

The Flexible City:

The role of lock-in and path dependency in the context of urban development for “regenerative sustainability”

**Keynote Lecture in the Aula of the Asia-Orient
Institute at the University of Zürich**
Building RAA, Room G-01, Rämistrasse 59, 8006 Zürich

Steve Rayner – 19. May 2016, 18:15 -19:30

James Martin Professor of Science & Civilization | Director, Institute for Science,
Innovation & Society | Professorial Fellow, Keble College | University of Oxford

Will talk about the phenomena of lock-in and path dependency in the development of the city and opportunities to learn from traditional technologies combined with advanced materials and design techniques to contribute to sustainable urban development in the 21st Century. In this context, we need to start thinking of regenerative rather than just sustainable development. “Regenerative sustainability” goes beyond damage control to actually improve the world for humans and nature. It requires the development of comprehensive rules for an environmentally enhancing, restorative relationship between humanity and the ecosystems from which we draw resources for our sustenance.



Steve Rayner is James Martin Professor of Science and Civilization and Director of the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society (InSIS) in the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography at Oxford University from where he also Co-directs the Oxford Programme for the Future of Cities, the Oxford Martin Programme on Resource Stewardship and the Oxford Geoengineering Programme. He is also Honorary Professor of Climate Change and Society at the University of Copenhagen and Senior Fellow at the Breakthrough Institute of Oakland, California. Trained as a political anthropologist (PhD University College London 1980), he describes himself as an ‘undisciplined’ scholar, committed to changing the world through social science. He has served on various US, UK, and international bodies addressing science, technology and the environment, including Britain’s Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Royal Society’s Working Group on Climate Geoengineering.

He has received numerous awards, including the 25th Homer N. Calver Award from the Environment Section of the American Public Health Association, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Director’s Award for R&D Excellence and two Martin Marietta Energy Systems Awards for groundbreaking work in risk analysis and global climate change policy analysis respectively. He was included in the 2008 Smart List by Wired Magazine as ‘one of the 15 people the next US President should listen to’.

Further on the Agenda:

Talk and Panel Discussion on the Oxford Geoengineering Programme with Steve Rayner and Swiss Scholars involved in Climate Change Research

When? Friday, May 20 from 09:15 to 11:15 am

Where? Building RAA, Room G15, Rämistrasse 59, University of Zurich

Organized by the Center for Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (CCRS) at the University of Zurich and Stiftung Risiko Dialog

What is the Oxford Geoengineering Programme? The Oxford Geoengineering Programme seeks to engage with society about the issues associated with geoengineering. The programme does not advocate implementing geoengineering, but conducts research into the social, ethical and technical aspects of geoengineering.