



Seminar Cities are back in town

Cities, climate change and the art of experimentation: a new urban politics?

Wednesday 2 December 2015

5 - 7 pm

Sciences Po
Room H405
28, rue des Saints-Pères
75007 Paris

Speaker



Harriet Bulkeley is a Professor of Geography, Durham University. Her research focuses on the processes and politics of environmental governance. Her recent books include *Governing the Climate: new approaches to rationality, power and politics* (Ed. CUP 2014) *Transnational Climate Governance* (CUP, 2014), *An Urban Politics of Climate Change* (Routledge 2015), and *Accomplishing Climate Governance* (CUP, 2015). She is currently involved in researching the politics and practice of smart grids in the UK, Australia and Sweden, low carbon transitions in Southern Africa, and continuing work on urban responses to climate change through the JPI Urban and ESRC project *Governing Urban Sustainability Transitions* (GUST 2014 – 2017). Harriet Bulkeley has undertaken commissioned research for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Friends of the Earth, UN-Habitat and the World Bank. In 2014, she was awarded the King Carl

XVI Gustaf's Professorship in Environmental Science and a Visiting Professorship at Lund University, Sweden.

Theorizing urban climate governance as a set of processes that exceed the institutional boundaries of the local state, we argue that critical to the urban response to climate change is a mode of 'experimentation' where municipalities, private and civil society actors seek to demonstrate, experience, learn and challenge a multiplicity of interventions, projects and schemes as 'solutions' to the urban climate problem. Framed as 'solutions' (best practices, pilots, learning opportunities), climate change experiments provide a means for understanding the ways in which climate change is being problematized in the city, how actors, interests and various urban flows and materialities are being assembled in response, and the ways in which such interventions come to take on meaning within urban socio-technical systems and the spaces of the everyday. Rather than regarding 'experiments' as exceptional, our argument is that they are central to the contested urban politics of socio-technical transition taking place in response to climate change. The paper will explore these issues through the development of a new analytical approach for understanding the urban politics of climate change and case-studies from global cities.

Discussion

Charlotte Halpern, Sciences Po, CEE

Registration compulsory

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