# A Tropsc webingr Series THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE TROPICS

# the Soul of the city

By 2050, 2.5 billion people will be added to the world's urban population, with nearly 90% of this increase taking place in tropical Asia and Africa. Cities in the Tropics will, therefore, drive future global discourse on urbanisation.

A city is complex and multi-faceted. While the physical aspects are important, the city's spirit and cultural identity give it the quality of living the urban inhabitants desire.

This webinar features international speakers who will highlight the diverse elements that make up the soul of the city.

7:30 PM Welcome Remarks

7:40 PM Keynote Address

8:00 PM Panel Discussion
In Search of the Soul
of the City

9:30 PM End of Webinar







### welcome Remarks



Mazlan Othman

Director, International Science Council
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
(ISC-ROAP)

# Opening Speech



Atsushi Koresawa
Regional Representative, Asia and the
Pacific, United Nations Human
Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

## Keynote Address



Dr Karima Kourtit
Principal Investigator, Unit of Smart
Cities & Data Analytics, Open
University (OU), The Netherlands

## HOW TO MAKE CITIES THE HOMES OF PEOPLE

Karima Kourtit is post-doc researcher at KTH (with a double Ph.D. degree both in economics and geography) with a profound interest in regional and urban topics. Her main research focuses on the emerging 'New Urban World', in the field of creative industries, urban development, cultural heritage, digital technology, and strategic performance management. Since April 2020, she is the scientific leader of the Unit of Smart Cities & Data Analytics at Open University (OU), Heerlen, the Netherlands. She is the lab-owner at the Jheronimus Academy of Data Science (JADS) of the division Smart Cities (owned by the Eindhoven University of Technology and Tilburg University), 's Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands.

#### Abstract

Cities – and, in general, urban agglomerations – have in recent years become foci of social science research and policy interest. Prominent attention has been given to agglomeration advantages, mobility patterns, urban decay etc. Less attention however, has been paid to the basic question: what makes the city a 'real' and attractive city? What is the 'raison d'etre' of cities, in particular on the residential satisfaction and quality-of-life motives of urban inhabitants. The task will pinpoint attractiveness characteristics of cities based on perceptions of urban quality by residents and their affinity with city life. A typological distinction will be made between the 'soul' of the city (its spirit, history, cultural, identity, ambiance, social capital, etc.) and the 'body' of the city (its built environment, infrastructure, public amenities, supply of housing, green areas, etc.). The empirical analysis – applied to the four largest cities in Sweden (Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmoe and Umea) – is presented through an exploratory statistical analysis of the findings and an explanatory evaluation of individual appreciation scores. Results show that the 'City Love Index' is a useful construct that can be decomposed into 'soul' and 'body' aspects of the city.







**Moderator** 

#### Ar. Mustapha Zulkarnain

Principal, Arkitek Mustapha Kamal (AMK)

Ar. Mustapha is a Fellow of the Malaysian Institute of Architects (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, PAM). His area of expertise is Urban Resilience from which he Co-Chaired the report for the government of Malaysia on Strategic Initiatives in Floods. He was the Convenor of the PAM Roundtable Discussion with Archinesia in 2016 and sits on the committees for KL Low Carbon Society Blueprint, KL Competitive City and also KUL Design Group.



# **Gaétan Siew**CEO, Global Creative Leadership Initiative

Gaetan Siew is a leading visionary in the field of Architecture & Urbanism. He help set up the Mauritian Association of Architects and occupied numerous roles through the African Union of Architects, before serving as the first Vice President and President of the International Union of Architects. Through his foundation, the Global Creative Leadership Initiative, Mr Siew advocates for societal equity and poverty alleviation.



#### Anacláudia Rossbach

Regional Adviser For Latin America And Caribbean, Cities Alliance

Dr Rossbach has been working for 20 years in the housing and urban fields. She worked mostly in Brazil, but has also participated in a diverse and large number of international endeavours. She is currently the Regional Manager for the Latin America and Caribbean at Cities Alliance, based in Mexico City.



**Dr Kareem Buyana**Researcher, Urban Action Lab ,
Makerere University

Dr Kareem is a researcher at the Urban Action lab and has been involved in global flagship programmes, including the Leading Integrated Research on Agenda 2030 that is supported by the International Science Council. He has published on topics of gender equality, energy transitions, climate resilience pathways and urban transformations.



**Eddin Khoo**Founder, PUSAKA

Eddin Khoo is the founder of PUSAKA, one of the region's leading cultural centres, and the publishing house Kala, which devotes itself to publishing literary translations from the world's languages into Malay. Among his preoccupations is researching aspects of oral transmission, cultural and religious politics and aspects of ritual traditional theatre.



**Dr Woralun Boonyasurat**Assoc. Prof., Chiang Mai University

Dr Boonyasurat's background is in Architectural Heritage Management and Tourism. She played an important role in the Viharn Phra Chao Pun Ong Conservation Project. She won the Merit Award for the 2008 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation.



