

Speaker name:

Simon Bell

Affiliation:

Senior research fellow

OPENspace Research Centre, Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Title of presentation:

Urban forests, quality of life and social exclusions (Parallel session 'Social qualities')

Brief CV:

Simon Bell is Senior Research fellow at Edinburgh College of Art and by background a forester and landscape architect with special interest in access to the outdoors, forests and remoter landscapes. His book 'Design for Outdoor Recreation' includes aspects of inclusive access to national parks, forests and wilderness. He has been involved in projects of recreation design in the UK, Canada, Ireland Latvia and Russia.

Past research includes 'Local Use of Woodlands in Central Scotland' for the Forestry Commission, 'Crossplan', an EU funded project about participatory landscape planning as a tool for rural development together with partners in Finland, Sweden and Norway, under the EU Northern Periphery Programme and 'People and Nature in the East Midlands' for English Nature, 'Cultural Landscape Values in Rural Latvia', funded by the British Academy, a research mapping exercise and searchable research database on green space for the Department of Communities and Local Government (formerly the ODPM) and "Access by Deaf Visitors to the Countryside" for Scottish Natural Heritage.

Simon is also Associate Professor at the Estonian University of Life Sciences (Eesti Maaülikool) in Tartu, Estonia, department of landscape architecture.

Simon's other international involvement has included a month in Japan looking at forests and national parks, under a short-term fellowship awarded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science in 2002. He also worked with colleagues around Europe in a COST Action on urban forestry (E12) Currently Simon is the chair of COST E33 on "Forest recreation and nature tourism (see weblink on this site), and is a working group member of COST E39, "Trees, forests and human health and well-being". In addition he is a member of steering committee of the Le:Notre networking project on landscape architecture education in Europe. He is also active in IUFRO, the International Union of Forest Research Organisations.