Megapolitan America: The Rise of the New Metropolis

Lecture by

Robert E. Lang
Professor of Sociology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Robert E. Lang will discuss the concepts presented in his forthcoming book, coauthored with Arthur C. Nelson. The book, to be published by the American Planning Association Press in 2011, explores the relationship between metropolitan form, scale, and connectivity. It revisits the idea first offered by geographers Jean Gottmann, James Vance, and James Pickard that urban expansiveness does not tear regions apart but instead leads to new types of linkages. The book begins with a historical review of the evolving American metropolis and introduces a new spatial model showing changing metropolitan morphology. Next is an analytic synthesis based on geographic theory and empirical findings of what is labeled here the "new metropolis." A key element of the new metropolis is its vast scale, which facilitates the emergence of an even larger trans-metropolitan urban structure—the "megapolitan area." Megapolitan geography is described and includes a typology to show variation between regions. The megapolitan area definition is based on the U.S. Census Bureau's "combined metropolitan area" designation. The megapolitan areas are really a projection of this geography to the mid 21st century. The book contains population and employment projections for all megapolitan areas to 2040. It also covers the transportation, environmental, governance, and economic issues that emerge at the megapolitan scale.

Robert E. Lang is Professor of Sociology and Director of Brookings Mountain West at UNLV. Dr. Lang is the editor of the scholarly journal Housing Policy Debate and serves as non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a fellow at the Urban Land Institute, both in Washington, D.C. His research specialties include suburban studies, real estate, world cities, demographic and spatial analysis, housing, and metropolitan governance. He has authored more than 150 academic and professional publications on a wide range of topics and has developed many new urban concepts such as "Boomburbs," "Edgeless Cities," and "Megapolitan Areas." His research has been featured in the USA Today, New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, US News and World Report and reported on by NPR, CNN, MSNBC, FOX News, and ABC World News Tonight.

Tuesday
October 26, 2010
Reception: 5:30 pm
Lecture: 6:30-8:00 pm
University Club
Dining Room

Please RSVP to rsvpcopc@uci.edu or call (949) 824-9337 for more information