



# Urban Research in Transforming Times

## *CUR 10-year Anniversary*

**Thursday, 1 December 2022**  
**3:00-7:00pm**  
**Storey Hall, RMIT University**

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The Centre for Urban Research was established in late-2012/early-2013 with the objective of connecting people and ideas for sustainable cities and regions. The Centre was formed by bringing together researchers from the RMIT AHURI Centre, Interdisciplinary Conservation Science group, National Centre for Design, and Sustainability and Urban Planning program. The founding Director was Robin Goodman who was supported by David Hayward, Dean of GUSS, and the multi-disciplinary community of researchers and leaders that have collaborated under the CUR banner. Since 2012 CUR has grown to become one of the largest research groupings at RMIT, with annual research income over \$5m and an extensive academic and public profile. As far as can be ascertained CUR is the largest urban research grouping in the southern hemisphere and one of the largest in the world. Collective research achievements of this scale are rare in urban research and deserve recognition and celebration.

This looks back on the past 10 years of CUR to celebrate the individual and collective achievements of the researchers who have been part of the Centre and our academic, government, industry and community collaborators. The event will also look forward to position CUR within RMIT's wider smart and sustainable cities agenda and look towards the local, national and global sustainability and urban transformations that CUR's research will address in the decades to come.

3:00-3:10	Opening <i>Jago Dodson, Director, Centre for Urban Research (CUR)</i>
3:10-3:15	Urban research in the context of RMIT strategy <i>Tom Bentley, Director, RMIT Policy, Strategy and Impact</i>
3:15-4:00	<b>Panel 1</b> A decade of responding to urban transformations
	Introduction <i>Andrew Butt, Associate Dean, Sustainability and Urban Planning, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies (GUSS)</i>
	Panel overview <i>Robin Goodman, Professor Emerita, GUSS</i>
	Moderated panel discussion <i>Robin Goodman</i> <i>Joe Hurley, Associate Professor, CUR &amp; Sustainability and Urban Planning, GUSS</i> <i>Kath Phelan, Infrastructure Victoria</i> <i>Ian McShane, Professor CUR &amp; Sustainability and Urban Planning, GUSS</i>
4:00-4:05	<b>Break</b>
4:05-4:10	Urban research in the context of DSC strategy <i>Tim Marshall, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, College of Design and Social Context</i>
4:10-4:50	<b>Panel 2</b> Responding to future urban transformations
	Introduction <i>Lauren Rickards, Director, Urban Futures Enabling Impact Platform</i>
	Panel overview <i>Wendy Steele, Professor, CUR &amp; Sustainability and Urban Planning, GUSS</i>
	Moderated panel discussion <i>Wendy Steele</i> <i>Susie Moloney, Jesuit Social Services</i> <i>Michael Fotheringham, AHURI</i> <i>Hannah Badland, Deputy Director, CUR</i>
4:50-4:55	Urban research in the context of GUSS strategy <i>Katherine Johnson A/Dean R&amp;I and incoming Dean, GUSS</i>
4:55-5:00	Close <i>Jago Dodson, Director, Centre for Urban Research</i>
5:00-7:00	Refreshments



### **Hannah Badland**

Professor Badland's research examines how the built environment is connected to health, wellbeing, and inequities in both adults and children internationally, with an interest in vulnerable groups. Her interdisciplinary, mixed-methods research program engages with end-users, typically policymakers and non-government organisations, to influence on-the-ground change. She is currently working on two major research themes in the Centre's Health, Place and Society research program. One is enhancing the social determinants of health for young adults with disability. The other focuses on reducing inequities in early childhood development.



### **Tom Bentley**

Tom Bentley is Executive Director for Policy and Impact and Vice Chancellor's Innovation Professor at RMIT University in Melbourne. Tom has worked with institutions around the world on how to renew education systems along with economic and community life. From 2007-13 he was Deputy Chief of Staff and senior adviser to Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia 2010-13 and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Education and Employment 2007-2010. Previously he was a special adviser to David Blunkett MP, UK Secretary of State for Education, and Executive Director for Policy and Strategy Victoria's Department of Premier and Cabinet. From 1999-2006 he was Director of Demos, an independent think tank based in London. He has also been an expert adviser to The Gates Foundation, as Chair of the Learning Program at NESTA, and Visiting Professor at the Copenhagen Business School. Tom is an Honorary Senior Fellow at Melbourne University's Graduate School of Education and is currently working with the OECD's Education 2030 project to support its evidence and innovation strategies.



### **Andrew Butt**

Andrew is the Associate Dean of the Sustainability and Urban Planning discipline at RMIT. He has been involved in urban planning in Australia and internationally for over 30 years as a practitioner, teacher and researcher. His key teaching and research areas relate to issues of planning practice in rapidly changing metropolitan regions and peri-urban areas, with a focus on planning for farmland protection and resilient communities.



### **Jago Dodson**

Jago Dodson was appointed Professor of Urban Policy and Director of the Centre for Urban Research at RMIT University in 2014, with an extensive record of research into housing, transport, urban planning, urban policy, governance, infrastructure, energy, and spatial labour market questions. Jago has served in wider academic roles, such including convener of the Australasian Cities Research Network (2012-2016) and the Australian Academy of Science Decadal Plan for Urban Systems Transformation (2019), plus the 2017 Australasian Housing Researchers Conference and the 2021 National Conference on the State of Australian Cities. He has consulted to international agencies including UN Habitat and the OECD and has been a regular contributor to public debates about cities, with more than 200 appearances in print and broadcast media.



### **Michael Fotheringham**

Michael is a research and policy development specialist with expertise in building research programs and policy agendas with not-for-profit, government and academic organisations. After joining the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute in 2014, he has led the Institute since 2017 and is responsible for setting the national research agenda, leading the curation of an internationally lauded policy research evidence base on housing, homelessness and urban issues. Michael serves on a wide array of expert panels, ministerial advisory panels, and Boards, and regularly provides expert advice to Commonwealth and State Ministers, gives testimony and guidance to parliamentary and government inquiries, and is sought for evidence-informed advice by senior policy makers in Australia and internationally. He is an in-demand facilitator and conference speaker, and an experienced media spokesperson.



### **Robin Goodman**

Robin Goodman is an Emerita Professor at RMIT and was Dean of the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies from 2017-2020. She was the inaugural Director of the Centre for Urban Research when it began in 2012 and prior to that was the Director of RMIT's Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) for four years. Robin is an urban planner with broad interests in many aspects of planning, housing and public policy. Her research interests centre on various aspects of urban planning and public policy, including transport and housing. She is currently the Editor of the PIA Victoria publication Planning News, serves on the PIA National Education Committee and is Chair of the Accreditation Panel for the New Zealand Planning Institute.



### **Joe Hurley**

Associate Professor Joe Hurley is a researcher in the Centre for Urban Research, and lecturer in the Sustainability and Urban Planning program at RMIT University. His research focuses on the intersection between urban planning and urban sustainability, and on the role of urban governance and policy in producing sustainable outcomes. He takes a particular interest in the relationship between research and practice worlds and is actively involved in work to reduce the barriers to exchange and enhance collaboration.



### **Katherine Johnson**

Katherine Johnson joined RMIT in 2018 as Director, Social and Global Studies before being appointed as Associate Dean, Research, and Innovation in 2020. She is an experienced academic leader with a background in Psychology and interdisciplinary social science. She was previously Head of Psychology & Psychotherapy (2013-2016) in the School of Applied Social Science, and the founding Research Director, Centre for Transforming Sexuality and Gender (2016-2018) at the University of Brighton, UK. She is an established international researcher in the field of community psychology, psychosocial and sexuality studies, with a primary contribution to LGBTQ+ suicide prevention, transgender health, and early mental health interventions for LGBTQ+ youth. Her international collaborations are in the UK, Europe, and Mexico. She is a Chartered Psychologist and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society.



### **Tim Marshall**

Professor Tim Marshall is the Deputy Vice Chancellor of College of Design and Social Context and Vice-President at RMIT. Tim is a highly regarded international leader, academic and change-maker who is passionate about inclusion, social justice and the impact of design on the human condition and human experience. Before joining RMIT in early 2021, Tim spent 17 years at The New School in New York. He began as Dean of Parsons School of Design, and then stepped into the role of Provost in 2009. Prior to moving to the US, Tim spent 10 years in academic roles at the University of Western Sydney, predominantly in the School of Design.

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### **Susie Moloney**

Susie Moloney is the Executive Director, Centre for Just Places at Jesuit Social Services established with support from the Gandel Foundation and the Victorian Government, to enable and support place-based approaches to addressing social and ecological justice issues through research, collaboration, engagement and knowledge exchange. Before this, Susie was Associate Professor in Sustainability and Urban Planning at RMIT University. She brings over twenty years of experience working across a wide range of research and policy projects focusing on social and governance change, local empowerment processes and resilience and climate justice issues. Susie and her team at the Centre for Just Places are committed to working collaboratively and inclusively with a range of partners and communities to support and co-design solutions that strengthen place-based capabilities and resilience.

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### **Kath Phelan**

Dr Kath Phelan is currently principal planner at Infrastructure Victoria where she focuses on improving the integration of land use and infrastructure. She was previously a researcher in the Clean Air and Urban Landscapes (CAUL) Research Hub within RMIT University's Centre for Urban Research. Prior to this Kath worked in the Victorian State Government's Department of Planning and Community Development, building on her doctoral work in urban planning in the United States. Kath also has experience and qualifications in construction management, quantity surveying and architecture.

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### **Lauren Rickards**

Professor Lauren Rickards is Director of the Urban Futures Enabling Impact Platform at RMIT, coleader of CUR's Climate Change Transformations research program and head of the Climate Resilience Living Lab. A human geographer by training, Lauren's research focuses on climate change impacts and adaptation, especially for public sector organisations including universities. With Wendy Steele, she is author of the book *The Sustainable Development Goals and Universities: A Transformative Agenda?*



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**Wendy Steele**

Wendy Steele is a Professor in Sustainability and Urban Policy and inaugural convenor of the Critical Urban Governance research program (with Libby Porter) in the Centre for Urban Research. Her research focuses on the nature of cities in climate change and re-thinking critical infrastructure with an emphasis on questions of inclusion, equity, diversity and sovereignty. Her recent books include *Planning wild cities: Human-nature relationships in the urban age* (Routledge 2020), *Quiet activism: Climate action at the local scale* (Palgrave 2021), and *The Sustainable Development Goals and higher education: A transformative agenda?* (Palgrave 2021). She was a Chair of the 2021 State of Australasian Cities Conference (SOAC), a President of the Australasian Cities Research Network (ACRN) and international editorial board member for journals including *Urban Policy and Research*.