There is growing interest in the ways young adults of the Millennial generation helped stimulate renewed interest in inner city living. Amidst price pressures due to growing gentrification, declining household sizes, and a prolonged young adult lifecycle stage, young adults are finding themselves making decisions about housing and transport in a context that channels more of them into high density areas—a process that can be referred to as youthification. Planners and others aiming to enhance the sustainability of cities have celebrated the increase in young populations in the downtowns of major cities as it has contributed to increases in residential densities and decreases in automobile use in some instances. However, questions remain whether Millennials’ interest in higher density living is temporary, part of a specific lifecycle stage as opposed to a permanent shift toward more sustainable residential location and transport patterns. In this talk, I will explore the ways in which the Millennial generation is reshaping cities and the factors contributing to youthification, its coincidence with gentrification and studentification, and discuss whether we can expect youthification to contribute to long term urban sustainability.

Refreshments will be provided

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018, 3:30 PM
General Science Building Room 330