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Special Issue: ANZAPS2019 Book of Abstracts



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Abstract

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Theme

The role of research and the researcher in city making

- Who writes and who decides the narrative for city making?
- Is there a role for critical thought /theory in urban planning education and practice?
- Do the skills of new urban research graduates meet community, government and industry expectations?
- What is the relationship of academic urban research and researchers to urban planning practice and practitioners? What could it be?
- What roles are there for urban researchers (academic and/or others) in urban planning practice in Australia and/or New Zealand?
- Is an academic entrepreneur a possibility? What does this role look like? Is this role desirable?
- How can academics and practitioners collaborate to create meaningful and useful research?

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Collaborative planning: Who writes the city script? (Vallance)

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Abstract

This paper reports on a 4 year project that explored six exemplars of collaborative planning undertaken in post-quake Canterbury. There, many of the longstanding substantial and procedural debates of urban planning have played out but, due to the disaster recovery context, they received more public attention than might be expected during ‘peacetime’. Indeed, the question of Who writes and who decides the narrative for (re)making the city was fiercely debated. While our research highlighted the role of some extremely powerful actors in the recovery drama claiming ‘we have a plan’, we also saw that the recovering city script was often improvised and constantly challenged. At one point the city of Christchurch was described as an NBIC: No Bugger In Charge. We present the results of our research as an exploration of theoretical framings through which our findings and experiences might be explained, whilst contributing to a better understanding of the ‘authorship’ of urban narratives. These framings include Social Practice Theory (infrastructuring), Socio-Ecological Systems (the ecology of dissent is more than the sum of its parts), and Tactical Urbanism (a methodological framing). In all three cases, the ‘author’ stays dead. We conclude our paper with some comments on the role of planners and planning in light of these developments. The research used a range of qualitative methods including interviews, observations, participant action research, and analysis of secondary data. We find that no ‘one’ writes the re-making of cities or unilaterally decides ‘the’ narrative. Instead, multiple narratives are constantly being negotiated and enacted. Planners are important actors in these socio-material relationships but they are neither author nor editor; indeed at times they are simply part of the multitude of support actors. So, to carry the analogy to its extreme, a new role for planners may be that of ‘curator’. Some key challenges arise from the diversification of ‘the’ profession that now must accommodate highly technical information and affective awareness in a variety of settings. Planning schools have a n important part to play in shaping what the profession becomes and skills needed to navigate the scriptless city.

Bridging the planning divide: A potential role for the ‘Entrepracademic’ (George)

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Abstract

There are growing opportunities for hybrid operators in society, including the planning ‘entrepracademic’. This presentation explores the nature of this kind of role in the professional planning landscape, a world bound up in traditional institutional structures and unwanted disciplinary silos. It highlights the opportunities and challenges associated with working outside the mega-institutions and between the stakeholders, realising innovative partnerships and projects towards sustainable cities. It is not a story of wealth or amazing success but one of perseverance, working towards better integrated outcomes driven by professional and moral ideals like the common good and slow change. Professional adaptability, creativity and perseverance are key capabilities for the ‘entrepracademic’. Several case studies are discussed including the “GreenWay Governance Project” for the award-winning Sydney GreenWay that show projects with a difference and a role for planners and academics with a new twist. There is also a challenge put to those in institutions to admit that barriers may still exist. Finally, an interactive process will imagine solutions that free up the bounds created by traditional turf wars to realise the potential for a forest.

Building collaboration between planning academics and practitioners for urban research in South East Queensland (*Bajracharya et al.*)

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Abstract

South East Queensland (SEQ) is one of the fastest growing metropolitan regions in Australia with the urgent need for research dealing with emerging planning issues and managing urban growth. SEQ is home to seven urban planning programs (in six universities) and one major urban research institute. Some planning academics in SEQ have secured grants from industry partners (such Queensland Department of Main Roads, Gold Coast and Brisbane City Councils, and Brisbane Airport) for their various research projects. Others have worked on important topics such as Women in Planning, Placemaking in collaboration with practitioners. Some universities also have Planner-in-Residence positions for practitioners to work with staff and students of the planning programs. Researchers from different universities have come together to publish books, journal articles but without much active participation from industry in general. In most cases, there seems to be a gap between academics and practising planners in conducting joint research. Reasons possibly include the different priorities and focus of planning academics and practitioners, limited dialogue between the two, and inadequate funding for joint research. Moreover, the practitioner-oriented organisations such as the Planning Institute of Australia, (PIA) and Urbis seem to focus on outcome driven issues for the profession and industry. The paper discusses why it is important for planning academics and practitioners to work together to conduct joint research in SEQ and other regions. It then examines the current state of collaborative research by planning academics and practitioners in SEQ and identifies the current challenges facing research collaboration between them. The paper discusses how these barriers can be dealt with and develop key ideas to enhance collaboration between academics and practitioners. The paper reviews planning programs and urban research institutes in SEQ to gain insights on the research conducted by them and to identify the nature of collaboration with industry and practitioners (such as councils, state government departments and other industry partners). It also scans journals such as Australian Planner, Urban Policy and Research, Cities, and Journal of Planning Education and Research and ARC Linkage Grants for further information. The study has implications not only for SEQ but for other parts of Australia and New Zealand. It can further strengthen planning education in terms of enhanced teaching, research, community service and graduate outcomes. Organisations such as ANZAPS and PIA can play important roles in facilitating collaborative research between academics and practitioners.

Who decides the urban form of new development? (McKinlay)

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Abstract

Urban growth on the metropolitan fringe is problematic, as evidenced by the expansion of Australia's major cities into megalopolis regions using the status quo sprawling suburb model. Despite academic literature and policy guidelines that outline the inherent lack of diversity and unsustainability of this model, large estates continue to be dominated by detached single-family dwellings. This research examines the industry system producing this housing form and the relative power of various actors. The data collection was interviews with housing supply industry professionals in the case study region of the Sunshine Coast. From analysis of their perceptions, a hierarchical system emerged. This system was mapped using a socio-technical approach, which enabled the identification of key actors, their relational links and some of the inherent power relationships influencing new housing areas. The main findings of this research highlighted that the estate developers determine urban form by negotiating and regulating development plans to suit their market model. Other stakeholders have far less influence. Authority levels setting aspirational policies have only limited power to translate those targets to reality. The estate developers determine urban form by making key decisions and transforming them into action through negotiation and regulation control. Builders offer choices, but alternatives are restricted by what the master plan prescribes. The residents' role in this system are as market consumers, offered only a narrow range of product, and giving only partial feedback into the mainstream market it supposedly responds to.

Improving industry engagement in transport planning research: Learnings from the ASTRA and TAP agreements (*Burke*)

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Abstract

This paper builds on research previously undertaken at Griffith on collaboration between the two ‘strange beasts’ of government and academia in the field of transport policy and planning. The research explores what makes for effective research engagement and what alternatives exist to the higher-cost transport research centre model. The focus is on a series of research agreements entered into by Queensland Government with Griffith, QUT and the University of Queensland that help support transport research and engagement. A review of the funding agreements and their end- and mid-term reports is supplemented with interviews with students, researchers and government officials involved as well as insider perspectives. The Transport Academic Partnership (TAP) and its predecessor agreement, ASTRA, have helped the three universities secure and retain key transport research capacity. The agreements fund Chair positions and a work plan of small projects, facilitate priority student placements, and include a preferred-provider procurement arrangement. The Queensland Department of Transport & Main Roads (TMR) is presently hosting and making use of PhD students in similar ways to the British Industrial PhDs program. The Griffith team involved has a strong focus on transport & land use, and transport policy and planning. Griffith students are working with TMR on: i) planning for demand-responsive transit, ii) improving how school and work trips are conceptualized and modelled; iii) exploring when, where and how one might choose to either make public transport ‘free’ or restrict cash fare payments; and, iv) tactical urbanism and cycling. Benefits of the Queensland approach are many, though there are some limitations. The findings highlight possible ways forward for planning researchers and government agencies in other jurisdictions, and in other fields, for relatively low-cost, effective research engagement. Identifying the network of actors and understanding power relationships is just the start to challenging the current urban form. An ongoing policy narrative for greater diversity in housing, more affordable homes and sustainable neighbourhoods cannot be achieved without complementary power transformations within the housing industry system.

Planning research, theory and practice: Some dilemmas in the pursuit of relevance (Burton)

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Abstract

This presentation explores the challenges faced by planning academics who strive to do research that might be of greater practical value and relevance to planning practitioners. The presentation draws on several sources, including a survey of Australian and New Zealand planners (academic and practitioner) undertaken in 2015/16 (Goodman, Freestone and Burton), similar surveys undertaken in Europe by Kunzmann and colleagues and discussions with members of the Planning Institute of Australia. It draws also on my experience of conducting policy-related research with local and central government bodies in the UK over the course of 25 years. The presentation takes the form of a reflection on the ways in which our conceptualisations of the nature of research, theory and practice shape the possibilities for developing more productive relations between these domains. Much debate about the relationship between research and practice in the field of planning, and indeed much of the wider debate about engaged scholarship, neglects the long established but highly relevant literature on the nature of policy making and implementation. It tends to rely instead on relatively simplistic stages models of policy making that are known to be empirically untrue and normatively shallow. A stronger foundation in more rigorous understanding of how policy and practice changes over time and the role of research vis a vis other factors is needed if we are to move beyond the imitations of current debates. Survey evidence suggests that despite the valid conclusion of Taylor and Hurley about much planning research that ‘not a lot of people read this stuff’, there is desire among many planning practitioners to have better access to existing research and to have more opportunities to shape new research so that it might be of greater practical relevance to them. The presentation explores whether various practical developments to do with accessibility, clarity and timeliness, are sufficient to overcome more systemic and structural challenges in the relationship.

Authorship: who claims the narrative of urban plans? (Ross & McNeill)

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Abstract

Planning has been described as a demoralized profession. Blamed for much, most notably ever-increasing development costs, it is decried as bureaucratic, slow, tied up in red tape, a well-worn “claw hammer with a cracked handle and wobbly head” rather than the pneumatic gas framing nail gun. Much of this derision can be linked to the neoliberal drive for efficiencies in development processes, resulting in the voice of planners being silenced. It is not surprising then, that the authorship of urban spatial or land-use plans remains a mystery. This paper explores who owns the narrative of city making, suggesting a failure of the profession to ‘own’ their plans. Using discourse analysis this paper explores the authorship of the first iteration of Auckland’s spatial plan. Exploring the voice of plan discourse, by identifying where the responsibility lies for its implementation and achievement and determining how various stakeholders are represented and characterized, writers and influencers of the city-making narrative can be identified. As the literature anticipates, results confirm the prevalence of non-attributed or generically-attributed authorship within the plans. An unanticipated finding was how the ‘authors’ gave agency to communities, subtly distancing themselves from the document and shifting the weight of responsibility for implementation away from the institution, suggesting an ‘if-it-doesn’t-work-it’s-your-fault-not-ours’ type discourse. Distancing the voice of planning from plans will not help in the fight against demoralization of the profession. Instead, this research highlights the need for planners to have a stronger voice and to “own” their role in the city making narrative. This does not mean writing plans without the input of others. Instead it means they have a role to ask the hard questions on issues, to be fearless in their discussion about these with others in the plan’s development process, to stand up for core values, and then to stand by the outcomes of these debates by claiming authorship of plans.

An evaluation of the impact on social capital of participation in planning for the public realm (*Bone et al.*)

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Abstract

Fifty years ago, Arnstein advocated the meaningful involvement of citizens in planning decisions that affect them (1969). Participation, especially of “the have-nots”, would help mitigate the loss of control and community wrought by unpopular urban renewal programs. A subsequent “flurry of scholarly activity” has produced much to recommend community engagement with planning. Participation is legislated for in urban governance around the world. Academic and practical applications, though, have failed to address the “gap between the rhetoric of participation and the experience on the ground”. Practical goals for participation – and the potential for meeting them in the face of “neoliberalist imperatives” – remain unclear. This paper aims to reconcile academic objectives of participation – the rhetoric – with what is desirable and achievable in practical terms. This paper investigates the role different forms of participation play on the formation of social capital. Quantitative data derived using the Psychological Sense of Community questionnaire, is cross-referenced with qualitative data from interviews with people who have taken part in one of three different forms of participation – from top-down to bottom-up – to identify correlations. Rapid urbanisation and a built environment increasingly defined by private investment have raised the stakes for participation – but there is still little consensus on how to evaluate its use. Governments are keen to provide the appearance of engagement and legitimacy, but need to manage competing technocratic and private interests without jeopardising a hold on power. This highly-managed ‘participation’ has the potential to undermine activism and “silence by inclusion”. By identifying a measurable benefit of engagement that accrues to participants irrespective of where they sit on Arnstein’s “Ladder of Participation”, this paper will help bridge the gap between planning theory and practice, as well as providing a means by which engagement’s effectiveness can be measured.

Regional planning responses to sustainable transitions (Carroli)

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Abstract

This poster session presents research in progress examining the interface of regional planning and sustainable socio-technical transitions. The examination of local and regional infrastructure and urban transitions highlights the relational and contingent roles planning plays in place-based contexts. The interface of planning and sustainable transitions warrants investigation as planning has been identified as constraining socio-technical regime change. This potentially inhibits sustainable transitions - which are understood as predicated on radical, non-linear and multi-dimensional system change – as landscape pressures are urgent, intractable and accelerating. The regional planning response to the challenges of sustainable transition and socio-technical change is examined through 22 interviews with elected representatives, policy and planning officers across multiple government departments, and other community and industry stakeholders who have been involved in South East Queensland regional planning processes since 2005. It applies the Multilevel Perspective as a transitions theoretical and analytical framework in an interpretive analysis of the interviews to identify narratives of landscape, regime and niche in relation to planning. The key findings of this analysis are (a) a strong narrative of limitation among interviewees in relation to socio-technical transitions (b) emphasis of the urban as innovation in the regional planning context (c) regional planning as a critical juncture triggering transition dynamics, (d) contestation, critique and politicization of planning priorities and process, and (e) limited engagement with the transition agenda emerging in state government even though some transitions may already be underway. The research has implications for the agency of planning in relation to socio-technical transition and system innovation. Examining the interface of planning and sustainable transitions, and what this means for planning, provides insight into equipping and tooling planning, as a spatial policy process, for engaging with socio-technical transitions in complex policy processes at spatial scales.

The emergence of planning submissions (*Grant*)

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Abstract

In this paper the complexity of the planning system is implicated in the erosion of community trust in the development assessment process, particularly as it relates to the validity of submissions about notifiable development applications. The normative assumption in planning is that non-planners intending to make submissions to development applications will follow the “rules” as set down in legislation and in the documented development assessment process. This in turn leads to tests of validity of issues raised in submissions based on legislation and a technical planning view of the weight of the local planning instrument. Using a case study approach this paper uses the content and format of written submissions and the assessment manager’s response to those submissions, triangulated with a review of secondary materials and validated by submitter interview responses. The research analyses submissions received to two development applications in the Regional Queensland setting of Toowoomba. The submissions are analysed in terms of content and form to inform findings related to how communities respond to complexity and in turn seek to create validity. This research investigates three ideas: people with no knowledge of planning do not follow the rules that planners normatively expect when preparing submissions; new connections and structures are built when submitters realise the complexity of the planning system and submitters seek validity through out-sourcing and then crowd-sourcing. The paper reflects on the theories of emergence, actor-network and agonism in regard to the complexity of the planning system and the validity of submissions. The second part deals with the case study and lead to conclusions. This research has found that a complex adaptive system emerges that empowers the political to create “new rules” for engagement in order to make fair the playing field which is the complex development assessment system in Queensland. The role of the pro-forma and petition are of interest in this research and its dominance in submissions within the two bound case studies subject to the research. Exercising a right to lodge a submission is a tangible expression of citizenship and this research will explore the changing nature of citizenship and the implications for democracy in the planning context.

Path dependence in healthy neighbourhood planning (*Hensley*)

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Abstract

Changes to neighbourhoods can be deliberately influenced through a variety of mechanisms such as changes to policies, political influence, planning decisions or the building of new infrastructure. The way we plan and build our cities and neighbourhoods can also impact on our health. This raises questions about what or who influence these changes and how do these changes impact on risk factors for health for local residents. One explanation for this is the concept of path dependence. This research aims to understand whether neighbourhood scale planning has followed a path dependent process in its inclusion of healthy design principles within existing planning processes. This research uses historical analysis and semi-structured interviews with key actors to explore whether neighbourhood scale planning has followed a path dependent trajectory. Using Brisbane, Australia as a case study, the research explores the concept of path dependence and how initial conditions, critical junctures and reinforcing mechanisms have influenced the inclusion of public health principles and outcomes in neighbourhood scale urban planning in Brisbane, Australia. Path dependence relies on three provisions: initial conditions, critical junctures and reinforcing mechanisms. The preliminary results of this analysis show that initial conditions that can lead to a path dependent process could have emerged in early planning processes in Brisbane, Australia. An historical relationship between public health and urban planning was recognised by the respondents and backed by historical analysis. This research identified a potential critical juncture to coincide with the Second World War. Historical analysis uncovered evidence to show that the way we approached disease and how we planned and designed our neighbourhoods and cities changed around this period. Finally a path dependent process relies on reinforcing mechanisms that restrict change and can lead to a locking-in of particular trajectories. Further analysis is required to understand the extent of this self-reinforcement in regards to neighbourhood scale planning in Brisbane, Australia; although some resistance to change was noted by respondents.

Frail grasp on the big picture: Contingency planning until 2100 (Wadley)

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Abstract

In urging the need for critical thought, this paper argues that research and practice in urban planning have succumbed to the demographic and economic growth fetish of pervasive neoliberalism. Following the model of dynamic sustainability of Melissa Leach et al., planning's characteristic modus operandi is reaction to a host of environmental stressors. Yet the apparent 'robustness' of this response is illusory. Thus, rather than providing positive large-scale public motivation, strategic planning deploys rhetoric to persuade people that lifestyle is actually improving. Structural planning has scant access to, or discretion over, urban function, and is confined to marginal alterations to built environmental form. Such is the pressure of growth that the efficacy of both types of market intervention is withering. In this evolution, the 1987 Brundtland definition of sustainable development appears naive. Australia's current defence, energy and social disjunctions offer no guarantees that constraint today can be justified by concern for unknown future generations who could be theocrats, totalitarians, sectarians or simply reckless hedonists. In acknowledging tipping points and phase shifts at 'the edge of chaos', academic planners need to assert that enough is enough: the discipline simply cannot deliver to expectations. Rather than perseverating on a stacked treadmill, they would better engage in policy revision and urgent macro-level contingency planning for 2100 when world population is projected to be over 40 per cent greater than today. If, by then, climate change has not imperilled the habitat of homo sapiens, the economy might have imploded under its own imperatives as capital substitution decimates the labour force. Given these possibilities, the long view and the IPAT identity represent vestiges of rationality left for those who can penetrate the systems failure which beckons us all. The main findings are propositional: a reorientation of the focus of academic planning to become more systems- and future-oriented, big picture and critical. An attempt to waylay potential societal failure, adoption of development practice which is actually, as opposed to chimerically, environmentally sustainable.

Landscaping Melbourne: The horticultural and suffragette legacy of Ina Higgins upon Melbourne's urban landscape (*Pullman & Jones*)

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Abstract

Narrating the horticultural legacy for Melbourne's city landscape has been blinkered by the elevation of several prominent advocates overlooking many of the real agents of change. For example, the significant contribution of suffragist and landscape gardener Ina Higgins who advanced the standing, education eligibility and legitimacy, and suffrage equity of women in Victoria, has an instrumental role in challenging convention and enabling the prominence of key landscape design and horticultural proponents and advocates in the 1920s onwards. The methods used were the Unobtrusive Research Method and the Historical Research Method, using data from state libraries, archives and public records office. This also included family papers including letters, diaries and photographs and the digital resources of the newspapers on Trove. Higgins was one of the first women graduates to work as a landscape gardener in Victoria. Higgins is the only landscaper from the early period of women at Burnley (1899 to 1908) who has any surviving evidence of her work left. Evidence found that Australian horticultural education was modelled on the new scientifically based English horticultural college system. Without Ina's input, designers like Edna Walling, Olive Mellor and Emily Gibson would not have become professional women who went onto have very successful careers. Evidence was also discovered proving that Ina was going to work with Walter Burley Griffin in designing the new townships of Leeton and Griffith in NSW. The research also established more information on the socialist experiment of the Mordialloc Women's Farm (1915-1919) where Ina was the Horticultural Instructress. After closing in 1919, Ina continued her interest in educating women in horticulture in 1926, as guest demonstrator at the Women's Classes at the Dookie Agricultural College in the Goulburn Valley. Providing new knowledge to the narration of Melbourne's urban horticultural and designed landscape that challenges conventional histories. A new narrative about the early days at the Burnley School of Horticulture at the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth century. This new knowledge also increases the understanding of how horticulture was thought to be a respectable career for women which opened up the opportunity of horticultural education for women in Victoria and Australia.

The role of the public sector in shaping planning education: The case study of South Australia (Allan)

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Abstract

This paper examines the role of the planning profession planning practice in shaping academic teaching programs within the context of a reformed planning system in South Australia. In South Australia, the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (PDI) Act of 2016 will result in significant changes to the planning system when it begins to take effect in 2020. The most significant of these changes is the requirement for planning practitioners to professionally accredited by the State Government, rather than by the Planning Institute of Australia. This paper explores the implications for tertiary planning education in South Australia at a time when undergraduate planning education offerings are no longer available in South Australia from 2019 onwards. The move of the South Australian Government into the role of determining the standard of training and relevance of qualifications is a dramatic change from past practice and raises challenging questions about the role of universities in the training and education of future planning professionals. The research method applied in this research involved discussion forums with relevant stakeholders, position papers by PIA, the South Australian Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and a literature review identifying trending planning issues and planning education trends both nationally and internationally. Whilst it is too soon to assess the impact of the proposed reforms on the community and development industry, this paper does suggest that amongst stakeholders, reforms were viewed as overdue and necessary, particularly as automation increases and stresses in the economy demand improved efficiency in development approvals. There has also been the public perception that the planning system had become less responsive to community concerns, less certain in its decision, more byzantine in its processes, and lacked transparency in decision-making. However, for stakeholders, there was extreme concern about career pathways into the planning profession, particularly since there were no longer any undergraduate planning degree offerings in South Australia from 2019 onwards. This paper provides interesting insights into the new emerging nexus between planning education, PIA, State Government (i.e., the ‘regulator’) and planning practice. Important emerging issues are the extent to which State Government’s accreditation power of practicing professional planners begins to displace the importance of universities in providing the primary source for planning qualifications towards a new model that allows accreditation of future planners from related academic areas (that are not planning) or indeed from non-university professional training entities. If the PIA no longer provides professional accreditation to practicing planners, then the independent professional accreditation of planning education programs becomes problematical. The concept of micro-credentialing of professional training in the longer term, also presents challenges, as does the potential for increased internationalization of education.

The employability-enhancing strategies of planning students (*Grant-Smith et al.*)

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Abstract

As planning students prepare to enter an increasingly competitive professional labour market they are actively perusing employability-enhancing strategies to improve their graduate employment prospects. This paper examines how employability is understood from a planning student perspective and its implications for planning education and transition to employment in a constrained employment market. To understand the self-perceptions of employability and concomitant enhancement strategies of planning students this paper analyses survey data collected from 106 students at a large Australian university. The survey was administered to student cohorts in each year of study. We found most students lacked confidence in their ability to secure graduate employment Degree study is seen as essential for employment but plays a secondary role in securing employment. Instead a stronger emphasis is placed on the employability-enhancing potential of personal–professional networking opportunities with peers and the exploitation of institutional resources such as lecturers’ professional contacts. Resigned to undertaking periods of unpaid work, planning students are critical of how well their university studies have prepared them for the ‘real world’ of planning and positively positioned them to succeed in the graduate employment market. Most seek to actively moderate the impact of their self-perceived personal and experiential deficits. However, few acknowledge that despite significant personal efforts to develop personal networks, get professional experience, and model appropriate attitudes and professional traits, objectively they may become highly employable yet fail to secure graduate employment as a planner due to structural constraints beyond their control. The research has implications for planning education and higher education in relation to student employability and education-to-employment transitions in planning and property.

Is planning theory relevant to planning practice? (Steele)

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Abstract

There has been a long-standing debate in planning education and practice about the role of planning theory: its relative merits and contribution, perceived failings and overall usefulness and relevance to practice. This paper argues that theory is always present through the politics, ideologies, morals, ethics and thought orientations that drive and shape all planning activity, ambition and possibility. Three key questions frame the structure of this paper: 1) Why has the perceived divide between planning theory and practice gained traction? 2) What is the role of planning education and research in addressing this binary? Finally, 3) What's next for planning theory in Australia and New Zealand?

In the age of the NBN inequality: The absence of telecommunication planning on urban and regional planning agenda in Australia (*Alizadeh*)

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Abstract

This paper builds on the Conference theme questioning who writes and who decides the narrative for city making. In doing so, it takes on the questions around the links between urban and regional planning education and practice, on one hand, and the community expectations and needs, on the other hand. In particular, the paper opens a critical discussion on the urban implications of the National Broadband Network (NBN) in Australia - a contentious topic area that Australian planning collective has mostly avoided over the last ten years. The paper is structured in three parts. First, it starts by a literature-based acknowledgment of how telecommunication infrastructure has changed and continue to change urban life and experiences. Second, the paper offers a review of the ups and downs of the NBN with a focus on the socio-spatial patterns of the current mixed-technology rollout of the infrastructure network. The review sheds light on the equity implications of the NBN; and how it has the potential to - or already has started to - impact some of the mainstream planning issues including but not included to social disparities, economic development, housing prices etc. Third, it looks into a selection of planning programs and professional/academic planning forums in the country, to trace back their interaction with the national infrastructure project that is unfolding in front of our eyes. In conclusion, there is a discussion on a range of open-ended questions including but not limited to: (a) What is the role that urban planning practice has played and continue to play in the rollout of the NBN? (b) What is the role that urban planning research has played in the long tale of the NBN? And more importantly what is the role that it should play in the future? And (c) Have we reached a point that we need to include telecommunication planning on the agenda alongside with transport planning, land-use planning, and others?

Planning branches out: Emerging interdisciplinary studies in the Western Balkans (Pojani & Pojani)

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Abstract

Western Balkan countries share a communist past which, to various extents, continues to affect their higher education systems. However, in post-communist era (1990 to the present) higher education curricula have been heavily revised to incorporate the principles set forth in the Bologna Process. Also, entirely new courses have been devised. The European Union has supported the higher education sector in the region through a broad range of projects and financing schemes, and most countries have reciprocated by willing to embrace western education practices, such as multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary. While bachelor programs tend to be more traditional in terms of content and focus, postgraduate programs are making a concerted effort to diversify their content. The creation of master programs that straddle across faculties is evidence of that. This shift reflects the needs of an increasingly demanding, but also flexible, labour market. The skills of new graduates must meet new community, government, and industry expectations. Accordingly, the authors review the teaching curricula of interdisciplinary study programs developed in the Western Balkans since 1990. The purpose is to determine whether current interdisciplinary program offerings meet the needs of the local labour market. This study is conducted in the ambit of an Erasmus+ project, which seeks to raise capacities in higher education in the Western Balkans, in particular in the field of disaster risk management. The authors have conducted a desktop review of the master program curricula, which are labelled as “interdisciplinary” but have a focus on environmental issues, planning, sustainability, and disaster risk management. Case study countries include: Greece, Northern Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania. The authors have also conducted interviews with relevant stakeholders in Albania to assess whether employers (of planning, environmental management, risk management, and civil engineering graduates) are aware and supportive of interdisciplinarity in higher education. We find that, while interdisciplinary programs are becoming increasingly popular in the EU, in Balkan countries there is still a way to go. With the exception of Greece, few countries here have operationalized the concept of interdisciplinarity in higher education. The market research conducted in Albania shows that, while professionals express a need for a more diversified workforce (in terms of education), they doubted the ability of the labour market to absorb graduates of “modern,” and “innovative” programs of study. Cultural inflexibility, a traditional education system, and a generally restricted labour market were cited as barriers. This international and comparative study may help planning educators who seek to revise their curricula, with an eye to increasing multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary content where appropriate.

Climate sensitive urban design: A comparison between Brisbane and Nagpur (*Bhoge et al.*)

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Dr **Sébastien Darchen**, The University of Queensland, Australia, s.darchen@uq.edu.au

Abstract

This research studies the urban design interventions from the planning and design strategies of the past, examines their relevance in the present context and enquires their inclusion and implementation in policies and regulations pertaining to climate change in built environment and this is why the research is done as a study of the three phases of pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial urban design in Brisbane and Nagpur. This research explores the application of 'path dependence' to the climate sensitive urban design. The key research method used in this research is Focus Group Discussion. The input data for the focus groups/personal interviews is the list of identified urban design interventions from the literature review. The questions are based on these urban design interventions, their importance in making the cities climate resilient and their implementation. The focus groups and interviews involving planning professional were conducted both in Brisbane and Nagpur. The main findings are: the gap between the planning and building codes/policies; short term gain vs long term policy; role and limitations of local governing bodies in implementation of climate sensitive urban design, lack of consolidation of various policy documents published by local governing bodies and incentives (for developers, professionals and end users). Practicing professionals, policy makers and other stake holders all feel that information is available and policies and regulations are in place for climate sensitive urban design but still there is a barrier to implementation of climate sensitive urban design. These barriers are studied through the analytical framework of path dependence and solutions or 'path breakers' are proposed in this research. Practical solutions include developing 'life cycle costing database' for climate sensitive design interventions and developing a common platform to access all the relevant codes, guidelines and other relevant information, which otherwise is scattered and confusing.

Planning innovations: A new analytical framework for planning practice (*Darchen*)

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Abstract

This paper presents the concept of planning innovations as a framework to analyse both planning practice's outcomes and processes that lead to the emergence of a planning innovation. It relates to the theme: How can academics and practitioners collaborate to create meaningful and useful research? The concept of Planning Innovation is based on the publication of an edited volume "Global planning innovations for Urban Sustainability" with Routledge. Planning innovations for urban sustainability have been analysed in 12 cities worldwide (in Europe, South East Asia, Latin America and North America). The book includes 28 collaborators: academics in urban planning and practitioners. Planning innovations for urban sustainability are the results of contextual factors (change in planning regulations, governance arrangements, tax subsidies). Planning innovations are not the result of policy transfer but rather the product of endogenous processes. Specific actors' networks developed in each city around the sustainability transition agenda. Planning innovations offer new possibilities to overcome contemporary sustainability challenges. Planning innovations challenge current planning practices. Planning innovations are conceptualised and developed by urban practitioners. This concept has the potential of creating an on-going dialogue between academics and practitioners.

Delivering on knowledge exchange: Lessons from an eight city comparison (Henderson)

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Abstract

In 2016 and based on my doctoral research, I argued that academic urban researchers might employ an ethnographic sensibility to uncover the nuances of practice realities. In particular, I pointed to opportunities for robust and meaningful knowledge transfer to practice from research through this approach, as well as possibilities for nuanced theory development. This conference paper examines this first proposition of knowledge exchange between academic urban researchers and urban planning practitioners. It has been established that urban planning practitioners rarely engage with academic outputs due to time limitations as well as the political nature of practice in which research findings are just one source of information and evidence relevant to decision-making. This paper draws on the experience of an eight-city case study comparison of “collaborative governance under austerity” to demonstrate practices of relationship-building between researchers and academics as well as forums and mediums that have been employed to support knowledge exchange in some cases. This paper highlights how knowledge was shared in a way to identify opportunities for research and policy impact at different points throughout the process and across diverse experiences, from Dublin to Barcelona, Melbourne to Montreal. Examples include successive and iterative interviewing as well as through the design of focus groups to information sharing on accessible and up-to-date mediums (e.g., project blogs). The analysis produces a catalogue of approaches worth considering for knowledge exchange during research though focuses in particular on the complexities of communicating final research findings to practitioners with a view to influencing policy. In this regard it focuses on the design of dissemination materials. Lastly, it sets out a proposed and general method to evaluate the impact of research on policy based on the eight-city case comparison.

Who writes and who decides the narrative for city making? (*Huang & Cheng*)

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Abstract

Urban regeneration is the manifestation of the revitalization of the old city centre. The case of applying the concept of “Creative City” has emerged in Europe, East Asia and other countries. It is not only the preservation of historical buildings, but also the development of public facilities, economic development, laws and regulations. The key points are that each stakeholders play an indispensable role. Initially selected Xinyi Street in Tainan City as the base area, in-depth discussion on the status quo of the voluntary local community urban regeneration in the local community, understanding the current situation and predicament in the region, and trying to come down to what is the community factor that is beneficial to the urban regeneration of the old city centre, and proposed that what are the roles government can play. This research used participatory observation and in-depth interviews to gain insight into the community structure of Xinyi Street and the roles and influences of each stakeholder. The main active people in Xinyi Street come from different parties, there are local residents, young people who come here to start businesses and foreigners. Everyone is a voluntary participation in the public affairs, so that active community relations are formed, and use this consensus to promote public affairs. The reason why the urban regeneration of Xinyi Street can develop from the bottom up, the main motivation comes from the multi-ethnic groups who come here, and the reasons for attracting them to come here are estimated as follows: (1) The quiet and historical atmosphere, (2) Cheap Rents and House Prices, and (3) The attraction of cultural assets attracts people. These reasons create the special environment of Xinyi Street, and the government only plays a role of giving a small amount of subsidies and consultations. In the future, the research will continue to explore the other factors of Xinyi Street and other possible roles of the government.

Are cities still building highways? A comparison of Australia and Iran (*Khalaj et al.*)

Ms **Fahimeh Khalaj**, The University of Queensland, Australia, f.khalaj@uq.edu.au

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Prof **Neil Sipe**, The University of Queensland, Australia, n.sipe@uq.edu.au

Abstract

Highway construction inside cities started for the purpose of alleviating traffic congestion. While providing some benefits for some users, highway construction has negatively affected urban development, people's health and the environment. Although different policies have been applied to address automobiles negative impacts, the car-based infrastructures has still remained as an important part of traffic management planning by many countries. Considering that building roads will encourage the usage of cars, it is imperative for many countries to alter their transport policies and adopt policies that will lessen automobile dependency such as highway removal; however, this policy despite its positive effects it has not been applied by many countries yet. This study examines are cities continue constructing highways despite their obvious adverse effects. More broadly, the authors aim to understand why some bad transport policies persist despite their adverse effects. We also examine the possibility of a paradigm shift in transport policy toward highway removal. Semi- Structured interview has been used as a method of data collection. The case studies are cities in Australia (Brisbane) and Iran (shiraz). Although majority of policy makers and transport planners in both cities are aware of some negative impacts of car-based infrastructures inside cities, and while they agree highway removal will bring considerable positive impacts but they still believe these infrastructures cannot be removed without replacement. This study specifies the existing obstacles and facilitators in implementing highway removal policy in Australia and Iran while indicating the possibility of paradigm shift in these two countries. Moreover, comparing results from Australia and Iran will indicate similarities, gaps and potentials of urban transport policies in both countries, which will lead to educative information for both sides. Finally, this study may provide insights to other comparable cities in other countries which are experiencing similar challenges.

The influence and function of social factors in the Tainan historic district (Lee & Cheng)

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Abstract

Tainan city government pronounced Fucheng and Yanshuei as historic districts, and formulated the related land-use control and urban design guidelines in 2018 in order to continue the history and uniqueness of this ancient cultural capital, as well as to preserve traditional architecture and environmental features. It has been increasingly recognized that the preservation of cultural heritage in old districts has a significant impact on enhancing a community's sense of place, identity and development. However, the existence of heritage buildings in the community does not mean that they always have positive impacts on the quality of life in the community and continue developing sustainably (Phillips & Stein, 2013). However, currently there is still a lack of clear understanding of the local social factors in historic districts. The purpose of this study is to determine the social factors of establishing historic districts and to compare the differences in potential social factors between different historic districts. This study is carried out using identified social factors as a framework and questionnaire surveys on the two historic districts of Fucheng and Yanshuei, combined with field surveys and in-depth interviews. It is hoped that by comparing the social factors of the two districts, the relationship between social demographics, local characteristics and social factors in historic districts will be clarified. The purpose of this study is to determine the social factors of establishing historic districts and to compare the differences in potential social factors between different historic districts, and also provide a number of policy recommendations for urban planners and decision makers to provide a reference basis for the development of historic districts.

Research on green infrastructure for flood reduction strategy in Taichung (*Pan & Lin*)

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Abstract

Urban sprawling and climate change results in the increasing of run-off and the frequency of urban floods. This research interests in the function of Green Infrastructure (GI) to flood reduction. Literature pointed out that taking advantage of GI to increase vegetation and to reduce flood, planners should consider the pattern of GI. Therefore, this research assesses the effectiveness to mitigate flood of different pattern of urban GI, such as parks, schools, squares, in terms of the size, shape and location of GI, which are quantitatively calculated with Landscape Metrics (LMs) in this research. The research approach in this study is Simulation Approach. The flood is simulated by Physiographic Drainage-Inundation Model (PDIM), which is developed based on the inundation theory and programmed by Professor Chang-Tai Tsai in National Cheng Kung University; the flood simulation is run under different GI distribution. The relationship between GI distribution and flood is examined in empirical case study based on the initial result of the simulation and the LMs of GI. New simulation results in empirical study are further analysed with Local Spatial Autocorrelation (including Univariate Local Spatial Autocorrelation and Bivariate Local Spatial Autocorrelation) and Narrative statistics, which are the research methods in this research. Designating GI at H_L (flood height high but GI LMs low) cell engenders generous flood reduction. The sum of flood reduction area is 285,494,636 m² (about 285 km²), and total flood reduction volume is 10,178,383 m³ (about 0.01 km³). The most flood reduction level is 0~1m, accounting for 39%. Finally, Univariate Spatial Autocorrelation reveals that flood reduction clusters slightly in some part of research area, mainly in South District in Old Taichung City. Some parts of research area were farms in the past, and the government conducted Urban Land Readjustment to promote the development of the city without the consideration of environment protection. This research proposes a new way to access the configuration of GI to compensate for the previous wrong behaviour and to make spatial research and planning help flood reduction.

Role of researchers as urban planners in the Indonesian context (*Panjaitan*)

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Abstract

Spatial planning projects play an important role in determining the direction of a sustainable city development policy. However, the complexity of the problems faced in each planning process is not supported by adequate time and budget availability. So, the quality of a spatial planning product becomes less than optimal because it does not go through a deep study process. Professional planners are considered experienced enough to deal with technical matters in the field but are less able to think comprehensively in resolving multi-dimensional and highly contextual problems. The presence of planners with a background of researchers is seen as one solution to overcome the limitations faced earlier. The study was carried out by conducting a deductive analysis of data obtained from interviews with planning agencies. Planners who have a background as a researcher are considered to have several advantages, including: (a) Having more up to date knowledge and information; (b) They can use the results of research that has been done to strengthen the study. (c) More capable of working on spatial projects in a broad context and has a high complexity of problems. However, being busy as researchers or academics makes the planners, sometimes, unable to get too involved in spatial planning projects. Besides, in some cases, planners with researchers background are too theoretical, so they are less creative in solving cases in the field. Academics or researchers are important to be involved in urban spatial planning projects. Collaboration with professional planners is needed to transfer knowledge and handle limited time faced by researchers or academics.

Engendering a praxis of collaboration: Housing crises from a socio-technical to an interdisciplinary challenge (*Butt*)

A/Prof **Andrew Butt**, RMIT University, Australia, andrew.butt@rmit.edu.au

Abstract

Globally, metropolitan housing policy faces challenges from emergent financialization and the transition of urban housing to a globalised asset class, as well as from population growth, demographic transition and disruptive models such as informal, short-term accommodation platforms. As in other jurisdiction, Australian cities are experiencing these changes within a neo-liberal policy context which eschews direct market intervention. Planning for housing amongst marginalised populations necessarily involves policy issues beyond supply and design, and requires engagement with social policy, criminal justice other areas of public policy. This paper describes a post-graduate level module that engages with this setting to engender a “praxis of collaboration” between students of urban planning, social work, legal studies and public policy to work directly with a social housing provider in Melbourne, Australia to develop strategies for inclusiveness in estate design in mixed tenure communities. The industry partner in this example is engaged in the management of a complex array of housing stock including ageing mass (former) public high rises, recently built market housing and purpose-built controlled rent social housing – most within gentrifying neighbourhoods. The complexity of this as a process of urban renewal, marketisation of welfare provision and experiments in mixed-tenure development require planning students to reflect deeply on institutional framings and the challenges of working with marginalised social housing clients. It challenges reflexive impulses to take a single disciplinary approach, but rather to reflect on interdisciplinary possibilities in social action.



2019
CONFERENCE
4-5 JUL
 UQJUP & GRIFFITH UNI
 BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

program

THE ROLE OF RESEARCH AND THE RESEARCHER IN CITY-MAKING

DAY 1 | THURSDAY 4 JULY 2019

Time	Session	Moderator
11.30am	Registration and Networking	
12.00pm	Lunch	
	Opening Session Welcome	
12.30pm	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome to Brisbane	Ms Stephanie Wyeth A/Prof Caryl Bosman Prof Neil Sipe
12.45pm	Transforming places and communities through university partnerships Ms Dyan Currie, Brisbane City Council, Australia	Ms Stephanie Wyeth
1.05pm	Collaborative planning: Who writes the city script? Dr Suzanne Vallance, Lincoln University, New Zealand	
1.25pm	Bridging the planning divide: A potential role for the 'entrepreneurial academic' Dr Jen George, Macquarie University, Australia	
1.45pm	Panel Discussion	
2.05pm	Afternoon Tea Poster Session: Urban Research and Change Book Promotions	
	Afternoon Session Understanding the Relationship between Planning Academia and Practice	
2.30pm	Building collaboration between planning academics and practitioners for urban research in South East Queensland Dr Bhishta Bajracharya, Bond University, Australia	Prof Paul Burton
2.45pm	Authorship: Who claims the narrative of urban plans Speaker: Ms Joanna Ross, Massey University, New Zealand	
3.00pm	Who decides the urban form of new development Ms Anna McKinlay, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia	
3.15pm	Improving industry engagement in transport planning research: Learnings from the ASTTA and TAP agreements A/Prof Matthew Burke, Griffith University, Australia	
3.30pm-3.50pm	Panel Discussion	Ms Laurel Johnson
4.15pm	South Bank Corporation: Placemaking through master planning South Bank House	Prof Bill Delves
4.45pm	Day 1 Close and Drinks South Bank House Deck	
6.30pm	Conference Dinner Charming Square, South Bank TBC	

DAY 2 | FRIDAY 5 JULY 2019

Time	Session	Moderator
8.30am	Registration and Coffee	
	Opening Session	
9.00am	Welcome back to Day 2 and Re-cap on Day 1	Ms Stephanie Wyeth
9.10am	Report from Planning Heads Gathering	Prof Neil Sipe
	Opening Session Challenges for Planning Education	
9.20am	Towards a closer collaboration between planning academia and practice Mr David Williams, Planning Institute of Australia	Prof Neil Sipe
9.40am	The employability-enhancing strategies of planning students Dr Deanna Grant-Smith, Queensland University of Technology, Australia	
10.00am	Is planning theory relevant to planning practice? A/Prof Wendy Steele, RMIT University, Australia	
10.20am	The role of the public sector in shaping planning education Dr Andrew Allan, University of South Australia, Australia	
10.40am	Panel Discussion	Prof Neil Sipe
11.00am	Morning Tea Working Session: Next Generation Planning Education Feedback Session and Discussion	Ms Laurel Johnson
	Morning Session International Perspectives and Emerging Research	
11.45am	Planning branches out: Emerging interdisciplinary studies in the Western Balkans Dr Elona Pejani, University of Tirana, Albania	Dr Dornia Pojani
	Role of researchers as urban planners in the Indonesian context Mr Tigor Panglitan, The University of Queensland, Australia	
	The influence and function of social factors in the Tainan historic districts Ms Lee Ting-Hsuan, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan	
	Delivering on knowledge exchange: Lessons from an eight city comparison Dr Hayley Henderson, Australian National University, Australia	
	Planning innovations: A new analytical framework for planning practice Dr Sebastian Darchen, The University of Queensland, Australia	
	Research on green infrastructure for flood reduction strategy in Taichung Ms Kaun Ling Pan, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan	
	Who writes and who decides the narrative for city making? Ms Shuang-Juan Huang, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan	
	Are cities still building highways? A comparison of Australia and Iran Ms Fahimeh Khalaj, The University of Queensland, Australia	
	Climate sensitive urban design: a comparison between Brisbane and Nagpur Ms Renuka Bhoge, The University of Queensland, Australia	
12.45pm	Lunch	
	Afternoon Session Unpacking the Context for Contemporary Urban Research	
1.15pm	Impact, Engagement, and Value: A Conversation with Industry Leaders	Ms Laurel Johnson
2.15pm	Innovation, Disruption, and Entrepreneurship: A Conversation with Academic Entrepreneurs	Ms Jess Gallagher
3.00pm	Drawing Together the Conversation	Ms Stephanie Wyeth
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.50pm	Closing Comments Handover for ANZAPS2020	Ms Stephanie Wyeth Prof Neil Sipe
4.00pm	Close	

*Program subject to change without notice.