# Damiano Cerrone

**Urbanist · co-founder of CoPlanAI and SPIN Unit**

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Damiano Cerrone is an urbanist. He co-founded SPIN Unit, an urban research and innovation practice based in Helsinki, and CoPlanAI, a platform for collaborative urban planning. He works on wicked problems at BAITT, a think tank on behaviour and architecture. His academic projects at Tampere University and the Estonian Academy of Arts focus on urban research and policy design for both local and national governments. He lectures on urban studies and AI at universities in Finland and abroad. Earlier, he co-founded UrbanistAI and worked at Demos Helsinki.

## POSITIONS

### PRACTICE

**Co-founder** — CoPlanAI · 2025–present

**Co-founder** — SPIN Unit · 2013–present

**Co-founder** — UrbanistAI · 2022–2025

**Consultant** — Demos Helsinki · 2021–2022

**Principal Researcher** — TERREFORM UR · 2015–2020

**Associate** — Postopia · 2014–2018

**Associate** — Spatial Ethnography Lab · 2015–2016

### ACADEMY

**Project researcher** — Tampere University · 2016–present

**Project researcher** — Estonian Academy of Arts · 2025–present

**Visiting Researcher** — Chalmers University · 2024

**Expert** — Tallinn University of Technology · 2022–2023

**Visiting Professor** — Beijing University of Technology · 2018–2020

**Visiting Researcher** — Nokia Bell Labs · 2017

**Visiting Researcher** — Sapienza University of Rome · 2014

### ADVISORY, REVIEW & SERVICE

**PhD thesis supervisor** — Politecnico di Torino · 2026–present

**Guest, second panel discussion** — London Assembly Planning and Regeneration Committee · 2026

**Grant evaluator** — European Commission · 2025–2026

**Advisor & Co-contributor** — UrbanAI · 2025–2026

**Academic grant reviewer** — Swiss National Science Foundation · 2025–2026

**Member of the advisory committee** — InnovateUS — The GovLab & Allen Lab for Democracy Renovation, Harvard · 2026

**Network member** — AI Imaginaries network (Royal Danish Academy) · 2025–2026

**Academic reviewer** — Springer - BMC Public Health · 2026

**Academic Reviewer** — Routledge · 2025

**Advisory board** — City Destinations Alliance · 2024

**Jury member** — European Capital of Innovation · 2023

**Fellow** — LINA (European Architecture Platform) · 2023

**Academic reviewer** — Territorio · 2017

## GRANTS & FUNDED RESEARCH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2026 | **Future Cities Platform** | Estonian Academy of Arts · European Commission |
| 2025 | **EDITUA – an innovative interactive incubator of socio-spatial change fostering green urban regeneration, employing AI in gain of the public democracy** | Estonian Academy of Arts |
| 2025 | **TUNI - BIODIVERSA** | Tampere University · European Commission |

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| 2023 | **From Playgrounds to Planning** | UrbanistAI · Architects' Council of Europe |
| 2022 | **BIWE: Biodiversity intervention for wellbeing** | Tampere University · Finnish Strategic Research Council |
| 2017 | **ADELE — Autoimmune Defense and Living Environment** | Tampere University · Finnish Strategic Research Council |

## SELECTED PROJECTS

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|---|---|---|
| 2026 | **Belvederegasse School Forecourt, Vienna** | CoPlanAI · Urban Innovation Vienna |
| 2026 | **Luleå University of Technology: letting children reimagine their city** | CoPlanAI · Luleå University of Technology |
| 2026 | **Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities** | CoPlanAI · Gjerdrum kommune · KS Forskning |
| 2026 | **TICO — Officina della Conoscenza, Bologna** | CoPlanAI · Fondazione Rusconi Ghigi |
| 2024 | **Humanizing Digital Twins** | UrbanistAI · Estonian Ministry of Climate |
| 2024 | **PACES Stockholm - Prototype of Accessible, Calm, Equitable and Shared Stockholm** | UrbanistAI · Cloudberry |
| 2024 | **Re-Imagining the Car-Free City, Munich** | UrbanistAI · Zamanand |
| 2024 | **Urbanist DubAI** | UrbanistAI · confidential |
| 2024 | **UrbanTestbeds.JR — participatory AI for the youth (Hamburg, Aarhus, Luleå)** | UrbanistAI · HafenCity University Hamburg · Aarhus University · Luleå University of Technology |
| 2023 | **City of Vantaa** | UrbanistAI · City of Vantaa |
| 2023 | **Helsinki Market Squares** | UrbanistAI · Helsingin Kaupunkitilat |
| 2023 | **Helsinki Summer Streets** | UrbanistAI · City of Helsinki |
| 2023 | **URA codesign methods** | UrbanistAI · URA - Singapore Urban Redevelopment Authority |

## PUBLICATIONS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2026 | **Sustainable rewilding of urban spaces increases microbial diversity**<br>doi.org/10.1093/sumbio/qvag020 | Tampere University · Oxford University Press |
| 2025 | **Decarbonisation of Estonia's residential building stock**<br>doi.org/10.1016/j.enbuild.2025.116193 | Tampere University |
| 2025 | **How green and blue spaces promote health among vulnerable urban populations facing climate hazards: A scoping review**<br>doi.org/10.1016/j.wss.2025.100304 | Tampere University · University of Twente |
| 2024 | **Rethinking the architecture of choice**<br>baitt.org/blog/rethinking-the-architecture-of-choice | BAITT |
| 2023 | **Territorial and Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessments**<br>doi.org/10.3390/land12061144 | Tampere University · MDPI |
| 2022 | **Report on Estonian shrinking cities patterns to the Estonian Parliament**<br>rito.riigikogu.ee/eelmised-numbrid/nr-46/tuhjenemise-mustrid-rahvaa… | SPINUNIT OÜ · Chancellery of the Estonian Parliament |

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|---|---|---|
| 2022 | **The challenge of food production** | SPINUNIT OÜ · SPIN Unit (self-initiated) |
| 2022 | **What Do We Talk About When We Talk About Shrinkage?**<br>sirp.ee/millest-me-raagime-kui-raagime-kahanemisest/ | SPINUNIT OÜ · Sirp |
| 2021 | **Diabetes care - Land Cover of Early-Life Environment Modulates the Risk of Type 1 Diabetes**<br>doi.org/10.2337/dc20-1719 | Tampere University · Diabetes Care |
| 2021 | **From smart to people-first cities**<br>thefuturescentre.org/from-smart-to-people-first-cities/ | Demos Helsinki · The Futures Centre |
| 2021 | **Implementing Gehl's Theory to Study Urban Space**<br>doi.org/10.3390/su13095105 | Tampere University · MDPI |
| 2021 | **Ring City: A Metropolis, Not an Enclave**<br>doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv2ks71tx.7 | Terreform · AUC press |
| 2020 | **Optional and necessary activities_Operationalising Jan Gehl's analysis of urban space with Foursquare data**<br>doi.org/10.1504/ijkbd.2020.106836 | SPINUNIT OÜ · International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development |

## TALKS

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| 2026 | **FutureECOS** | CoPlanAI · European Commission |
| 2025 | **AI & Cities - Leading Responsibly in the Age of Intelligence** | SPINUNIT Lab Oy · Resilient Cities Network |
| 2025 | **AI in planning and education** | SPINUNIT Lab Oy · AESOP |
| 2025 | **Greencajt festival keynote** | SPINUNIT Lab Oy · Greencajt festival |
| 2025 | **People, places, participation (GIZ SENECA)** | SPINUNIT Lab Oy · GIZ |
| 2025 | **Renovar ciudad es construir acuerdos: gobernanza y habitat desde lo colectivo** | CoPlanAI · Urban Housing Practitioners Hub |
| 2025 | **The geography of dedication. Land use lessons from Finnish and Estonian cities** | Tampere University · Finnish Strategic Research Council |
| 2025 | **Visiting MOSAIC - More-than-Human Sustainable and Inclusive Smart Cities** | Tampere University · City St. George's University of London |
| 2024 | **AI for Participatory Planning (Reboot Democracy event with UrbanistAI)** | UrbanistAI |
| 2024 | **Can Generative AI Help Generate Support for Infrastructure Projects?** | Cornell University |
| 2024 | **City Scape - Triennale di Milano** | Triennale di Milano · Paysage |
| 2024 | **Impact 2024 - panel talk** | Impact Foundation |
| 2024 | **Second CIVINET Forum: a conference that set out to make our lives better** | UrbanistAI |
| 2024 | **URF academy** | URF |
| 2023 | **AI for social imagination** | SPINUNIT Lab Oy · AIAAF |
| 2023 | **COP28 - talk** | COP28 |
| 2023 | **Participatory urban planning** | UrbanistAI · Tallinn University |

2023 **The Future of Urban AI: Towards Participatory Planning (Cornell)** Cornell University

## TEACHING & WORKSHOPS

2026 **From academia to entrepreneurship: SPIN Unit and CoPlanAI** UCL

2026 **GIZ Connective Cities** CoPlanAI · GIZ

2026 **Urban Theory II** Tampere University

2025 **Adapting Education to Artificial Intelligence** BAITT · Association for Computing Machinery

2025 **Collaborative AI planning** Virginia Tech

2025 **Collective spatial imaginaries** CoPlanAI · TU Berlin

2025 **ICLEI youth codesign workshop** UrbanistAI · ICLEI

2025 **Masterclass on Participatory AI** Urban AI

2025 **New Urban Habits festival** UrbanistAI · UrbanizeHub

2025 **Spatial imaginaries** Aalto University

2025 **Spatial imaginaries** UCL

2024 **AI for Participatory Planning** UrbanistAI · Northeastern University

2024 **MUST Festival, Turku** UrbanistAI · University of Helsinki

2024 **Spatial imaginaries** Royal Danish Academy

2024 **Star-architects, Star-citizens** Sciences Po

## EXHIBITIONS

2023 **Edge of Government, World Government Summit** UrbanistAI · confidential

2021 **City Unfinished exhibition** SPINUNIT OÜ · Estonian Museum of Architecture

2016 **Baltigram** Venice Architecture Biennale

2015 **Data Drift** Spatial Intelligence Lab MTÜ · RIXC

## MEDIA & INTERVIEWS

2025 **From Citizens to Collaborators: Munich's Streets, Reimagined by AI and Built by Government** Chatting GPT
shows.acast.com/chatting-gpt/episodes/urbanaimunichstreets

2025 **URBAN AI launches AI in Urban Planning Program** World Architecture Community
worldarchitecture.org/architecture-news/fhghz/urban-ai-launches-ai-…

2024 **Artificial Anthropocene (Focus)** Focus
baunetz-campus.de/focus/artificial-anthropocene-8602743

2024 **Artificial Intelligence and Participatory Approach in Designing Future Cities** UrbanistAI · Marmara Municipalities Union
mbbkulturyayinlari.com/en/urban-cities-developing-solutions-04

2024 **City Destinations Alliance — Can AI tools build more people-centred cities?** UrbanistAI · City Destinations Alliance (CityDNA)
citydestinationsalliance.eu/can-ai-tools-build-more-people-centred-…

2024 **Intervista a Damiano Cerrone, UrbanistAI** Esri · ESRI Italy
youtube.com/watch?v=4-gBG_IyYso

2024 **Reboot Democracy: AI for Participatory Planning with UrbanistAI** UrbanistAI · The Burnes Center for Social Change
youtube.com/watch?v=qvOJYGkVKA0

2024 **Tech trends shaping the future of real estate development in Australia** UrbanistAI
thepropertytribune.com.au/opinion/tech-trends-shaping-the-future-of…

2023 **The Future of Urban AI #9 - Towards Participatory Planning** Urban AI
youtube.com/watch?v=n3DYbbtlG3U

2023 **The Urbanist (New Trends edition) — State Conference coverage of AI in planning (Cerrone / Yarwood)**
udiawa.com.au/news/the-urbanist/

2023 **Urbcast ep. 157: How to use AI in designing our cities (guest: Damiano Cerrone)** Urbcast
youtube.com/watch?v=2z-5IxFyIoY

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2022 **Estonian State Cultural Awards** SPINUNIT OÜ · Estonian Ministry of Culture

2016 **Premio 'Mondo d'Oro' 2016** Esri · Geoknowledge Foundation

2015 **Esri Young Scholar Award 2015** Esri

2015 **Most Unique Map, second place: Accessibility and Instagram pictures in Turku, Finland** Esri

## OTHER

2025 **Expert Evaluator** European Commission

2025 **Inclusive AI policy hack game** Erasmus University Rotterdam