The Comparative Genetics of Cities

Agenda for Friday Morning May 21, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, University College London

9:00 am   **Registration and socializing**

9:30 am   **Welcome to UCL and the Meeting – Professor Malcolm Grant** (UCL Provost and President)

9:35 am   **Introductory comments – Andrew Perkins** (British Consulate, Los Angeles); **Jonathan Fink** (ASU)

9:45 am   **Urban comparisons using data, information, and decisions: An overview – Alan Penn** (UCL)

10:15 am   **London perspective**: Illustrations of cross-sector partnerships (10-15 minutes each)

> *Rich Dawson (Newcastle University) – The Tyndall Centre Urban Integrated Assessment Facility: Tools for analysing long term change in London, with an emphasis on flood risk*

> *Marcial Echenique (Cambridge) – Analysing mobility and sustainability at a regional scale*

11:00 am   **Phoenix perspective**: Phoenix-based collaborative vignettes (10-15 minutes each)

> *Matt Fraser (ASU) – Energy supply and economic development ("Energizing Phoenix"): Arizona State University helps City of Phoenix obtain $25M federal energy-efficiency project*

> *Jonathan Fink (ASU) – Urban water and decision-making ("Decision Center for a Desert City"): $12M NSF-funded project studies how managers allocate water in face of uncertainty*

> *Subhro Guhathakurta (ASU) – Land use, urban heat island, and pollution (MAG, ADEQ, & MCAQ): How government agencies and university partner to monitor air pollution and urban heat island*

11:45 am   **Comparative perspectives**: Panel giving feedback on London-Phoenix comparisons (10 minutes each)

> *Phil Christensen (ASU) – 100 Cities Remote Sensing and CitySat: How remote sensing can provide consistent, uniform information about the world's cities*

> *Shane Mitchell (Cisco Systems) – Connected Urban Development: Web-based tools for urban citizen engagement and sustainable outcomes*

> *Patricia McCarney (University of Toronto) – Global City Indicators Facility: The importance of consistent world-wide urban data collection*

> *David Satterthwaite (Int. Inst. for Environment and Development) – North-South Comparisons: Relevance of comparative analysis to sustainability issues in cities of the developing world*

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Agenda for Friday Afternoon May 21, 1:00 to 7:00 pm

Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, University College London

1:00 pm   **Lunch** (informal, buffet style)

1:30 pm   **"Technology Fair"** – 10-15 displays in a poster session style format

Brief introductions provided for each; group can then disperse and look at the individual exhibits

2:30 pm   **Break**

2:45 pm   **Forging a comparative urban agenda**: Panel discussion on emergent trends in urban observations, models, stakeholder engagement, decision-making, and policy-setting (15 minutes each):

Carlo Ratti *(MIT) – Integrating new types of urban observations*

Mike Batty (UCL) – *Extending the focus of urban modeling tools*

Carl Steinitz (Harvard/UCL) – *New methods for informing stakeholders and decision-makers*

Alex Nickson (Greater London Authority) – *Scientifically-informed urban policy*

4:00   **Private sector, NGO, and government perspectives on comparative approach** (5 minutes per person)

Cathy Pickering *(IBM) – Multinational corporate view*

Conor Riffle *(Carbon Disclosure Project) – Corporate-oriented NGO view*

Lela Prashad *(NiJeL) – Social justice oriented NGO view*

Paula Vandergert *(CABE) – Federal government based urban-sustainability view*

Rashmin Gunasekera *(Willis) – Impact of urban-ness in re/insurance decision-making*

4:45 pm   **Group discussion, conclusions and guidance for the weekend sessions**

5:30 pm   **Reception**

7:00 pm   **End**

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Agenda for Saturday Morning May 22, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Radisson Edwardian Grafton Hotel, Tottenham Court Road

Introduction

9:00 am   **Jonathan Fink** (ASU): The Comparative Genetics of Cities – Goals for the weekend

Session 1 – Mapping the Urban Genome, from Satellites to Cell Phones

9:15 am   **New observing techniques that can improve urban models and decision-making (10 minutes each)**

Phil Christensen (ASU): New directions in urban remote sensing

Alistair Ford (Newcastle)**:** Integrating urban remote sensing with GIS

Filippo Dal Fiore (MIT SENSEable City Lab): Cell phones and other ubiquitous, real-time sensors

Patricia McCarney (U Toronto): The promise and challenges of global urban indicators

10:15 am   **Group discussion of new observing techniques**

10:30 am   **Coffee break**

11:00 am   **Discussion – What do cities need to measure and why? Inputs for modelers and decision-makers**

Discussion session to generate lists of comparative urban measurements and visualizations.

11:45 am   **Group discussion on novel observations**

12:30   **Lunch**

The Comparative Genetics of Cities

Agenda for Saturday Afternoon May 22, 1:30 to 5:00 pm

Radisson Edwardian Grafton Hotel, Tottenham Court Road

1:30 pm   *Jim Hall* (Newcastle): Introduction to afternoon session

Session 2 – From City Genetic Profiling to Urban Diagnoses

1:45 pm   **Can urban models inform policy and become more useful to decision-makers? (10 minutes each)**

  Rob Pahle (ASU): Renewable energy and transport planning in the Decision Theater

  Sue Grimmond (Kings College): The role of urban climatology in urban policy

  Rajat Gupta (Oxford Brookes): Urban energy modeling to mitigate and adapt to climate change

2:45 pm   **Group discussion on ways to make modeling approaches more relevant and useful**

3:00 pm   **Coffee Break**

3:30 pm   **"Speed-dating" breakout session – How can cities best be compared?**

  The group will be divided into roughly ten clusters of four people each to address the questions: "What city do you work on (or are you from)?", "What if any comparative urban studies have you been involved with?" and "What lessons, skills, or model results would be most useful for you to learn about from other cities?" The clusters will be reconstituted several times during the course of an hour. At the end, the whole group will reassemble to discuss conclusions.

4:30 pm   **Results of breakout session – Compilation of results**

5:00 pm   **End of afternoon session**

  Dinner on your own

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Agenda for Sunday Morning May 23, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Radisson Edwardian Grafton Hotel, Tottenham Court Road

Session 3 – Scaling up from Well-run Cities to Global Well-being

9:00 am   *Mike Batty* (UCL): Reflections on Saturday and goals for Session 3

9:15 am   **Practical constraints on scientifically-based urban decision-making**

                    Alex Nickson (Greater London Auth.): Successful partnering in the Tyndall London climate study

                    Cathy Pickering (IBM): What it takes to make real cities become smarter

                    Paula Vandergert (CABE): Practical steps in the decarbonisation of cities in the UK

10:00 am   **North-South Dialogue: Relevance of high tech solutions to cities in developing countries**

                    Chandana Mitra (U Georgia): Remote sensing and urban climate adaptation in Kolkata

                    Diana Reckien (PIK): Sustainable Hyderabad: Technological inputs to climate adaptation

10:30 am   **Coffee break**

11:00 am   **Jim Hall: Discussion of 10 Challenges of Urban Sustainability**

11:45 am   **Jon Fink: Toward an Urban Genome Project?**

12:30 pm   **Workshop ends**