

Does the law of the land deliver the best from rural Nebraska?

Wednesday, November 6 – 12:10 p.m. – Law School Auditorium

Drawing on a rich set of experiences and research from international settings, Professors Wakeford and Scott will address the theme of land as a critical resource for the future of rural places in the Great Plains and beyond. There are two central questions: First, what is the optimal mix of uses for rural lands and how is that vision of land use decided? Second, what is the role of government, law, and policy in influencing landowner decisions to achieve this optimized and sustainable pattern of land use? Professors Wakeford and Scott will challenge participants to consider whether existing instruments for land use planning are helping or hindering in making the most of rural places in Nebraska and beyond.

Presenters:

Richard Wakeford is Professor of Environment, Land Use and Rural Strategy at Birmingham City University in the United Kingdom. He is also chair of the United Kingdom Government's Sustainable Development Research Network and a town councilor leading the preparation of a neighbourhood plan under the latest government legislation. He was chair of the OECD Rural Working Party until December 2012, and he continues to deliver specialist consultancy to the OECD, the European Commission and others. Richard was head of the Scottish government department responsible for agriculture, environment and rural affairs until 2010, and before that, chief executive of the Countryside Agency in England.

Alister Scott is Professor of Environment and Spatial Planning at Birmingham School of the Built Environment, Birmingham City University, UK. His teaching and research interests revolve around rural-urban interrelationships and environmental governance set within an interdisciplinary perspective. Alister works in partnership with policy and practice professionals to address 'messy' problems. His current projects include developing tools for policy and decision makers as part of the prestigious National Ecosystems Assessment Follow on project 2012-2014 and managing environmental change at the rural urban fringe.