DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION

From the Battle of Baghdad in 1258 to the late Syrian Civil Conflict, wars always were outstanding occurrences for urban landscape changes by making physical destructions and population change. Certainly the acceleration in urban development and reconstruction in order to catch up the period of conflict, chaos and recession affects the urban landscape. An element of importance on which we would like to focus when questioning urban landscapes in post-war cities is the commercial centre, a representative urban object of our current consumption society.

Definitely timelines may differ, as for example in the case of Tehran, Iran, these commercial centres (so called malls) were developed three decades after the Islamic revolution and about two decades after the war while in the case of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in less than five years after the conflict. However, in these two cases studying the rearrangement of urban landscapes impacted by commercial centres does not only concern the reconstruction of a city, though it may be an opportunity to address economic corruption, consumption culture, privatization processes and monetizing of public spaces. Lastly we see them as spatial showcases of economic, social and political tendencies in a post war society. All mentioned factors may vary regarding the context, as local versions of a global object, the commercial centre, may develop, especially when global trends are adopted by a local culture according to specific practices and norms.

This study intends to focus on the impact of development of commercial centres on the cities which experienced a conflict in the last fifty years and seeks how this acceleration in commercial construction affected the urban landscape of the cities. We invite scholars to share with us their case studies concerning the impact of commercial construction on the urban landscapes in a post war context. These participations can address commercial centres and their effects in different scales, from a street, a neighbourhood block to a region.

KEY WORDS
Commercial Centers, Consumption, Globalization, Post-war Cities, Urban Landscape.