



EPSRC Workshop “Scaling in Social Systems”

1st December 2011, Saïd Business School

The successful application of scaling laws to a vast range of biological systems, as exemplified by Geoffrey West’s work, raises the question whether analogous (or very different) simple principles can help us understand scaling in complex social systems. We aim to address this question from an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing on insights from the life and physical sciences, while not forgetting the rich tradition of scaling laws in the social sciences (e.g. Zipf’s law). The workshop seeks to engage the UK’s growing complex systems research community.

All welcome - attendance is free but registration is requested.

Time

10:45 - 17:00

Venue:

Seminar Room A
Saïd Business School
University of Oxford
OX1 1HP

Location details - [click here](#)

Sign-up - [click here](#)

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Organiser:

Felix Reed-Tsochas, University of Oxford
Geoffrey West, Santa Fe Institute

Questions or comments:

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Image courtesy of Nick Jones

Programme:

10:45 - 11:00 Dr Felix Reed-Tsochas
Welcome and Introduction

11:00 – 12:00 Professor Michael Batty, University College London
“Spatial Complexity and Scaling Laws for Cities”

12:00 - 13:00 Professor Luís Bettencourt, Los Alamos National Laboratory
“Cities as scale invariant complex systems: Universal statistics of urban scaling”

Lunch break

2:00 – 3:00 Professor Didier Sornette, ETH Zürich
“The Dynamics of success, fame and crisis: Endogenous versus Exogenous Shocks in Complex Networks”

3:00 – 4:00 Dr Tim Evans, Imperial College London
“Scaling and Citations”

Coffee break

4:30 – 5:00 Professor Geoffrey West, Santa Fe Institute