

“How to Build Smart Society”

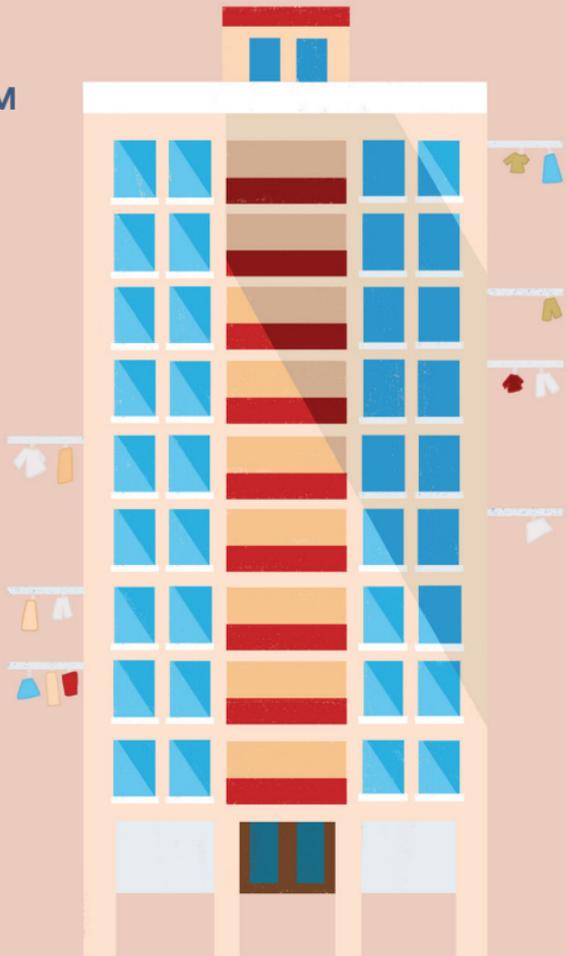
PUBLIC HOUSING

Prof. Robert Chaskin

McCormick Foundation Professor and Deputy Dean for Strategic Initiatives,
School of Social Service Administration,
University of Chicago, USA

9 MAY 2019 (THU), 3 PM

AAB 1312, HKBU



About the Speaker



Prof. Robert Chaskin is McCormick Foundation Professor and Deputy Dean for Strategic Initiatives at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration where he holds the UNESCO Chair for Inclusive Urbanism. His work focuses primarily on the conceptual foundations and principal strategies of contemporary community intervention in the context of urban poverty. He has written widely on the topics of neighborhood intervention, community capacity building, the dynamics of participatory planning and neighborhood governance, and the role of nonprofit organizations in community development and participatory democracy. Among other projects, he has recently completed fieldwork for a study on the civic and political engagement of marginalized urban youth in Belfast, Dublin, and London; has completed work on an edited volume (forthcoming from Oxford University Press) that provides a comparative, cross-national analysis of policy and community responses to social exclusion; and is engaged in a study of slum clearance and social housing policy in Mumbai. His latest book, *Integrating the Inner City: The Promise and Perils of Mixed-Income Public Housing Transformation* (with Mark Joseph, University of Chicago Press 2015) received the honorable mention award for the best book in urban affairs from the Urban Affairs Association. Prof. Chaskin received an AM in anthropology and PhD in sociology from The University of Chicago.

About the Lecture

This seminar focuses on Chicago's efforts to address concentrated urban poverty through public housing reform, focusing both on mobility (relocating public housing residents living in concentrated poverty to "better"—safer, less poor, more diverse—neighborhoods) and replacing large-scale public housing with mixed-income developments. This reflects broad national policy of public housing reform (as well as similar efforts in Europe, Canada, and Australia) but Chicago's efforts are the largest and most ambitious in the United States. At the center of this effort is a stated emphasis on integration - on remediating the negative effects of racial and economic segregation that was so starkly exacerbated and reproduced by past public housing policy. The policy draws on social science theory and evidence regarding the importance of "neighborhood effects" and on the design principles and theoretical orientations of New Urbanism, which assumes that particular aspects of the built environment - such as scale, walkability, mixed-use, civic and transitional space - can support social objectives associated with diversity and community building, as well as maximize the use and informal surveillance of public spaces and promote care and defense of private space. This dual orientation toward community and control sits somewhat in tension, however, is generating complex dynamics and significant contention in the mixed-income communities that are at the center of the Transformation. Speaking to the "smart cities" theme, the seminar examines the challenges of implementing policy informed by social science research but falling short both for reasons of implementation and theoretical disjunctions.

About Smart Society Research at HKBU

HKBU's Faculty of Social Sciences is the first in Hong Kong, China to launch an integrated programme of research and exchange on Smart Societies. Smart Societies are those where technology assists people to lead improved lives. We research the possibilities, actions, and consequences of smart societies. We share our original research on-line and through open lectures.

Our approach is global and transdisciplinary. We collaborate internationally and draw best practice from around the world. We are problem-driven, and integrate knowledge in an ecosystem that focuses on areas of key significance to China and Asia including:

- **Environmental and Urban Systems** (including, for example, smart cities, smart energy, smart heritage, smart home, resilient cities, global change and evolution, planetary urbanization)
- **Well-being** (including, healthy living, food and nutrition, active ageing and cognition stimulation, digital health care systems, evergaming and esports)
- **Populations** (including, digital divide, intergenerational caring, ethnic and racial studies, digital access, transnational networks, digital family hood)
- **Learning and Praxis** (including, egovernance, smart schools, disintermediated education, citizen science, data analytics application)

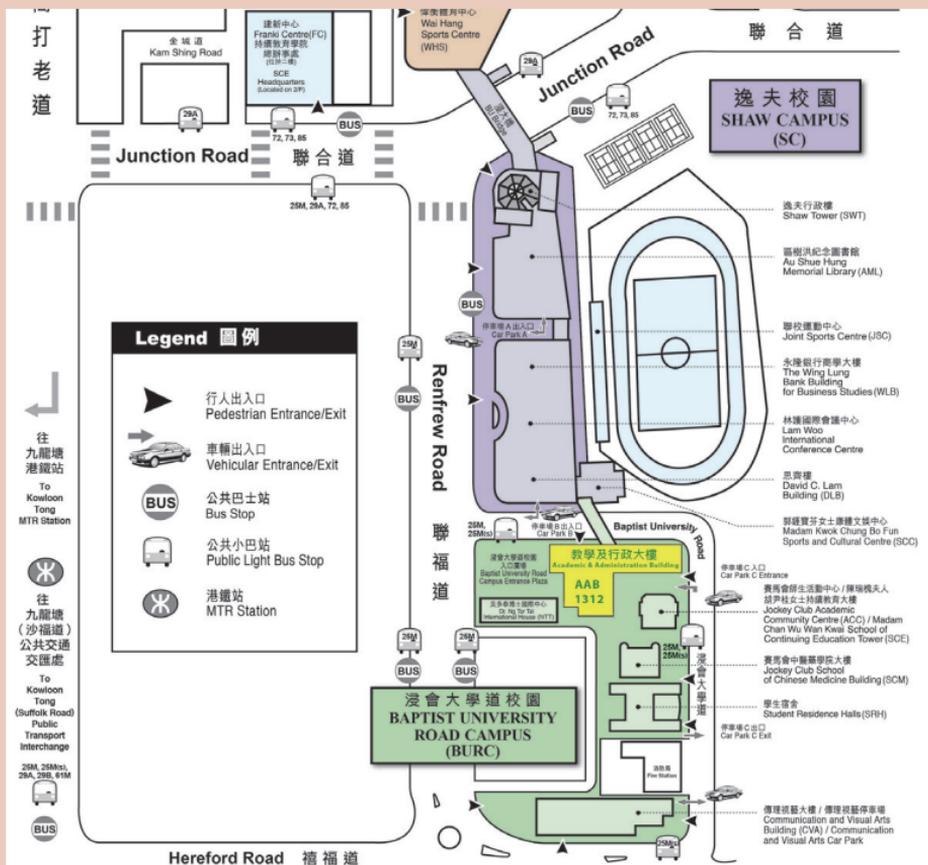
For further details, access to our outputs, and collaboration opportunities, please visit us:

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Venue: AAB 1312, 13/F, Academic and Administration Building,
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Registration by 6 May 2019:

<https://goo.gl/FcTNYS>



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