

# Dr Christopher Maidment MRTPI FHEA

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## Higher Education

### PhD Town & Regional Planning

The University of Sheffield  
September 2011 – March 2016

#### Supervisors:

Professor Heather Campbell  
Dr. Andy Inch

My doctoral thesis is entitled '[Planning in the public interest? Exploring the use of the public interest in plan-making.](#)' Taking the idea that planning is about accounting for collective interests the research considers how this 'public interest' justification plays out in English plan-making practice. To try to understand this my fieldwork explored case studies of spatial plan-making in Central Lincolnshire and the Peak District National Park, using multiple qualitative methods. My doctorate was funded by a full University of Sheffield scholarship.

### MA Town & Regional Planning

The University of Sheffield  
September 2010 – September 2011

#### Degree Classification: Distinction

My dissertation achieved a distinction and was entitled '*The Marginalisation of Local Authority Planners: Perceived Boundaries or Structural Reality?*'. Drawing on nineteen semi-structured interviews with policy planners in the public sector it examined the extent to which planners are able to work innovatively within the local authority setting. I attracted a full bursary from the Department for Communities and Local Government to undertake this course.

### BA (Hons) Geography & Planning with Employment Experience

The University of Sheffield  
September 2006 – July 2010

#### Degree Classification: 1<sup>st</sup> Class

My degree was split between human geography and planning and included 15 months working for a Local Planning Authority between Levels 2 and 3 (See 'Professional Experience'). In Levels 1 and 2 I used optional credits to undertake to a German language course. My final year extended essay focussed on housing supply and its relationship with good design and climate change. Upon graduation I was awarded the JR James Book Prize in Urban Studies, for the best results in the Department of Town and Regional Planning.

## Professional Experience & Memberships

I was elected to chartered membership of the Royal Town Planning Institute in June 2017. I am also a member of the Town & Country Planning Association.

### Lecturer in Planning

Real Estate & Planning  
University of Reading  
August 2019 – Present

- Incoming Programme Director for planning.
- Module Convenor for postgraduate and undergraduate modules.
- Academic Tutor for postgraduate students.

### Senior Lecturer in Town Planning

School of Engineering & Built Environment  
Anglia Ruskin University  
September 2017 – August 2019

- Course Leader for the MSc Town Planning.
- Module Leader for postgraduate and undergraduate modules.
- Dissertation supervisor for undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Personal Tutor for MSc Town Planning students.

### Planning Policy Officer

Planning Policy & Conservation Team  
Bassetlaw District Council  
November 2015-August 2017

- Lead role drafting first consultation document, intended to set the direction for the Local Plan. This included translating the team's ideas into a draft 'Vision' and coming up with a distinctive visual identity..
  - Engaging in extensive team discussions to set the direction for the new Local Plan. Particular responsibility for drafting proposed policy approaches on housing, design and town centres. Additionally responsible for writing a more accessible summary of the full consultation document.
  - Drafting of responses to consultations from both local neighbouring authorities and national government.
  - Key role in commissioning an external study of the district's town centres.
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- Wrote and delivered presentations to parish councillors to communicate the team's ideas for a new Local Plan.

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### **Student Planner**

Planning Policy & Projects Team  
Ashfield District Council  
June 2008-August 2009

- Key role in public consultation on the first stage of a new local spatial plan, including manning public exhibitions and leading group discussions with developers and groups of schoolchildren.
- Key role in large scale assessment of over 300 potential new housing sites, from assessing sites using multiple data sources to attending meetings with 8 partner authorities, to develop a common assessment methodology.
- Work to improve accessibility of a text heavy document appraising the special nature of a village designated for conservation by introducing annotated diagrams and additional images.

## **Research Projects**

### **Generating a Culture of Effective Planning: Exploring the Role of Organisational Arrangements**

- **Dates:** March 2020 - Present
- **Aim:** To explore the extent to which supportive macro, meso and/or micro-scale organisational arrangements generate a culture of 'effective planning'.
- **Team:** Dr Chris Maidment (Principal Investigator), Dr Mark Dobson, Dr Matt Wargent & Dr Edward Shepherd
- **Funding:** £10,615, internally funded from the David Robbins Fund

This research will explore the role of organisational arrangements such as recruitment, hierarchy and professional networks in shaping the agency of planners and their ability undertake planning activities effectively. The primary data collection will use interviews and observations, with participants drawn from a range of planning organisations that are distinctive in how they are organised.

### **Brandia: Developing a Resilience Informed Decision Making Framework for Sustainable Drainage Systems**

- **Dates:** October 2018 – February 2020
- **Aim:** To develop a resilience-informed decision-making framework (RIDMF) through incorporating a sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), for sustainable urban planning and development in peri-urban areas in Brandia.
- **Team:** Dr Maryam Imani (Principal Investigator, Anglia Ruskin University), Dr Lakshmi Rajendran (Anglia Ruskin University), Dr Chris Maidment, Dr Davi Cunha (University of São Paulo) & Dr Ademir Barbassa (Federal University of São Carlos)
- **Funding:** £52,000, from the Global Challenges Research Fund and Quality Related Funding

Working with partners in Brazil, India and the UK, Brandia developed a framework to encourage the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in urban planning, with a focus on embedding resilience and quality of life as decision-making criteria. My focus was on the integration of quality of life into the framework, and designing it to influence decision-making at multiple levels, including presenting these aspects at a series of workshops in Brazil and the UK.

### **Towards a Transformative Practice Framework: Planners, Professional Agency & Sustainable Urbanism**

- **Dates:** March 2018 – December 2019
- **Aim:** To evaluate UK planners' agency in transforming policy on sustainable design and construction (1997 to 2015) – and the lessons this offers for reclaiming pro-active practices for future cities.
- **Team:** Dr Nezhapi-Dellé Odeleye (Anglia Ruskin University), Dr Niamh Murtagh (University College London), Dr Chris Maidment.
- **Funding:** £3,000, Internally funded from Quality Related Funding

The team undertook 41 semi-structured interviews with a range of mid-career (more than 7 years' experience) and 'legacy' planners (more than 20 years' experience), mainly working in the public sector. Interview themes included professional capacity, sustainability and the role of the National Planning Policy Framework.

## **Teaching Experience & Qualifications**

I hold a Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching (Higher Education) from Anglia Ruskin University and I am a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. My teaching experience has been focussed in the following areas:

### **Planning Theory & Ethics**

Postgraduate modules at the University of Sheffield and Anglia Ruskin University

- Introducing students to different theoretical approaches to planning theory and ethics, and the relationship with wider society.
  - Particular focus on the practical implications of different theoretical approaches to planning, including process and outcome orientations.
  - Teaching using examples from my doctoral work, drawing on different ways of theorising the public interest.
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<b>Sustainability &amp; Environmental Management</b> Postgraduate and undergraduate modules at Anglia Ruskin University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addressing key global issues such as sustainable development, climate change and resilience, before considering tools and ideas that might be used to address these in the built environment.</li> <li>▪ Teaching students from multiple built environment disciplines, emphasising practical application of sustainability.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Law, Spatial Plans &amp; Decision-making</b> Postgraduate and undergraduate modules at the University of Reading, University of Sheffield and Anglia Ruskin University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addressing the processes and considerations behind developing spatial plans at a range of scales, including the national.</li> <li>▪ Emphasis on decision-making as the intersection of law and regulation with professional judgement and discretion</li> <li>▪ Taught using a range of active learning approaches, including reading based discussions and mini plan-making activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Student-led Seminars</b> Undergraduate module at the University of Sheffield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Developed the concept for this module, designed around a series of seminars looking at contemporary planning issues. Seminars taken by mixed groups of Level 3-6 undergraduates, led by Level 6 and 7 students.</li> <li>▪ Led a small team of PhD students selecting reading materials and preparing seminar outlines.</li> <li>▪ The module attracted Curriculum Development Funding from the Faculty of Social Sciences in both 2012-13 and 2013-14.</li> </ul>

## Publications & Conference Papers

### Publications

Odeleye, N., & Maidment, C. (Forthcoming). University, Comuniversity, UniverCity: Shaping Future Graduates as Thinkers, Operators or CivicHackers? *Forthcoming in Planning Theory & Practice*.

[Murtagh, N., Odeleye, N., & Maidment, C. \(2019\). Identities as Enabling Conditions of Sustainability Practices in Urban Planning: A Critical Realist Exploration with Planners in England. \*Urban Planning\*. 4\(4\), p.86-97.](#)

[Maidment C. \(2016\) In the Public Interest? Planning in The Peak District National Park, \*Planning Theory\*. 15 \(4\), p.366-385.](#)

Bache I., Kane M. and Maidment C. (2014) Student Connections: Enhancing Interaction in the Internationalised Learning Environment, A 3.4-2 in Beerkens E., Magnan M., Söderqvist M. and van Liempd H.G. (Eds.) *The Internationalisation of Higher Education Handbook*. Berlin: Raabe Academic Publishers.

### Conference Papers

[Murtagh N., Odeleye N.D. & Maidment C. \(2019, May\) Do Town Planners in England feel a professional responsibility for a climate-resilient built environment? Paper presented at SBE 19: Emerging Concepts for Sustainable Built Environment, Helsinki, Finland.](#)

Maidment C. (2013, February) *If the 'Public Interest' is a 'Resilient' Concept, What Lessons Does it Hold For Those Pursuing the Concept of Resilience?* Paper presented at the AESOP Young Academics Network Annual Meeting, Vienna, Austria.

Maidment C. (2013, July) *Planning in the Public Interest? Exploring the Use of the Public Interest in Plan-making*. Paper presented at the 2013 AESOP/ACSP Joint Congress PhD Workshop, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

- This presentation of this paper was supported by the award of an AESOP bursary.

### Key Conference Presentations & Panel Contributions

Maidment C. (2019, September) *The Morality of Deriving 'Objective' Measures from Subjective Judgements: Applying a Sustainability Appraisal Approach to Sustainable Drainage Systems*. Presentation at the 2019 Planning Research Conference, Liverpool, England.

Maidment C. (2019, July) *Ambition, Multiple Scales and Missed Connections: The Story of Worksop*. Presentation at the 2019 AESOP Congress, Venice, Italy.

Maidment C., Odeleye N.D. & Murtagh N. (2019, July) *Scale, hierarchy and politics: Relating the organisation of planning to the agency of planners*. Presentation at the 2019 AESOP Congress, Venice, Italy.

Close A., Crookes L., Maidment C. (Chair), Odeleye N.D. and Sturzaker J. (2018, September) *Planning Education: Fashion-forward or timeless classic?* Roundtable at the 2018 Planning Research Conference, Sheffield, England.

Odeleye N.D., Maidment C. & Murtagh N. (2018, September) *Planners, Professional Agency & Sustainable Urbanism: Past & Present Lessons for the Future*. Presentation at the 2018 Planning Research Conference, Sheffield, England.

Maidment C. (2018, July) *Timber Beds, Protests & Publics: Conflicting Meanings of the Public Interest on Devonshire Street, Sheffield*. Presentation at the 2018 AESOP Congress, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Maidment C. (2016, September) *Conceptualising the Plan as an Argument: The Key to Better Plan-making Practice?* Presentation at the 2016 Planning Research Conference, Cardiff, Wales.

Laurian L., Maidment C., Matilla H., Natarajan L., Purcell M., Vidyarthi S. and Tait M. (2013, July) *Where is the Public Interest in Public Participation?* Panel Session at the 2013 AESOP/ACSP Joint Congress, Dublin, Ireland.

### Blog Posts

Maidment C. (2017) #sheffvista 30 – Planning Policy Officer, Dr Chris Maidment. *Think Ahead Blog*. Available at: <https://thinkaheadsheffield.wordpress.com/2017/08/11/sheffvista-30-planning-policy-officer-dr-chris-maidment/#more-93453> (Last accessed 15th September 2017)

Maidment C. (2015) Evidence as a Passion Killer: The Need to Decouple the Everyday Experience of Place from a National Housing Crisis. *Ways of Neighbourhood Working and Knowing: Seminar Series 2014-16 – Seminar Blogs*. Available at: <https://neighbourhoodworking.wordpress.com/seminar-1-blog/> (Last accessed 15th September 2017)

## Other Activities

I have maintained an active interest in other institutional activities, particularly around curriculum development, professional networks and the student voice. I have detailed key activities below:

<b>Royal Town Planning Institute</b> Regional Activities Committees (RAC) February 2018 – Present	I am currently a member of the RAC for South East England, representing the University of Reading. Until August 2019 I was a member of the East of England RAC. In this role I was a member of the judging panel for the regional 2018 and 2019 Planning Excellence Awards and will reprise this role in 2020. Since 2018 I have also been a judge for the national RTPI Awards for Research Excellence.
<b>Student Reviewer</b> Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) December 2013 to August 2018	Following experience as a student panel member for the University of Sheffield's Periodic Review process, I was accepted onto the QAA's register of student panel members for Higher Education Reviews (HER), to carry out learning and teaching quality reviews at other HE establishments. In this role I was part of the review team for one university and three colleges.
<b>Faculty Challenge Support Officer</b> Faculty of Social Sciences The University of Sheffield June 2014-October 2015	I contributed to the development of the Level 1 Faculty Challenge for the Faculty of Social Sciences. I was involved with the detailed development of the challenge, including evaluating the projects offered by academic staff around the faculty, recruiting a range of provocative speakers and contributing to the development of the challenge format. Following the first challenge week in February 2015 I helped to write an evaluation of the challenge, taking particular responsibility for considering written feedback from the academic project leads and postgraduate facilitators. Additionally I contributed to the development of revised format for the second iteration of the challenge.
<b>Student Ambassador for Learning &amp; Teaching (SALT)</b> The University of Sheffield June 2012-June 2015	I completed three years as a SALT. The SALT scheme appoints groups of students to work on learning and teaching projects. For 2013/14 the Institutional SALTs worked on the introduction of faculty-based inter-disciplinary challenges for Level 1 undergraduates. The team explored how undergraduate students would perceive these 'Faculty Challenges' and worked with staff to ensure that the student perspective was accounted for. For 2012/13 I led five students working on a cross-university project, researching inter-cultural interactions in the classroom environment between different student groups. The project contributed to a staff handbook for designing inclusive learning and teaching. I presented the team's work to a Higher Education Academy funded seminar on Internationalisation.

## Interests

Outside of academia I have a strong interest in all forms of transport, particularly cars and car design, having started my undergraduate education as an automotive design student at Coventry University. I have developed a strong interest in the railways and railway strategy as I see this as a key element for development in the battle against climate change. In my spare time I enjoy walking, swimming, drawing and painting. I have a keen, if amateur, interest in architecture, developed through popular cultural phenomena such as Grand Designs, but also through a strong desire to see the quality of contemporary UK housing improve and to one day build my own house, inspired by 1930s modernism.