

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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Manchester Urban Institute

MUI authored and edited books, 2017

Davidson, M., **Ward, K.** (editors) (2017) *Cities Under Austerity: Restructuring the US Metropolis*, Albany, NH: SUNY Press

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.

Deas, I., Hincks, S. (editors) (2017) *Territorial Policy and Governance: Alternative Paths*, Routledge

Territorial Policy and Governance addresses the question of how alternative forms of territorial governance and policy can help to shape patterns of urban and regional development, highlighting the related opportunities, constraints and challenges that confront their operationalisation.

Harries, B. (2017), *Talking Race in Young Adulthood: Race and Everyday Life in Contemporary Britain*. Routledge

Drawing on ethnographic research with young adults in Manchester, Harries engages with ideas of the post-racial to explore how young adults make sense of their identities, relationships and new forms of racism, consequently revealing how and in what ways race remains a salient dimension of social experience.

Iossifova, D., Doll, C., & Gasparatos, A. (editors) (2017), *Defining the Urban: Interdisciplinary and professional perspectives*. London: Routledge

Defining the Urban is an indispensable guide for the urban transdisciplinary thinker and practitioner. Parts I and II focus on how “Academic Disciplines” and “Professional Practices,” respectively, understand and engage with the urban. Part III, “Emerging Approaches,” outlines how elements from theory and practice combine to form transdisciplinary tools and perspectives.

Lewis, C., Symons, J. (editors) (2017) *Realising the City: Urban Ethnography in Manchester*. Manchester University Press

This book offers an inside view of Manchester, England demonstrating the complexity of urban dynamics from a range of ethnographic vantage points, including the city’s football clubs, the airport, housing estates, the Gay Village and the city’s annual civic parade. These perspectives help trace the multiple dynamics of a vibrant and rapidly changing post-industrial city, showing how people’s decisions and actions co-produce the city and give it shape.

Phillips, R., **Wong, C.** (editors) (2017), *Handbook of Community Well-Being Research*. Springer

This Handbook brings together foundational and leading-edge research exploring dimensions of improving quality of life in communities of place. Social indicators and other assessment techniques will be explored, including from the framework of community perspectives which is concerned with enhancing quality of life for community members.

Simcock, N., Thomson, H., Petrova, S., Bouzarovski, S. (2017) *Energy Poverty and Vulnerability: A Global Perspective*. Routledge

Energy Poverty and Vulnerability provides novel and critical perspectives on the drivers and consequences of energy-related injustices in the home. Drawing together original research conducted by leading experts, the book offers fresh and innovative insights into the ways in which hitherto unexplored factors such as cultural norms, environmental conditions and household needs combine to shape vulnerability to energy poverty.

Yaneva, A. (2017) *Five Ways to Make Architecture Political: An Introduction to the Politics of Design Practice*, Bloomsbury

Five Ways to Make Architecture Political presents an innovative pragmatist agenda that will inspire new thinking about the politics of design and architectural practice. Moving beyond conventional conversations about design and politics, the book shows how recent developments in political philosophy can transform our understanding of the role of the architect. It asks: how, when, and under what circumstances can design practice generate political relations? How can architectural design become more ‘political’?

