

# ODPM Planning Research Network Newsletter No.3 October 2004

## Winner of the 'Young researcher' prize paper

The Network's annual prize awarded to the best planning research paper produced by young researchers has been won by Angelique Chettiparamb. Angelique is from the Cardiff School of City and Regional Planning, Cardiff University and her paper is entitled "Fractal Spaces for Planning and Governance".

Angelique has been invited to present the paper at our Spring Meeting, when the prize will be formally awarded to her. All the papers were of a very high standard; the Panel were impressed by the quality and shortlisting was difficult.

The runner-up was "Constructions of Sustainability and Spatial Planning: the case of Dalton Flatts, Co. Durham, Planning Inquiry" from Amanda Smith of Leeds Metropolitan University.

Both papers are available on the ODPM Planning Research Network website:  
[www.planning-resnet.org.uk/papers/2004.htm](http://www.planning-resnet.org.uk/papers/2004.htm)

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## Next Network Seminar 19 October 2004 at ODPM, Eland House, London

The agenda has already been circulated highlighting presentations by: Stephen Penlington, ODPM Research, (Research Overview - current activities and future development);

Dr Susan Owens, Reader in Environment and Policy, Cambridge University (Research and policy - the nature of influence); and Professor Hugo Priemus, Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management, Delft University of Technology (Spatial Planning Research: The Dutch Experience).

If you have not yet confirmed your attendance please can you do so, to:  
[s.littlewood@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:s.littlewood@leedsmet.ac.uk)

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## ODPM. Summit 2005: Delivering Sustainable Communities

Two thousand delegates from the UK, Europe and the wider world are expected to take part in the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit, between 31 January - 2 February 2005 at GMEX, Manchester. Senior Government Ministers and leading national and international experts will attend and speak at this unique event. Full cost registration is £650 but full details including discounted tickets available from:  
[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_communities/documents/divisi\\_ohomepage/029192.hcsp](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_communities/documents/divisi_ohomepage/029192.hcsp)

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## **ODPM / ESRC Urban and Neighbourhood Studies Research Network**

Prof. Michael Keith, Centre for Urban and Community Studies at Goldsmith's College has been appointed as the new Network Co-ordinator. Michael will be taking forward the Network established by Prof. Michael Parkinson and will bring a high degree of enthusiasm and expertise across the whole agenda. This Network, along with Housing, will have a close interest to planning issues and it is hoped to have some joint events in the future.

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### **Research and Research Reports**

#### **ODPM Planning Research**

ODPM issued the 2004/04 **Sustainable Communities Research Programme Newsletter** in August. This provides details of both research conducted last year and future opportunities covering housing, planning, urban policy etc. The newsletter provides context for ODPM's research agenda:

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_control/documents/contentserve/template/odpm\\_index.hcst?n=5216&l=1](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentserve/template/odpm_index.hcst?n=5216&l=1)

Each year the ODPM looks at gaps in knowledge and research priorities and hopefully the Research Network can contribute ideas. Informal consultations will be undertaken with the 4 ODPM Research Networks, Non-Government Organisations ('stakeholders') and other Government Departments next month.

For planning research commissioned and reports produced for or by the ODPM, please visit the related website:

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_planning/documents/sectionhomepage/odpm\\_planning\\_page.hcsp](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/sectionhomepage/odpm_planning_page.hcsp)

#### **ODPM New Horizons Research**

This cross-cutting, future-orientated research programme allows more forward-looking, anticipatory or methodological development research to be undertaken. The 2003/04 Programme has completed with most reports accessible now or in the next two weeks via the New Horizons webpages: [http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_science/documents/divisionhomepage/030991.hcsp](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_science/documents/divisionhomepage/030991.hcsp)

Selected research accessible now include:

- Planning, Sustainability and Environmental Risks
- Enhancing the Decision-making Process in Urban Spatial Planning using Advanced ICT
- The Local Impact of New Housing Supply

Selected research accessible by end of October includes:

- Releasing the National Economic Potential of Provincial City-Regions: the Rationale for and Implications of a Northern Growth Corridor Strategy
- Intra-Urban Polycentric Development: Suburban Trajectories

ODPM is also involved in research undertaken by the International Centre for Regional Regeneration and Development Studies at Durham University. Two reports will be available on the research programme website ([http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm\\_science/documents/divisionhomepage/031066.hcsp](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_science/documents/divisionhomepage/031066.hcsp)) by the end of this month:

- Cities, City Regions and the Changing Geography of Business Offices
  - Public Participation in the Revised Planning System
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## **RICS Foundation**

The RICS Foundation has recently launched three reports within the theme "Towards the development of a built environment research agenda". The reports are intended to lay the basis for discussion and debate about the key issues that need to be addressed in built environment research. The three reports are:

- The funding and development of the built environment, by a team led by Michael Edwards of University College London
- The role of parks and open spaces in urban vitality, by a team led by Carys Swanwick of the University of Sheffield
- Renewable energy and the built environment, by a team led by David Fell of Brook Lyndhurst

The full reports for these studies can be accessed at: [www.rics-foundation.org/agenda](http://www.rics-foundation.org/agenda)

Your thoughts on these would be greatly appreciated, both in terms of the specific ideas within each report and in terms of what themes RICS need to be addressing. For example, one theme that comes through all of these is the relationship between research in the built environment and the wider debates on sustainable development.

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## **Conference News**

**AESOP Annual Congress.** The Association of European Schools of Planning Congress will be held in 2005 in Vienna from July 13–17. Key dates are December 1, 2004 - Registration and Abstract submission will start. February 20, 2005 - Deadline for abstract submission. March 15, 2005 - Registration deadline for reduced fee. There will be a PhD Workshop from July 9–12. Further details can be obtained from the AESOP website: <http://aesop2005.tuwien.ac.at/venu1.html>.

**CUPUM 05.** Computers in Urban Planning and Urban Management Conference. 29 June – 1 July 2005, at University College London, themes

include networks + mobility + urbanisation + planning support + new media + spatial simulations. Details on: <http://www.cupum.org/>

**Royal Geographical Society with IBG. "Flows and spaces in a globalised world".** Annual International Conference - 31 August - 2nd September 2005. Further details from: <http://www.rgs.org/category.php?page=3resann05int>

**RSA and Birmingham City Council: The Art of City Making: Urban Challenges in 21st Century Europe.** 29 & 30 October 2004 - International Convention Centre, Birmingham. With its particular combination of UK and European urban specialists, this is described as "the urban policy event of 2004 for politicians, policy officers, community specialists, development professionals and regional and national government officers". Further details on: [www.artofcitymaking.org](http://www.artofcitymaking.org)

**More events from the Regional Studies Association.** Further details can be obtained from: <http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/future.asp>

- **CITY REGIONS: Creating new urban futures?**  
Monday 18th October 2004, London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, Holloway Rd, London N19
- **The Challenges of Localism**  
Friday 19th November 2004, London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre

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## Publication

**THE NATURAL STEP FOR COMMUNITIES: HOW CITIES AND TOWNS CAN CHANGE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES.** Sustainability practitioners wishing to emulate the successes of Sweden can turn to this book for examples from over 60 Swedish "eco-municipalities" that have incorporated sustainability into their planning and operations. The authors focus on how to effectively implement change in a political context and stress the importance of a democratic bottom-up approach that takes an integrated look at sustainability challenges. The authors are Sarah James, the co-author of the American Planning Association's "Policy Guide on Planning for Sustainability" and Torbjorn Lahti, founder of the National Association of Eco-Municipalities, in Sweden. From New Society Publishers. ISBN 0865714916

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## Feedback

Please send feedback or items for inclusion in the next issue to Steve Littlewood.

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