

25 May 2022

5 pm (MY time)

Seminar : Emotions and the City

Dark Feelings: Atmospheres and Emotions in the Nocturnal City

Prof. Nick DUNN (Lancaster University)



After dark, the city changes palpably. Our visual perception may become less reliable than in the daytime, yet our other senses can be heightened. The urban night has long been associated with acts of transgression, illicit encounter, and as an arena for excess. The nocturnal city, however, also offers a wider array of atmospheres than those bound up in the nighttime economy. Our experiences of urban places after dark can bring forth new sensitisations and apprehensions. Familiar streets and parts of the city we encounter during the day can be transformed and suddenly may appear to have distinct characteristics at night. The boundaries between the real and imaginary, and indeed the body and landscape, can be less certain. Drawing on the practice of nightwalking in Manchester, UK, this talk will explore the potential of the nocturnal city to recalibrate our emotions in urban places and as a form of sense making. It will examine the use of autoethnography as a way to map the ongoing entanglements between space and emotion, city and memory, time and materiality, writing and place.

Professor Nick Dunn is Executive Director of ImaginationLancaster where he is also Professor of Urban Design. He is Senior Fellow of the Institute for Social Futures, examining the insights that the arts and humanities can bring to the ways we think, envision, and analyse the futures of people, places, and planet. His research into urban futures has been funded by the EPSRC, the UK's Government Office for Science and the Ministry of Defence. Nick has worked with the Alliance for Healthy Cities, European Commission, International Dark-Sky Association, World Health Organization, and sits on various scientific committees and advisory boards. He has curated exhibitions and given talks at public festivals and conferences around the world. His recent publications include *Designing Future Cities for Wellbeing* (2020), *Rethinking Darkness: Cultures, Histories, Practices* (2020), and *Future Cities: A Visual Guide* (2020).

<https://sunway-edu-my.zoom.us/j/94692842279?pwd=cnowUVpsV3dEc1pDMWxwTDZ5ek9nZz09>

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