

Sustainable Places Research Themes: Cities and sustainable places

The Cities and Sustainable Places Programme provides an independent hub to help address specific urban issues and concerns related to sustainable place-making. It offers cross cutting research opportunities to connect with work on future cities and place-based resilience.

Our researchers engage with approaches to regenerative urbanism, which include urban metabolism, climate change, air quality, food security and energy.

They consider how urban cultures transform in terms of reinvigorating links between urban settlements and adjoining ecosystems, especially through the human-environment relationship with sustainability objectives.

These objectives are based on comprehensive, integrated and socio-ecological understanding of local resources.

The work also looks at specific processes relating to a range and types of places including national parks, nature reserves, city-regions, urban and rural communities, food producing regions, and urban regeneration initiatives, to achieve the UN's **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) with a particular emphasis on the following two integrating areas:

Social innovation for sustainable urban living

With a focus on improving the quality of life, liveability and resilience, the approach is based on satisfaction of basic needs of people, improvement of social relations and socio-political empowerment of citizens. Social innovation research cuts across much of the research at the Institute, especially in relation to social and ecological transitions. It has a key role to play in the processes of development in the quest to create more sustainable lifestyles and systems of consumption and production.

The work further looks at diverse issues around: Sustainable mobility, environmental hazards, urban food systems, low-carbon futures, energy vulnerabilities, ethnicity, and entrepreneurship.

Governance for sustainable place making

This research focuses on policies and practices which try to build a sense of place among individuals and groups, such as the use of innovative participatory techniques in planning, politics, policy, and practices

The work further looks at:

- Governance systems and their interaction with other ecological and social systems and the resulting issues related to the role of public organisations and agencies, civil society and stakeholder participation, co-production, capacity building and value transformation in promoting transitions towards sustainable places;
- Governance for a sustainable global environment, including biodiversity and climate change, particularly in relation to the understanding, and communication of risk at urban, regional and national levels.

Funded Research

Funded research activities include;

Research Projects

- Transforming City Food Systems: carbon reductions and health and wellbeing gains in London (With Greater London Authority)
- Information models for the “sharing economy”

- Place Ambassadors: building place identity through participation in national parks
- Connected Learning Spaces: looking at links between HE institutions and local communities
- Sustainable City Regions: considering the case of collaborative governance in Wales

PhD studentships

- ESRC Type-2 studentship on Low-carbon planning, innovation and management in Brecon Beacons National Park
- ESRC Type-2 studentship on Making sense of financial consumption for ethnic minorities in Wales

Research team



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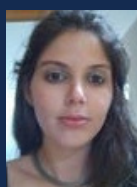
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