

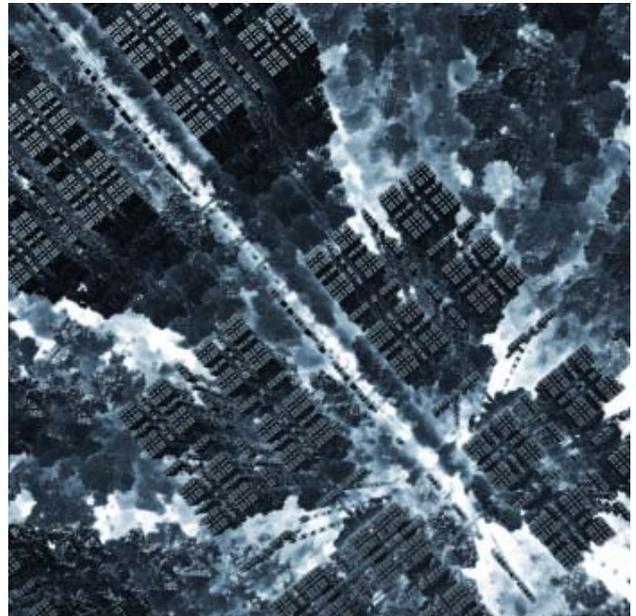
RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Digital Cities

Professor Donald McNeill of the Institute for Culture and Society is examining the development of “digital cities” – highly developed technological spaces for business and society. This project is funded by the Australian Research Council which has awarded Professor McNeill a prestigious Future Fellowship.

‘Information and communication technologies are among the most important forces affecting the Australian economy in the long term’, says Professor McNeill. ‘These technologies will present major opportunities and challenges in the coming years. With the National Broadband Network (NBN) roll-out, Australia has the opportunity to be a world-player and innovator with “digital cities” and digital spaces. How this will progress is highly dependent on careful policy development, planning, investments and learning from similar efforts in overseas countries. The NBN will impact on the ways in which urban services are supplied and the way city neighbourhoods might be designed, engineered and built. This requires strategic adjustments to governance and policy since, for example, communities will be more digitally connected and people can have more of a say about what local and regional governments are doing. This project examines the relationship between private interests and urban governments that underpin Australia’s transition to a digital economy. Using international case studies as a comparison, it will look at closing policy gaps between digital infrastructure strategy and urban planning in Australia.’

Australia will be benchmarked against digital cities such as New York, London Hong Kong and Barcelona. Policies and urban infrastructure will be examined and Australian digital-oriented businesses and senior policy officers from local council to Federal level will be interviewed.



In the current world scene of rapidly developing digital technologies and related business and social and economic opportunities, it is important to understand how this is emerging in Australia. A digital economy will contain new media agencies, e-commerce, digital content providers, new technological and urban infrastructure and new employment opportunities. This project will provide detailed information and direction on how Australia can pursue digital economic success and develop world-class “digital cities” of its own.

Project Title: Governing Digital Cities
Funding has been set at: \$834,770
Contact Details: d.mcneill@uws.edu.au
<http://www.uws.edu.au/ics>
August 2013