

Feedback summary



cities@manchester's first Summer Institute in Urban Studies (SIUS) was held at the University of Manchester from 29 June to 4 July 2014. The Institute featured contributions from internationally renowned figures in urban studies, from inside and outside of Manchester.

Aimed at doctoral students (usually post-fieldwork), postdoctoral researchers, and recently appointed faculty/lecturers, the Institute provided participants with an in-depth understanding of the innovatory developments and enduring controversies in urban studies, as well as mentoring and support in the different aspects of the academic labour process - from applying for grants to designing courses, from editing books and special issues of journals to writing book proposals, from publishing in journals to working at the academic/non-academic interface. It consisted of panels, lectures, reading groups, with participants involved in shaping the final programme. More information can be found on the SIUS 2014 page of the cities@manchester website.

25 participants were selected from nearly 200 applications; delegates also included 3 Graduate Teaching Assistants, 26 University of Manchester speakers and 7 guest speakers. The delegation was asked to score the Institute; a summary of their questionnaire responses is shown as follows:

Statement	Agreed	Unsure	Disagreed
Overall, the whole event was well organised	100%	0%	0%
The information provided in the lead up to the event was sufficient and communicated effectively	97%	3%	0%
The pace and structure of the event worked well	100%	0%	0%
The programme included an appropriate mix of topics and content	86%	14%	0%
The event has put me in touch with new contacts with whom I intend to stay in touch	97%	3%	0%
I would recommend SIUS to others if it was run again in the future	100%	0%	0%
On reflection, I believe SIUS2014 will aid me in my future career	79%	21%	0%
The event was value for money	83%	7%	0%

What were your favourite aspects of SIUS 2014?

- Structure of programme and diversity of content (mixture of career development topics and theory)
- Range of varied speakers
- Opportunities for networking and socialising
- Organisation and planning

What were your least favourite aspects of SIUS 2014?

- Not enough interaction or small group sessions / too many presentations
- Too many sessions on publishing
- Too much focus on assemblage theory
- Lack of diversity in the delegation
- Too much theoretical, not enough practical!
- Too much practical, not enough theoretical!

Any other comments on SIUS 2014?

- More opportunities for each delegate to present their own research
- One-to-one CV reviews / mentoring
- More / different tour of the city, and perhaps scheduled at the beginning
- More participants from the global South

The event was documented via social media using the hashtag **#SIUS2014** and via the **cities@manchester** Twitter handle: **citiesMCR**

A short film of the event was produced by Manchester-based Glass Eye Productions and can be viewed via the **cities@manchester** website: **cities.manchester.ac.uk**

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