

May 2016 Newsletter

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Manchester Urban Institute announcement

We are delighted to announce that UMRI has confirmed the establishment of the Manchester Urban Institute (MUI) from 1 August 2016. This will combine the strengths of a number of research centres and groupings from across the University of Manchester, bringing together colleagues, researchers and graduate students from across the disciplines of anthropology, architecture, arts management, business studies, development studies, education, epidemiology, engineering, human geography, history, Italian studies, Latin American studies, planning and environmental management, political science, social gerontology and sociology.

The Institute will be the most intellectually diverse and the largest of its kind.

To mark the launch of the MUI there will be a number of activities and events planned over the remainder of 2016, with a public launch in early 2017 around a series of high-profile events. We will continue to keep you updated on our progress towards launching the Manchester Urban Institute. Please feel free to share this good news with colleagues.

ESRC Devo Manc Hub launched

The University has awarded Francesca Gains (Politics and policy@manchester) and Kevin Ward (Geography and cities@manchester) an ESRC Impact Accelerator Award to establish a hub for the University's impact work on Devo Manc and the Northern Powerhouse. This will run for two years, until the end of March 2018, and will build upon the large number of research underway across the university into the different aspects of devolution, including business support, crime and policing, economic development and governance, health and social care, inclusive growth and the arts and culture industries.

More information can be found at: <http://www.cities.manchester.ac.uk/impact-and-engagement/devo-manc-hub/>

Joseph Rowntree Foundation Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit launched

A new unit has been launched to ensure devolution and economic growth bring real benefits to disadvantaged people and places across Greater Manchester.

The Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit (IGAU) has been established in partnership by the independent Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) and the University of Manchester (UoM).

Launched at the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce on the morning of Friday 15 April, Ruth Lupton will lead the Unit at the university.

More information can be found at: <http://www.cities.manchester.ac.uk/igau/>

Manchester University and Chinese Academy of Sciences' ESRC-NSF Newton Fund Project

Professor Cecilia Wong and Professor Xiangzheng Deng are leading a three year research study on 'Eco-Urbanisation: promoting sustainable development in metropolitan regions of China'. This study aims to deepen our understanding of the interactive processes between urban development, resource consumption, and environmental impacts, and to identify innovative practices and effective strategies to manage and plan for sustainable urbanisation in China. Both research teams recently met in Beijing and a full programme of activities are planned.

UoM Hallsworth China Research Project

This three-year research project entitled 'Migration, Urbanisation and Governance in China' is a collaborative project between CUPS/C@M (Mark Baker and Cecilia Wong) and the Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research (Yaojun Li), supported by the University Strategic Funding on China research. The project will conduct systematic analyses on migration experiences and outcomes, and appropriate policy responses for meeting their needs in the urbanisation processes; existing and new urbanites' interaction and the implication for social cohesion in the new urban setting; and interviews with government officials in China to make effective recommendations on urban planning.

UKCRIC activities at Manchester

UK Collaboratorium for Research in Infrastructure & Cities is a major national initiative to develop research capacity on urban infrastructure: <http://ukcric.co.uk/>

JPI Urban Europe – ERA-NET call on Smart Urban Futures

MUI staff were involved in at least three projects submitted to this call for 1-2m Euro projects focusing on how smart approaches can contribute to more sustainable cities. The projects included collaborations with Universities and non-academic stakeholders across Europe. 187 proposals were submitted in the initial outline phase, with 40-50 being selected for full proposal in May/June.

Seeing from the South: an international community exchange with South African shelter activists

Sophie King and Diana Mitlin were able to use the funds from the Social Responsibility Team to bring together three activists from the South African affiliate of the international social movement Slum Shack Dwellers International (SDI) together with community activists from eight different organisations from across Greater Manchester, and from Glasgow and Teeside.

We held a half day workshop where people living in low-income areas of Manchester, Salford, Glasgow and the North East came together to share the challenges in their areas and the ways in which they were attempting to respond to those challenges.

The South Africans listened and then shared their approaches and achievements including getting 15,000 houses built since 1991 through community-led mobilisation grounded in savings-based organising. Some of the groups present had begun experimenting with savings groups and some had done so in the past. There was an excellent level of discussion about the ways in which groups might move on from individual savings groups to networking with other groups and federating upwards for greater voice for low-income urban citizens.

A blog and short film are about to be posted on the Global Urban Research Centre, the Social Action Research Foundation and the South African Alliance websites.

For more information contact Diana.Mitlin@manchester.ac.uk

People

Arrival of Cristina Temenos, new Urban Studies Foundation Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship

Dr Cristina Temenos, an alumni of the 2014 Summer Institute in Urban Studies (SIUS), will be joining us in early June on a prestigious 3 year Urban Studies Foundation Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship. Awarded her PhD from Simon Fraser University, Vancouver in 2014 and currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Northeastern University, Boston, Cristina was one of only four awards in 2015, alongside Martín Arboleda – Harvard University, USA, Sanjeev Routray – Northeastern University, USA and Richard Waldron – University College Dublin, Ireland

Cristina's project will analyse the relationship between the international emergence of austerity programs and the local politics of health service provision in three cities with particular attention to how implemented austerity-led restructuring has altered spaces of urban public health. Using Athens, Budapest and Manchester as case studies, she will identify the economic, political and social stresses involved in providing spaces of care to the urban poor as traditional forms of state service provision are disrupted through austerity-led restructuring and the pressure for innovative urban solutions and competition for resources increases.

More information about Cristina can be found at: <http://www.sfu.ca/~ctemenos/>

Visit to Wuhan Land Use Institute

Nuno Pinto was in Wuhan, China where he visited Wuhan University (WU), the Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) and the Wuhan Land Use Institute.

Nuno gave a lecture about his research on urban modelling at the State Key Lab on Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (WU) and a lecture about a comparison of urbanisation trends in Europe and China at both the School of Urban Design (WU) and the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning (HUST).

Prestigious appointment for Professor of Geography

Stefan Bouzarovski, Director of the Centre for Urban Resilience and Energy, has been appointed to the Expert Panel of the Cofund Smart Urban Futures call of JPI Urban Europe. He also gave a talk on fuel poverty to decision-makers at the Department for Energy and Climate Change, as part of a wider ESRC seminar series orientated at building impact across the science-policy interface.

CUHK-UoM Research Fund

Prof. Cecilia Wong and Prof. Mee Kam Ng of the Future Cities Institute in CUHK has secured the research fund to facilitate the exchange between the two urban institutes. The exchange will focus on 'Planning for Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood Change' and the UoM staff will visit CUHK in August this year and a reciprocal visit will be made by colleagues in CUHK next May.

Growing Impact asylum accommodation

The findings of Jonathan Darling's ESRC funded research on asylum accommodation and support structures was reported in The Independent newspaper to coincide with the publication of a paper in Transactions. The work was also featured on the website of the Royal Geographical Society and in media interviews with BBC Radio Manchester and Share Radio.

Jonathan Darling's research on urban asylum accommodation and support structures was discussed in the House of Commons as part of a debate on asylum support on February 10th. The research was given as evidence in debating the future of support structures and policy.

Simon and Hallsworth Visiting Professors 2016-2017

The Simon and Hallsworth Visiting Professor scheme runs annually to support visits to Manchester by internationally-renowned scholars

(<http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/research/funding/visiting-professorships/>). We have secured a number of these awards for visits over the next twelve months:

Hallsworth:

Professor Tim Moss (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space)

Prof Roger Keil (York University, Toronto)

Associate Prof Ute Lehrer (York University, Toronto)

Simon

Professor Xiangzheng Dung (Chinese Academy of Sciences)

Professor Stephanie Pincetl (UCLA)

Associated with each visit will be guest lectures and seminars, the details of which will be announced nearer the time.

China Political Economy Hallsworth Research Fellow

Dr. Lei Wang from the Nanjing Institute of Geography of the Chinese Academy of Sciences will come to join Planning/CUPS in October 2016 to carry out a three year research project on 'The nexus of infrastructure development and sustainable spatial growth: the case of High-speed railway development in the Yangtze River Delta, China'. This research will carry out a spatial-temporal analysis, from a political-economy perspective, to identify the sustainability growth problems associated with HSR oriented development and its underlying mechanisms. The spatial analysis is multi-scalar by focusing on examining the Yangtze River Delta and its 16 city-regions – this will involve about 70 HSR stations and their surrounding areas - in terms of their regional accessibility efficiency, social and spatial equality, and land use development.

Events

EU-China Smart City Research Opportunities

The EU-China Smart Cities Joint Laboratory is being set up to develop shared expertise and research around smart and sustainable cities and innovation. More information is available here: <http://www.eu-chinasmartcities.eu/?q=node/131>

UoM is involved in a series of research proposals relating the Joint Laboratory. If you are interested in being involved please contact James Evans (jp.evans@manchester.ac.uk)

Infrastructure

The EPSRC have sponsored a series of events at Manchester to develop work on this theme, which have been attended by many people from MUI, and have involved presentations from numerous researchers in MUI including Cecilia Wong, Jeremy Carter and James Evans. The final three events are as follows:

- Infrastructure systems and human behaviour (Alice Bows Larkin, Tobias Galla), April 27
- Latest trends in the science and practice of Infrastructure projects (Graham Winch, Andy Gale) May 18
- Open UM infrastructure research networking event (5 minute quick-fire talks by UM academics – come introduce yourself and pitch your idea to a UM-wide audience). Event introduced by vice Provost Colin Bailey. June 22

Please put the dates in your diary. The seminars generally run across lunchtime from 12-2 with a networking buffet. If you are interested in pitching an idea in the final event please contact Julien Harou (julien.harou@manchester.ac.uk).

2016 Summer Institute in Urban Studies (SIUS)

This June sees the third Summer Institute in Urban Studies (SIUS). With over 100 applications for the 25 places, competition was against tough. Like its two predecessors, this will provide an opportunity to investigate leading-edge theoretical and methodological questions, along with a range of associated career development issues, in the field of urban studies. The Institute will

feature contributions from colleagues across campus as well as from the following internationally renowned figures in urban studies: Professors Tim Bunnell (NUS), Andy Jonas (Hull), Stephanie Pincetl and Fran Tonkiss (LSE).

More information can be found at: <http://www.cities.manchester.ac.uk/events/sius/>