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# Built Environment

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People and Place Cluster

SSP/Paris Studio/The Conversation

Christine Steinmetz

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# The presentation

Background

Part 1: What I did on my 2018 SSP

What is my plan for 2019

Part 2: What I will be doing in Paris

Part 3: Why I write for The Conversation—my personal opinion in 3 short slides



“Denzin and Lincoln’s (2005) analogy of a *bricoleur* or quilter, to the contemporary qualitative researcher, resonated strongly with me.”

# A recap of my research plan...\*

Universities as place

Student experience

Post grad experiences

undergraduate international exp

Women in planning

Contentious land uses

adult entertainment

sex shops/brothels/strip clubs

Tel Aviv

Smart cities

Digi Tel

Tel Aviv Foundation

Smart social spaces

\* FYI ... there was no plan

# 2014—Tel Aviv: the inspiration





Hila Oren, CEO Tel Aviv Foundation

Networking 101: Never pass up a meeting...even if you are on holiday.

One meeting with the right person could have more impact than numerous 'networking' get-together or conferences.



Sometimes, you are presented with the opportunity to look down.





Dear Dean Lochhead

I write to you as Director General of the Tel Aviv Foundation; a partnership between Tel Aviv Municipality and international donors. Our aim is to improve the quality of life for our residents through innovative urban projects that reflect progressive cultural, environmental, educational and social services.

In June 2016 I met with one of your academics, Dr. Steinmetz, while she was here in Tel Aviv for a conference. I understand that she is putting forth an application for Special Study Program for (February 2018-June 2018) with some of her time to be spent in Tel Aviv. This letter is to accompany her application as evidence of my support and interest in working with her.

In March this year I was a speaker at the City of Sydney, City Talks Series – *Data Driven Design: How open data is changing the way we understand, design and live in cities*. Dr. Steinmetz met and discussed a few research project ideas to be worked on as collaborative projects; and of great interest to me, is devising a new model of philanthropy for city making.

The other project, of which I just learned about, is an in-progress grant application that she is part of, *Smart Social Spaces: Smart Street Furniture Supporting Social Health*, through the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Smart Cities Smart Suburbs Grant Program. The grant indicates a potential pilot project being run in Tel Aviv; I would like to be able to support this in whatever capacity that the Tel Aviv Foundation is capable.

At this point, we are not able to offer financial assistance to either of the projects, but there is certainly the prospect of future grant funding—both from Israel and from Australia. As you may know, UNSW Deputy Chancellor, Jillian Segal and Lucy Turnbull visited Tel Aviv in 2016 with a group of businesswomen touring Israel's universities and start-ups. The synergy between the two countries is already there and I hope to be able to continue this with Dr. Steinmetz in her endeavours.

As a side note, whilst in Tel Aviv, Dr Steinmetz also met with one Ronen from the University of Tel Aviv. There is much potential for between the three of us and I would like to extend my support for her

Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Hila Oren



To Whom it May Concern

University sabbatical (SSP) for March 2018  
Application – Dr Christine Steinmetz

I write to you as CEO of one of the most active business organisations between Australia and Israel in support of the application by Dr Christine Steinmetz.

The Innovation Circle is part of the Trans-Tasman Business Circle Group— [www.buscircle.com](http://www.buscircle.com)  
- actively supported by the Governments of Australia, Israel and New Zealand as well as the major organisations in both private and public sector

Our work is designed to support the Prime Minister's Innovation and Science Agenda – with a focus on small country economies such as Israel. We see Israel as leading – edge innovation eco-system, second only to Silicon Valley and take many delegations to Israel from Australia to identify areas of collaboration.

There are a number of areas of Dr Steinmetz's proposed research that will add significantly to the body of knowledge in closer ties between both countries.

Better understanding of the elements of an innovation eco-system

Israel is world best practice in designing a collaborative innovation eco-system- particularly between public and private sectors. The work of the Tel Aviv Municipality in improving the quality of life for its residents through innovative urban projects that reflect progressive cultural, environmental, educational and social services serves as a model for Australia. While cities such as Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane have made some progress in this regard, there is potential to do much more – especially in line with the Federal Government's Smart Cities project

Role of social entrepreneurship

Israel is a world leader in social entrepreneurship – in particular the linking of private sector philanthropy and economic and social good through the Tikun Olam programme. This initiative is more developed in Israel than Australia and the proposed research will be most beneficial in advancing this work in Australia.

Smart Cities

The Circle works closely with global companies such as HP, Nokia, Vodafone, Cisco on smart city initiatives – especially hosting discussions promoting closer collaboration between public and private sectors. The work of the Tel Aviv municipality is leading-edge in this regard - especially the use of public spaces, creative sectors, use of wireless, shared spaces.

I am pleased to provide further information as required

Founder and Managing Director  
Trans – Tasman Business Circle



requiring me to apply for ARC grants or other external funding agencies. Additionally, it was also stated in my TEL Reviews that I need to expand my research interests beyond late night economy activities (i.e. adult entertainment) to include themes that have much broader scope. With this in mind, I established a professional relationship with Tel Aviv municipality and partnering foundation two years ago whilst at a conference in Tel Aviv. This proved to be beneficial as even last year the Tel Aviv Foundation expressed interest and submitted a letter of support for my 2017 SSP and this 2018 application. I have also established a relationship with a local partner, Trans-Tasman Business Circle; they are directly linked with Tel-Aviv through business and smart city initiatives; their letter of support is also included.

Tel Aviv has recently been highlighted as a best-practice example of a Smart City Project in the Australian Government Smart Cities and Suburbs Program Grant (of which I am part of team who has applied), the city was also awarded the 'Best Smart City' at the Smart City Expo conference in Barcelona last year.

March-April 2018: travel to Tel Aviv

- begin the research design on philanthropic citymaking with Hila Oren, Director General Tel Aviv Foundation
- collaborate on philanthropic citymaking projects in the Tel Aviv municipality that will drive the grant preparation stage (May-June)
- conduct a pilot in Tel Aviv for Smart Cities and Suburbs Grant; this research focuses on the digital city and parks, urban parks and other outdoor public recreation areas will be used as case studies for the project framework.

SYDNEY: This is the writing phase of the SSP.

May-June 2018: The middle portion of the SSP will be spent back in Sydney writing up publications 1 & 2 and begin grant preparation of an ARC Linkage with potential partner, Trans-Tasman Business Circle, for the second Tel Aviv trip, which will be in June.

TEL AVIV: travel to Tel Aviv for finalising the ARC Linkage commitments and research design with Tel Aviv Foundation and partners

July 2018

This SSP comes at a critical turning point in my career. 2018 sees big changes in the way I teach, the way I

Make the most of personal and professional networks.

**Dr. Christine  
Steinmetz**

Research Liaison  
Australia & Asia Pacific Rim



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[www.telavivfoundation.org](http://www.telavivfoundation.org)

March/April/May/June 2018

Walked the city

Worked in the city

Lived in the city

Wrote about the city

Socialised in the city

Felt like a local in the city

Shopped for houses in the city

Retreated from the city

...all of this added to my understanding of Tel Aviv—theoretically and practically

# Not my family...perhaps a distant relative

## Steinmetz family (Israel) supports big upgrade for cultural hub

Bet Tami is a community center in the center of Tel Aviv, established in 1997 through the generosity of the Steinmetz family in memory of their daughter, Tami. It is a hub for cultural activities, including arts, music, sports and enrichment programs, for hundreds of people of all ages. Due to the center's growing popularity, the Steinmetz family generously agreed to fund the construction of an additional floor and other upgrades in order to house additional activities. Construction is now underway.



## streets



Over the past three years, the 'Significant Adult' program has achieved major success in addressing challenges faced by young Ethiopians in low socio-economic neighborhoods in Jaffa. Many children lack supervision, structure and a safe environment as their parents work long hours. Thanks to the generosity of the UK Sobell Foundation, two youth workers were employed to

build relationships with the children, engage them in alternative activities and support them through difficulties. The youth workers, who are also Ethiopian, have been embraced and work with over 50 children every day, helping to reduce juvenile delinquency rates, support children's schooling, and help families access services.

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### The Foundation in Numbers

500,000

Lives Touched Annually

750

Million Dollars Raised

820

Projects

40

Years of Action

### Impact

#### Project catalogue - 40 years



Please click to view our draft catalogue of projects celebrating 40 years of the Tel Aviv Foundation: TLV Foundation PDF – original catalogue

## UN-Habitat and the Tel Aviv Foundation partner to innovate resource development



**Front (L-R):** Oded Gvuli (City Engineer, Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo), Roi Chiti (World Urban Forum Substantive Programme Coordinator, UN-Habitat), Hila Oren (CEO, The Tel Aviv Foundation), Efrat Makin Knafo (Chief Resilience Officer, 100 Resilient Cities, the Rockefeller Foundation), Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo)

**Back (L-R):** Michal Kenan (Director of Development, The Tel Aviv Foundation), Yoel Siegel (Consultant to UN-Habitat and the Tel Aviv Foundation), Guido Segal (Consultant to 100 Resilient Cities, the Rockefeller Foundation).

The Tel Aviv Foundation recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with [UN-HABITAT](#) to partner on the development of innovative mechanisms for social financing. Social finance tools like crowdfunding or a city coin can help serve Tel Aviv-Yafo's urban needs more sustainably and boost local economy and community engagement. This game-

changing initiative is also supported by [100 Resilient Cities – Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation](#).

# Municipality and Foundation city-making projects in Tel Aviv



UNSW  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University

# SMART SOCIAL SPACES

## On the lookout for cool stuff

Photos for colleagues  
Photos of smart things  
Photos of not-so-smart things  
Photos of growth  
Photos of deterioration  
Photos of potential  
Photo of contention  
Interviews with lots of people  
Meetings with leading academics  
Maximised my time  
Wrote like a mad-woman  
Settled into Israeli mentality...if that's possible  
Pushed my personal boundaries  
Easier to ask forgiveness than ask permission



Georges Rives Council smart bins

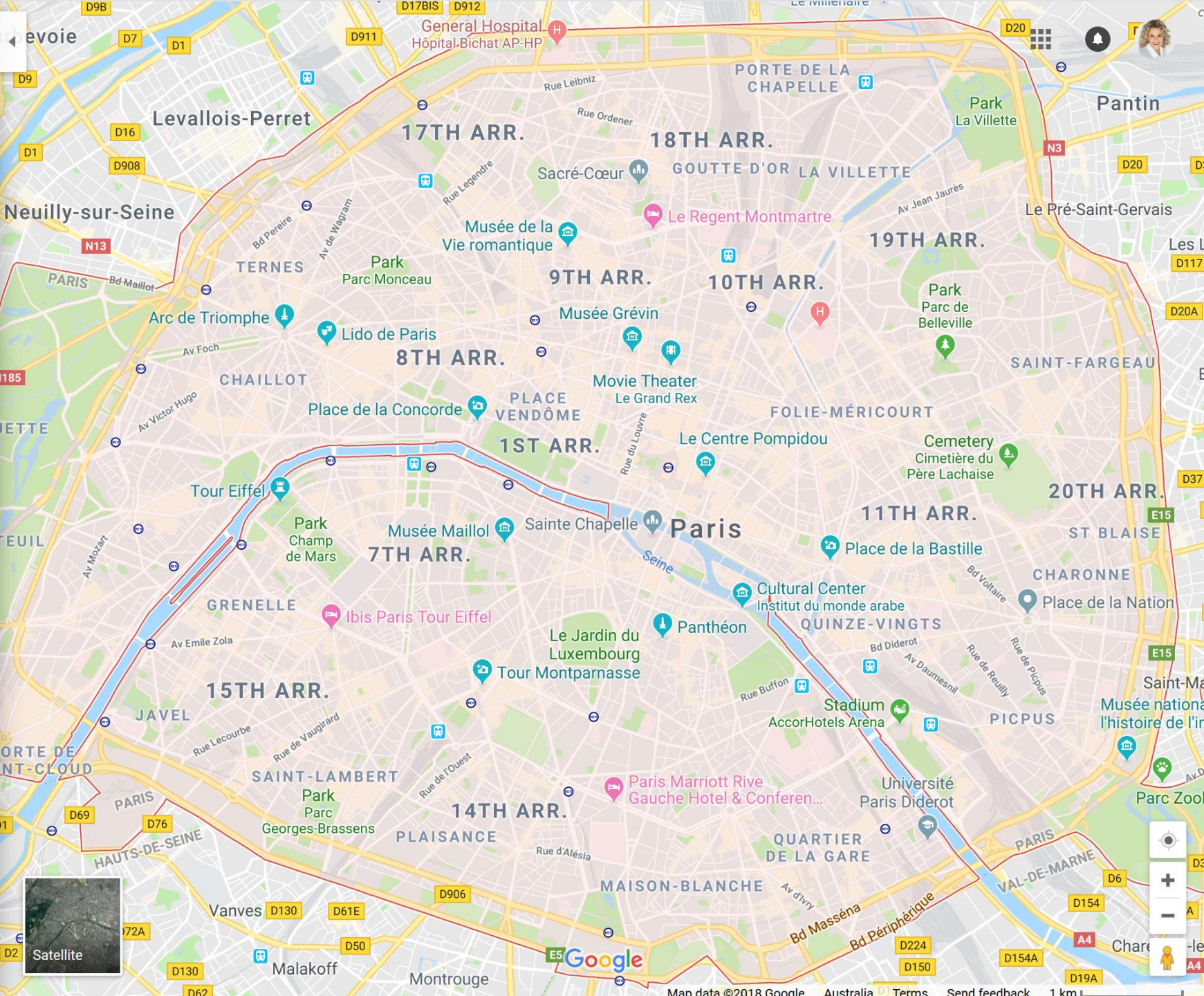


Tel Aviv Municipality smart bins

# The future of city-making: Philanthropy at work

How, and to what extent, will the next generation of philanthropists contribute to city-making projects?

Case study research (Tel Aviv and Detroit)



**Awarded from UNSW the  
Residency at the Cité  
Internationale des arts in Paris  
October – December 2018**

# The Project

## ***Objects d'art*: Typologising the sex shops of Paris**

In recent decades, there has been a shift towards fashion-conscious and, often times, 'feminised' sex shops, positioned on high streets or other prominent central areas of towns and cities—easily recognisable through their highly visible *objects d'art* and staged erotic vignettes showcasing store frontages. This research is an original investigation of the geographies and spatialities of the sex shops of Paris, exploring the various ways in which sex shops and erotic boutiques package and present *objects d'art*.



**Theoretically** apply the framework of Walter Benjamin's (1927–1940) concept of *flâneur*, and theoretically extend the work of Martin (2015) and Maginn and Steinmetz (2015, 2016) by investigating the sex-shop geographies and regulation in Paris through original research

**Methodologically** apply Martin (2015), Hubbard and Lister (2015) and Maginn and Steinmetz (2015, 2015) frameworks to investigate the sex shops of Paris

Map the locations of all sex shops in the Paris metropolitan area (methodologically, this is a three-step process—desktop research, ground-truthing 'known vice districts', and cross-referencing with industry magazines often found at the locations)

Visually document (photography) the *objects'd art* of the sex shops; from this, a typology of spatiality of Paris sex shops will emerge (the major findings)

Conduct a policy analysis of the planning regulation of sex shops (i.e. restricted premises) in the Paris metropolitan area (pre-departure)

Publish in a peer-reviewed journal and present findings at an international conference

# Who cares?

PARIS IS KEY TO THIS STUDY BECAUSE IT IS NOT ONLY RECOGNISED WORLDWIDE AS THE 'CITY OF LOVE', BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT IS RANKED AS A TOP-THREE GLOBAL CITY (GLOBAL CITY RANKINGS 2016). THIS BACKDROP PROVIDES DIVERSE GROUPS OF PEOPLE, CAPITAL (SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL), COSMOPOLITAN ATTITUDES ABOUT SEX AND SEXUALITY, AND UNIQUE PLACES AND SPACES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO OUR EXPERIENCE OF A CITY.

# THE CONVERSATION

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in March  
2011



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### Sex in the city: the changing face of adult retailing

September 1, 2011 8:46am AEST

Cities are brimming with opportunities to experience sex and sexuality. While sex usually takes place in private spaces, it is rarely really out of our minds. Unconsciously we "know" that it is

September 2011: 6098 reads

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### Going native at Sexpo with the Australian Sex Party

March 8, 2012 4:58pm AEST

"Where's the party?"  
"Can I join?"  
"Is this legitimate?"

March 2012: 4580 reads

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### Urban farming in Detroit: sowing seeds of hope in the motor city?

December 18, 2012 1:46pm AEST

"Every year I'd tell myself it's going to get better... and, sure enough, it didn't get better."  
— John Hamza

Once held up as the epitome of industrialised mass production, Detroit has for decades

December 2012: 2627 reads

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### Housing the dead: what happens when a city runs out of space?

January 3, 2017 8:46am AEST

Do you know where and how you want to be buried?  
Will you choose an elaborate Victorian-style headstone, or do you prefer a "green burial" with only a GPS tracking signal indicating your location? Or you may elect to purchase a *Bios Urn*, a 100% biodegradable capsule you plant in the ground with cremated ashes and a seed of your choice which will one day grow into a tree.

Issues of mortality and access to burial space are not typically dinner party conversations or at the top of government agendas. And, until recently, its priority as a future challenge in planning has been virtually non-existent.

Sydney's 2014 strategic plan, *A Plan for Growing Sydney*, recognises the need for studies of cemetery capacity and demand to identify future land requirements. Such studies are likely

January 2017: 48500 reads

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### Sex and the City, Santiago style, where they're serving up 'coffee with legs'

September 1, 2017 8:46am AEST

It's hardly surprising for a country that claims 74% Christianity, only decriminalised homosexuality in 1999 and finally legalised divorce in 2004, that Chile is considered one of the most socially conservative countries in Latin America.

However, in this institutional landscape of staunch conservative values, a fascinating and unique anomaly exists in plain view in the capital, Santiago. Strangely, this bustling city is a place of "dramatized sexual exception" played out in around 100 coffee shops known as *café con piernas* – which literally translates as coffee with legs.

The *café con piernas* is a uniquely Chilean, mainly Santiagoan, alcohol-free venue. All of these cafés are within a five-kilometre radius of the CBD. They serve up a combination of generally mediocre coffee and an erotic ambience designed to promote a subtle sexual friction between client – predominantly male – and waitress – predominantly young and

September 2017: 17688 reads

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### Sensors in public spaces can help create cities that are both smart and sociable

April 10, 2018 8:46am AEST

How are smart cities meant to meet citizen needs? Big data from a network of sensors can give managers and planners a real-time, big-picture overview of traffic flows, public transport patronage, and water and power use. However, the needs of people in the city must be met at both the meta and micro levels.

To do this we need site-specific and real-time information on how people use and value public spaces. Smart technology can collect this information from public spaces. This involves asking questions such as who is using it, how, why and for how long?

*Read more: People-friendly furniture in public places matters more than ever in today's city*

We are investigating these questions in collaboration with Street Furniture Australia and

April 2018: 4143 reads

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### How does a city get to be 'smart'? This is how Tel Aviv did it

April 20, 2018 8:46am AEST

Smart cities, digital cities, virtual cities, connected cities. Are these just trendy buzzwords? Perhaps. But these types of cities are supported by infrastructure that is more than bricks and mortar.

These cities are smart (thoughtful, people-centric), digital (driven by data acquisition, measured, analysed and sometimes exchanged) and virtual (experiential). And, as a result, they are connected, creating more potential interactions between people and their place.

*Read more: Sensors in public spaces can help create cities that are both smart and sociable*

Tel Aviv is one of these cities. Undoubtedly the 2009 book *Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle* contributed to its reputation as a "non-stop city" with innovation

April 2018: 27780 reads

# Impact?

- 1) Use it as a tool to get going on something bigger, better and more academic
- 2) Envisage the bigger article – let these 800 words be your outline
- 3) Don't expect kudos from anyone...be your own cheerleader
- 4) Don't take nasty online comments to heart
- 5) Have fun with it!

Thank you!