

Urban transformation and “Smart-Wise Inclusive Cities” in India.

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Cities are in rapid transformation, in India as elsewhere. This seminar reports from research on how smart city technologies drive rapid urban change and transformation. Generally, smart city technologies can be powerful and innovative. They can also disrupt economies and societies, with risks of power grabs, land grabs, data grabs, and new patterns of inequality and exclusion. Smart technologies also bring opportunities for ‘Smart-Wise Inclusive Cities’. This ‘smart-wise’ model aims to manage new technologies for social goals – social inclusion, anti-poverty, anti-corruption, sustainable business, and open governance. Overall, the project explores three main research questions –

- How are smart city systems changing the economy and society of Bhubaneswar?
- What are the side effects, positive and/or negative?
- Is there an alternative ‘wise city’ model, and which pathways could lead towards it?

This seminar is in four parts:

- Lecture: the ‘smart-wise city’ - conceptual & ethnographic approaches.
- Open discussion: methods and tools for working with urban transformation
- Interactive session: case studies in urban transformation
- Review & discussion: putting it all together

Joe Ravetz is Co-Director of the Centre for Urban Resilience & Energy at the University of Manchester. He is a thought leader on sustainable cities and regions, and has now developed the methods and tools known as *Synergistics*, for the collective intelligence of urban systems. His main publications include the landmark ‘*City-Region 2020*’, ‘*Environment and City*’, and the forthcoming ‘*Deeper City: synergistic pathways from smart to wise*’ (Routledge). He is coordinator of the Greater Manchester Metropolitan Intelligence Lab; Principal at SAMI Consulting; and delivers training courses, seminars, keynotes, strategy / policy advice and review services around Europe and beyond.

Dr Jessica Symons is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Cultural Practices at the University of Manchester. As a social anthropologist, she explores the creative and visionary levels of human experience in communities and cultures. With a former career in IT and business modelling, she brings unique insights into social innovation and urban policy innovation, in the smart city and beyond. Her main publications include ‘*Realising the City: Urban ethnography in Manchester*’, and ‘*The Ordsall Method: Maximising What’s Already There*’. She is also coordinator of the Manchester Visioning Lab.

