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The University of Manchester

Manchester Urban Institute

Outstanding learning and
student experience

Social responsibility

World-class research

Manchester Urban Institute Newsletter 2019

Urban Explorers

Welcome to the second annual Manchester Urban Institute (MUI) newsletter. It is hard to believe that it is now two years since our external launch!

This newsletter rounds up just a few highlights from the past year in a format that reveals our local influence and global reach, whilst describing how our strategic priorities align with those of the University of Manchester.

2019 promises to be another exciting and busy year and this newsletter will also bring you up to speed with some of our future plans and upcoming activities.

Matthew Harrison
MUI Manager

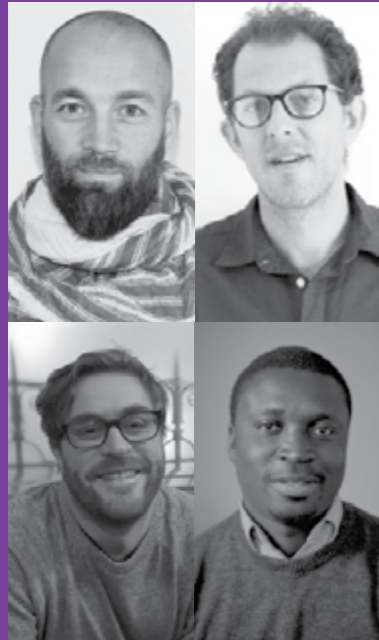
Kevin Ward
MUI Director

In other news...

A few other things we wanted to mention.

For more, follow us on Twitter @UoMUrban and visit www.mui.manchester.ac.uk/about/news

New Staff



Clockwise from top-left: Henrik Ernstson; Seth Schindler, Ransford Acheampong; Nate Millington

In the last year we have been joined by some key new appointments from around the world.

Henrik Ernstson has joined the University of Manchester as Lecturer in Human Geography. Henrik is developing a situated approach to urban political ecology with a special focus on southern and postcolonial urbanism.

Seth Schindler, with research interests around large-scale urban and regional transformation initiatives in the global South is a new member of both the Manchester Urban Institute and Global Development Institute. Seth joined the University in 2018 as Senior Lecturer in Urban Development and Transformation.

Ransford Acheampong, Presidential Fellow in Future Cities, is focused on the nexus between transport and land use, and their integrated planning in cities.

Nate Millington, Presidential Fellow in Urban Studies is researching the politics of the urban environment in an era of climate crisis.

Under development

New research theme: 'People and Energy'

Stefan Bouzarovski will be leading on a new research theme for MUI, which will focus on the University's strengths in energy research in urban areas.

The Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Science and Engineering have been collaborating on energy-related projects for decades and this world-leading research has been highlighted as one of the University of Manchester's research beacons.

We are expecting to launch our new 'People and Energy' research theme in the first half of 2019 with a promotional video and online content. Follow @UoMUrban on Twitter to find out more.

NERC awards

Just as we were about to go to print, the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) announced funding for two new MUI research projects.

The funding is part of a multilateral call between the UK, India, China, Japan and Sweden, which resulted in £4.3 million funding for eight two-year research projects, placing human-environment interactions at the heart of achieving the UN Global Goals. MUI colleagues have succeeded in landing two of the eight awards announced.

Joe Ravetz, Research Fellow, is leading on 'Pericene (Peri-urbanisation and climate-environment change)'. Along with fellow MUI colleagues Jeremy Carter, Angela Connelly and Nuno Pinto, Joe will also be working with researchers in Sweden and India.

Deljana Iossifova, Senior Lecturer, is working with colleagues from the UK, China and Japan on 'SASSI (A Systems Approach to Sustainable Sanitation Challenges in Urbanising China)'.
MUI Newsletter

2019 event highlights

Here are just a few of the events we will be hosting and co-hosting over the next few months.

March

Workshop | Creative methods for researching urban infrastructures

Workshop | Planetary Urbanization and Architectural Research

April

MUI visit | The Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual meeting, Washington DC

May

Conference | Urbanisation, infrastructures and everyday life in East Asia

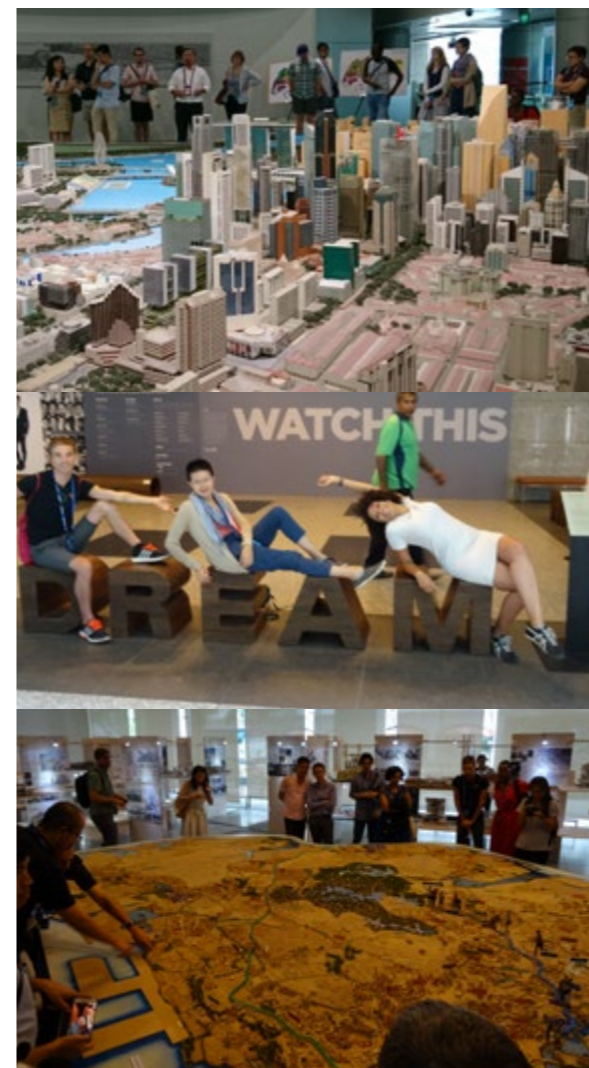
June

Conference | Scaling up participatory development in towns and cities of the global south

September

Conference | Infrastructural futures across cities of the global north

If you would like any further details on these or any other upcoming MUI events, please contact mui@manchester.ac.uk.



Summer (institute) in the city

Between 16th and 19th July 2018, MUI and the Global Urban Studies (GUS) cluster at the National University of Singapore hosted the 4th Summer Institute in Urban Studies (SIUS), in partnership with Yale-NUS Liberal Arts College and the Future Cities Lab. Sponsorship was provided by the Singapore Ministry of Education AcRF Tier 1 Research grant (FY2017-FRC2-014), the University of Manchester and the Urban Studies Foundation.

Hosting of the 2018 summer institute in Singapore – somewhere that does not even have a “summer” season! – was itself significant in the context of calls in urban studies over the past decade for (what Ananya Roy termed) “new geographies of theory”. It was therefore appropriate that the opening plenary session “Urban Studies from Elsewhere” foregrounded the situated-ness of urban knowledge

production. While some of the issues raised by Shenjing He (University of Hong Kong) and James Sidaway (NUS) went beyond the field of urban studies, asking questions of the humanities and social sciences more generally, the nature of the group discussion suggested that they were brought into particularly sharp focus in the researching of urbanization.

There were three other plenary sessions across the four days of the SIUS. The second centred on “gender” in urban theory. Daniel P S Goh and Linda Peake spoke how “gender” appeared in their respective research projects. Although mattering in quite different ways, the presentations and the responses from the floor were clear that matter it did, in various important and profound ways. The third pairing of Jane Jacobs (Yale-NUS College) and Charlotte Lemanski (University of Cambridge) spoke about the issue of infrastructure and cities. Drawing upon perspectives routed in architecture on the one hand, and geography on the other, these plenaries reinforced the importance of infrastructure in the place-making, both by those who design cities and those who make them their home. The final pair of plenaries was on the theme of “Sustainable futures”. Cecilia Wong (University of Manchester) and Anant Maringanti (Hyderabad Urban Lab) reported on their work in China and Pakistan respectively. In both urban futures are now being forged as the city yet to come is prefigured through the work done by various international, national and local agencies.

These plenaries served to introduce important conceptual and methodological challenges in the field of urban studies and to give time and

space to participants to comment upon and discuss their insights from the perspective of their own research.

As in previous Institutes in Manchester, the #SIUS2018 programme also included a variety of panel discussion sessions involving the visiting plenary speakers, Singapore-based urbanists and other visitors.

The panel discussion on “Designing Interdisciplinary Urban Studies Curricula” was held at Yale-NUS College, and was followed by an “Urban Studies Curriculum Workshop”. Both of those elements of the programme were organized by Nick Smith and Jane M. Jacobs. There was also Yale-NUS involvement in the writing workshop held on the afternoon of Wednesday 18th July; Trisha Craig from Yale-NUS College (along with freelance journalist, Tom Benner) convened sessions on “Writing for More-than-academic Audiences”.

Two elements of the programme explicitly enabled participants to engage with urban (re)development in Singapore beyond campus. On Tuesday 17th July, Tony Tan (from Singapore Heritage Society) led a tour of the URA Gallery and surrounding Chinatown. And on the evening of Wednesday 18th July, the Institute dinner was held in Prima Tower, giving participants a revolving view of the restless landscape of Singapore.

Not only did the summer institute inspire the participants present in Singapore but #SIUS2018 got a lot of interest thanks to the input of the participants. At the end of the week, the hashtag had reached over 50,000 twitter accounts with close to 500,000 impressions.

Underpinning MUI's broad scope of research is our social responsibility agenda. Cities are now, more than ever before, the places which need the most urgent environmental action and the places we see the most dramatic inequality.

Our futures in our cities

Several projects at MUI are showing how improvements in the efficiency of household energy use can benefit human health and well-being, economic productivity, environmental quality and urban development.

The recently-completed COMBI project ('Calculating and Operationalising the Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency in Europe', funded by Horizon 2020) has shown that energy efficiency improvements in homes in the EU could avoid up to 27,500 premature deaths from indoor cold between now and 2030. The economic value of these changes could be up to €2.5 billion due to premature mortality from indoor cold, and up to €2.9 billion due to asthma morbidity from indoor dampness.

The complementary EVALUATE project ('Energy Vulnerability and Urban Transitions in Europe', funded by the European Research Council) found that energy efficiency is a key factor in determining levels of thermal comfort. The project identified warm weather space cooling as a significant challenge across the Global North, in light of climate change pressures. The project recommended the establishment of a minimum standard for housing across Europe, and the banning of disconnections for consumers - such measures are clear win-win solutions in the case of fuel poverty. Given the major social and geographical differences in the incidence of fuel poverty across Europe, the project argued that many policies are best delivered at the regional level.

The researchers are now embarking on several new projects in the area. One of these is STEP-IN ('Using Living Labs to roll out Sustainable Strategies for Energy Poor Individuals', also supported by



Through this array of activities, we are showing that investing in the energy efficiency of residential dwellings can address the pressing challenge of climate change in many unexpected ways, beyond reducing energy demand and CO2 emissions. We have also identified the policy channels through which energy efficiency measures can reach vulnerable households - many of these involve working with local authorities and transnational bodies at the same time.

Professor Stefan Bouzarovski

Horizon 2020), where The University of Manchester will work with Greater Manchester Combined Authority to improve the circumstances of vulnerable households in several areas. These results will inform the design of information technology solutions to address pressing social challenges in the energy domain.

Another new initiative is ENGAGER ('European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge

Innovation'), a research network funded via the European Co-operation in Science and Technology (COST) scheme. This brings together over 100 experts from more than 30 countries to find innovative ways of connecting energy efficiency delivery with urban planning, among other things.

As mentioned in the news section, Stefan and colleagues are developing a new research theme on 'People and Energy'. More on that soon!



UK2070 Commission: An Inquiry into Regional Inequalities Towards a Framework For Action

The UK2070 Commission has been established with the aim of developing a spatial economic framework that

will allow the UK to become a more geographically balanced nation, reducing the current large disparities in economic and social outcomes across the country.

The work of the Commission is supported by staff from the University of Manchester, led by Professor Cecilia Wong, along with colleagues from the University of Sheffield and University College London. UK2070 is chaired by former head of the Civil Service

Lord Kerslake, who gave a keynote speech at the launch event setting out the aims and objectives of the Commission, which he said would take a "longer view" on the interventions needed to realise the strengths of all parts of the UK. The call for evidence is now open and responses are encouraged from community groups, industry, the academic community and other interested parties.

Cecilia Wong, Tom Arnold, Mark Baker, Caglar Koxsal, Andreas Schulze Baing submitted a Think Piece to the UK2070 Commission in December 2018 in response to the call for evidence put out in late 2018. Titled 'Measuring Spatial Inequality in the UK: What We Know and What We Should Know?', the Spatial Policy and Analysis Laboratory group compares methods to measure spacial inequality and offers a critique of the methods used and assesses how the United Kingdom fares on each scale.

To read this piece and find out more about the Commission, visit uk2070.org.uk.

Mayors, industrial strategies and the future of inclusive growth

The Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit, part of the Manchester Urban Institute, and IPPR North combined to host an event as part of the preparation of a think-piece for city-region Mayors on developing strategies for cities that can be both prosperous and inclusive.

The aim of the event was to help Mayors understand how they can approach challenges like artificial intelligence and an ageing society in ways that decrease, rather than increase, inequalities.

Four presentations were given by experts at the University of Manchester on topics relating to the four 'grand challenges' set out by the National Industrial Strategy: AI and the Data Economy, the Future of Mobility, Ageing Society, and Clean Growth. Speakers were asked to communicate how knowledge within their field links to possibilities for inclusive growth.

An overview was then given on IPPR's Commission for Economic Justice followed by discussion of local industrial strategies and how they can respond to the grand challenges, in ways which also promote inclusive growth/economic justice.

Subsequent discussion acknowledged the clear linkages between the grand challenges, and the possibility for integration when thinking of solutions. As well as this, however, was the understanding of the difficulties in thinking about and discussing solutions in this manner, which requires effective cross-disciplinary communication and co-operation.

The final part of the discussion focused on how industrial strategies can respond to these challenges in ways that promote inclusive growth and economic justice. A key point emphasised throughout was how to combine and understand all the necessary information in order to make effective decisions that respond to the grand challenges and inclusive growth in Greater Manchester.



Governing Green Infrastructure

This project, led by Dr Mark Usher and funded by a University of Manchester Simon Research Fellowship, is investigating how the roll-out of green infrastructure (GI) is transforming the nature of contemporary urban governance, focusing on three major cities in the UK.

In particular, the project will examine how the recent shift from zonal to landscape-based policy and planning is mainstreaming landscape architecture techniques at the urban scale, flattening administrative boundaries and incorporating psychological, behaviour-oriented design.

Urban challenges; world-class solutions

Here are just a few examples of the work our researchers, in collaboration with local, national and international groups are doing towards more environmentally and socially sustainable cities for current and future generations.



China's New Urban Agenda:

An International Dialogue on Sustainable Development

In November 2018, MUI hosted an international conference on China's New Urban Agenda, attended by planning experts from all over the world and with over 100 papers presented.

Around 680 million people - just under half of China's 1.386 billion population - now live within an urban area. This extremely rapid urbanisation has seen almost 500 million people move to cities over the last 35 years, and the country now has more than 600 cities - many of which were just small towns a few decades ago.

This huge change is of great interest internationally, as China now consumes resources and emits waste on such a gigantic scale that it poses a threat to the earth's sustainability.

This means that academics and policymakers are looking closely at the country's urbanisation, highlighting a multitude of challenges for sustainable development such as

urban-rural disparity, high car dependency, environmental pollution and degradation.

The Chinese government has recently embarked on its New Urban Agenda, with the aim of making new development more sustainable, embracing an innovation-driven economy, people-centred urbanisation, and environmentally-conscious decision-making.

At the conference, delegates heard about Manchester's recent transformation, its pioneering approaches to regional governance, and the need to balance economic growth with ensuring improvements in the quality of life of its residents. Attendees also heard how it has benefitted from an influx of younger residents into the city centre, and how the region continues to benefit from allocation of powers from central government.

Delegates were, in particular, impressed by Manchester's success in integrating rail and tram services,

as well as by ongoing schemes to improve the area's blue-green infrastructure. They suggested that the importance of such schemes to the regeneration of town centres, as well as the reinvigoration of high streets and the boosting of urban tourism, were all examples of what China and other countries could learn from Manchester.



Conference attendees were able to explore Greater Manchester's cultural diversity and the effects of its ongoing urban renaissance and reinvigoration, with field trips being undertaken to places including Salford Quays and Manchester United's stadium. They were impressed by the city's track record of urban redevelopment, as it continues to assert itself as one of the UK's pre-eminent globally focused cities.



RESIN Project: European Climate Risk Typology

The RESIN consortium, a group of Universities and other organisations from around Europe, published a report on their European Climate Risk Typology in 2018.

This work builds on previous deliverables released during the project that have described the

development of the typology (Hincks et al 2016 and 2017). This deliverable provides readers with details of the typology aims, scope, methodology, outputs and uses. It is of potential value for groups including users looking to better understand the typology before applying it in practice, and for researchers wishing to learn more about how the typology was developed.

The project received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

To find out more, you can visit european-crt.org.

Triangulum: Horizon 2020 project publishes new papers



Triangulum is a five year €25 million Horizon 2020 project funded by the EU to demonstrate cutting-edge smart city technologies and roll them out across the globe.

Over a five year period, Triangulum will transform designated urban districts into smart quarters in three 'lighthouse cities': Manchester, Eindhoven (Netherlands) and Stavanger (Norway).

Concepts learnt will be transferred to the 'follower cities' of Leipzig (Germany), Prague (Czech Republic) and Sabadell (Spain).

In 2018, along with a range of events at the 'lighthouse' and 'follower' cities, a number of new papers were published, providing early insights into project activities.

For full details and news updates on the project, please visit: www.triangulum-project.eu.

Conference: Inclusive Devolved Futures



In March 2018, the Devo Manc hub, part of Manchester Urban Institute, hosted a one-day conference in Manchester all under the theme of inclusivity in Greater Manchester devolution.

Over 100 academics, activists, consultants, executives, lobbyists, politicians, researchers, and think tankers registered and came together to discuss what an inclusive devolved future for Greater Manchester might look like and how it might be achieved.

After an opening plenary from Prof Alan Harding and a Q&A session, attendees took part in six parallel sessions discussing inclusivity in cultures, democracies, economies, education, health and transport.

The conference also served as a launch for the newly-published 'On Devo Matters'. Released three years since 'On Devo', a collection of short essays which speculated on what devolution might mean for Greater Manchester, was published, spring 2018 seemed an opportune time to revisit the key themes discussed back then and to see what has changed - and what has not - in the intervening period.

'On Devo Matters' presents the essays under the same six themes of inclusivity in cultures, democracies, economies, education, health and transport.

An online version of On Devo Matters can be found here: hummedia.manchester.ac.uk/ondevomatters.

Highlighting our local, national and international reach.

A global urban institute

International Collaborations

We contribute to The University of Manchester's internationalisation agenda in a variety of ways. Our researchers:

- study a world of cities in order to make a contribution to the advancement of more global urban studies.
- partner with business, civil society, local government, and third sector organisations in cities to co-produce knowledge.
- present their findings at conferences, seminars and workshops in cities around the world.
- lead on projects with a number of partner academic organisations from around the world.
- write their work with co-authors from cities around the world.
- come from cities around the world to work together at the Manchester Urban Institute.

University of Manchester - University of Toronto: MUI double success

MUI's links in Toronto have been given a further boost with awards for two projects following the first call of the University of Manchester - University of Toronto joint research fund.

Ian Mell, working with Tenley Conway in Toronto, has a new project titled 'Co-producing sustainable cities through Green Infrastructure best practice', which will use the funding to facilitate reflections in both

Many of our largest research projects are collaborative efforts with partner academic and non-academic organisations, with the MUI a base from which to nurture and to support these associations and relationships.

We also have a small number of strategic partners with whom researchers have longer-standing relationships, involving working across multiple research projects:

- Asian Urbanisms, National University of Singapore
- Institute of Future Cities, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
- The City Institute, York University
- The School of Cities, University of Toronto
- Urban Theory Lab, Harvard University

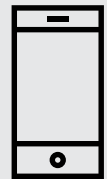
We are also working with international partners to host the Summer Institute in Urban Studies which, in 2018, was hosted at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Plans are already in progress to hold the 2020 Summer Institute in North America.

locations, and at a number of scales, and provide opportunities for research exchange and teaching between staff, students and local practitioners.

Kevin Ward, working with Theresa Enright in Toronto, has a new project on 'Governing urban infrastructures' which will enhance links between MUI and the University of Toronto's School of Cities and will establish an institutional vehicle for work on urban infrastructure among academics/faculty, graduate students, and practitioners and policymakers.

608

New Twitter followers in 2018
Total now 4780
62% UK; 38% Overseas



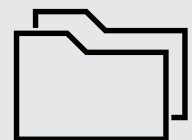
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Times our newsletters were viewed in 2018



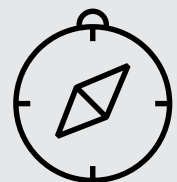
70+

Currently active research projects (at time of print)



134

Cities visited in 2017/18 academic year for workshops, seminars, lectures and more




7160

Citations in 2018
156 new papers in 2018



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