



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Sustainable Suburbs?

## Best practices from Canada

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

A public lecture by Dr David Gordon, Professor and Director Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning, Canada and 2015 IAS International Distinguished Visiting Fellow.



Australia and Canada are two of the world's most urbanised nations, despite their vast and sparsely-populated interior regions. Cities such as Melbourne, Montreal, Perth, Sydney, Toronto and Vancouver are renowned for their high quality of life, but they also share an unusual urban structure, where most people live in low-density, automobile-dependent suburbs. There is much evidence that this form of urbanism is not socially, economically or environmentally sustainable. And current public health research indicates that our suburban lifestyle may be harming our citizens' health.

Many Australians and Canadians love their cars and their single homes, but can we make this suburban dream more healthy and sustainable?

This lecture will present current practice in better design and redevelopment of suburban areas, extensively illustrated with examples from across Canada provided by the Council for Canadian Urbanism.

### About Professor Gordon

Dr David Gordon is Professor and Director of the Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning in Canada. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners and has shared their National Award of Distinction three times. Prior to 1994, David was a principal in a prominent Toronto urban design firm, a project manager with a waterfront redevelopment agency and a consulting planner for 15 years.

David has also taught at Toronto, Riga, Harvard and Pennsylvania, where he was a Fulbright Senior Scholar. He is a founding director of the Council for Canadian Urbanism, where he chairs the Research Committee.

Professor Gordon has written widely on urbanism, including the books *Planning Twentieth Century Capital Cities* (Routledge, 2006) and *Planning Canadian Communities* (Nelson 2014) with Gerald Hodge, which won a National Planning Award from the Canadian Institute of Planners. His latest research includes a book on the history of Canada's capital city and analysis of Canadian suburbs.

**David Gordon is a 2015 IAS International Distinguished Visiting Fellow.**

### Event Details

**Date:** Wednesday, 29 April 2015

**Time:** 6pm

**Venue:** Woolnough Lecture Theatre, Geology Building UWA

**Parking:** P18 & 20, Fairway entrance 3

**Cost:** Free, but RSVP essential via [www.ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/gordon](http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/gordon)

**This lecture is co-sponsored by UWA's Planning and Transportation Research Centre (PATREC) the School of Earth and Environment, the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts and the Australian Urban Design Research Centre.**

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