

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

Relocating Australian communities at risk: Moving Cities, Shifting Urban-Future Imaginaries

26 September 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm

Room: EA.G.19 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

This seminar will consider divergent urban futures in uncertain times. It will proceed in three acts. Naomi Hay will open with reflections on the report and associated exhibition of “Relocating Australian Communities at Risk: Strategies and Actions in Time”. The report opens with a recognition that “communities impacted by consecutive climate-related disasters are grappling with the question of how and where to rebuild, with relocation emerging as an increasingly necessary option.” The report’s authors call for the creation of a national relocation strategy and associated authority, aided by a process of dynamic risk mapping and the identification of skills, and resources needed for relocation. The second act juxtaposes this strategic vision of mobile urbanism with current plans for the development of Bradfield City, drawing on Noam Maitless’s insights from prior aerotropolis projects to question siting this “sustainable urban centre” in a locale that will experience intensifying consequences of climate impacts of all types. The third and final act will enrol Tony Fry, Cameron Tonkinwise, Naomi, and Noam in a conversation that wrestles with the complexity and urgency of a problem that may require Australia to move whole communities, and to rethink and redirect infrastructure and resources—a task that will require new techniques for understanding and anticipating futures, and new forms of governance.

Biographies

Naomi Hay is convenor of the Design (Honours) program at the School of Art and Design (SOA&D) Australian National University. Her research focuses on the role of design in strengthening community resilience for sustainable futures, where design is examined as a change agent in the arena of disaster risk and adaptive capacity in a changing climate.

Noam Maitless is an award-winning architect and urbanist, who has delivered landmark projects around the world, with a concentration on mixed-use precincts, cultural and civic design, sports and entertainment districts, and aerotropolis master planning. His work is focused on integrating visionary place-making strategies, economic logic, and environmental resilience.

Tony Fry is Adjunct Professor, Architecture and Design, University of Tasmania and Visiting Professor, University of Ibagué (Colombia), and director, Studio at the Edge of the World, Launceston. Tony is an award-winning designer and the author of over twenty books. As an educator he has worked in Australia, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. His interests span futures, defuturing, sustainment, conflict and the political.

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 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.

Presenters: Naomi Hay, Noam Maitless, Tony Fry, Cameron Tonkinwise

Chair: Stephen Healy

**NEXT SEMINAR:
3 OCTOBER**