

People & Place
Research Cluster

Seminar and Book Launch

Urban Density, Placemaking & Health



7th November 2019
Faculty of the Built Environment
UNSW Sydney

Welcome from the People & Place Research Cluster

Susan Thompson and Christian Tietz, Cluster Co-Convenors

The People & Place Cluster respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands where UNSW Sydney is located - the Bedegal (Kensington campus) and Gadigal (City campus). They are a living part of the oldest continuous existing culture on earth. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past and present and their communities who have been stewards of the places that all people in Australia now enjoy.

The People & Place Research Cluster is a cross-disciplinary group that was established in 2011 by researchers in UNSW's Faculty of Built Environment. The Cluster focusses on developing a supportive research culture across the disciplines in the Built Environment Faculty for both staff and higher degree research students.

Collaboratively, we work to better understand place and the relationships that exist between people and places from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including planning, environment-behaviour, landscape architecture, human geography and urban design. Our interests lie in addressing points of tension, changes in practice, policy and social trends and their implications for people-place relationships.

Place studies have become a major focus of interdisciplinary and applied research. At the core of this scholarship is a concern with unpacking the nature of people place relationships, as well as enhancing their quality and potential. Many academics in the Faculty of the Built Environment, and the People & Place Research Cluster specifically, conduct research on different aspects of the relationship between people and their environments. The outcomes of this work have the potential to benefit the communities and professions with whom we collaborate.

We hope that today's seminar will expand your thinking about current challenges for placemaking in rapidly densifying urban localities.

The seminar and book launch event has been funded by the Associate Dean Research Unit of the Built Environment Faculty, UNSW

The Seminar

Background and Inspiration

Taking the theme of place making in rapidly urbanising environments, the seminar focuses on the need to create intimate and meaningful places for people to find a sense of belonging in an increasingly anonymised and crowded world. There is an urgency to understand, research and activate such placemaking sensitivities as urban populations face escalating rates of mental and physical illness.

There are several aims of the seminar – from presenting research outcomes, practice initiatives, policy options and design case studies to provoking controversial ideas to push our boundaries around concepts of density into the future. How might new or re-configured city, neighbourhood and domestic forms impact upon human health – both physical and mental – in positive and negative ways? What might be some of the broader cultural and environmental challenges in this future scenario? The seminar aims to inspire new approaches, provoke questions and critical suggestions, encourage expansive thinking, as well as creative and innovative propositions, as we engage with different issues around density and health.

Seminar Keynote Speaker

Dr Alice Covatta

Visiting Researcher in Architecture and Urban Design, Centre for Urban Design and Mental Health, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan.



Alice Covatta is an Italian researcher in Architecture and Urban Design at co+labo, Keio University in Tokyo and Fellow with the Center of Urban Design and Mental Health. She holds a PhD in Architecture from the University of Udine and a PostDoc granted by the Japan Foundation Fellowship. She has worked as an architect in Europe and Japan dealing with architectural, urban design and landscape projects and her works have been exposed at MAXXI Museum in Rome and Venice Biennale. Correspondent in Japan for

Domus, co-founder of CoPE Office and European14 winner for the urban development of Neu-Ulm in Germany. Alice has a wide interest in spontaneous urban scenarios aimed at the improvement of mental wellness in public space

which have the potential to become a meaningful part of a bottom-up design process that enhances community and generational cooperation. See more here: www.iamalice.it

Presentation: Integrating urban design into mental health

Cities, agencies and private companies have endless data on elements such as the weather, transport flows or parking, yet data on the mental health related to the urban environment is still lacking. However, maintaining mental health is essential not just for our personal wellbeing, but also to achieve resilient, sustainable cities. One factor is sure, the fact that the increase of mental health disorders including severe psychosis are largely urban phenomena raises the question on the correlation of urban design and mental health. The lecture identifies a paradigmatic case study in Tokyo, one of the largest metropolises in the world, through which urban design becomes the conjunctive component between body and city; individuality and commonality; and, intimacy and density. In this context, whether or not urban design can preserve and promote mental wellness within Tokyo's metropolitan density is examined.

Seminar Keynote Speaker

Dr Hazel Easthope

Associate Professor, City Futures Research Centre, Built Environment, UNSW, Sydney, Australia.



Hazel Easthope is an Associate Professor at the City Futures Research Centre, UNSW. She holds a prestigious UNSW Scientia Research Fellowship and is the UNSW Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Centre Director. Hazel has qualifications in sociology and human geography and researches in the areas of urban studies and housing. Her current research focuses on urban consolidation and the development, management, governance and planning implications of apartment buildings and

estates and the lived experiences of their residents. She is a leading researcher in this field, and is regularly consulted by industry, government and peak body organisations in Australia and internationally. Underpinning her research is a deep concern with how to enable people to feel at home in the places where they live.

Presentation: Losing control of home: The emotional politics of housing

What is this thing called 'home', and how can we enable it? The connection that a person forms with their dwelling can have an important influence on their psychological wellbeing, emotional attachment and identity. Their ability to create and secure a valuable connection is influenced by their experiences of living in that dwelling. Those experiences are mediated by the quality and design of the dwelling itself, as well as their ability to remain in, personalise, and otherwise maintain some control over that dwelling. But the control that people have over their dwellings, and hence their ability to make and maintain a home differs in different circumstances. It can be different for renters compared to owners, for different generations, for people with different financial means, and for people living in different types of housing and under different property ownership regimes.

Research into all of these areas shows us that housing and planning policy is not just a numbers game. It is also a game of emotional politics – a game of control that plays out in people's dwellings and in their neighbourhoods. It not only impacts on people's physical health and financial wellbeing, but also their emotional health, their identity and their pride. Understanding this, and harnessing people's emotions to drive change, is crucial in working towards more effective housing policies and practices.

Moderator

Dr Susan Thompson, UNSW

Susan Thompson is Professor of Planning in the Faculty of the Built Environment at UNSW, where she leads the City Wellbeing Program.



One of the first planners in Australia to advocate for the importance of healthy planning, Susan has made significant contributions to the field's research evidence base, educational curriculum and body of scholarship from an urban planning perspective. Susan's longstanding contribution to urban planning in both academia and practice, was recognised in 2012 when she was elected Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia and in 2015, with the awarding of the prestigious Sidney Luker Memorial Medal.

The Panel

Ms Jane Threlfall, NSW Government Architects Office



Jane Threlfall is Principal of Design and Guidance with the Government Architect NSW (GANSW), Australia. She has over 18 years of experience of working in urban design and architecture in both Australia and the UK. In her current role, she is responsible for providing specialist knowledge on urban design issues on behalf of Government Architect NSW. Jane has led the development of the draft guide, *Urban Design for Regional NSW: A guide for developing healthy built environments in regional NSW*, in collaboration with the Department of Planning and Environment, with

a key focus on understanding the urban design priorities for regional NSW.

Dr Christian Tietz, Director, Industrial Design Program, UNSW



Dr Christian Tietz pioneered the introduction of Industrial Design perspectives into Indigenous Environmental Health in Australia. He examined how domestic appliances performance impacts on health and sustainable social change. In 2016 he joined the Faculty of the Built Environment's Industrial Design Program. His interest is in design for urban public space and the changing nature of domestic living.

Mr Marcus Layton, Cocoon Leasing



With a background in architectural studies and 3 successful companies under his belt, Marcus' latest venture, Homie Co, provides furnished shared housing for international students. But Homie Co provides much more than a roof. Breaking down a student's lifecycle from the moment they get in contact, through settling in, day to day life, and moving out, Homie Co takes an empathic approach to optimising the experience of its student residents spanning furniture to software to social design. Marcus' life ambition is to make it big, then give it all back.

Mr Nick Chapman, GreenWay Place Manager, Inner West Council



An environmental scientist by training, Nick has focused in recent years on a combination of local government place management practice and urban sustainability research and postgraduate teaching at UTS. He is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer at UNSW's City Futures Research Centre. For the last seven years he has been the GreenWay Place Manager at Inner West Council, focussing on urban sustainability and active transport challenges along the Inner West Light Rail and GreenWay Corridor. Nick is passionate about implementing affordable, practicable approaches to enhance community connections, sustainable living and design quality in rapidly changing urban environments.

Dr Jason Prior, Institute for Sustainable Futures, UTS



Jason Prior is a Professor, and Leader of the Urban Futures Team, at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney (UTS). As an architect, planner, and geographer, Jason's program of research focuses on urbanisation, governance, health and wellbeing. Jason's research has been published widely, in a diverse range of journals, edited collections, and through public reports and interactive tools. He is deputy lead of the Healthy Urban Environment Clinical Academic Group with the Sydney Partnership for Health,

Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE), and leads the Healthy Higher Density project involving UTS, University of Sydney and UNSW.

Seminar Schedule

14:00 - 14:15 Welcome from Cluster

14:15 - 15:15 Keynote speakers and clarification questions

15:15 - 15:30 Short 'Cuppa and Stretch' break

15:30 - 16:00 Panel – short contributions from panellists

16:00 - 17:00 Q & A Session – with all speakers and seminar participants

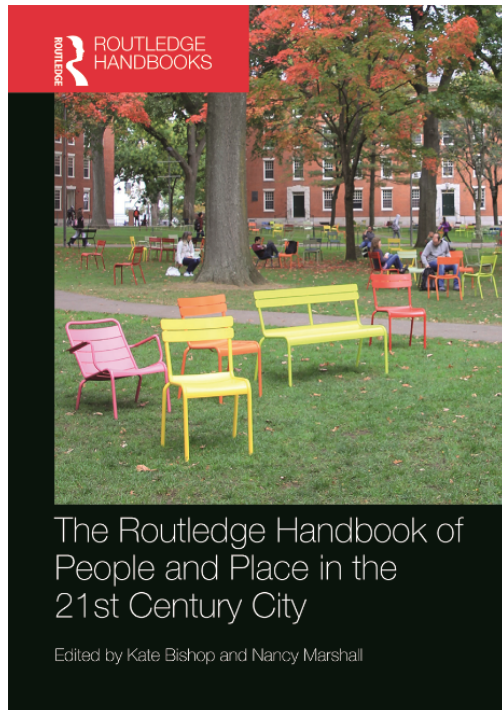
Book Launch

Tonight, we are very excited to be launching two books!

The Routledge Handbook of People and Place in the 21st-Century City

EDS: Kate Bishop, Nancy Marshall

<https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Handbook-of-People-and-Place-in-the-21st-Century-City-1st/Bishop-Marshall/p/book/9780815380948>



From the Routledge Website: “Increasing urbanization and increasing urban density put enormous pressure on the relationships between people and place in cities. Built environment professionals must pay attention to the impact of people–place relationships in small- to large-scale urban initiatives. ... All scales of decision-making have implications for the people–place relationships present in cities. This book presents new research in contemporary, interdisciplinary urban challenges, and opportunities, and aims to keep the people–place relationship debate in focus in the policies and practices of built environment professionals and city managers. ... This book contains an interdisciplinary discussion of contemporary urban movements and issues influencing the relationship between

people and place in urban environments around the world... The main purpose of the book is to consolidate contemporary thinking among experts from a range of disciplines... on how to conceptualize and promote healthy people and place relationships in the 21st-century city.”

Editors



Dr Kate Bishop is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Built Environment at UNSW. Her background in environment -behaviour research underpins her teaching and research and her particular area of interest: children, youth and environments. She specialises in the research and design of environments for children with special needs; child and youth friendly urban planning and design; and participatory methodologies with children and young people. Kate worked in private industry and government before becoming an academic.

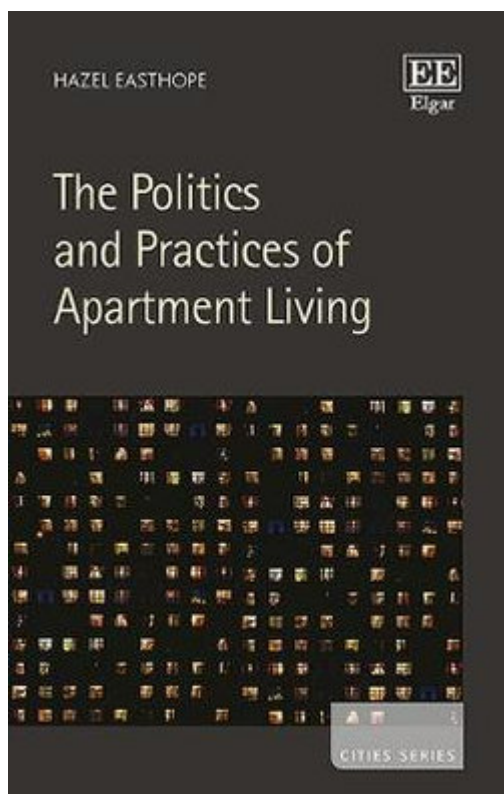


Dr Nancy Marshall is an Associate Professor in the City Planning Program, Faculty of Built Environment at UNSW. Her research focuses on people and place, with a particular focus on plazas, parks and smart cities. She has been teaching in the Built Environment for 15 years, was the Associate Dean/Education from 2009-2013, and has won the UNSW Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence. Nancy blends her experience as a planner with her scholarship as a researcher in all of her work.

The Politics and Practices of Apartment Living

By: Hazel Easthope

<https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/the-politics-and-practices-of-apartment-living>



From the Elgar Website: “The majority of people now live in cities and for many that means apartment living. Apartments are where we spend our time, make our homes, raise our families and invest our money. Apartment living requires that we try to get along with our neighbours and make decisions collectively about the management of our buildings. This book examines how different housing markets, development practices, planning regimes, legal structures and social and cultural norms affect people’s everyday experiences of apartment living.”

Book Launch Schedule

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon Rob Stokes, MP, will officially launch the books, with his representative, Acting Government Architect, Mr Ben Hewett, officiating at the launch.

17:30 Guests arrive, mingling, music and book viewings

18:00 Welcome from People and Place Cluster Co-Convenor Dr Christian Tietz
Minister's Video Message launching the books
Ben Hewett to speak on behalf of the Minister

18:30 Short reflections from the 2 book editors and authors

20:00 Function ends

Heartfelt Thanks!

Refreshments: **European Catering**

Music: **"Off the Rael's" Jazz Trio**, with BE's own IT whizz Raelene on drums!

General Assistance: **Dr Homa Rahmat**, BE Researcher

Book Showcase: **UNSW Bookshop - Emily Doherty & Russell Marsden**

Administrative Assistance: **Andrew Freney, City Futures Research Centre**

Cluster Member Books on Show

Planning Australia's Healthy Built Environments, 1st Edition; BY: Jennifer L. Kent and Susan Thompson

<https://www.routledge.com/Planning-Australias-Healthy-Built-Environments-1st-Edition/Kent-Thompson/p/book/9781138696365>

The Routledge Handbook of Planning for Health and Well-Being Shaping a sustainable and healthy future, 1st Edition; EDS: Hugh Barton, Susan Thompson, Sarah Burgess, Marcus Grant

<https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Handbook-of-Planning-for-Health-and-Well-Being-Shaping-a/Barton-Thompson-Burgess-Grant/p/book/9781138023307>

Place and Placelessness Revisited, 1st Edition; EDS: Robert Freestone, Edgar Liu

<https://www.routledge.com/Place-and-Placelessness-Revisited/Freestone-Liu/p/book/9780815381990>

Multigenerational Family Living: Evidence and Policy Implications from Australia, 1st Edition; EDS: Edgar Liu, Hazel Easthope

<https://www.routledge.com/Multigenerational-Family-Living-Evidence-and-Policy-Implications-from/Liu-Easthope/p/book/9781472476692>

Urban Squares as Places, Links and Displays. Successes and Failures, 1st Edition;
BY: Jon Lang, Nancy Marshall

<https://www.routledge.com/Urban-Squares-as-Places-Links-and-Displays-Successes-and-Failures/Lang-Marshall/p/book/9781138959293>

Designing Cities with Children and Young People: Beyond Playgrounds and Skate Parks, 1st Edition; EDS: Kate Bishop, Linda Corkery

<https://www.routledge.com/Designing-Cities-with-Children-and-Young-People-Beyond-Playgrounds-and/Bishop-Corkery/p/book/9781138890824>

Suburban Sexscapes: Geographies and regulation of the sex industry; EDS: Paul Maginn & Christine Steinmetz.

<https://www.routledge.com/SubUrban-Sexscapes-Geographies-and-Regulation-of-the-Sex-Industry-1st/Maginn-Steinmetz/p/book/9780415855280>

Placemaking Fundamentals for the Built Environment; EDS: Hes, Dominique, Hernandez-Santin, Cristina. 2020

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9789813296237>

NEXT STEPS...

Out of the seminar, the plan is the development of a proposal for an edited collection of papers in a special journal issue on the topic of Urban Density, Placemaking and Health. We hope you will be involved!