

At the frontiers of the urban: thinking concepts and practices globally

10 – 12 November 2019

Venue: University College London



Urban societies are undergoing immense changes; how are urban concepts and practices responding? The frontiers of urbanisation signify an expansion in the scope of where the “urban” might be found and how it might be figured. But the urban has too often been thought from a restricted repertoire of places and experiences.

This two-day international conference will explore emerging themes and critical methodologies at the frontier of urban theory and practice – the dynamic analytical and empirical zone in which new concepts are emerging. The conference will convene cutting-edge scholarship and dialogue across diverse regional perspectives. It will provide a forum for discussion of a range of disciplinary and practice-based approaches to understanding the processes, impacts and representations of urbanisation and urban experience in different global contexts.

The conference will seek to stimulate new conceptualisations by inviting analyses which are resonant with distinctive urban experiences, especially those beyond the conventional euro-american heartlands of urban studies, but with scope to reach across different contexts. Some starting points might be: how land, investment, finance, law and the state are reshaping urban spaces; or how processes of reproducing everyday life, identity politics, popular mobilization and contestation are remaking urban experiences; or how challenges of urbanisation, such as climate change, data, health, housing and poverty are redefining urban futures.

Further information and confirmed speakers: <http://bit.ly/urban-frontiers>

Call for Papers

We are inviting papers which draw on original research and scholarship to explore aspects of urbanisation, urban practices and approaches to generating knowledge about global urbanisms from any context, but particularly those which expand understandings of urbanisation and urban experience from Latin American, Asian, Middle Eastern, Eastern European and African perspectives, and those which generate dialogue across disciplinary and methodological borders. We also welcome more practice-based contributions which critically engage with the ambition to develop global urban knowledge across the diversity of urban experiences in relation to sustainable development goals, for example; or which seek to build insights into urban experiences through grounded collaborative and community-led or design-based research and practice.

The panels will be composed to provide scope for researchers to engage across the wide field of urban studies and related disciplines, and to share knowledge on similar issues across different regional contexts, and from different analytical and disciplinary approaches. The conference will make use of a range of formats (round tables, inter-panel report backs) to stimulate collegial exchanges across different geographical and disciplinary perspectives.

We strongly encourage scholars based in the global South to propose papers, and we will explore opportunities for co-funding attendance and fee waivers. Also, scholars from the global South based in the UK or Europe at the time of the conference are strongly encouraged to apply to attend, and to explore co-funding where possible.

The conference will be organised according to three broad thematics: Reshaping urban spaces, Remaking urban experiences, Redefining urban futures. Some (non-exhaustive) suggested topics for possible paper submissions include:

Reshaping urban spaces

- Land
- The State
- Finance and politics
- Legal frameworks
- Beyond the urban-rural divide
- Heritage and heritagisation
- Architecture and planning

Remaking urban experiences

- Collaboration and participation
- Everyday and associational life
- Religion

- Identities and intersectionalities
- Arts and poetics
- Activism
- Violence

Redefining urban futures

- Health and education
- Data and Systems approaches
- Environmental breakdown
- Challenging poverty and inequality
- Pedagogy
- Infrastructure
- Waste

To submit a paper, please complete the [online form](#) by 12.00 BST on 31 July 2019.

You will be asked to submit a title and abstract (300 words maximum) and a brief biography (maximum 100 words) alongside some further information. The selection of papers will take place through a double-blind interdisciplinary peer review process. If you encounter any issues with the form, please contact urbanlaboratory@ucl.ac.uk. Accepted papers will be notified by 9 September 2019, with the submission of full papers expected on 19 October 2019. The conference language is English.

Steering Committee

Jennifer Robinson (UCL Geography / UCL Urban Laboratory)

Clare Melhuish (UCL Urban Laboratory)

Oren Yiftachel (UCL Geography / The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, UCL)

Camillo Boano (The Bartlett Development Planning Unit / UCL Urban Laboratory)

Susan Moore (The Bartlett School of Planning, UCL)

Peg Rawes (Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL)

