

# Lunchbox seminar series

Nathan

## Urban Form and Wayfinding: Review of Cognitive and Spatial Knowledge for Individuals' Navigation

### Abstract:

Wayfinding is today an essential part of the transport system, both on- and increasingly off-road. In addition, urban legibility plays a crucial role in encouraging people to use active transport like navigation on foot rather than using a motor vehicle. In this regard, set of key relationships between wayfinding, navigation behaviour and urban form are identified. In order, a set of theoretical and conceptual issues are outlined, including Lynchian theory, Semiotics theory, the flâneur in urban navigation, and the theory of space syntax and its role in prediction of people's route choice and wayfinding behaviour. The role of new technologies and its implications for human navigation provides additional concerns. Numerous research gaps are identified including how visitors make sense of an urban environment, create mental imagery and then use that image to navigate through the city. There remains little research on how ubiquitous smart phone technology and global positioning systems (GPS) are complementing or disrupting those processes. The paper concludes with suggestions of new research methods that may help fill these gaps in knowledge and in turn help planners assist visitors in their urban navigation and wayfinding.

### Biography:

Sima Vaez is a PhD candidate at Cities Research Institute and the School of Environment. She is currently studying the effects of urban form and navigational aids on wayfinding behavior and spatial cognition of visitors. Her research seeks to understand how people make sense of an unfamiliar environment to find their ways and how different navigational aids (GPS, paper map, signage) could affect people's mental image of their surrounding environment.



**Sima Vaez**  
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**Friday 18 August 2017**  
**Nathan campus**

**Environment 1,  
Seminar Room**  
**N55\_1.07**  
**12.00–12:50pm**