

CLACS/GURC Postgraduate Workshop: Researching Latin American Cities

**Thursday 5 November, 11:00-17:15
University of Manchester (venue tbc)**

Outline

Latin America is now the world's most urbanized region and provides one of the most diverse, exciting and rewarding fields of study for postgraduate research. With such dramatic and ongoing urban growth, Latin American cities are key touchstones for the world's future. With some of the most significant hubs in the global urban network, it is here that the challenges of global cities are at their starkest and the signposts for alternative urban futures at their most revealing.

Simultaneously experiencing globalization and deindustrialization, Latin American cities are increasingly dominated by patterns of inequality and exclusion, resulting in a concomitant expansion of informal activities, themselves accompanied by massive developments of state-built social housing and privately constructed elite enclaves on the urban periphery. In this context, specific challenges include the effects of climate change and disaster risk; housing for low-income populations; service provision; transport and mobility; and decentralised governance and conflict. At the same time, urban citizens often experience a crisis of belonging, excluded as they are from practices of cultural production and the processes that contribute to the formation of urban imaginaries.

Several recent edited collections have addressed some of these issues. For example, Cordera *et al.* (2008) offer a comprehensive perspective on aspects of urban poverty in the contemporary Latin American city. Hernandez *et al.* (2010) interrogate the condition of informality in Latin American cities. Rodgers *et al.* (2012) argue for a more systemic, multidisciplinary engagement with Latin American cities, in response to prevailing conceptions of the 'fractured' Latin American city. And Biron *et al.* (2009) have tackled some of the ways in which creative practices and culture attempt to tackle the inequalities created by existing urban power structures. However, these sets of literatures often talk across rather than with each other. Moreover, responses from the countries under study are often overlooked because of language barriers and/or limited access to wider networks.

The Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Global Urban Research Centre at the University of Manchester invite applications to participate in a workshop that will explore these challenges for Latin American cities, addressing the somewhat fragmented nature of existing literature by discussing and deploying different disciplinary approaches. The workshop is aimed at Masters and PhD students who are currently working on or who have concrete plans to work on Latin American cities. The University of Manchester has one of the UK's largest groupings of researchers working on these themes. With specialisms in anthropology, architecture, cultural studies, history, sociology and urban and development studies, the researchers collaborate via the activities of both Centres and via the University's wider urban research platform, cities@manchester. Such diversity means that this workshop will be expressly cross disciplinary and will encourage students to engage with areas of research with which they are not familiar.

The workshop aims to help current and future postgraduate researchers to:

- improve their awareness of current debates and disciplines within Latin American urban studies
- overcome some of the methodological and procedural challenges of researching Latin American cities
- place their existing fields of knowledge into cross-disciplinary dialogues with other disciplines, particularly between cultural studies and the social sciences
- reflect on strategies and outlets for publishing Latin American urban studies research
- establish and develop wider networks of research into Latin American cities within the UK.

Sessions include a keynote lecture, round table discussion groups, and Q&A. Participants may be expected to undertake preparatory exercises and readings.

Registration is free but numbers for the workshop are limited and those interested are invited to submit a CV and a 250-word statement outlining why they think the workshop will be of benefit to their studies. The CV and statement should total no more than two pages and should be submitted electronically to James.Scorer@manchester.ac.uk by **14 October 2015**.

Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
(<http://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/subjects/splas/research/centres/clacs/>)

Global Urban Research Centre
(<http://www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/gurc/>)

cities@manchester
(<http://www.cities.manchester.ac.uk>)

Draft programme

11:00-12:00 Keynote Speaker: Professor Gareth Jones (LSE)

12:00-12:15 Break

12:15-13:15 The Idea of the Latin American City (Professor Lúcia Sá and Dr. Leandro Minuchin)

13:15-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Urban Methodologies: Historical Archives and Visual Anthropologies (Dr. Francisco Eissa-Barroso and Dr. Angela de Souza Torresan)

15:00-15:30 Break

15:30-16:30 Urban Theory on and from Latin America: Cultures and Informalities (Dr. James Scorer, Dr. Melanie Lombard and Dr. Alfredo Stein)

16:30-17:15 Completing the PhD: Q&A with a recent graduate

References

Biron, Rebecca, Ed. (2009). City/Art: The Urban Scene in Latin America. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Cordera, R., P. Ramírez Kuri and A. Ziccardi, Eds. (2008). Pobreza, Desigualdad y Exclusión Social en la Ciudad del Siglo XXI. Mexico City: Siglo XXI.

Hernández, F., P. Kellett and L. Allen (2010). Rethinking the Informal City: Critical perspectives from Latin America. Oxford: Berghahn.

Rodgers, D., J. Beall and R. Kanbur, Eds. (2012). Latin American Urban Development into the 21st Century: Towards a Renewed Perspective on the City. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.