The Future Cities Programme

The programme brings together academic research with commercial experience & expertise and government engagement to contribute to how we design, develop, govern and thrive in cities, addressing key issues including the urgent need to unite the academic study of the social, economic, political and technical dimensions of cities and emerging technologies to build understanding and commercial practice that can be used in developing cities for the future.

After the success of previous years, the Department of Land Economy continue to lead the 'Future Cities' initiative, which capitalises on existing teaching, research and inter-disciplinary collaborations to embed future cities as a focus of strategic development within the University. The initiative has three interconnecting strands: an annual international conference, a visiting fellow and eight PhD research fellows.

The Annual International Future Cities Conference
Each year, the conference brings together an expert community of academics, practitioners, decision makers – including real estate developers and investors – and policymakers from the urban sphere. It provides a unique opportunity for creative, innovative investors and developers to look at how they can address risks and responsibilities in the context of the environment and society, how they can make the most of new technologies, and how they can discover new opportunities around future cities.

The Annual Visiting Fellowship
Creating a new Visiting Fellowship each year enables the Department to bring in an outstanding scholar and/or practitioner working in the broad field of land economy with a focus on technology, urban development and futurology, and specialist knowledge and skills in resilience and adaptability.

The Annual PhD Research Fellows
Each year eight research grants are awarded to PhD students in order to develop research in relation to the future development of cities, to produce a research paper and present at the annual international conference on 'Future Cities'.

The programme is Led by the Department of Land Economy, Real Estate Research Centre in collaboration with the Cambridge Forum for Sustainability and the Environment.

The Future Cities programme is funded through a generous gift from Capital & Counties Properties Plc.
Cambridge Future Cities Conference 2018
“Successful Cities of the Future”
Thursday 12th July 2018, Jesus College, Cambridge

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.45–9.30 am</td>
<td>Tea/coffee on arrival</td>
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| 9.30–9.40 am | Welcome  
*Nick Mansley*, Executive Director, Cambridge Real Estate Research Centre  
*Andrea Carpenter*, Master of Ceremonies, Director, Women Talk Real Estate |
| 9.40–10.30 am | Session One: Integrating technology to make cities and buildings more efficient  
**Keynote Speech**  
*Professor Chris Webster*, Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Chair Professor in Urban Planning and Development Economics, University of Hong Kong  
‘Successful future cities: what can we really expect from smart city data and tech?’  
Q&A led by *Andrea Carpenter* |
| 10.30–11.20 am |  
*Professor Calvin Jones*, Professor of Economics and Director of Public Value Delivery at Cardiff Business School  
‘The Value of Places and People in a Digital World’  
*Rick Robinson*, Digital Property and Cities Business Leader, Arup  
‘Building Smart Cities – as if people mattered’  
Q&A led by *Andrea Carpenter* |
| 11.20–11.45 am | Coffee break                                                          |
| 11.45 am–12.10 pm | PhD Student Research Presentations – part 1 (1–4)  
*James Pollard* – ‘Mapping coastal flood risk in the world’s most vulnerable cities: a big data approach’  
*Tianren Yang* – ‘Land Value Capture in Planned New Urban Centres’  
*Chris Blundell* – ‘The potential for, and benefits of, engineered housing solutions to new garden communities’  
*Sam Cole* – ‘Explaining Crime Variations Across the City: Methodologies for Capturing Socially Cohesive Neighbourhood Processes’ |
| 12.10 –1.00 pm | Session Two: Transport  
**Chair:** *Matthew Gwyther*, Presenter, Radio 4’s *In Business*  
**Panel/Q & A:**  
*Joanna Rowelle*, Director in Integrated City Planning, Arup  
*Emma Fletcher*, Managing Director, SmithsonHill  
*Gareth Sumner*, Director of Transport Innovation, Transport for London  
*Andrea Carpenter* – Summary thoughts |
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<tr>
<td>1.00 –1.25 pm</td>
<td><strong>PhD Student Research Presentations – part 2 (5–8)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Kevin Kay</strong> – ‘Radical density, privacy and interdependence in post-domestic housing: a prospective from the earliest urban settlements’</td>
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<td><strong>Alexander Taylor</strong> – ‘Spectrum Security in Future Cities’</td>
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<td><strong>Kaara Martinez</strong> – ‘Housing and Inclusion in the City: Possibilities in International Law’</td>
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<td><strong>Jennifer Chisholm</strong> – The Ecological Favela: Sustainable Development and the Right to Housing in Rio de Janeiro’</td>
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<td>1.25 –2.25 pm</td>
<td>Lunch and student Poster Displays</td>
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<td>2.25 –3.20 pm</td>
<td><strong>Session Three: Successful cities, places and buildings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Professor Carlo Ratti</strong>, Director of the MIT Senseable City Lab</td>
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<td>‘SENSEABLE CITIES’</td>
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<td><strong>Professor Colin Lizieri</strong>, Grosvenor Professor of Real Estate Finance, Head of The Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge</td>
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<td>‘Land, Property and Networks of Cities’</td>
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<td><strong>Q&amp;A led by Dr Elizabeth Rapapport</strong>, Content Director, ULI Europe</td>
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<td><strong>Andrea Carpenter</strong> – Summary thoughts</td>
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<td>3.20 –3.45 pm</td>
<td><strong>A property company perspective</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Gary Yardley</strong>, Managing Director &amp; Chief Investment Officer, Capco</td>
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<td>‘Future Cities: Re-Generation &amp; Housing – where do the real issues lie?’</td>
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<td><strong>Robert Phillips</strong>, Co-Founder, Jericho Chambers – <strong>Q&amp;A with Gary Yardley</strong></td>
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<td>3.45 –4.15pm</td>
<td>Break for tea &amp; coffee</td>
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<td>4.15 –5.15pm</td>
<td><strong>Session Four: Strategic alliances in scaling up housing delivery</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chair: Dr Nicky Morrison</strong>, Senior Lecturer, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge</td>
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<td><strong>Dr Nicholas Falk</strong>, Executive Director, URBED Trust, Transforming cities through affordable housing’</td>
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<td><strong>Panel/Q&amp;A:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Austen Reid</strong>, Chair, European Federation for Living</td>
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<td><strong>Andrea Carpenter</strong> – Summary thoughts</td>
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<td>5.15 –5.30 pm</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
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<td><strong>Nick Mansley</strong></td>
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<td>5.30 –7.30 pm</td>
<td>Networking drinks and canapés</td>
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<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>Conference close</td>
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Professor Chris Webster has a background in urban planning, computer science, economics and economic geography and is a leading urban theorist and spatial economic modeller. He has published over 150 scholarly papers on the idea of spontaneous urban order and received over 20M USD of grants for research and teaching and learning projects. He was co-editor of the urban modelling journal Environment and Planning B for ten years.


Professor Webster has five prize-winning academic papers on urban theory. He has always been a strong believer in the unity of the sciences and in recent years, with the ever greater availability of big data, especially individual level data, he has focused on data-driven empirical work - on property rights, housing markets, urban poverty, urban density, urban environmental performance and urban health. Among his current research agenda is the pursuit of systematic evidence for the relationship between urban configuration (planned and spontaneous) and individual health. He was PI on a UK ESRC-funded ‘Transformative Research’ project that created 700 built environment morphometric variables for each of the 500,000 members of the UK Biobank, the country’s flagship epidemiological study and he has spent the past 5 years publishing the results with his co-authors, Sarkar and Gallacher, in leading medical journals including Lancet Planetary Health. This work is the latest in his lifelong interest in urban performance of spontaneous and planned human settlements, health being ultimately (arguably more so than wealth) the most important performance dimension of cities.

Professor Webster founded and directs HKUrbanLab, a set of interdisciplinary research labs hosted by the University of Hong Kong, many of which deal in urban big data and smart city ideas.
Successful future cities: what can we really expect from smart city data and tech?
In this talk, Professor Webster will first ask what, if anything, we can say with certainty about future cities. Anticipating an approaching urban-rural 'singularity', progressive densification and increasing city size, he asks what we should do to prepare for the future and identifies four kinds of resilience issues. Smart city technology, he argues, will facilitate ever more sophisticated means of regulating and shaping large dense city regions. Regulation and urban systems management will be needed to mitigate against harmful urban externalities, enhance agglomeration benefits and to improve scale-economies in urban infrastructure and services; all of which, according to Luis Battencourt et al, tend to scale with city size at a factor of ~15%, the first two super-linearly and the last sub-linearly. Focusing on health resilience, Professor Webster reviews the scientific paradigms of healthy cities with respect to the importance paid to the built environment and goes on to report findings from big-data driven healthy city studies at HKUrbanLab. These studies quantify the associations between individual specific health outcomes and specific urban externalities including density, noise, air pollution, happiness, walkability, green infrastructure, microbial ecology and money circulation. He concludes on a note of Hayekian scepticism about the potential for big data and smart city tech to deliver better urban planning and suggests, with examples from tech projects underway in HKUrbanLab, that more efficacious are likely to be applications that price ‘missing markets’ so that cities can better make efficient adaptations through the spontaneous exchanges that make cities what they are.
Master of Ceremonies

Andrea Carpenter
Director, Women Talk Real Estate

Andrea Carpenter is a Director of Women Talk Real Estate, and a writer and communications consultant in the property industry. She most recently worked as Head of Marketing and Communications EMEA at CBRE Global Investors where she oversaw the corporate and programme marketing, press, branding and internal communications in the region.

Andrea began her career as a journalist at Property Week before moving on to be editor of EuroProperty for seven years. Following this she worked for various industry bodies including the Urban Land Institute as well as spending three years as a director and interim CEO at INREV in Amsterdam, and one year at its sister organisation ANREV in Hong Kong. She is currently working as a consultant in the industry and has just finished a book for students and young professionals about the history of the modern European property industry that will be published in October.

Speakers and Chairs
In order of appearance in the conference programme

Nick Mansley
Director, Cambridge Real Estate Research Centre, University of Cambridge

Nick is Executive Director of the Real Estate Research Centre in the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge. He lectures and researches on issues related to real estate investment, finance and the economy and is co-Course Director of the part-time Masters in Real Estate programme. Nick is Chair of the Lord Chancellor’s Strategic Investment Board, External Assurance Advisor to the Official Solicitor and Public Trustee, sits on the investment committee of a fund investing in retail property and a fund investing in UK residential property as well as serving on the Urban Land Institute UK executive committee. Nick has over 30 years of experience researching and investing in real estate markets. He started his career in consultancy in Cambridge before moving into the investment management industry, where he led the strategy and investment process in the real estate business in a Chief Investment Officer role, and then led Aviva Investors’ global multi-manager services across all asset classes. Nick studied economics at Cambridge, investment at the London Business School and management at CEDEP (INSEAD). Nick is an enthusiastic triathlete representing GB for his age group.
Professor Calvin Jones  
Professor of Economics and Director of Public Value Delivery,  
Cardiff University Business School

Calvin Jones is a Professor of Economics and Director of Public Value Delivery at Cardiff Business School, and a Visiting Professor at Napier University Business School. He holds a PhD in the Economics of Tourism and Major Sports Events. Recent research has focused on energy economics, including the regional economic impact of various renewables and of community energy. His current research interests include the impact of emerging technologies on places. Calvin is a failed rock star and failed novelist, but winner of the Moss Madden Medal in Regional Science. In 2012 he authored the black comedy short ‘A Million Years of Sunshine’ (http://vimeo.com/78415270)

Rick Robinson  
Digital Property & Cities Business Leader, Arup

Dr. Rick Robinson is the Leader of Arup’s Digital Property and Cities business. He advises cities, infrastructure operators, property developers and investors on the use of technology to improve buildings, infrastructure, places, communities and business and organisational performance. Previously, he was Director of Technology for Amey, where he was responsible for driving advances in digital technology into public services and infrastructure that are used by about 1 in 4 people in the UK every day, and before that he was Executive Architect for Smarter Cities for IBM. Rick collaborates with a network of technology entrepreneurs, Universities and social institutions to explore innovations in digital technology, and has advised the UK Government and United Nations on their impact on the built environment, economy, communities and society. Rick is a Fellow of the British Computer Society, a Fellow of the RSA, a member of the Academy of Urbanism, a member of the Boards of Innovation Birmingham and Innovation West Midlands. He founded and chairs the Birmingham Smart City Alliance.

Rick writes about his work at http://theurbantechnologist.com/ and you can connect with him on Twitter as @dr_rick.
Matthew Gwyther
Presenter, Radio 4’s In Business

Matthew edited Management Today for 17 years and during that time won the coveted BSME Business Magazine Editor of the year on a record five occasions. During a fifteen year career as a freelance he wrote for the Sunday Times magazine, The Independent, The Telegraph, The Observer, GQ and was a contributing editor to Business magazine. He was PPA Business Feature Writer of the Year in 2001. He has also worked on two drama serials one for Channel 4 and one for the BBC. Before becoming a journalist he had a brief and inauspicious spell as a civil servant working at the Medical Research Council in its London Secretariat.

Matthew is now a partner at Jericho Chambers and the main presenter on BBC Radio 4’s In Business programme.

Matthew is also the co-author of Exposure published by Penguin in London and New York in the Autumn of 2012. It is the story of whistleblower Michael Woodford, the “Southend samurai” who left school at 16 and worked his way up to the top post of the Japanese industrial conglomerate Olympus, only to discover that his board were involved in a two-billion-dollar fraud.

http://jerichochambers.com/smart-city-thinking/
http://jerichochambers.com/answer-to-cities-air-problems/

Joanna Rowelle
Director in Integrated City Planning, Arup

Joanna Rowelle is Director in Integrated City Planning at Arup where she focuses on regeneration, economic development and Host Cities. Recent roles have included working with city administrations on inclusive growth strategies, station led masterplans and strategic plans across the UK, China and Australia. She is currently running a research programme examining social equity and transport long term benefits derived from transport in city planning.

Prior to joining Arup, Joanna worked at the Greater London Authority for the Mayor of London where she led a unit in business and economic policy before running the regeneration department, most significantly during the London 2012 Games.

Joanna is a Fellow of the RSA, a member of the Institute of Economic Development and on the Board of the London Youth Support Trust.
Emma Fletcher  
Managing Director, Smithson Hill

A graduate of the University of Cambridge, Emma has over 20 years’ experience in property development, including Project Manager at Hill Group and Property Director at Marshall Group Properties. Emma is a council member of the Cambridge Forum for the Construction Industry. She chairs the Cambridge Ahead Transport Group and is Vice-chair of the Shelford and Whittlesford Rail Users Group. In 2018, for the second consecutive year, Emma was named one of the Planner’s Women of Influence in The Planner magazine. Emma Fletcher is currently Managing Director at Smithson Hill.

Gareth Sumner  
Director of Transport Innovation, Transport for London

Gareth is Foresight Manager in TfL’s Transport Innovation Directorate advising TfL and the Greater London Authority on the trends in technology and lifestyles that could impact the way TfL operates and the way London moves. This includes autonomous vehicles, demand responsive transit and drones.

Gareth leads the London Task Force for Nesta’s Flying High Challenge. The programme explores how drones might be used in London to create public benefit by engaging stakeholders and exploring different use cases. Gareth’s current work on drones explores what can be done at a city level to support publicly acceptable and appropriate drone use that benefits Londoners.

Gareth has ten years experience in urban design, planning and smart mobility and studied Engineering at Emmanuel College Cambridge, Urban Design at Oxford Brookes and Innovation at the Cass Business School. He has worked at Transport for London since 2012, advising on a diverse range of projects including Old Oak Common’s High Speed Rail station, River Crossings and Bank Station Upgrade. Gareth led the Future Streets Incubator Fund which invested £3 million on new approaches to design and technology that could enhance London’s streets.
Professor Carlo Ratti
Director of the MIT Senseable City Lab

An architect and engineer by training, Professor Carlo Ratti teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he directs the Senseable City Lab, and is a founding partner of the international design and innovation office Carlo Ratti Associati. He graduated from the Politecnico di Torino and the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris, and later earned his MPhil and PhD at the University of Cambridge, UK. A leading voice in the debate on new technologies’ impact on urban life and design, Carlo has co-authored over 500 publications, including “The City of Tomorrow” (Yale University Press, June 2016, with Matthew Claudel), and holds several technical patents. His articles and interviews have appeared on international media including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Financial Times, Scientific American, BBC, Project Syndicate, Corriere della Sera, Il Sole 24 Ore, Domus. His work has been exhibited worldwide at venues such as the Venice Biennale, the Design Museum Barcelona, the Science Museum in London, MAXXI in Rome, and MoMA in New York City.

Carlo has been featured in Esquire Magazine’s ‘Best & Brightest’ list and in Thames & Hudson’s selection of’60 innovators’ shaping our creative future. Blueprint Magazine included him as one of the ‘25 People Who Will Change the World of Design’, Forbes listed him as one of the ‘Names You Need To Know’ and Fast Company named him as one of the ‘50 Most Influential Designers in America’. He was also featured in Wired Magazine’s ‘Smart List: 50 people who will change the world’. Two of his projects – the Digital Water Pavilion and the Copenhagen Wheel – have been included by TIME Magazine in the list of the ‘Best Inventions of the Year’.

Carlo has been a presenter at TED (in 2011 and 2015), program director at the Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design in Moscow, curator of the BMW Guggenheim Pavilion in Berlin, and was named Inaugural Innovator in Residence by the Queensland Government. He was the curator of the Future Food District pavilion for the 2015 World Expo in Milan. He is currently serving as co-chair of the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council on Cities and Urbanization, and as special adviser on Urban Innovation to the President and Commissioners of the European Commission. For further information visit www.carloratti.com and senseable.mit.edu
**Professor Colin Lizieri**  
**Grosvenor Professor of Real Estate Finance, Head of The Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge**

Colin joined the Department in October 2009. Previously he was Professor of Real Estate Finance at the Henley Business School, University of Reading. His research interests focus particularly on modelling commercial real estate markets, international capital flows and on innovation in real estate investment and finance. His book, ‘Towers of Capital – office markets and international financial services’, published by Wiley-Blackwell, examines the development of office markets in global cities. Colin chaired the World Economic Forum’s industry agenda council on the Future of Real Estate and Urbanization and the European Public Real Estate Association’s research committee. He has provided expert advice for the EU, the Norwegian Government, the Bank of England, HM Treasury and a wide range of public and private sector clients and has appeared as an expert witness in the Upper Chamber (Lands Tribunal) and the Australian Federal Courts. In 2014 he was awarded the David Ricardo Medal, the American Real Estate Society’s highest accolade for academic achievement.

**Gary Yardley**  
**Managing Director & Chief Investment Officer, Capco**

Gary has been a senior deal maker in the UK and European real estate market for over 25 years. Gary leads Capco’s real estate investment and development activities. Leading Capco’s team on the redevelopment of Earls Court, Gary has been responsible for securing Planning Consent for 11m sq ft at this strategic opportunity area providing over 7,500 new homes for London. With the demolition of the Earls Court Exhibition Halls now complete the creation of a new district for London has now become a reality.

He is a Chartered Surveyor with over 30 years’ experience in UK real estate. He is a former CIO of Liberty International and former partner of King Sturge.

**Dr Elizabeth Rapoport**  
**Content Director, ULI Europe**

Elizabeth is Content Director for the Urban Land Institute (ULI), Europe, a global membership organisation for the urban development industry. She manages ULI’s European research and city advisory programme, leveraging members’ knowledge and expertise to promote the responsible use of land. An urban planner by training, Elizabeth has 15 years of international experience in urban research, policy and consultancy. She holds a Doctorate in Urban Sustainability and Resilience from UCL, and a MSc in Regional and Urban Planning Studies from the London School of Economics.
Robert Phillips
Co-Founder, Jericho Chambers

Robert is someone who thinks deeply about the future of communications and about trust and responsibility in business. A former EMEA CEO of Edelman, the world's largest Public Relations firm, Robert is the author of the ground-breaking and controversial Trust Me, PR is Dead; a Visiting Professor at Cass Business School; and co-founder of Jericho Chambers.

Jericho is a consultancy with provocative points of view. It works with major companies and organisations committed to a better society and the common good – helping them navigate towards meaningful change through what they do, not what they say.

In previous lives, Robert launched his first business while still at university; went on to create some of the most iconic brand PR campaigns of the 1980s,’90s and ’00s; before, in 2004, selling the agency he co-founded to Edelman, now the world’s largest Public Relations consultancy. Never part of a grand plan (because he didn’t have one), Robert became UK CEO of Edelman and then President & CEO, EMEA, as well as Global Chair of the firm’s Future Strategies & Public Engagement group. Over a 30-year career, he has worked with the CEOs and Exec. Teams of a number of FTSE 100 and Fortune 500 companies. In late 2012, Robert had an epiphany and quit. “It was time”, he later wrote, “to call bullshit on the bullshit industry of PR”. Management Today calls Robert “the repentant spinner”.

It was while at Edelman that Robert became fascinated about the relationship between communications and trust. With Jericho, he has developed new working principles to help organisations think and communicate differently and built coalitions to help put this thinking into practice. Robert’s recent work covers a range of major societal issues: from Responsible Tax to the Future of Work, via transport, the digital economy, housing and the built environment. Robert advocates activist corporate leadership and programmes that celebrate, rather than fear, co-production, vulnerability and dissent. He argues that the future can only be negotiated, not imposed, and spends much of his time convening networks in order to tackle the bigger challenges of these fragile times. Robert doesn’t like measuring stuff – like seeking “more trust”, he says, “most measurement is meaningless”. 
Dr Nicky Morrison
Senior Lecturer, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge

Nicky is a Senior Lecturer and Director of the Not for Profit Housing Research Programme in the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge, with over twenty-five years of experience in examining how changes in government policy and market conditions impact on housing delivery. She is the Co-Chair of the Social Housing: Institutions, governance and organisations working group of the European Network for Housing Researchers and on the Editorial Board of Habitat International.

Dr Nicolas Falk
Executive Director, URBED Trust

Dr Nicholas Falk, BA MBA Hon FRIBA Hon MRTPI is an economist, urbanist and strategic planner. He founded the consultancy URBED in 1976 www.urbed.coop, which now specialises in masterplanning and urban design from the office in Manchester. He is currently Executive Director of The URBED Trust, and was co-winner of the 2014 Wolfson Economics Prize for showing how to build garden cities that are visionary, viable and popular. His most recent commission has been to advise the Greater London Authority Deputy Mayor for Housing on international good practice published as Capital Gains: a better land assembly model for London.

Dame Kate Barker
Non Executive Director, Taylor Wimpey

Kate Barker is a business economist with a keen interest in housing policy. At present she has a plural career, including as a non-executive director of Taylor Wimpey plc and Man Group plc. She was appointed as chairman of trustees for the British Coal Staff Superannuation Fund in 2014 and is a member of the National Infrastructure Commission.

Kate was a member of the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) from 2001 until May 2010. During this period, she led two major policy reviews for Government, on housing supply – published in 2004, and on land use planning, published in 2006. In 2014, she published a short book: ‘Housing: Where’s the Plan?’
Austen Reid
Director of Development, Clarion

Austen leads Clarion’s development business with an ambition to build 50,000 homes over 10 years and a current pipeline of 12,000 homes.

He was previously the Chief Operating Officer at Circle prior to the merger with Affinity Sutton. Austen possesses significant real estate experience having held senior positions in large housing associations and Savills.

Ben Pluijmers
Chair, European Federation for Living

Ben holds a master degree in Engineering at the University of Technology Delft and complemented his education with business studies at Nyenrode Business University and the University of Michigan Business School.

Currently Ben is Chairman of the Board of the European Federation for Living (EFL) and member of the board of Lhedco (holding Groupe Polylogis in France). Furthermore Ben holds several positions on supervisory and advisory boards. He has a vast board level experience in the affordable housing industry.
The Future Cities PhD Prize Fellows 2018

The Future Cities Programme includes the award of 8 PhD Future Cities Prize Fellowships to support the development of research relating to future cities by some of the brightest young PhD students at The University of Cambridge.

The funding and support provided through the fellowship is intended to allow these talented young Cambridge PhD students to develop their research and produce papers summarising their ideas about how future cities may be designed, developed, operated and lived within to meet social, economic and environmental aims.

The research students will be presenting their research at the conference and will be available for discussion at their poster displays during the conference breaks. Please do go and see them in the West Court foyer.
PhD Prize Fellows 2018
In order of presentations

James Pollard
PhD student, Cambridge Coastal Research Unit, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge
‘Mapping coastal flood risk in the world’s most vulnerable cities: a big data approach’

James is a coastal geographer with specific interests in coastal risk assessment and management. His PhD research investigates the interactive relationship between coastal flooding and erosion risk, particularly during extreme storm surge events. This work focuses on the barrier coastline of North Norfolk, on England’s east coast.

James’ Future Cities research deals with coastal flood risk on a global scale. Accurate, quantitative information on the long-term development of coastal conurbations is an essential first step to ensure city-scale mitigation and adaptation to coastal flood risk. To deliver this information, he aims to deploy a ‘big data’ approach to quantify the multi-decadal evolution of five cities (Guangzhou, New Orleans, Guayaquil, Ho Chi Minh City and Abidjan), identified as the world’s most vulnerable to coastal flood losses. Utilising sequential satellite imagery, global storm surge datasets and coastal elevation maps, this study will offer insights to: urbanisation chronologies for the five cities; city-scale responses to past catastrophic flooding events; and critical thresholds of urban expansion into low-lying areas.

Tianren Yang
PhD student, Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge
‘Land Value Capture in Planned New Urban Centres’

Tianren Yang is a doctoral candidate and Cambridge Trust Scholar at the Martin Centre for Architectural and Urban Studies, University of Cambridge. His research focuses on applied urban models to provide a scientific understanding of urban dynamics and its relationship with policy input.

Tianren’s Future Cities project capitalises on novel online data and builds a new theoretical model for understanding land value capture (LVC) options in planning new city centres. This would materially improve local governments’ abilities to explore LVC options not only as a financing instrument within current property hotspots but also as part of a wider policy toolkit to promote social equity, environmental sustainability and business productivity in a city region at present characterised by an overcrowded core and low-growth suburban centres.
His previous training in urban planning (MUP, Tongji), urban design (MS, Georgia Tech), and landscape architecture (BE, Tongji) has granted him with an understanding of city on multiple scales. His professional experience includes world urbanisation research, regional strategic planning, and low-carbon urban design at the China Intelligent Urbanisation Co-Creation Centre, Sino-U.S. Eco Urban Lab, and Shanghai Municipal Engineering Design Institute. Additionally, he has consulted for the Asian Development Bank, China Development Bank and Boston Consulting Group on urban-rural integration and new town development.

Chris Blundell
PhD student (part time), Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge

‘The potential for, and benefits of, engineered housing solutions to new garden communities’

Chris has had a 40 year career in the development and management of affordable housing predominantly in the UK but including six years in the academic sector in Hong Kong, and has recently commenced as a part time PhD Student in the Department of Land Economy.

Chris’ research interests are in the development, financing and governance of large scale new communities as a way to address chronic housing shortages through the development of higher quality, more sustainable and more affordable places to live. In 2014 he was a finalist in the Wolfson Economics Prize addressing the challenge of delivering new Garden Cities which are visionary, economically viable and popular, and has been active in promoting new approaches to development and governance for high quality and sustainable urban settlements. Chris has also had a keen interest in innovative methods of construction since taking part in a DTI Industrial Technology Mission to Canada in 2000 to research Canadian methods of offsite and engineered housing production.

Chris has Masters degrees in public administration (housing policy), property development and investment, and building conservation and an MBA studied in Hong Kong. He is a Fellow of both the RICS and the Chartered Institute of Housing, and a Member of the Town and Country Planning Association. His past research has focused on housing policy in the UK and Hong Kong, and he is an external examiner for housing degrees in the UK and Hong Kong, and a Trustee of the RICS Research Trust.
Sam Cole
PhD student, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge
‘Explaining Crime Variations Across the City: Methodologies for Capturing Socially Cohesive Neighbourhood Processes’

Sam’s current research interests centre around the domain of socio-spatial criminology, with a specific focus on what engenders communities to enforce common rules and norms within their residential environments. His current ESRC and Pembroke College funded PhD research focusses on better situating empirical findings from testing Collective Efficacy Theory into pragmatic policy outcomes for crime prevention. This involves dissecting how community social process dynamics – which explicate the link between levels of community cohesion and the resultant willingness of communities to engage in crime prevention – function when transposed into differing urban contexts. This research will therefore serve to better embed current academic findings by considering their interaction with existent built form features and the routine activity dynamics of live urban environments.

Kevin Kay
PhD student, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge
‘Radical density, privacy and interdependence in post-domestic housing: a prospective from the earliest ‘urban’ settlements’

Kevin Kay is a PhD candidate in Archaeology, with a focus on houses at the transition to settled life. His research explores the role of houses as political objects and active participants in the earliest dense human settlements, especially in Central Turkey. These settlements, which afforded little by way of privacy and integrated ‘public’ functionality (political, religious and economic activities) into the fabric of domestic spaces, form the basis for Kevin’s Future Cities project. For this project, Kevin is assessing the design principles of such domestic spaces, especially the ways design flexibility and standardization allowed people to negotiate the role of larger communities in their houses and daily lives. Better understanding the way houses met the needs of such a radically alternative model of domestic life will generate critical questions about how future urban housing can fit into a world in which privacy is increasingly a thing of the (recent) past.
Alexander Taylor
PhD student, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge
‘Spectrum Security in Future Cities’

Alexander Taylor is an anthropologist working at the intersection of science and technology studies, digital preservation, security studies and media archaeology. His doctoral research explores how infrastructures and technologies of data storage intersect with planetary scales of security and dystopian digital futures in the data centre industry. This coordinated ethnographic study draws on multi-sited fieldwork conducted with high-security data centres, disaster recovery firms, data storage developers and government risk advisors, amongst others.

Alexander’s Future Cities research explores how smart city planners, urban designers and architects might configure future built environments to more effectively manage electromagnetic data emanations. The wireless, contactless, mobile and sensing devices that are now central to our experience of smart urbanism, all send and receive data through the electromagnetic spectrum. Yet growing security, privacy and health concerns surrounding these electromagnetic signals are prompting creative and at times disruptive reconfigurations of public and domestic electromagnetic space. Making the spatial management of electromagnetic emanations a structural component of future cities would enable for the development of more ethical relationships between space and data, as well as more ‘WiFi-efficient’ environments. With intensifying public and policy debates surrounding electromagnetic signals, how might we begin to strategically incorporate ‘spectrum security’ into the fabric of future cities?

Kaara Martinez
PhD student, Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge
‘Housing and Inclusion in the City: Possibilities in International Law’

Kaara Martinez is a PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge, Faculty of Law, working under the supervision of Professor Eyal Benvenisti and Dr. Surabhi Ranganathan. Her research interests lie primarily in the areas of public international law and international human rights law, particularly economic and social rights in the context of economic globalization. Kaara’s doctoral research focuses on cities and the right to adequate housing in international law, with an emphasis on addressing the challenges posed by rapid and increasing urbanization across the globe. Kaara’s academic qualifications include a Juris Doctor and Certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies from the Georgetown University Law Center, as well as a Master of Studies in International Human Rights Law, with distinction, from the University of Oxford.
Jennifer Chisholm
PhD student, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge
‘The Ecological Favela: Sustainable Development and the Right to Housing in Rio de Janeiro’

Jennifer is a third-year PhD student in the Department of Sociology and originally from Cleveland, Ohio, USA. She earned her B.A. from American University in 2012 where she majored in International Studies with concentrations in Latin America and Comparative Race Relations. In 2013, she embarked on her MPhil degree in Latin American Studies at the University of Cambridge. Her MPhil dissertation fieldwork in Rio de Janeiro set the foundation for her PhD project which is an ethnographic study of how people mobilize against the evictions of informal settlements in Rio de Janeiro. During fieldwork, she was a visiting researcher at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and wrote essays for the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), LSE Latin America blog, and the Latin American Bureau based on her fieldwork. At Cambridge, she served as BME officer for King’s College and was an editor of the academic magazine King’s Review, also at King’s.
About the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge

The Department of Land Economy is a leading international centre within The University of Cambridge, providing a full programme of taught courses within an intensive, research-oriented environment. In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework assessment, 50% of the Department’s research work was described as “World Leading” and a further 38% as “Internationally Excellent”.

The Department currently has over 40 teaching and research staff and approximately 320 students and addresses contemporary problems as well as more fundamental analysis. This includes both the role of governments in establishing regulatory frameworks within which land and related markets operate and the role of private organisations in owning, managing and developing physical and financial assets within those markets. This combination gives the Department of Land Economy a unique and valuable perspective of critical public and private issues. www.landecon.cam.ac.uk.

The University sits at the heart of one of the world’s largest technology clusters. The ‘Cambridge Phenomenon’ has created 1,500 hi-tech companies, 14 of them valued at over US$1 billion and two at over US$10 billion. Cambridge promotes the interface between academia and business, and has a global reputation for innovation. www.cam.ac.uk.

Cambridge Real Estate Research Centre

The Cambridge Real Estate Research Centre acts as a focus for all real estate related research in the University of Cambridge. A primary aim of the centre is to deliver world class research on real estate and real assets. It acts to bridge the gap between academia and commercial practice provide a hub for industry liaison, networking with other academic organisations, professional bodies and industry and aims to ensure its research is relevant and has maximum impact. Main areas of research include the analysis of investment and capital flows, the performance of real estate assets and the drivers of real estate markets.
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