

# ODPM Planning Research Network Newsletter No.4 December 2004

## Research Network news

The Research Network aims to provide a facility for 'networking' and the discussion of key issues. To support this we hope shortly to create some small interest groups – or 'clusters' - around key themes. This is to enable a more informal and participatory forum for linking researchers, consultants, practitioners and policy-makers. If there is enough interest and support from Network Members and ODPM this will be progressed in the New Year.

## ODPM's Research Programmes

Thanks to Network members who provided some positive feedback on the Sustainable Communities Research programme workstreams. At present ODPM are incorporating comments from the consultation and these will feed into an assessment of priorities, following which ODPM hopes to publish a Newsletter in April 2005 identifying the external projects that will be commissioned in 2005-06. New Horizons is the Office's only 'responsive' research programme for which original proposals are invited. This programme is an opportunity for academics or private sector researchers to outline innovative research across the agenda and is specifically designed to look to the future. For 2005 there are 3 broad themes: Housing Supply and Demand; Migration and Demographic Change; and Local and Regional Economies. There is also one cross-cutting theme. See the attached link for the prospectus:

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_science/documents/sectionhomepage/odpm\\_science\\_page.hcsp](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_science/documents/sectionhomepage/odpm_science_page.hcsp)

Details of all the main ODPM research programmes can be found at the following link:

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm\\_index.hcst?n=3789&l=3](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=3789&l=3)

ODPM also has a research management database where a public interface is available to view all current and completed research details.

<http://www.rmd.odpm.gov.uk/programmes.asp>

Research projects relevant to planning are contained in various themes. The Database provides an indication of research commissioned over 3 years, a summary, contact details and whether a publication is available. Research published by ODPM's Planning Directorate is available here:

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm\\_index.hcst?n=2445&l=2](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=2445&l=2)

## **Young Researcher Award**

The 1994 PRN 'Young Researcher' Prize Paper by Angelique Chettiparamb and the runner up paper by Amanada Smith have been accepted for publication in Town Planning Review along with a commentary from the Network coordinator.

## **Liveability versus Sustainability**

The terms "sustainable development", "quality of life" and "liveability" have been treated as virtually synonymous in recent times. However, a number of recent research projects have been drawing attention to important differences between the concepts, with potentially significant policy and research implications. One new report of research undertaken for the ODPM by Brook Lyndhurst investigates the relationship and potential conflicts between the liveability and the sustainable development agendas, from a broadly behavioural perspective, exploring the hypothesis that the general public have a range of habits by which they pursue quality of life that will occasionally conflict with long-run sustainability objectives and which therefore could imply hard policy choices. The report is entitled **Liveability v Sustainability: Bad Habits and Hard Choices**.

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_control/documents/contentserve/odpm\\_index.hcst?n=4464&l=5](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentserve/odpm_index.hcst?n=4464&l=5)

## **CEBE Educational Research in Planning**

The Centre for education in the Built Environment (CEBE) funds an Educational Research in Planning Special Interest Group (SIG), led by Deborah Pell and Bill Lynch at the University of Dundee. The impetus for this is the need to both ensure that appropriate material on learning and teaching is identified, as well as looking at educational research, where it is being carried out, by whom, and in what publication outlets. There was a perceived need to more fully understand, analyse and disseminate aspects of professional teaching practice within the Planning discipline, and a case for greater dissemination and shared learning between Planning schools.

The SIG's findings are now available on the CEBE web site at [www.cebe.heacademy.ac.uk](http://www.cebe.heacademy.ac.uk). A series of "Trigger" papers have also been produced from the work of the SIG, and more information may be gained from [d.peel@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:d.peel@dundee.ac.uk) or [w.lynch@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:w.lynch@dundee.ac.uk)

## **Current Educational Research in the UK (CERUK)**

You are invited to contribute details of current educational research projects to be included in the CERUK database. This is a free web based database sponsored by the NFER, DfES, and the EPPI Centre (University of London). It is wholly dependent upon researchers providing details of projects, even if they are not yet completed. To submit details see the web site at [www.ceruk.ac.uk](http://www.ceruk.ac.uk)

## Planning Technicians

Eamon Mythen of the ODPM E-Planning and Culture Change Team draws your attention to the research report, entitled "The potential role of planning technicians and planning support staff in enhancing service delivery in a reformed statutory planning system", which is posted on the Planning Research Network website at <http://www.planning-resnet.org.uk/>

## Publications

**“The real budget for research: An analysis of the current levels of public funding for Built Environment research.”** The findings of a joint study undertaken by CABE and nCrisp, which addresses some key questions about the current state of research into the built environment - who is setting the agenda for research in construction and design? Where does the money come from for this research? Who spends it? The study paints a picture of a fragmented field of disconnected research, and a distinct lack of balance between the funding available for 'construction' and 'technical research' as opposed to the 'creative' and 'social' aspects of design.

The study goes on to make a number of recommendations to encourage more effective use of the funding that currently exists; the development of a shared underrating of common research agendas, and the potential for joint working; and steps to develop a more robust argument for enhancing the funding for built environment research.

A summary of the study can be found at: [www.cabe.org.uk/publications](http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications)

**The Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN)** and Routledge have published the first edition of *Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning*, featuring examples of top planning scholarship from the various regions of the world, as selected by the nine planning school association members of GPEAN. This project is intended to help reduce regional isolation in urban planning scholarship. The first volume features papers originating on six continents in four languages. The book's Contents, Preface and Introduction may be viewed, at:

[http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/%7Ebstiftel/GPEAN\\_IDURP.html](http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/%7Ebstiftel/GPEAN_IDURP.html)

## Conferences

**“The Power of Planning: The Reform Agenda.” Planning Research Conference – 5 - 7 April 2005** at the School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester.

The 2005 Planning Research Conference provides an opportunity to discuss current research thinking and findings relating to emerging planning agendas. The conference will discuss the power of planning to make things happen, as well as more traditional concerns about how power is exercised in determining and delivering planning policies.

The call for papers now open - please follow this link for [more information about the conference, including how to submit abstracts and papers](#) (deadline for abstracts: 31 January 2005).

The "First International Conference on Heritage, Globalization & the Built Environment" will be held in Bahrain at the Gulf International Convention Centre of Gulf Hotel Dec. 6- 8 , 2004. For further information please check the website: [www.engineer-bh.com/hgbe](http://www.engineer-bh.com/hgbe)

## General News

Two Government Responses to recent reports are available:

1) ODPM Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions Committee Report on the Role of Historic Buildings in Urban Regeneration: <http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=22466&heading=e-mail+alert>

2) Changes to the Development Control System: <http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=22465&heading=e-mail+alert>

Also

**“The Planning Response to Climate Change: Advice on Better Practice.”** By CAG Consultants, London, and Oxford Brookes University for the ODPM. Further details at:

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_planning/documents/page/odpm\\_plan\\_032088.pdf](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_032088.pdf)

**EU research in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH).** Your attention is drawn to the launching of the above consultation, which aims at providing an opportunity for all researchers in Europe to give their views on the future of EU research in SSH. A strong response from the SSH research community is likely to be seen by the relevant decision makers as a significant interest in ensuring an important role for SSH in future EU RTD policy. You may answer this consultation by filling in a form available at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/ssh/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/ssh/index_en.html)

## Feedback

This newsletter aims to enhance networking and dissemination. Please send feedback or items for inclusion in the next issue to Steve Littlewood.

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