

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Charting our journey through life

Research into how we travel through our life-course from conception to death is revealing insights into how to better design cities and improve services for people during their different life stages.

Leading human geographer, University of Tasmania's Associate Professor Elaine Stratford, will discuss life-course journeys at tomorrow's keynote presentation at the 11th Annual Geography and Spatial Sciences Conference in Hobart this week (25 & 26 November).

"I have been studying how people move through their life-course, asking how this journey translates to the spaces we occupy and move through," Dr Stratford said.

"This involves looking at how we understand the world in terms of different rhythms – from microscopic changes to daily routines, to generational shifts.

"My studies have centred on this question: as we move through our lives how do we conduct or govern ourselves and each other, and in doing so how are we to constitute the spaces and flows for a life that is flourishing?

"Considering this question helps us to understand the needs of people at different stages.

"For example, I have considered the geography of dying and what it is that we need as we prepare for death.

"This work includes considering the spaces that people occupy leading up to death and asking what service provisions and health care people need in that space, whether it be at home, at a palliative care centre or a hospital."

As part of the conference, which starts today, Tasmanian educationalist, Nel Smit, will this afternoon lead a public tour of the University's Sustainability Trail.

The trail is an educational app designed for high school and university students that leads users across the Sandy Bay campus stopping at sustainability hotspots.

For more details the conference program is available [online](#).

Information released by:

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