

# The Technology and Ethics of 'Collaborative Planning'

## Public Lecture by Professor Patsy Healey

6 March 2010 (Saturday), 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon  
KB223, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong

Patsy Healey is professor emeritus in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. She has qualifications in geography and planning and is a specialist in planning theory and practice, with a particular interest in strategic spatial planning for city regions and in urban regeneration policies. In recent years, she has been developing approaches to collaborative planning practices, linked to an institutionalist analysis of urban socio-spatial dynamics and urban governance, with books on urban governance and on strategic spatial planning in Europe. She will publish two volumes in 2010: *Making Better Places: the planning project in the 21st Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, London), and *Crossing Borders: International exchange and planning practices* (edited, with Robert Upton) (Routledge, London). She was the *Founding Senior Editor of Planning Theory and Practice*, jointly published by TandF and the RTPI, until 2009. She was awarded an OBE in 1999 for services to planning and she was recognised as an Honorary Member by the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) in 2004, only the second such honour to be awarded. She was made a Fellow of University College, London in June 2006, and Awarded the RTPI Gold Medal in March 2007. She was made a Fellow of the British Academy in 2009.



“The idea of ‘collaborative planning’, or ‘collaborative ways of working’, is vigorously promoted these days. I have been closely associated with the development of such approaches in the field of spatial planning. But what does it mean to engage in ‘collaborative ways of working’ when doing planning work? What techniques are associated with such a way of developing and implementing planning initiatives? What ethical demands and dilemmas do such ways of working create for those involved? In this talk, I will focus on three core areas of planning work: the development of spatial development strategies, the promotion of major development projects and the management of the ongoing flow of small scale development activity. I will discuss the different ideas and practices which are associated with the collaborative planning idea, how they relate to these areas of planning work, and to the different contexts in which such work is undertaken. Through this discussion, I will give particular attention to the techniques which have become closely associated with the collaborative idea, notably achieving more ‘integrative approaches’, ‘partnership working’, ‘consensus-building’, and ‘participatory policy-making’. I will conclude by emphasising the importance of careful analysis of specific instances of apparently collaborative working in academic work. I will also underline the need for making careful, ethically-informed judgements about the efficacy and legitimacy of using particular techniques associated with ‘collaborative planning’ when undertaking planning work.”

**All interested are welcome!**

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