Constructing an Urban Future: The sustainability and resilience of cities – infrastructures, communities, buildings and housing.

• Paper / Proposal Title:
[The Role of Islamic Principles in Shaping the Contemporary Cities in Saudi Arabia]

• Format(s):
In-person presentation / Written paper

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• Abstract (300 words):
In this paper, we shed light on socio-cultural values and Islamic principles that have been reinforced by Islam to define the relationship between human beings and environment. These issues will be discussed through four lenses: person, family, neighborhood, and society, each lens offering a set of principles that define the relationship between human and the built-environment in Saudi Arabia. By reviewing the traditional built environments, the paper will explore the traditional planning regulations, zoning system and land use patterns to track changes that have shaped the profile of contemporary Saudi cities, as well as the relationship between socio-cultural values and the built environment. The traditional built environment are designed based on Islamic principles which strongly shaped the socio-cultural values of the inhabitants. Thus, there were strong social ties that contributed to shaping the way of life in the traditional neighbourhood. These underlying values and principles have contributed strongly to define the existing urban pattern including public spaces, house design and built environment generally. However, the
contemporary cities and their morphology in Saudi Arabia are being planned based on other factors that led to change socio-cultural values and Islamic identity. The paper concludes by that there is a strong nexus between changing the urban forms and the realignment of Islamic principles and socio-cultural values.

Keywords: Islamic Principles, housing, urban pattern, modernization, socio-cultural.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Mr. Osra is a Ph.D. candidature in Sydney University, his topic discussing the urban transformation and socio-cultural He awarded two Master degrees in Architecture from the Umm Al Qura University in Saudi Arabia in 2014, and From RMIT University in Australia in 2015. While, Dr. Jones came to the Urban and Regional Planning and Policy Program on a full-time basis at the beginning of 2011 with diverse experience as a planning practitioner, and an excellent academic record. Paul is an urban development and management practitioner with 30 years professional experience in developing sustainable urban management, urban development and planning solutions in Australia and overseas.