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S. C. M. Geertman · Christopher Pettit ·
Robert Goodspeed · Aija Staffans
Editors

Urban Informatics and Future Cities

 Springer

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Preface

The international CUPUM conference (Computational Urban Planning and Urban Management) has been one of the premier international conferences for the exchange of ideas and applications of computer technologies to address a range of social and environmental problems relating to urban areas. The first conference took place in 1989 in Hong Kong. Since then this bi-annual conference has been hosted in cities across Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America (Table 1). Now, in 2021, 32 years after the first CUPUM conference, Aalto-Helsinki in Finland will host the 17th CUPUM conference.

Table 1 Past CUPUM conferences

Number	Year	Place	Country
I	1989	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
II	1991	Oxford	United Kingdom
III	1993	Atlanta	USA
IV	1995	Melbourne	Australia
V	1997	Mumbai	India
VI	1999	Venice	Italy
VII	2001	Honolulu	USA
VIII	2003	Sendai	Japan
IX	2005	London	United Kingdom
X	2007	Iguazu Falls	Brazil
XI	2009	Hong Kong	China
XII	2011	Lake Louise (Calgary/Banff)	Canada
XIII	2013	Utrecht	The Netherlands
XIV	2015	Boston	USA
XV	2017	Adelaide	Australia
XVI	2019	Wuhan	China
XVII	2021	Aalto-Helsinki	Finland

Table 2 Board of directors of CUPUM

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The CUPUM Board (Table 2) has promoted the publication of a *Springer CUPUM Book 2021* with a selection of scientific papers that were submitted to the conference. Those papers went through a competitive, double-blind review process that resulted in the selection of what the reviewers deemed to be the best CUPUM papers of 2021. All these papers fit the main overarching central theme of the Aalto-Helsinki 2021 CUPUM conference: *Urban Informatics and Future Cities*. Therein, we acknowledge that Future Cities are in need of innovative technologies, associated methodologies and their adoption by the key actors responsible for their planning and management. This will be assisted by ‘gathering’ (hybrid conference: online and at campus) from June 9–11, 2021 both online and at Aalto University, Helsinki metropolitan area, Finland and via the publication of this Springer CUPUM Book 2021. Through the combined efforts of the conference and book publication we hope to facilitate the exchange new ideas on this theme and bring together research and practitioners to better use data, technology and tools to address the challenges facing our cities.

Organizing the programme of an international conference and editing a volume of scientific papers requires dedication, time, effort and support.

First of all, we would like to thank all the people closely involved in the organization of the Aalto-Helsinki 2021 CUPUM conference. Organizing such a conference always turns out to be much more work and generating many more problems/challenges than envisaged before.

Second, as book editors, we would like to thank the authors for their high-quality contributions. We started with 39 proposals for interesting book chapters and finally ended up with 29 high-quality full chapters in this book. The double-blind review process was not an easy task and it is always difficult when potential authors experience the disappointment of not being selected. By fulfilling the double-blind review

Table 3 Advisors to the CUPUM board

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process and demanding at least two reviews per submission we believe that the review process has been conducted in a fair and equitable way.

Third, we would like to thank our fellows from the Board of Directors of CUPUM and the Advisors to the CUPUM Board for their time and expertise in assisting with the review process. Without their help we wouldn't be able to guarantee a double-blind reviewing process. Furthermore, their critical judgement has improved the overall quality of the book substantially.

And fourth, we would like to thank our scientific sponsors (Utrecht University, University of New South Wales, University of Michigan, Aalto University) for their contribution in time and resources to this publication. Finally, we would like to thank Springer Publishers for their willingness to publish these contributions in their academic *Urban Book Series*. This is already the fifth time that a selection of best papers from the CUPUM conference has been published by Springer. The first time was in 2013, when we published the book: *'Planning Support Systems for Sustainable Urban Development'* (Stan Geertman, Fred Toppen, John Stillwell (eds.)). The second time was in 2015, when we published the book: *'Planning Support Systems and Smart Cities'* (Stan Geertman, Joe Ferreira, Robert Goodspeed, John Stillwell (eds.)). In 2017 we published the book: *'Planning Support Science for Smarter Urban Futures'* (Stan Geertman, Andrew Allan, Chris Pettit, John Stillwell (eds.)). And in 2019 we published the book: *'Computational Planning and Management for Smart Cities'* (Stan Geertman, Andrew Allan, Chris Pettit, Qingming Zhan (eds.)). We hope more CUPUM books will follow.

Helsinki, Finland
2021

S. C. M. Geertman
Christopher Pettit
Robert Goodspeed
Aija Staffans

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