



Justine Humphry

Jathan Sadowski

Chris Chesher

Sophia Maalsen

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Colonising the public? Smart street furniture and the techno-politics of urban media

This seminar introduces the *Smart Publics* research collaboration between the University of Sydney and the University of Glasgow on the social, design, and governance implications of smart street furniture, drawing on fieldwork in Glasgow, London and New York. We explore issues of privatisation of public space in cities and the role of smart urbanism in the context of smart upgrades to street furniture like kiosks and benches, which are hybrid urban media objects purportedly installed to address barriers of access to information-communication networks. These emerging forms of street furniture raise serious risks related to surveillance, data harvesting, and targeted advertising. Their installation changes city flows and social interactions, and how their ownership challenges the role of local government in overseeing public objects and spaces.

Justine Humphry is a Lecturer in Digital Cultures in the Department of Media and Communications at the University of Sydney and co-lead of the [Smart publics University of Sydney-University of Glasgow research partnership](#).

Jathan Sadowski is a postdoctoral research fellow in smart cities in the School of Architecture, Design and Planning at the University of Sydney.

Chris Chesher is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Cultures in the Department of Media and Communications at the University of Sydney. His current research focuses on the interplay between smart home and smart city technologies.

Sophia Maalsen is a lecturer in urbanism and former IB Fell postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Sydney. She is the author of *The Social Life of Sound* (2019, Palgrave MacMillan).

When

Friday, 6 September 2019

3.00pm – 4.30pm

Where

MECO Seminar Room, S226
John Woolley Building A20
University of Sydney,
Camperdown 2006

More information

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Register

All are welcome. Please register online at

slam-events.sydney.edu.au