Cambridge Land Economy Advisory Board has been providing support and advice to the Department of Land Economy since 2012; engaging senior industry professionals with current academic initiatives and the fresh ideas of our students.

LE Life under COVID

Obviously this is a very different report to last year as the Department and University adjusted to the impact of the Coronavirus. BUT teaching and research have continued as all staff, academic and administrative, have adapted to new ways of working.

AND we have had some impressive successes...

TOP OF THE LEAGUE—again!

Cambridge’s Land Economy degree has again topped the Guardian’s University League Table for their “Building and Town & Country Planning” subject area.

More details can be found here

Hello, Goodbye... In January, we warmly welcomed Prof David Howarth as our new Head of Department and thanked Colin Lizieri when he stepped down.

And Congratulations to those who achieved promotional success (from October 2020):
Elisabete Silva—Professor of Spatial Planning
Readers: Helen Bao; Shailaja Fennell; Shaun Larcom and Emma Lees
Senior Lecturer—Thies Lindenthal

“A pioneering industry-academic partnership”
This new publication by Dr Helen Bao takes a behavioural approach to examine six important housing questions: tenure decision, gentrification, place attachment, housing bubbles, housing wealth, and residential satisfaction.

Using experimental and field data, the book demonstrates the effects of six behavioural biases and heuristics (i.e., anchoring and reference dependence, loss aversion, mental accounting, endowment effect, herd behaviours, and social comparison) on these housing decisions.

This book is ideal supplementary reading on a variety of courses such as housing studies, economics, real estate, research methods, and for students and academics who are interested in the application of behavioural science in housing decisions. Copies can be ordered here.

2020 REF & Investment Symposium Goes Virtual

CRERC, the University of Florida, University of Geneva and the National University of Singapore are pleased to announce their joint 2020 Real Estate Finance and Investment Symposium will run online this autumn.

The symposium will be held via Zoom and accepted papers will be presented in four two-hour slots over four days between late September and early October to accommodate the different time zones. Authors are expected to attend all sessions and play an active role in them. Each paper presentation is 45mins approx. followed by a Q&A session.

As does the MSt in Real Estate

Thanks to Zoom, the residential teaching for both 2018 and 2019 cohorts was successfully transferred online in March and embraced well by students:

“I thought the ‘Virtual’ nature of the sessions was handled very well, including the use of Zoom and the format of the sessions. I also enjoyed the pub breakout calls – not easy to replicate the in person experience of the residential sessions online, but these came close!”

Cohort 2019-21 student feedback

Further online sessions are planned later in the summer for the 2019 and incoming 2020 students.

Although CRERC is in lockdown due to COVID-19 members of the team are still busy working on research papers for publication.

For further details visit our webpage.

Our second year MSt students have also been able to continue with their dissertation research. Luke Hamilton-Jones was lucky enough to still access the data he needed even if PPE was required. Here he is at a private historic archive in central London.

Another significant event to go online due to the Coronavirus was our annual Department Open Day, usually held as part of the wider University Open Day in late June. Instead HoD David Howarth aired a virtual open day, which can be seen HERE. However, it meant that prospective students were not able to appreciate the department’s new livery.
CCHPR recently published a number of research reports as part of their Innovate UK research for the Construction Innovation Hub and the Centre for Digital Built Britain.

Their current areas of focus include the value of early stakeholder engagement in digital infrastructure projects, and in depth explorations of the social context of the UK construction industry and off-site manufacture.

CCHPR are also looking at how smart technologies are helping older people to age in place.

To keep up to date with CCHPR’s latest research you can read their latest Newsletter: https://mailchi.mp/landecon.cam.ac.uk/latest-research-news-from-cchpr. To sign up to the newsletter visit: www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk

**C-EEERG** has taken part in groundbreaking research in the search for realistic means to remove carbon dioxide from the troposphere have been published in a new article in *Nature* led by Professor D. J. Beerling, Director of the Leverhulme Centre for Climate Change Mitigation, at the University of Sheffield. The research shows the potential of enhanced silicate rock weathering (ERW), deployable with croplands, as means to remove carbon dioxide, with possible co-benefits for improved food and soil security, and reduced ocean acidification.

C-EEERG fellows J.-F. Mercure, H. Pollitt and N. Edwards co-authored the study, which is one of the key outputs of the Leverhulme Centre for Climate Change Mitigation. Professor J. E. Víñuales from C-EENRG, who is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Leverhulme Centre and who did not participate in the research, emphasised the importance of the findings, which could be a game-changer in the search for realistic and low-risk strategies to remove greenhouse gases in the near term, at a time when the time-window for decisive action is rapidly closing.

**CCHPR’s** Dr Gemma Burgess and Valentine Quinio have had a paper published online by the journal Housing Studies. *Unpicking the downsizing discourse: understanding the housing moves made by older people in England* discusses the nuances of the residential moves made by over 55s in England. The full article can be read HERE.

In May, **C-EEERG’s** Prof Laura Diaz Anadon published a blog post in response to the UK Government’s COVID-19 recovery plans saying they should include R&D investment to foster the energy transition.

She said “Including R&D investment presents a unique opportunity to build a more productive and resilient economy by addressing the relatively low R&D intensity of the UK economy, and deliver large benefits to society by concentrating efforts in R&D to enable the energy transition in areas such as energy storage, next generation renewables, buildings, industry, shipping, and aviation, among others. These are not only economic growth areas, but also areas with the potential to yield additional public health, climate, and broader environmental benefits.”

Read the full blog post

Environment, Law & Economics
LE Life after LOCKDOWN

Now in its sixth year since it was relaunched the 2020 Cambridge Real Estate Research Club was going to be held in May, but due to the lockdown it had to be rescheduled to next year instead. The 2021 event will be held at Clare College in June.

Another significant event that had to be postponed was the eagerly awaited Alumni drinks reception and dinner to be held at Queens’ College in September to mark and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the MPhil Programmes. We will find a new date for the event soon, in the meantime Alumni updates will be available here.

One annual event that has not been cancelled is the Graduate Open Day usually held in November. This year it’s going virtual but still offers an excellent opportunity to find out more about studying at Cambridge. For more details and to sign-up to the Graduate Office mailing list click HERE.

Pop-up Goes Permanent... for now!

As you will know the window of House 16 is regularly host to a pop-up gallery curated by Art, Language Location.

The current installation is part of “The Window Project” - a collaboration with ARU and Cambridge School of Art.

During 2020 it was intended that a selection of artists would produce a specific commission in response to the site being both a window and an LE office. Obviously due to COVID the first piece is still in-situ being enjoyed by visitors to Silver Street as it opens up after lockdown.

Record interest in the Mst

CRERC received a record number of enquiries (197) for its MSt in Real Estate 2020 and as usual there was a very wide range of backgrounds (36 nations represented among the enquirers). The cohort as in previous years will be around 20 and the first residential has been pushed back to improve the chances of having it in person.

A new member of CRERC and a new Conference

A warm welcome to Dr Carolin Schmidt who will be joining CRERC as Senior Teaching Associate in Real Estate, Finance and Economics in October. Carolin joins us from ZEW - Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research.

She is already busy in the department helping coordinate the virtual seminars with Thies, and is also chairing the Virtual 12th Real Estate Markets and Capital Markets (ReCapNet) Conference in November.

The main theme of this year’s conference will be “Global Trends and Real Estate: Risks and Challenges”.

CULS in association with Savills are running a webinar on “The Impact of Covid on our ESG Objectives—New Opportunities and Challenges” from 08.30-09.30 on Wed 16th September. For more information and to register click HERE.

It is hoped that the annual Cambridge University Land Society (CULS) Careers in Property Fair will still go ahead as usual in Michaelmas Term but it will be a virtual event.

This report was written by ldh31 @ CRERC 2020