



RTPI

Royal Town Planning Institute

PLANNING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH NETWORK BULLETIN

**RTPI
Publication**

2011



RTPI champions the power of planning in creating prosperous places and vibrant communities. We have over 25000 members in the private, public, academic and voluntary sectors. Using our expertise and research we bring evidence and thought leadership to shape planning policies and thinking, putting the profession at the heart of society's big debates. We set the standards of planning education and professional behaviour that give our members, wherever they work in the world, a unique ability to meet complex economic, social and environmental challenges.

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PERN Bulletin 1/2011

ESRC Delivery Plan published

The ESRC has published its [Delivery Plan](#) for social science research in 2011-2015. Its **three priority areas** are economic performance and growth; influencing behaviour and informing interventions; and a vibrant and fair society. It also promotes investment in future research leaders early in their careers and enhanced collaboration with the private sector.

2011 Planning Convention

This year's convention will focus on '[Planning in the Big Society?](#)' and will take place from 14-15 June 2011 at the Grand Connaught Rooms, London. It will consider how planning will work in the Big Society; the implications for planning and planners; and how links can be made between localism and the national planning policy framework. Tickets are 475 +VAT, with substantial reductions for RTPI members, Licentiates and students.

Office of the Chief Statistician 2010-2011 Business Plan

The Scottish Government is requesting comments on the [Office of the Chief Statistician 2010-2011 Business Plan](#). It would particularly like to hear user views on emerging and changing priorities. E-mail your comments to statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk by the end of March 2011.

ESPON UK Workshop 14 February

London South Bank University will host the rescheduled ESPON UK Contact Points workshop cancelled on 3 December by the severe weather. The workshop will take place on 14 February 2011 in London and include presentations on the ESPON EDORA and FOCI projects, and shape a report on the UK implications of ESPON research.

Shaping the NPPF for England: RTPI discussion meeting

The Department of Communities and Local Government has announced a review of planning policy, designed to consolidate policy statements, circulars and guidance documents into a single consolidated [National Planning Policy Framework](#). The new Framework will be:

- localist in its approach, handing power back to local communities to decide what is right for them
- used as a mechanism for delivering Government objectives only where it is relevant, proportionate and effective to do so and
- user-friendly and accessible, providing clear policies on making robust local and neighbourhood plans and development management decisions

RTPI members are invited to join an informal discussion meeting with Matt Thomson, RTPI Head of Policy and Practice, 2-4pm on **Thursday 3 February** at the RTPI office in **London**. Tea and coffee will be provided. Places are limited; please book by emailing andrew.matheson@rtpi.org.uk.

Campaign for Social Science: regional roadshows

The [Campaign for Social Science](#) will be launched at the House of Lords on 20 January to promote UK social science to government and the general public. A series of regional roadshows has been arranged for Academicians and social scientists. The first three roadshows are:

1. North East region, **3 February 2011 3-4:30pm**. Venue: Northumbria University, The Gallery, Squires Building, Sandyford Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
2. North West region, **8 February 2011 12:30-2pm**. Venue: University of Liverpool, The Hub, Foresight Centre, 1 Brownlow Street, Liverpool.
3. Yorkshire and Humberside, **9 February 2011 12:30-2pm**. Venue: University of Sheffield, Firth Hall in Firth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield.

Senior figures from the Academy will lead the discussion at each event.

The changing collective imaginaries of aviation

The Centre for Theoretical Studies is holding a seminar on The changing collective imaginaries of aviation as part of its ESRC-funded seminar series. The event takes place on 21 January 2011 and would be of interest to transport planners, however places are limited. For more information e-mail [Sian Savage](mailto:Sian.Savage@cts.ac.uk).

Calls for papers

Territory and environment: from representations to action

The [International conference on territory and environment](#) takes place in Tours from 8-9 December 2011. Papers are welcomed, particularly from the fields of public policy and action, natural resources regulation and ecological inequalities. The deadline for submission of proposals is 28 February 2011.

Other publications

Cities and climate change: an urgent agenda

A new publication by the World Bank discusses the link between climate change and cities. '[Cities and climate change: an urgent agenda](#)' outlines the advantages cities have in confronting climate change and explains how organisations can provide support to cities on climate change issues.

Dialogues in urban and regional planning

Volume four of the [Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning](#) series has been published. Papers included address subjects such as planning and governance in Zimbabwe, safety issues in urban spaces and an analysis of transportation policies in France.

Other events

Flood risk assessment and brownfield regeneration

The next Catchment Change Network ([CCN](#)) flood risk workshop takes place on 15 February 2011. It aims to provide an overview of the impact and new duties associated with the Flood and Water Management Act and explore the topic from a variety of practitioner perspectives. [Registration is now open](#).

Participatory Ecosystem approaches workshop

The Natural Capital Initiative is organising an [open forum](#) in London on 16 February 2011 to draw together lessons from projects that make citizens more central in choices about land use and the natural environment. The event will be participatory with an emphasis on shared learning. Participants will have the opportunity to set the agenda on issues for discussion and help consolidate lessons for policy-makers, as well as organisations working directly with citizens and communities.

Urban River Corridors and Sustainable Living Agendas (URSULA) Open Seminar

The fifth lecture in the [URSULA](#) seminar series will be held on 16 February 2011 in Sheffield. Carl Steinitz will present the lecture and discuss '[A framework for geodesign and several ways of designing](#)'.

Geographical data visualisation and geodemographics

A [National Centre for Research Methods workshop](#) taking place on 9 March 2011 will demonstrate the use of geodemographic information about neighbourhoods through examples of public service delivery, consider the advances in the geoweb and show how a geodemographic classification can be applied to data. [Register to attend](#).

End-use energy demand workshop

The EPSRC is holding a workshop to shape the research agenda in end-use energy demand of the [Research Councils UK Energy Programme](#). It is encouraging multidisciplinary participation with potential participants asked to indicate how their expertise can contribute. Anyone eligible to apply for funding from the RCUK Energy Programme, EPSRC, NERC, ESRC, BBSRC or STFC can apply. The event takes place in London on 23 March 2011 with a deadline for application of 18 February. [More information is available on the event website](#).

Urban Development 2050: Resource efficiency through city planning

The [Urban Development 2050](#) conference takes place in Vienna on 3 May 2011. The event is part of the Sustainable Urban Metabolism for Europe ([SUME](#)) research project and will present a methodology to estimate the impact on energy use, the resource impact assessment of large urban development projects and a number of European urban development policies.

Rethinking development in an age of scarcity and uncertainty

The [13th EADI Conference](#) will be held in cooperation with the Development Studies Association. The conference takes place from 19-22 September 2011 in York and seeks to revisit and rethink the development paradigm in all its dimensions in an era of plurality, uncertainty and change.

Climate change in cities and city regions time to adapt?

HafenCity University Hamburg is holding a Summer School from 26-30 September 2011 on '[Climate change in cities and city regions - time to adapt?](#)'. The event is aimed at Masters students, researchers and practitioners and will consider the issue of climate change and adaptation measures with a focus on rural and urban areas around the Elbe estuary.

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New perspectives on planning theory

The Department of Planning and Architecture at the University of the West of England is hosting a planning conference on '[New Perspectives on Planning Theory](#)'. The event takes place on 12 May 2011 and will bring together new and established researchers to discuss theoretical challenges and identify new theoretical perspectives within planning. Please send abstracts (max. 200 words) to [Katie McClymont](#) or [Diane Hopkins](#) by 1 March 2011.

Campaign for Social Science

The [Academy of Social Sciences](#) launched its [Campaign for Social Science](#) on 20 January 2011. The Campaign aims to raise awareness of social science and its benefits to society and the economy. It will lobby MPs, work to place social science stories in the media and encourage practitioners of the discipline to publicise their work and become popular communicators. [Read more about the Campaign](#).

Insurgencies: essays in planning theory

A new title in the [RTPI Library Series](#) has been published. '[Insurgencies: essays in planning theory](#)' is a collection of John Friedmans most important and influential essays. It covers subjects such as transactive planning, radical planning, the concept of the Good City, civil society and rethinking poverty.

Social Science Space

[Social Science Space](#) is an online social network which brings together social scientists to explore, share and shape big issues in social science. The site provides blog articles, a discussion forum and resource centre for social science materials.

Delivering better places in Scotland

The University of Glasgow has worked with the Scottish Centre for Regeneration, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Architecture and Design Scotland to create a new good practice guide. The guide, entitled '[Delivering better places in Scotland: A guide to learning from broader experience](#)', aims to improve stakeholders abilities to deliver better places and help them identify good practice.

Relu programme targets Big Society

Professor Philip Lowe, Director of the UK Research Councils Rural Economy and Land Use Programme (Relu) has urged Local Government to make more use of its research in promoting localism and the Big Society. He emphasised that Good planning is obviously key and communities must be engaged at the outset, rather than as an afterthought. This requires appropriate and accessible information and it is important to have the right tools. Relu's latest policy and practice note '[The Big Society: helping communities take action](#)' can be downloaded from the Relu website. For more information contact anne.liddon@ncl.ac.uk, telephone 0191 222 6903.

European Research Infrastructure Consortium

The legal framework for a [European Research Infrastructure Consortium](#) (ERIC) came into force in August 2009, and now the first formal request to set up an ERIC has been received by the European Commission. Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany and the Netherlands are joining forces to build [SHARE-ERIC](#), an infrastructure of micro data collected to understand individual and societal ageing.

Valuing Nature Network

A new [interdisciplinary network for valuing biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural resource use](#), sponsored by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) for the Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) project has been set up. The Valuing Nature Network aims to support partnerships involved in scoping, developing and promoting research capacity in nature valuation. [Find out more and register your interest](#).

Latest ICMA | Amobilife newsletter

The latest [ICMA | Amobilife newsletter](#) (No. 4) is now available, which focuses on the projects contribution to sustainable transport management. The Improving Connectivity and Mobility Access (ICMA) project aims to create the first transnational platform for sharing and transferring attractive and effective alternatives to using the private car for the first and last miles of a journey.

Call for Papers

UK Energy Research Centre call for nominations

The UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) holds its seventh annual [Summer School](#) from 26 June-1 July 2011 at Warwick University. It has been designed to give first and second year PhD students an understanding of energy systems as a whole and of pathways to low-carbon and resilient energy systems. Applications are welcomed from those engaged in energy-related research, and must be submitted by 5pm GMT on 17 March 2011. [More information is available on the event web page.](#)

New Urbanism and Smart Transport International Conference 2011

Abstracts are invited on current projects or planning activities, research findings, emerging issues or best practices related to the interface between New Urbanism and Smart Transport. The [New Urbanism and Smart Transport 2011 International Conference](#) takes place in Perth, Australia on 26 and 27 September 2011. For more information on the event [visit the conference website](#). The deadline for submitting abstracts is 31 March 2011.

Other Publications

New Labour and planning

Philip Allmendinger has written a new book called ['New Labour and Planning: from New Right to New Left'](#) which looks at the changing nature of development and planning over the Labour era. It also reflects upon what such changes mean for planning, and the possible future trajectories of reform and spatial governance. More details can be found on the [publisher's website](#).

The purpose of planning

A new book by Yvonne Rydin considers how the planning system works, what it can and cant do, and how it should evolve to meet the challenges of the 21st century. ['The Purpose of Planning: creating sustainable towns and cities'](#) reflects on issues such as conservation, NIMBYism and affordable housing to understand the purpose of planning. More information is available on the [publisher's website](#).

The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity

The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity study (TEEB) has produced a publication which provides knowledge and guidance to re-evaluate our economic system and drive forward the biodiversity conservation agenda. [The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity](#), edited by Pushpam Kumar, is aimed at researchers, professionals, policy-makers and researchers involved in applied economics and business, biodiversity and nature conservation.

Other events

A property owning democracy fact or fiction?

The next event in the British Library's Myths and Realities series will consider the topic of ['A property owning democracy: fact or fiction?'](#). The event takes place on **1 February 2011** and will focus on the implications of the growth of home ownership and the future of social housing. [Book a ticket](#).

Royal Geographical Society policy seminar

As part of its Environment and Society Forum, the Royal Geographical Society is holding a policy seminar in London on 17 February 2011. ['A Perfect Storm Ahead: geographical perspectives on food, water and energy security to 2030'](#) will consider questions such as will climate change cause the locations of our key centres for food production to shift? [Find out more about the event](#).

Resilience: friend or foe?

A round table event hosted by the Governance and Sustainability Programme is being held on 24 February 2011 at the University of Westminster. Resilience has become a key discourse in political and environmental circles and has posed a challenge to previously hegemonic concepts like sustainability. During the event, leading scholars in the field will debate the disadvantages and opportunities of resilience as a governance strategy. [Register to attend](#).

Natural Connections conference

A conference entitled ['Natural Connections: achieving more with less across rural and urban landscapes'](#) will be held on 17 March 2011 in London. It will focus on natural and semi natural networks that are managed, enhanced, created and designed to have multiple functions and deliver multiple benefits for people and nature. [View the event programme and register](#).

Mapping vulnerability to fuel poverty

An Interdisciplinary Cluster on Energy Systems, Equity and Vulnerability ([InCluESEV](#)) event takes place on 22 February 2011 in Birmingham. Mapping vulnerability to fuel poverty will explore how those vulnerable to fuel poverty can be identified from afar and consider which top-down indicators could be used to detect those who may suffer from insufficient or unaffordable domestic heating. Contributions from participants are welcomed in advance. Contact [Dan Vanderhorst](#) for more information.

Stockholm Environment Institute Annual Seminar 2011

The [Stockholm Environment Institute at York](#) (SEI) holds its first Annual Seminar on 24 February 2011 on the subject of '[Beyond prosperity: equality and ecological responsibility in an age of austerity](#)'. The event is free to attend, but places must be booked. Contact [Emma Wright](#) (telephone 01904 322897) for more information and tickets.

Conservation conflicts: strategies for coping with a changing world

The [Aberdeen Centre for Environmental Sustainability](#), in collaboration with [Relu](#), is holding a conference which will reflect upon the main theories and current approaches to conservation conflicts so that a new integrated way of understanding and managing conflict might be developed. The event will take place from 19-24 August 2011 in Aberdeen and you can now [register online to attend](#). Early Bird offer closes on **18 February**.

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Transatlantic planning, regeneration and the environment in an era of retrenchment

This years [Transatlantic Studies Conference](#) will be held at the University of Dundee from 11-14 July 2011. Papers are welcomed on general topics related to transatlantic themes on planning, regeneration and the environment, as well as those investigating how transatlantic jurisdictions are coping with these tasks in light of reductions in public sector funding. Abstracts of 300 words and CVs should be sent by 30 April 2011 to [Tony Jackson](#) or [Deepak Gopinath](#) and more information can be found on the [Transatlantic Studies Association website](#).

Working with the Localism Agenda implications for housing and planning professionals

LondonSouth Bank University is holding a conference on 7 April 2011 which will consider the impacts and implications of the localism legislation. A number of speakers from the legal, housing and planning professions will provide their thoughts, and three additional seminars will be held following the event focused on key themes from the conference. Visit the website for [more details and booking information](#).

Updating the evidence base on English cities

A new publication produced for the Department of Communities and Local Government provides an update to the 2006 State of the English Cities report. ['Updating the evidence base on English cities'](#) considers new developments in the most critical urban issues, updates key indicators relating to city performance, and identifies gaps in the evidence base to support future policy making.

UK Architecture, Planning and Built Environment Research Assessment Panel Appointed

Following the appointment, at the end of 2010, of Professor Alan Penn to chair the panel assessing the quality and impact of architecture, planning and built environment research in UK universities, the list of 22 panel members has now been confirmed. RTPI members David Adams, Simin Davoudi, Cecilia Wong, Will McKee and Katie Williams will be representing the planning discipline in the panels work.

Infrastructure planning and delivery: meshing the local and sub-regional

A seminar organised by UCL aims to review how issues of funding, governance and devolution are being dealt with at and between the local and sub-national levels. ['Infrastructure planning and delivery: meshing the local and sub-regional'](#) will consider questions such as will Local Enterprise Partnerships create new governance approaches that can go beyond the partnerships that have been common over the last ten years? and how will the Governments interests be defined? The seminar takes place at UCL on 15 April 2011. [The programme and registration form can be found here](#).

Share your ideas to develop a code for high rise homes

Muhammad Riaz Akbar is a PhD research student at the University of Ulster researching Sustainable technologies, environmental subsidies, end users needs and business opportunities in the delivery of zero carbon homes. He aims to produce a framework of sustainability factors to enable the development of sustainable tall buildings. If you have knowledge in this field and would like to participate in this research, please take a moment to [complete Riaz's questionnaire](#).

Link between climate and ancient societies discovered

An EU-funded study has found that periods of climatic instability often coincided with turbulent times in European history. Researchers found that humid and mild summers paralleled fast political and cultural growth of Medieval Europe, while a poor climate may have played a part in triggering the economic crisis in the 14th century. [Read more](#).

Change! Tool

The [Change! Tool](#) is a project management instrument that has been developed by WWF-UK and CAG Consultants Ltd to measure the impact of community engagement on behaviour change. The tool provides a simple questionnaire that monitors changes in participants behaviour and enables practitioners to evaluate the impacts of their policies and programmes. [Find out more](#).

National Centre for Research Methods e-bulletin

The February 2011 issue of the [National Centre for Research Methods \(NCRM\) e-bulletin](#) is now online. It includes information on new research methodologies in social science and highlights a number of events that would be of interest to those involved in social science research.

Planning under threat: whats worth fighting for?

The Planners Network UK (PNUK) is holding an event on 15 March 2011 in London which will consider how planning and planners should respond to the Governments attack on local government and public services. Email [Tim Marshall](#) or [Andy Inch](#) for further details.

Calls for Papers

Modelling forest ecosystems

Applications are now open for the [COST ACTION FP0603](#) Spring School which is being held in Kaprun, Austria from 9-13 May 2011. The purpose of the event is to bring together PhD students and Post Docs who have an interest in ecosystem modelling to discuss existing models and to try to solve some of the associated problems. The application deadline is 20 March 2011 and [further details can be found here](#).

Shaping climate-friendly transport in Europe

The [REACT International Conference on Climate-Friendly Transport](#) will be held in Belgrade, Serbia from 16-17 May 2011. The conference theme is Shaping climate-friendly transport in Europe: Key findings and future directions and will focus on the future research priorities and policy interventions in climate-friendly transport. The deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended until 15 March 2011 [Register online](#).

Other Publications

International review of behaviour change initiatives

The Scottish Government has published an [International review of behaviour change initiatives](#). The document considers a number of behaviour initiatives that have focused on reducing the carbon intensity of consumption practices. It aims to promote understanding of different approaches to behaviour change and explore the transferability of these initiatives to the Scottish context.

New European policy brief Polinares

A policy brief has been published outlining [Polinares](#), an EU-funded research project exploring global challenges in the competition for natural resources. The project aims to propose new approaches to collaborative solutions to these conflicts using expertise from a wide range of disciplines including political science, economics, geology and engineering. [Read the policy brief](#).

Multi-criteria assessment of ecosystems and biodiversity

A working paper written by Stanislav Edward Shmelev has been published which summarises research carried out to develop a new biodiversity assessment method. The methodology takes into consideration multiple stakeholder perspectives and will be of particular value for developing countries where conflicts of interest regarding ecosystems and biodiversity are common and often involve numerous stakeholder groups. [Read the paper here](#).

Measuring our progress: the power of well-being

A report by the [New Economics Foundation](#) (NEF) discusses how well-being can be measured and how the data can be used to generate more effective policy-making. There is increasing interest in using information on well-being to evaluate current policies, provide better evidence of the likely impacts of new policies, and identify inequalities in well-being. [Read the report](#).

Grassroots Grants interim evaluation

[Grassroots Grants](#) is a government-funded programme that aims to support the voluntary sector in building stronger, more active communities. The interim evaluation report has been published which shows the positive effects of the grants, particularly to small under the radar local groups. [Have a look at the report](#).

Planning healthy and child-friendly communities

The audio presentations, transcripts of keynote speeches, slides and papers presented at the [48th International Making Cities Liveable](#) e-conference are now available online. The conference focused on providing guidance for the development of healthy and child-friendly planning policies and included presentations on Healthy transportation planning and liveable streets and Children and the urban environment.

Flood risk assessment and brownfield regeneration

The [Catchment Change Network's \(CCN\)](#) event on 15 February 2011 focused on flood risk assessment and brownfield regeneration. [Presentations are now available online](#) and cover impacts of legislation, contaminant mobilisation concerns and an update on the development of guidelines for flood risk mapping.

Other events

European educational research quality indicators

The [European educational research quality indicators](#) (EERQI) project holds its final conference from 15-16 March 2011 in Brussels. The project aims to reinforce and enhance the global visibility and competitiveness of European educational research and improve current standards of research quality indicators in the social sciences and humanities. [Register online to attend](#).

INTERREG IV A 2 Seas cooperation fair

The final [INTERREG IV A 2 Seas](#) networking event will take place on 29 and 30 March 2011 at Brighton racecourse. It aims to give participants the opportunity to present their ideas or find a project proposal they are interested in for the 8th or 9th call for proposals. Visit the event website for [more information and register by 10 March to attend](#).

Planning for people

A symposium organised by the Finnish Society for Housing and Planning and the Finnish Anthropological Society will consider the common ground between planning and anthropology. The event takes place on 4 May 2011 in Helsinki and will bring together speakers from both disciplines and work towards a deeper understanding of qualitative research in planning. [The programme and registration form can be found on the event web page](#).

EcoMobility 2011

The [World Congress on Mobility for Sustainable Cities](#) takes place in Changwon, Republic of Korea from 21-23 October 2011. The conference will provide fresh perspectives on sustainable urban mobility and focus on the subjects of bike sharing and emerging technologies. [More details are available on the event website](#).

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Special meeting of the College of Learned Societies

The College of Learned Societies is holding an event at the Royal Statistical Society in London on 31 March 2011 to discuss the impact of Higher Education funding cuts on postgraduate social science training in the UK. The event is open to all Learned Society members and interested Academicians.

Email [Madeleine Barrows](mailto:Madeleine.Barrows@rstat.org) by 25 March 2011 to register.

2011 UK/Ireland Planning Research Conference

The [UK/Ireland Planning Research Conference](#) takes place from 12-14 September 2011 in Birmingham. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 25 March 2011 and [event details, registration and abstract submission information is available on the conference website](#).

Launch of the Sustainable Behaviours Research Groups

The [Sustainable Behaviours Research Groups](#) are being launched in Edinburgh on 17 June 2011. The groups are conducting a range of research on sustainable behaviours with the aim of contributing to effective policy making. The event will also see the launch of the [International Review of Behaviour Change Initiatives](#) which was recently published by the Scottish Government. To reserve your place, contact [Jonathan Waite](mailto:Jonathan.Waite@scotland.nhs.uk) (telephone 0131 244 0093).

Update from the Campaign for Social Science

Professor Tony Crook has provided a progress report on the [Campaign for Social Science](#) (CfSS) which was launched in January 2011. The campaign aims to promote the social sciences for the public benefit, and its plan focuses on four areas:

1. Monitoring the cuts in universities and the policy and practice communities
2. Partnership working, including member Learned Societies, the British Academy, and the Deans of Arts, Social Science and Humanities in the UK
3. Media activity, both responding to news and other items in the media and pro-actively placing stories, including in the blogosphere
4. Influencing work, including meetings with key influencers and decision makers such as the Commons Committee on Science and Technology, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Science, and the ESRC. [Read Professor Crook's full update](#).

New Eltis website launched

The European Commission has just unveiled the new [Eltis web portal](#), which is aimed at European professionals working in the arena of urban transport, environment, energy and health. The new website provides case studies and news from across Europe on urban mobility projects and acts as an observatory for those involved in such projects. [View the website](#).

2012 birth cohort study

A pioneering study of babies and young children has been awarded 24 million from the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS). The study will be carried out by researchers at UCL and will track the growth, health and well-being of over 90, 000 babies and their families, providing insights into the development and life circumstances of a new generation of children. [Read more](#).

Heriot-Watt University opens new research institutes

The School of the Built Environment at Heriot-Watt University has announced the creation of three new research institutes: The Institute for Housing, Urban and Real Estate Research; the Institute for Building and Urban Design; and the Institute of Infrastructure and Environment. The Institute for Housing, Urban and Real Estate Research will be officially launched on 4 May 2011 to coincide with Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick's inaugural lecture on Homelessness, human rights and legal rights: does Scotland provide a model for Europe and beyond?. If you are interested in attending the launch and/or lecture please contact [Vanessa Kind](mailto:Vanessa.Kind@hw.ac.uk) by 22 April 2011.

Local Authorities and Research Councils Initiative website

The Local Authorities and Research Councils Initiative (LARCI) brings together the UK's Research Councils and all the key Local Government organisations to build research and development capacity that serves local government policy and practice. [LARCI's website](#) has recently been improved and provides access to its services and related research.

EuroOCEAN 2010 conference video

A video on the EuroOCEAN 2010 conference was published last week on the ECs Research and Innovation website. The event provided a forum for the European marine science community to consider, discuss and respond to new policy developments and achievements since the previous (2007) EuroOCEAN conference. The ten minute video includes context and interviews from the conference. [Watch the video](#).

Britains landscapes and the role of biodiversity

A team from the University of York has been commissioned to carry out a UK-wide study of the role biodiversity plays in the ecosystems provided by Britains landscapes. The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service Sustainability (BESS) programme will run for six years and work with teams across the country to develop a better understanding of the critical levels of diversity required to maintain essential ecosystems and their by-products. [Find out more about the project](#).

Calls for Papers

Planning for health: at the forefront of interdisciplinary research

Abstracts are invited for a session of the [UK/Ireland Planning Research Conference](#) which takes place from 12-14 September 2011 in Birmingham. The session will focus on the research challenges arising from the integration of health and planning research. Submissions should demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach to planning for health research in relation to questions such as: which health outcomes can be attributed to features of the built environment or its management?; how do the cost-benefits of such features or practices relate to one another or alternative health interventions?; and how do we ensure that these health outcomes are realised now and sustained in the future? Abstracts should be submitted by **25 March 2011**. Further information can be found on the [conference website](#).

Energy and people: futures, complexity and challenges

Papers are invited for a conference organised by the Environmental Change Institute on '[Energy and people: futures, complexity and challenges](#)'. The conference will be held in Oxford from 20-21 September 2011 and will focus on the relationship between society and energy use. Papers must be submitted by **4 April 2011** and can explore linkages between energy and wider themes such as equity; consumption patterns; communication and mobility; and immigration. [More information is available on the Environmental Change Institute's website](#).

Other publications

Mainstreaming sustainable development

The Coalition Government has recently published its vision for sustainable development along with a package of measures by which to deliver it. '[Mainstreaming Sustainable Development](#)' outlines the Governments commitment to lead by example and embed sustainable development in policy, with Defra taking a key role. [Read the report](#).

Early findings from Understanding Society

The first findings from the worlds largest longitudinal study of households have been published. '[Understanding Society](#)' provides a comprehensive snapshot of 40, 000 UK households with statistics on issues such as life satisfaction, unemployment and well-being. [Read the report](#).

New reports from the Climate Change Behaviours Research Programme

Three new reports from the Climate Change Behaviours Research Programme (CCBRP) have been published. An [Update Report](#) on the CCBRP has been produced which sets out emerging learning from the programme and gives details of future projects, while a [working paper on Changing Household Energy Behaviours](#) presents key findings from a review of policy approaches to reducing domestic energy consumption. The third report provides three [case studies of climate change fund projects](#) to explore enablers and barriers to low carbon behaviour.

Other Events

GeoDATA 2011

The next [GeoDATA](#) event takes place in London on 30 March 2011. The programme draws together leading professionals from the geographic industry to demonstrate how cost savings can be achieved through sharing spatial data and efficiency can be improved. [Further details are available on the event web page](#), including information on further GeoDATA events around the UK.

The governance of eco-city innovation

The first in a series of five one-day events will bring together researchers, policy experts and practitioners to discuss contemporary international eco-city developments in theory and practice. The event will consider the historical evolution of eco-cities and will discuss recent innovations and new developments such as Masdar and Treasure Island. ['The governance of eco-city innovation'](#) takes place on 20 May 2011 in London and the [programme and registration details are available online](#).

Dealing with diversity in 21st century urban settings

The Sociology of Urban and Regional Development, International Sociological Association (Research Committee 21) Conference on ['The struggle to belong: dealing with diversity in 21st century urban settings'](#) is being held from 7-9 July 2011 in Amsterdam. The [event programme is now available](#) and registration opens on 16 March 2011.

Green energy for towns and cities 2011

A conference being held in Reykjavik, Iceland from 28-30 September 2011 aims to give town, city and regional planners involved in reducing carbon emissions in their authorities information on green applications such as the costs of implementation and returns on investment. [More details and booking information](#).

PERN Bulletin 5/2011

New issue of Planning Theory and Practice available

The latest issue of [Planning Theory and Practice](#) is now online. This edition features an editorial by Jenny Crawford and an article by Neil Harris which considers planning regulation from a Foucaultian perspective. [Read the issue here.](#)

You can also now access some of the most frequently downloaded articles from planning and urban studies journals for free. A selection of seventy-five articles from publications including *International Planning Studies*, *Planning Theory and Practice*, *European Planning Studies* and *Regional Studies* can be [downloaded here](#).

Campaign for Social Science Roadshows date alteration

The Campaign for Social Science (CfSS) Roadshow for London has been rearranged, and will now take place on 27 June 2011 at UCL. The Roadshow will be introduced by the Provost, Professor Malcolm Grant, and include presentations by Professor Cary Cooper and Professor Tony Crook. Further details can be found on the [CfSS website](#).

UN Habitat Partner University Initiative meeting

UN Habitat and the University of Westminster will host the first global workshop of the Habitat Partner University Initiative from 16-18 May 2011. The meeting aims to lay the foundation for a sustainable Initiative, and agree on the priority areas of the Initiative in the fields of education, training, research and knowledge management. If you are interested in participating, contact the secretariat at hpu@unhabitat.org, or [look at the website](#) for more information.

Editors needed for two Society for Research into Higher Education journals

The Society for Research into Higher Education is looking for editors for two of its main journals: *Studies in Higher Education* and *Research into Higher Education Abstracts*. Editors would have responsibility for initiating and overseeing publications to their completion, ensuring the highest standards and adherence to publication timetables. [More information is available here.](#)

Current research on localism

The RTPI is interested to hear of any recent research papers or projects relevant to the Localism agenda. If you are working on any research in this field, please let us know by emailing research@rtpi.org.uk, as it would help us greatly in our policy work at the Institute.

RTPI Planning Awards 2011

The RTPI Planning Awards 2011 are now open for entries in all categories, including Planning Consultancy of the Year and Young Planner of the Year. The Education Award has three categories for excellence in planning education; outstanding student achievement in planning education; and commitment to lifelong learning and professional development. The closing date is 31 May 2011 (or 15 July 2011 for student entries) and all entries should be submitted online at <http://www.rtpiplanningawards.com>.

Planners appointed to Panel to assess UK planning research

Following the appointment of Professor Alan Penn of University College London to chair the panel responsible for assessing the quality and impact of UK university research in architecture, planning and the built environment, the members of the panel have been announced. Five of the twenty-three panel members are RTPI members: Professor David Adams, Professor Simin Davoudi, Professor Cecilia Wong, Professor Katie Williams and William McKee, Chairman Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation. [See the full list here.](#)

St Andrews Sustainability Institute knowledge network

The St Andrews Sustainability Institute at the University of St Andrews is aiming to develop a cross UK knowledge network to link up universities with an active research, teaching and/or knowledge exchange capacity in sustainable development. E-mail: sasi@st-andrews.ac.uk for more information, or take a look at the [Institute's website](#).

New planning Academician appointed

The RTPI congratulates Professor Mark Tewdwr-Jones, Bartlett School of Planning, University College London, who has been newly elected as an Academician at the Academy of Social Sciences.

Other publications

JRF Report on Climate Change Vulnerability

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Vulnerability to heatwaves and drought: adaptation to climate change* by a team from consultancy AEA and the University of Surrey. It highlights the concept of vulnerability to climate change within the context of social justice, and examines two case studies of adaptation in south west England. [Download the report here.](#)

Latest edition of *Society Now* published

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has produced its latest edition of *Society Now*, which includes the latest social science research being undertaken by the UK's leading social scientists. This issue includes news on research into the educational gap between rich and poor children in the UK, and an interview with Professor Judith Rees on local, national and global initiatives to tackle climate change. [Read it online.](#)

Other events

Localism: embracing the culture of community-led planning

This event run by Kingston University intends to highlight the opportunities that current changes can bring to the planning profession. The workshop takes place on 10 May 2011 and sessions will discuss the potential contribution of planners for delivering successful community involvement. [Visit the website for more information and registration details.](#)

New perspectives on planning theory

This one-day conference at UWE, in Bristol, aims to provide an engaging and supportive environment for discussing the latest developments in planning theory. The event takes place on 12 May 2011 and further details and registration information can be found on the [conference website.](#)

Green and blue space adaptation for urban areas and eco-towns project final conference

The Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco-towns ([GRaBS](#)) project holds its final conference on 8 June 2011 in London. The conference will focus on how green and blue infrastructure can help areas adapt to projected climate change scenarios, and consider the development of a Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment Tool. To book a place at the event, contact [Michael McLean](#) or call +44 207 930 8903.

The future of UK waste policy

A seminar organised by the Westminster Energy, Environment and Transport Forum (WEET) is being held on 9 June 2011. The event will consider the impact of the Government's Review of Waste Policy and consider the strategies that need to be pursued in order to deliver the Government's aim of a zero waste economy by 2020. [Find out more or book a place online.](#)

Planning Research Conference

The annual [Planning Research Conference](#), organised by UK/Ireland planning schools is being hosted by the University of Birmingham and Birmingham City University from 12-14 September 2011. Keynote speakers include Kelvin Macdonald and Simin Davoudi. The theme is *Planning Resilient Communities in Challenging Times*. It will explore the role and remit of planning in responding to climate change and associated environmental issues; financial constraints, access to credit and economic uncertainty; political and security disorders; the effects of social polarisation and migration upon community cohesion; and, challenges to existing patterns of governance and leadership styles. [Visit the conference webpage for more information.](#)

PERN Bulletin 6/2011

Do you value the contribution that the social sciences and humanities make to research and policy in the UK or the European Union? If so, your help is needed now.

The European Commission presented a [Green Paper](#) on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU research and innovation funding in February, outlining proposals for future funding, and is in the final days of consultation on the document. RTPI is preparing its own response, but *numbers matter*: apparently more than half of researchers in the EU work in the area of social sciences and the humanities, yet they are not proportionately represented in responses so far, which could mean that officials would find it hard to make a case for future European funding for research on these subjects.

The British Academy and its equivalents in other Member States appeal for researchers to speak up for their discipline. The consultation process closes on **20 May 2011**. [Respond to the consultation here](#). If you would like to see some background material and a sample response, please [email](#) back for a briefing.

PERN Bulletin 7/2011

Planning Convention: planning in the Big Society

[Speakers](#) at "Planning in the Big Society" include the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP (Minister for Big Society, Planning Policy and Decentralisation), Jonathon Porritt (Forum for the Future), Shona Dunn (DCLG), Professor Robert D Bullard (Clark Atlanta University) and Sarah Whitney (CB Richard Ellis). Make sure you don't miss this packed two days of information and inspiration - all delegates will be entered into a draw to attend the RTPI Parliamentary Reception on 15 June. [Book your place now](#).

ESRC festival of social science

The [ESRC festival of social science](#) takes place from 29 October-5 November 2011. The festival offers an insight into the UK's leading social science research and how it influences social, economic and political lives. Applications are welcome from those interested in holding an event during the festival. [Find out more on the festival website](#).

Request for help

The RTPI is currently preparing a new CPD course on development economics and is looking for experts in the subject to peer review the course. This review would need to take place this week (w/c 23 May). If you can help, or would like to know more, please contact [Francesca Demontis](#).

Making cities and regions more resilient

[Cliff Hague's latest blog](#) focuses on the idea of resilience. Resilience is the ability to absorb change, and the concept can help in managing and reducing the risks to cities and regions of climate change and natural hazards. [Read Cliff's blog here](#)

Climate adaptation knowledge exchange

The [Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange](#) (CAKE) aims to build an online knowledge base for managing natural systems in the face of rapid climate change. [CAKE's website](#) offers an interactive platform for practitioners to share knowledge, strategies, case studies and tools on climate change, conservation and adaptation.

Calls for papers

Contested regions: territorial politics and policy

The [Regional Studies Association](#) (RSA) Winter Conference takes place in London on 25 November 2011. The focus is contested regions: territorial politics and policy and papers are welcomed on a number of themes. Abstracts should be submitted by 4 July 2011. More details and registration information can be found on the [conference web page](#).

Localism: sufficient and fit for purpose?

A [Regional Studies Association](#) (RSA) one day conference on localism is being held on 3 November 2011 in Manchester. Sessions will focus on issues such as the politics and governance of territorial development under localism and sub-national economic development and localism. Papers are welcomed on a number of themes. More details can be found on the [conference web page](#).

Smart and sustainable built environment

Papers are invited for inclusion in the forthcoming journal [Smart and Sustainable Built Environment](#) (SASBE) which is being launched in 2012. The journal aims to inform research and practice on integrated approaches to developing smart and sustainable built environments. Coverage will include sustainable buildings and infrastructure and smart and healthy working and living environments. For more information, take a look at the [journal web page](#) or email collections@emeraldinsight.com.

Other publications

Mapping child poverty in the UK

The Campaign to End Child Poverty has published the first instalment of a two-part report providing a [child poverty map of the UK](#). It provides local authority and constituency information for England.

Although progress has been made, the map shows that, in some areas of the UK, the goal of ending child poverty by 2020 remains particularly challenging.

Other events

Philosophy and methodology of interdisciplinary research for sustainability

An afternoon seminar at the University of Bristol takes place on 9 June 2011. It will explore the potential for developing thinking on interdisciplinary research with a sustainability focus. Find out more on the [seminar website](#) or email [Haris Shekeris](mailto:Haris.Shekeris@bristol.ac.uk).

Catchment Change Network conference

The 2011 [Catchment Change Network](#) (CCN) conference is being held on 5 July in Solihull, and will consider guidelines for good practice as a way of encouraging stakeholder involvement across catchment management. [Register online](#) for a place at the conference, or [have a look at the programme](#).

Food security and sustainable water supplies

The third in the N8 Debate series looks at food security and sustainable water supplies. The debate takes place on 14 July 2011 in Stockbridge, Yorkshire, and will examine the possible effects of increasing pressure on water availability and the steps needed to maintain future water supplies. [More information is available on the website](#).

Urban rivers and sustainable living agendas conference

The [urban rivers and sustainable living agendas](#) (URSULA) project holds its final conference from 17-18 November 2011 in Sheffield. The project investigates the sustainable development of urban river corridors, and the final conference will highlight its research outputs. Key speakers include Matt Kondolf, Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning (LAEP) at the University of California and Simon Ogden, Head of Development at Sheffield City Council. Visit the [URSULA website](#) for details or email [Jenny Chambers](mailto:Jenny.Chambers@sheffield.ac.uk).

PERN Special Bulletin 8/2011

Localism? The Coalitions emerging agenda for planning

A free conference organised by the University of the West of England is being held from 16-17 June 2011. The event will focus on three broad themes: big ideas; planning policy and practice; and the English experience in context.

The event will be useful for academics and students of planning and related disciplines, as well as practitioners interested in the localism debate. Email uweplanningconferences@ymail.com for more information.

PERN Bulletin 9/2011

RTPI Young Planners Conference 2011

This years Young Planners Conference takes place from 21-22 October 2011 in Birmingham. The event will help participants gain an understanding of the Governments Plan for Growth, and how we can better respond to the need to plan for future generations. The [programme](#) is now available, and an Early Bird discount of just 99 + VAT is on offer. [Find out more or book a place](#).

Can localism work for older people in urban environments?

Recent research by the International Longevity Centre argues that the success of the Localism Bill depends on equitable access to social networks and information, as well as substantial levels of political interest and community engagement. But it finds that these are lacking for some people, particularly older people, living in urban communities. [Read more](#).

Local action on climate change

Until recently, local action on climate change was driven by national targets. The localism agenda has removed many of the structures that governed local authority activity, but it is assumed that local authorities will now work more closely with citizens to take action on local issues. The [Green Alliance](#) is carrying out an online survey on the implications of localism for the environment. If you work for a local authority or civil society group please [take part in the survey](#).

Request for help

The RTPI is currently preparing a new CPD course on community engagement and is looking for experts in the subject to provide a reading list or literature review. This review would need to be completed by 24 June 2011. If you can help, or would like to know more, please contact [Francesca Demontis](#).

New research project on the abolition of regional spatial strategies

Professor Martin Boddy (UWE) and Hannah Hickman (consultant) are undertaking a research project on the impact of the proposed abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies on the West of England sub-region (Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire).

They will be doing in-depth interviews with practitioners to explore questions such as: how effective was the RSS at addressing cross boundary issues?; and, did the RSS help provide a sound basis for investment decisions?

Martin and Hannah would be interested to know about any similar studies going on. Please email Hannah at hannah@hannahhickman.co.uk if you can help.

Calls for papers

Cities, their universities and the creation of knowledge and innovation

A conference organised within the framework for the Polish Presidency of the EU is being held in Warsaw from 26-27 September 2011. The conference will focus on the role of universities in the production of knowledge and innovation and the interplay between the city, region and the university. Abstracts should be submitted by 1 July 2011. [More details can be found online](#).

International Research Conference 2011

The [International Research Conference](#) takes place in Berlin from 27-28 October 2011. The theme is planning/conflict: critical perspectives on contentious urban developments. The conference will bring together different perspectives on urban development conflicts and will focus on the role of planning practice in reframing and solving conflicts. Proposals should be submitted by 1 August 2011.

Dortmund Conference 2012

Papers are welcomed for the Dortmund Conference 2012 which will focus on '[the mobile and the immobile](#)'. Abstracts must be submitted by 31 August 2011 on topics including the effect of technology on the mobile and immobile; social constructions of the mobile and immobile; and the importance of places in a mobile world. [Read more](#).

Other publications

Education, learning and community in New Earswick

A new book, which is free to download online, has been published giving the history and development of New Earswick, the village established by the Rowntree family. The book looks at the ideas that underpinned the village's creation and focuses on education and learning within the community. [Download the book.](#)

Air pollution and health in Europe

Findings of a long-term EU study into the impact of air pollution on health have recently been published. The report shows that life expectancy and monetary benefits increase when air pollution is reduced in European cities. The project focused on issues such as how Health Impact Assessments can be made more meaningful for developing policies and recommendations on air pollution for urban areas. [Read the report.](#)

Other events

Campaign for Social Science roadshows

The [Campaign for Social Science](#) aims to ensure that social science is better understood and appreciated. Their regional roadshows continue with events at the University of Essex on 24 June 2011, and UCL on 27 June 2011. [Book your place online.](#)

Evidence of building the Big Society

The [Social Research Association](#) summer event takes place in London on 5 July 2011. The event will focus on assessing how firm the underpinnings of any future Big Society may be, and whether it is based on solid foundations or shifting sands. [View the conference programme.](#)

Childhood and poverty in urban neighbourhoods

A new book entitled *Family Futures: Childhood and poverty in urban neighbourhoods* is being launched on 5 July 2011 in London. The book considers family life in areas of poverty and outlines how certain initiatives help alleviate problems. To book a place at the event, email Cheryl Conner at c.j.conner@lse.ac.uk or call 0044 20 7955 6330 for more information.

How planning can support a healthy and sustainable food system

This event takes place in London on 15 July 2011. It will explore how planners, local authorities and food and community organisations can influence and use planning policy to create a more sustainable food system. [Find out more or book online.](#)

Understanding society

The first [Understanding Society/British Household Panel Survey Conference](#) takes place from 30 June-1 July 2011 at the University of Essex. The conference will consider areas such as the labour market, health, housing and migration. [Register to attend.](#)

Spatial perspectives on the governance of public goods

An international research workshop is being held from 29-30 September 2011 in Erkner, Germany. The workshop will explore the spatial dimension of the governance of public goods and promote dialogue between geographers, historians and social scientists on the subject. [Find out more about the workshop.](#)

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Latest edition of Making the Case published

The [Academy of Social Sciences](#) recently launched the fourth in its Making the Case for the Social Sciences series. The latest edition focuses on crime, and presents examples of social scientists research which has made a significant impact on policy. These include research into social exclusion, rehabilitation, neighbourhood policing and alley-gating. [Read the publication.](#)

Geographical identifiers available on Understanding Society

[Understanding Society](#) is a study of the socio-economic circumstances and attitudes of 100,000 individuals in British households. The team behind the survey has released a number of geographical identifiers which allow users to use data on area characteristics such as measures of deprivation and air pollution. Information on these indicators and how to access them is available in Birgitta Rabes working paper [Geographical Identifiers in Understanding Society Version 1.](#)

Call for a new garden city movement

The [Town and Country Planning Association](#) (TCPA) has called for a rediscovery and re-imagining of the garden city movement to help build new communities. [Re-imagining garden cities for the 21st Century](#) argues that the garden city principles could help overcome the stigma associated with new communities which arise when developments are poorly planned and lacking in infrastructure.

Retrofit 2050 online survey

Judith Britnell and Professor Tim Dixon, researchers at the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development, are looking for individuals to participate in an online survey on the challenges of retrofitting cities in the UK. The survey is part of the [Retrofit2050](#) project. The researchers would like to receive responses on the barriers and triggers to rolling out the retrofit agenda, the emerging technologies that could bring about change and the driving forces that will impact on the future. [Take the survey](#) before 6pm on 20 July 2011 participants have the opportunity to enter a prize draw for a bottle of champagne!

Building planning capacity in the Commonwealth

Urbanisation is becoming an increasingly significant challenge in many Commonwealth countries; however planning education in these areas is extremely limited. Cliff Hagues blog [How can we build capacity in planning in the Commonwealth?](#) considers what can be done to get planners with the right skills in the places where they are most needed.

Calls for Papers

Green revolution are we there yet?

[CIWEM's Annual Conference](#) takes place in London from 20-21 March 2012. It will consider how far we've come since the UK's Coalition Government pledged to be the greenest government ever last year. Papers are welcomed on topics including global water security, green investment, new business opportunities and the Earth Summit 2012: Rio +20. Papers must be submitted by 19 August 2011.

Journal of Economic and Social Geography

The editors of the *Journal of Economic and Social Geography* invite papers for the Outlook on Europe section of the journal. The series highlights the geography and territory of Europe, with contributions covering European-level spatial trends and developments, comparative issues, and the effects of European policies. For more details, have a look at the [Journal website.](#)

Other Publications

Sustainable urban neighbourhoods

A report produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation outlines the work of the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network (SUNN). SUNN is focusing on urban extensions to existing towns and cities to explore whether it is possible to meet the UK's growing need for affordable new homes in an environmentally sustainable way. [Read the interim report.](#)

Living streets making the case for the walking environment

[Living Streets](#) has published a new report which evaluates the economic, social, environmental and health benefits of investing in walking-friendly public spaces. [Making the case for investment in the walking environment](#) uses case studies to demonstrate how the promotion of walking in good quality public spaces can support local economies by increasing footfall and elevating property prices.

Realising community wealth

A new report from localism think tank the [New Local Government Network](#) (NLGN) aims to show which areas of the country are most ready to benefit and most at risk from the Governments Big Society agenda. The report shows that there isnt a strong link between a communitys wealth and its Big Society resources, with some deprived areas relatively rich in community wealth. [Find out more.](#)

Green streets, strong communities

The [Institute for Public Policy Research](#) (IPPR) has published an evaluation of the British Gas Green Streets community energy challenge in which fourteen communities in England, Scotland and Wales were selected to compete for a prize of 100, 000. Each was given an injection of capital to spend on microgeneration and energy efficiency measures in community buildings with the aims of saving energy, generating energy, and engaging the wider community. [Read the evaluation report.](#)

Socio-economic research projects for policy-making

A new report from the European Commission presents an overview of the socio-economic research and quantitative data which underpins European policy. It highlights how research has informed decision-making for each dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy and Innovation Union partnership. [Read the report.](#)

Other events

Localism: Widening horizons for policy and practice

This one-day seminar takes place at the University of Greenwich, London, on 14 September 2011. It will reflect upon the wider political and historical context of localism, and on the opportunities arising from the evolution of the internet age. For more information, or to book a place at the event, please contact Lucy Rutherford (l.j.e.rutherford@greenwich.ac.uk) or Chris Lewcock (c.p.lewcock@greenwich.ac.uk).

Strategic environmental assessment is it making an impact?

A special conference on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is being held in Prague from 21-22 September 2011 to mark the tenth anniversary of the EUs SEA Directive. The event will review trends and lessons in implementing the SEA Directive in Member States and look at the development of other types of SEA in Europe and further afield. [Visit the conference website to register.](#)

Who should run the countryside?

The Rural Economy and Land Use Programme ([RELU](#)) is holding a one-day conference in Gateshead on 16 November 2011. The event will provide an opportunity to debate major questions about the future of the UK countryside and learn about innovations in science and practice from the RELU Programme. [Find out more or book online.](#)

Centre for Research on Families and Relationships national conference

The [CRFRs](#) Tenth Anniversary conference takes place on 30 November 2011 in Edinburgh. It will explore the role of social science in influencing policy, practice and public debates about issues in contemporary society. It aims to consider matters such as how people engage with research concepts and whether social media are good ways to communicate. [View the conference programme.](#)

PERN Bulletin 11/2011

Planning for growth what can we learn from Europe?

The UK ESPON Contact Point is holding a conference in London on 30 September 2011 which will bring together policy-makers, practitioners and researchers to discuss how planning can enable growth, and how outputs from the ESPON Programme can be used to support planning and inform decision-making.

The draft programme is now available on the [conference web page](#) along with background reading and related links. If you would like to attend, please complete and return the registration form by 19 September 2011.

Lessons in community planning

[Cliff Hague's recent blog](#) on community planning considers examples given by Phil Heywood in his new book Community planning: Integrating Social and Physical Environments. Heywood outlines some of the achievements of community planning in the Australian context, and Cliffs blog draws links between these and the localism debate in England.

Sustainable uplands learning to manage future change

The Sustainable Uplands project aims to anticipate, monitor and sustainably manage rural change in the UK uplands. It has considered how the uplands might change under future social, economic and environmental conditions and has developed a number of practical solutions to help cope with these changes. The projects [latest newsletter](#) is now online, as well as recent briefing papers on [effective participatory decision-making](#) and [peatland restoration](#).

Neighbourhood planning and local infrastructure research call for information

Swindon Borough Council has secured funding from ADEPT to carry out a research project into Neighbourhood Planning and Local Infrastructure. The purpose of the work is to investigate the conception and evolution of neighbourhood planning and to recognise the key stakeholders involved, the roles that they play, the resources required and the issues, problems and successes that have been experienced. The research will be focused predominantly on the current Neighbourhood Vanguards or Front Runners and will take a qualitative view of progress, considering human interactions and using learning histories and case studies to highlight success stories and reflect on where improvements could have been made.

Researchers on the project would be interested to know about any similar studies going on. Please email Rob OCarroll at rocarroll@swindon.gov.uk if you can help or are interested in the research.

Calls for papers

Sustainability issues in the built environment

Papers are invited for the [Green6 International Conference](#) being held in Cambridge from 3-6 July 2012. The conference will consider sustainability issues in the built environment and construction materials technology, and will cover themes such as sustainable waste management, eco-friendly construction methods and the influence of climate change. Abstracts should be submitted by 30 September 2011. Have a look at the [conference flyer](#).

Other publications

Researching sustainability

A new book published by Earthscan and edited by Alex Franklin and Paul Blyton guides students and practitioners through the challenges of conducting interdisciplinary research on sustainability. '[Researching sustainability](#)' includes real-life examples of research projects, social science based research methods and advice on disseminating findings.

Climate change behaviours

The Scottish Governments web pages on the [Climate Change Behaviours Research Programme](#) have been updated with their latest research and publications. Their most recent report is a review of the

Climate Challenge Fund which investigated the impacts and success of twenty-one community projects across Scotland aimed at reducing carbon emissions. [Read the full report.](#)

Suburban neighbourhood adaption for a changing climate

The [SNACC](#) project is focused on answering the question: how can existing suburban neighbourhoods be best adapted to reduce further impacts of climate change? Research considers adaptation of the built environment at the local and larger neighbourhood scales through urban re-design. The latest edition of the [project newsletter](#) is now online.

International dimensions of climate change

The Foresight project [International Dimensions of Climate Change](#) has looked at how the UK is likely to be affected by global climate change over the next thirty years, and beyond. The projects findings have recently been published, and the [report](#) can be read online. The report provides an overview of the evidence of threats and opportunities to the UK from international climate change, and suggests ways in which policy-makers can ensure that the UK remains competitive and secure.

Adaptation and resilience to a changing climate

The Adaptation and resilience to a changing climate Coordination Network (ACN) exists to enhance the development and dissemination of research on the impacts of a changing climate within the built environment, and the [latest newsletter](#) is available. This edition highlights new ACN projects focused on the UK energy sector, project updates and news from the Infrastructure Transitions Research Consortium.

Other events

Migration and mobility in Wales

A one-day workshop is being held at the University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd, on 14 September 2011. It will reflect on issues such as labour migration and migrant workers, the impacts of migration on communities in Wales and the use of language in relation to migration and mobility. Find out more on the [workshop web page](#).

The connected university the promise and the practise

This lecture, given by Professor John Goddard, will outline the contributions universities can make to the economic, social, cultural and sustainable development of places by connecting with civil society. It takes place in Cardiff on 20 September 2011 from 5-8pm. [Register online to attend.](#)

Eco-city innovation

The second event in the ESRCs research seminar series on the governance of eco-city innovation is being held in London on 11 October 2011. The seminar will consider how eco-city developments can be integrated spatially into existing social and geographic contexts, and how lifestyles of those living in such developments can fulfil the political and planning aspirations. [View the seminar programme.](#)

Sustainable Communities 2011

Sustainable Communities [third annual conference](#) is focused on local growth, local futures. The event will provide an opportunity to hear those at the forefront of policy making and debate future priorities for local government, local business, communities and neighbourhoods. The conference is being held in London on 2 November 2011. [View the programme.](#)

Sustainable Scotland Networks annual conference

This conference will focus on aligning public, private and community action to achieve Scotlands sustainable development and climate change objectives. Sessions will consider local leadership and approaches to unlock Scotlands potential. The conference takes place in Edinburgh on 10 November 2011. Have a look at the [event website](#) for more details and registration information.

Integrating river corridor development

The [URSULA conference 2011](#) is being held in Sheffield from 17-18 November 2011. This final project conference will present findings from the four-year project, and outline the River Don as a case study to demonstrate issues such as analysing patterns of biodiversity; exploring the impact of alternative urban designs on costs and values; and understanding how people influence river corridor development. More information is available in the [conference brochure](#).

PERN Bulletin 12/2011

Planning for growth what can we learn from Europe?

The UK ESPON Contact Point is holding a conference in London on 30 September 2011 which will bring together policy-makers, practitioners and researchers to discuss how planning can enable growth, and how outputs from the ESPON Programme can be used to support planning and inform decision-making.

The draft programme is now available on the [conference web page](#) along with background reading and related links. If you would like to attend, please complete and return the registration form by 19 September 2011.

RTPI Nathaniel Lichfield Lecture 2011

Professor Patsy Healey (Professor Emeritus, Newcastle University) will give the [RTPI Nathaniel Lichfield Memorial Lecture](#) on the subject of Progressive localism, civic capacity and the role of planning. This will be a key event for anyone interested in the interaction of localism and planning. The lecture will take place in London on 6 October from 6pm, and [bookings are now open](#).

Research Excellence Framework consultation request for comments

The [Research Excellence Framework](#) (REF) is the new system for assessing the quality of research in higher education institutions in the UK. The REFs draft assessment criteria and working methods have been published, and are open to consultation. The RTPI will be responding, and would welcome your input. The questions are available in Annex A of the [consultation document](#). If you have any comments, please send them to research@rtpi.org.uk by 16 September 2011 so that we can formulate our response.

Planning for the Just City

This, the first University of Sheffield Civic University Lecture, will be given by Professor Susan Fainstein. In the lecture she will reflect on the intellectual and policy implications of her significant new book, *The Just City*. Professor Susan Owens of the University of Cambridge will respond. It will take place in Sheffield on 21 October 2011. To find out more and to book your free place, visit the [event web page](#).

Strategic approaches to planning for housing

A one day seminar sponsored by the Regional Studies Association is being held at the Centre for Urban Policy Studies, Manchester University on 25 November 2011. '[Strategic Approaches to Planning for Housing: Reflections and Experiences](#)' will focus on issues such as reusing brownfield land for housing development and includes sessions on the approaches to delivering housing being taken in Scotland and the Netherlands. To book a place, please email Brian.Webb@manchester.ac.uk.

Research uptake and communications web survey

Communication and engagement is crucial in ensuring research uptake. The Department for International Developments [Research for Development](#) programme would like to know more about how much researchers and research intermediaries know about research communication and research uptake. They have set up a quick [online survey](#) to find out.

Call for papers

Human experience in the natural and built environment

The [22nd IAPS Conference](#) is being held at the University of Strathclyde from 24-29 June 2012. The conference will explore human behaviour and experience in the built and natural environment and will focus on the relationship between research, practice and policy. [Contributions are welcomed](#) on the three overarching conference themes: Geography and urban context urbanisation and planning in developed and developing countries; Planning, design and evaluation in human environments; Policy implementation and management from international/government level to local/community level. Abstracts should be submitted by 31 October 2011.

Other publications

Plugging health into planning

A new online guide offers a set of resources to help practitioners integrate health and spatial planning. The resources illustrate case studies of how planners in England are integrating health issues into their current projects and highlight how planning can contribute to achieving health objectives. [Find out more](#).

Making the most of social media

Nearly one third of the worlds population is online, and with the web now offering a host of multimedia and social media designed to encourage interaction and networking, more opportunities to engage with stakeholders and give marginalised people a voice in decision-making are available. '[Development online: making the most of social media](#)', produced by the International Institute for Environment and Development, outlines some of these opportunities, and suggests ways in which those in the development sector can make the most of them.

Other events

Mega-events, regional development and regeneration

This Regional Studies Association research network aims to theorise the concept of mega-event led regeneration and develop methods of planning and impact evaluation. The network will also compare and contrast the ambitions and impacts of mega-events with previous events such as Barcelona 1992 and Glasgow 1990. The first network event takes place on 7 September 2011 at the University of Maastricht, and a second is being held in London on 14 September 2011. [Read more](#).

Making a splash: creating water sensitive cities in the UK

An afternoon seminar organised by AECOM to launch water sensitive urban design in the UK will consider pioneering water sensitive design work being delivered in Australia, the USA and Asia. It will also focus on the step-change that was needed in both policy and design ethos to drive integrated solutions. The event takes place on 8 September 2011 in London, and there are limited places left. [Find out more](#).

City futures: new perspectives on place-making

Expert speakers including leading policy-makers, critics, practitioners and academics will present and debate alternative perspectives on place-making for Sheffield and the future city at this conference. The event takes place at Sheffield University on 22 September 2011 and [booking information](#) is available on the event web page.

Urbanism week 2011

The theme of [Urbanism Week 2011](#) is so are you an urbanist? and will reflect upon the importance of the urbanism discipline and attempt to establish professional boundaries. The event is being held at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands from 26-30 September 2011. [Book online to attend](#).

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RTPI Nathaniel Lichfield Annual Lecture 2011

The inaugural RTPI Nathaniel Lichfield Annual Lecture took place on 6 October. Professor Patsy Healey gave the lecture on the subject of progressive localism, civic capacity and the role of planning. A podcast of the event, as well as the full text of Professor Healeys lecture and PowerPoint slides are now available online.

Making the case for the social sciences

The fifth issue of the Academy of Social Sciences series '[Making the case for the social sciences](#)', which focuses on sport and leisure, will be launched at a high profile event on 1 November 2011. Tessa Jowell MP, former Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and member of the Olympics Board, and Debbie Lye, International Development Director UK Sport, will take part in a panel discussion following presentations by contributors Professor Kathy Armour AcSS and Professor David Lavalley of Stirling University. [Read more](#).

Cities and climate change article collection

To celebrate the 2011 Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference and World Habitat Day, Routledge has launched the [Cities and Climate Change](#) collection which includes more than sixty articles on subjects such as transport and the environment, sustainable urban housing and fuel and the urban environment. Many of these articles are free to access until 31 December 2011.

Expanding access to research findings

A new independent working group has been set up to examine how UK-funded research findings can be made more accessible for key audiences including researchers, policy makers and the general public. The group will focus on academic publications, and take into account parallel work relating to research data and other projects being conducted by the Royal Society. [Find out more](#).

More green space for towns and cities

A new scheme has been launched aimed at generating more green space in Englands urban areas. The [Green Infrastructure Partnership](#) has been designed to help communities green existing grey infrastructure, by creating roof top gardens and living walls. The Partnership will initially run for two years and will consider how local communities, planners and decision-makers can be supported in designing and developing green infrastructure. [Read the article](#).

Calls for papers

Values and climate change behaviours

The Scottish Government is organising a research conference on values and climate change behaviours in Edinburgh on 14 December 2011 as part of its [Climate change behaviours research programme](#). Anyone wishing to communicate findings on this topic is welcome to submit an abstract or proposal by 19 October 2011 to Paul Tyrer (paul.tyrer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Annual Applied Environmental Economics Conference 2012

[Envecon 2012](#) (the Applied Environmental Economics Conference 2012) will take place on 9 March 2012 in London. Papers are welcomed that demonstrate how environmental economics is applied in practice, and should be submitted by 31 October 2011. [Find out more](#).

Other publications

Community-led regeneration literature review

This report, produced for Communities Analytical Services (CAS), follows the Scottish Governments Regeneration Discussion Paper, and reviews existing literature on community-led approaches to urban regeneration. [Read the report](#).

Citizenship survey results published

The latest National Statistics from the [Citizenship Survey](#) produced by Communities and Local Government were released at the end of September. Key statistics include data on volunteering, community cohesion, discrimination and attitudes towards violent extremism. According to the

research, 86% of adults in England were satisfied with their local area as a place to live. [See the full survey.](#)

Other events

Riots of summer 2011 causes, calamities and consequences

The [Academy of Social Sciences](#) is holding a one-day conference in London on 13 October in which nine speakers will give their perspectives on the riots and outline some of their research in the social sciences. The event is free to attend, but places are limited so [book online](#) if you're interested in going.

Strengthening public trust in social science

As part of the 2011 ESRC Festival of Social Science, this event will consider how the academic community and government can work together to ensure more effective communication of scientific evidence in the public arena. The talk is being held in London on 31 October 2011, and will be Chaired by Evan Davis (BBC). [Read more about this event.](#)

David Fryer Memorial Lecture 2011

This year's lecture takes place at Oxford Brookes University on 2 November 2011 and will be delivered by Niall McNevin, Director of Planning and Sustainability at the Olympic Park Legacy Company.

Regional development and growth

Westminster Business Forum is holding a seminar in London on 6 December 2011 which will look at regional development and growth. The seminar will bring together numerous stakeholders to assess the Government's current strategy for promoting development and growth. The agenda will provide an opportunity to consider the role of Local Enterprise Partnerships, looking in particular at how they can facilitate business growth. [Book a place at the seminar.](#)

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Planning Theory and Practice

Issue 3 of [Planning Theory and Practice](#) is available online, and includes articles on healthy urban planning in Norway, as well as a piece on skills, conflict and spatial planning in Northern Ireland. [RTPI members can subscribe for 33](#), saving over 100 per year.

Cities and climate change

A series of case studies have been produced for the [Global Report on Human Settlements 2011](#) which provides an up to date assessment of global urban conditions. One of the case studies looks at [cities and climate change adaptation in London](#), and concludes with five lessons from London on adaptation.

Managing natural resources the role of protected landscapes

A note produced by the [Rural Economy Land Use Programme](#) (RELU) highlights how protected landscapes such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty could have a more strategic role in the sustainable management of natural resources. [Read the paper](#).

Connected Communities Programme call for proposals

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) are commissioning two research projects in community engagement and mobilisation under the [Connected Communities Programme](#). Applications should be submitted by 4pm on 14 December 2011. [Find out more](#).

City visions 1910-2010

Cliff Hagues recent blog on [city visions](#) highlights an exhibition currently on at the Lighthouse in Glasgow (running until 26 November 2011). The display focuses on Berlin, Chicago, London and Paris and celebrates the centenary of the General Town Planning Exhibition in Berlin in 1910. It looks at ideas and projects from 100 years ago and places them alongside current work shaping these cities today. [Read Cliff's take on the exhibition](#).

Urban regeneration courses request for information

John Tzovaris, a member of the RTPIs Urban Design Network, holds degrees in architecture and urban design and has twenty years experience working in urban planning and design. He is looking to pursue studies in urban regeneration, and is hoping to find a course that doesnt require travel abroad; is provided by an accredited university; is oriented towards professionals with considerable background; and is of reasonable cost. If you can help with this request, please email research@rtpi.org.uk.

Calls for papers

Child in the city

Papers are welcomed for the [Child in the City 2012](#) conference which takes place in Zagreb, Croatia, from 26-28 September 2012. The main themes of the conference are health, play, childrens rights and intergenerational interaction and abstracts should be submitted by 27 January 2012. [Find out more](#).

Healthy cities 2012

The [5th Healthy Cities Conference](#) is being held in Geelong, Australia from 6-8 June 2012. The event will act as a platform for government and industry professionals to discuss causes, effects and solutions that relate to issues including population health, sustainability, natural resource management and climate change. Papers are invited on a number of themes, such as healthy urban design and creating regional cities. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 2 March 2012.

Other publications

Reimagining garden cities for the 21st century

Today's housing challenge is exacerbated by the current financial crisis, the pressure of climate change and the ageing population. A report by the [Town and Country Planning Association](#) (TCPA)

considers the lessons learned from Garden Cities and New Towns in developing new, large-scale communities. It suggests that we need to rediscover and re-imagine the high-quality, collaborative and pioneering spirit of the Garden Cities for the 21st century. [Read the report.](#)

Rethinking the city

In his recent book, [Rethinking the City](#) Vincent Kaufmann assesses the urban implications of the changes to the ease and accessibility of travel. He explores what the mobility turn means for city governability and governance, and seeks to identify how the motility of individuals, goods and information acts as the organising principle of contemporary urban change.

Is localism delivering for climate change?

The [Green Alliance](#) has produced a report which asks whether local authorities are still working with climate change in mind. A survey of local authorities found that 37% are de-prioritising climate change, or state that it was never a priority while 35% remain strong in their commitment to climate change and believe action could increase in light of localism.

Other events

ESRC open meeting

The [Economic and Social Research Council](#) (ESRC) is holding an open meeting in London on 6 December 2011. The meeting will allow members of the public and social science community to discuss their views on current research priorities. For more information, and to register to attend, please email esrc1@vistaevents.co.uk.

Neighbourhood planning in the Big Society

The last in the 2011 RTPI Yorkshire conference series takes place in Sheffield on 8 December 2011. The event will explore the implications of the Big Society on neighbourhood level planning decisions and examine current best practice in neighbourhood planning. [Book a place online.](#)

Big Society a critical reappraisal

The ESRC and Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC) are organising a joint seminar which will review the impact of Big Society politics and policies eighteen months on from the 2010 election. The event is being held in London on 12 December 2011 and will focus on the implications for third sector organisations and the state. The event is free but you'll need to [register to attend](#).

Values and climate change behaviours

As part of their [Climate Change Behaviours Research Programme](#), the Scottish Government is holding a conference in Edinburgh on 14 December 2011 to consider the values in influencing sustainable behaviours. There will be an opportunity to choose from 15 presentations, looking at values through lenses such as community, food, energy systems and farm/woodland management. The event is strictly limited to 100 places, so please contact [Paul Tyrer](#) to reserve your space.

Social dimensions of climate change

The [British Sociological Association](#) Climate Change Study Group is holding a discussion event on the social dimensions of climate change. The event is being held in London on 16 January 2012 and will involve contributions from three leading academics on the subject. Professors Mike Hulme, John Urry and Gordon Walker will draw on ideas from their most recent books and discuss them with participants. [Register online to attend.](#)

Coastal futures 2012 review and future trends

This conference aims to bring together stakeholders and industry leaders to discuss coastal and marine issues including inter-coastal zone management delivery and marine spatial planning. The conference takes place in London from 18-19 January 2012. [Book a place online.](#)

Achieving more with less in rural and urban landscapes

The [Natural Connections Conference 2012](#), being held in London on 2 February 2012, intends to promote cooperation and collaboration to achieve more with less, creating urban and rural landscapes that benefit people, places and wildlife. The [programme and booking form](#) are available online.

Planet under pressure 2012

The [planet under pressure conference](#) will provide a comprehensive update of our knowledge of the Earth system and the pressure our planet is now under. It will focus on issues of climate, ecological degradation, human well-being, food security and governance across scales. The conference will look at providing solutions to move societies on to a sustainable pathway. The event takes place in London from 26-29 March 2012. [Register before 20 January 2012](#) for the earlybird rate.

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Latest issue of Planning Theory and Practice published

Issue 4 of [Planning Theory and Practice](#) is now available online. This edition includes articles on the rationalities of planning in Perth and the cross-national transfer of planning knowledge. It also includes a policy brief on Shenzhens city master plan Chinas first special economic zone. RTPI members can [subscribe to the journal for just 33](#).

Central role for social sciences in Europe

In a speech at the British Academy, the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Mire Geoghegan-Quinn, has highlighted the importance of the social sciences and humanities and outlined their central role in Horizon 2020, the new European research funding programme. [Read the Commissioner's speech](#).

End use energy demand call for proposals

A major new call is aiming to fund around six research centres in end use energy demand (EUED). All of the centres will be multidisciplinary collaborations of academics who will contribute to a central EUED research theme. EUED is concerned with energy efficiency and reducing energy demand, and includes research stemming from the built environment and organisational behaviour. The closing date is 15 February 2012. [Find out more about the call](#).

RTPI Peak Oil discussion implications for planning policy

RTPI networks have recently produced a [discussion paper on the issue of Peak Oil](#) and the implications for spatial planning. It aims to promote discussion, raise awareness among transport and spatial planners of the issues around peak oil and suggest an agenda for action by professionals. A discussion event is being held in London on 17 January 2012 from 2-4pm. The discussion is free to attend, and will be chaired by Chris Ferrary, former chair of the RTPI-TPS Transport Planning Network and Technical Director at Temple Group. [Book a place at the event](#).

Fully funded trip to Germany available

Local Skills for Biodiversity is a European Project, majority financed by the Leonardo da Vinci fund for transfer of innovation. It is focused primarily on skills for local authority planners, helping them to better plan for biodiversity and ecosystems. There are 7 partners (one being the Yorkshire and Humber Environment Trust) in 5 countries, and the project is ready to test the emerging training product. An event is being held on 25-27 January, south of Hamburg in Germany, with an international audience of practitioners who can:

- learn about the work and get a sense of how it might be applicable to their own work;
- help to refine the product and make it more useful to all concerned;
- become part of a tentative international network of practitioners able to share knowledge and take the agenda of the project forward.

There is one *fully funded* place available. If you are interested please email sonia@yhenvironment.org for further information.

Sustainable Uplands picks up RELU award

The [Sustainable Uplands](#) project was voted best example of impact at the [Rural Economy and Land Use Awards](#) in Gateshead on 16 November 2011. The project has helped upland communities to understand the social and environmental changes that are happening in their areas and what the options are for the future. The project also launched a [music video](#) at the awards which captures the hidden beauty and importance of UK peat bogs.

Call for papers

From networked to post-networked urbanism

A Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires et Sociétés (LATTTS) [international workshop](#) is being held in Autun, France from 17-20 July 2012. Papers are invited on the theme of networked to post-networked urbanism: new infrastructure configurations and urban transitions. Abstracts should be sent to [Jonathan Rutherford](#) by 20 December 2011.

Other publications

Policy and society journal

[Policy and Society](#) is an interdisciplinary journal exploring policy and its manifestations in broader political, economic and social contexts. Each issue will be devoted to a particular theme. Previous special issues covered subjects such as sharing sovereignty for policy outcomes, integrated land management, and civil society in Europe.

Planetizens top ten urban planning books 2012

[Planetizen](#) has produced a [list of the ten best books](#) of the year in urban planning, design and development. The list includes *The Agile City* by James S. Russell and *Garden Cities: Theory and Practice of Agrarian Urbanism* by Andres Duany and Duany Plater-Zyberk and Co. Other recommended titles include *The Economics of Place* edited by Colleen Layton, Tawny Pruitt and Kim Cekola, which maps out regeneration plans in Michigan.

Other events

Eco-city politics national policy, local leadership, public accountability

The third in an ESRC [eco-city research seminar](#) series, this seminar brings together researchers and practitioners to assess the challenges involved in achieving effective leadership for sustainable urban development. The event takes place in London on 10 February 2012.

Spatial analysis using GIS

The Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD) is holding a workshop in Cardiff on 16 and 17 May 2012. The workshop will allow researchers to use GIS software to analyse and visualise their research data. [Book a place at the event.](#)