Metropolitan processes and Delta territories: comparative study and planning strategies. The case of Parana Delta (Argentina).

**Keywords:** urban planning, urban deltas, coastal areas, governance, climate change.

**Department of Urbanism**

**Area of Research:** Delta Urbanism

**Research Summary:** Throughout the history, some delta cities have expanded turning into metropolitan areas and entering to the global network of worldwide interrelations. The aim of this thesis is to explore the relation between deltas and the metropolitan condition assuming that the historic evolution of the deltas in the context of urban growing processes of the influential cities contains valuable information for understanding the complexity of the present situation and plan future interventions in the area. Through a comparative study of the cases of the Parana River Delta and Rio de la Plata’s coasts (Argentina), the Rhine-Meuse Delta (the Netherlands) and the Pearl River Delta (China), general knowledge on the subject will be developed. After that, the case of the Parana Delta will be analysed to assess the extent to which those metropolitan dynamics and natural processes might affect local reality creating specific conditions. The Parana Delta struggles within the natural condition and the rapid advances of the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Region marked-based dynamics of residence, consumption and production. In this context, local regulations and land policies are not enough to pre-empt the unsustainable use of the land. This project aims to search for an integral solution within the scope of spatial planning to balance demands for development with the necessity to protect the environment of the area.

**Research Methodology:** General knowledge will be developed through a comparative study of qualitative and quantitative variables of three Deltas: Parana Delta (Argentina), Rhine-Meuse delta (the Netherlands) and Pearl River Delta (China). Then, one of the cases (the Parana Delta) will be studied in detail from the local perspective to explore the relationship with the metropolitan scope. Finally a set of strategies will be delineated for the case.