

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

Living Well in Troubled times 2: Commoning and climate readiness in social housing

16 May 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm
Room: EZ.G.22 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

The second of two seminars on Living Well in Troubled Times, 'Commoning and climate readiness in social housing' presents initial findings from an ARC Linkage Project working with Community Housing Providers and Social Housing Advocate organizations in Western Sydney. The dominant approach to climate-readiness is technocentric, most recently the concept of the 'heat refuges'—enclosed, climate-controlled spaces or 'pop-ups' offering protection to vulnerable individuals, such as the homeless. While potentially helpful, this solution risks reproducing a deficit mindset that conceals the social well-being aspects of climate readiness. We use participatory design to work with diverse social housing residents across the Sydney heat basin to surface and share individual and collective practices, knowledges, and spaces that help people live with the heat and one another.

Biographies

Stephen Healy is an Associate Professor of geography in the School of Social Sciences at Western Sydney University. He is chief investigator on two Australian Research Council funded projects critically engaged with circular economy, and co-leading (with Abby Mellick Lopes) the ARC Linkage project Living with Urban Heat. He is co-author of Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities with J.K. Gibson-Graham and Jenny Cameron. His co-authored book, Solidarity Cities: Confronting Racial Capitalism, Mapping Transformation will be out 2024 with University of Minnesota Press.

Professor Abby Mellick Lopes, a design studies scholar and Course Director of Postgraduate Design Studies at the University of Technology, Sydney, engages in interdisciplinary, design-led social research. As Chief Investigator on the ARC Discovery project Investigating Innovative Waste Economies, she explores diverse economic practices addressing Australia's waste crisis. She is co-lead on Living with Urban Heat and a valued associate member the Institute for Culture and Society and has publications in leading journals such as Design Studies and Design and Culture.

Professor Cameron Tonkinwise teaches Service Design and researches Sustainable Design at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). His expertise has reshaped traditional thinking around how designers should be educated, and he has established Design Studies programs at the Parsons The New School for Design (New York), Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh) and UTS. Cameron has been a leading voice in the emerging practice of Transition Design, enabling human-scale designers to facilitate systems-level change toward more equitably sustainable societies.

Panelists: Stephen Healy, Abby Mellick Lopes, Cameron Tonkinwise

Chair: Helen Armstrong
Research Alignment:
Urban Futures

**NEXT SEMINAR:
23 MAY**