



“The Spaces of Democracy of Planning”

Newcastle University, 11th January, 2008, Beehive, 2pm -7pm

in association with

“The *Space* of Democracy and the *Democracy* of Space” network

Director: Jonathan Pugh

Speakers include:

*Professor John Forester (Cornell)
Professor Patsy Healey (Newcastle University)
Professor Susan Owens (University of Cambridge)
Professor Maarten Hajer (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
Professor Ali Madanipour (Newcastle University)*

In planning today, increasing emphasis is placed upon the *spatial circulation* of people, passions, new social movements, technosciences, media and information; and how these contribute to situated action in given, empirical contexts. This ‘spatial turn’ is having significant implications for how we think about planning as a profession, as well for how we understand democratic distributions of opportunity and responsibility. The spatial turn reflects how planning has made a certain move from a concern with governance of space, to developing a public sphere in which qualities of democracy are stimulated and cultivated. This workshop explores the spatial turn in planning, and its consequences for democratic practice, through asking the following three questions:

1] How can we practically understand the relationship between institutional, material, and aspirational sites of engagement in planning today? That is, how can we understand planning as a practice, in the United States and Europe?

2] How does planning encounter and move through these spaces?

3] And, finally, what “work” do different concepts of democracy do with regard to such spaces of planning, shaping what we mean by ‘progressive planning’?

We are still actively seeking sponsors for both of these events. So if your organisation or company is interested, please contact Jonathan Pugh, Jonathan.Pugh@ncl.ac.uk