Abstract:

This presentation is based on a current three year British Academy funded research project on 'Infrastructure governance for inclusive, smart and sustainable cities'. We live in times when there is no shortage of adjectives added to cities - smart cities, intelligent cities, wiser cities, innovative cities, healthy cities, resilient cities and of course in the context of SDGs the sustainable cities. Each of these ideas and concepts has important dimensions of well-being behind it. Are these ideas mutually exclusive and are they ever achievable or are they mere chimera of fashions for fazed policy analysts to adapt as a way to frame change agenda and attract new funding? Drawing upon international case studies and analysis, the presentation will highlight some important challenges and possible ways forward in thinking about sustainable cities.