

Short bio:

Dr. Sabina Baraniewicz-Kotasińska – Assistant Professor at the Institute of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Opole. Fulbright Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley (2019/2020). Her research focuses on contemporary concepts of city governance and management. She was also involved in projects related to global education and sustainable development. Author of the book "Who governs smart cities?". She has conducted research in Denmark, Jordan, Iceland, the USA, and Spitsbergen, as well as in Songdo – a smart city built from scratch in South Korea.

Topic: Smart city. Modern urban governance – utopia, dystopia, or wise planning?

In an era of rapid technological change and growing environmental challenges, the importance of modern urban governance continues to increase. What visions of the future are being shaped by smart cities? During the lecture, a critical assessment of urban projects based on data-driven systems, automation, and algorithmic processes will be discussed. The talk will explore both the potential of such cities to support sustainable development and the risks they pose in terms of increased control and surveillance.

To discuss:

1. What is modern urban governance about?
2. Current challenges of urban development.
3. Utopia: The dream of perfect cities (The cases of Line City in Saudi Arabia, Songdo in South Korea, etc)
3. Dystopia: technology vs human? What about our freedom?
4. Wise planning: A balanced approach to urban development