**Orlando Woods**

**Director, Urban Institute**

[Orlando Woods](https://sg.linkedin.com/in/orlandowoods?challengeId=AQEzO2Ts_7EKqwAAAY0QZnNuKBWX-Db8JLXYs311zhTkXLqK63QoPn7mB9bE9VDyK8_dufuLqPBtk5TEVDQISLj16PVuhrxkig&submissionId=d799c72e-7fb7-aa17-895d-f7516fe11277&challengeSource=AgEWUFW8Vyv-8QAAAY0QZsyCf0w5FJmoBunoitmkJf5DqZ46FY96k94jMEASkTQ&challegeType=AgFUHP4ASMe_7QAAAY0QZsyFSY0112-TxVqOM2jpEc4GHSrRx0ChnVk&memberId=AgG_nS19EUQgRwAAAY0QZsyIg_oyaDYBuh51QRmC2j_9FWs&recognizeDevice=AgHZ_br_t6FqlQAAAY0QZsyMbWi6Ul37dGnzIPHIpE_mQ1fTMtOl) is the inaugural Director of the SMU Urban Institute. He also serves as an Associate Professor of Geography, Associate Dean (Research and Postgraduate Programmes) and Lee Kong Chian Fellow at Singapore Management University’s College of Integrative Studies.

Assoc Prof Woods is a qualitative researcher who develops a critical perspective to questions concerning the structuring forces that come to shape everyday urban life. His urban-related expertise spans smart city development, multiculturalism and the management of socio-cultural diversity, and everyday urbanisms. Empirically, his research is situated in Asia, with a general interest in South and Southeast Asia, and a focus on Singapore and Sri Lanka.

Assoc Prof Woods has led large-scale research projects exploring the growth of new religious pluralisms in Singapore, the effects of infrastructure-led development associated with China’s Belt and Road Initiative on local communities in Sri Lanka, and the variegated development pathways of smart cities in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

His work is regularly published in leading disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals, including *Urban Studies*, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* and *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. He has lived and worked in Singapore since 2006 and holds BA and PhD degrees in Geography from University College London and the National University of Singapore respectively.