

The Research Group

## Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research

has the honor to invite you to the public defense of the PhD thesis of

### Freke CASSET

to obtain the degree of Doctor of Sciences

Title of the PhD thesis:

Planning for Nodes, Places, and People.  
A strategic Railway Station Development Tool for Flanders.

#### Promotor:

Prof. Dr. Ben Derudder (UGent)  
Prof. Dr. Kobe Boussauw  
Prof. Dr Frank Witlox (UGent)

The defence will take place on

Wednesday december 04 2019 at 16:00h

UGent, Het Pand (zaal Refter), Onderbergen 1 Gent

#### Members of the jury:

Prof. dr. Veerle Van Eetvelde (voorzitter UGent)  
Prof. dr. Michael Ryckewaert (secretaris VUB)  
Prof. dr. Cathy Macharis  
Prof. ir. Dirk Lauwers (UGent en UA)  
Prof. dr. Luca Bertolini (Univ. Amsterdam)  
Dr. Peter Pelzer (Univ. Utrecht)

#### Curriculum vitae

Freke Caset (°1992, Belgium) is a geographer educated at Ghent University (BSc, MSc, PhD) and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (PhD). She entered academia in October 2015, working on various projects at the Social and Economic Geography (SEG) research group of Ghent University. In January 2016 she started her PhD project (funded by FWO) jointly at the SEG and the Cosmopolis research groups.

#### Abstract of the PhD research

In recent years, the public debate about a future vision for spatial development in Flanders has been alive and at times intense. According to the Flemish Government, the railway network has a key role to play in the transition to more sustainable daily travel patterns in the region, and the urban development strategy of 'transit oriented development' (TOD) or 'knooppuntontwikkeling' is put forward as one of the means to reach this higher goal. Reasoning from the assumption that TOD has the potential to live up to this promise, a series of key questions arise: how, where and what development opportunities can be identified for which railway stations? This dissertation zooms in on the 'how' of this pursuit and examines the suitability of a particular methodological framework in supporting planning debates around railway station (area) development in Flanders: the 'node-place model'. The empirical material that was developed and validated as part of this work ultimately crystallized into an open and interactive webtool coined 'StationsRadar'.