

New Urbanisms, New Citizens

Issue 1

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Research project officially launched

New Urbanisms, New Citizens, the three year, ESRC-funded, multidisciplinary research project was officially launched at an event on Thursday 10th September, 2009 at the University of Warwick. The research team presented to an audience of practitioners, policy makers and academics. During the afternoon, a representative from the Sustainable Development Commission, Louise Lord and Peter Hedges from the University of Warwick provided stimulating presentations. The event was a huge success; the project team made valuable contacts and the delegates asked interesting and thought provoking questions.

The *New Urbanisms, New Citizens* project comprises of an inter-disciplinary research team, from the Universities of Warwick, Northampton and Leicester. Professor Pia Christensen, the principal investigator will lead the team in investigating the experiences, issues and needs of young people [aged 10-16] living in new and rapidly-expanding communities in the Milton Keynes -South Midlands [MKSM] growth area.



The research team (L-R): Pia Christensen (PI), John Horton (Co-I), Peter Kraftl (Co-I), Sophie Hadfield-Hill, Stella Hart and Sarah Smith.

Since June 2009, the research team has worked on a number of literature reviews, focusing on key elements of the research agenda; citizenship, children and space; urban studies, mobility and utopia and sustainability.

Press coverage

The research team is committed to disseminating research findings. Since the launch event the *New Urbanisms, New Citizens* project has stimulated media interest including: an article published in *Local Government News* titled 'A positive engagement' (1st October, 2009). This magazine provides independent news and information on regeneration in the built environment, to have our project acknowledged is fantastic.

Dr. John Horton was interviewed by the *Northamptonshire Chronicle and Echo* about young people's participation in Northamptonshire. A feature article appeared in the newspaper on 20th October, 2009.

www.warwick.ac.uk/

Guest researchers

In September, Warwick Institute of Education hosted a team of researchers from the Tema Barn (Childhood Studies Department) at Linköping University in Sweden. Tema Barn is the leading centre for childhood research in Europe. The *New Urbanisms, New Citizens* research team presented at this event and there was an opportunity for discussion and feedback from the Swedish researchers.

Gabriela de Pina Trevisan, a PhD

student from the University of Porto, Portugal who specialises in childhood studies, spent five weeks at the University of Warwick, participating in project meetings and community site visits.

The team welcomes visiting academics and the opportunity to share knowledge and exchange perspectives. Dr. Karen Malone from the University of Wollongong, Australia (hosted by Professor Pia Christensen) and Professor Patricia McKeever from

The next stage

Initial contacts have been made with regional stakeholders to gain a broad understanding and overview of the growth agenda and the impact on young people living within MKSM.

The first phase of fieldwork is due to start in January 2010 (until July). The research will focus on two of the case study areas. Researchers will conduct an in-depth ethnography in each community and combine this with other qualitative methodologies including, interviews, focus

Points of interest:

- Project launch is a success
- *New Urbanisms, New Citizens* receives media attention
- The team welcomes visiting researchers
- Fieldwork to start in January 2010

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