

Workshop proposal for Making Futures Conference 2015:

Place-Making-Space; a workshop of tools and methods for 'crafting communities' and 'making places' in the post-localism era.

The most radical changes in national planning policy in a generation combined with recent localism legislation (NPPF and DCLG 2011) have theoretically 'empowered communities as the architects, planners and makers of their own places'. There are now over 1000 community driven, neighbourhood plans being undertaken in the UK (UGov 2015) and evermore demands for public participation in planning, design and development of place (NPPF) - but there is a lack of tools and processes to support this (Owen 2011). 'Place-making' has become a pervasive term within a range of disciplines – so what does this mean for making practices? Maker Spaces have emerged, providing evolving models for social capital and interactions around communal making of things - however a recent, influential, government commissioned report suggests the need for 'Urban Rooms' and 'Place Spaces' in which places are communally shaped (Farrell review 2014). So what might a Place-Maker-Space provide in terms of tools and methods for crafting resilient, sustainable communities and neighbourhoods? Would this be a new type of communal workshop or a range of better defined, more accessible and transferable place-making methods – or both? How do we define and champion the role of making practices in the post-localism era and how might they influence and impact on the (co)design of places, communities and / or the built environment of the future? Are communities and places too diverse or idiosyncratic to define and therefore methods are not transferable beyond the local? Can these methods be taught and would this be within current disciplinary fields within education or do we require new visions of multi-disciplinary programmes for 'place-making'? What part do objects, making and materiality play within 'the community' or in helping engage visions for our future places and are these combined with new technology?

This workshop will bring together academics, practitioners and community members to share ideas and experiences that the role making has in shaping communities and to imagine the Place-Maker-Space as a physical, digital or 'other' workshop space, set of tools or methods for activating change in communities, the built environment and the places we live in the future. Participants are invited to submit 250 word abstracts from themes that might include (not exhaustive):

- Making methods for community engagement, resilience and sustainability
- Community and social interaction and facilitation through objects / technology / making
- Objects and making in communities, making connections, multi-local communities
- Making for the built environment or materials, processes and building crafts in the modern, 'local' vernacular
- Localised agri-materials and manufacturing and eco-nomic models
- Community meaning in making methods, provenance and place, co-fabrication
- Making in the health-well being of communities and places
- Making in the context of neighbourhood and community led-planning

The aim of the workshop is to share best practice, network ideas and imagine the role of a *Place-Making-Space* as a potential network, pilot project.

Participants are asked to propose at least one 'method for place-making', which we will record for publication and description of how this may be made accessible (transferable) to other communities or beneficiaries. In addition to participants are also invited to submit objects, which help to articulate the methods discussed in their papers.