



2024 Conference Theme



EMBEDDED ENVIRONMENTS

Exploring the Possibilities and Impacts of Technology Everywhere

Theme Description

The Wharton-Weitzman Future of Cities Conference at the University of Pennsylvania is a premiere platform that brings together those who want to make cities better. The ubiquity of technology from how we commute to how we prepare for natural disasters is restructuring society in real-time. As we embark on this new era of urban living, it is crucial to dive into the transformative potential of embedded technologies, those seen and unseen, that are shaping our cities.

With the theme **Embedded Environments**, our 2024 conference will investigate the multifaceted implications of the internet of things, artificial intelligence, and other urban technologies on our natural and built environments. The conference aims to foster an in-depth understanding of how these technologies can revolutionize aspects of city life while also addressing their downsides. By exploring global topics such as climate resiliency, public safety, urban design, and the influence of algorithms, we will engage in critical discussions and workshops to envision the future of cities.

Conference Objectives

Facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration - We invite vetted practitioners as well as students and academics from business, policy, sciences, design, engineering, and journalism to exchange knowledge and inspire innovative discussions and solutions.

Make the invisible visible - Shine a light on often unseen technologies, and unseen aspects of quotidian technologies, to uncover their impact, functionality, and design choices on our urban environments.

Introduce fresh ideas - Be a platform for participants to share unique insights, research findings, and demo prototypes on the conference theme.

Consider the principle of objectivity - Evaluate bias, ethics, and inclusive approaches to urban development and technology deployment.

The 2024 Future of Cities Conference: Embedded Environments will bring together urban technology experts and innovators to unravel the complex relationship between cities and technology. Through robust interdisciplinary discussions, insightful presentations, and collaborative workshops, we aim to shape a future where embedded technologies enable cities to become more reliable, sustainable, and democratic. Join us in early February 2024 at the University of Pennsylvania in this transformative exploration and contribute to the development of our urban landscapes for generations to come.