

IMAGINING 2040:podcast series pilot episode: IMAGINING BETTER INFORMED, SMARTER AND FASTER CITIZEN COLLABORATIVE URBAN PLANNING BY 2040

Envisaging how people could shape the places they live in in ways that better reflect their needs, hopes and diverse perspectives

IMAGINING 2040 – towards flourishing futures

Imagining better informed, smarter and faster citizen-collaborative urban planning by 2040

Envisaging how people could shape the places they live in in ways that better reflect their needs, hopes and diverse perspectives.



Dr. Anthony Kimpton, Lecturer (Urban and Regional Planning) School of Surveying and Built Environment, University of Southern Queensland.



Dr Lara Mottee, Research Fellow, John Grill Institute for Project leadership, School of Project Management, The University of Sydney

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Google Drive Link to audio file:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kgArNVeGPso3V9TgEe8h3Nwd2kIaLhOO/view?usp=sharing>

GUESTS:

Dr. Anthony Kimpton, (He/Him/His, Lecturer (Urban and Regional Planning) School of Surveying and Built Environment, University of Southern Queensland. Email: Anthony.Kimpton@unisq.edu.au

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HOST INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Imagining 2040: pathways to flourishing futures. The podcast series where we explore imaginative ideas and credible pathways to possible futures that are climate-safer, socially fairer, more protective of nature, and genuinely prosperous—better futures that leave no one behind.

In today's episode, we're turning our attention and imaginations to the built environment, infrastructure construction - and urban and regional planning: one of the most powerful tools and forces for transformation we have to shape how we live, connect, and care for our environments. We'll be seeking some answers to the question: what contribution might urban planning be able to make toward a creating a flourishing future for all in this and the following decades ahead?

As cities and regions continue to grow rapidly and evolve, planners face immense challenges. These include rising housing pressure, climate risks, infrastructure demands, and growing inequality. The decisions made today about transport systems, green space, housing, and energy will define the quality of life for generations to come. But all too often in the past, these decisions have been made without meaningful community input, risking outcomes that leave people behind or reduce their well-being.

So how could we plan differently? How could we ensure that urban and regional development truly serves people and the planet? One major shift could lie in how we involve citizens—not just in consultations, but in

shaping decisions from the ground up. Can we, for instance, imagine future planning processes in which communities co-design solutions using the same tools as experts—like real-time data visualisation, interactive spatial models and scenarios, and digital platforms that make complex information easier to understand?

And how might inclusive engagement methods—such as citizen juries, participatory mapping, and creative storytelling— help people shape the places they live in in ways that reflect their needs, hopes, and diverse perspectives. Could such innovations be used to shape a future, in the next decade and beyond, in which urban planning and citizen participatory decision making become faster, smarter, and more collaborative?

Helping answer some of these questions and perhaps posing others are my two great guests today.

Dr Lara Mottee, is a Research Fellow at the John Grill Institute for Project leadership, in the School of Project Management at The University of Sydney. Australia.

Dr. Anthony Kimpton is a lecturer in Urban and Regional Planning in the School of Surveying and Built Environment at the University of Southern Queensland, Australia.

INTERVIEW TALKING POINT SEGMENTS FOR EACH GUEST – with approximate time elapsed in minutes. And see IMAG GUEST GUIDANCE NOTE 2: RECORD OUTLINE SEQUENCE.

- GENERIC AND SERIES INTRODUCTION – 0.00
- GUEST FORESHADOWING COMMENTS – 2.52
- EPISODE INTRODUCTION – 3.34
- GUEST SELF INTRODUCTION AND WORK IN 2025 – 6.08
- IMAGINATION EXERCISE 1 - TIME TRAVEL TO 2040 – 30.40
- IMAGINATION EXERCISE 2 - SIGNALS OF THE FUTURE IN 2025 – 43.00
- IMAGINATION EXERCISE 3 - THREE-ASSERTVE ACTIONS FOR 2025 – 55.12
- CLOSING GUEST COMMENTS - 1.08.44
- AND AUDIENCE INVITATION – 1.13.07
- END OF EPISODE – 1.16.18

SELECTED RESOURCES LINKED TO INTERVIEW COMMENTS

Dr. Lara Mottee:

Carlos Moreno

- Ted Talk about Paris' 15min city plan: [Carlos Moreno: The 15-minute city](#)
- His book: [New book! The 15-Minute City: A Solution to Saving Our Time and Our Planet - Carlos Moreno](#)

Marco Te Brömmelstroet

- Speaking about the Australian Context (2024): <https://youtu.be/xMekwTixj20?si=hLRYIrKUa5zf5asV>
- Marco's Research Lab at the University of Amsterdam: [The Lab of Thought](#)

Future-making methods in projects

- Whyte, J., Mosca, L., Comi, A., & Liu, L. X. (2025). Project leadership for future making. *Project Management Journal*, 56(2), 173-181.
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/87569728251322703>
- Comi, A., Mosca, L., & Whyte, J. (2025). Future making as emancipatory inquiry: A value-based exploration of desirable futures. *Journal of Management Studies*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/joms.13227>

Social Impact Assessment in Transport Planning

- By Dr Lara K Mottee, fact sheet about Social Impact Assessment and best practice project-based assessments of impacts on communities and societies from infrastructure projects:
<https://dp.prod.uts.edu.au/globalassets/sites/default/files/2025-06/social-impact-assessment-in-transport-planning.pdf>

University of Technology Sydney – Resources

<https://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculties/design-architecture-and-building/built-environment/social-procurement-community-practice-construction-industry/resources>

Talk with your local Council planners! E.g., Toowoomba Regional Council:

- [Contact Council](#)

Real Deal placed-based projects to support community-led transition using the practices of community organizing.

- <https://www.arealdeal.org/>

Dr Anthony Kimpton:

Planning Institute Australia (2021) State of the Profession (<https://www.planning.org.au/pia/pia/news-resources/state-of-the-profession.aspx>) accessed 17/06/25

Planning Institute Australia (2025) Understanding PlanTech (<https://www.planning.org.au/pia/pia/policy-advocacy/plantech.aspx>) accessed 17/06/25

Australian Government (2025) Occupation Shortage List (<https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/data/occupation-shortages-analysis/occupation-shortage-list>) accessed 17/06/25

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) TableBuilder (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder>) accessed 17/06/25

Australian Automobile Association (2024) Transport Affordability (<https://www.aaa.asn.au/research-data/transport-affordability/>) accessed 17/06/25

Hackathon (2025) Discover the Latest Hackathons and STEM Challenges in Australia (<https://www.hackathons.com.au/>) accessed 17/06/25

Australian Data Research Commons (2025) Research Bazaar (<https://ardc.edu.au/event/resbaz-queensland-2025/>) accessed 17/06/25

Ebenezer Howard [Garden City concept](#) – a short introductory article (2022)

Jared Diamond book [Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed](#) (2013 ed.) Google Books review.

The Jetsons TV series (including character George Jetson) [was a pioneering 1960s USA comedy animation](#) about a family of the future. Its science fiction themes have been ascribed both utopian and dystopian interpretations over the years.

Dr Karl [Australian science populariser](#) (2025)

Host's suggestions:

Use of public imagination

Geoff Mulgan (2022) book. [*Another World Is Possible: How to Reignite Social and Political Imagination*](#). Mulgan is one of the foremost thinkers on the value of increasing the exercise of public imagination.

Geoff Mulgan (2020) paper. [*The Imaginary Crisis*](#) - and how we might quicken social and public imagination). Free and accessible online from progressive, future transition think tank [Demos Helsinki](#).

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Music: [James Nicholson](#) or other credited composer. **Artwork:** Andrew Nicholson.