

The Legal Landscapes of Sharing Economies

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March 19th 2015, 10am-2pm

March 20th 2015, 9.15am-1pm

Please email B.Morgan@unsw.edu.au to register. Places are limited to 20

This short course offers an introduction to the emerging notion of 'sharing economies' and their potential contribution to urban sustainability, with a particular focus on the role of law and regulation. It does not assume technical legal knowledge and should be of interest equally to research students in law or social sciences. Methodologically it offers insight into the challenges of researching an area of rapid contemporary change with a strong presence of 'grey' literature, and also touches lightly on the question of arts-based methods (in this case, a novelistic representation of what is at stake in the debates). The second day offers an opportunity to attend a [workshop](#) discussing the interim findings of a [comparative international research project](#) which underpins this course and bringing together academics, activists, social enterprises and local government.

The notion of a sharing economy has been defined both narrowly, in terms of the ways in which information technology is used to empower individuals or organisations to distribute, share and re-use excess capacity in goods and services; and more broadly, with an emphasis on shared governance, cooperative work, shared information, crowdsourcing, crowdfunding, collective activity, community-building, the commons and cooperative ownership. Whether broad or narrow, the focus is on the ways in which ordinary people, perhaps frustrated with the inertia of government policies and large-scale corporate routines and practices, are experimenting with different ways of moving around, powering themselves, securing food and making a living, making these transactions less wasteful and potentially more social. As these experiments unfold, they encounter and constitute legal and regulatory frameworks in ways that challenge underlying assumptions about the relationship of production, consumption and exchange. Mapping the terrain of these legal and regulatory encounters helps to illuminate the contested political implications of sharing economies.

Course readings

- Compare [this infographic](#) on The Sharing Economy with [this website](#) on Commons Transitions
- Orsi and Kassan, "The Legal Landscape of the Sharing Economy" (2012) 27 *Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation* 1
- Juliet Schor, '[Debating the Sharing Economy](#)' (2014), Great Transition Initiative (including responses)
- Agyreman, McLaren and Shaeffer-Borrego (2013) [Sharing Cities](#) London. Friends of the Earth (2013)
- Morgan and Kuch, "The Diverse Legalities of the Sharing Economy", draft of revised article under consideration by *Journal of Law and Society* (copy sent directly to those who register for the course)
- Demailly and Novel, *The Sharing Economy: Make it Sustainable*, [IDDRI Report 03/2014](#), Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDRRI), 2014
- Gibson-Graham, Cameron and Healy, *Take Back the Economy* (Minnesota Univ Press 2013), Chapter One
- Rory Ridley Duff, *The Dragon's Apprentice: a Social Enterprise Novel* (Amazon Publishing 2014), Chapters 1-5 (more if you are intrigued)