Future-wise cities: towards a 'collective urban intelligence' in planning and environmental management

Departmental Seminar:

Joe Ravetz
Manchester Urban Institute, Future Cities Lead

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

On-site: University of Manchester, Arthur Lewis Building, G.035/35 (RSVP)
Online: https://tinyurl.com/3d7xsdf5

Cities are the hubs of transformations such as low carbon, social justice and economic resilience. Such changes are generally inter-connected (social, technical, economic, political, cultural): complex and dynamic (beyond simplistic solutions): and often controversial (multiple actors with conflicting agendas).

In response, an agenda for the *'collective urban intelligence'* has emerged – broadly, mutual learning, communication, co-creation and co-production: with a **wider** community of interest, **deeper** layers of value, and **further** horizons of transformation. This is an agenda for ongoing research / development in the interactive *Mind-Lab,* with a source text in *Deeper-City: Collective-Intelligence-and-the-Pathways-from-Smart-to-Wise*

This presentation sketches the concept and demonstrates three topical cases:

- *Peri-urban futures*: the UKRI-funded project *Peri-cene* explored the nature of the 'space between and beyond', and co-created 'adaptive pathways' with 21 cities around the world.
- *Learning loop futures:* the JPI funded project *Looper* (with follow-ons), developed models for experimental co-design and participative governance, for local problems such as air quality, safety, health, crime and greenspace.
- *Net-zero futures*: the *Green new deal 3.0* program explores how to generate the synergies between economic, social and net-zero goals in UK cities and elsewhere.

Each of these shows viable pathways for not only one-off solutions, but the potential of *'collective urban intelligence'* for the urban challenges ahead.