CRP 453 PARTICIPATORY DESIGN AND PLANNING

Course Objective

The view of citizen participation as a key component in the planning process has a long history. An early discussion took place with respect to citizens' rights to be equally represented in democratic governance. Recently, planning scholars have viewed citizen participation as an enforcing and effective tool in generating commitment in policy implementation among community stakeholders, and, thereby, in ensuring the sustainability of plans over a longer period of time.

This course aims to identify directions towards creating arenas for decision-making in planning that respects and enhances the diversity of groups. The course focuses on the evolution and principles of participation in design and planning, participatory research and its methodology. The course also seeks to create opportunities for discussion about real-life participatory planning projects with respect to methods and techniques used, struggles and challenges experienced, and lessons learned.

Course Content and Structure

This course provides students with the historical evolution of participation in planning, the theoretical views, and examples of its applications, mainly in the Turkish context and as presented by relevant project managers. Moreover, students practice the phases of a participatory planning case in the class environment while engaging in a variety of participatory methods and techniques.

The course stands on the premise of improving students' skills in the processes of working collaboratively toward liberating outcomes, working both as a stakeholder and as a facilitator. Each student has his/her experiences and standpoint to offer which will differ from what others have to offer.

Thus, the class will normally move between mini-lectures, presentations, small group work, and collaborative plenary sessions. Small group work will rely on the students to form a self-managing group, expressing their own expertise and interests in the process of modifying the itinerary of the course and experiencing participatory group processes.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to define terms in participatory planning and design, to identify and describe important principles, and to construct problem solving approaches using the methods and techniques.