



YCCSA Seminar Series Spring 2017

An interdisciplinary seminar series hosted by the York Centre for Complex System Analysis aimed at researchers from all disciplines

Urban systems: scales, interlinkages and interfaces

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Ron Cooke Hub, RCH/204 at 13:30

Abstract:

This presentation explores how complex social-ecological systems and actor-oriented approaches can be applied to the challenges of urbanisation.

The contemporary urban world depends on critical urban systems – water, food, energy, waste - complex networks of infrastructure and technology, managed by multi-scale institutional arrangements. Such systems cut across geographical, ecological and administrative boundaries, becoming increasingly inter-linked and inter-dependent. It is through these systems that the pace and intensity of contemporary urbanisation becomes possible. Yet it is also through these systems that the impacts of shocks cascade, being felt beyond the location of any one specific event.

The ways in which urban people access such systems and the benefits that they create, are key determinants in wellbeing and poverty. Across the world, but especially in the Global South, access and distribution of benefits is highly inequitable, while climate change creates new fault-lines of future vulnerability.

Much of the challenge of addressing global environmental change and meeting local development needs will be played out in the urban arena. Drawing on experience in South and South East Asia, the presentation will discuss conceptual and practical challenges in understanding patterns of urbanisation and in forging transformative urban futures

The seminar includes a refreshment break

***Ron Cooke Hub is on Heslington East Campus – accessible by free bus services
Nos. 66 and 44 running at frequent intervals from Heslington West.
The YCCSA Seminar room is on the second floor***