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# NOTES FROM THE WORKSHOP URBAN VISIONS AND CHALLENGES 2012-11-14, LUND UNIVERSITY URBAN ARENA

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Moderator Lena Neij, International Institute for Industrial Environmental  
Economics (IIIEE) at Lund University

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- Cities are associated with many environmental problems but also solutions.
- In order to progress we need to have an inclusive discussion with both practitioners and researchers.
- The aim of today's workshop is to formulate key questions for further development and research.

DAVID SIM, GEHL ARCHITECTS

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Future urban areas – dense and attractive, or what?

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- Density does not have to come at the cost of beauty. We need to understand how to make life between the buildings liveable.
- A good habitat for human beings should be adapted to the human scale, 2-3 metres. We want small spaces.
- Human beings are extremely sociable.
- Making space for walking and cycling (at the expense of car space) can be both economically profitable and a successful political strategy.
- Experimenting by temporary solutions which are easy to implement can help communicating the vision of a more liveable city.
- Question from the auditorium: How to make the picturesque, small-scale city affordable for the less wealthy? Urban regeneration or new developments can start a series of changes which can affect poorer groups beneficially.

JANETTE WEBB, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE,  
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

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Local environmental governance

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- Sociology of governance – asks about how we put together the spheres of the economy, the state and the politics. Avoids normative theory of good governance as political economic panacea but looks at what is.

- The research project Heat and the City looks at situated practices of governance for local governance for heating.
- There is an experimentation in local governance
- Development towards contractualisation instead of trust-based forms of governance.
- Three examples of innovative local governance for local energy (heat) supply in Scotland.
  - Private concession model. 25 years of monopoly
  - Local-authority-led model. Built on a system of letters of intent
  - Community non-profit model. Challenge to go from public to commercial buildings
- Common traits: Translated public values into financial logic of risk mitigation.
- We need *reflexive governance* as a middle way between *governance under uncertainty* and *command and control*.

## PETER ÖRN, DELEGATION FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

### Sustainable cities – challenges and visions for sustainable urban development in Sweden

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- A strong link between solidarity and sustainability.
- 4 challenges:
  - change of climate,
  - urbanisation,
  - poverty and conflicts
  - lack of leadership – on the global level.
- Sustainability as an ideological principle.
- Delegation for sustainable cities. Task: to develop good practices for sustainable development and public participation.
- Examples of good practices:
  - Fullriggaren, Malmö – early collaboration with buildings developers
  - Kvillebäcken, Gothenburg – focus on public transportation
  - Rosengård, Malmö – have worked a lot with citizen participation
- Question from the auditorium: What is the difference between mega cities and countries, in terms of ability to address sustainability issues? Local leaders have more political space, are closer to people living in the cities and have effective tools for participation.

### TREVOR GRAHAM, ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT, CITY OF MALMÖ, Sustainable cities – challenges and visions for sustainable urban development in the Öresund region

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- Financial crisis made us return to “two-dimensional” thinking: growing NIMBY movement – debate on the “right to urban sprawl”.
- We have a huge challenge with existing buildings; we see no commercialisation at all of solutions for these buildings. Malmö looks at new economic models for this, possibly a local development fund harvesting savings in the public sector.
- We need to target social and environmental sustainability simultaneously.

- There are huge creative talents (example: Augustenborg in Malmö). Do we miss some of them because we have stringent ideas about who can innovate? We need to reharvest technical know-how.
- We do not only need clean-tech but also to rethink the way our economy is going.
- Question from the auditorium: What about Malmö municipality? It is an organisation with creative individuals with enough space to do things. However, in order to be a creative organisation, the capacity to learn and develop needs to be furthered.

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## SHORT PRESENTATIONS BY LUND UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS:

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- Tom Rye - Transport and Roads Division, Department of Technology and Society , Faculty of Engineering
  - We need to ensure inclusion of all social groups.
  - The regional is the most important dimension when discussing sustainability.
  - National policy frameworks can constrain or enable.
- Catharina Sternudd - Architecture Division, Department of Architecture and the Built Environment , Faculty of Engineering
  - Everyday practices decide our environmental impact.
  - Urban design influences these practices.
  - Research's role in sustainable urban development is to explain the needs, provide arguments and showcase examples.
- Hans Hansson - Water Resources Engineering Division, Department of Building & Environmental Technology, Faculty of Engineering
  - Challenges related to water include infrastructure maintenance, increasing frequency of storms and localised rains, erosion, flooding, coastal squeeze, waste water streams and more.
  - Solutions require collaboration across sectors, improved forecasting and new forms of financing.
  - Solutions to water related problems need to be proactive and to create additional values.
- Stefan Anderberg - Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS)
  - We need to look at cities in a context, as centres for regions but also as nodes in networks where learning takes place.
  - We are situated in a region which successfully has branded itself as green. There is a broad range of examples on urban sustainability solutions in the area but we also have many challenges which accumulate in the area.
  - We need to address the structural challenges of cities. The concept of carbon neutral cities might open up for this.
- Lena Neij – The International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University (IIIEE)
  - Challenges for sustainable urban development are related to co-operation, integration, financing, competence and leadership.
  - To address these, new forms of governance need to be developed and evaluated.
  - Visions of the sustainable city will change.

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## DISCUSSION

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The discussion mirrored the interdisciplinary orientation of the event. Important topics included:

- Scale and speed for disseminating solutions for sustainable urban development.
  - Practitioners want research to address how speed and scale in the implementation of sustainable solutions can be achieved.
  - Is scale and speed always desirable?
  - Scaling up solutions might not always be feasible or good.
  - Speed might be a risk factor.
- The role of researchers in sustainable urban development
  - Researchers should be critical but may also play an important supportive role.
- Ownership and citizenship
  - The municipal level is strong in Sweden but localities are weak.
  - There is a lack of feeling of ownership as well as citizenship.
- The role of municipalities
  - Municipalities struggle to hold private partners in urban infrastructure to account.
  - Municipalities are starting to understand their important role as consumer.
  - How can municipalities best learn from each other? Maybe local politicians communicating with other local politicians.