Call for Papers
Linking people and place in a new wave of computer models

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Over the years, with progress in computing power, models based on artificial intelligence are getting increasingly sophisticated and becoming central to mainstream urban planning and design. Alongside progress in theory, the new wave of dynamic models is venturing into new territories, in addition to making possible previously impossible solutions.

While traditional planning support systems treated people and their environment as dichotomous, it is fast becoming clear that these two are inseparable but rather more interconnected and interwoven. As a result, models that explicitly link people and place are not only seen to offer more informed and reliable policy prescription but also provide better support systems and foundations for planning decisions.

It is therefore not surprising that the global research community in spatial planning and design is increasingly according more attention to the understanding of interactive independencies. In diverse ways, for instance through the development of methodological frameworks, application of integrated models, or both, current research efforts are contributing to (de)constructing the nexus between humans and their environment.

This themed issue seeks to build on the aforementioned momentum by further examining the relationship between humans and their environment within an era of sophisticated and dynamic computer models in urban spatial planning and design.

Topics to be explored encompass the following.

- Methodologies for incorporating socioeconomic behavioural theories into spatial planning
- Mixing artificial intelligence (AI) techniques in urban design and planning; past, present and future
- Approaches to integrating humans decisions and spatial phenomena
- Application of hybrid dynamic models in urban design and planning
- Prospects and challenges in blending AI techniques across diverse disciplines (e.g. planning, geography, economics, sociology, maths, computation and psychology) in exploring urban systems
- The future of interdisciplinary studies in urban modelling
- Progress in urban design and planning in abstracting real world urban systems
- How these new tools help to test spatial planning and design scenarios.

The deadline for abstracts is 20 June 2016. The deadline for manuscripts is 20 September 2016.

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