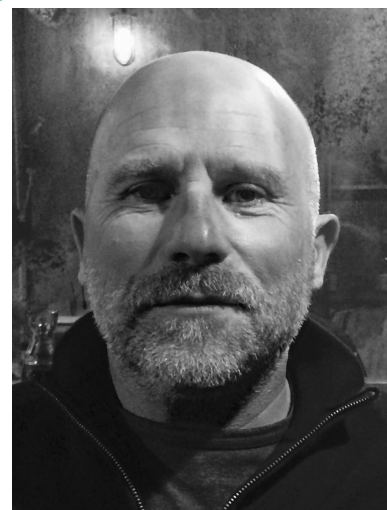


THE GEOGRAPHIES OF THE SHARING ECONOMY

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With the rise of hospitality exchange networks such as **Airbnb** and **Couchsurfing** the ways in which people travel and connect with “other” cultures has significantly changed. These networks have turned residential accommodation, the private sphere, and ‘the labour of care’ into commodities, which are exchanged between individuals without interference of commercial tourism entities. The networks operate myriads of digital technologies not only to help people connect, but also to quantify and qualify the meaning and the value of these exchanges. In effect, they have come play an important role in determining who is in and out of the sharing economy. In this lecture we discuss the consequences these technologies have for the ways in which people and places are drawn into a “sharing” geography, and what “values” they come to have in this new economy. What does it mean to share a home and the intimacies of one’s private life? What are the travel philosophies and business objectives that underlie these networks and what will they mean for how places are understood in the future? In this lecture we explore some of these questions, drawing on our findings, which we derived from an extensive ethnography and interviews, and our own experiences as both hosts and guests in these networks.



with

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The University of Tokyo

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TUESDAY

7:00-8:30PM

Collaboration Room 3
4th Floor, Building 18
Komaba Campus
The University of Tokyo

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