



**Frontiers of
Planning**

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Keynote Speakers

Vanessa Watson



Vanessa Watson is professor of city planning in the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics at the University of Cape Town (South Africa) and Deputy Dean of the faculty. She holds degrees from the Universities of Natal, Cape Town and the Architectural Association of London, and a PhD from the University of Witwatersrand, and is a Fellow of the University of Cape Town.

Her research over the last thirty years has focussed on urban planning in the global South and the effects of inappropriate planning practices and theories especially in Africa. Her work seeks to unsettle the geo-politics of knowledge production in planning by providing alternative theoretical perspectives from the global South.

She is the author/co-author of seven books, some fifty journal articles and numerous chapters, conference papers and keynotes in the field of planning. Her book: *Change and Continuity in Spatial Planning: metropolitan planning in Cape Town under political transition* (Routledge), won national and university book prizes. She is an editor of the journal *Planning Theory*, and on the editorial boards of *Planning Practice and Research*, the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* and *Progress in Planning*.

She was the lead consultant for UN Habitat's 2009 Global Report on Planning Sustainable Cities and is on their global reports Advisory Board. She was chair and co-chair of the Global Planning Education Association Network (2007-2011). She is a founder of the Association of African Planning Schools and is a founder and on the executive of the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town.

Title of Speech: African Cities for Sale! Smart, Eco or just Profitable?

Abstract: *The reality in most sub-Saharan African cities today is well known: they are largely informal, their populations earn unequally but most are poor and they are growing rapidly under conditions of inadequate service provision, outdated planning systems and weak local governments. Yet in the last few years Africa has been labelled by international growth coalitions of property developers, architects and engineers as the globe's 'last development frontier', awaiting urban make-overs which*

combine the worst architectural fantasy features of Dubai, Shanghai and Singapore, and packaged for consumption as smart cities, eco cities and life-style retreats of various kinds. These globally circulating urban models ignore place, identity, culture, histories and the needs of the majority of urban occupants. Their impact on African cities, as elsewhere, will be socially and environmentally devastating. Are there alternative visions for global South cities which can counter the hegemony of Dubai-ification and respond to the urgent imperatives of real cities?

Amos Brandeis



Amos Brandeis is an architect and urban planner. He is the owner and manager of a planning practice since 1994 (www.Restorationplanning.com), Ambassador of the International Riverfoundation (Australia) and former Chairman of Israel Planners Association (2006 - 2012).

His firm is involved in planning of many urban and regional plans on the international, national, regional and local level. Among them cities, city centers, urban renewal, neighborhoods, villages, sea-shores, ports, tourism complexes, rivers, schools, agricultural projects, etc. Amos Brandeis has been awarded over fifteen prizes in the course of his professional career and academic studies including the 2011 "ISOCARP Award for Excellence" (Strategic Planning Category, for planning the Bedouin City Rahat), and the "2003 International Riverprize" (for the Alexander River Restoration Project, a unique collaboration between Israelis and Palestinians, regarding the restoration of a polluted cross-border river).

Amos did serve as an international consultant, speaker and/or workshop leader in many countries over 5 continents (Australia, New Zealand, China, USA, Russia, England, Slovenia, Germany, Italy, Burkina Faso, Turkey, Jordan, Israel, etc.). Among these he served as the team leader of the Shantou ISOCARP UPAT (March 2013), and tutor of the NYPP (First national Young Planners) workshop in Russia (ISOCARP and RUPA).

Title of Speech: Planning for people and with them: Practical lessons from global experience

Abstract: *The most important key for successful planning is "Working with People". The no. 1 challenge we face as planners is: "How can we do it?". In this talk practical lessons drawn from an analysis of very diverse planning work carried out in many countries, will be demonstrated and discussed. The main conclusion is the essential role of successful collaboration with 4 main groups of people, i.e. clients, stakeholders, team members and the people, who actually live in the place.*

The best clients demonstrate real leadership, passion and involvement. The Alexander cross border river restoration project (1995), which is the only Israeli-Palestinian environmental collaboration with "on the ground results", proves that no wall can be an obstacle for real leadership.

The success of a project is very much dependent on collaboration with the main stakeholders. They should preferably all be involved from the beginning of the planning process. The plan should try to create a delicate balance between their needs and interests, but without losing our "professional integrity" - no "Jelly Plans". Everybody wants to be part of a success story, and this means "let the ego go". There is always enough credit for all. The plan for the largest Bedouin City in the world (winner of the 2013 ISOCARP Award for Excellence), demonstrates how Ministers, Prime Ministers, and even the President of State were involved.

Urban and regional plans are prepared by interdisciplinary planning teams. The major challenge of the team leader is how to manage the team and integrate the enormous experience of these experts. How to use their strength and knowledge, as a passionate team, and not treat them as technicians who want to have a free ride. Planning the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, with a team of 19 consultants, from 3 continents, will demonstrate this approach.

The People who live in the place are the real clients. The "Human Factor" is so important in any project, because the mission of the planners is "to plan for the people". The planner receives his fee and moves on to his next project, but they will live forever with what he has planned for them... People are diverse, but all people have needs, interests, and dreams. Four lessons learned from work with some of the poorest and richest people on earth will be discussed: 1. learning, 2. trust building, 3. planning with the people, and 4. creation of sensitive plans. For each lesson the main challenges will be defined, and a set of tools proposed. Some the main issues are methods to identify common interests, overcome cultural gaps, build mutual trust, and use mediators.

Planning in the modern world is complex and extremely challenging. Planning is a very diverse, inspiring and creative profession. Planners should feel privileged to work with people, and to have the opportunity to make a real difference to their lives.