**UON-FEDUA Alternative Futures Research Hub** invitesyou to attend the following seminar and masterclass:

**Smart Cities of More-Than-Human Futures**

**Professor Marcus Foth facs**

Queensland University of Technology

Tuesday 10 Sep 2019, 10am – 2pm incl. lunch time, HC02

**Guest Seminar: 10 – 11.30am**

The turn to participation in smart cities was intended to increase the involvement of diverse, often marginalised, citizens in the design and use of networked sensing technologies. However, ideals of activism, citizen engagement and democratisation through the co-design of networked technologies and services have been largely based on an understanding of urban space as separate from nature, and for human inhabitants alone. In current conditions of climate change, pollution, and loss of biodiversity, a human-centred perspective of cities is increasingly problematic.

This design master class focuses on an expanded more-than-human perspective for cities, informed by studies in the Anthropocene in fields such as STS, geography, planning and design. We will interrogate how more-than-human perspectives and their resultant ethical, legal, and methodological concerns can shape participatory design practices and services towards cohabitation and push forward a cultural change in the agenda of sustainable smart cities, urban informatics, IoT, and design.

**Lunch break: 11.30am – 12.30pm**

**Master Class: 12.30 – 2pm**

The challenge of this masterclass goes to the heart of the city liveability argument, especially with regards to the goal of addressing environmental change and the climate emergency: human-centred design (and thus the usual urban design and placemaking approaches in cities) reinforces human exceptionalism at the expense of our ecosystem. Prioritising human needs risks prioritising human comfort and human convenience, which may increase liveability scores in the short term, but accelerates humanity’s race to the bottom towards a planetary ecocide. What will we do about it?

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| **Professor Marcus Foth facs**  Marcus Foth is Professor of Urban Informatics in the QUT Design Lab, Creative Industries Faculty at Queensland University of Technology. He is also an Honorary Professor in the School of Communication and Culture at Aarhus University, Denmark, and a Visiting Professor in the School of Design, Politecnico di Milano, Italy. Professor Foth’s research brings together people, place, and technology.  Professor Foth founded the [Urban Informatics Research Lab](http://www.urbaninformatics.net/) in 2006 and the [QUT Design Lab](http://qut.design/) in 2016. Ahead of their time and before the term “smart cities” became popular, Foth pioneered a new field of study and practice: [Urban informatics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_informatics) examines people creating, applying and using information and communication technology and data in cities and urban environments. Find out more: <https://www.vrolik.de/> |  |

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The event is supported by