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PERN Bulletin 1/2012

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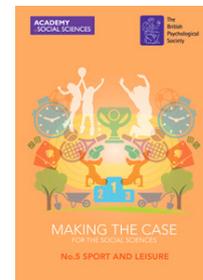
Network news

Making the case for the social sciences

The Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS) is in the process of preparing more issues of its *Making the Case for the Social Sciences* publications, which showcase examples of where social science research has made a real impact. The AcSS is looking for stories to feature in upcoming issues on the following topics:

- Innovation and economic growth
- Health
- Management
- Social care, especially work relating to children
- Use of longitudinal data

Stories should be written in non-technical language and should be 300 words in length. For more information, visit the [AcSS' website](#) or send your piece to [Madeleine Barrows](#).



RSA student representative needed

The Regional Studies Association is looking for a PhD student to join its Board in the role of student representative. The successful candidate will be involved in discussion and exchanges among Board members at their meetings, and will participate in the delivery of the Association's aims and objectives. Applications should be sent to [Aureliane Beauclair](#) by 13 January 2012. [Further details](#) are available on the RSA's website.

Collecting carbon in a concrete jungle

A team from Edinburgh University has developed a [new way of capturing carbon dioxide](#) from the air using tiny tubes which work like "artificial trees". It's hoped that the tubes can, in future, be used in urban areas, where green space is limited, to absorb CO₂.

Eye on earth web tool

A new tool set up by Microsoft and the European Environment Agency has been launched which brings together scientific information and feedback from individuals. The [Eye on Earth](#) tool currently includes information on water quality, air pollution and noise pollution, but information on other environmental topics will be added to make a "global observatory for environmental change".

Calls for papers

Neighbourhood-working, localism and the Coalition Government

The RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2012 takes place in Edinburgh from 3-5 July 2012. Papers are invited for a session on neighbourhood-working, localism and the Coalition Government – emergent critical approaches. The session aims to revisit and extend definitional and theoretical debates on neighbourhood-working as part of the Coalition urban agenda. Papers are welcomed on topics including:

- Theorisations of neighbourhood, localism and community
- The practices of neighbourhood planning and regeneration
- Critical reflections on the re-scaling of urban governance under the Coalition
- Definitional issues in neighbourhood-working
- Explorations of past, present and emergent/future urban agendas and their implications for urban governance and democratic politics

Abstracts of 250 words should be sent to [Emma Street](#) by 25 January 2012.

UK-Ireland planning research conference

This year's [UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference](#) is hosted by the University of Brighton from 11-13 April 2012. The conference will involve roundtable discussions on neighbourhood planning and 21st century garden cities. The deadline for abstract submissions is 15 February 2012, and papers are welcomed on topics including mobility and infrastructure and planning for social difference.

Association of European Schools of Planning PhD workshop

[AESOP's PhD workshop](#) is being held in Izmir, Turkey, from 6-9 July 2012. PhD students from Europe and elsewhere studying subjects related to planning and spatial development are invited to share their research ideas, experiences, methods and concerns at this event. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 29 February 2012.

Opportunistic urban design

The [5th International Urban Design Conference](#) is being held in Melbourne, Australia, from 10-12 September 2012. The focus is 'opportunistic urban design' – the process of creative thinking which leads to more flexible, inventive and contextually responsive strategies of intervention in the urban environment. Abstracts should be submitted by 14 May 2012.

Other publications

Observations, projections and impacts of climate change

The Met Office has published a series of reports on the observations, projections and impacts of climate change in 23 countries, including the UK. Each report includes an assessment of how man-made climate change has altered the risk of temperature extremes, and a prediction of future climate conditions. [Download the reports.](#)

Social research and environmental policy

A report prepared for Defra outlines social research on a number of environmental policy issues. The report highlights social science research that has a key role to play in policy-making. The review covers issues such as land management, flood risk management, people and landscapes, and rural affairs. The third stage of the review considers the Big Society concept in a natural environment context. [Read the report.](#)

Place marketing and the politics of urban reinvention in Berlin

A [new book by Claire Colomb](#) has been published which explores the politics of place marketing and the process of urban reinvention in Berlin post-1989. The book contributes to a

better understanding of the interplay between the 'politics of representation' and the politics of urban development in contemporary urban governance.

January edition of Land Lines published

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy has published its latest issue of [Land Lines](#). The magazine reports on institute-sponsored programmes, and this edition includes articles on post-disaster reconstruction and overcoming obstacles to economic development in transition countries.

Other events

Economics of low carbon cities

New research on the commercial viability of low carbon cities will be launched at this event being held in London on 12 January 2012. 'The Economics of Low Carbon Cities' evaluates the cost and effectiveness of low carbon options for industrial, commercial, transport and domestic sectors. The panel discussion will include representatives from the UK Department for Energy and Climate Change, the Committee on Climate Change, the Energy Savings Trust and Friends of the Earth. [Reserve a place at the event](#).

The case for high-speed rail

The Academy of Social Sciences, Regional Studies Association and Royal Geographical Society are holding a Parliamentary discussion in London on 1 February to discuss High Speed Rail (HSR) from a regional, social and economic perspective. The event will examine evidence from the social sciences which can contribute to debate on the future of HSR in the UK. [Find out more](#).

Urban solutions seminar

This seminar is being held in Birmingham from 29 May-2 June 2012. It aims to reflect upon social challenges in urban areas, and the role of youth work in addressing and preventing them. The event would be of interest to policy-makers and researchers working on the topic of youth in urban areas. [Register by 15 February 2012 to attend](#).

AESOP annual congress

AESOP's [26th Annual Congress](#) is being held in Ankara, Turkey, from 11-15 July 2012. The conference theme is 'planning to achieve/planning to avoid' and the need for new discourses and practices in spatial development and planning will be considered.

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PERN Bulletin 2/2012

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Network news

Planning Theory and Practice celebrates Chinese New Year

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, Planning Theory and Practice has brought together key articles which tackle some of the issues being faced by Chinese planners. The [special issue](#) allows readers free access to selected articles on subjects such as civic engagement and the politics of planning in the Hong Kong special administrative region.



Science for environment policy online research tool launched

[Science for environment policy](#) has recently launched an online bank of research results for evidence-based policy making. Studies have been carefully selected for policy relevance and quality, and are categorised under a range of policy themes such as agriculture, climate change, urban environment and water. [Access the research repository.](#)

Ecosystems knowledge network

Defra has set up a resource for sharing knowledge about the benefits of taking an ecosystem approach to building sustainable communities. The [Ecosystems Knowledge Network](#) will stimulate knowledge exchange and practical learning, and will support the practical use of an ecosystems approach. [Get involved in the network.](#)

Call for participants – innovative solutions to flood risk

A research sandpit organised by the EPSRC will develop creative research projects to overcome some of the challenges outlined in the Living with Environmental Change programme's report on Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management. The sandpit will address the three risk themes identified in the report: understanding risk; managing probability; and managing consequence. Send your expression of interest by 20 February 2012. [Find out more.](#)

Managing change at the rural-urban fringe

An event being held at Birmingham City University will present findings from a [RELU project investigating the rural-urban fringe](#) through the lenses of spatial planning and the ecosystem approach. The event will be participatory, involving discussion sessions and video presentations, and will take place on 29 February 2012. Places must be booked in advance.

New round of Newton International Fellowships open

A new round of [Newton International Fellowships](#) is open. The Fellowships enable early-career researchers to work at a UK research institution for two years. The scheme is open to post-doctoral early-career researchers who do not hold UK citizenship. Applications should be made via the [Royal Society's online application system](#). The closing date for applications is 16 April 2012.

Making cities liveable

The [49th International Making Cities Liveable conference](#) takes place in Portland, USA, from 20-24 May 2012. The conference theme is 'true urbanism: planning healthy communities for all' and will examine how the built environment can be reshaped to increase physical and social health and well-being. The theme is exemplified by the work of Professor Arch. Ettore Maria Mazzola, who will be presented with the International Urban Design Award at the conference.

Other publications

Beyond smart cities

A new book by Tim Campbell uses quantitative and qualitative data and case studies to show networks in cities work to achieve breakthroughs in learning and innovation. The book argues that going beyond smart cities means understanding how cities construct, convert and manipulate relationships that grow in urban environments. [Order the book online](#).

Other events

Sustainable lifestyles – great theory, impossible practice

This event, being held at the British Library on 7 February 2012, will discuss how evidence can help the development of policies to encourage us to move towards more sustainable lifestyles. Speakers include Professor Dale Southerton (Sustainable Practices Research Group, University of Manchester) and Ian Christie (Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey). [Book a place](#).

What's blocking sustainability?

A lecture organised by Newcastle University will explore the barriers to achieving global sustainability. Professor Bill Rees (University of British Columbia) will consider what prevents us from defending the long-term collective interests of our species, and discuss whether 'modern' humans are unsustainable by nature. The lecture takes place on 7 March 2012. Check the website for [further details and booking](#).

Final URSULA seminar

The last in the Urban River Corridors and Sustainable Living Agendas (URSULA) project's seminar series takes place in Sheffield on 14 March 2012. The seminar will be led by the project's director, David Lerner, and will consider whether all of the environmental, economic and social goals in urban river corridors can be achieved. [Visit the project website](#) for details, or contact Jenny Chambers (j.a.chambers@sheffield.ac.uk) for more information.

Research for resilience

The [LARIA Annual Conference](#) is taking place at Aston University, Birmingham, from 19-20 March 2012. The conference is focused on the theme of research for resilience, and will provide participants with up-to-date knowledge and thinking on the key issues facing local authorities. [Book a place](#).

Green revolution – are we there yet?

The Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management's [Annual Conference](#) aims to challenge and inspire the water and environment community by sharing knowledge and best practice. The conference is being held in London from 20-21 March 2012, and you can now [book a place online](#).

2012 – How is the housing system coping?

The [2012 Housing Studies Association Conference](#) is being held in York from 18-20 April 2012 and will consider the impact of the changing socio-economic environment on the housing system. The event will also focus on the political themes that influence the housing system: the Big Society, localism and devolution. [Download the booking form](#).

Re-mixing the city

The 17th International Conference on urban planning and regional development, [Real Corp 2012](#), takes place in Schwechat, Austria, from 14-16 May 2012. The conference aims to think about how to manage our cities in order to better respond to global challenges. [Find out more or register online](#).

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PERN Bulletin 3/2012

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Network news

New website on climate change research

A new website has been launched which acts as a gateway to communicating research on climate change. [Talking Climate](#) attempts to bridge the gap between research and practice on climate change and sustainable development. The site includes guides on how to communicate climate change, encourage sustainable behaviour and make use of social networks to disseminate climate change research.



Lincoln Institute's publications catalogue

The Lincoln Institute has produced its [2012 Publications Catalogue](#) which highlights over 100 books, policy reports and resources on topics such as property taxation, urban and regional planning, smart growth, and land conservation. The catalogue also includes overviews of publications on international land policy from China and Latin America.



Campaign for Social Science – regional roadshows

The Campaign for Social Science's [regional roadshows](#) provide an opportunity to discuss the aims of the Campaign which is focused on lobbying MPs and encouraging support for the social sciences. Upcoming roadshows are being held at the University of East Anglia on 15 March 2012; in Belfast on 5 April 2012; and at the University of Kent on 2 May 2012. All social scientists are urged to attend, but [places should be booked in advance](#).

Research on RSS abolition – collaboration request

Professor Martin Boddy (UWE, Bristol) and Hannah Hickman have been working together on a research project exploring stakeholder views on the impact of RSS abolition (and the resulting lack of a strategic framework) on the West of England sub-region, comprising Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

They are currently writing up their research findings, and would be extremely interested in hearing from anyone who may have been looking at similar issues elsewhere in the UK, and might be interested in collaborating on publication.

They believe there is scope, for example to compare and contrast their work with other parts of the country with similar or different issues and where the implications of a lack of a strategic framework may differ. Please contact Hannah (hannah@hannahhickman.co.uk) or Martin (martin.boddy@uwe.ac.uk) if you are interested in working with them.

Calls for papers

Evidence for sustainable development

The [Berlin Conference on Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change](#) will this year focus on evidence for sustainable development. The conference is being held in Berlin from 5-6 October 2012 and will consider how the research process can be organised to develop evidence relevant to overcoming the challenges of sustainable development, and how we can ensure that this evidence is taken into consideration in policy-making. Papers should be submitted by 1 April 2012 via the [event website](#).

Other publications

How can local government build sustainable urban neighbourhoods?

The Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods Network (SUNN) has produced a new report on [sustainable urban neighbourhoods](#) looks at what does and doesn't work in building new communities. The report highlights good practice in areas such as design, local governance and management of public space.

Building Britain - the path to sustainable growth for the built environment

A new report produced by the Aldersgate Group suggests that the Government has made some progress in shaping the regulatory and fiscal framework for sustainable buildings in the UK. However, ['Building Britain - the path to sustainable growth for the built environment'](#) states that the lack of clarity and effective enforcement within the sustainable building industry may hinder its competitiveness in the UK.

How local resilience creates sustainable societies

A new book by Philip Monaghan sets out how visionary national and local leaders can transform unsustainable societies. ['How local resilience creates sustainable societies'](#) explores themes such as the green economy, sustainable urban development and equality, and suggests how leaders can make smarter interventions to encourage the creation of sustainable societies.

The science of cities and regions

Alan Wilson's new book, ['The Science of Cities and Regions'](#) provides an introduction to understanding the workings of cities and regions using mathematical modelling. It considers techniques such as the Lowry model, the retail model and the Lotka-Volterra approach to system evolution, and applies them to urban and regional planning scenarios, as well as to wars and epidemics.

The future of planning education in Europe

In January, Professor Klaus R. Kunzmann gave the inaugural AESOP-IFHP lecture on ['Planning Education in Europe: Challenges and Pathways into the Future'](#). The lecture outlined the challenges currently being faced by planning schools and explored the possible future pathways of planning education in Europe. Professor Kunzmann's lecture can be viewed on the AESOP website.

Other events

Policy meets research – sustainable housing

A workshop organised by the CORPUS project on sustainable housing is being held in Helsinki, Finland, from 15-16 March 2012. The workshop will consider policies and policy instruments for delivering sustainable housing, and provide good practice examples from across the EU. [Register before 10 March 2012 to attend.](#)

Interdisciplinary PhD research exchange

PhD students from the Bartlett School of Planning will be discussing their research on 21 March 2012 in London. Research topics include the urban 'mallings' of China, science parks as innovation systems, and the role of the state in the development of international finance centres. [Find out more.](#)

Engaging 'hard to reach' stakeholders

The National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) is holding a workshop focusing on user engagement methods with 'hard to reach' stakeholders. The workshop takes place on 23 March 2012 at Northumbria University and aims to provide practical examples of both successful and unsuccessful methods of engaging with users. [Book a place at the event.](#)

Future cities Scotland

Scottish Enterprise is hosting an event for the Technology Strategy Board on 28 March 2012 in Stirling which will provide an overview of the Future Cities programme. Participants will be able to contribute to a workshop prioritising Future Cities areas that Scotland can excel in, based on technology capacities and city needs. [Find out more or register to attend.](#)

Managing planning schools in a time of crisis

The [Silver Jubilee AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting](#) is being held in Oslo, Norway, from 4-5 May 2012. The meeting features a plenary session on managing planning schools in times of crisis, and workshops on promoting cooperation between schools and ensuring expertise.

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Network news

Planning Theory and Practice

The latest issue of [Planning Theory and Practice](#) is now online. It includes a **free** *Interface* on the challenges of environmental planning and green design which highlights case studies from Europe and the USA. The *Interface* poses questions such as: 'what will the features of eco-communities be in the future?' and 'how important is the built environment in relation to the social, political and economic dimensions of sustainability?' Other articles focus on place-identity in East London and metropolitan strategic planning.



The Planning Convention 2012

The Planning Convention 2012 is your opportunity to learn more about your specialist areas of planning. The new one-day format gives you the chance to tailor the content to suit you, by selecting the most relevant topics in our special interest sessions alongside the big issues discussed in three plenary sessions. '[Planning 2012: Making it work!](#)' is structured to let you choose the issues that affect you and your area of specialism within planning.

We'll be looking at urban development, regenerations and making cities work in plenary sessions including, "Global Cities Health-check" with Professor Ricky Burdett (Director, LSE Cities and Urban Age) and Alexandra Jones (Chief Executive of Centre for Cities), and "Planning for Growth and Community". Jon Rouse (CEO, London Borough of Croydon) will cover Croydon's approach to riots, recession and regeneration, while David Hill (Chief Executive, Milton Keynes Council) addresses planning for growth.



Special Interest Sessions

With a range of Special Interest Sessions to choose from, "Designing resilient cities", run by the Urban Futures team, and "Economic impact in planning", run by Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, might be particularly relevant to your interests.

Networking

The Planning Convention is the place to get to know your industry peers. The programme offers the perfect mix of great informative sessions that explore the big issues in planning and plentiful networking opportunities. Delegates will have the opportunity to network at study tours, sponsored breakfast registration and evening drinks reception, as well as the chance to meet our

exhibitors between sessions.

Tickets to the event are selling rapidly at the great-value price of £195 for RTPI Members and £295 for Non-members (prices exclude VAT). To book visit www.theplanningconvention.co.uk (please quote PCONNET).

BIS Green Construction Board – knowledge capture

The Green Construction Board is calling for research information (papers, case studies, publications etc.) on how a low carbon built environment might be achieved. The Board wants to ensure that it identifies any critical gaps in understanding, and would like examples of best practice and research on the subject from 2007 onwards. [Find out more.](#)

Building Information Modelling – request for information

The RTPI would be interested to know whether any research is being carried out on BIM, or whether it is being incorporated into degree syllabuses. If you are currently working on any BIM-related projects, or know of any university courses involving it, please let us know at research@rtpi.org.uk.

Campaign for Social Science – one year on

A year after the [Campaign for Social Science](#) was launched, Professor Cary Cooper, Chair of the Academy of Social Sciences, told [Social Science Space](#) how the campaign has progressed. The campaign has raised over £100, 000 in its first year, and hopes to continue to hold its regional roadshows and produce further issues of the '*Making the Case for the Social Sciences*' series.

URSULA project draws to a close

The URSULA project has almost finished. Over the last four years, the project team has carried out extensive research into urban river corridors and sustainable living agendas, and has produced a number of outputs including research bulletins which summarise some of the findings. The [research bulletins](#) cover issues such as stakeholder participation, the role of SUDS in climate change mitigation and biodiversity.

University of Westminster studentships

The School of Architecture and the Built Environment (SABE) at the University of Westminster is offering four studentships for prospective PhD students. Applications are invited for one fee waiver studentship (at the Home/EU rate) per year plus a stipend of £5, 000 and three fee waiver studentships (at the EU/Home rate) per year. Applications from overseas students are invited, but the remainder of the fees will have to be covered by the candidate. [Find out more.](#)

Calls for papers

Catchment change management – stakeholders, next generation models and risk

The final Catchment Change Network conference is taking place in Lancaster from 25-27 June 2012, and will present the progress that has been made during the project. The main focus will be the research needs of modelling the impacts of change and stakeholder involvement in the management process. Keynote speakers include Eric Wood (Princeton), Jay Famiglietti (UC Irvine) and Thorsten Wagener (Penn State and Bristol). There will be four sessions: 'Uncertainty, risk and the role of the stakeholder in managing change'; 'Frameworks for good practice in stakeholder involvement in managing catchment change'; 'Hyperresolution modelling of the impacts of change – uncertainty and uniqueness of place'; and 'The future is not yet gauged – lessons from PUB, lessons for business'. To contribute to

a session, send the title and a short abstract to marion.walker@lancaster.ac.uk by 27 April 2012.

Transatlantic Studies Association Conference

This year's [Transatlantic Studies Association Conference](#) is being held at the University College Cork from 9-12 July 2012. Panel proposals and papers are welcomed on themes including planning, regeneration and the environment, and abstracts should be submitted by 30 April 2012.

Planning processes, planning outcomes

The Department of Planning and Architecture at the University of the West of England is hosting the second annual Planning Theory Conference in Bristol from 21-22 June 2012. The conference brings together new and established academics and researchers to discuss theoretical challenges and to identify new theoretical perspectives for planning. This year's conference will explore the relationship between planning processes and outcomes, and abstracts are invited on this theme and on topics that engage with the theoretical aspects of research and scholarship in the field of planning. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be sent to planningtheory@uwe.ac.uk by 30 April 2012.

Sustainability in energy and buildings

The [Fourth International Conference on Sustainability in Energy and Buildings](#) takes place in Stockholm from 3-5 September 2012. Papers are invited across a range of renewable energy and sustainability-related topics including intelligent buildings, renewable energy technologies, and energy and environmental assessment in buildings and cities.

Other publications

What could the environment look like in 2050?

The [OECD's Environmental Outlook to 2050](#) looks forward to find out what demographic and economic trends might mean for the environment if we don't adopt more ambitious policies to protect our natural assets. The report examines some of the policy options that could put the world on a more sustainable path, and concludes that urgent action is needed to avoid significant economic and human costs.

Low carbon communities and social justice

A new report published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation focuses on whether the principles of social justice are being embedded within low carbon communities. [Low carbon communities and social justice](#) argues that responsibilities for taking action to mitigate against climate change should be considered at community level, and examines whether community-based approaches to climate change live up to expectations.

Workplace initiatives and low carbon behaviour

The Scottish Government has published a report on the impact of workplace initiatives on low carbon behaviours. The study aims to identify effective schemes in delivering such behaviour, and highlights ten case studies on the topic. [Read the report](#).

Free articles from planning and urban studies journals

Routledge has produced special issues for a number of its planning and urban studies journals which are freely accessible online. Titles include '[An Overview of Innovative Community Change Programmes](#)' from *Community Development*, '[Climate Change and Sustainable Cities](#)' from *European Planning Studies*, '[Housing Wealth - Contributing to](#)

[Income in Old Age](#) from the *International Journal of Housing Policy*, and [Governance and Change on the Urban Fringe](#) from *Urban Research and Practice*.

Land Lines magazine published

The latest edition of the Lincoln Institute's quarterly magazine '[Land Lines](#)' is now available. This issue examines China's property tax reform, preferential assessment of rural land, and applies a 3D cadastre as a land policy tool. It also gives details of some of the upcoming events in the Lincoln Lecture Series.

Other events

GeoDATA seminar series

[GeoDATA 2012](#) is a free seminar series providing advice on how to use geographical data more effectively. The first event in the series is being held in London on 26 April 2012, and five further seminars will take place throughout the UK during the course of 2012.

Encouraging sustainable lifestyles through urban design

As part of the Environment and Technology public lecture series, Professor Katie Williams will present evidence from her research on the links between urban design and sustainable behaviours and lifestyles. The lecture takes place at the University of the West of England, Bristol, on 2 May 2012 and is free to attend. Further details can be found on the [event web page](#).

Valuing sustainability in the built environment

GreenBRIDGE, a society of graduate researchers at Cambridge University, is holding a two-day symposium in Cambridge from 25-26 June 2012 on [valuing sustainability in the built environment](#). The event aims to explore current practice and future possibilities for judging the values involved in the built environment. Areas to be discussed at the symposium include environmental impact assessment, stakeholder engagement, case studies and lifecycle thinking.

ESRC research methods festival

The [5th ESRC Research Methods Festival](#) is being held in Oxford from 2-5 July 2012. Professor Sir John Beddington will deliver the keynote speech on the challenges of the 21st century and the need for multidisciplinary. Other themes of the festival include the interface between social and natural sciences, methodological innovations and career and skills development.

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Network news

Planning Theory and Practice

Some of the articles from the second issue of [Planning Theory and Practice](#) can now be accessed online. The forthcoming issue will include articles on Dutch spatial planning policies in transition and an exploration of government-to-government planning in British Columbia. RTPI members can subscribe to the journal for just £33 per year via the [RTPI subscriptions](#) page.



Helping Wales avoid economic crisis

Researchers at Cardiff University are leading a new research project exploring why some regions are more able to withstand economic crises than others. The project, funded by the [ESPON 2013 Programme](#), will look at data for the EU as a whole, and focus in on regions such as Wales and Western Greece to examine how regional authorities can strengthen the resilience of their region. More details will soon be available on the [ESPON website](#).

Indicators, metrics and monitoring for agriculture, poverty and environment

DFID is initiating a process to collate and review evidence on indicators, metrics and monitoring systems for agriculture, poverty and the environment. The purpose of the review is to identify lessons and opportunities for the use of data from monitoring systems in enhancing productivity in agriculture. Look at the [details of the call](#) for more information. Proposals should be submitted by 14:00 GMT on 5 June 2012.

Knowledge exchange opportunities scheme

The [Knowledge Exchange Opportunities Scheme](#) provides funding for knowledge exchange activities, and is aimed at maximising the impact of social science research outside academia. The latest call closes on 7 June 2012 (at 4pm). All details relating to the call can be found on the [ESRC website](#).

Discover Asia – free planning and urban studies resources

Routledge has made some of its Planning and Urban Studies articles on Asia free to access online. Articles on housing Hong Kong's elderly population, affordable housing in China, car use in Beijing and water policy for the Mekong river basin can all be [downloaded for free](#) for a limited time.

Calls for papers

Cities to be tamed? Transforming the urban South

The '[Cities to be tamed?](#)' conference aims to explore and question the role played by urban planning, design and policies in the 'global South'. The main topics are the design of the informal city, stereotypical visions and enduring realities, and the power of planning. View the [call for papers](#) for more details. Papers should be submitted by 15 June 2012

Other publications

An anatomy of sprawl

The latest title in the [RTPI Library Series](#) provides a case study of planning and development in South Hampshire. '[An Anatomy of Sprawl](#)', by Nicholas A. Phelps, looks in-depth at the issues surrounding planning strategies and population growth.

People and the planet

The Royal Society's [People and the Planet](#) project has produced its final report. Key recommendations from the study include reducing inequality, increasing resource efficiency, improving reproductive health programmes, and encouraging policy-makers not to consider population and the environment as two separate issues. Other recommendations focus on the potential for urbanisation to reduce resource consumption and the development of new socio-economic systems. [Read the full report](#).

Low carbon plans and strategies for UK cities

New research, carried out by Professor Tim Dixon at Oxford Brookes University, looks at carbon strategies across 60 UK cities and assesses how successful they have been in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The research compares UK and international approaches and highlights best practice in low carbon cities. [Read the full report](#).

Where land meets sea

This new book by Anna Ryan draws on empirical, philosophical and academic thinking to generate awareness of the relationship between self and surroundings. '[Where Land Meets Sea](#)' sets out research undertaken at the South Wall in Dublin and the Maharees peninsula in County Kerry and explores the interface of land and sea, suggesting alternative politics of the coast.

Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe

A new report published by the European Environment Agency highlights the need for an urban focus on climate change adaptation in Europe. '[Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe](#)' uses ESPON data to characterise cities in terms of their vulnerability or adaptive capacity to climate change and outlines a range of adaptation responses for different spatial levels.

Other events

Shaping cities for health

The UCL-Lancet Commission of Healthy Cities provides an analysis of how health outcomes are part of urban processes. The report will be presented at an event in London on 30 May 2012 and will highlight how planning can help to deliver health improvements through reshaping the urban fabric of our cities. The event will be followed by a drinks reception. [Book a place](#).

Climate change and cities

The UCL Environment Institute is running a half-day workshop on climate change and cities. Professor Sue Parnell, one of the editors of *Climate Change at the City Scale: Impacts, Mitigation and Adaptation in Cape Town*, will give a presentation on the Cape Town Climate Think Tank and discuss how it established new local knowledge and a community of climate change leadership across the city region. The workshop takes place in London on 31 May 2012. [Register to attend](#).

Info Day on FP7 environment research

An [Info Day on FP7 environment research](#) is being held in Brussels on 11 June 2012. The event aims to highlight the 2013 Work Programme and provide guidance on the preparation and submission of FP7 proposals. Register by 4 June 2012 to attend.

Planning theory conference

The University of the West of England is hosting the second annual [Planning Theory Conference 2012](#) from 21-22 June 2012. This year's theme is *planning processes, planning outcomes*, and focuses on the relationship of planners and the field of planning towards production of just social, environmental and spatial outcomes. Susan Fainstein will give the keynote speech on 'just process versus just outcome: is there a necessary relationship in planning?'

Stakeholders, next generation models and risk in managing catchment change

The Catchment Change Network is holding its final international conference in Lancaster from 25-27 June 2012. The conference will present the progress that has been made over the project's lifetime and focus on stakeholder involvement in the management of catchment change. Keynote speakers include Eric Wood (Princeton University), Jay Famiglietti (University of California, Irvine) and Martin Furness (Ofwat). The event is free to attend but places must be booked. [Find out more](#).

Future cities – socio-ecological exploration of the next metropolis

The [One Lab Summer Session 2012](#) will address 'global urbaneeering' and draw together practitioners from fields including architecture, urban design and civil engineering. The summer school runs from 9 July to 3 August 2012 in New York. The course timetable is available online, and [places must be booked and paid for by 15 June 2012](#).

UCL summer lab 2012

UCL's [Summer Lab 2012](#) runs from 23 July to 15 September in Bucharest, Zurich and Rome. The Bucharest Summer Lab will spell out the contradictions of the city's 'fuzzy development' and offer an alternative path of transformation for the city. The Zurich sessions will deal with the micro region, looking at the Langstrasse District which has an expanding red-light district and drug scene. The focus in Rome will be squatting and social housing. Visit the website for [information on applications and fees](#).

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RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

PERN Bulletin 8/2012

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Network news

RTPI Nathaniel Lichfield Annual Lecture 2012

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New articles from Planning Theory and Practice

Several articles from the next issue of [Planning Theory and Practice](#) are available. An article on [public space and water supply in Dhaka](#) is free to access, and other available articles focus on the [reformation of the English strategic spatial planning system](#) and the [territorial agenda of the EU 2020](#).



The RTPI has a number of back copies of Planning Theory and Practice. If you are interested in having any back issues, please email research@rtpi.org.uk.

European research in Welsh policy making

The UK ESPON Contact Point (provided by the RTPI) is holding a [free event in Cardiff](#) on 24 September 2012. A number of ESPON projects with a Welsh focus will be showcased, including two new projects looking at economic resilience and development potentials in small and medium-sized towns. Discussions will centre on how concepts and findings generated by the [ESPON 2013 Programme](#) can help to inform policy-making in Wales.

Confirmed speakers include Adrian Healy (Cardiff University), Ian Smith (University of the West of England), Neil Adams (London South Bank University), Selyf Morgan (Cardiff University) and Cliff Hague (UK ESPON Contact Point). The event will be Chaired by Dave Adamson (Centre for Regeneration Excellence Wales) and is designed to be informal and interactive so places are therefore limited. Please complete and return a [registration form](#) by 14 September 2012 if you would like to attend.

RTPI Library series – selected copies available

The RTPI has a few spare copies of some of the titles in the [RTPI Library Series](#). Available issues include '[Shadows of Power](#)' by Jean Hillier, '[Indicators for Urban and Regional Planning](#)' by Cecilia Wong, and '[Urban Planning and Cultural Identity](#)' by William Neill. If you are interested in having a copy of any of these or would like full details of the titles available, please email research@rtpi.org.uk by 31 August 2012.

International comparison of eco-city frameworks

The [Leverhulme International Network](#) on the international comparison of eco-city frameworks is a three-year project supporting comparative research into international urban sustainability indicators, standards and certification schemes. The network is analysing emerging eco-city frameworks, and the website provides a number of [articles and reports](#) on eco-cities around the world.

Wind Turbine Noise

DECC is planning to hold a stakeholder workshop to consider the [review of wind turbine noise assessment](#) they commissioned from the Institute of Acoustics. The aim is to try to reach agreement on an assessment methodology to compare anticipated turbine noise with background levels and suggest whether the turbine would be acceptable in a given location or not. Dates and location are yet to be announced, but it is likely to be in London in September (travel expenses will not be paid). If you are interested in attending please email Howard Price at H.Price@cieh.org

Other publications

Health impact assessment in the UK planning system

A new research paper by the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit ([WHIASU](#)) explores the use of health impact assessment (HIA) as a means of facilitating community engagement in spatial planning. '[Health impact assessment in the UK planning system](#)' considers the use of HIA in decision-making processes, and describes how it can highlight potential impacts on health and well-being as well as encourage community engagement.

The urban transformation

A new book edited by Elliott Sclar, Nicole Volavka-Close and Peter Brown brings together some of the experts in the urban development field to consider the issue of urbanisation. By 2050, it is estimated that two-thirds of the world's population will live in urban areas, and if well-planned, this transition could present the opportunity to improve the lives of some of the world's poorest people. '[The Urban Transformation](#)' focuses on public health, shelter, water, sanitation and climate change adaptation in an effort to enable real positive change.

Territorial implications of high speed rail

A new book edited by Jose M. de Ureña outlines twenty years of HSR in Spain and debates the territorial implications at national, regional and local scales. '[Territorial Implications of High Speed Rail](#)' also examines the strategies and urban projects that medium-sized cities can use to make the best use of HSR opportunities.

Other events

What works at the local level?

The Alliance for Useful Evidence and the SOLACE Foundation are holding a seminar in London on 13 September 2012 to discuss what evidence is needed at the local level to help policy and practice. '[What works at the local level?](#)' is aimed at senior leaders in local

government, and includes speakers from SOLACE, INLOGOV and the Government Social Research Unit.

Peak oil: developing a cross-discipline agenda for action

Last year, the RTPI published a discussion document on [peak oil and its implications for spatial planning](#). An event bringing together experts and interested parties will discuss the issues and try to find an agenda for action on peak oil among the built environment professions. The event takes place in London on 25 September 2012. For further details, please email Sarah Dewick (sarah.dewick@templegroup.co.uk).

Business-university collaboration – implementing the Wilson Review

The Government's response to the Wilson Review set out initiatives designed to boost business-university collaboration and optimise the use of research. An event supported by the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship will consider how these commitments can be taken forward and discuss issues such as knowledge exchange, innovation and investment. The event is being held in London on 20 November 2012. [Find out more or book a place online](#).

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Latest articles from Planning Theory and Practice

An article from Issue 3 of [Planning Theory and Practice](#) is currently free to access online. '[Experiences of neighbourhood walkability among older Australians living in high density inner-city areas](#)' presents findings from research examining how the environment can influence people's wellbeing in six inner-city suburbs. The [Interface](#) section focuses on planning education, and considers, amongst other things, whether planning is a science or an art.



The RTPI has a number of back copies of Planning Theory and Practice. If you are interested in having any back issues, please email research@rtpi.org.uk.

RTPI is recruiting

The RTPI is advertising for a Deputy Head of Policy and Research. The closing date for applications is 9am on 29 October 2012, and [further details can be found on the RTPI website](#).

Map for England website launched

The RTPI's [Map for England](#) initiative, which has looked at a range of government policies and how they relate to each other, now has a new website with an interactive map. The RTPI has worked with software specialists, Idox, to create the site, which initially contains five layers including National Parks boundaries and AONBs. So far, the RTPI has had a positive response to the project, but the debate continues. [Take a look at the new website](#) and email your comments to m4e@rtpi.org.uk.

Capital spaces

A new book authored by PERN member Matthew Carmona and Filipa Wunderlich of UCL's Bartlett School of Planning explores critiques of contemporary public space that argue that free rein has too often been given to the market to shape urban public space in its own interests, rather than in that of the public. Through exploring the design, development, use and management of spaces in London built or refurbished since 1980, [Capital Spaces: The Multiple Complex Public Spaces of a Global City](#) asks, is it really that bad?

Open access to boost innovation

From November 2012, the Department for International Development (DFID) will have an 'open access' policy. Researchers receiving DFID funding will be required to make their findings available online free of charge. The new policy emphasises the need to make research available easily - and at no cost - to scientists, research bodies, charities and humanitarian organisations working in the developing world. The research portal is called [Research for Development - R4D](#).

Planning and mental wellbeing

The Academy of Social Sciences is calling for evidence of social science research which has had a policy impact in the area of mental wellbeing for an upcoming edition of their '[Making the Case for the Social Sciences](#)' series. Examples of research which highlight planning's contribution to mental wellbeing would be particularly welcomed. If you know of any such research, please email research@rtpi.org.uk with a ~300 word 'story' by 30 October 2012.

Calls for papers

GIS research UK conference

The [GIS Research UK conference](#) is being held in Liverpool from 3-5 April 2013, with workshops on 2 April 2013. Papers are invited on all aspects of methodological, applied or theoretical GIS and are especially welcomed on the conference themes which include environmental GIS, transport systems and urban planning. [Abstracts should be submitted by 1 November 2012](#).

ECOCITY world summit

The world summit on sustainable cities, [ECOCITY](#), will be held in Nantes, France, from 25-27 September 2013. The conference is built around four priority challenges for the sustainable city: financing, governing, shaping and thinking. Contributions in the form of proposals for workshops, presentations and 'knowledge corners' on the four areas are welcomed, and should be sent to contributions@ecocity-2013.com before 30 November 2012.

Other publications

Energising sustainable cities

A recent book edited by Arnulf Grubler and David Fisk assesses energy-related urban sustainability issues in cities. Written by an eminent team of internationally renowned scholars, '[Energising Sustainable Cities](#)' presents new data and policy insights as well as the first global overview of urban energy use and the specifics of urban energy demand and supply. The book provides a comprehensive literature review as well as spatial models of integrated urban energy policy analysis.

Cities, nature and development

['Cities, Nature and Development'](#) brings together an interdisciplinary team of academics to consider how and why cities are comprised of a mosaic of vulnerable and ecological

communities. International case studies are presented which show how 'urban vulnerabilities' can be used as an analytic lens for developing theories on the relationships between cities, nature and development.

Spatial and temporal scales in sustainability

A special issue of [Building Research and Information](#) looks at how the international research community is changing its view of sustainable buildings. A number of the articles are currently free to download, including '[Flexible strategies for long-term sustainability under uncertainty](#)' which presents three advances over established methods of life cycle evaluation of construction projects.

Other events

Adapting suburbs for climate change

The final SNACC project event is being held in London on 23 October 2012. The event will consider how existing urban neighbourhoods can be best adapted to reduce the further impacts of climate change and withstand on going changes. The event is free, but please email snaccresearch@uwe.ac.uk by **9 October 2012** if you would like to attend.

The country and the city – concentric circles

Six connected symposia organised by the Campaign to Protect Rural England are being held over the coming weeks to discuss issues including the relationship between the country and city, suburbia and the role of the Green Belt. The first one takes place on 17 October 2012 in London. Each event is free to attend, but [tickets must be booked online](#).

Implementing Finch

The Academy of Social Sciences is running a two-day conference to discuss the implementation of the Finch Review's recommendations for Open Access publishing in the UK. The event takes place in London on 29 and 30 November 2012. Day one will focus on HEIs while day two is aimed at trustees and CEOs of learned societies. [Book a place online](#).

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On 23 November 2012, the RTPI / UK ESPON Contact Point is holding two free half-day events in Newcastle:

Overcoming rural, urban and cross-border challenges

In the morning, the UK ESPON Contact Point is holding a [free half-day event](#) from 10am-1:45pm. The workshop will consider some of the challenges facing urban and rural England, as well as discuss issues at the national and cross-border level.

Confirmed speakers include Simin Davoudi (Newcastle University), Graeme Purves (Scottish Government), Chris Poulton (Department for Communities and Local Government) and Cliff Hague (UK ESPON Contact Point).

Where next for strategic planning?

In the afternoon, from 1:45pm-4:30pm, a free RTPI event on [strategic planning](#) is being held at the same venue.



Using a recently published book edited by Corinne Swain, Tim Marshall and Tony Baden ([English Regional Planning 2000-2010: Lessons for the future](#)) as the basis of the event, discussions will centre on why strategic planning is needed, what the RTPI's [Map for England](#) initiative can do to enable policy making at this level, and how such planning is being dealt with in Scotland via strategic development plans.

Booking

These events will be informal and interactive, and places are

therefore quite limited. If you would like to attend one or both of these events, please complete and return a registration form for the [morning event](#) and/or [afternoon event](#)) to research@rtpi.org.uk by 16 November 2012.

Sustainability in the built environment research programme launched

The University of Reading is taking an innovative approach to tackling issues of environmental, economic and social sustainability with a new interdisciplinary research programme. Funding has been secured for projects including the use of green roofs and green infrastructure, planning for a sustainable future for transition towns, and understanding urban meteorology and its impact on the built environment. [Download a brochure](#) to find out more.

Competition launched for university-industry projects

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) recently launched its [Fast Forward](#) competition to encourage universities and public sector research organisations to collaborate with businesses and local communities on innovative projects that benefit UK society and economic growth. The total fund available this year is £750,000 which will be split between around twelve projects. The closing date is 5pm on 14 December 2012. [Download an application pack for more details.](#)

Calls for papers

Contribute to Planning Theory and Practice

[Planning Theory and Practice](#) has recently re-launched its reviews section, and the editors are inviting contributions for three different types of articles.

1. 'Comment articles' of between 1,500-2,000 words can include retorts to previously published Planning Theory and Practice articles or critical reflections on developments within Planning Theory and Practice.
2. 'Policy and Planning Briefs' of 1,500-2,000 words can include critical insights and analysis of key policy developments and debates, or analysis of spatial plans based on describing the plan's context, its aims and content, the planning process and an illustration or map.
3. 'Book reviews' of between 800-1,000 words should give the journal audience a concise summary and offer a critical assessment of the book's content. Articles that re-evaluate 'classic' planning texts within the context of a more recent publication are also welcomed.

Comment and reviews or suggestions for contributions should be emailed directly to the Reviews editor, Mark Scott (mark.scott@ucd.ie). For further information on the journal, or advice on how to write and submit articles, visit the [Planning Theory and Practice website](#).

Changing cities: spatial, morphological, formal and socio-economic dimensions

The University of Thessaly is holding the 2013 [Changing Cities](#) conference in Greece from 18-21 June 2013. The conference will focus on 'metropolitan cities in transformation' and papers are invited on related issues including urban cultures, landscapes and transportation policy. The conference will bring together a range of practitioners and researchers to create a forum for exchanging ideas on changing cities. Abstracts should be submitted by 14 January 2013.

Other publications

Transport poverty in England

A report by Sustrans suggests that over 1.5 million people living in England are at serious risk of being cut off from work and healthcare because of the rising cost of running a car, and a lack of alternative transportation. [Locked out: Transport poverty in England](#) argues that our transport planning system currently penalises those who struggle to afford a car or public transport, or those who lack access to transport due to their age or disability.

Other events

Resilient cities – collaboration between local stakeholders

The next webinar in the [ICLEI Resilient Cities webinar series](#) is taking place on 15 November 2012. The focus is how local governments can integrate multi-stakeholder cooperation with researchers, experts, local communities and the private sector in their adaptation planning. Examples of such collaboration from Scotland and Denmark will be considered.

SDRN annual conference

The [SDRN Annual Conference](#) takes place in London on 29 November 2012. Discussions will centre on four key themes including the changing landscape of sustainable development, the green economy, and the role of cities compared to states in delivering sustainable development. Places are limited, so [book a place](#) early if you'd like to attend.

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