

# A JOINT SEMINAR WITH DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

## Topic: Funding, Financing and Governing Urban Infrastructure

---

### ABSTRACT

Amidst rising demands being loaded upon urban infrastructure and its engagements with financialisation alongside state actors, the aim here is to understand and explain how, why, where and for whom infrastructure funding and financing is being governed, and its implications for cities and regions. Drawing upon empirical analysis of recent experiences in the UK, the arguments are, first, that the financial and state actors involved in financialisation are unevenly accelerating, deepening and reinforcing urban entrepreneurialism and leading it into new and more speculative directions, relationships and practices with socially and spatially uneven and uncertain outcomes. Second, rather than being diminished and/or hollowed-out, the role of the state in governing urban infrastructure funding and financing is being reworked by actors in entrepreneurialist and managerialist ways amidst austerity and economic weakness: internally within central national and local government and between branches of the state at different spatial scales in central-local and inter-local (city-regional) relations. Emergent funding, financing and governance fixes for city-regions in the UK appear unstable and likely to undermine national government aspirations for political-economic 'rebalancing'.

*Professor Andy Pike is visiting the Global Production Networks Centre (GPN@NUS) as Centre Visitor from 4-30 Aug 2016.*



### SPEAKER:

Professor Andy Pike  
Henry Daysh Professor of Regional  
Development Studies;  
Director of the Centre for Urban  
and Regional Development Studies  
(CURDS)  
Newcastle University,  
United Kingdom

### CHAIR:

Professor Neil Coe  
Department of Geography  
National University of Singapore

### DATE:

Friday, 12 Aug 2016

### TIME:

3.30pm - 5pm

### VENUE:

Earth Lab #02-03  
Department of Geography  
Block AS2, Level 2  
5 Arts Link  
Singapore 117570



## Andy Pike

Andy Pike is Henry Daysh Professor of Regional Development Studies and Director of the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS), Newcastle University, UK. His research interests are in the geographical political economy of local and regional development. He is widely published in international journals, author of *Origination: The Geographies of Brands and Branding* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2015), co-author of *Local and Regional Development* (2nd Edition, Routledge, 2017) (with Andrés Rodríguez-Pose and John Tomaney), editor of *Brands and Branding Geographies* (Elgar, 2011) and *Whither Regional Studies?* (Routledge, 2009), and co-editor of *Handbook of Local and Regional Development* (Routledge, 2011) and *Local and Regional Development: Major Works* (Routledge, 2015) (with Andrés Rodríguez-Pose and John Tomaney). He has undertaken research projects for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations–International Labour Organisation (UN-ILO), European Commission, UK Government and national, regional and local institutions. He is currently working on evolution in economic geography, the governance of local and regional economic development, and the governance of infrastructure funding and financing. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and was an editor of *Regional Studies* (2005–13) and the founding Director of the Postgraduate Local and Regional Development programmes in CURDS (2002–14).