

Creative Suburbia: Cultural Research and Suburban Geographies Symposium | 29-30 September, 2010

QUT, Creative Industries Precinct, Kelvin Grove Campus, Brisbane

In many parts of the world, we are seeing the rise of “suburban nations”. While much attention has been given to “creative cities” strategies that emphasise inner-urban areas, in countries such as Australia, the United States and Canada, it is the case that the majority of the population lives and works in major cities. The suburbs are increasingly complex demographic, social, economic and cultural sites and this symposium aims to contribute to public policy debates, and to foster new research connections around the broad and important area of suburban studies, as sites for innovative and applied cultural research. The Creative Suburbia Symposium will bring together researchers from cultural studies, communication and media studies, cultural geography, urban planning and cultural policy. It provides a space in which to share research and perspectives while exploring issues around understandings of suburbia and suburban life.

Keynote Speakers

Rob Shields, Henry Marshall Tory Research Chair and Professor of Sociology/Art and Design, University of Alberta, Edmonton Alberta Canada, and Founding Editor of *Space and Culture*;

Louise Johnson, Associate Professor of Human Geography, School of History, Heritage and Society, Deakin University, and author of *Cultural Capitals: Revaluing The Arts, Remaking Urban Spaces* (Ashgate, 2009).

Symposium Themes

New suburbanisation: how suburbs have been changing since the 1990s, with the rise of Master Planned Communities, enhanced access to mortgages and consumer credit, and perceptions of the suburbs as the electoral battleground of Australian politics?;

Cosmopolitan suburbs: the relationship between patterns of migration and suburban development, and the increasingly multicultural nature of Australian suburbs?;

Cultural and creative spaces: how do those working in the cultural and creative industries operate in suburban locations, and what implications may this have for urban policy and cultural policy?;

Suburban practices and representations: are there changes in how Australian suburbs are represented in popular media and elsewhere, and what is the significance of new suburban social movements such as ‘green citizenship’?;

Creative workforce: where are creative industries workers located, and how does networking occur outside of the fabled inner-urban *milieux* of bars, cafes and nightclubs?;

Chinese cities in transition: are these developments of relevance to the most populous nation on Earth – the fast growing and rapidly urbanising People’s Republic of China?;

Trends and issues in suburban demographics: what do we know about the relationship between where people live and work, and are there moves away from clustering, both in the creative industries and the economy more generally?

Other Guest Speakers

- Fiona Allon (Department of Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney)
- Andy Bennett (Griffith Centre for Cultural Research, Griffith University)
- Chris Brennan-Horley (University of Wollongong)
- Christy Collis (Creative Industries Faculty, QUT)
- Stuart Cunningham (ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation)
- Anna Daniel (Monash University)
- Alan Davies (Pollard Davies Pty Ltd).
- Emma Felton (Creative Industries Faculty, QUT)
- Terry Flew (Creative Industries Faculty, QUT, and ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation)
- Chris Gibson (Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research, University of Wollongong)
- Mark Gibson (National Centre for Australian Studies, Monash University)
- Angela Lin Huang (Creative Industries Faculty, QUT)
- Tania Lewis (School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University)
- Alan McKee (Creative Industries Faculty, QUT)
- Justin O'Connor (Creative Industries Faculty, QUT)
- Aneta Podkalicka (Swinburne University of Technology)
- Deborah Stevenson (School of Social Sciences and Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney)
- Geoff Woolcock (Urban Research Program, Griffith University)
- Wen Wen (Creative Industries Faculty, QUT)
- Xin Gu (Creative Industries Faculty, QUT).

For further information and to register for this event, please go to
www.creativesuburbia.com

For general enquiries about the symposium please email Nicki Hunt at
suburbia@qut.edu.au

We look forward to seeing you there!

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