The 21st Century City Program

Centre for Human Settlements · School of Community and Regional Planning  
College for Interdisciplinary Studies – University of British Columbia

Dr Tom Hutton

Research projects conducted within this program cluster at CHS are directed at producing new knowledge on processes and outcomes of urban growth and change, both among advanced and transitional societies. At the heart of the program are collaborative research projects on comparative development, comprising empirical investigations of aspects of transformative urban change, and interrogation of both foundational urban theory (postindustrialism, post-Fordism) and emergent concepts, notably those associated with the ‘new cultural economy’ of the city. The normative dimension of the program includes, at a strategic level, the conflicts and contradictions associated with the two most influential policy paradigms of our age: globalization, with its emphasis on competitive advantage, and inherent destabilizing tendencies; and sustainable development, with its insistence on progressive development achieved within the Earth’s ecological limits.

Partners and collaborators include: Trevor Barnes (University of British Columbia); Larry Bourne (University of Toronto); Peter Daniels (University of Birmingham, UK); Elena D’ellegnese (University of Milan); Graeme Evans (London Metropolitan University); Kong Chong Ho (National University of Singapore); Leonie Janssen-Jansen (University of Amsterdam); Deborah Leslie (University of Toronto); David Ley (UBC); Ronan Paddison (University of Glasgow); Jamie Peck (UBC); Pier Luigi Sacco (IUAV University, Venice); Richard Shearmur (INRS – Montreal); Giorgio Tavano Blessi (IUAV University, Venice); Elvin Wyly (UBC)

Graduate Student participants include: Markus Moos, Björn Surborg, Cornelia Sussmann, Ren Thomas, James White, Sheng Zhong

Project sponsors include: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Hampton Fund, UBC; Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, UBC


Current projects: Larry Bourne, Thomas Hutton, Richard Shearmur and Jim Simmons (eds.) Transformative Change in Canadian City-Regions (Oxford University Press); Ronan Paddison and Thomas Hutton (eds.), Cities and Economic Change (Sage); Peter Daniels, K C Ho and Thomas Hutton, New Economic Spaces in Asian Cities: From Industrial Restructuring to the Cultural Turn (Routledge); Trevor Barnes and Thomas Hutton, Creativity and Innovation in the City-Region; Thomas Hutton and Leonie Janssen-Jansen: ‘Rethinking the Metropolis: Reconciling Globalization and Sustainable Development in the 21st Century Metropolis?’; Thomas Hutton, Pier Luigi Sacco and Giorgio Tavano Blessi, Culture, Society, and Space; Jamie Peck, Trevor Barnes, Elvin Wyly and Thomas Hutton, ‘Remaking Vancouverism’