



# Members in Profile

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## Pauline McGuirk

I'm currently Professor of Human Geography and Director of the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Newcastle. Between 1997 and 2007, I was a councillor of the GSNSW, including a period as President 2002-2005. Under the staunch Editorship of Jim Forrest, I was Assistant Editor of *Australian Geographer* from 1997-2008. I have also twice organised and hosted the GSNSW annual honours conference. In 2008 I was awarded a GSNSW Fellowship.



My early interest in Geography was sparked by two things: an inspiring high school Geography teacher (thanks, Mrs Goggin) and a fascination with how the social segregation and spatial differences marked on the city I grew up in came to be, and what allowed those differences to be reproduced across generations. This led me, eventually, to a PhD in Urban Geography and to the University of Newcastle. Here I've taught about the social and economic geographies of contemporary cities and their related politics. In my research, often working collaboratively with colleagues, I've examined the ways cities' governance and politics are shaped and reshaped by the articulation of local/global processes, and how this works out across different scales. I've studied transformations in Sydney's governance and urban policy as the city has fashioned itself as a 'global city'. I've focused on the emergence of private governance at the neighbourhood scale in master-planned estates and explored the sorts of neighbourhoods and politics they are generating. And in my most recent work I'm examining the role that cities and urban actors are playing in governing carbon emissions. The politics of carbon and climate change are undoubtedly going to be a major factor in future urban change.

In an age that will be defined by urbanisation at a planetary scale, by the impacts and responses to climate change and the question of sustainability, and by the ways these intersect with geographical difference and uneven development, I see Geography as the vital discipline to help us understand and work with these challenges. As geographer WM Adams put it "where else can the science of the environment be married with an understanding of economic, technological, social, political and cultural change? What other discipline offers insights into environmental change, and who but geographers can cope with the diversity of environments and the sheer range of scales at which it is necessary to manage global change?" (cited in Johnston et al 2002, 426)