

Manchester Urban Institute

Understanding the cities of the world to change them for the better

Introduction

As the proportion of the world's population living in urban areas continues to grow, so do the challenges to secure an inclusive, just and sustainable set of futures. Cities and their surrounding areas in the global north and the global south face a host of challenges. These include civil unrest, climate change, education delivery, energy provision, governance, housing shortages, infrastructure investment, and poverty.

Cities, though, are also home to significant innovation potential involving co-production, the

creative sector, innovative design, and social cohesion. These challenges are not only practical. They also ask questions of the academic field of urban studies, which is undergoing something of a renaissance as cities have become the centre of debates both in the global north and the global south.

Early 2017 saw the launch of the Manchester Urban Institute (MUI), a new flagship research institute that builds upon the work of cities@manchester and unites the strengths of a number of long-standing research centres.

Manchester has a significant track record in pioneering urban research that uniquely draws expertise from across disciplines such as anthropology, architecture, business studies, development studies, education, engineering, geography, gerontology, history, planning, political science and sociology.

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Our research brings insight and clarity to global urban challenges and explores the issues facing people in populated urban settings.

Professor Kevin Ward
Director, Manchester Urban Institute

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Themes

Green and Resilient Urban Futures

(This theme houses the Grow Green: Green Cities for Climate and Water Resilience, Sustainable Economic Growth, Healthy Citizens and Environments and URBAN GreenUP projects)

Smart and Sustainable Cities

(This theme houses the Innovate UK-funded CityVerve project, the JPI Urban Europe-funded LOOPER project and the European Union-funded Triangulum project)

Spatial Inequalities and Poverty

(This theme houses the European Research Council-funded Energy Vulnerability and Urban Transitions in Europe (EVALUATE) project and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation-funded Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit)

Urban Governance and Politics

(This theme houses the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) funded Devo Manc Hub and the ESRC-funded Jam and Justice project)

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MUI authored and edited books, 2018

Acheampong, R. A., *Spatial Planning in Ghana*, Springer, Cham.

This book documents and analyses spatial planning in Ghana, providing a comprehensive and critical discussion of the evolving institutional and legal arrangements that have shaped and defined Ghana's spatial planning system for more than seven decades.

Doucette, J & Park, B-G (editors), *Developmentalist Cities? Interrogating Urban Developmentalism in East Asia*. Brill, Leiden.

Developmentalist Cities addresses the missing urban story in research on East Asian developmentalism and the missing developmentalist story in studies of East Asian urbanization.

Ernstson, H., Swyngedouw, E. (editors), *Urban Political Ecology in the Anthro-obsene*, Routledge, Abingdon.

Urban Political Ecology in the Anthro-obsene will be of interest to postgraduates, established scholars, and upper level undergraduates from any discipline or field with an interest in the interface between the urban, the environment, and the political, including: geography, urban studies, environmental studies, and political science.

Fearnley, A & Matlin, D (editors), *Race Capital? Harlem as Setting and Symbol*, Columbia University Press, New York.

In this book, leading scholars consider crucial aspects of Harlem's social, political, and intellectual history; its artistic, cultural, and economic life; and its representation across an array of media and genres.

Browne, G., Frost, C., **Lucas, R.** (editors), *Architecture, Festival and the City*, Routledge, Abingdon.

This book examines how festivals can be used as a lens to examine the relationship between city and citizen and questions whether this is fixed through time, or has been transformed as a response to changes in the modern urban condition.

Mell, I., *Green Infrastructure Planning: Reintegrating Landscape in Urban Planning*, Lund Humphries, London.

What is green infrastructure? Why should we develop it? Who uses it? And what socio-economic and ecological value does it provide? This useful guide provides an essential introduction to green infrastructure for planners, landscape architects, engineers and environmentalists keen to understand how we can use landscape principles to deliver more sustainable urban planning.

Swyngedouw, E., *Promises of the Political: Insurgent Cities in a Post-Political Environment*, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

In *Promises of the Political*, Erik Swyngedouw explores whether progressive and emancipatory politics is still possible in a post-political era. Swyngedouw grounds his argument in urban and ecological processes, struggles, and conflicts through which post-politicization has become institutionally entrenched.

Walker, S., *The Fair Line and the Good Frontage: Surface and Effect*, Pivot, Palgrave Macmillan Ltd, London.

This book offers an extended consideration of the fairground showfront. It combines archival material, contemporary examples of fairs, and a sustained theoretical engagement with influential philosophies of surface, including recent work by Avrum Stroll and Andrew Benjamin, as well as the nineteenth century author Gottfried Semper.

Davidson, M., **Ward, K.** (editors), *Cities Under Austerity: Restructuring the US Metropolis*, SUNY Press, Albany, NY.

Drawing on case studies of recent urban restructuring, *Cities under Austerity* challenges dominant understandings of austerity as a distinctly national condition and develops a conceptualization of the new US urban condition that reveals its emerging political and social fault lines.

