priorities in mitigating impacts of Climate Change: The TRIGGER project*. **Dr Nachatter Singh** Post-doc researcher at the People-Environment Research Group at the UDC– (15’)
- Q & A

12:30 Galicia: Safety and Sustainability

- *Safety, Risk, and Sustainability in Galicia*. **Roberto Lage Regal**. Expert in Safety, Director of PRAXIS, Research Collaborator of the People-Environment Research Group, UDC. (15’).
- *Galicia as a climate shelter: psychosocial implications of the commodification of nature in the tourism industry*. **Uxía Varela**. Pre-doctoral student. Program of Social and Behavioural Sciences UDC. (15’).
- *2026 Sustainability Atlas*. **Prof. Jesús Gabriel Vázquez**, Associate Professor of Sociology of Education. University of A Coruña (15’).



- *Inclusive cities: Law aspects of participation in the elaboration of a city for all.* Prof. **Manuela Santos**, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Humanities – University of A Coruña.
- Q&A

13:30 Wrap up

14:00 Lunch

11 September 2026

10:00 to 13:00 Group work on “Integrating social sciences and neuroscience into architectural and urban research”

Objective: define concrete proposals for cooperation.

- Group A: Environmental psychology and climate adaptation
- Group B: Architecture, urban planning and territorial studies
- Group C: Neuroscience applied to social sciences and spatial design

Each group will produce:

- 3–5 priority research areas
- Proposals for joint projects (workshops, exchanges, comparative studies)
- Infrastructure needs and possible EU–China funding sources

13:00 to 13:30 Plenary Reporting Session

- Presentation of the working groups’ conclusions followed by open discussion.

13:30 Closing session. **Ricardo García Mira & Cristina García Fontán** – IAPS Sustainability Network Conveners.

- Summary of key results
- Identification of priority pilot projects
- Proposal to establish a permanent joint coordination group
- Visit to the CITEEC, Social Psychology Lab for Transitions towards Sustainability