



# **ECO-URBANITES**

**INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
SYMPOSIUM IN COMPARATIVE URBAN STUDIES**

**26-28 JANUARY 2017  
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN**



**Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
Trinity College Dublin**

Ollscoil Átha Cliath | The University of Dublin

## Trinity Centre for Asian Studies



To advance knowledge  
of Asia through  
interdisciplinary  
teaching, research and  
engagement

## Trinity Long Room Hub

Arts & Humanities Research Institute



Celebrating  
**Japan Ireland**

**JAPAN FOUNDATION**







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## Welcome to the Eco-Urbanites Symposium

The Eco-Urbanites Symposium brings together a range of experts from Ireland and Japan who will approach the study of the city through their own disciplinary lens. The event is motivated by the belief that the 'eco-city' – a sustainable city where well-being is tangible, a city which meets the many needs of its diverse citizens and their activities, is a worthy vision.

The symposium is hosted by the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, a multidisciplinary teaching and research centre that provides a focal point for Japanese, Chinese and Korean Studies in Trinity. As Director of the Centre, I am delighted to welcome you all to Trinity College. Our university provides an excellent location for the study of the city, past, present and future. Located in the heart of Dublin in a unique campus, surrounded by ancient buildings and contemporary architecture, Trinity is the very incarnation of a smart, liveable and inclusive environment, including the symposium venue, the Trinity Long Room Hub Research Institute for the Arts and Humanities.

Of course, we always want to do more, and to learn from leaders in the field. This symposium provides such an opportunity – to study practice from Japan, where social and ecological approaches to urban studies are more advanced than here in Ireland, and to hear from national Irish experts on how the city of the future can meet the needs of all citizens. This symposium is the first in a series of events in our university which celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan-Ireland diplomatic relations. It is an honour for the Eco-Urbanites symposium to be counted among the officially endorsed anniversary events taking place in Ireland and Japan in 2017, and to work in association with the Embassy of Japan in Ireland in this regard. We are also particularly grateful to the Japan Foundation for their generous support towards the symposium's organization. My own interest in this field came through my work on urban multilingualism, the multilingual city. And so it just remains for me to bid each of you all a warm welcome, céad míle fáilte (*one hundred thousand welcomes*), ようこそ!



Dr Lorna Carson  
Eco-Urbanites Symposium Convenor  
Director, Trinity Centre for Asian Studies  
Associate Professor in Applied Linguistics  
Trinity College Dublin

# Cities of Vision/Visions of Cities

## **Liveable?**

What is a liveable city and how can individual and collective well-being throughout the lifespan be ensured and fostered? How are relationships with the city's hinterland managed or limited in urban sprawl?

## **Inclusive?**

How do cities support social inclusion for diverse and ageing populations in social services, health, etc.? What kind of policy framework is desirable in these areas? How does the contemporary city contribute to or detract from well-being at the individual and collective level?

## **Smart?**

How does the modern metropolis manage in terms of its infrastructure and communication, energy management and sustainability? What are the new and emerging approaches which can be used to gather information about the way cities operates, and to be deployed by citizens and city-workers to ensure the healthy growth of businesses and services?

**Symposium themes**

## Why Eco-Urbanites?

In literature and mythology, cities are viewed with varying degrees of wonder and suspicion as centres of political power, of trade and capital, of information and of consumption, of luxury and of decline. Indeed, there is nothing new in the attraction that urban life exudes: cities have always been sites of power and potential prosperity for their inhabitants. The ancient Greek city state, polis, provided protected space for the religious and trading activities of citizens through an *agora* (marketplace) and an *acropolis* (citadel) located on high ground. In medieval European cities, palaces and cathedrals dominated the cityscape, along with universities, hospitals and guildhalls.

Contemporary, globalised cities are focal points for flows of capital and intellectual property, and continue to attract new urbanites in search of employment, opportunities and excitement as in ancient and medieval times. The city has also long been a topic of academic, policy and development discourse, investigated as a site where identities are created and recognition claims are raised. Historically dominant themes in urban studies include poverty and wealth, enlightenment and darkness, crime and revolution, inclusion and exclusion.

We live in an increasingly urbanised world. The United Nations' Population Division (UN, 2014) estimates that 54% of the world – or 3.9 billion people – lived in cities in 2014, and predicts that this figure will increase to 66% by 2050. While there are 28 mega-cities in the world with more than 10 million inhabitants, the most rapid population growth is in fact in small urban settlements with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants. In light of these figures cities are therefore now the primary spaces where policymakers engage with the multilingualism that is an inevitable consequence of a multiplicity of ethnicities and cultures.

Recently, global cities have been positioned in the context of the weakening of the national as a 'spatial unit'. In this paradigm, urban centres are viewed as sites of governance where the constraints of national policies and national discourse can be modified or overcome, not least because urban prosperity allows pressing problems to be addressed more quickly and substantially than in rural areas.

Japan is one of the world's most densely urbanized nations, with Tokyo regularly cited as the archetypal model of urbanisation. On the other hand, urbanisation in Ireland is a fairly recent phenomenon, with substantial movement from rural to urban only occurring in the 1990s following sustained economic growth. The comparative study of the challenges faced by Ireland and Japan will allow the focus on the new and the old, on innovation and on historical precedents and traditions, and on shared concerns for the metropolis to meet the needs of all city-dwellers.

This symposium brings together a range of experts who will approach the growth of the city through their own particular lens – as architects, geographers, sociologists and historians, computer scientists and engineers. Contemporary urbanism locates the study of the city within a social framework, where the nature of city living is scrutinized, and issues of justice, equity and wellbeing are at the heart of understanding what cities are and can become.

In other words, despite the differences in scale, cities in Japan and Ireland are understood as spaces within which intense human interaction occurs, often fleeting yet always constant. This social approach to studies of urbanism can be understood in light of the substantial changes in the way we now work and live. For instance, the exponential growth in mobility patterns, in Asia and in Europe, means that we are all more than ever likely to settle somewhere new. The point of arrival for most migrants, whether elite professionals benefiting from international job markets or labourers in search of a higher wage than at home, is the city. This mobility is multidirectional in terms of destinations and occurs among all ages of people.

The impact of technology and new forms of work in which economic processes generate and depend on the exchange of information is carried out on a global scale. The phenomenon of globalisation is built on the premise that there will be a steady flow of potential workers to meet the demands of economic growth at each stage of the supply chain. Together, these factors have a significant impact not just on how we work, but also on how our identities and communities are formed, our patterns of belonging.

This symposium is motivated therefore by the belief that the ‘eco-city’ – a sustainable city where well-being is tangible, a city which meets the many needs of its diverse citizens, is a worthy vision. Through focussing on three key themes and examples of good practice in the Japanese cities of Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto and the Irish cities of Dublin, Galway and Cork as well as the city of Waterford, Eco-Urbanites bring together an interdisciplinary group of experts to compare, contrast and distil shared knowledge on practices and policies which foster the kind of eco-urbanism described above.

## Symposium Information

### Symposium venue

Trinity College Dublin is recognised internationally as Ireland's premier university and as one of the world's leading research-intensive universities. Founded in 1592, it is the oldest university in Ireland and one of the older universities of Europe, with a vibrant international community of some 17,000 students, 92,000 alumni and 3,000 members of staff. It is situated in the centre of Dublin, with a 47 acre campus of cobbled squares, historic buildings and green playing fields alongside state-of-the-art modern facilities, including our symposium venue: the Trinity Long Room Hub Institute for Arts and Humanities.

The Trinity Long Room Hub Institute takes its name from the iconic eighteenth-century Library at Trinity College, and is one of five flagship research institutes of the University. It is dedicated to promoting and facilitating innovative research across its member Schools. Since 2010, the institute's home is a signature building at the heart of the historic campus. Its prominent location aptly signifies the centrality of the Arts and Humanities for our university and for society, and makes it an ideal place for connecting academic research with a wider public. Our symposium will take place in the Neill Theatre on Level 1 of the Trinity Long Room Hub.

### Registration

Registration will be open from 9am on Friday 27 January in the entrance lobby of the Long Room Hub. Please reserve your free place at the symposium by email to [tcas@tcd.ie](mailto:tcas@tcd.ie) prior to Wednesday 25 January.

### Wifi

Guest wifi passes are available at registration. Guests may also use the EduRoam network. Free wifi is widely available in Dublin city centre, in many coffee shops and other locations, see for example <http://dublingowexfreewifi.ie>.

### Eating and drinking

Coffee/tea breaks are included in the symposium programme. There are many cafés located in the vicinity of the symposium where you can also buy a coffee or tea to go. Lunch is not included in the symposium programme, but there are many options for a reasonably priced lunch near TCD. If you want to purchase food to go, you can bring it back and eat it in the Ideas Space in the Long Room Hub, one floor above the main lecture theatre. On campus, located in Front Square ('Parliament Square' on some maps), the Buttery provides all-day hot food and a sandwich and salad bar. Beside our venue, the 'Arts Café' situated on the level 1 of the Arts Building has a coffee and snack bar. Vending machines are also available inside the Arts Building.



Just outside campus, KC Peaches on Nassau Street offers healthy and tasty food which can be eaten on the premises or purchased to go. Avoca, on Suffolk Street, contains a delicious restaurant (top floor), food hall and café (basement).

### **Visitor attractions on campus**

There are many attractions open to visitors to Trinity College. Detailed visitor information can be found at <http://www.tcd.ie/visitors>. The Book of Kells is housed in the Old Library, just opposite our symposium venue. Visitors enter through the Library Shop on Fellows' Square, and can visit the 'Turning Darkness into Light' exhibition, before viewing the Book of Kells and the magnificent Long Room which houses 200,000 of the College's oldest books. The Douglas Hyde Gallery at the Nassau Street entrance of College displays Irish and international contemporary art, and is open to the public (no entrance charge). The Science Gallery ([sciencegallery.com](http://sciencegallery.com)) in College (Pearse Street entrance) is a unique space where some of the latest scientific issues are presented in free interactive exhibitions. The Science Gallery is also home to an excellent café.

### **Cloakroom**

Space is available on the ground floor of the Long Room Hub for coats and bags, please ask for details at the reception desk. This area will be unattended during the symposium, and the organisers take no responsibility for loss or damage to items. A staffed cloakroom is available on level 0 of the Arts Building (bottom of the stairs beside the Arts Café) where coats, bags and suitcases can be left with a cloakroom attendant for a small fee.

### **Just in case**

The emergency numbers in Ireland are 112 or 999. Campus security can be contacted by telephone 01 896 1999. There is a small medical centre on campus, and there are many doctors' surgeries located within walking distance of College. You must pay a fee to see a doctor or to attend the Accident & Emergency Department of a hospital. If a minor, non-urgent, medical matter arises, you can ask a pharmacist for advice. The closest pharmacists are Boots the Chemist, 12 Grafton Street, and Hickey's Pharmacy, 21 Grafton Street. Please contact the symposium organizers if you have any specific queries.

## Symposium programme

### Thursday 26 January 2017

Launch of the Eco-Urbanites Symposium at 7.30pm in the Neill Theatre, Trinity Long Room Hub, Fellows' Square, Trinity College Dublin.

With Her Excellency Mari Miyoshi, Ambassador of Japan in Ireland, and Dr Patrick Prendergast, Provost and President, Trinity College Dublin.

**Registration** essential.

### Friday 27 January 2017, Trinity Long Room Hub

Venue opens 9am

Opening remarks 9.25am

#### **SMART CITIES 9.30am – 11.15am**

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- ▷ Rob Kitchin  
*The promise and perils of smart cities*
- ▷ Siobhán Clarke  
*The role of technology and communication in enabling behavioural change for cities of the future*
- ▷ Juergen Bauer  
*What is a Smart City beyond IT, energy and mobility management?*

Coffee 11.15am – 11.30am

#### **INCLUSIVE CITIES 11.30am – 1.15pm**

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- ▷ Toshio Otsuki  
*How should towns be arranged for a Super-Aged Society in Japan?*
- ▷ Naonori Kodate  
*Community-based approaches to looking after older people in Tokyo*

- ▷ Anne Harpur  
*Town Planning from a grass roots perspective: Bottom-up planning techniques that focus on community well-being and inclusion*

## **LIVEABLE CITIES 2pm – 3.45pm**

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- ▷ Aidan ffrench  
*Contested urban space: Nature, people and power*
- ▷ Mark Hennessy  
*Historic towns atlases and the study of urban morphogenesis*
- ▷ Ulf Strohmayr  
*Contemporary urbanism between 'best practice' and local customs: Public spaces in the post neo-liberal city*

Coffee 3.45pm – 4pm

## **LIVEABLE CITIES 4pm – 5.45pm**

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- ▷ Brian Hughes  
*Past lessons and future direction for Ireland: Increasing influences in the role for cities*
- ▷ James Brady  
*Urban agriculture in Japan: Developments and prospects for a sustainable sector*
- ▷ Natsuki Shimizu  
*Urban lifestyle and agriculture: Public projects and policy in Kyoto*

Close of day 6.15pm

### **Saturday 28 January 2017**

9.30am – 1pm: Visit to the Book of Kells/The Long Room & Old Library, Trinity College; Guided architectural visit of Trinity College campus; Local site visit (TBC).

## Invited Speakers & Abstracts

### *Alphabetical, by surname*

**BAUER, Juergen**, Dipl. Ing. Architekt MRIAI MRIBA, is an Architect and Lecturer in the Department of Architecture in Waterford Institute of Technology. ***What is a Smart City beyond IT, Energy and Mobility Management?*** This talk will discuss the smart city concept by comparing international urban patterns, drawing on observations from Ireland and Japan from an Urban Design Perspective.

**BRADY, James**, is a research fellow in agriculture and agricultural policy at the Asia Pacific Institute of Research, in Osaka. He obtained his PhD from Osaka University in 2015, where he researched the political economy of agriculture in Japan. His current research interests include corporate agriculture in Japan, the regional food supply system in Kansai, and the prospects for the Japanese economy and Asia-Pacific trade in the absence of the TPP. ***Urban Agriculture in Japan: Developments and Prospects for a Sustainable Sector.*** The decline of Japan's agricultural sector has continued since the 1980s, due to socio-economic trends such as rural depopulation and ageing as well as the gradual liberalisation of food imports. However, agriculture in urban and peri-urban areas has out-performed the rest of the sector. Accounting for around one-quarter of total farmland, Japan's urban farms typically have both higher productivity levels and lower chemical intensity than the national average. Two recent developments suggest that the importance of urban agriculture will increase further in future. First, on the business side, firms are increasingly investing in agriculture following the easing of legislative restrictions in 2009 and 2016. These new agricultural businesses are more capital-intensive and many production sites are located in or near urban areas. This offers the prospect of more profitable agricultural production, better suited to land-scarce Japan's factor endowments. Second, on the government side, the Abe administration enacted a 'Basic Law for the Promotion of Urban Agriculture' (Toshi Nōgyō Shinkō Kihonhō) in 2015. This basic law recognises the multifunctional roles and contributions of urban agriculture to society and the environment, and provides the legislative framework for future government support for the sector. This talk analyses these recent developments in and prospects for urban agriculture in Japan, with particular reference to the Kansai region of western Japan. It draws on site visits and interviews undertaken for the ongoing APIR research project "The Food Supply System as a Basic Urban Infrastructure". It also considers the trade-off between business sustainability and ecological sustainability, and seeks to development recommendations for the future of urban agriculture.

**CLARKE Siobhán**, FTCD, is Professor in the School of Computer Science and Statistics and was elected a Fellow of Trinity College in 2006. She is Director of the Trinity Research Centre on Smart and Sustainable Cities. Her research addresses programming models and frameworks for service-oriented computing on mobile, embedded devices, with a particular focus on dynamic adaptation in such environments. ***The role of technology and communication in enabling behavioural change for cities of the future.*** Given growing urban populations, it is clear we need to change our behaviour to better manage the sharing of increasingly constrained urban resources, such as the road network, energy, water, and so on. This talk explores how automated communication and collaboration, using real-time decision-making, can play a part in assisting citizens in making better use of the resources available to them. The goal is not to take over citizens' lives, but to remove the onus on citizens to be constantly aware of potential opportunities for optimising resource sharing. In particular, the talk uses examples from autonomous vehicles and energy demand-side management.

**FFRENCH, Aidan**, MILLI, is a registered landscape architect and place-making champion, especially through his work as an author and presenter. He is a former President of the Irish

Landscape Institute and Chair of the ILI Working Group: Blue-Green Infrastructure. Ireland's disastrous 'Celtic-Tiger era' flirtation with neo-liberal economics gravely impacted on people and place. Irish cities and towns are under pressure: poor planning, amplified urbanisation, car-dependency, the housing crisis and vulnerability to Climate Change acutely impact on human lives. Against a background of constrained public resources, dysfunctional governance, ineffective policy delivery, and lack of investment, the future is uncertain. In a talk entitled **Contested urban space: nature, people and power**, Aidan French will consider who wields power to shape our towns and cities – who determines the use, design and management of urban places? What are the respective roles and duties of professionals, bureaucrats and critically, of citizens? And to what degree have key professionals (architects, landscape architects, ecologists, arborists, planners, civil engineers) adopted progressive and innovative practices, especially those that promote liveable, inclusive city planning, design and management? This talk explores those critical questions within a social-democratic and ecological framework, drawing on such international best practice as that of the New York-based 'Project for Public Spaces', GreenSpace Scotland and others; with an emphasis on an emerging civil society *zeitgeist*, evident in activism around urban food, housing, Green Infrastructure, and 'Smart-city' (beyond mere IT-centred connotations). The talk also draws on the ethical imperatives that are at the heart of Pope Francis' 'eco/environmental and ground-breaking Encyclical – 'LAUDATE SI' (June 2015), as they relate to the need for people-centred decision-making, social solidarity, with an ethos of 'The Commons'.

**HARPUR, Anne**, B. Arch. Sc., Dip. Arch., M.A., F.R.I.A.I., is an Architect and Co-Founder/Chairperson of the Tramore Development Trust in Co. Waterford, Ireland. In a talk entitled **Town Planning from a grass roots perspective: Bottom-up planning techniques that focus on community well-being and inclusion**, she will outline community development and planning case-studies in Ireland.

**HENNESSY, Mark**, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, School of Natural Science, Trinity College Dublin. In a talk entitled **Historic Towns Atlases and the Study of Urban Morphogenesis**, Dr Hennessy will examine the role of the state in the shaping of urban landscapes in the modern period. The value of the European Historic Towns Atlas project as a source for the study of comparative urban morphogenesis is also explored. Examples are taken from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas and from the town atlases of other European countries. The changing and expanding role of the state in urban landscape development is viewed through the lens of Foucault's concept of governmentality and M.R.G. Conzen's urban morphogenesis methodology.

**HUGHES, Brian**, PhD, MSc (Hons), Dip Env Econs, FeRSA, FRICS, FSCSI, MSSISI, consults in Urban Economic and Demographics is a Retired Lecturer from the Dublin Institute of Technology and University College Dublin. **Past Lessons and Future Direction for Ireland: increasing influences in the role for cities**. Ireland's demography in a world context is unique. Its population count is the same as it was some 200 years ago and yet it has experienced profound movements. This paper contrasts Ireland's changing demography with that of Japan since the 1840's, for the two offshore nations off the Eurasian land mass. Historic urban literature identifies that governmental policies towards cities and city-based industry/ services appears to explain many of these contrasts. Ireland's forthcoming National Planning Framework provides a policy opportunity to change direction and opt for intensive city growth. Urban economic and new economic geography advances show that Ireland is no different and the principal question for the future is: will Dublin become Ireland's city state of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? This talk points to future demographic possibilities and concludes that the adoption of urban-agglomeration policies of densification, centripetal rather than centrifugal growth and a positive land-use/transportation interface in reducing commuting times, will all enhance competitiveness and should inform Ireland's policy direction formation.

**KITCHIN, Rob**, is a professor and ERC Advanced Investigator in NIRSA at Maynooth University. He is (co)principal investigator of the Programmable City project, the Building City



Dashboards project, the All-Island Research Observatory, and the Digital Repository of Ireland. He was the 2013 recipient of the Royal Irish Academy's Gold Medal for the Social Sciences. In a talk entitled ***The Promise and Perils of Smart Cities***, Professor Kitchin will examine the concept of smart cities and the range of smart city technologies being developed and deployed, drawing on case study material relating to Dublin and Boston.

**KODATE, Naonori**, is Assistant Professor in Social Policy, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland. ***Community-based approaches to looking after older people in Tokyo***. While population ageing is a global phenomenon, Japan is at the forefront of this. The recent census shows the number of those aged 65 or older accounts for 26.7% of the 127 million total population. This year, the population of older people in Tokyo surpassed 3 million for the first time. As one of the world's largest urban areas, Tokyo is faced with a great challenge to maximise the health, functional capacity and participation of older people. In this talk entitled *Community-based Approaches to Looking after Older People in Tokyo*, Dr Kodate will address some of those challenges, and shows a few examples of local communities' initiatives in Tokyo to help older persons stay in their private home and communities.

**OTSUKI, Toshio**, is Professor at the Department of Architecture in Graduate School of Engineering at the University of Tokyo, Japan. Japan has experienced "urbanizing" for a long time, but now it is faced with both a shrinking population and a super-aged society. In his talk, Professor Otsuki will consider ***How should towns be arranged for a Super-Aged Society in Japan?***

**SHIMIZU, Natsuki**, is Associate Professor at the Educational Unit for Studies on the Connectivity of Hills, Humans and Oceans (CoHHO in Kyoto University, Japan. In a presentation entitled ***Urban lifestyle and agriculture: Public projects and policy in Kyoto***, Professor Shimizu will consider a urban agriculture project based in the Kinki region of Japan, including some of the challenges that it faced. In 2013-2014, the Japanese government conducted a project to make good use of farmland in urban areas. This project was characterised by two points: 1) farmland utilization aimed not only at food provision but also at welfare and education; 2) the implementing entity of the project was not limited to landowners or farmers – in other words, schools or social-welfare corporations could apply to give children experiences of farming or for retired/disabled people to build social relationship through agricultural activities. However, although the project achieved some good results, it was not continued following a re-prioritization of local government activities. This presentation will examine the key features of the project and some of the challenges that it faced.

**STROHMAYER, Uif**, is Professor of Geography in the School of Geography & Archaeology at NUI Galway, Ireland. In a talk entitled ***Contemporary Urbanism between 'Best Practice' and Local Customs: Public Spaces in the Post Neo-Liberal City***, Professor Strohmayer will analyse debates and practices attached to contemporary urban planning by framing them within a constructive critique of the 'learning from...' model increasingly prevalent within neo-liberal urban planning. Focussing on the design, use and function of public space, the talk uses examples from Irish and other European cities to argue for a considerably more nuanced understanding of the agency produced by, attaching to and sustained by public spaces in these urban environments. Beyond the 'repeatable matrixes' produced by modern planners the world over – to employ terminology coined by the American urbanist Keller Easterling – how can we think and engage with urban phenomena and practices in a way that acknowledges and shapes the active role of cities in our modern societies?