

CENTRE FOR URBAN & REGIONAL STUDIES (CURS)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

www.newcastle.edu.au

OVERVIEW

Cities and regions everywhere are undergoing complex transformation.

Global processes of social, cultural, economic, political and environmental change are generating new patterns in how people live and work; how they are governed: how their economies are managed; how they connect to global and local communities and how they connect to their environments. These transformations produce critical challenges for communities, economies and environments and for their governance.

From geographical and interdisciplinary perspectives, CURS' research focuses on the factors driving urban and regional transformations, their outcomes, the challenges they present and the prospects of creating just and sustainable urban, rural and regional communities, economies and environments.

Through basic, applied and community-engaged research, CURS contributes theoretically informed and empirically grounded knowledge and policy-relevant insights on the processes, dynamics and challenges of urban and regional change.

Our work connects to contemporary issues in public policy and practice through strong collaborative relationships with state government departments, local government agencies, and private, not-for-profit and community organisations.



EXPERTISE

CURS has strong local and international networks and wide expertise across areas including:

- Urban and Regional Social Development
- Asset-based Community and Economic Development
- Housing and Neighbourhood Studies
- Critical Development Studies
- Community Adaptation to Climate Change
- Cultural Politics of the Environment
- Resource Management Conflicts
- University Engagement with Regions and Communities

Our researchers have methodological expertise in qualitative research methodologies—including in-depth interviewing, focus groups and participatory action research—as well as expertise in questionnaire surveys and socio-spatial data mapping.



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RECENT SUCCESSES

TOPIC	PROJECT	INDUSTRY PARTNER
Urban Carbon Governance	Effective responses to climate change hinge on governing carbon, especially in our cities. This project will provide, for the first time, a baseline map and analysis of the actors, roles, relationships, and networks that govern carbon in Australia's cities.	Centre for Social Inclusion (Macquarie University), Durham University
Enacting grassroots economic activism through community enterprises	This community-engaged research project focuses on grassroots community enterprises. It investigates how community enterprises operate and how they address challenges. Using innovative research methodologies, the project is building and strengthening links between participating community enterprises, and producing online resources for other community enterprises to use.	Fig Tree Community Garden
Drought impact and climate change adaptation	This NCCARF-funded project examines how drought impacts effect farming communities in regional Victoria. It considers the barriers to adaptation and offers insights into how government policy might be reframed to think of drought areas in terms other than 'crisis -ridden'.	National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Sinclair Knight Merz
Enabling inter-agency data sharing to support the spatial analysis of social vulnerability	Working with government human service agencies, CURS developed a framework for secure and confidential data sharing between agencies. Data were then meshed with publicly available data sets (e.g. Census, SEIFA) to produce enriched indicators to identify socially vulnerable communities and guide supportive government service provision in the Hunter.	Urban Research Centre (UWS), NSW Dept of Premier and Cabinet, Regional Managers Network (Hunter)
Closing the gap: Principles for effective Indigenous-non Indigenous communication and collaboration	The need to 'close the gap' on Indigenous disadvantage is one of Australia's most intractable policy problems. Changing this situation will demand effective and informed cross-cultural communication. This collaborative research with the Yolngu community aims to develop a replicable model of 'two-ways' learning that can inform the development of effective cross-cultural collaborations in academic, industry and policy settings.	Bawaka Cultural Experiences

WORKING WITH US

CURS has the research expertise and experience to support and enable projects with Australian and international organisations—including government agencies, community-based organisations, not-for-profit organisations and businesses—to build understanding of the processes, dynamics and challenges of urban and regional change and to identify the responses needed to create just and sustainable communities, economies and environments.

Research Services

We can provide the research and insight into guide organisations' responses to the challenges of urban and regional transformation and to inform effective and practical policy outcomes. Our approach is collaborative, interdisciplinary, and innovative. Our methods are effective. Our research is creative and high quality. We are experienced in communicating complex issues in an accessible and

engaging way. Our researchers are often invited to speak at conferences, forums, workshops and seminars. We are also frequently called upon by print, radio and television journalists for expert opinion.

Partnerships

We have had many successful partnerships with state agencies and local governments, community-based organisations and businesses.

Publications:

We are committed to sharing the results of our work. Details of our reports, journal articles and conference papers and other work can be found at our website: www.newcastle.edu.au/research-centre/urban-and-regional-studies/

Contact CURS:

P: +612 4921 5097

F: +612 4921 5877

E: Pauline.Mcguirk@newcastle.edu.au