THE FUTURE IS PUBLIC

DEMOCRATIC OWNERSHIP OF THE ECONOMY

4–5 DECEMBER 2019

AMSTERDAM

CONERENCE PROGRAMME
WHY WE GET TOGETHER

We are living in crucial times. Cities are on the front lines of today’s most urgent challenges, dealing with the climate crisis and rising global inequality. Such global problems call for public solutions. We want to support migrants and provide universal access to public services that are considered human rights, including housing, drinking water and sanitation services, energy, health care and education.

A growing network of progressive, green municipalities is developing strategies to tackle these and many other critical issues. Cities are well positioned to explore direct democracy and advance innovative economic models that build community wealth and create decent jobs. At the same time, we need country-wide political coordination and ambition to reverse market fundamentalism, which is at the root of our collective economic and social crises. Profit-driven, market-based policies led to the privatisation of our public services and to the denigration of solidarity.

During The Future is Public Conference we discuss how to put the “public” back into public services and build democratic public ownership of the economy.

The conference venue is located in the Bijlmermeer neighbourhood, which is home to almost 50,000 people of over 150 nationalities. This conference, together with the following ‘The City of Tomorrow: Democratising the Neighbourhood Economy’ (6-7 December), are opportunities to work with local communities and to embrace equality, justice and solidarity.

For more information about the conference and key resources:
www.futureispublic.org

To communicate online about the conference please use
#TheFutureIsPublic
IN COLLABORATION WITH
Asia Europe People’s Forum (with financial support from EC DEVCO), Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED), Vigência (Brazil), Eurodad (Europe), Platform for Public Community Partnerships in the Americas (PAPC), M-Power project (Municipal Power), Corporate Europe Observatory, Food and Water Watch (USA), Transform!Denmark, Platform for the Remunicipalisation of Public Services in Madrid, ITF (International Transport Workers Federation), ODG (Observatori del deute en la globalització, Spain), Universidad Abierta de Recoleta (Chile), openDemocracy (media partner) and The Laura Flanders Show (media partner).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30–9:15</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Ghanaian Church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15–9:25</td>
<td>Welcome and conference introduction</td>
<td>Ghanaian Church</td>
<td>Tanja Jadnanansing, chairperson of the Executive Board of Amsterdam Zuidoost, a borough of Amsterdam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30–10:25</td>
<td>Plenary panel 1: Democracy and our climate in crisis: New municipalism as the response</td>
<td>Ghanaian Church</td>
<td>Democracy and our climate in crisis: New municipalism as the response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30–11:25</td>
<td>Strategies for energy, water, and housing for all</td>
<td>Ghanaian Church</td>
<td>Eloi Badia, Councillor of Climate Emergency and the Ecological Transition of the Barcelona City Council, Renate Brauner, Special Representative of the City, Vienna, Anne-Sophie olmos, City Councillor, Grenoble, Philip Glanville, Mayor, London Borough of Hackney, David Dessers, Deputy Mayor, Leuven (Belgium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30–12:30</td>
<td>Keynote Speech by David Harvey</td>
<td>Ghanaian Church</td>
<td>Importance of municipal socialism to reclaim cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reflection by Rutger Groot Wassink, Alderman for Social Affairs, Diversity and Democritisation of Amsterdam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30–13:30</td>
<td>Lunch buffet available</td>
<td>Buurthuis de Bonte Kraai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30–15:00</td>
<td>Plenary panel 2: National and supranational policies enabling democratisation of local economies</td>
<td>Ghanaian Church</td>
<td>National and supranational policies enabling democratisation of local economies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 15:15–16:45 | **THREE PARALLEL SESSIONS**                                                                                       |                                 | **1. Democratic public ownership at the local, regional and national level to fight privatisation (with ES/FR interpretation)**  
**Location: Ghanaian Church**  
**Moderator: Hilary Wainwright, Red Pepper and Transnational Institute**  
- Thomas Hanna, Democracy Collaborative  
- Sylvia Chi, Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)  
- David Hall, former director of Public Services International Research Unit  
- Edurne Bagué, Water Observatory of Terrassa, Spain  
Public ownership has the potential to be a key strategy for democratising our economy and society. However, public ownership does not guarantee more democratic and equitable outcomes. This panel will focus on efforts and approaches to make public ownership more democratic, participatory, transparent, accountable and resilient to privatisation. This includes multi-stakeholder boards, participatory planning, citizen observatories, work councils, empowered trade unions, governing assemblies and new online platforms and tools. | **2. De-privatisation, public ownership and community control as strategies for energy democracy and climate justice**  
**Location: Mosque Central Room**  
**Moderator: Lavinia Steinfort, Transnational Institute**  
- Abeer M. Butmeh, PENGON Friends of the Earth Palestine  
- Arnau Piqué, Ingeniería Sin Fronteras Catalonia  
- Johanna Bozuwa, Democracy Collaborative  
- Daniel Chavez, Transnational Institute  
Which political strategies can deliver an energy transition? How can we ensure that the new energy systems are deeply democratic in order to tackle energy poverty and inequality? From Spain and Palestine to South Africa and the United States, this session explores how the fight against privatisation can be won by combining the struggles for climate justice, ecofeminism and democratic public energy. | **3. Communities reject for-profit public services: New corporate strategies, privatisation and de-privatisation of water waste, health care and education**  
**Location: Mosque Room 1.1**  
**Coordinated by Iris Strutzmann and Oliver Prausmüller, Chamber of Labour Vienna (AK Wien)**  
- Leonhard Plank, TU Wien  
- Vera Wegmann, Public Services International Research Unit  
- Cecilia Gondard, Eurodad  
- Thomas Enghausen, Deputy Chairman of FOA, Denmark  
- Olivier Petitjean, Multinational Observatory, France  
The global crisis of the privatisation agenda of the 90s and the continuous public resistance against cutbacks is growing, while attempts to rethread the welfare state is ongoing. These contradictions increased in recent years due to the strong demands of municipalities. Against this background we want to focus especially on recent developments in the areas of waste, water, health care and education and discuss future perspectives to strengthen an alternative agenda. |
| 17:00–18:00 | **WORKSHOP ROUND 1 (60 MINS)**                                                                                     |                                 | **A. Public control of the food system (TNI with Voedsel Anders, Scottish Farm Land Trust/Nourish Scotland)**  
**Location: Mosque Room 1.3** |                                                                 |
|           | **B. Countering health care privatisation in the Global South (Wemos)**                                             | **Location: Mosque Room 1.1**    |                                                                                                                                         |
|           | **C. Municipalize Europe! Overcoming EU obstacles to reining in Airbnb (Corporate Europe Observatory)**               | **Location: Mosque Room 2.1**    |                                                                                                                                         |
|           | **D. Regenerative city (TAMBO ROCA)**                                                                             | **Location: Mosque Central Room** |                                                                                                                                         |
|           | **E. Young Scholars Initiative – Researching remunicipalisation (Young Scholars Initiative & Department of City and Regional Planning – Cornell University)** | **Mosque Central Room**          |                                                                                                                                         |
|           | **F. Who profits? A research into the public assets of Amsterdam**                                                 | **Mosque Room 2.2**             |                                                                                                                                         |
| 18:00-19:30 | **Transformative Cities 2019 People’s Choice Award (in English)**                                                 | **Location: Ghanaian Church**    | **Moderator: Laura Flanders, The Laura Flanders Show (US)**  
The Transformative Cities Initiative brings eight finalists of the People’s Choice Award to Amsterdam to debate and discuss the opportunities and challenges for transforming our local contexts so that we address the global challenges we are facing. During this unique event we will announce which initiatives received more popular support and who will receive the Transformative Cities 2019 People’s Choice Award. |
DAY TWO 5 DECEMBER 2019

The main focus of Day Two is the de-privatisation of public services and strategies for democratic local public ownership, building on lessons from the worldwide remunicipalisation movement.

9:30–9:45
Recap of Day One
Location: Ghanaian Church

9:45–11:15
PLENARY PANEL 3
Remunicipalisation today: achievements and challenges
Location: Ghanaian Church
Moderator: Ana Méndez de Andés, Madrid 129

Eau de Paris – 21st century innovation in a public water company by Benjamin Gestin
Norway – Readiness for private bankruptcy brings waste services back to the public by Unni Bjerregaard Moe, Norwegian Union for Municipal and General Employees (Fagforbundet)
Ireland – Stronger local government means better local services by Mary Murphy
Canada – Services back in-house, mobilising workers’ knowledge by Robert Ramsay, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
Public sector efficiency by Jan Willem Goudriaan, General Secretary of EPSU
Reclaiming and creating public services: remunicipalisation global overview by Satoko Kishimoto

The resistance to privatisation is growing and joining forces to remunicipalise and reinvent public services. Civil society organisations, trade unions and academics are partnering with cities to deprivatise and democratise how our services are owned and organised. The most fearless municipalities are finding ways to engage users and workers in decision-making. The hot-off-the-press Future is Public report will demonstrate that (re)municipalisation is an effective strategy to put ‘public’ back into public services and build 21st century public ownership.

11:30–12:30
WORKSHOP ROUND 2 (60 MINS)

A. Feminist approach in public services (Debt Observatory in Globalisation - ODG)
Mosque Room 1.3

B. De-privatisation of public services: lessons from the Abidjan Principles on right to public education (Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
Mosque Central Room

C. The future is public transport! (International Transport Workers’ Federation - ITF with KPTU, We Own It, PSIRU)
Ghanaian Church

D. Building a pro-public research network (Queen’s University)
Mosque Room 1.1

F. Learning from the Yugoslavian model of self-governing socialism (Zajednicko.org, Belgrade)
Mosque Room 2.1

G. Housing as the catalyst to defend the right to the City
Mosque Room 2.2

12:30–13:45
Lunch buffet available
Location: Mosque Central Room
14:00–15:30

THREE PARALLEL SESSIONS

1. Worker and Citizen Alliances in the Fight for Remunicipalisation

**Location: Mosque Room 1.1**

Moderator: David McDonald, Municipal Services Project
- Seoul (urban transport) - Wol-San Liem, Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union (KPTU)
- Jakarta (water), Tommy Albert Tobing, Indonesian Legal Aid Institute Foundation
- Lagos (water and waste), Akinbode Oluwafemi, Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Nigeria
- Berlin (housing), Aaron Bruckmiller, researcher on 'Deutsche Wohnen enteignen' campaign
- Ireland (waste), Adrian Kane, SIPTU - Public Administration & Community Division
- Chile, Alexander Panez Pinto, Movement for the Defense of Water, Land and Environment
- Barcelona (water), Miriam Planas, Engineering Without Borders, Catalonia

Citizens and workers are part of a growing global movement to reclaim and reimagine 'public' services. This session highlights the opportunities, successes and challenges faced by these organisations.

2. How pension plans play a role in the privatisation of public infrastructure around the world.

**Location: Mosque Room 2.1**

Moderator: Daria Cibrario, Public Services International
- Kevin Skerrett, Senior Researcher of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
- Fernando Toro Cano, Researcher, University College London
- Stuart Fegan, GMB – Britain’s General Union
- Vera Wegmann, Public Services International Research Unit

Pension funds are major players in public infrastructure privatization. From Canada to Australia, large public-sector pension investment boards have taken advantage of cash-strapped countries looking to raise revenue or build the infrastructure their residents sorely need. In this session we will examine how pension funds have sought out these investments, the effects this form of privatization has had on the ground and how communities and labour unions have pushed back. Finally, we will propose options – such as public finance and public-public partnerships – that avoid the negative consequences of privatisation.

15:30–16:15

Walk from Mosque to Ghanaian Church

Alternative Sinterklaas celebration with special guest and music: history of Black Pete by Black Archives

16:15–17:30

Panel discussion: The way forward, reflections on next steps and what unites us

**Location: Ghanaian Church**

Moderator: Roos van Os, De 99 van Amsterdam
- Daria Cibrario, Public Services International
- Andrew Cumbers, University of Glasgow
- Miriam Planas, Engineering Without Borders, Catalonia
- Alexander Panez Pinto, MODATIMA (Movement for the Defense of Water, Land and the Environment), Chile
- Alana Dave, International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF)
- Rutger Groot Wassink, Alderman for Social Affairs, Diversity and Democratization of Amsterdam

Public actors such as local authorities and locally rooted community organisations have a natural advantage in sharing knowledge in the co-management of local resources. Learning from not-for-profit, solidarity-based partnerships in the water sector, this session will explore deeper possibilities for the co-ownership and co-governance of our essential life-support systems such as energy, water, housing and transport. The session will also explore the place of public-public partnerships - and how they can be democratically financed - in delivering a Green New Deal. Lessons from existing public partnerships will be crucial to the development of new models of democratic ownership, such as the public-common partnerships (PCPs) model recently proposed by Common Wealth and the P2P Foundation.
VENUE MAP

1st Floor: Room 1.3
1st Floor: Room 1.2
1st Floor: Room 1.1
2nd Floor: Room 2.1

Stairs

Mosque TAIBAH
Main Hall

Entrance
A. Public control of the food system

Coordinated by Sylvia Kay and Katie Sandwell, Transnational Institute and ERPI (Emancipatory Rural Politics Initiative) with Voedsel Anders, Scottish Farm Land Trust/Nourish Scotland

How can we reclaim democratic control over our food systems? In the Netherlands, ‘Voedsel Anders’ (Food Otherwise) brings together farmers, fishers, civil society and policymakers to discuss food systems. In the Basque Country, peasant farmers, with municipalities, are developing policies for territorial food sovereignty. In Scotland, a new ‘community right to buy’ is bringing decision-making closer to home. What can we learn from these initiatives? How can we build solidarities and connect rural and urban spaces? In the context of authoritarian or anti-democratic backlash, what challenges do these initiatives face, and how can they help to revitalise our democracies?

B. Countering health care privatisation in the Global South

Coordinated by Barbara Fienieg, Wemos, Finance for Health team

Evidence shows that universal and equitable access to essential health services requires strengthening of public resources and governance. Despite this, Official Development Assistance (ODA) is increasingly used to support or leverage the engagement of private for-profit actors in the health sector in low- and middle-income countries. In this workshop, we will clarify this issue, review trends, and discuss its implications and concerns with reference to specific examples of donors (Netherlands, UK, and EC) and recipient countries (Tanzania, Kenya, India). The workshop is interactive, and we will explore options to counter the push for privatisation of health and development.

C. Municipalize Europe! Overcoming EU obstacles to reining in Airbnb

Coordinated by Kenneth Haar, Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)

Transformative cities are building new bottom-up ways of doing politics and defending the common good. In this workshop we will explore which obstacles transformative cities and urban movements are facing when promoting progressive municipalist policies, focusing on the battle to stop the aggressive expansion of Airbnb and on efforts to ensure access to affordable housing. EU Single Market legislation gives corporations and their lobby groups strong tools to challenge the agenda of transformative cities. The workshop will be an opportunity for city officials and activists to strategise about how to tackle obstacles to progressive municipalist policies.

D. Regenerative city, models from the future

Coordinated by Roque Saenz Esposito, TAMBO ROCA

With rapid population growth, are cities able to ensure a peaceful, fair and healthy life for all? This workshop focuses on creating new pathways for cities based on regenerative models for urban future scenarios. We will use the themes of peace, environment and citizenship as guides for resilience:

1. Check-in: Welcome and short presentation of participants.
2. Dreaming future cities: How can we imagine the city in the future?
3. Creating tools for design: Which tools do we need to start and to get there?
5. Check-out: Harvesting ideas, sensations and results.

E. Young Scholars Initiative – Researching remunicipalisation

Coordinated by Simone Grabner, Luca Wettlaufer, Mildred E. Warner, Young Scholars Initiative & Department of City and Regional Planning (Cornell University)

High-profile cases such as the remunicipalisation of water delivery in Paris and Berlin have demonstrated how remunicipalisation is not a question of market management; it is embedded in an extended institutional, geographical and political context. This workshop will bring together scholars in this area to discuss cutting-edge work and to exchange knowledge on research strategies that will benefit academia, practitioners and citizens alike. The aim is to inspire and encourage a new generation of scholars working on remunicipalisation issues. Workshop participants will gain state-of-the-art insights into how to design research on remunicipalisation and receive feedback on their poster presentations.

F. Who profits? A research into the public assets of Amsterdam

Coordinated by Roos van Os, De 99 van Amsterdam and Johanna Bozuwa, The Democracy Collaborative

There is an emerging understanding across the political spectrum that publicly owned assets at the local and city level can be an incredibly valuable, yet often underutilized, resource for economic and community development. The Democracy Collaborative (TDC) has, assigned by the municipality, conducted an initial mapping project of public assets owned by the City of Amsterdam. During this session Johanna Bozuwa of TDC will present the main findings of the research that we then collectively can discuss how the city of Amsterdam could leverage its assets to build a more equitable city.
G. Feminist approach in public services

Coordinated by Blanca Bayas Fernández, Debt Observatory in Globalisation (ODG)

Within the framework of the upcoming 2020 publication Cities versus Multinationals (European Network of Corporate Observatories), the Debt Observatory in Globalisation (ODG) has been working on a critique of transnational corporations that profit from caretaking services.

This workshop will reflect on the following:

• Is care/reproductive work necessary for the well-functioning of cities?
• Caretaking services include education, health and social services. These are often outsourced. Can we identify common trends, challenges and tactics?
• Feminist mobilisations have defended the (re)municipalisation of the abovementioned services in several cities worldwide. What are their strategies and how have they succeeded?

H. De-privatisation of public services: lessons from the Abidjan Principles on right to public education

Coordinated by Sylvain Aubry, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Since their adoption, the Abidjan Principles on the right to (public) education have spurred support for a rights-based narrative of management of social services. Several of the Principles’ concepts could apply to other sectors. In this workshop, we will:

1. Discuss the legal and ethical basis to claim a right to public services.
2. Discuss the concepts of ‘public’ and ‘municipal’. This includes a reflection on the ‘commons’ and on what ‘public’ means in practice.
3. Review the experience of campaigners who worked on public education to explore the lessons learned, challenges and potential synergies with other fields.

I. The future is public transport!

Coordinated by Ali Howes, International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) with KPTU, We Own It and PSIRU / CREW at the University of Greenwich

This workshop will develop ideas around a social model of public transport that includes organisational and employment rights for workers and provides a solution to the climate crisis. ITF will launch two policy chapters from the People’s Public Transport Policy: Public Ownership written by We Own It and Public Financing written by PSIRU / CREW. KPTU will discuss their campaign for public ownership of the metro (Line 9) in Seoul and present recent research on democratic public ownership and transportation operation models.

J. Building a pro-public research network

Coordinated by David McDonald, Queen’s University

The workshop is designed to bring together researchers working on pro-public alternatives to privatisation to (a) learn about each other’s activities, (b) discuss research methodologies, (c) share findings, and (d) develop networking and collaboration opportunities for future research activities.

K. Learning from the Yugoslavian model of self-governing socialism

Coordinated by Aleksandra Lakic, Zajednicko.org, Belgrade

The experience of socialism in Yugoslavia (considering equally its benefits, contradictions and limitations) offers valuable and unique insights into the system of workers’ control over social reproduction conditions. This workshop will compare the Yugoslav self-management experiment with contemporary counter-movements. An emphasis is placed on questions of commons and collective property regimes and the related concept of socialisation of means of production through workers’ self-management. We will also focus on the concrete practices of workers’ self-organisation through cooperatives and their potentials to eliminate contemporary social and economic inequalities and to contribute to the creation of an autonomous, democratic and decentralised workplace.

L. Housing as the catalyst to defend the right to the City

Coordinated by Niels Jongerius, Transformative Cities Initiative

Housing prices have risen globally, driven by financial speculation. While access to housing is a basic human right, most people either carry a debt for decades to pay for a private house or are pushed ever further out of formerly affordable neighbourhoods. Housing prices bring together the main forces of contemporary capitalism: finance, technology and tourism. Nevertheless, a variety of local initiatives emerge to reverse these trends, showing that the struggle for affordable housing for all has the potential to make the cities of the future more democratic and inclusive.

WORKSHOP ROUND 2 (60 MINS)

On 5 December 11:30–12:30
SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

Aaron Bruckmiller grew up in Austria and is now based in Berlin, where he studied philosophy, politics and history. He is working as an editor and consultant. His PhD project is about utopian traditions in political philosophy. Aaron has been an activist in different social movements since his early teens. He has been active in the ‘Deutsche Wohnen enteignen’ campaign.

Abeer M. Butmeh is a water and environmental engineer and the Coordinator of the Palestinian Environmental NGO Network PENGON - Friends of the Earth Palestine. She has over 10 years’ experience with campaigning, coordination, communication and facilitation between different bodies. Abeer is a trainer in water, wastewater and environmental issues and is an active member in many social and environmental networks at local and international levels.

Adrian Kane is Division Organiser of the Public Admiration and Community Division at SIPTU, an Irish union that represents over 180,000 workers from almost every category of employment across all sectors of the Irish economy. As Division Organiser, Adrian is responsible for Energy and Natural Resources. He is also a member of the ETUC Sustainable Development, Energy & Climate Committee.

Akinbode Oluwafemi is a Nigerian environmental activist and Deputy Executive Director of Environmental Rights Action (ERA), the Nigerian chapter of Friends of the Earth Nigeria (FoEN). Akinbode has extensive experience working with corporate accountability. As Deputy Director, he plays a leading role in designing and implementing ERA’s tobacco control programme and heads ERA’s campaign to prevent the privatisation of water in Lagos and build the movement for public water in Africa.

Alana Dave leads the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) global programme on public transport, which includes a number of strategic projects on labour impacts and workers issues. She is responsible for the development of a trade union public transport policy to further decent work, social and climate justice and gender equality and represents the ITF in external relationships and policy forums. The ITF’s Our Public Transport programme links current issues in the sector with a long-term vision of a pro-public democratic model of public transport.

Alexander Panez Pinto is a member of the environmental group Movement for the Defence of Water, Land and the Environment (MODATIMA). He has a degree in Social Work from Pontificia Universidad Católica in Valparaíso and a degree in Urbanism from the University of Chile. Alexander has worked in Chile, Brazil and Mexico in the fields of social service, urban issues, participatory planning and the right to the city. His current academic research focuses on water appropriation and territorial conflicts.

Ana Méndez de Andrés is a PhD candidate at the Sheffield School of Architecture. She has research experience in municipalism and urban commons and is currently working on the production of Common Codes as juridical tools for commoning of cities. Ana has been involved in the international Fearless Cities Municipalist Network and the analysis of municipalism in Spain through the online ‘Atlas of Change’. She is a founding member of the militant research collective Observatorio Metropolitano and has produced different texts on the municipalist project and the legacy of the 15-M movement.

Andrew Cumbers is Professor of Regional Political Economy at the Adam Smith Business School at the University of Glasgow. He has written extensively on the problems and prospects for a more democratic and egalitarian economy and society. Before moving to Glasgow, Andrew worked at the Universities of Durham, Middlesex and Aberdeen as a researcher and lecturer in Labour and Economic Geography. He was formerly Professor of Geographical Political Economy at the University of Glasgow.

Anne-Sophie Olmos is Deputy Mayor in the City Council of Grenoble where she works on public procurement and management control. She also sits in the Grenoble Metropolitan (wider agglomeration) Council and is the co-chair of the political group that holds the majority at the Council under the Mayor of Grenoble. Anne-Sophie does not belong to a political party and defines herself as a municipalist. Her focus on the management of local public companies has led her to dedicate herself to local commons and to develop processes of cooperation and collective management.

Arnau Pliqué is a Spanish human rights and political activist. He holds a degree in Political Science and has completed a specialisation in armed conflicts at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Open University of Catalonia. He is currently working for Engineering Without Borders Catalonia in the field of energy and extractive industries. Arnau is a member of the Network for Energy Sovereignty (Xse) and the Catalan Platform Against Trade & Investment Agreements. At Xse, he has co-authored two books on energy democracy and sovereignty.

Asima Shaikh is Councillor at the London Borough of Islington where she works as Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs. Her field of expertise is centred around employment, economic regeneration, and community development and resilience. Asima was first elected as Councillor for Finsbury Park in May 2014. She has previously worked for the Greater London Authority, and has extensive experience in project management and policy development.

Benjamin Gestin is General Manager at Eau de Paris, the public water utility of the City of Paris. He has held this position since December 2016. Prior to this assignment, Benjamin worked as Deputy Director General at Centre des Monuments Nationaux, an agency of the Ministry of Culture that manages over a hundred historical sites and buildings. He was seconded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 2009 and 2012 and was posted at the Embassy of France in India, working in the development and governance sectors.
Bertie Russell is a Research Associate at the Urban Institute at the University of Sheffield. He is a member of the UK organisation Plan C and is part of the international MISTRA Urban Futures. Bertie holds a PhD from the University of Leeds. His research interests are centred around participatory and deliberative democracy, utopianism and directional demands; and the organisation of the commons and post-capitalist transition. Bertie has published several articles on municipalism and urban movements.

Cat Hobbs is the Founder and Director of We Own It, a UK organisation that campaigns against privatisation and for 21st century public ownership. Cat studied philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford University, and has several years of experience working as a campaign leader. She has been involved in various campaigns throughout the UK and worked three years at Campaign for Better Transport, where she lobbied nationally on behalf of bus and train passengers.

Cécilia Gondard joined Eurodad in June 2018 as a Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer working on publicly backed private finance. Her role involves research and analysis, advocacy and campaign coordination. Before joining Eurodad, Cécilia worked for the Global Progressive Forum and at the European Parliament. She also coordinated the Europeans for Financial Reform coalition. Cécilia has a degree in European Studies from the Sorbonne Nouvelle University and a master’s degree in European Business from the ESCP-EAP European School of Management.

Charles Santiago is an incumbent member of the Parliament of Malaysia and the Chairman of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHHR). He has held the latter position since 1 November 2018. Charles holds an MA in Economics from the New School for Social Research, USA, and is a member of the Democratic Action Party (DAP). He has previously worked as Director of the Malaysian think-tank Monitoring Sustainability of Globalisation (MSN) and Coordinator for the Coalition Against Water Privatisation and served as Expert Consultant for the European Commission in Brussels.

Daniel Chavez is a Transnational Institute fellow and specialises in left politics, state companies, and public services. He is an active contributor to the Municipal Services Project (MSP) research network, has contributed to the 2012 book Alternatives to Privatization: Public Options for Essential Services in the Global South and has co-edited The Reinvention of the State: Public Enterprises and Development in Latin America and the world.

Daria Cibrario is Policy Officer at Public Services International (PSI), in charge of Local and Regional Government workers and Multinational Enterprises. Prior to this role, Daria served as Sectoral Secretary for the Food and Drink Industry at the European Federation of Food, Tourism and Agriculture Trade Unions (EFFAT) in Brussels and as International Officer for the Food and Drink sector at the International Union of Food Workers (IUF) in Geneva. She holds an MSc in International Political Economy from the London School of Economics.

David Dessers is Deputy Mayor in Leuven, Belgium, working on mobility, climate and sustainability, agriculture and food. Before becoming Deputy Mayor, David was involved in climate activism and in the North-South movement. He has previously worked for NGOs such as Oxfam and WTI; he co-founded Climaxi, a climate-activist organisation; and the Centre for Economic Disobedience (CEO). He is also a founding member of Leuven 2030. From 2011 to 2018, David organised a yearly solidarity festival in Leuven called Wereldfeest. David has co-authored several books, including the 2017 book Leuven in alle staten: voor een stad die duurt.

David Harvey is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Geography at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) and Director of Research for the Center for Place, Culture and Politics at CUNY. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge and honorary degrees from Bristol University, Goldsmith College and Kent University, as well as the universities of Buenos Aires, Roskilde, Uppsala and Ohio State University. He has published several highly influential books on political economy and has been granted numerous research awards.

David Hall is Visiting Professor at the University of Greenwich, London. His research focuses on the politics and economics of public services, public finance, privatisation and PPPs. From 2000-2013 he was Director of the Public Services International Research Unit (PSIRU). David has published numerous PSIRU reports and other journal articles and worked with social movements, civil society organisations and trade unions on all continents. He has also been a guest lecturer at the World Bank infrastructure division and invited to speak at meetings of UNDESA, OECD, UNCTAD, ILO and other organisations.

Duncan McCann leads the Digital Economy team at the New Economics Foundation. At the Foundation, he works on issues of power and accountability and how they have shifted as the data driven economy has flourished. Duncan also works in the areas of ownership, land, money and macro-economic policy. He has previously worked on public platforms and platform coops, including working with drivers in the UK to create a worker-owned alternative to Uber in the UK.

David A. McDonald is Professor of Global Development Studies at Queen’s University, Canada, and co-director of the Municipal Services Project.

Edurne Bagué is a PhD candidate in Social Anthropology at CIESAS in Mexico City, specialising in water, society and culture. Her PhD thesis was on remunicipalisation: ‘The Remunicipalisation of Water in Terrassa (Catalunya). The struggle of the Taula de l’aigua for a management model around the common (2014-2019)’. Edurne has studied irrigation communities and community management in Mexico (Valle del Mezquital) and Catalonia (Comunitat de Kings de la Llegenda del Molí de Pals in Girona). Recently, her research has focused on the infrastructures and management impacts over human rights and local knowledges in Morocco, Spain and the Amazon.

Eloi Badia is Councillor of Climate Emergency and the Ecological Transition of the Barcelona City Council. He has a background in industrial engineering and has participated in water and energy cooperation projects in Ecuador, Argentina, India and Paraguay. Between 2007 and 2015, Eloi was responsible for the Water Campaign of the Spanish Federation of Engineering Without Borders. As City Councillor, Eloi coordinates government actions and steers the representation of the City Council in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.
Ernest Urtasun is a Spanish politician and Member of the European Parliament (MEP), a position which he has held since 2014. He holds a master’s degree in International Relations from the University of Barcelona and has previously worked as a diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Ernest has been politically active since his youth and as an MEP, he represents the green left.

Fernando Toro is part of the Directory of the NGO Ciudad Común. He is an architect by training and holds an MSc in Urban Development Planning from UCL and a master’s degree in Real Estate Management from the University of Chile. Fernando has worked on issues related to urban segregation, inequality, neoliberal urbanism, financialisation and housing policies. He is the former Director of the Villa San Luis Foundation, and his recent professional experience includes consultancy work for the Inter-American Development Bank and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development in Chile.

Freddie Bailey is a Cabinet Member for Community Wealth Building at Preston City Council. He was first elected in May 2018 and elected to the Cabinet in May 2019. As a Councillor, Freddie is working on governing models to empower ordinary people and to protect Preston residents from Conservative austerity.

Gilles Perole is Deputy Mayor of Mouans-Sartoux and responsible for coordinating the town’s food policy development. As an elected representative, Gilles is active in a number of food initiatives across France. He also leads the European program URBACT BioCanteens, which supports six European cities in improving the food quality of their canteen and in the development of a regional project of sustainable food.

Hilary Wainwright is a Transnational Institute fellow and Editor of the British new-left magazine Red Pepper. Her research focuses on new forms of democratic accountability within parties, movements and the state. Hilary is also Senior Research Associate at the International Centre for Participation Studies at the Department for Peace Studies at the University of Bradford, UK; Senior Research Associate at the International Centre for Participation Studies at Bradford University; and an Honorary Associate of the Institute of Development Studies.

Jan Willem Goudriaan is the General Secretary of EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions. EPSU is the largest federation of the ETUC and comprises eight million public service workers from over 260 trade unions across Europe. EPSU organises workers in the energy, water and waste sectors, health and social services, and local, regional and central government in all European countries.

Johanna Bozuwa is Co-Manager at the Climate & Energy Program at The Democracy Collaborative. Her research focuses on transitioning from the extractive, fossil fuel economy and building resilient and equitable communities based on energy democracy. Johanna holds an MSc in Sustainable Innovation from Utrecht University. She first joined The Democracy Collaborative as a master’s student conducting research on public ownership of electric utilities. She has previously worked on divestment campaigns for pension funds in the US and worked alongside groups such as Fossil Free NL and BothENDS in the Netherlands.

Julie Perkins is the Acting Head of the Global Water Operators’ Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA), established by UN-Habitat in 2009 to support and promote solidarity-based partnerships between water and sanitation utilities around the world. With a background in Urban Planning and environment, Julie has worked with UN-Habitat since 2004, supporting UN member states and cities to deliver sustainable basic services to all.

Kate Aronoff is a Fellow at the Type Media Center, writing on climate change and American politics. She is a contributing writer to The Intercept, and her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Nation, Dissent, Rolling Stone, The Guardian and Harpers, among other outlets. She was previously a writing fellow at In These Times. Kate is currently editing a forthcoming anthology about democratic socialism in America and writing a book about the politics of climate change, The New Denialism. Both books are set to be published in 2020.

Kevin Skerrett is Senior Researcher at the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). He holds a master’s degree in Political Economy from Carleton University. Kevin’s work involves all levels of union engagement, from collective bargaining to membership and staff education to policy work. In 2009 he spent a year working as a researcher and editor at the ILO’s Bureau for Workers Activities and was a Managing Editor for the launch of the International Journal of Labour Research.

Laura Basu is Europe Editor of ourEconomy at openDemocracy, a theme section that puts planet, people and power at the centre of the debate about our economic future. Laura is also a research fellow at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry at Utrecht University and fellow at the Media and Communication Department at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is the author of the 2018 book Media Amnesia and co-editor of The Media and Austerity.

Laura Flanders is the award-winning host and executive producer of The Laura Flanders Show, a New York City based TV and radio program that features real-life models of shifting power in the arts, economics and politics. Flanders is also the author of six books including The New York Timesbestseller BUSHWOMEN: Tales of a Cynical Species and Blue Grit, True Democrats Take Back Power from the Politicians. She is a contributing writer to The Nation magazine and can be followed on Twitter @GRITLaura. Watch/listen/subscribe at https://lauraflanders.org

Lavinia Steinfort is a social geographer and political activist. As a researcher at the Transnational Institute (TNI), she is working on public alternatives such as (re)municipalisation of public services, a just transition towards energy democracy and transforming finance for the 99%. Lavinia is co-implementing the mPOWER project that facilitates peer learning among European energy transition cities and is the coordinator of the international Energy Democracy alliance. She co-authored the book Public Finance for the Future We Want and the report One Treaty to rule them all about the Energy Charter Treaty.

Leonard Plank is Assistant Professor at the Centre of Public Finance and Infrastructure Policy at the Department of Spatial Planning at TU Wien. Before joining the Institute, he was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Manchester, the University College London (UCL), and the Institute of Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna. He holds a PhD in Business Administration from the University of Graz and is a member of the Foundational Economy Collective, which sets out a new way of thinking about the economy and politics.
Mary Murphy is Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology at Maynooth University, Ireland. Her research interests include critical social policy, public institutions, power and civil society, and gender. Before joining the University in 2007, Mary worked for fifteen years as a campaigner and policy analyst. She is currently a member of the Council of State. Mary co-edited The Irish Welfare State in the 21st Century and recently worked with Forsa, the Irish public sector trade union, as part of the ‘More Power To You’ campaign to strengthen local democracy and promote public services.

Milo Fiasconaro has been the Executive Director of Aqua Publica Europe – the European Association of Public Water Operators - since 2012. Prior to that, he worked for public authorities on the implementation of local development policies. He holds an MA in Human Geography from Durham University, UK, and a degree in Political Science from Florence University, Italy.

Míriam Planas is an activist with Engineering Without Borders in Catalonia and spokesperson for L’Agua és Vida (Water is Life), an organisation that campaigns to remunicipalise water in the Barcelona region and bring it back to public control. As an activist, Míriam is working for development cooperation to guarantee universal access to basic services. She is also involved in various citizen platforms and is a member of the European Water Movement.

Olivier Petitjean is the current Chief Editor at the Multinational Observatory, an investigative website on French transnational corporations. He is a French writer and researcher and has worked in various NGOs and in the publishing industry. In addition to his role as Editor at the Multinational Observatory, Olivier also writes for the French progressive news website Basta!

Philip Glanville was elected Mayor of Hackney in September 2016 and was re-elected in May 2018. Prior to this, Philip spent three years as Cabinet Member for Housing, overseeing the delivery of genuinely affordable homes. As Mayor, he is committing Hackney Council to tripling the number of council homes built since 2010, including 800 houses for social rent. In addition to serving as Mayor, Philip is also the Chair of London Councils’ Grants Committee and Co-Chair of Thrive London and London Councils Digital Champion.

Renate Brauner is Special Representative for Services of General Interest and Municipal Enterprises of the City of Vienna. She previously worked as an economist at the Austrian Chamber of Labour. Renate has held various political functions, starting as a member of the Vienna City Council and a member of Vienna’s city and state government. She is currently the Vice President of Austria’s Social Democratic Party, SPÖ, and has been President of the Association of Public Services and Enterprises Austria (VOWG) since 2011.

Robert Ramsay is Senior Research Officer at CUPE, the Canadian Union of Public Employees. Robert holds an MA degree in Urban-Social Geography from the University of Toronto. Before being appointed Senior Research Officer, Robert worked as a Professional Officer at the Canadian Association of University Teachers. He has also been Chair and Executive Officer at CUPE.

Rogério Hurtado Osbar is Executive Director of the Open University of Recoleta, the first municipal university of Chile. Created by the local government of Recoleta, it aims to develop an active, critical and change-promoting population of citizens socially open to different ethno-cultural groups. Rodrigo has participated in numerous public programs at, among others, the University of Chile and the Ministry of Economy, where he has worked with technical coordination and creation of knowledge and innovation management models. He is an expert in the field of e-learning and digital platforms.

Roos van Os has been working as a Project Manager at the GroenLinks Scientific Office since January 2019 and is connected to the municipality and citizen initiative De 99 van Amsterdam. She has a background in sociology and international law. In recent years, Roos has conducted research into political (macro) economic policy from a social justice perspective. She has previously worked as a senior researcher at the Research Foundation for Multinational Enterprises (SOMO).

Rutger Groot Wassink is Alderman for Social Affairs, Diversity and Democratisation in the Amsterdam City Council, working specifically on the topics of Social Affairs, Diversity and Democratisation. He is a trained historian and has previously worked with work, income and energy policy development. Rutger has held various positions for the Dutch green left-wing party Groenlinks and has also worked as a policy advisor for the labour union FNV.

Samuel Ventura is a member and spokesperson of the Salvadorian civil society and environmental organisation Foro del Agua and Director of the United Community Association for Water and Agriculture (ACUA). ACUA is an active member of the Platform for Public Community Partnerships in Americas (PAPC) and La Red VIDA (Inter-American Network for the Defense of the Right to Water).


Stuart Fegan is National Officer at GMB, Britain’s General Union. Before being appointed as National Officer, Stuart worked as both Regional and Senior Organiser at GMB. He has over 15 years of experience with union work and often features in media as a GMB spokesperson. Stuarts holds a BA in politics from the University of Portsmouth.

Sylvia Chi is the Policy Director of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), an environmental justice organisation that works with frontline Asian-American communities in the San Francisco Bay Area and across California. Before joining APEN, she worked at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Senate, and the Environmental Law Institute. She has also worked at Verdant Law, where she practiced chemicals and green marketing law. Sylvia earned her AB in history with a minor in environmental studies from Dartmouth College and her JD from the University of Maryland School of Law.
Amsterdammers and other cities, starting at the Amsterdam conference. inspire and visions. This way Amsterdam can become a City of Change and make these more accessible. We also do research and develop strategies. We collect ideas, experiences and best practices from home and abroad and with the municipal ‘Fearless City’ programme. The think tank is part of the international municipalist movement. The think tank is part of the organisation’s Theory, Policy and Research Division. His areas of expertise include democratic models of ownership and governance, particularly public and cooperative ownership. A dual citizen of the United States and the United Kingdom, Thomas has advised the UK Labour Party on democratic public ownership and has served on the Advisory Board of two European Research Council funded academic research projects: Transforming Public Policy Through Economic Democracy and Global Remunicipalisation and the Post-Neoliberal Turn. Thomas M. Hanna is Research Director at The Democracy Collaborative (TDC) and Co-Director of the organisation’s Theory, Policy and Research Division. His areas of expertise include democratic models of ownership and governance, particularly public and cooperative ownership. A dual citizen of the United States and the United Kingdom, Thomas has advised the UK Labour Party on democratic public ownership and has served on the Advisory Board of two European Research Council funded academic research projects: Transforming Public Policy Through Economic Democracy and Global Remunicipalisation and the Post-Neoliberal Turn. Thomas Marois is Senior Lecturer in Development Studies at SOAS, University of London. He completed his PhD at York University in Canada and has worked with NGOs and in private and public sectors in Canada and Latin America. Thomas’ research focuses on public banks and the financing of just energy transitions. He has written several political economy books and his articles are published in high-ranking academic journals. He is also an active member of the Municipal Services Project, a global network of researchers investigating public alternatives to privatisation and commercialisation.

ABOUT DE 99 VAN AMSTERDAM
De 99 van Amsterdam (The 99 of Amsterdam) is a do-and-think tank, consisting of a small team funded by the city of Amsterdam, and a network of doers and thinkers.

The 99 was established to connect Amsterdam initiatives that make the city fairer and more just, sustainable and inclusive, with each other and with the international municipalist movement. The think tank is part of the municipal ‘Fearless City’ programme.

We collect ideas, experiences and best practices from home and abroad and make these more accessible. We also do research and develop strategies and visions. This way Amsterdam can become a City of Change and inspire Amsterdammers and other cities, starting at the Amsterdam conference.

ABOUT THE TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTE
The Transnational Institute (TNI) is an international research and advocacy institute committed to building a just, democratic and sustainable world. For more than 40 years, TNI has served as a unique nexus between social movements, engaged scholars and policy makers.

TNI has a reputation for well-researched analysis on key global issues long before they become mainstream concerns. As a non-sectarian institute made up of researchers, scholar-activists and movement-builders, TNI uniquely combines a ‘big picture’ analysis with proposals and solutions that are both just and pragmatic. Our capacity to build long-term respectful mutual relationships with strategic social movements is helping put radical ideas into movement.

TNI’S VISITING ADDRESS:
De Wittenstraat 25
1052 AK Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Stories of environmental degradation and social injustice seem to dominate the news. But all around the world, people are developing local solutions to global problems. Through a different lens, we see that another world is not only possible, it is already being built.

We launched an award for people-led initiatives to highlight and strengthen stories of cities and collectives that are experimenting with new ways to practice democracy and secure access to basic rights. We compiled 33 inspiring stories from 24 countries for our ‘Atlas of Utopias’.

Three transformative initiatives for each category (water, energy, housing and food systems) were selected as the top 12 finalists nominated for the Transformative Cities 2019 Award.

Between mid-September and mid-October, more than 5000 people participated in the Transformative Cities vote. The finalists organised online and physical actions to bring attention to their transformative work. It is time to celebrate them!

The Transformative Cities Initiative brings eight of the finalists to Amsterdam to debate and discuss together the opportunities and challenges for transforming our local contexts so that we can address the global challenges we are facing. During this unique event we will announce which initiatives received more popular support and who will receive the Transformative Cities 2019 People’s Choice Award.

Who is coming:
Moderator: Laura Flanders, The Laura Flanders Show (US)

Glocalists
- Femke Roosma (Fractievoorzitter GroenLinks Amsterdam)
- Kauthar Bouchallikht (intersectional activist, journalist, trainer and campaigner)

Energy Finalists
- Abeer Al Butmeh, PIGEON – Friends of the Earth Palestine (West Bank & Gaza)
- Eloi Badia, Councillor of Climate Emergency and the Ecological Transition of the Barcelona City Council

Housing Finalists
- Evan M Casper-Futterman, Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative from New York (United States)
- Isadora Hastings, Cooperación Comunitaria from Ixtepec (Mexico)

Food Systems Finalists
- David Ngige, Dajopen Waste Management Project from Kitale (Kenya)
- Lina Mondragón Colyflor Solidarity Economy Circuit from Medellin (Colombia)

Water Finalists
- Akinbode Oluwafemi Environmental Rights Action (Environmental Rights Action- Friends of the Earth Nigeria) from Lagos (Nigeria)
- Tommy Albert Tobing of Amrta Institute/Yayasan Lembaga Bantuan Hukum from Jakarta (Indonesia)

Transformative Cities Coordinator: Sol Trumbo Vila, Transnational Institute

Visit: www.futureispublic.org/transformative-cities
6–7 December

2-day conference by the City of Amsterdam about The City of Tomorrow: Democratising the Neighbourhood Economy (mainly in Dutch)

Amsterdam residents, community organisers, activists and researchers will team up to discuss how Amsterdam can put this new wealth of knowledge on democratic economy into action during the local conference ‘The City of Tomorrow: Democratising the Neighbourhood Economy’.

Visit: www.thefutureispublicdestadvanmorgen.nl/de-stad-van-morgen
EVENT INFO

NO CONFERENCE FEE

LUNCH & DINNER
The Future is Public International Conference will serve lunch and dinner (vegetarian buffet) on the 4th and 5th at the venue.

Meal vouchers (7.5 Euros each) can be purchased at the venue.

INTERPRETATION (DURING PANELS AND KEYNOTE SPEECH)
Simultaneous translation in French and Spanish will be available during the international conference.

La traduction simultanée en français et en espagnol sera disponible pendant la conférence internationale.

La traducción simultánea en francés y español estará disponible durante la conferencia internacional.

VENUE ADDRESS
Hart voor de K-Buurt
Hart voor de K Buurt is located next to the Kraaiennest metro station (20 minutes ride on metro Line 53 from Amsterdam Central Railway Station) in Amsterdam’s South-East borough, Bijlmermeer.

There will be signs and (occasionally) volunteers to help you get from the metro station to the venue.

MAIN VENUE (FOR PLENARIES AND REGISTRATION)
Ghanaian Church
Kempering 58 Amsterdam, Zuid Oost 1104 KG

WORKSHOPS
Workshops are at the Mosque in various rooms (address: Kraaiennest 125)

All venues are close to each other and within a few minutes’ walking distance.