

LSGI - APSS Joint Distinguished Lecture

To What Extent is the Human Species Slowing Down?

Date: ~~29 November 2019 (Fri)~~

Time: ~~5:00pm - 6:00pm~~

Venue: PQ304, PolyU

Language: English

CANCELLED



Professor Danny DORLING
*Halford Mackinder Professor of Geography
University of Oxford, UK*

Biography

Prof. Dorling joined the School of Geography and the Environment of the University of Oxford in 2013 to take up the Halford Mackinder Professorship in Geography. He was previously a professor of Geography at the University of Sheffield. He has also worked in Newcastle, Bristol, Leeds and New Zealand, went to university in Newcastle upon Tyne, and to school in Oxford. To try to counter his myopic world view, in 2006, Danny started working with a group of researchers on a project to remap the world (www.worldmapper.org).

He has published with many colleagues more than a dozen books on issues related to social inequalities in Britain and several hundred journal papers. Much of this work is available open access and will be added to this website soon.

His work concerns issues of housing, health, employment, education and poverty. Danny was employed as a play-worker in children's summer play-schemes. He learnt the ethos of pre-school education where the underlying rationale was that playing is learning for living. He tries not to forget this. He is an Academician of the Academy of the Learned Societies in the Social Sciences, was Honorary President of the Society of Cartographers from 2007 to 2017 and is a patron of Roadpeace, the national charity for road crash victims.

To What Extent is the Human Species Slowing Down?

In the 'Origin of Species', Charles Darwin described how a population explosion occurs and called the time of population explosion "favourable seasons". Charles was not to know it, but such circumstances arose for his own species at around the time of his own birth. However, the favourable seasons for human population growth were not experienced favourably, with times of great social dislocation from small scale enclosure to global colonisation. Now those seasons are over, we have experienced the first ever sustained slowdown in the rate of global human population growth. This has been the case for at least one human generation. However, we are not just slowing down in terms of how many children we have, but in almost everything else we do other than in the rise in global temperatures that we are recording and that we have to live with. It can be argued that there is even a slowdown in such unexpected areas as debt, publishing, and in the total amount useful information being produced. If this is true that humanity is slowing down in almost everything that we do - what does this mean? What measurements suggest that slowdown is true? And if so much is still rising, albeit at slower and slower rates - is that such a great change? Finally how might the slowdown impact on economic thought. In many ways economics was the science of the great acceleration; a science that makes most sense when markets are expanding and demand is rising. What kind of an economics is needed in a world where enormous and accelerating growth has stopped being the normality?

All are WELCOME!

To register, please go to <https://polyu.hk/sZEFx>

For enquiries, please contact Ms. Anna Choi at anna.choi@polyu.edu.hk or 3400 8158.

