

Urban Science & A Case Study

Speakers:

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Abstract:

For millennia, cities have faced a key challenge in providing a safe, livable, equitable, healthy, prosperous, resilient environment for their citizens, and they have tackled this challenge in different ways that match the requirements and technologies of their times. Today's cities are not exempt from these challenges. Urban informatics uses big data to provide city planners with a strong understanding of a city's current and future status and long-term needs; urban technologies enable city administration through efficient and seamless control of urban systems for short and medium-term operations and control. These two different sides of a well-functioning city each have their own technological tools and needs. The common factor, however, is the availability, analysis, interpretation and utilization of massive amounts of data. This is the essence of urban science.

Case Study: Socio-economic Benefit of LinkNYC, and the added Value of Lighting Structures
LinkNYC is a communications network that will "bring the fastest available municipal Wi-Fi to millions of New Yorkers, small businesses, and visitors" through the use of public payphones as local Wi-Fi routers. I will discuss the calculation of its socio-economic impact, and the proposed scenario of extending this network by using lamp posts and other lighting structures as nodes to create a mesh network.