Sustainable Cities & Landscapes Hub

WHO WE ARE

The mission of the APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes (SCL) Hub is to advance the sustainability of human societies, focusing on the relationship of the cities and landscapes across the Pacific Rim. We seek to enhance landscape-level sustainability and resilience in the face of continued expansion of cities and the stressors of climate change.

As of September 2019, the hub includes sixteen partner universities representing regions across the Pacific Rim. The SCL members include the UO, University of Washington, University of California-Los Angeles, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, University of Chile, Tsinghua University, Nanjing University, Korea University, National Taiwan University, National University of Singapore, Tecnológico de Monterrey, University of Hong Kong, University of New South Wales, Australian National University, University of the Philippines Los Baños, and University of Auckland.

Four guiding principles of the Hub:

1. We want our work to be transformative.
2. We strive towards broad and diverse understanding of sustainability.
3. We seek broad geopolitical representation across the Pacific Rim.
4. We will address the needs of underrepresented communities and vulnerable populations.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The inaugural APRU SCL conference was hosted at the White Stag Building in Portland, OR, from September 15-17, 2017. In 2018, the University of Hong Kong hosted the second conference and the Design Field School in Java and Bali in Indonesia. The University of New South Wales hosted the third conference and the global student competition on cities and refugees in Sydney, Australia in 2019.

The conferences provide opportunities for scholars, educators, practitioners, and students from different disciplines to collaborate across the Pacific Rim with the goal of fostering transformative change between cities and their surrounding landscapes. We encourage participants to not only engage in knowledge creation and education, but to serve as problem-solvers, innovators, connectors, and agents of change.

The three-day conference includes lightning talks, plenary panel discussions, field trips, and working groups sessions centered around ten pressing issues of city-landscape sustainability.

WHAT WE DO

SCL HANDBOOK

At the 2019 conference, the Steering Committee and Working Groups agreed to produce a handbook based on conference topics and outcomes. Edited by Yizhao Yang, Associate Professor at the University of Oregon and Anne Taufen Wessells, Associate Professor at the University of Washington at Tacoma, the handbook will be a compendium of position papers developed by each working group that establishes an agenda for research, practice, and/or education.

The production of the handbook showcases the core of the cumulative knowledge and research of the hub based on issues on climate change and equity derived from each annual conference. Forty chapters and eight sections will compose the handbook that correspond with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The handbook is due to be published in June 2021 through Routledge.

apru-scl.uoregon.edu
2020 CONFERENCE @ THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

The 2020 APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conference will be held at the University of Auckland in September 2020. Building on the success of the previous SCL conferences in Portland, Hong Kong, and Sydney, it will be structured around working group sessions, plenary talks and discussions. The conference aims to have a public-facing event, local field trips, and a symposium for Ph.D students.

The conference will continue the working groups framework, agendas, and commitment to academic publication, but will look to address the issues of agency, climate change, and equity, recurrent themes in many of the discussions during this year’s conference, which encompasses core sustainable practices such as anticipatory planning, action-oriented design, and advocacy. Importantly, the conference will maintain its emphasis on integration across the working group themes, and between the diverse geopolitical backgrounds, disciplines, and paradigms of conference participants.

2020 Conference thematic working groups:

- Infrastructural ecologies
- Urban biodiversity
- Urban-rural linkages
- Renewable energy landscapes
- Smart cities
- Water and wastewater
- Sustainable urban design
- Transitions in urban waterfronts
- Vulnerable communities
- Landscape and human health
- Food and nutrition security

For questions regarding the 2020 APRU SCL Conference in Auckland, please contact Errol Haarhoff, Professor of Architecture in the School of Architecture and Planning, The University of Auckland, e.haarhoff@auckland.ac.nz or Yekang Ko, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Director of the APRU-SCL H-ub, University of Oregon, yekangko@uoregon.edu.
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2020 APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conference
September 3-6, 2020
The University of Auckland