This talk is an invitation to consider the role that history can play when thinking about the future of a post-car world. It argues that by understanding change in the past not only can we make better sense of our present situation, but, more importantly, we can reveal the limitations, the likelihood and the desirability of futures as we envision them today.

Through a close examination of the work of Charles Pearson in London (c.1851), Michel Ragon in Paris (c.1965) and the New Towns Policy in Shanghai (c.2005), Dr. Galviz will discuss the process of envisioning urban futures, the cultures of expertise and ownership around these visions, and the different symbols of futurity and the politics of mythmaking that have been central to the shaping of the future in all three cities.