Good City Process

Abstract:
How do we know when a city is truly sustainable? Is it even possible for cities in a global age to be so? How can professional and governance practices retool to enable truly sustainable urbanism? Urbanists plan and design forms, traditionally. Yet in nature as in cities, humans, other species, and ecosystems – including cities – live, evolve, and adapt through processes.

Understanding processes is a key to design, build, manage, and govern the city region sustainably. Process knowledge guides everything, from site planning and material selection to constructions methods and assessing sustainability. After all, the active verb “sustain” means to keep a process going over a long time – so it is durable.

Speaker:

Professor Michael Neuman

Biography:
Michael Neuman is Professor of Sustainable Urbanism at the University of New South Wales. Before coming to Sydney he lived in Barcelona, where he advised the current mayor and was consultant to the Barcelona Metropolitan Territorial Plan. Prior to that he was an associate professor of urban planning, director of the Master of Urban Planning Program, and founder and Chair of the Sustainable Urbanism post-graduate program at Texas A&M University.

In addition to Barcelona city and metro, he has consulted and advised the Regional Plan Association’s landmark third Regional Plan for New York and Environs, the cities of San Francisco and Oakland, and was Planning Manager or the New Jersey Office of State Planning when it prepared the first New Jersey State Plan. He has published research on metropolitan plans in San Diego, San Francisco, Madrid, Barcelona, and Houston, and the mega-region the Texas Urban Triangle. He authored two reports for the New South Wales government on climate change adaptation in cities for the revision of the Sydney Metro Strategy.

Professor Neuman’s recent books include The Imaginative Institution, The Futures of the City Region, and Building California’s Future. His articles have been translated into eight languages and have won best article awards in the Journal of the American Planning Association, European Planning Studies, and Town Planning Review. He has been a Fulbright Fellow and a Regents Fellow, and has won numerous national and international awards from a range of organisations, from the National Endowment of the Arts to the National Science Foundation, the American Institute of Architects to the American Planning Association, and the Spanish and Catalan governments.

He received his Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master of City Planning with a graduate Certificate in Urban Design from the University of Pennsylvania.