

The **S**kype Sessions #15

15 May 2017, 3:00pm

Governance and the city: a new paradigm and modes of practice?

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Cities require transformative leadership to flourish in the future. Radical solutions demand courageous stewardship with foresight to open up the potential to travel “full speed ahead”. The ability to democratically achieve transformation requires coherent understanding and commitment to address contested pathways that challenge the status quo. Many current urban system improvements in cities do not enjoy majority support from those acting to maintain present interests, while those seeking strategic coherence navigate between global uncertainties and fragmented local pluralism.

An underpinning problematique that is continuously emerging in the Liveable Cities Research programme is the dilemma of how to attain people-centre, engineering-informed and progressively-oriented governance for smart change. Most challenges point to some degree of failure necessitating a ‘re-wiring’ or reform of governance institutions, mechanisms or processes. Too often the fruits of participative engagement with citizens decompose before ‘effects’ unfold. Too often elegant technical solutions are not translated into action with the whole-heartedness and pace that would ensure success and longevity. Instead, despite increasing social expectations for immediacy, tentative and incremental city change ensures the drag of inertia dulls civic spirits. The rate of change often lags behind the desirable pathway that both responds to the challenges of our time, but more importantly, positions urbanised life on a platform able to absorb shocks, react to new variables and self-heal in real-time.

This session will explore governance and the city. In the context of ‘new economy’ dynamics and complexity thinking, critical perspectives and possible modes of practice to get traction in uncertain, fluid and turbulent times will be outlined.

Join the call, listen, reflect, and share your views!

How to attend

RSVP

Email: paul.honeybone.14@ucl.ac.uk
URL: <http://tinyurl.com/LCSkypeSession>
Deadline: Thursday 11 May 2017