

SICSA Future Cities Workshop 1

The first Future Cities Theme workshop, on Jan 9th 2014, was attended by 38 people, from Glasgow, Strathclyde, Glasgow Caledonian, Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt, Napier, Dundee, Abertay, St. Andrews and Stirling, along with a few representatives of Glasgow and Edinburgh city councils. This workshop was mostly focused on building up awareness of who is doing (or interested in doing) what, across Scotland, with regard to academic projects and research directions.

Although one day would not be enough to cover all the relevant projects and people, the morning's talks (from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Napier and DJCAD) covered topics as varied as extending traditional software infrastructures and information retrieval approaches to city settings, artistic and community-led approaches to urban data systems, and urban applications of small-scale sensors and sensor-based interaction techniques. The afternoon's breakout discussions reflected on the morning's topics, exploring a very mixed bag of alternatives, combinations, advances and applications--and allowing academics, postdocs and students from varied backgrounds to more directly interact.

We suggest that the workshop succeeded in its primary networking goal, and we look forward to the next workshop in Edinburgh on Feb 28th. With a view to grounding research in the real world of Scotland's cities, and in order to seed potential future 'impact' collaborations, that workshop will broaden its scope to include non-SICSA institutions and companies. A third workshop (date and focus TBA) will be held in Dundee.