Governing social reproduction in masterplanned estates: Urban politics and everyday life

Pauline McGuirk, Professor of Human Geography and Director of the Centre for Urban and Regional Research, University of Newcastle

**Date:** Monday 22 August 2011  
**Time:** 1:00pm - 2:30pm  
**Venue:** School meeting rooms via video link  
Kingswood Campus Building P.G.26  
Bankstown Campus Building 1.1.114

**ABSTRACT**

Critical urban research arising from the rich heritage of the ‘new urban politics’ has conventionally privileged the politics of accumulation and the city’s downtown over the politics of social reproduction and everyday, residential spaces. This paper focuses on residential spaces and the politics involved in recasting everyday practices of social reproduction through private neighbourhood governance. Focusing on the masterplanned estates increasingly prevalent across Sydney’s residential landscape, the paper explores the material practices and subjectivities shaped by these estates’ contractual governance and the contours and limits to the formation of self-governing middle-class consumer citizens. We highlight a granular fabric to urban politics produced as residents engage with meeting the demands of daily urban life and providing the means of middle class social reproduction in a neoliberalised context. Finally, we point to opportunities for a more complete grammar of contemporary urban politics provided by this expanded focus.

**SPEAKER**

Pauline McGuirk is Professor of Human Geography and Director of the Centre for Urban and Regional Research at the University of Newcastle. Her research interests focus on urban political geography specialising in urban governance, its changing geographies, forms and modalities. Theoretically her work is informed by poststructural and political economy frameworks. Her most recent work has involved critical investigations of new forms of private governance associated with residential master-planned estates. In new research, she is investigating the importance of urban actors’ and urban-based initiatives in the governance of carbon. She has also been involved in collaborative, policy-oriented work with NSW state government agencies, aimed at overcoming the barriers to inter-agency data sharing to develop more sensitive and situated fine-scaled indicators of social vulnerability in the Hunter Region. Pauline is a fellow of the Institute of Australian Geographers and the Geographical Society of New South Wales and serves on the editorial boards of Geographical Research, Irish Geography, and Geography Compass (Urban) and Progress in Human Geography.

Plan to attend this regular series of seminars

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