



Robert Cowley

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Robert is conducting doctoral research into the socio-political aspects of 'eco-city' initiatives at the University of Westminster. The working title of his thesis is: *Eco-Cities: Technological Showcases or Social Places?* The research has a special focus on the ways in which the 'public' is conceptualised in thinking about and planning for eco-city initiatives, particularly with regard to public space. The PhD builds on Robert's MA in Urban and Regional Planning, for which his dissertation looked at the sustainability of British suburbia. He has an ongoing interest in theories of space and place, and the history of technology.

Robert also works for the university as a seminar leader/visiting lecturer, teaching on the undergraduate 'Research Methods for Politics and International Relations' module. He provides research assistance for a variety of projects related to Westminster's contribution to the *International Eco-Cities Initiative* multi-national research network, including a new book on *Governing for Eco-City Innovation* (due for publication in 2013).

Robert's first degree was in modern languages and literature (Modern Greek and Russian) at Oxford University. After graduating, he lived in Athens teaching English, and then worked in the market research industry for many years, beginning in charity and environmental research, but later focusing on corporate communications, retail and transport research.

Publications

Joss, S., Tomozeiu, D. & Cowley, R. (2011). *Eco-Cities - A Global Survey 2011*. London: University of Westminster. Available from: <<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/?a=57966>>

Joss, S., Tomozeiu, D. & Cowley, R. (2012). Eco-city indicators: governance challenges. *WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment*. Vol. 155: 109-120. Available from open source library: <<http://library.witpress.com/pages/PaperInfo.asp?PaperID=23106>>

Joss, S., Cowley, R. & Tomozeiu, D. (forthcoming). Towards the 'ubiquitous eco-city': an analysis of the internationalisation of eco-city policy and practice. *Urban Research and Practice*.