

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY

Emma Ormerod

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Emma Ormerod is Senior Lecturer in Economic Geography at the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS), Newcastle University, UK. Her research critically explores sub-national governance and power, with a focus on entrepreneurial housing governance and gender inequalities in regional development. Ormerod is particularly interested in how local leadership and policy processes are shaped by intersecting structures of gender, class and race, and how these influence regional futures. Her work is rooted in a strong commitment to public engagement and knowledge exchange beyond academia.



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Diversifying Geographies of Place Based Leadership

Emma Ormerod visited the Department of Geography at Heidelberg University and gave a compelling talk on her current research project, funded by the Regional Studies Association, titled “(Re)Setting the Agenda: Investigating the Gendered Power-relations in the Leadership of Regional Development and Policy-making.” Drawing on biographical interviews with place-based leaders in North East England, she offered critical insights into how leadership is far from a neutral response to regional challenges, but deeply entangled with race, gender, and class. Ormerod argued that regional development remains shaped by masculine-coded notions of power—particularly in deindustrialised and ‘left-behind’ areas—and asked who is really setting the agenda. She stressed that simply increasing the diversity of leaders does not automatically lead to more inclusive outcomes and called for a deeper engagement with feminist notions of futurity.



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