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City Governance and Structure

SOAC 2021 Conference Track and Abstracts

Track Chairs: Andrew Butt, Alan March, Annette Kroen, Alexandre Faustino

Dominant modes of decision-making regarding city form and function are not easily disrupted. Assumptions about the cultures of city life, the motives of powerful actors in shaping cities and city futures are embedded in socio-political discourses and may seem largely immutable. – However, cities do change, and our expectations of our cities and their form can change rapidly through disruptive processes: material, social, pandemics or environmental. Presently, popular and political discourses in Australasian cities openly describe a need for transformation, for opportunity capture, and for a reconsideration of the norms of city life. Within this context, an apparent energy for new ways of doing things has emerged, with infrastructure investment, settlement geographies, attention to the environment and governance open for discussion. There is a need for critical reflection about how these new elements intertwine with dominant and traditional modes, as well as further enquiring what landscapes, structures and relations are being produced by these emerging sets of hybrid governance practices. The background challenges of social and environmental justice remain, and deserve more prominence, in debates on city governance, spatial distribution of services and benefit to citizens, and the responsibilities that various actors must take on. Questions emerge about the democratic deficit in city shaping investments, even when many ostensibly appear more people-centred. Whether the threads of solidarity apparent in the global and local resistance are sufficient to address institutional failure on climate and on justice in our cities remains unclear. There are many opportunities for scholarly research to reflect on these long-standing challenges, while considering if and how disruptive tendencies are emerging in a time of crisis and opportunity, and if they have longevity.



Eyeing the prize: Challenge prizes and urban governance innovation

Alistair Sission, University of Wollongong, Pauline M^cGuirk¹, Tom Baker, Sophia Maalsen and Robyn Dowling

Abstract: Challenge prizes' are an increasingly popular means of procuring, funding and promoting innovation within or by the public sector. Urban governance actors in particular have been embracing these competitive events for pitching innovative solutions to various urban problems, from housing affordability to public space management (two recent examples from the City of Sydney and Committee for Sydney). Cities and local governments have organised challenges to solicit new programs and services from the private and not-for-profit sectors, and they have also participated in global challenges, such as Bloomberg Mayors' Challenge, to fund their own innovations. The mechanism of the challenge, based on a liberal premise of open competition and derived from models within the design and technology industries, has implications for the types of policy problems that are addressed and how optimal solutions are identified. This paper offers a critical perspective on urban governance challenges to examine the urban policy agendas being set through challenges, highlighting their encouragement of an 'urban solutionism' that seeks quick fixes to complex urban problems. The paper concludes with a reflection on the implications of challenge-led urban governance.

Metropolitan governance 2.0: The vital role of local government

Andrew Butt, RMIT University, Melbourne, Wendy Steele (RMIT), Annette Kroen (RMIT), Stefanie Dühr (UniSA)

Abstract: This paper explores the emerging role of local government in Australian metropolitan governance with a particular emphasis on the range and diversity of experimental models and processes. In recent decades, processes of change and innovation in metropolitan governance in Australia have included: new types of development 'interventions' including privately-led investments in large projects; models of cooperative governance (e.g. Greater Sydney Commission); voluntary groups (e.g. the Council of Mayors South East Queensland); state-led strategic planning projects and agencies (e.g. Victorian Planning Authority); and Australian Government ventures into city-shaping, such as the developing 'City Deals' in areas such as South East Queensland (SEQ), Adelaide and Western Sydney. Through a critical literature review, desk-top analysis of local government involvement in metropolitan governance, and engagement with an expert advisory group, a typology of metropolitan governance initiatives was developed which draws attention to both the opportunities and challenges for the role of local government in Australia's major city-regions and federal system.

Detourism' and the Great Ocean Road.

Andrew Haig, Swinburne University of Technology

Abstract: A conduit for Melburnians, and other tourists, to connect with nature and spectacular scenery is the Great Ocean Road – one of Australia's most popular tourist destinations. However, overtourism is posing a threat to the Road and the surrounding environment, impacting the region's ecosystems, infrastructure and the livelihoods of local communities. Decentralising tourist activity away from the usual hotspots and spreading visitor travel into the Road's hinterland can mitigate the effects of overtourism. 'Detourism', a concept first established in an advertising campaign by Emirates airlines, describes the effort required to modify behaviour and nudge tourists away from frequently-visited destinations to lesser-known ones.

Questions of jurisdiction and responsibility in the conduct of urban governance, a challenge.

Ani Landa-Ward , RMIT University, Melbourne

Abstract: The movers and shakers of urban governance, policy makers, planners, NGOs, corporate partners, and academics all engage in various ways with the jurisdictional opacity of city life and city making – processes and phenomena like globalization, neo-liberalism, transnational platform economies, global policy agendas such as the SDG's, city networks, Indigenous Sovereignty never ceded, and multiculturalism, all loom large in the rhetoric and literature of urban governance in Australia. These are operationalized as reminders that we are interdependent, connected, and that our lives, economies, and city forms, transgress the bounds of state sovereignty in many abstract, digital, and material ways. Yet, much less prevalent in the urban studies literature, or the policy rhetoric, are questions of what these challenges to dominant norms of jurisdiction and sovereignty mean for the conduct and practice of urban governance itself; what they mean for the relationships that urban governance fosters with various social groups and with land; and what responsibilities to remake and renew regulatory and legal apparatus they entail. This paper explores these questions through drawing on the rich legal and socio-legal literature on Jurisprudence of Jurisdiction, and on Rival Jurisdiction that explores the conduct and responsibilities of legal practitioners in the context of multiple and rival sovereignties. Arguing that urban planners and policymakers have much more to do in taking their observations and engagements with jurisdictional challenges to into meaningful action.

Why communities protest – a case study of the protest signs of Yaroomba

Anna McKinlay, University of Sunshine Coast, Claudia Baldwin, Jeffery D Hammerlinck

Abstract: Local resistance to land-use planning decision making are divisive for communities, cause expensive delays for developers, and can be politically damaging to local government authorities. This case study explores transient protest signs as a vehicle for community activism in response to a proposed beachfront high rise development in Yaroomba, on the Sunshine Coast of South East Queensland, Australia. The individually handmade signs displayed on residents' street-fronts used simple visual messaging to unify a community's discontent with the proposed development and as an alternative voice to the authorities. Visual images are shown as an effective way of evoking emotional responses, and engaging the community in effective advocacy. Image analysis of the signs messaging identified themes of community values for the environment and concerns about good governance. This community activism goes beyond a typical NIMBY response, instead indicating enlightened resistance that puts environmental concerns and transparent planning approval processes above self interest.

A framework for mapping the organisational arrangements of urban greening initiatives

Brian Coffey, Lisa d Kleyn , RMIT University, Melbourne, Judy Bush, University of Melbourne

Abstract: Urban greening is attracting attention because of its potential to enhance sustainability and liveability, and takes shape through diverse forms, which embody different modes of governance. Existing frameworks and typologies provide insight into important aspects of the governance of urban greening, providing a standardised framework for comparing initiatives and an approach to analysing different modes of governance and how they may shift. However, these contributions tend to map urban greening along a spectrum, which can mask different aspects of governance, such as relationships with government and level of formality. Therefore, in this paper we outline a new framework for mapping urban greening governance arrangements. To do so, we first consider why it is necessary to focus on the governance of urban greening, before reviewing high profile contributions to the mapping of urban greening governance. We then explain our typology and illustrate its utility, using selected urban greening initiatives from Melbourne.

A politics of value for an ethical urbanism

Cameron Mc Auliffe, Western Sydney University

Abstract: Participation is central to NSW Government attempts to implement a more just approach to urban planning and development. Yet reforms to enhance community participation have been undermined by the government's focus on a post-Covid construction-led recovery. Participatory planning, built on the consensus-seeking logics of Habermas and Rawls, has been subject to critiques for its inability to adequately account for the role of power in planning decision making. Chantal Mouffe's plural politics of agonism has provided one way to account for the enduring antagonisms of interest groups that fuel relations of power and subvert attempts to find a just consensus. Mouffe accounts for the destabilising nature of power but has less to say on the ethical outcomes of her agonistic pluralism. This paper extends Mouffe's focus on political pluralism, drawing on an interdisciplinary framing of value pluralism to articulate a politics of value as the basis for a more ethical urbanism.

The Barriers to building better cities – How cost-based decision-making impacts what is designed and built.

Cathryn Chatburn, Dr Sara Alidoust, Professor Laurie Buys ,University of Queensland

Abstract: The process of delivering urban development is complex and the delivery of sustainable urban development even more challenging within the context of the contemporary 'short-term' investment paradigm (Emblemsvåg, 2013). This research focuses on medium density residential development in Australia, specifically in the key growth areas of South East Queensland (SEQ). It seeks to understand the processes and decision making required to catalyse change and in particular the influence of financial or value considerations in determining what is built. Using qualitative methodologies, the research draws insights from industry practitioners and residents in response to four critical factors - Values, Knowledge, Skill, Influence - to understand their key impacts on decision making. Research findings will reinforce the relevance and imperative for sustainability as a driving priority for the urban development and construction industry in SEQ (and beyond) and provide an enabling framework to instigate behavioural change at key stages in the process.

Characterising the Use of Data Analytics in Strategic Planning Policy

Claire Daniel , University of New South Wales

Abstract: Although evidence-based planning has long been part of the professional lexicon, the increasing availability of data alongside the computing power needed to store and process it, has seen a renewed interest in "data-driven" decision making. Whilst plenty of research exists proposing new technical methods, the uptake of this technology has thus far been underwhelming. Critical scholarship warns of the dangers of black box technology, and a better understanding of current practices is needed to identify how this technology may be integrated appropriately. This paper presents the findings of a comparative analysis of the use of data analytics in reports and documents published for three major metropolitan planning exercises in Sydney, London and Phoenix. The findings of this research describe a vast and complex network in the production and consumption of planning knowledge challenging notions that a single platform or set of indicators will radically transform plan making and monitoring processes.

City diplomacy and Australian LGAs: the potential for global urban leadership in pluralised systems of local government

Daniel Pejic, University of Melbourne

Abstract: Australian LGAs have become central actors in globally networked urban initiatives, such as C40 Cities, ICLEI and the Urban 20 track of the G20. The City of Melbourne, for example, has 15 formal transnational city network memberships, the same number as London and Berlin, while the City of Sydney has eight. However, the mostly pluralised form of local government in Australia's largest cities, such as Melbourne and Sydney, often contrasts with more centralised models we see in peer cities abroad where local authorities commonly have significantly larger populations, and at times authorities, than their Australian counterparts. This paper questions whether the more limited jurisdiction of LGAs in Australia's largest cities hinders their capacity to maximise the benefits of 'city diplomacy' within their countries when compared with peers? Or can the leadership of these authorities in connecting with global urban agendas bring tangible benefits to the greater metropolitan city-regions in which they reside?

Where is the 'missing middle' and what is its role in city growth

David Pullar, University of Queensland, Kecheng Zhang

Abstract: The 'missing middle' is a housing type positioned between detached housing and high rise apartments. It is so-called because of a supposed gap in historical urban development phases which went from past low density housing directly to current higher density housing; skipping middle density housing. The paper reviews characteristics of middle density housing in the Australian context in respect to housing types, household composition and accessibility to services. We map areas characterised as the 'missing middle' for Brisbane to: i) assess to what extent areas may be geographically defined, and ii) its support for more affordable housing to service urban centres. While it does show up as identifiable areas; of more interest is how these areas have changed over time to support urban growth in Brisbane.

Negative urbanism: unknowing governance, production and consumption in the platform city

David Bissell, University of Melbourne

Abstract: Evaluating how the on-demand mobilities of platform urbanism are transforming urban life is a pressing political question for our time. Developing recent work in cultural geography that explores the politics of negation and critique, I argue that there are two significant modes of evaluation at play in these geographies: the negations of platform urbanism itself, and the negations of critical theory that work to cleave open counter-hegemonic spaces of resistance. Reflecting on a project exploring the gig economy in Melbourne from production, consumption and governance perspectives, I suggest that there is a third form of negation that is often overlooked in these debates. Through the concepts of unknowing, neutrality and ambivalence, I argue that the negative can also be understood in terms of irresolvable limits. I explain how this way of approaching the negative offers both a means of questioning the operation of power in platform urbanism, as well as a way of interrogating 'actually existing' mobile digital geographies.

An Investigation of the Smart City Development in India: Multiscalar governance, fragmented planning, place-based outcomes; and the transformative opportunities for Australasia

Deepti Prasad, University of Sydney, Robyn Dwoling, Tooran Alizadeh

Abstract: Burgeoning of smart cities worldwide has raised the urgency of critical smart urbanism research – especially in contested geographies of the Global South. India is a major player in the South, and yet has been identified as the largest single major market with the most growth opportunities for Australia. Understanding smart urbanism in India sheds light on the existing North-South divide in the discourse and opens transformative opportunities for Australia to generate economies of scale and exponentially grow

its smart city sector linked with Australasia. This paper offers extensive empirical analysis in Bhubaneswar, Pune and Chennai – among the first 20 cities prioritised for implementation in the Smart Cities Mission. It analyses the Mission’s governance structure, examines urban planning challenges in the context of fragmented urbanism, and illustrates examples of place-based outcomes on-the-ground. The results highlight how informality – the dominant mode of urbanism in the South – challenges smart city development in India.

The Role of Urban Design in Accelerating urban Transitions – The case of the City of Casey

Elisa Casagrande (Swinburne University)

Abstract: In trying to address the current crisis to plan for a more sustainable future, I argue that urban designers are well placed to uptake the challenge and initiate a more transformative process to move towards a systemic social-ecological-technical approach to cities. Designers can play a key role in accelerating sustainable urban transitions as they work at the nexus of interdisciplinary processes, with a strong focus on effective manipulation of the urban environment to achieve low carbon and regenerative environments. As a case in point this paper will present the City of Casey Design Excellence Framework, to demonstrate how the urban design leadership is playing a transformative role in both governance and city-shaping levels in the Australian context, by speeding design process improvements and outcomes, and above all promoting local government as the leader in innovation process, and not merely a facilitator.

Operationalising Transformative Capacities as a Framework for Urban Planning

Fatemah Shahani, Swinburne University of Technology, Niki Frantzeskaki, Melissa Pineda Pinto

Abstract: Sustainable transitions can be facilitated by innovation and experimentation in cities. Urban transformation agendas require to understand which innovations will transform urban planning regulations and how these innovations will accelerate sustainable transitions in cities. The existing frameworks of transformative capacities could provide guidance, but they are generic, abstract, and difficult to apply to urban planning. To address this, the operationalised version of Transformative Capacities Framework by Marc Wolfram (2016) is applied in this paper to develop socio-ecological innovations in urban planning. This paper explores how the elements of the transformative capacity framework interact conceptually with participatory and strategic planning, and how each transformative capacity component can be used to guide, inform, and shape planning programs, interventions, and activities towards low-carbon futures. Further, this study offers a bridging framework which creates a practical step for transformative social-ecological programs developed by urban planners and policy strategists to contribute to the achievement of sustainable transitions in urban planning.

A critical historical discourse study: Intersectoral conflict formation and maintenance between land-use, transport and a climate change agenda

Gerry McLoughlin, Swinburne University of Technology

Abstract: Governments prioritising road infrastructure projects arguing population growth drives demand despite COVID pandemic induced immigration collapse, and not associated housing, public transport, soft infrastructure and sustainability outcomes conflicts with the 2015 Paris Agreement and Victoria’s commitment to zero emissions by 2050. Recent research attributes these planning failures, to institutional path dependency, problem definition limiting outcomes, governance failures and collapse of planning theory. However, the origins and resilience of intersectoral conflict requires an historical understanding. Drawing on Graham’s (2008) ethos, eidos and praxis, mapping research method, to examine collective actions’ socio-political and ideological framings establishes a credible basis for 10th State of Australian Cities National Conference, 1-3 December 2021, Melbourne, Australia

identifying key 'storylines' through a critical historical discourse study over 50 years. My study, pinpoints six 'Critical Discursive Moments' (CDM), arriving at the recent past, examining how instruments, originally established to protect the environment facilitate extreme intersectoral conflict that constitutes a form of 'symbolic violence', through misrepresentation and misrecognition of environmental impacts.

Place-identity and economic significance of urban forms of Vietnamese precincts in Melbourne, Australia

Ha Minh Hai Thai, RMIT University, Melbourne

Abstract: This paper examines the place-identity of neighbourhoods characterised by a large number of Vietnamese and their ethnic businesses in metropolitan Melbourne, Australia. In Victorian residential design code, place-identity is legislated as 'neighbourhood character' to control the aesthetic of new developments, but it has been increasingly criticised. Drawing on the recent development of theories arguing place-identity as a dynamic process, this research examines both objective physical qualities of these neighbourhoods which distinguish them from others, and analyses dwellers' subjective identification of these places which makes them to be significant and contested arenas of collective being and belonging. Findings underline the interrelationships between urban configuration, morphology, building types and patterns of ethnic business clusters, and reveals how ethnic identity is manifested spatially through place-identity. Practice, policy and theory in public administration, urban planning, economic development, property development, cultural policy, heritage and tourism can benefit from a better understanding of these material places.

Sharing in times of urban crisis: uncovering the interdependency of urban governance

Inka Santala, University of Wollongong

Abstract: In times of urban crisis, resorting to communities' own resourcefulness and proactive capacities becomes a necessity. Whereas market-led forms of urban governance remain disrupted by the pandemic, what has emerged into spotlight are the often invisible systems of provision that work across civic, market and government domains to sustain urban life. Recognising and nurturing these interdependent forms of governance becomes crucial to ensure more just and sustainable urban futures. Yet, their dynamics are easily overlooked and less understood. Drawing together the transformative potential of socially innovative sharing practices and imaginaries of postcapitalist urban politics, this paper illustrates the interdependent 'doing together' already in place. Exploring local sharing initiatives in Sydney, the paper demonstrates how revealing and re-narrating the urban agency and citizen subjectivities at work, has the potential to prefigure dominant norms of urban planning and governance. Making it possible to envision more equitable and just recoveries for Australasian cities.

Cross-Border Governance for Economic Development around Gold Coast Airport: An Investigation on Planning Frameworks and Stakeholder Relationships

Isara Khanjanasthiti, Bond University, Dr Daniel O' Hare, Dr Bhishna Bagracharya

Abstract: Gold Coast Airport, one of the fastest growing airports in Australia, functions as an important domestic and international gateway for both the South East Queensland and Far North Coast regions. The airport is uniquely located across two states and local government areas, thus presenting the airport with a significant opportunity to contribute to local and regional economic development across the border. This paper examines existing cross-border governance arrangements in place for promoting economic development around Gold Coast Airport. It does so by exploring a range of planning frameworks and stakeholder relationships, which have an influence on the airport's economic development contributions. The paper concludes with key public policy recommendations for augmenting Gold Coast Airport's role as a major economic development driver.

Resilience success of community led and governed green infrastructure in Australia.

Jenny George, Macquarie University of Sydney

Abstract: Australian examples of community-led green infrastructure are delivering authentic community involvement and sustained resilience benefits demonstrated over several decades. Success lies in their unique community governance model. Community governance is an approach of visioning, decision-making and managing green infrastructure that prioritises the community's role in the process. This success is achieved with a "heads in, hands out" role of government. Internationally, and especially in Australia, community governance for green infrastructure remains poorly understood. Addressing gaps in the literature, this five-year research study explored Australian successes in community led and governed green infrastructure, particularly green corridors and trails. Results showed that community led visioning, management and decision-making have important strengths for uncertain times, building resilience factors like innovation and adaptability. Reputation, a factor that is rarely mentioned, was found to be important to the success of community governance, perhaps unique to the state-driven context of Australian environmental governance.

Cities within the city: Neoliberal urbanity, power and right to the city in Sydney

Khandakar Farid Uddin, Awais Piracha, Western Sydney University

Abstract: Greater Sydney, like many other major cities of the world is socio-economically divided. However, the division in Sydney has not been investigated from an urban planning perspective. This research explores how the division in Greater Sydney is impacted by the urban planning system, its reforms and its application. Critical theory is a crucial lens to analyse the socio, economic and cultural disparities in urban spaces. This research applies aspects of evolving critical urban thoughts, i.e. the 'Theory of Right to the City', 'Theory of Power', and 'Neoliberalism', to conceptualise the urban inequality in Sydney. This research argues that residents of lower socio-economic areas are increasingly experiencing location-based discrimination due to socio-economic and political power imbalance.

The governance of guerrilla and other urban gardening

Kristina Ulm, University of New South Wales

Abstract: Guerrilla gardening, community gardening, allotments and other urban food gardens have become a popular phenomenon in many cities worldwide. Urban food gardens are publicly accessible places where edible plants are grown for primarily non-commercial purposes and are managed by more than one household. But how are urban food gardens managed? And by whom? Researchers across urban planning, geography, and policy studies use the concept 'governance' to understand the involvement of government and other actors in urban food gardens. However, as governance is an abstract, ill-defined concept it is interpreted and operationalised in different ways. This research investigates how governance is perceived in research on urban food gardens. We found that there is limited research on some dimensions of governance, like the decision-making processes and actors' underlying beliefs. To address this gap, an integrated systems approach to governance of urban food gardens is proposed.

Is Melbourne becoming more spatially divided? An analysis of development and tenure trends.

Liam Davies, RMIT University, Melbourne

Abstract: Melbourne is a growing city. At the 2016 Census, Melbourne had almost 4.5 million residents, an increase of more than one million from 2001. The number of dwellings in Melbourne has also risen significantly. Successive Victorian Governments have attempted to plan for this increase through metropolitan planning. Recent plans have set targets for infill development, aiming to reduce urban sprawl while increasing housing choice. This paper analyses development trends data, to determine where growth has occurred, and to what extent this has met planning objectives. Diversity of housing stock is also analysed, finding that existing trends are being reinforced, with density at the core, and low-density on the fringe. Lastly, a cross-analysis of tenure trends is undertaken, identifying areas where renting is a growing tenure, and the types of dwellings being occupied by renters. This investigation reveals growing disparity in dwelling choice and location across Melbourne, contrary to planning objectives.

Grounded perspectives of environmental justice as a contribution to urban governance

Lisa De Kleyn, RMIT University, Melbourne

Abstract: Environmental justice is an approach that analyses the intersection between social justice and environmental issues. The term is increasingly used in Victoria by activists, academics and policy makers. In policy, environmental justice was used as a frame in the 2015 Victorian Government Inquiry into the Environment Protection Authority, and has been included in Victoria's 2017 biodiversity policy. Environmental justice can be applied from reformist to transformative ways depending on the situation, context and visions of actors. From a grounded perspective, environmental justice is about recognition for people and nature, just processes and equitable outcomes. What can environmental justice perspectives contribute to urban governance? This question is considered through qualitative research exploring entry points and pathways to decision-making processes about native forest management and use from a local environmental justice frame. The research argues for a relational approach to governance that is critical, inclusive, centres nature and contests boundaries and power within dominant discourses.

The past and present logic of zoning for industrial land

Liz Taylor, Carl Grodach, Monash University, Joe Hurley, RMIT University, Melbourne

Abstract: Using the example of industrial zoning, in this paper we aim to show how contemporary planning is shaped by historical legacies: evolving in response to particular logics in mechanisms and decision-making processes of urban development. This can result in policy out of step with existing and emerging conditions. In planning for industrial land, the logic of use separation from noxious industries dominates policy, reflecting historical conditions. Such approaches may not adequately reflect the complexity of contemporary industrial landscapes. Here we review zoning categories applied to industrial land over an extended period of time. We present a case study of Melbourne, using contemporary and archival documents to conduct a content analysis of strategic plans and planning ordinances. We interrogate three periods: the introduction of zoning to Melbourne in the 1950s; 1980s restructuring; and the present day. In doing so we demonstrate persistence of some 20th century logics, highlighting areas for reform.

Regional resilience and the State- the case of Geelong, Victoria, 1990-2020.

Louise Johnson, Deakin University and Melbourne University

Abstract: Despite years of neo-liberalism, this paper will argue that the State remains a major employer, provider of services and shaper of economic geographies. This assertion will be unpacked through the examination of one regional city in Australia – Geelong in Victoria. Understanding its resilience involves a historical examination of the various interventions and investments by the three levels of Australian government which have boosted the city’s “foundational economy”, as health, education, food production and social assistance boom. But there is also more occurring here, which extends to “smart specialisation” in advanced manufacturing, tourism and insurance but also specific government programs to expand employment in public administration and safety, construction and professional services. It is on this detailed empirical and historical basis and as a counter to prevailing neo-liberal theorisations, that an original framework will be built with the role of the State as central and critical.

The complexity of governance for car sharing in metropolitan Melbourne, Australia

Luisiana Paganelli, RMIT University, Melbourne

Abstract: Car-sharing allows members to access a car when needed. It can work as sustainable transport when integrated with urban planning and transport systems, and governance has a pivotal role in enabling this integration. This paper applies an analytical framework developed based on the literature of policy theories and governance for car-sharing to investigate the complexity of governing and implementing car-sharing in metropolitan Melbourne. This investigation undertook a multiple-case study to analyse eleven inner Melbourne LGAs, with insights from semi-structured interviews performed with government, market, and advocate institutions, document analyses, and observational techniques. The findings indicate that governance for car-sharing is fragmented, with different approaches and policies within the LGAs; and arrangements are based on resolving car parking, challenged by issues of car dominance and path dependence. Overall, the results reveal an opportunity for a more integrated and regional approach to the mode. The paper concludes with recommendations for policy provision.

Engaging the community in planning policy using the Melbourne Digital City Model: Barriers and Enablers to community engagement.

Mette Hotker, Alexa Gower , RMIT University Melbourne, Carl Grodach, Monash University

Abstract: It is widely accepted that involving the community in complex city planning is important but equally challenging for community members and urban planners. How to communicate complex strategies and how to feel well enough informed and confident about making an effective contribution, are common concerns and key challenges for effective participation and outcomes. There is growing evidence that digital city models can enhance planner-communication and community comprehension of complex city planning strategies through visual scenario modelling. This research investigates the potential for the Melbourne Digital City Model in policy community engagement: focusing on the ‘planner’s perspective’ of the challenges and enablers of the use of digital modelling for complex city planning. Through a series of focus groups with planners and policy makers, recommendations are made on the communicative and technical components that are critical for facilitating this desired community understanding.

Growing Pains: the crisis in growth area planning.

Michael Buxton , RMIT University, Melbourne

Abstract: The physical design of Australia's new outer suburbs is leaving many of the most vulnerable urban residents poorly prepared for coming non-linear change. Suburbs are not adaptable to change, being characterised by car dependency, housing not sufficiently diverse or energy efficient, relatively few jobs, and inadequate services. This paper examines the governance failures which have led to this failure of planning in Melbourne's growth areas. It shows that none of the objectives of the Victorian government's Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines are being met and demonstrates how the design of residential areas and activity centres, and planning for movement and infrastructure can be improved. It evaluates five alternative governance arrangements as a means to improve the planning of growth areas. It argues that only radical change to current governance arrangements can prevent widening social inequity and institutionalised injustice.

Governance of Driverless Mobilities in Aotearoa New Zealand

Moayad Shammout, Muhammad Imran, Faraz Hasan, Massey University, New Zealand

Abstract: Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) have the potential to achieve positive transport outcomes. However, AVs' large-scale deployment depends largely on institutions responsible for policy formulation and implementation. Using the lens of mobilities, this research explores the influence of political-institutional power in AVs deployment in New Zealand. Qualitative analysis is used to analyse policy documents and interview data with planners and policy makers. The results demonstrate the practical challenge of collaboration among decision-makers in integrating policies for AVs. This challenge appears due to the complex institutional structure that involves many actors following different legislations and funding mechanisms to develop policies and guidelines. The development of up-to-date regulation for AVs is further suffered due to 'unknowing governance' and uncertainty of social and market acceptances. In these factors, the central government adopted the 'politics of time' strategy in spite of initial industrial and political commitments made about AVs rollout. The research concludes that the complex governance environment and related politics dominate the priority settings of the AVs agenda and pathways that may emerge in the future.

The Social Life of Privately-Owned Public Spaces in Melbourne

Mohammad Mohammadi, Bridget Keane, Quentin Stevens, RMIT University, Melbourne

Abstract: Privately-Owned Public Space (POPS) is a relatively new type of public space. While these spaces have become common in contemporary cities and become major venues for the social life of citizens, there are criticisms of their level of publicness and the exclusion of certain 'undesirable' people and activities. Despite numerous studies of POPS in American cities, there has been little thorough empirical documentation or analysis elsewhere in the world. This paper aims to investigate both the enabling features and constraints of POPSs in relation to social activities, through case studies in the context of Melbourne, Australia. It focuses on an activity-based analysis, examining how the built environment can encourage and/or discourage various users and activities within POPSs. It draws on detailed GIS activity maps of social behavior in POPSs. The results show correlations between activity characteristics and distinctive spatial features. These findings both confirm and problematize previous knowledge about POPSs.

From Blandscape to Blendscape? The Evolving (Sub)Urban Structure and Morphology of Perth, Western Australia

Paul Maginn, University of Western Australia

Abstract: Australia has been described as the first suburban nation. As such, the suburbs loom large in the Australian psyche and sense of identity. They represent the 'heartlands' of Australia, a space of and for the 'great Australian dream' of homeownership. Despite the centrality of the suburbs in Australia (and elsewhere), they have been the object of considerable criticism, seen as sprawling spaces of conformity, domesticity, and, homogeneity resulting in stereotypical and stigmatising perceptions of suburbia as "blandscapes". This paper explores a range of demographic and housing variables - age/sex; population density, housing type, tenure, car ownership, journey to work, country of birth and religious affiliation - in order to map the changing geographies of suburbanisms within the Perth metropolitan region between 2006-2016.

Formalising the Informal at Flinders Street Station: The tension between heritage and spatial management

Rachel Lampolski, RMIT University, Melbourne

Abstract: This paper focuses on the challenges of governing informal practice within formal spaces by recognising the interdependent relationship that exists between them. With a focus on the steps of Flinders Street Station in Melbourne, this research will explore the tensions between different spatial practices that play out on this site that contribute to the broader intangible heritage of the iconic entrance-way, as well as the tensions inherent in trying to manage and preserve this. It explores how in managing an intangible, informal culture, principles of heritage management can come up against the wider policing of space, and the role that framing plays in this. For example, meeting someone 'under the clocks' at Flinders Station is commonplace and valued practice within the Melbourne imagination. This is contradicted however by the city's 'Homelessness Operating Protocol' – aimed at managing "amenity, enjoyment and use of the public space" – which frames blocking a thoroughfare as an offence.

Preparedness for crisis - a perspective from strata owners and managers

Rebecca Leshinsky, RMIT University, Melbourne, Dulani Halvitgala, Judith Callanan

Abstract: The presentation will examine law and policy in the state of Victoria for preparedness for crisis in strata residential buildings. It presents preliminary findings from focus groups held with owners corporation managers and committee members from a sample of high rise buildings and master planned estates. Initial findings suggest that owners corporations in these developments are not prepared for crisis be it natural disasters, defects, cladding or even COVID. This is an area in urgent need of policy and governance reform, and the need to mandate Emergency Management Plans for larger developments.

Who has a seat at the table? Lessons for collaborative governance from digital Western Parkland City, Sydney, Australia

Sandy Burgoyne, University of Sydney

Abstract: Smart or digital cities have been a critical response to rapid urbanization and the complex challenges that cities pose for economies, society and sustainability. It has exacerbated, and disrupted, an already complex and competitive landscape of actors at the municipal level- 'smart' citizens, the tech

industry, NGOs, and multiple levels of government- all of which are engaging in transformative city building activities to meet urban challenges. Using a qualitative study of the digital Western Parkland City, Sydney, Australia this paper examines how public and non-public actors interact to deliver the 'promise' of smart to rebalance the equitable social and economic outcomes for the city. The findings inform elements of dynamic collaborative governance, in contrast to traditional and sometimes linear approaches to city building.

Developing an urban resilience framework for application in local government: A research-practice collaboration

Sarah Bell, University of Melbourne, Elissa Mc Millan, David Sweeting, Maree Grenfell, Melanie Lowe

Abstract: In the face of shocks and stresses such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been growing research and policy interest in urban resilience in Australia and internationally. However, applying somewhat abstract and nebulous resilience concepts in practice can be challenging. A partnership between university researchers and the City of Melbourne sought to clarify the concept of urban resilience and make it applicable to the cross-sectoral work of local government. This paper outlines our collaborative research-practice approach, and revised definition and qualities of urban resilience as part of an urban resilience framework for local government. The application of the framework is demonstrated using the example of preparedness and responses to heat waves in inner Melbourne.

Reassembling cities: conceptualising collective sales

Simon Pinnegar, University of New South Wales , Laura Crommelin

Abstract: The increasingly financialised nature of housing and hypertrophic tendencies (Gleeson, 2018) of compact city policy have combined to place individual property owners in novel situations, where they are potentially far richer working together than apart. While government and large developers have traditionally negotiated complex landownership matters and property rights to facilitate site amalgamation in the densifying city, we are now witnessing the emergence of more bottom-up redevelopment processes. Neighbouring owners are becoming collectively enrolled in, and integral to, urban change, as rezoning and infrastructure development trigger dramatic recalibrations of classic rent-gap urban economics. The rise of en bloc, collective or superlot sales have made compelling news stories, featuring neighbours who have 'won the lottery' by banding together to sell. This paper draws upon interviews with key stakeholders in the collective sales process - property advisors, real estate intermediaries, planning specialists and the residents themselves - to better understand the underlying drivers initiating the process, and - crucially - how owners negotiate the behaviours shaping how they collectivise their individual property rights and interests. Key sites of collective sales activity in Sydney provide the focus of this empirical insight, and more widely inform our understanding of the evolution of the coalition of interests through which contemporary processes of urban change play out. Conceptually, the ever-present tensions defining property 'rights' and their the blurred, hybrid realities undermine simple notions of private and public ownership. We promote the need for a more critical engagement with 'property' and development rights in the restructuring city which digs deep, and works with, the mindsets of the myriad landholders in the Australian city.

Affordable or livable: housing governance and its tensions in Australia

Stephen Glackin, Swinburne University

Abstract: The 2021 OECD report "Brick By Brick: Building Better Housing Policies" showed that Australian housing recorded the fourth-fastest price growth out of the world's advanced economies, placing Australia second to Switzerland in terms of mortgage debt to GDP. It also stated that the reason for this is the limitations that restrictive land-use places on development outcomes. Even if land is amalgamated and able to easily accommodate medium density outcomes, it is unfeasible due to restrictive zoning.

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Zones are typically applied by local governments, the layer closest to the constituency, making them the most responsive, politically. Due to the community pressure against medium density, it follows that the Australian view of livability is not walkability and high amenity, but rather large lots and car-dependence. Effectively then, we have a tension between finance, planning, politics, culture, community, and the academic perspectives of what cities should look like, which this paper will explore.

What influences resident attitudes to urban intensification proposals? Place attachment and the Heuristic Systematic Model as influences on resident responses to urban infill in inner Geelong.

Suzanne Barker, Monash University, Carl Grodach, Liton Kumruzzaman

Abstract: Residents often contest higher density housing proposals. Despite a range of research which explores different factors which impact on the success of urban intensification policy, little research has examined resident responses through a behavioural science lens. This paper presents the first results from a research project which has followed the public exhibition process of proposals in Geelong. The results from semi-structured interviews with residents are presented alongside contextual data about the places. The roles of place attachment and the Heuristic Systematic Model (HSM) are discussed as a way to explain behavioural influences which potentially shape resident responses. HSM is a theory that explains how attitudes are formed, whilst place attachment considers people's emotional bonds and connections to where they live. The paper highlights geo-spatial, historical, and built form aspects of place which influence people's attachment. The paper highlights the potential for behavioural insights to assist with enhanced community engagement practices.

Integrating social, environmental and economic logics in strategic spatial planning - a case study of the evolving Urban Growth Boundary, Melbourne

Tanya Burdett, University of Melbourne

Abstract: Planning is a complex endeavour that deals with competing objectives, interests and navigation of associated conflict. In addressing these conflicts, planning practitioners make decisions based on narratives and frames that guide their thinking and practice, and which influence how problems, opportunities and solutions are conceived. Working within a neoliberal context that sets the parameters for what counts in these decision making processes, challenges for planners also include: dealing with inherent uncertainty given long-term focus for planning, the hegemony of growth and financial logics, and uneven power balance across stakeholders. This research explores how narrative frames influence the integration of different objectives (logics) in strategic spatial planning. Explored through review of Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), this case study provides a useful illustration of how strategic planning is influenced by continued pressures of urbanization, desire to achieve sustainable urban development whilst navigating inter-disciplinary integration and complex institutional and governance structures.