

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 obstacles to securing 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 involving co-production, creative

design, DIY-politics, participatory governance 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 will see the launch of the Manchester Urban Institute (MUI), a new University of Manchester flagship research institute that will build upon the work of cities@manchester and unites the strengths of a number of long-standing research centres. MUI will draw together academics, graduate students and researchers from anthropology, architecture, business studies, development studies, education, engineering, geography, gerontology, history, medical sciences, planning, political science and sociology through its work on four cross-cutting, inter-disciplinary themes.

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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

Informalities and Vulnerabilities

(This theme houses the European Research Council-sponsored Energy Vulnerability and Urban Transitions project)

Smart Cities and Transitions

(This theme houses the European Union-funded Triangulum project)

Spatial Inequalities and Poverty

(This theme houses the University's Just Greater Manchester initiative 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 launch events schedule

February 7th

Professor Michael Keith,
University of Oxford

*The future's promise? Technocratic dreams,
Faustian urbanism and the cities yet to come*

5.30pm, Samuel Alexander Building Theatre and
foyer, followed by a wine reception

March 9th

Lord Professor David Blunkett

*Universities post Brexit, aspiring to remain
international but with a mission that is
essentially local*

5.30pm, Roscoe Building lecture theatre B and
foyer, followed by a wine reception

March (date TBC)

MUI and Sheffield Urban Institute joint event on
community involvement in urban governance

March 22nd

Professor Rachel Weber,
University of Illinois at Chicago

*Risky business: Explaining the use of complex
financial instruments by local governments*

4.00pm, Samuel Alexander Building Theatre



Late April and early May

During this period we have six Hallworth and
Simon Visiting Professors:

- Professor Xiangzheng Deng (Chinese Academy of Sciences);
- Professor Roger Keil (York University, Toronto);
- Professor Ute Lehrer (York University, Toronto);
- Professor Mee Kam Ng (CHUK);
- Professor Tim Moss (Humbolt);
- Professor Stephanie Pincetl (UCLA)

Each of these visiting professors will be giving public talks as part of the MUI launch.

May 9th

Professor AbdouMaliq Simone,
Max Planck Institute for Human Development

August 29th - September 1st

Professor Bruno Latour,
Sciences Po Paris

Full listings information will be available in due course. For more details, please visit our website:
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