

## **Professor of Urban and Regional Development**

*Delft University of Technology is a multifaceted institution offering education and carrying out research within the technical sciences at an internationally recognised level. Education, research and designs are strongly oriented towards social applicability. TU Delft develops technologies for future generations, focusing on sustainability, safety and economic vitality. At TU Delft we work in an environment where technical sciences and society converge. TU Delft comprises 8 faculties, the University Corporate Office (support services such as Finance, Marketing and Communications, and HRM), unique laboratories, research institutes and schools.*

### **OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies**

The OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies is part of TU Delft. OTB is an interfaculty research institute within TU Delft. Its so-called "constituent" faculties are those of Architecture; Technology, Policy and Management; and Civil Engineering and Geosciences. The deans of these three faculties make up the OTB board. The institute specialises in independent research and advice on housing, building and the built environment, including issues involving urban renewal, transportation and infrastructure, urban and regional development, sustainable building and building policy, land policy, geo-information provision and GIS technology. The OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies' core activities encompass scientific research, research commissioned by third parties, policy advice and knowledge transfer in the form of teaching, publications, courses and study days. A variety of disciplines come into play in carrying out research: public administration, architecture, social geography, town and country planning, economics, sociology, information technology and civil engineering.

### **Chair in Urban and Regional Development (SRO in its Dutch acronym)**

"Urban and Regional Development" is one of the seven research programmes conducted at the OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies. At different levels of scale this programme researches the changes in urban structures and urban areas, in relation to territorial policy execution: the content of the territorial policy, specifically territorial concepts, is reflected in socio-spatial developments and vice versa. Both qualitative and quantitative methods are incorporated in the research. A key characteristic of this programme is that it involves various types of studies, ranging from research oriented towards application and policy to that which is more strategically focused. The chair augments the chair of "Spatial Planning and Strategy" within TU Delft's Faculty of Architecture. The SRO Professor will perform his duties within the OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies.

The research efforts of two programmes within the OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies focus on urban issues. These are the "Urban Renewal and Housing" programme (SVW in Dutch) and "Urban and Regional Development" (SRO). In the first programme urban transformations are researched at the level of city neighbourhoods and districts with the emphasis on the residential function. The second programme covers different levels of scale and focuses on a number of sectors and functions. In the period from 1997 to 2002 (which was examined by a pair of visitation committees, the SRO programme "grew" considerably in terms of its scope (the number of researchers) and academic significance. At the start of this period, the research effort was still largely dominated by the transport and infrastructure theme, but since then the research area has broadened considerably to encompass urban development in a wider sense, with the emphasis on urban network formation which stretches across a number of levels of scale. This has involved an increasing focus on policy development and governance. Ultimately this led in 2002 to the creation of a special section, with a research programme oriented towards urban development and governance. The ongoing research into transportation (including goods transportation) and infrastructure was continued by another section. Recent years have seen a marked increase in the SRO programme's international scientific output. Another notable development was its participation in European research programmes and research projects, the main thrust of which involved research into the opportunities to achieve specific types of *European territorial governance*. This research also gained significance through the establishment of a temporary chair in spatial policy systems in the

Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management. The chair was specifically intended for the OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies, and the SRO programme. From 2005 to 2007, the post was held by Prof. Andreas Faludi.

All in all, the SRO programme has experienced strong development in recent years. The research group has gained an acknowledged position within specific subdomains, both nationally and internationally. Appointing a professor specifically for the SRO programme will help to augment the research group's profile. Because this chair is supplementary to the key domain chair of Spatial Planning and Strategy (RP&S) of the Faculty of Architecture, the intrinsic relationships between the SRO programme and allied research within the Faculty of Architecture can be strengthened.

### **Research**

The major part of the research carried out by the OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies and all research carried out by the SRO research group, forms part of the Delft Centre for Sustainable Urban Areas (SUA), one of the 13 university wide research objectives. The specific contribution of the SRO research group to this SUA research programme is relevant in establishing links between territorial developments and policy developments at different levels of scale.

The research group, which carries out the SRO research programme, is one of the OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies' seven research sections. The Urban and Regional Development group's research into the relationship between certain types of urban environment and mobility patterns shares certain features with the 'Urban Renewal and Housing' group's research into urban neighbourhoods. The more policy-oriented SRO research includes attention devoted to the carry-over effect of policy frameworks and the effects of *shifts in governance*. These aspects are also relevant to the "Geo-information and Land Policy" (GIGb) programme, which is concerned with land allocation policy and planning instruments. The group's research into space productivity in relation to land policy represents a further point of convergence with the GIGb programme. There is some relationship with the "Housing Systems" programme in terms of housing preferences. The SRO programme's interest is in the relationship between housing preferences and mobility patterns. The "Freight Transport" programme covers the object of transportation systems, even though the accent within the SRO programme lies with personal transportation and household conduct. Finally in the SRO programme, territorial developments are analysed by various means, including GIS, which has created interesting relationships with the GIS technology (GIST) programme.

SRO programme collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture is currently focused on the issue of integral area development within the Real Estate & Housing domain. Given the strong intrinsic relationship between the Urban and Regional Development OTB research programme and the research being carried out by the Spatial Planning and Strategy section (Urbanism domain) of the Faculty of Architecture, it makes sense to intensify collaboration between the two sections. Cooperation with the TPM Faculty is focused on research into the relationship between urban design and the mobility conduct of individuals.

A large part of OTB's research and all the research carried out by the SRO section forms part of the NETHUR Research School (Netherlands Graduate School of Urban and Regional Research). It is partly for this reason that the SRO frequently works with other universities within the Netherlands. SRO is currently collaborating with the Economics Faculty of VU University Amsterdam, the AMIDSt research institute of the Universiteit van Amsterdam, the Faculty of Geosciences at Utrecht University, the Faculty of Architecture at TU Eindhoven and the Faculty of Management Sciences at Radboud University on projects run by Habiforum and Amadeus as well as various other graduation programmes.

In the past, there has also been regular cooperation with non-university partners from the private sector (including NOVEM and ECORYS). Such partnerships remain interesting, particularly in the context of socially relevant research. In this context, the relationship with the Netherlands Institute for Spatial Research is also relevant. From 2004 to 2005, a major project was conducted within the framework of a

visiting research post, on territorial conceptualisation in Dutch planning. There is currently collaboration within the context of determining the so-called spatial productivity of business zones.

International collaboration has assumed major importance in recent years. Until a few years ago, cooperation with foreign partners was limited to neighbouring countries in most cases. But members of the research group have cooperated in recent years with a number of (mainly academic) partners from countries elsewhere in Europe, in fact in virtually all the countries of the so-called EU 15 as well as Slovenia, Hungary, Switzerland and Norway. Strategic research carried out within the context of programmes such as ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observation Network) and INTERREG is of particular importance for the section and its scientific output. The aim is to continue this type of European collaboration, one reason being the opportunities to: 1) continue the relations with foreign universities and to expand them further; 2) gain access to unique information and information sources and 3) to exploit the excellent opportunities available for generating interesting, international scientific publications.

### **Teaching**

Given that the OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies is an interfaculty *research* institute, whose research augments the so-called constituent faculties, the institute does not have any of its own teaching duties within the context of BSc/MSc programmes. However, a "post-doctoral" teaching programme for young researchers is conducted within the institute, in conjunction with the graduate courses offered by the NETHUR Research School. There is also individual teaching of graduates, within the context of daily supervision. For a variety of target groups and themes, OTB also organises courses and study days. Contributions are also made by several institute staff, to a number of TU Delft faculty teaching programmes. Those involved are Real Estate & Housing (Faculty of Architecture), the Bachelor's programme of Technology, Policy and Management (the Space: Use and Development domain within the Public Administration Bachelor's programme) and the Geomatics Master's programme (AE, CEG and OTB). It is logical that the holder of the future SRO chair will assume limited teaching duties in the teaching programme provided by the Faculty of Architecture, for example in the form of several lectures in a comprehensive lecture cycle, and supervision of graduation projects.

### **The research field**

Changes in urban structures and urban areas are researched at different levels of scale in the Urban and Regional Development programme, and put within the relationship with territorial policy execution: the content of the territorial policy, specifically territorial concepts, is reflected in social-spatial developments and vice-versa. The social-spatial changes which are researched within the programme link to core themes in current international scientific discussion. The issues here are social sciences in general on the one hand, including geography and town and country planning in particular, and on the other also the design disciplines where the changing spatial reality also lies at the centre of current discourse. A number of labels are assigned to these developments such as: the creation of a network society, the creation of a post-industrial or post-fordist society and globalisation and internationalisation.

However, the context for territorial policy is not only formed through social-spatial developments. Developments in the broader policy context are also important. The government-centric or administration-centric approach which has been a characteristic of spatial policy execution for decades appears to be difficult to sustain. Increasingly, account must be taken of a rise in the number of relevant parties who can boast of a certain power basis, whether governmental, non-governmental or private. This development has given rise to a new concept which has become increasingly apparent in recent years in both the scientific literature and in policy practice itself: *governance*. Intrinsic in all this is an increase in the number of spatial levels of scale in which relevant players are situated, which has spurred the rise of the concept of multilevel-governance. This concept has arisen within the framework of views on the interpretation of European integration and European policy in relation to the powers of national and decentralised authorities, which has accorded the concept extra relevance to the section's research field. The *multilevel* is however also the result of developments which ensure that the territory concept no

longer refers to spaces which can be clearly defined and delimited. The specific meaning of territory is increasingly the result of social processes, over time becoming increasingly detached from spatial-physical data, or classical administrative divisions, such as the nation state.

The relationship between players within a multi-layer system of policy development and execution is rarely symmetrical. Institutions, broadly regarded as the total of formal and informal rules, norms, views and conceptions of territory and territoriality, are of crucial importance here. This is all the more apparent from the discussion on the Space Bill: this bill represents itself as the propagator of a new "governance philosophy" (new views on governance, in other words) in relation to other views on territorial design and structure. This presentation leads to academic, professional and political discussions which are often heated, on spatial policy in general and the role of the national government in it in particular.

Within the research programme a distinction can be drawn between territorial development and territorial governance. This distinction is not about the research *subject* (also indicated as the material object) but the *line of approach* (the formal object, therefore). Intrinsically both themes can be typified as follows:

- Territorial Development focuses on empirical analysis and explanation of urban structures and spatial use (such as polycentric and network urbanisation, multiple space use, business location choice and set-up) in relation to the spatial conduct of households, companies and institutions, including activity and mobility patterns. Both qualitative and quantitative methods are deployed in the analysis.
- Territorial Governance focuses on the analysis of prevailing policy (effect) and policy definitions (specifically territorial concepts), assessment of the relevance of underlying policy theories, including views on territoriality, and the development of proposals for improving policy. The research methods are plentiful, with an emphasis on qualitative research. A particular accent is accorded to the mutual relationships between various policy levels, particularly the European, transnational and national policy level.

The lines of approach or themes have an extremely strong mutual cohesion: an important strength of the programme. A number of key concepts form a counterpart to each other. This is the case, for example, for polycentrism, which refers to urban structures being multi-cored and layered, and pluriformism. The trend towards more pronounced types of polycentrism leads to a greater degree of pluriformism: the spectrum of players relevant for governance becomes correspondingly greater. Conversely pluriform governance possibly assists towards a more distributed, polycentric urban development. Conceptually there is thus a strong cohesion between the themes within the SRO programme, where the intersection lies in the changed significance of territory and territoriality.

### **Duties of the professor to be appointed**

The professor to be appointed will have responsibility for the overall Urban and Regional Development research programme. The candidate thus needs a good grasp of relevant trends at the level of both the (polycentric) territorial development and that of (pluriform) territorial "governance" and the scientific discussion on this. A number of specific and important aspects should be taken into account when applying for this position:

- the chair augments the "Spatial Planning and Strategy" chair. In this latter chair the accent is on the urban and regional scale level; for the chair of urban and regional development the accent is on the higher levels of scale, including the national, transnational and European scale levels;
- in recent years an increasing quantity of European research has been carried out within the Urban and Regional Development programme. This research contributes to a considerable degree to the research group's current profile. An important duty to this end is the continuation of this type of European research (acquisition and coordination of externally-funded research), expanding the research group's international networks accordingly and, particularly internationally, propagating the research results;
- many of the SRO contributions to both European and national research projects involve the identification of concepts which structure policy, about territoriality, territory and (multilevel)

governance. These concepts are also denoted as territorial concepts and establishment principles. Research into this must be further expanded, for example in the form of graduate research;

- Alongside fulfilling duties within the OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies, attention will also be devoted to fulfilling duties in terms of teaching within the Faculty of Architecture. It is certainly not excluded that the professor will play a role as a representative of TU Delft in one or more social bodies or interuniversity collaborative arrangements (such as research schools), within the chair's field.

### **Job requirements**

The following job requirements apply to candidates for the position of professor (1.0 FTE, with a minimum of 0.8 FTE):

- a relevant academic education: for example architecture, town and country planning or technology policy management;
- graduated in combination with comprehensive research experience apparent from publications, with a considerable share being international scientific publications;
- expertise in the field of the SRO research programme sketched above, with an accent on discussions about territorial development and territorial governance at higher spatial levels of scale (regional, national, transnational and European) and views on territorial structures and establishment (territorial concept formation);
- international orientation, both knowledge of developments abroad and at European level, as well as experience in conducting research in international research networks;
- coordinating, stimulating and initiating qualities with regard to the research and propagation of its results to both social groups and (international) scientific bodies;
- broad experience in conducting contract research and providing leadership to this type of research, as well as access to a broad network of contacts for the acquisition of contract research;
- good leadership, stimulatory, contact and didactic qualities;
- experience in supervising graduates, either as co-promoter or daily supervisor.

### **Employment terms**

The position's extent is a minimum of 32 hours per week. The appointment has an initial employment basis of three years with a possibility of extending the appointment. The Professor's salary depends on education and experience; benefits and other employment conditions are in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities. TU Delft also has an attractive package of secondary employment benefits, such as a flexible working week, a free ADSL connection at home and the opportunity to put together an individual remuneration package via the individual terms and conditions of employment options.

TU Delft strives to increase the number of women in higher academic positions; women are thus especially encouraged to apply.

### **Information and application**

For further information about this vacancy please contact Prof. P.J. Boelhouwer, OTB director, phone 015-278 39 28, e-mail: [P.J.Boelhouwer@tudelft.nl](mailto:P.J.Boelhouwer@tudelft.nl)

You may send your letter and curriculum vitae before 9 November 2007 to: Delft University of Technology, HR Department, att. Mr E. Lonte, HR Manager, Berlageweg 1, 2628 CR Delft, The Netherlands; or apply online via [p&o-secretariaat@bk.tudelft.nl](mailto:p&o-secretariaat@bk.tudelft.nl).

When applying for this vacancy please remember to state the vacancy number BK2007/32. BK2007/32

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