

AESOP Annual Lecture 2019 – Lecture Series 16

Emeritus Professor Jean Hillier

Title: Rethinking Planning in a More-than-Human World

Abstract:

Spatial planning is not external to the eco-social realities which co-produce the Anthropocene. I am concerned with spatial planning, its multispecies entanglements and the production of novel ecosystems, including those of damaged landscapes. Many planning systems reinforce hyper-separated categories of 'nature' and 'culture', reflected in the separation between land-use planning and environmental conservation planning. The 'unreflected imposition of human primacy upon the desires and habits of other beings' (Metzger, 2014: 210) and resulting asymmetric 'negotiations' between human planners and nonhuman others, have contributed to often-catastrophic changes across the globe. I argue that planning academics and practitioners should think carefully and critically about who speaks for (and with) the nonhuman in place making. I introduce the concept of 'more-than-human', as developed in geography and the environmental humanities, to explore new possibilities for productively rethinking the ontological exceptionalism of humans in planning theory and practice. I argue the need to develop inclusive, ethical relationships that can nurture possibilities for multispecies flourishing in diverse urban futures: a co-adaptive, more-than-human multispecies entanglement.

Biodata:

Jean Hillier is Emeritus Professor of Sustainability and Urban Planning at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. Her research interests include poststructural planning theory and methodology for strategic practice, planning with non-human animals, and problematisation of cultural heritage practices in spatial planning, particularly in China. Recent books include *Connections: exploring contemporary planning theory and practice with Patsy Healey* (2015), edited with Jonathan Metzger; *Deleuze and Guattari for Planners* (InPlanning e-book, 2013); *Complexity and the Planning of the Built Environment* (2012) edited with Gert de Roo and Joris Van Wezemael, the *Ashgate Research Companion to Planning Theory: Conceptual Challenges for Spatial Planning* (2010) edited with Patsy Healey. Relevant articles include: 'Is extermination to be the legacy of Mary Gilbert's cat?' (with Byrne J.) *Organization* (2016); 'Make kin, not cities! Multispecies entanglements and 'becoming-world' in planning theory', (with MacCallum, D., Steele, W., Houston, D. and Byrne J.) *Planning Theory* (2017); 'Catalysing attunement', *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning* (2017); 'No Place To Go? Management of Non-Human Animal Overflows in Australia', *European Management Journal* (2017).