

AUTUMN 2025/26

SPATIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP

Beyond Rationality: An enquiry into the value/s of expertise

What is 'expertise'? Where does it comes from? How is it valued? And how does it operate in the world? What does it mean to speak of a 'protected' body of knowledge? Protected from what? By whom? And in whose interest? What eve is the role of knowledge in a 'post-truth' society?

Come, help us answer these questions and more at the ENSGOV Spatial Justice Reading Group. All are welcome!

DATES:	FORTNIGHTLY	on WEDNESDAYS
	17th Sept	1-2pm
	1st Oct	
	15th Oct	DKB 3.005
	29th Oct	Planning Seminar Room
	12th Nov	Level 3
	26th Nov	David Keir Building
	10th Dec	

As researchers and professionals we are perceived – and sometimes claim – to be experts in our respective fields. We ask questions and look for the evidence, adopting a self-consciously curious, critical stance. But what really guides our actions?

In a world of contested meaning and alternative truth, it becomes ever-more challenging to establish a foothold. Norms shift rapidly; righteousness is relative; consensus on 'best practice' evades us. Meanwhile, online discourse increasingly operates in a moral register far beyond the sphere of reasoned debate and traditional party politics. Is academia serving its intended purpose – upholding critical enquiry and intellectual freedom – or are we simply facilitating the agendas of our clients and funders at the expense of long-term social cohesion?

For info & updates, join our mailing list.
EMAIL: s.sugrue@qub.ac.uk / r.timmers@qub.ac.uk

