

SOAC PhD Symposium - Running Sheet

Time	Location	Activity	Speakers/Actors	Notes
SOAC Conference Theme : Just Recoveries for Urban and Regional Transition				
Day One - Sunday 28th of November				
14:00 to 14:30	Zoom	Welcome to Country	David Tournier, Boon Wurrung Foundation	
14:30 to 14:50	Zoom	Meet and Greet	Victorian Chapter of AECURN	Discuss our personal experiences from the previous symposium, and explore what you (as the participants) hope to get out of it.
14:50 to 15:00	Zoom	Coffee Break		
15:00 to 16:00	Zoom	Panel Discussion: Working with friends as colleagues	Inger Mewburn Narelle Lemon Jonathan O'Donnell Tseen Khoo	A panel discussion about thesis writing, supervision, research impact and staying well during the PhD, by the popular Whisper Collective (Thesis Whisperer, Research Whisperer, and Well-being Whisperer)
16:00 onwards	Zoom	Stick around and chat	Rewa	Feel free to grab a drink (coffee/tea/alcohol/water) and a snack.
Day Two - Monday 29th of November				
10:30 to 12:00	Zoom	Group Activity	Group 1 (Quentin & Lisa)	Separate into your assigned groups. Each presenter will be given 10 minutes to present with 10 minutes for feedback. (This is a rough outline for the structure, but will be confirmed by your mentors)
			Group 2 (Carl and Alan)	
			Group 3 (Joe & Anthony)	
			Group 4 (David & Neeraj)	
			Group 5 (Libby & Redento)	
			Group 6 (Crystal & Katrina)	
			Group 7 (Natalie & Max)	
			Communal Zoom (AECURN Victorian Chapter)	

12:00 to 13:00	Zoom		Lunch		
13:00 to 14:00	Zoom	same groups as above	Group Activity	Group 1 (Quentin & Lisa)	Separate into your assigned groups. Each presenter will be given 10 minutes to present with 10 minutes for feedback. (This is a rough outline for the structure, but will be confirmed by your mentors)
				Group 2 (Carl and Alan)	
				Group 3 (Joe & Anthony)	
				Group 4 (David & Neeraj)	
				Group 5 (Libby & Redento)	
				Group 6 (Crystal & Katrina)	
				Group 7 (Natalie & Max)	
			Communal Zoom (AECURN Victorian Chapter)	Use this link if you get lost and someone from AECURN will be able to help you out!	
14:00 to 14.15	Zoom		Break		
14:15 to 15:15	Zoom		Panel Discussion	David Kelly Linus Tan Paris Hadfield Declan Martin (Moderator)	Transitioning from PhD and onwards - hearing from others.
15:15 to 16:15	Zoom		Group Activity	Pub Trivia	Feel free to grab a drink (coffee/tea/alcohol/water) and a snack.
18:30 onwards	Carlton Gardens		In person get together - weather pending		Given the restrictions have eased in Victoria, it would be nice to catch up in person. If you are in Melbourne, feel free to bring some food and hangout at Carlton Gardens for a while.

Groups

Group 1

Mentors:

1. Quentin Stevens
2. Lisa De Kleyn

Students:

1. Ksenia Nikolaeva
2. Stephen Fischer
3. Puneeta Thakur
4. Martina Hale
5. Jie Zhu
6. Julianna Rozek
7. Paul Fleckney

Group 1: Abstracts

Ksenia Nikolaeva

A new perspective on the design of pedestrian bridges, Inspired by Baudelaire's Flâneur

Bridges today facilitate active placemaking to turn them into destinations in their own right for recreation, leisure, events, retail and commerce, and socialising. However, despite the variety of bridges nowadays, the approach to their design is often still based on the direct purpose as a connector, focusing on the location, structure, and aesthetic features rather than the human experiences they can afford. As a result, there is a lack of understanding of how bridges can be used regardless of programmed scenarios or design elements. This knowledge gap is further corroborated by a lack of understanding of the human experience bridges enable, which has not been sufficiently analysed yet. This research aims to create a fundamentally new design framework that will pioneer the experiential design of bridges and unfold their unique opportunities as a place for urban experiences and social interactions.

Stephen Fischer

Enriching garden experience and immersion through the design of the soundscape, bringing new meaning to 'composition' in landscape design.

Gardens offer rich sensory experiences to users from all walks and research uncovers the healing benefits of natural landscape. Breaking down successful gardens into elements is one approach used to try to control users' sensory experience, even if the focus is on what visitors see or do. The 'sound layer' and its ability to contribute to a positive design outcome has largely been neglected so far in the design of gardens.

Consequently, this paper suggests a different approach to the design of gardens, arguing for the inclusion of soundscape to the landscape architect's toolkit. The paper aims to develop a framework to identify, analyse and qualify inter-observer experiences of aurally stimulating landscape environments, so to determine which sound stimuli add richness to the garden experience. Bringing out the musician in designers, the proposed framework is intended to inform future research, culminating in extended meaning of "composition" in landscape design.

Puneeta Thakur

Pursuit of happiness for wheeled power mobility device users in urban public spaces: Producing an evidence-informed model

In the design of public spaces for wheeled powered mobility device (WPMD) use, researchers and practitioners lay legitimate stress on Barrier-free Design and Universal Design. While the former relates to legal codes and minimum design standards, the latter is regarded as a good design that suits everyone. Conventional placemaking approaches typically consider WPMD users as physical entities moving in city spaces and focus only on meeting physical needs associated with the mobility devices. They are thus 'mobility reductionist'. Whereas people in WPMDs are humans who have emotions and are alive to experiences. Unless their emotional needs are met, negative experiences for them will continue.

This project undertakes the challenging task of exploring the innermost feelings and emotional experiences or the happiness of the users of WPMD with(in) the built environments of urban public spaces. The questions of interest are:

- What are the psycho-emotional needs and aspirations of WPMD users in public spaces?
- What are the factors that determine these?
- How can public policy create conditions to improve the psycho-emotional experiences of WPMD users in public spaces?

As an initial step, a preliminary model is conceptualized around five themes derived from literature studies. These are deemed equally necessary for the happiness of WPMD users. This model will be refined iteratively in digital ethnographic studies proposed at Melbourne CBD (Australia), where arousal and affective states of both WPMD users and urban designers will be investigated as they co-experience public spaces. The knowledge so advanced will be used to develop an evidence-informed model that will have the capacity to inform planning policy development to benefit important members of our community. Attaching the idea of meeting the psycho-emotional needs of the WPMD users with their physical needs makes the current project original and promising.

Martina Hale

Learning from the experience of people living with dementia to inform the design of more inclusive public places.

The role of the environment in the experience of living well with dementia is widely recognised within Dementia Studies however there is very little discussion about this relationship in the design community, including Urban Design. A significant proportion of people living with dementia in Australia are dwelling in the community, and inappropriately designed public places can severely limit their ability to remain engaged in the world beyond their own home. The consequent social isolation and loneliness has a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of both the person living with dementia and their care partner.

Increasing activism by people living with dementia, seeking recognition of their basic rights, has seen growth in research and programs associated with improving access to places of daily activity and social interaction. A significant proportion of the research to date relates to understanding and evaluating the social supports necessary to assist people to achieve these objectives. Research relating to understanding the specific requirements of designing public places for people living with dementia is less developed than that of the social aspects of remaining in the community and of residential design, either in the community or in institutions.

Through the use of Constructivist Grounded Theory, this qualitative study is considering the experience of people living with dementia as they visit their favourite public place to understand what aspects of that place they find desirable. This includes gaining an understanding of the personal and social context as well as the physical aspects of the place in which the experience takes place. It is anticipated that this multi-dimensional understanding of the experience of the person, and the quality of the places that they prefer to visit, will lead to a model that will inform the design of more inclusive public places for society in general.

Jie Zhu

Memorial's Engageability: What is Role of Chinese Memorials In People's Daily Life

With fast urbanization in Chongqing, China, public memorials are evolving from objects to spaces. They are spaces that carry the history from the past to the present and future and spaces for people's uses in daily life. Seemingly, the history of those memorials commemorate is becoming obscure in people's minds due to the secular uses; on the contrary, it becomes impressive because people build their memory with the memorial in daily life. This research aims to figure out how people exactly engage with the public memorial in daily life and the relationship between people's uses and characteristics of the memorial. The conclusion will be drawn out from six representative cases. Besides, mapping, Space Syntax, sensory notation are utilized for analysis and data interpretation. Research outcomes probably benefit designers in designing the memorials with the rich association in daily life and assuming people's behaviours according to their designs. Also, it helps the memorials manager to manage and protect the memorials.

Julianna Rozek*Exploring the use of urban waterways*

Open spaces in urban areas provide many well-documented benefits for individuals, the wider community, and the environment. There is emerging evidence that blue spaces may provide unique and additional health and wellbeing benefits for people using these spaces.

Increasingly, urban waterways— including rivers, streams, and canals— are viewed by researchers, policymakers, and planners as valuable social assets that can provide communities with opportunities for recreation, active transport, and a precious, accessible slice of nature close to home. Despite this growing international interest and investment, little is known about how environmental characteristics, such as the surface of trails, lighting, and connectivity with the surrounding street network, impacts who uses waterways and how.

The research aims to understand the usage patterns and demographics of visitors to waterways, and explore the relationship between the characteristics of waterways, types of users, and different activities. This will be achieved with a mixed-methods approach, including direct observation of waterway users, evaluation of physical environment characteristics and quality, and GIS analysis. This will produce a rich dataset to address the need for a deeper understanding of the factors that influence peoples use of waterways.

The study is set in Melbourne, and initial study sites are waterway transformations completed by Melbourne Water as part of the 'Reimagining Your Creek' program. Collaboration with Melbourne Water ensures this research has relevance to policymakers, and will be used to inform future waterway transformations in Melbourne. More broadly, the findings may be useful for policymakers worldwide looking to improve the health and wellbeing of their communities through enhanced urban waterways.

Paul Fleckney*Adolescents' experiences of the public realm and how this impacts their mental wellbeing*

Adolescent mental health is becoming a critical concern. Mental illness rates are rising and many psychological disorders first present symptoms during teenage years. Studies consistently show associations between the built environment and mental health for adults but the evidence for adolescents is less robust and few studies attempt to isolate causality.

I will explore how adolescents' experiences of the urban public realm can impact on their mental health and mental wellbeing. I aim to deepen our understanding of the pathways between adolescent mental wellbeing and the built environment through gathering rich descriptions of young people's social worlds. Specifically, I will examine how the physical, social and symbolic characteristics of urban parks contribute to psychological and emotional well-being in adolescents. This question necessarily moves the debate beyond traditional notions of the urban environment as pathogen and embraces a salutogenic framework whereby the city can foster positive emotional wellbeing in young people.

Group 2

Mentors:

1. Carl Grodach
2. Alan Both

Students:

1. Cathryn Chatburn
2. Claire Daniel
3. Arsham BASSIRI ABYANEH
4. Anita Fairuz
5. Anna Edwards
6. Chamila Weerathunghe

Group 2: Abstracts

Cathryn Chatburn

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

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.

Claire Daniel

Digital Planning and the Use of Data Analytics in Policy Development

A new wave of initiatives to digitise the planning processes is evident in planning organisations in Australia and around the world. Although automation of mundane administrative processes may seem self-evident, the increased availability of **data and automated analysis** tools have far-reaching implications for planning work. Alongside the excitement generated by more detailed insights into how cities function are important questions of **governance** and transparency of **decision making**. This PhD project is focused on exploring the implications of digital transformation in the planning profession, focusing on the use of data analytics in plan making processes and how these are likely to change across the **UK, USA and Australia**. The project utilises a **mixed-methods** approach including surveys, document analysis and interviews. With major data collection due to be complete by SOAC the PhD symposium presents an excellent opportunity to receive feedback on how to best synthesise the different elements of the project.

Arsham BASSIRI ABYANEH

Walkable for who? Developing a weighted GIS-based walkability index based on pedestrians' perceptions

Walking as a human-powered mean of transport can play a key role in addressing public health and environmental issues faced by contemporary cities. The literature considers how characteristics of the built environment, such as land-use mix, proximity to transit, sidewalk connectivity, accessibility, safety and population density, can affect walking behaviour. Although there is a rich body of knowledge regarding the promotion of walkable cities, equity and gender issues were evident in the lack of planning for walking. It can be hypothesised that governments' policy on walking might have been different if suggested by women, especially mothers of young children, or from the perspective of people with disabilities. Therefore, it can be considered that there is limited research on the perceptions

of different socio-demographic categories of pedestrians, such as people of different age groups, genders and ethnicities, as well as people with different sexualities, different daily destinations, levels of fitness, etc. Furthermore, while there are several walkability measurement indices associated with different walkability criteria, the majority of these tools do not weigh the factors in their formula, or they weigh some factors against others without clear justification. Hence, the main objective of this study is to develop a weighted interactive GIS-based walkability index in which each walkability factor has a logical weight in accordance with its level of importance from the perspective of the different categories of pedestrians. The proposed index will be used to analyse, compare and visualise the level of walkability in different precincts of the Adelaide metropolitan area. This citizen science study can be used by the SA Government (Renewal SA) to identify the issues of the less walkable neighbourhoods based on the pedestrians' perceptions.

Anita Fairuz

A two-stage non-compensatory behavioural model of household decision-making for home ownership and/or rental: Preliminary findings

Existing models of household decision-making for home ownership/rental typically assume that: (1) households are rational agents that are aware of all potential home options on the housing market; (2) they are able to gather comprehensive information on housing price, rent, housing types and features, locational and neighbourhood characteristics, financing options, etc.; and (3) they are able to make rational trade-offs among different attributes across all alternatives, in order to make their final decision. Given the complexity of information search and decision-making process, coupled with cognitive limitations on information processing capacity, we argue that these rational agent models are poor descriptors of actual market behaviour. Studies have repeatedly shown that with decisions involving a high degree of choice complexity, individuals often apply a phased decision strategy. In the initial phase, the decision-maker relies on a non-comprehensive evaluation of alternatives and attributes, to reduce the number of alternatives to a smaller subset. In the subsequent phase, the decision-maker applies a fully-compensatory strategy to identify the optimal alternative from the reduced choice set.

This study develops a two-stage non-compensatory behavioural model of household decision-making for home ownership and rental, through discrete choice experiments (DCEs) involving hypothetical multi-attribute home options. We empirically calibrate the first stage of our model using data collected from an online survey of 796 sample population residing in Australia. We find that the large majority of households screen houses based on only a handful of the most salient factors, namely price, monthly mortgage, rent, number of bedrooms and proximity to workplace. Other attributes, such as adjoining land area of the property, number of bathrooms, proximity to public transport, good schools, childcare, natural sites, shops/eatery- are not found to have statistically significant effect on consideration; and are likely to be only included in the second stage of the decision-making process.

Anna Edwards

The Night Time Economy in Australia

My PhD thesis will study the evolution of Australia's Night Time Economy (NTE), with particular focus on night time labour market trends and government initiatives. For this research, the NTE is defined as all economic activity occurring between 6pm and 6am.

Interest in the NTE has been increasing among academics and policy makers globally. Recently, some Australian government organisations have been investing in NTE and 24-hour economy research, governance, and strategies, and yet a literature gap exists in mapping the NTE's evolution in Australia.

The primary research question to be addressed therefore is: How has the emergence of NTE specific policies and governance impacted on the Australian population over time?

The research will aim to map relevant history, policy and data to demonstrate the development of the NTE in Australia and distil common themes.

Filling this research gap will be valuable to Australian policy makers and academic researchers.

Chamila Weerathunghe

How to support small-to-medium enterprises in driving sustainable urban transformations: aligning policy mixes and sustainability transitions thinking

Delivering on visions for sustainable urban futures demands new ways of thinking. This has prompted significant scholarly attention towards how socio-technical transitions and socio-ecological pathways can influence urban transformations. There is, however, comparatively less attention paid to the influence small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) have in shaping the speed and directionality of sustainable urban transformations. The scholarly intersection of SMEs and sustainability is growing, with scholars regarding SMEs as: political and social actors, intermediaries, place-makers, and drivers of significant economic, environmental and social outcomes, among others. However, within this research there remains limited attention regarding how policy mixes can be designed to support and leverage the capacities of SMEs and their influence for driving more sustainable change. Against this background, this study brings together sustainability transition, policy studies and SMEs scholarship to identify critical enabling policy mixes suitable for driving greater uptake of SMEs sustainability practices and business models. The review reveals limited scholarly insights at the intersection of these three topics, revealing deficits in knowledge around composing policy mixes, the temporal dynamics of policy change, instrument design preferences and its link to prevailing political-socio-economic factors, roles of non-regulatory actors, instrument interactions and interdependencies. This literature review contributes towards identifying critical knowledge gaps in policy mixes enabling sustainability transitions of SMEs and sets out a clear agenda for further interrogating this topic through empirical research design. This research will also contribute to the globally implemented 'Transform' project which investigates how we can accelerate sustainability entrepreneurship transitions in local urban space.

Group 3

Mentors:

1. Joe Hurley
2. Anthony Kent

Students:

1. Monojit Chakma
2. Kava Piran
3. Synthia Rduch
4. Khanh Ngoc Vu
5. Andrew Spencer
6. Tanya Burdett

Group 3: Abstracts

Monojit Chakma

Action at a distance: (re)modeling and operationalising remote data collection methods on urban public space use in the global South cities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This paper presents a novel system as a method to obtain a research solution to the emerging issues involved with conducting social research in urban planning during the global COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose is to report about the operationalisation of an innovative research design for social data collection remotely. This study highlights the importance of diversifying the methods repertoire by drawing on local research resources to produce an alternative approach. This innovation allows the researcher to progress through the methodological problem that has been presented by the year-long global Covid crisis with continued lockdown and containment measures in cities worldwide. The overall research contribution is based on its exploration of the ways the social research methods are conducted in the time of pandemic in the global South cities. Also, this urban study is a representative case of Australasian graduate research studies, many of which have been impacted by various covid restrictions, thus, highlighting a range of methodological and research ethics procedural issues in social investigations.

In its study, the paper explores an emerging culture of market research in Dhaka and then goes on to show how such existing local resources have been repurposed (refitted) into the authors' own research methods to meet the research goals. By embedding local data gathering tools in its methods which involve a two-pronged questionnaire surveys and interviews on public space, this study has developed a multi-modal method for data collection in a remote setting. Thus, such adaptation makes the developed method a practicable one as it considers the socio-cultural aspects of the street culture of the case study area in a particular geographic setting. Thus far, the study has been able to obtain a positive response on public space use data from a significant number of neighbourhood residents and public space users as research participants.

Kava Piran

Economic Sustainability of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

Mega events have been used for promoting cities in the global stage for a long time. While their benefits have been discussed often, little attention has been given to strategies which may lead to a sustainable legacy. Sustainable legacy covers the economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions of sustainability. As part of answering the broader research question "How can mega events leave a sustainable legacy?" this paper focuses on economic sustainability dimension through a case study of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games to assess to what degree these Games left a sustainable legacy behind. An evaluation framework developed using the criteria and indicators identified from a literature review of mega events and sustainability has guided the collection and analysis of the primary and secondary data including semi-structured interviews and archival documents such as policies, strategies, plans, annual reports and news articles related to the event's sustainability and legacy.

Synthia Rduch

How can urban and planning design inform the design of dementia-friendly neighbourhoods; a neighbourhood audit tool to determine current conditions, appropriateness and identify needs

All over the world, our aging societies are giving rise to a number of health issues as our bodies and minds begin to naturally slow down. One of the largest issues linked to aging is neurodegenerative diseases, such as dementia. Dementia is a pandemic estimated to affect 50 million people globally. Many people with dementia have the ability to live active and healthy lives years after diagnosis. And though there is no medical cure for dementia, there are non-medical interventions that can be done to enable and support people living with dementia. The design of the built environment plays an important role in the care for people with dementia (Day, Carreon & Stump, 2000; Fleming & Purandare, 2010; Tilly & Reed, 2008). There is a growing body of literature on the benefits of well-designed buildings (Marquardt, Bueter & Motzek, 2014), however few studies have looked at the built environment and its impact on dementia specifically from a wider community and neighborhood scale (Cassarino & Setti, 2015; Myer, 2020).

My research intends to fill this burgeoning gap and explore how urban design and planning policy can inform the design of dementia-friendly neighbourhoods in our cities. The aim of the study is to develop a dementia-inclusive evaluation tool that will determine how 'dementia-inclusive' a neighbourhood is by assessing its urban design components. The tool will inform emerging urban design and planning strategies to ensure built environments are inclusive of people with dementia and are facilitating healthy cognitive aging.

Khanh Ngoc Vu

Understanding mechanisms of smart cities for delivering sustainability: An analysis of smart city policies in Victoria, Australia

In 2017, the New Urban Agenda highlighted a global commitment to the smart city vision that leverages innovative technologies to address sustainability challenges. In Australia, the initiated Smart City Plan has led to the proliferation of initiatives and policies that facilitated the regional smart city movement. However, the mechanisms through which the policies supported these initiatives in attaining more sustainable outcomes remain unknown. Therefore, the primary aims of this paper are threefold: i) scrutinising the mechanisms through which the smart city policies have contributed to sustainability transitions in Victoria, ii) analysing how these policies were committed to answering sustainability challenges through the mechanisms, and iii) exploring the potential mechanisms for enhancing regional sustainability transitions. To achieve these aims, this paper utilises causal mediation analysis, a statistical framework, to analyse the smart city policies and information collected from 79 local governments in Victoria in comparison with the regional sustainable goals. Accordingly, the study identifies a list of underlying mechanisms employed in the smart city initiatives implemented in Victoria and the mechanism-specific effects on obtaining sustainable outcomes. In doing so, the paper emphasises the significance of the identified mechanisms in formulating policies on smart cities in coordination with urban and regional transitions towards sustainability.

Andrew Spencer

Planning for sustainability: integrating social, economic and environmental impacts in land use planning in Victoria

In 2017 the Victorian Auditor-General gave a highly critical review of the states planning system suggesting planning authorities were systematically failing in their obligations to show how their decisions had integrated environmental, social and economic considerations. Using this critique as a point of departure, the objectives of the proposed research are to: (i) develop a better understanding of plan-making processes and practices in Victoria, with a focus on the identification and integration of environmental, social and economic impacts; (ii) determine whether evaluating plans against the objectives of "net community benefit" and "sustainable development" is reasonable and achievable; and (iii) identify opportunities to improve plan-making processes and practices in Victoria to improve transparency, accountability and plan quality. The research will draw on literature on planning theory, urban economics and policy evaluation, and will involve primary research on the planning scheme amendment process in Victoria, involving document reviews, surveys and interviews.

Tanya Burdett

Integrating social, environmental and economic logics in strategic spatial planning – a case study of urban growth expansion, Melbourne

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.

Group 4

Mentors:

1. David Bissell
2. Neeraj Dangol

Students:

1. Fanni Melles
2. Rachel Gallagher
3. Kristina Ulm
4. Zahra
5. Ryan McNeilly Smith
6. Alana Crimeen
7. Samuel Holleran

Group 4: Abstracts

Fanni Melles

Making future cities 'smart' by supporting future city designers in smart design

Smart city is a possible future for cities, however, the professionals actually responsible to create the built environment, are rarely involved to establish or realise this concept. This PhD research aims to understand the smart city concept, its connection to the future of cities, and how to operationalise these concepts in the design practices. To examine the practical use of the smart city and the future of cities concept after the literature review, a digital survey of the smart city concept's use by Australian university research groups and governmental bodies for the applied approach, and 43 interviews with Melbourne-based designer practitioners (architects, urban planners and designers, and engineers) for the practical approach were conducted. The results, evaluated by professional focus groups, help practitioners operationalising the smart city and the future of cities concept in their professions, while the investigation reveals gaps in the theory and academic research as well.

Rachel Gallagher

Urban consolidation through densification: are existing planning systems effective at delivering urban transformation?

Containing urban growth inherently requires changes to the urban structure and form of our cities, including retrofitting existing neighbourhoods to increase their density. Since the 1980s, many global cities have introduced mechanisms to contain urban growth within existing urban footprints. Land use planning, primarily through zoning, is the key mechanism utilised to encourage densification, by rezoning existing urban areas for buildings of higher density or greater land use diversity. These instruments aim to encourage incremental redevelopment by the private market, often in proximity to mass transit or employment, while also citing goals of housing affordability and sustainability. A major issue with this approach, however, is that land use planning instruments omit the existing physical structure of the city, by failing to acknowledge the static nature of historical land use and urban layout – being property parcels and streets. Planning instruments presume there is land readily available for the kind of redevelopment envisioned. Yet, the fragmented nature of existing urban layouts presents a major barrier to densification, due to the difficulty of acquiring parcels of a sufficient size in suitable locations. Dramatic changes to the built environment historically result from top-down state intervention, such as the demolition of inner city neighbourhoods for highways or urban renewal projects, which have produced well-researched negative externalities including displacement of low-income communities. Even cataclysmic events such as fire, earthquakes and floods do not generally impact the enduring nature of urban layout, although they do provide opportunities for redevelopment. Considering these deficiencies, a significant research gap exists in whether land use regulation changes are effective at catalysing the kind of redevelopment envisioned in relevant planning instruments, or whether other tools are required to reach urban consolidation targets. To address this research gap, I focus on how zoning changes over a 60-year period influence changes to urban morphology – being property parcels, streets, block layouts and land use – in Brisbane and Melbourne, to determine if redevelopment patterns are achieving the goals espoused in relevant planning

instruments. Future directions apply this knowledge to international case studies, to understand if other models of planning regulation, governance, and development incentives are more effective at influencing redevelopment.

Kristina Ulm

Veggies in verges – A systems approach to governance of edible verge gardens in Greater Sydney

Did you ever pick a fresh tomato for your lunch? Many people living in Australian cities don't get that chance. This is slowly changing through the growing practice of urban agriculture, which is a nature-based solution with diverse environmental, social, and public health benefits.

Underutilized spaces like street verges, commonly strips of grass along our footpaths, bear an underexplored potential for urban food growing. It is estimated that over a third of green open space in Melbourne are grassed verges. Previous research confirms multiple benefits as well as risks of edible verge gardens. Local governments vary greatly in their policy approaches to managing these risks and benefits. This variation in policy illustrates the identified knowledge gap on the relationships between government policy and the practice of urban agriculture. Councils do not know how best to manage and regulate urban food growing practices. Only recently academic research started to investigate these relationships, often under different conceptualizations of 'governance' or 'policy implementation'. This PhD research uses edible verge gardens as a small-scale example to investigate the role of policy in urban agriculture by asking: How do governance systems of edible verge gardens in Greater Sydney function? To answer this question, a mixed-method study has been designed in two steps. First, a quantitative and qualitative comparison of policy approaches across the 35 councils of Greater Sydney will be conducted. Second, the results of the policy study will inform the selection of three edible verge gardens in Greater Sydney for in-depth case study research. A novel systems approach and methods will be utilised to examine the governance of each case verge garden from the perspectives of the different involved stakeholders, for example council staff, gardeners, and neighbours. Understanding these micropolitics can improve policymaking and assist people to grow food in verges successfully.

Zahra

The Authority of Local Government in Enabling Active Travel for Older Residents

The aim of this research is to investigate the authority and autonomy of local government in terms of decision making and implementing active travel policies for older residents in South Australia. Older residents tend to be more inactive as they age, and this brings about numerous non-communicable diseases which is a burden for both families and governments. Active travel is the most available and convenient physical activity for older residents. Older residents' choices for transportation are affected not only by their personal needs, preferences, and attitudes, but also directly or indirectly by policy. Policies have the potential to influence the decision making of older residents for AT for instance, by providing motivators or demotivators such as providing land-use mix, benches, lower insurance premiums or increasing car parking prices.

Australian cities, due to their urban structure, face the dominance of private motor vehicle travel. Planning and transport agencies play a vital role in influencing the travel behaviors and travel modes which in turn impact the walkability of neighborhoods and the physical activity opportunities of residents. Many of the policies recommended by state government participants depend on local governments for implementation, making their feasibility dependent on both levels of government with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

This research evaluates the current policy frameworks for active travel as emerging from planning, transport, and health policy sectors in South Australia, and will seek to provide empirical data on how to achieve better active travel policies and outcomes for older residents.

The research is expected to inform policymakers, urban planners, and developers in improving built environments in the future. The outcome of this study can bring new insights for the needs of an ageing population in urban environments to support active and healthy ageing.

This qualitative research will use policy document analysis in related departments in SA state government and in local governments and interview with politicians and policy officers in state & local government. Critical discourse analysis will be used for policy documents analysis to understand the explicit and underlying ideas and thematic analysis will be used for interview response analysis. The case study approach will be used for more detailed and in-depth data collection.

Ryan McNeilly Smith

Systems approach to improving microclimates in public spaces and reducing heat-health risks

Often referred to as a 'silent killer', heatwaves can have severe human health effects (State of Queensland, 2019) and cause 55% of all natural hazard-related fatalities in Australia (Coates et al., 2014). Extreme heat events can impact upon an entire population, however, those most vulnerable are at a greater risk of experiencing severe health impacts and mortality (Loughnan et al., 2015, Campbell et al., 2018). The occurrence and associated impacts of extreme heat events is only expected to increase due to climate change, alongside increasing ambient temperatures (CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, 2018). Government jurisdictions understand that they need to address the impacts of climate change, including the risks associated with increasing temperatures and extreme heat events; however, there is uncertainty of how to appropriately integrate heat mitigation design into planning and urban design policy (McNeilly Smith, 2020).

One method for addressing heat-related risks in built environments is bioclimatic design, however this design framework is predominantly used to provide passive thermal control within buildings – not the public realm; hence, appropriate knowledge and guidelines are lacking for implementation in the public realm. In order to address this knowledge gap, systems theory and alternative futures' Six Pillars methodology will be used to systematically investigate the current policy environment, the elements of bioclimatic urban design, and then develop a framework for policy implementation and stakeholder engagement. The development of this policy framework will be complemented by microclimatic simulations to support the creation, testing and stakeholder engagement of possible policy scenarios. The findings and outputs of this initial work will then be applied to a Queensland context, where it is anticipated this will support the increased adoption of heat mitigation urban design policies in planning legislation, regulation, and local planning schemes in the state.

Alana Crimeen

Urban Airport Regions and Public Health: Understanding how airport planning policy considers determinants of health

Airports have significant impacts on the city around them. Within and beyond their immediate footprint, they alter the planning and development of residential settlements, economic and industrial areas and transport infrastructure. The systems and outcomes of urban planning are an important part of creating population **health**. Urban environments require integrated efforts between public health and urban planning professionals to create, organise and govern these spaces in ways that promote and protect health.

As specialised infrastructure, **airports** sit both within and external to local governmental planning strategies, and are regulated through local, state and federal policy, as well as being expected to adhere to international UN legislation for airport development and organisation. This creates a complex policy and governance environment for the urban airport. Research shows that planning between the airport and near urban environment is a fractured process, leading to inconsistent planning outcomes. Currently, environmental health features within airport regions are addressed through statutory planning processes. Beyond this, the integration of other elements of health-focused or health promoting urban planning are unclear.

This research will investigate how the planning system for airports considers factors influencing health, known as the (social, political, commercial) 'determinants of health'. It also aims to understand what is required to integrate a more comprehensive public health approach to this process than currently exists. Through **literature reviews**, policy and practice reviews, and interviewing, the determinants of health addressed within the airport planning environment will

be identified. Using a collaborative planning approach, the Western Sydney Airport planning process and outcomes will be used as a case study.

This research further contributes to knowledge around planning approaches to public health. The symposium will provide an opportunity to test the conceptual and empirical understanding of health in urban planning around airport regions.

Samuel Holleran

Group 5

Mentors:

1. Libby Porter
2. Redento Recio

Students:

1. Ana Lara Heyns
2. Davita Coronel
3. Elisabetta Crovara
4. Ripeka Walker
5. Stephanie Roland
6. Helen Rowe

Group 5: Abstracts

Ana Lara Heyns

A relational approach to consider the cultural underground through water

Urban scholars have rightly connected serious urban problems, such as the flooding, to ill-considered interventions into the complex environmental systems of the underground. While underground urbanisation has proceeded unplanned, resulting in chaotic mismanagement affecting the urban process above the ground, there is a growing concern in Australian planning about the lack of involvement of Indigenous People due to the challenge of reconciling two different worldviews. Focusing on water as an element that overlaps human activity and natural underground landscape, this project aims to explore Indigenous and non-Indigenous collaborations in developing tools to enable a better understanding and plan for interaction of cultural and physical sites within the underground realm. To achieve this, the research is carried out under the Respectful Design framework developed by Norm Sheehan. Looking at waterways and water knowledges that have been repressed in the urban experience, I argue that through the Indigenous paradigm of relationality we can develop better protections for the layers of cultural meaning embedded in the underground.

Davita Coronel

Skypuppies': Urban Care for the Grey-Headed Flying Fox in Melbourne

Since the 1980s, grey-headed flying foxes have established permanent roost sites in Melbourne, of which the biggest is in Yarra Bend Park. The flying fox is a native bat species threatened with extinction as they lose habitat and days of extreme heat cause mass die-offs. The status of the flying foxes is not straightforward: they are caught up between vilification and celebration in the settler colonial context of Australia. The case of the flying foxes presents the ethical invitation to reconsider our relationship to non-human others in urban environments. Research on this topic has not given enough attention to the different relationships that stakeholders have to the bats, the different knowledges that flow from these relationships and the bats' agency.

This project examines the ways in which the bats in Yarra Bend Park are considered. It asks the following questions: what are currently the relationships between bats and humans in Yarra Bend park, reflected in city planning, conservation efforts and Indigenous politics? What cultural, scientific and historical dynamics are the cause of these relationships? What are the implications of these findings for the future of the bat colony at Yarra Bend Park? Research will consist of bat observation, participant observation with bat care groups and interviews with scientists, city officials, wildlife managers and members of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung community as the traditional custodians of the region.

This research will contribute to re-imagining the urban relationship between human and bat neighbours. Doing so it will contribute to the debates on cities of justice and care that extend beyond the human. In sum, examining the different relationships to the bats in the settler colonial context of Melbourne, while weaving in their sociality and agency, can shed new light on multi-species urban environments.

Elisabetta Crovara

Changing the workplace: everyday practices of care, mobilities and belonging in regional coworking spaces in Victoria, Australia

Coworking spaces are shared working environments where remote workers gather to work and interact. In the current times, when we are witnessing more people working remotely, the desegregation of the traditional office, and an increasing residential mobility from cities to regions, coworking spaces have the potential of becoming informal infrastructures of care, namely spaces of belonging, characterised by systems of “mutual support, public space, shared resources and local democracy.” I understand these coworking practices through ethnographic fieldwork in regional towns in Victoria, conducted both in person, from December 2019 to February 2020, and via-Zoom during the extensive Victorian lockdown, from March to August 2020. Specifically, through in-depth life history interviews with coworking founders and members, my research explores the social role that coworking spaces have for people who moved from large urban centers to small regional towns. By drawing upon feminist care ethics and geographical literature on mobility, I describe care as relational and regional coworking spaces as open and continuously evolving. In other words, I consider both the material and immaterial aspects of coworking spaces, whose effects stretch beyond their physical boundaries, as part of a wider network of social relations, and people’s macro and micro mobilities. In doing so, this paper offers a two-fold contribution. First, I show how coworking practices are profoundly connected to and influenced by people’s life choices, relationships, and mobilities. This, I argue, enables new understandings of the temporalities of coworking spaces, and their impact on both people and places. Second, by focusing on everyday practices and mobilities in regional areas, this paper responds to the paucity of research on regional coworking. In short, I argue that the caring role of coworking spaces is highly significant for regional centres, owing to the multiple ways that they inflect experiences of regional life.

Ripeka Walker

Activation of the civic realm using cultural protocol

Ko Ngāti Porou me Te Whakatohea tāku iwi.

Post-humanism and post-structuralism posits that we are in an era where multiple views, interests and agendas are operational within the city. In the contemporary context of the civic realm in Aotearoa New Zealand the inclusion of indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing are gaining greater validity and influence in built environment policy.

With reference to Western theories of phenomenology and third space this research explores ritualised communal practice as a mode of production in the civic realm. Using mixed-methods, these theories allow for self-reflective thought, hybridity and creativity. The research explores the dynamism of indigenous identity in the context of biculturalism, multiculturalism and today’s superdiversity. The resultant visibility of te ao Māori (the Māori worldview) in the contested space of the city is critiqued as the Māori desire for spatial justice is pursued - ka whawhai tonu matou - the struggle without end.

Stephanie Roland

Uncanny Windhoek: Tracing the spatial logics, aesthetics, and hauntings of an African capital

Obert has argued that postcolonial cities exemplify Vidler’s notion of the ‘architectural uncanny’, Namibia’s capital Windhoek a particularly clear example of this. Obert considers inscribed in Windhoek’s cartography and architecture the traces of subjugation and oppression of colonial occupation(s), expressed in the colonial pursuit to recreate home in foreign lands and the colonised subjects’ resistance to this. The concept of the uncanny is advanced in three registers which operate at a range of scales: spaces of unhoming, uncanny architectural and urban aesthetics, and the haunting of place.

The research methodology combines multiple methods, using mental maps, visual, descriptive, and participatory tools to uncover the uncanny spatial, architectural, and mnemonic characteristics of the city and how these influence residents' perceptions and behaviour. The research explores participative and visual approaches that can lend themselves to a personal and imaginary appropriation of place, a polymorphous engagement with urban space that might reveal multiple truths and challenge colonially inherited normative principles and imaginaries of the city.

Helen Rowe

Reframing transport policy and practice: reflections from practitioners about their approach to effecting change in sustainable transport.

Making urban transport systems more sustainable, including decarbonising them, is an increasingly critical policy issue in many countries. However, cities that have been developed, and continue to grow, around cars as the dominant form of transport are struggling to adapt, including Australian cities. One area of discussion in the transport policy literature centers on the ways transport policy is framed and how this constrains the types of transport policy and practice that is possible. A narrow range of technical knowledge is privileged in transport, and transport policy research largely focuses on technical evaluation of policy options rather than delving into the, perhaps messier, issues surrounding how policy is made and, in particular, how change is made. Little is known about how practitioners working in sustainable transport understand their working environment and how they go about the messy task of effecting change. Based on semi-structured interviews with change agent transport practitioners in Melbourne, Vancouver and Auckland, this research explores how transport practitioners have changed their approach to, and views about, effecting change over their careers. Their reflections reveal common transitions in thinking, including shifting from focusing on technical analysis and having the 'right answer' early in their career, to the revelation that this only a small part of the task. This research highlights the importance of reframing transport research and practice, including a much overdue need for transport policy research and practice to engage with policy process, systems change and diverse knowledges. The research also provides transport practitioners and organisations a lens to reflect on the capabilities they need in the taking on the challenges ahead.

Group 6

Mentors:

1. Crystal Legacy
2. Katrina Raynor

Students:

1. Moayad Shammut
2. Jarrod Grainger-Brown
3. Merrick Morley
4. Nestor Agustin Guity Zapata
5. Nicolás Guerra
6. Caitlin Morrissey

Group 6: Abstracts

Moayad Shammut

The Future of Automated Mobilities in Aotearoa New Zealand

Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) are emerging technologies that can potentially disrupt cities, economies, and the way we live our lives. However, the safety of AVs is identified as a fundamental aspect that needs to be properly understood before predicting the actual future AVs may bring. This research aims to explore the safety perceptions of AVs and examine the factors that may influence the adoption of AVs in Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ). Using the lens of mobilities paradigm, the conceptual framework is developed into four dimensions: social mobilities, political mobilities, smart mobilities, and business mobilities. Social mobilities explores how social meanings, emotions, and cultural practices may influence AVs adoption. Political mobilities covers the role of political-institutional power in shaping, regulating, or thwarting AVs adoption. Smart mobilities explores technological and cybersecurity matters in AV systems. Business mobilities focuses on how AVs safety may impact labour skills, businesses, and the shared economy market. The research will primarily be qualitative and conduct semi-structured interviews with the relevant stakeholders. The research will also review government documents, social media platforms, and grey literature to draw on qualitative and quantitative data that would inform the analysis. The research envisages that a successful transition towards safer adoption of automated mobilities will require an understanding of the interrelationships among these four dimensions. For instance, social adoption of AVs not only depends on (1) society's perceptions and feelings but also depends on (2) governments regulating AVs and providing the necessary infrastructure; (3) resolving technical risks such as cyberattacks and surveillance; and (4) addressing employment risks that may lead to the displacement of workers from their jobs as a consequence of AVs adoption. It is expected that this research would fill a gap in the literature regarding understanding the complexity of the interdependent factors underpinning AV's futures.

Jarrod Grainger-Brown

Urban transformation and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in cities.

The number of grand sustainability challenges facing society requires cities and urban areas around the globe to transform. One of the more prominent methods for transformative action towards sustainable development is the pursuit of the United Nations 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs). The SDGs provide an ambitious blueprint for communities, cities and countries to radically become more sustainable and equitable by 2030. Cities are a key part of this but urban implementation of the SDGs is still in its infancy. If the transformative vision of the SDGs is to be realised, the way that cities engage and implement the SDGs needs to be further explored and understood. How transformative are these approaches and can this likelihood of transformation be increased? This project aims to explore how and why cities engaging with the SDGs can foster urban transformation. First, a literature review was conducted to synthesise the rich but diverse contributions from the 'urban transformations' literature. Then, a mapping study was undertaken to explore the different ways cities are currently engaging with the SDGs and if/how they

characterise urban transformation. Finally, in-depth case studies will be conducted to refine and more deeply explore the dynamics of transformation in a city which is implementing the SDG agenda.

Merrick Morley

Putting community into community resilience: investigating shared spaces and participatory processes across multi-residential developments in Metropolitan Melbourne

Globalisation, urbanisation, and cultural diversity are affecting how humans constitute and practice community. This is compounded by the uncertainty of changing climates, neoliberal governance, and increasing inequalities that affect the socio-spatial characteristics of cities. Community resilience is offered as a solution to these matters but, as scholarly research demonstrates, it can be used uncritically or conservatively and worsen resilience for those it is intended to benefit. Community, moreover, is not always the pleasant construct it is typically portrayed as. This research investigates how participatory processes and the physical design of multi-residential developments in Metropolitan Melbourne can establish practices of community and mediate community resilience, to enhance planning and design policy. Assemblage theory is used to frame the research by foregrounding the interconnectivity between socio-spatial components in urban settings. Mixed methods are proposed as a way to triangulate and complement knowledge from varying perspectives and realities. A three-stage research design will inform data collection: likert scale surveys, group interviews, and spatial syntax mapping.

Nestor Agustin Guity Zapata

Home motivations and lived experiences in Australian housing cooperatives and cohousing communities

In Australia, housing cooperative and cohousing may represent an alternative solution to the country's housing crisis. These forms of collaborative housing are characterised by promoting mutual help among their members, an element linked to ontological security and the creation of sense of home. However, the greatest evidence of the dynamics of these communities is focused on liberal economic countries (LECs); raising critical questions about our current understanding of housing commons in the Australian context - via resident's voice. Addressing this gap, we conducted a scoping review on motivations and lived experience in Australia, which we contrasted with LECs. Results revealed differences in the motivations for living in this forms of collaborative housing, social aspect being the most important. The lived experience yielded five thematic areas: social capital, economic, environmental, design and knowledge generation/transfer. Findings indicate that a more inclusive approach is needed in the growing field of collaborative housing studies.

Nicolas Guerra

Together with difference: diversity, encounter, and their spatial dynamics

A common assumption about urban social diversity is on the effects of living in multiculturalism as a practice capable of changing social structures that reproduce discrimination and segregation. However, few studies have empirically examined the context and conditions of these transformative situations that can be framed as encounter with the difference, leaving a wide scope to inquiry about the role of urban planning discipline in such framework. With that in mind, this ongoing PhD project aim is to contribute on the understanding of the role of social diversity and neighbourhood spatial configurations over how encounter with the difference unfold on the public realm, considering that these dynamics have potential to support social inclusion, but little is known, empirically, on how they interact with space configuration and social diversity at the neighbourhood scale. To investigate that, this study proposes a mixed methods research design structured by a multiple case study approach, considering Melbourne's metropolitan area as a research site and empirical context. Deploying spatial and demographic analysis across variated urban fabrics configurations, this research expects to represent a rich picture of the city's social diversity. Some selected neighbourhoods will be historically studied to investigate institutional settings that could be fostering diversity, and further analysed through structural observations and surveys to verify how encounters are happening on public

space. This research expects to further unfold encounter dynamics and to contribute to urban planning framework on how to foster social diversity in cities.

Caitlin Morrissey

Making up the global city: The financing and governing of urban infrastructural futures

This study will explore how infrastructure is used to 'make up' the global city in Manchester and Melbourne. Here, 'making up' the global city refers to the global city aspirations that are 'made up' or imagined by different actors (Bunnell and Goh, 2012) and the processes through which these aspirations come to be physically 'made up' as infrastructure (Connolly, 2019). It is guided by Roy and Ong's (2011) conceptualisation of worlding as the "ongoing art of being global" (Ong, 2011, p3) and adopts the view that there is no singular formulation of 'global' and no set pathway that actors in cities can pursue to achieve this status (Governa, 2021. Connolly, 2019. Baker and Ruming, 2015).

It is acknowledged that infrastructure can embody the urban dreams, aspirations and imaginaries of different actors (McNeill, 2017. Appadurai, 2014. Ong, 2011). However, there is a limited research on the explicit 'global' aspirations of different actors and the ways in which these are materialised through particular transport infrastructure projects. This study seeks to address this gap through a comparative case study of worlding processes in Manchester and Melbourne. It will do this by first tracing the life history of transport infrastructure development in both cities since the early 1990s. It will then 'follow' the creation of the most recent long-term transport infrastructural strategies by different tiers of government and private sector organisations. It will also seek out the alternative futures that are being articulated by local civic actors.

The overarching aim is to explore how global is understood by different actor groups, on whose grounds global has been and is being claimed, and the process through which global aspirations become articulated through transport infrastructure.

Group 7

Mentors:

1. Natalie Osborne
2. Max Holleran

Students:

1. Alexandre da Silva Faustino
2. Zoe Goodall
3. Philip Graus
4. Hector Padilla
5. Rana Shakaa
6. Sue Huang
7. Taylor Coyne

Group 7: Abstracts

Alexandre da Silva Faustino

Breaking the concrete: contesting urban waterscapes through grassroots initiatives in São Paulo, Brazil

My research investigates how disruptive grassroots initiatives contest how society relates to water. Such relations intertwine through power in hydrosocial geographies (Swyngedouw, 1999) often uneven and unjust, noticeable by urban and water crises multiplying globally. Dwellers of informal settlements historically disempowered - women, indigenous, black, and poor people - experience the deepest exclusionary outcomes of such crises. Organised through grassroots activism they seek alternatives to their realities. Waterscapes can be an analytical framework to unpack socio-natural metabolisms shaping uneven hydrosocial relations (Karpouzoglou & Vij, 2017). But what tensions in such relations emerge when research engages with social actors and activists experiencing urban water injustices? Using a critical qualitative research strategy, and aware of its potential to promote social impact, I develop a case study of São Paulo, Brazil to i) investigate how grassroots initiatives are reshaping this city's waterscapes; and ii) explore the possibilities of collaboratively analysing urban waterscapes through counter-cartographies.

Zoe Goodall

Accommodating Share-House Tenants

This thesis will investigate how housing justice can be improved for Australian share-house tenants in the private rental sector (PRS). Share-housing – where household members are unconnected by familial or romantic ties – can produce issues not easily understood by a system that positions nuclear familial households as the norm. Share-housing has become increasingly common in Australia, due to factors such as rising housing affordability and more flexible lifecourse patterns where partnering and having children is deferred or not desired.

Australian research highlights financial precarity and other vulnerabilities being experienced at concerning levels by share-house tenants in the PRS. This arguably contributes to the perception that while share-housing is a normal and expected part of young people's housing journeys, it is temporary and transitional rather than a long-term or wholly desirable arrangement. Guided by principles of housing justice, this thesis will examine the laws, policies and regulations that shape the housing experiences of share-house tenants, including state-level laws around leases, bonds and eviction, and federal-level components such as Commonwealth Rent Assistance. Of key concern is whether these laws and policies are appropriate for share-housing, whether they influence share-house tenants' level of vulnerability, and how such vulnerability could be lessened through policy changes.

The thesis will include: a scoping review that determines what has been researched about PRS share-housing and issues of law and policy; a discourse analysis of key Australian legislation and policy documents that relate to share-housing; interviews with share-house tenants about their interactions with law and policy and their suggestions for reform; and interviews with tenant support organisations about their engagement with share-house tenants. The aim

is to involve interview subjects in a co-design process of creating more just, appropriate and sustainable policy frameworks that make share-housing a better experience for its growing number of tenants.

Philip Graus

Can urban design improve metropolitan planning?

Can urban design improve metropolitan planning? An examination of the role of urban design in shaping and delivering the Western Parkland City vision

The PhD research topic has been prompted by the author's personal experience of problems identified in practice, most recently as an actor engaged in urban design aspects of planning of the Western Parkland City for the NSW State Government. The topic, captured in the title, raises the question, "why do 'good' strategic plans and urban design often translate into poor physical places"?

Contemporary research provides some insights identifying an increasing divide between top-down metropolitan scale plans and placemaking 'on the ground'. Several studies point to the increasing framing of metropolitan strategies around non-spatial policy and approaches as well as weaknesses within metropolitan planning itself. While more recent moves towards a stronger spatial approach have been identified, it is not clear that existing top-down approaches deliver better outcomes.

The research seeks to better understand how urban design thinking translates into strategic spatial planning at a variety of spatial scales by critically unpacking and interrogating how the iterative and integrating characteristics of the urban design process shapes the plan-making process, as opposed to more aspatial/non-spatial policy imperatives. The intended research approach is informed by the author's former role as a participant actor, Director Western City at the Greater Sydney Commission, a form of 'action research', interrogating the importance of the visual enrolment of spatial imaginaries as translation tools between theory and practice.

This thesis will examine the preliminary hypothesis that the iterative and integrating characteristics of the urban design-led strategic planning process which has framed the thinking behind the Western Parkland City can better shape and deliver metropolitan plan visions and outcomes than had such a process not been adopted. A detailed case study of the Western Parkland City will unpack the role urban design has played in shaping and delivering the vision as well as how it is shaping the lower-level implementation plans.

The impact of this study will be to identify gaps in practice and theory as well as make recommendations to improve both.

Hector Padilla

The pink elephant in the room: insulation retrofit in Victoria, Australia.

This research aims to bring sensitivity to non-human elements that are conditioning the delivery of insulation retrofit in the existing housing stock in Victoria, Australia. Using Actor-Network Theory, we highlight the role of insulation retrofit and how its manifestations are influencing social practices aiming to improve resilient housing stock.

Insulating existing housing has been found to deliver a range of social, economic, and environmental benefits, including lower energy consumption and carbon emissions, improving thermal performance, mitigating energy poverty and creating jobs. However, despite the low cost and considerable benefits, uptake of insulation retrofit remains problematic; for example, in Australia, insulation levels remain lower than expected by policymakers.

From semi-structured interviews held with professionals from the insulation retrofit sector, we find that insulation material is a politicised non-human actor that has developed and acquired risk. Moreover, we highlight the role of insulation retrofit in shaping the conduct and practice of installation; in other words, its manifestation in dwellings.

Rana Shakaa

Knowledge, Power and the Evolving Public Artscape: The Case of Sydney

Public art is an important component in urban regeneration projects. This study examines how public art is produced within urban regeneration projects, focusing on public art as an institutionalized process led by the local government and appropriated by the artist's practice. The study explores this dialectical relationship between local government and artist in the creation and disciplining of public art and art practice.

The study draws upon the concept of power/knowledge as articulated by Michel Foucault. Through case studies and interviews, the research explores the relationship between the organization of power and the development of various types of knowledge to explain the political intention behind the use of public art in the context of the City of Sydney. The study also offers insights into artist-led modes of making that create new art forms and art practices. The study contributes to the ongoing debate around the benefits of public art to cities and provides insights to inform the processes and procedures for making public art within urban regeneration projects.

Sue Huang

How circular economy transforms urban spaces: a case study of food systems in Malaysian cities

The circular economy (CE) agenda has been criticised by scholars for its technocratic focus which perpetuates inequalities and overlooks power relations and actually existing practices. However, limited evidence shows that CE can radically challenge the current neoliberal economic system. There is little empirical research about where, when, and why CE works, and how CE is transforming social and economic relations. In particular, the spatial dimensions of CE remain under-explored: how CE is shaped by and reshapes place, scale, territory and networks.

My thesis critically examines three aspects of CE discourse: analysis of processes of value creation; the political dimensions of such processes of valorisation (actually existing or proposed); and the spatiality of waste and waste governance which reflects on situated relations, urban design, and place-making. Using a case study of food systems in Malaysian cities, I ask, 'what is the work that circular economy does in terms of food waste, and how are urban spaces transformed as a result?' Food has been relatively under-examined in the critical literature, therefore a focus on food can shed light on the assumptions and limits of CE.

I will use a political ecology approach, emphasising empirical research and explicit consideration of power relations to critically consider CE's impacts on human-environment relationships. I propose to use critical discourse analysis, value chain mapping, and geospatial analysis respectively to study the social (re)production of CE discourse, elucidate the actors and structures in an agro-food commodity chain, and investigate the spatial conditions and changes associated with CE.

My thesis will contribute to theoretical understandings of CE, the scholarship on food system, urban, and waste governance, and conversations around food sovereignty and the role of cities in building resilient food systems. It will support evidence-based strategies for making Malaysia's food systems more equitable and sustainable, especially in this COVID recovery era.

Taylor Coyne

Silent Waterscapes: Water, Infrastructure and Sound in the city

As Covid-19 has dramatically re-oriented how people live their everyday lives, engagement with more meaningful public spaces – and the infrastructures which are entangled in them - has become priority for urban designers. The following paper explores how engaging with urban water infrastructures using sound might create opportunity to design urban spaces that make a place's cultural heritage more emphatic, and more meaningful. I begin by investigating how shifts in the 'sounding' of water infrastructures can respond to a call to better include, in particular, Indigenous communities' values, knowledges and perspectives in the design process. Drawing on post-settlement

archival material, as well as literature surrounding 'deep listening' I posit that attentive listening to water might reshape how urban design can better address many of the issues cities face. This includes flood prevention, water pollution as well as issues justice, inclusion and participation, and identity. Working with 'acoustemology' as a framing, the practices of documenting affective responses to soundscapes of urban water spaces will shape a narrative of how sounds of waterscapes are understood unevenly across the city. I conclude with critiques of how projects focusing on 'blue-green infrastructure' might be attending more so to the ecological than the socio-cultural, to the detriment of the governance, and to the overall perceived 'success' of these infrastructures.