

Urban Research Program

Seminar Series 2006 – Wednesday 25th October 2006

Jason Byrne

Lecturer, School of Environmental Planning,
Griffith University



Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is the second largest urban national park in the United States. The park potentially offers Los Angeles residents access to a stunning landscape of rugged peaks, deep canyons, waterfalls, hiking trails, sandy beaches, rare habitats and seclusion. Jason will talk about how the park seems to be unwelcoming for people of colour and the urban poor – vulnerable residents who typically lack access to urban nature spaces.

This is a problem because the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area was specifically created to provide vulnerable communities with access to a national park. Although planners provide urban open space, this space may not be accessible to all residents – a situation warranting action.

Jason Byrne is a lecturer in the School of Environmental Planning on the Gold Coast. He spent the past 7 years at the University of Southern California researching issues related to urban green-space and environmental justice.

12.00 noon- 1pm, Wednesday 25th October 2006
Planning Studio 1.14, Building N55, Nathan Campus
Griffith University