



Urban Research Program

2009 Seminar Series

Professor Mike Salvaris

Citizen progress measures: A new democratic paradigm?

In public policy, a global movement is now becoming a paradigm shift that threatens to replace two long dominant assumptions: the primacy of continuous economic growth as the key driver of wellbeing; and the historically powerful but deterministic notion of the 'inevitability of progress'. In their place is a more holistic, integrated and nuanced model, recognising the interdependence of economic, social, cultural, environmental and democratic dimensions for genuine well-being, progress and sustainability. This seminar examines these trends and reviews work over the past decade at both local and national levels in Australia – including citizen-engaged community planning and neighbourhood renewal schemes; state-wide local progress measurement frameworks; and the evolution of national progress measurement systems to a broader National Development Index (NDI) for Australia.

Mike Salvaris is an Adjunct Professor in RMIT's School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning. He is an adviser to the OECD and the ABS on progress measurement.

Tuesday 21st July

12.30 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Nathan campus - Room N55 1.12