

# Partnership for Urban Innovation

GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2010 • JUNE 17 – 18, 2010 • SHANGHAI, CHINA

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## The Social Life of Cities

The economic and, more recently, the environmental dimension of cities invariably rise to the top of the agenda when it comes to the discussion about urban sustainability. What often gets forgotten, or at least displaced on the agenda of investors, policy makers and city designers and builders is the social life of cities, the way cities work (or fail to work) for the lives that people live in common. How do we avoid the pattern that's becoming too common in the US and Europe, and is now happening in China, where some of the most modern parts of cities, and some of the most modern cities themselves, end up with diminished communities, disconnected people and dispiriting surroundings?

In this session, a distinguished group of leading thinkers and practitioners will engage participants in a lively conversation about just three distinct, but related dimensions of the social life of cities:

- The first will examine the social life of work and look at emerging patterns of working fuelled by new social networking tools and platforms, that link work, home and community in new ways
- The second will take some examples of social innovation in the city and learn from a new breed of social entrepreneurs who are finding new ways to combine technology, culture and people to solve difficult problems of isolation, intolerance and inequity.
- And the third dimension will look at the creative life of cities including examples of approaches to creating cultural experiences that engage as well as entertain.

Our conversation will have two objectives. The first is to demonstrate that not only is it important to understand the social life of cities as a key issue in its own right. It is also increasingly important to understand the interrelationship between the social dimension and the other dimensions of urban and community sustainability.

The second objective is to use the conversation to draw up a short “manifesto” for the social life of cities, a powerful collection of principles and propositions that can influence the way people think about how cities work for people and communities.

So our aim in this session is engage and to explore but also to create together something practical and timely that reminds us that people and communities are at the heart of the challenge to change the way cities are designed, managed, governed and renewed.

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Speakers:

**Geoff Mulgan**

Director, Young Foundation

**Wenhui Shan**

Director, Fudan University Center for Urban Studies

**Dr Anne Stenros**

Vice President, Design, KONE Corporation

**Dan Hill**

Senior Consultant, Arup

**Bas Boorsma**

Board Member, Double-U Smartwork Foundation,  
and Director, Cisco Internet Business Solutions Group

**Martin Stewart-Weeks**

Chairman, Australian Social Innovation eXchange (ASIX) and Senior Director, Cisco Internet Business Solutions Group

*Moderated by: Martin Stewart-Weeks (Cisco and ASIX)*

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