

MANCHESTER ARCHITECTURE RESEARCH GROUP [MARG]

MARG is an **interdisciplinary research** group driven by the understanding of **architecture as a social practice**, and as a **broad cultural, social, media and technical network** that exceeds the work of single architects or buildings as objects. We also tackle **processes of urbanisation** at a variety of scales and times, from local and immediate to the global and long term.

We study **architecture as contested practices** that encompass disciplinary and professional concerns, but we also reach far beyond them in order to address the **intersections between economy, society, politics, culture, media and environment**.

<https://www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/architecture/research/manchester-architecture-research-group/>

About 12-13 members all Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, or Professors in Architecture (SEED)
+ PhD students in Architecture

Director: Professor Léa-Catherine Szacka
Lea-catherine.Szacka@Manchester.ac.uk

Facebook
X/Twitter
Instagram

** Stay tuned for a few guest lectures in the Fall 2026 and one major day event in Spring 2027



Global Urban Futures

- Global urbanisation and urban development
- Urban inequalities and social justice
- Social movements and co-production
- Interdisciplinary membership
- Regular seminars and writing retreats

Contact: Smith Ouma
(smith.ouma@manchester.ac.uk)



The Growth and Distribution Research Group (GDI)

Macroeconomic topics

- ✓ International commodity markets
- ✓ Economics of climate change
- ✓ Connections between institutional quality and economic growth

Microeconomic topics

- ✓ Social assistance programmes
- ✓ Household finances and decision making
- ✓ The economics of education, labour markets, and income distribution

- We make use of extensive quantitative research methods (panel data, time-series, impact evaluation).
- We are very happy to talk to any student considering using some quantitative methods in their research.
- Keep an eye out for information about our seminar series (Seminars in Development Economics).
- We also organise a half-day publication workshop for students.
- Contact upasak.das@manchester.ac.uk if you want to be in the mailing list and also for more details about the group.

Migration, Refugees and Asylum research group

- GDI research group open to anyone interested in any aspect of human mobility
- Some current research themes
 - Migration and social inequalities
 - Responses to refugees and asylum in global south and north
 - Links between migration, displacement and global development
 - Migration, diaspora and different forms of citizenship
- Research network
 - Drawing together researchers from across Humanities and wider university
 - Intersections with other research groups – digital development, global production networks, trade and labour ...
 - Members have extensive network of links across world
 - Building new research collaborations, developing new research projects



Third Prize: 'Ao sol, ao vento (Al sol, al viento)' by Bruna Curcio (Brazil)



- Activities:
 - Organising seminars and workshops:
 - Staff and PGRs
 - Photo competition, arts, literature
 - Public events: “We are all migrants” next Monday 28th September University Place 12-4pm
- Convened by
 Tanja Bastia Tanja.Bastia@manchester.ac.uk
 Oliver Bakewell oliver.bakewell@manchester.ac.uk
- Please email convenors to join

WE ARE MIGRANTS TOO

UNIVERSITY PLACE FOYER
 MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, 12NOON – 4PM



Migrants have become a group demonised in politics and in the media in the UK and around the world. It is always much easier to demonise a group when they are constructed as Other and different from us. Please join us to help challenge and rethink the exclusivity and negative connotations that have become associated with ‘migration’ by helping us consider the *diversity* of this category. Please join us to consider how MANY of us are also **migrants** (albeit with very different experiences) through heritage and/ or our own journeys of mobility. Please come chat to us, get involved in some crafting and share your thoughts about and experiences of ‘migration’.

Resources, Environment and Development Research Group (Global Development Institute)

Topics we research

The political/human development/social justice dimensions of water, forests, climate change, biodiversity conservation, mining and extractives, infrastructure development, agriculture, and ecosystem restoration – mainly in countries of the Global South.

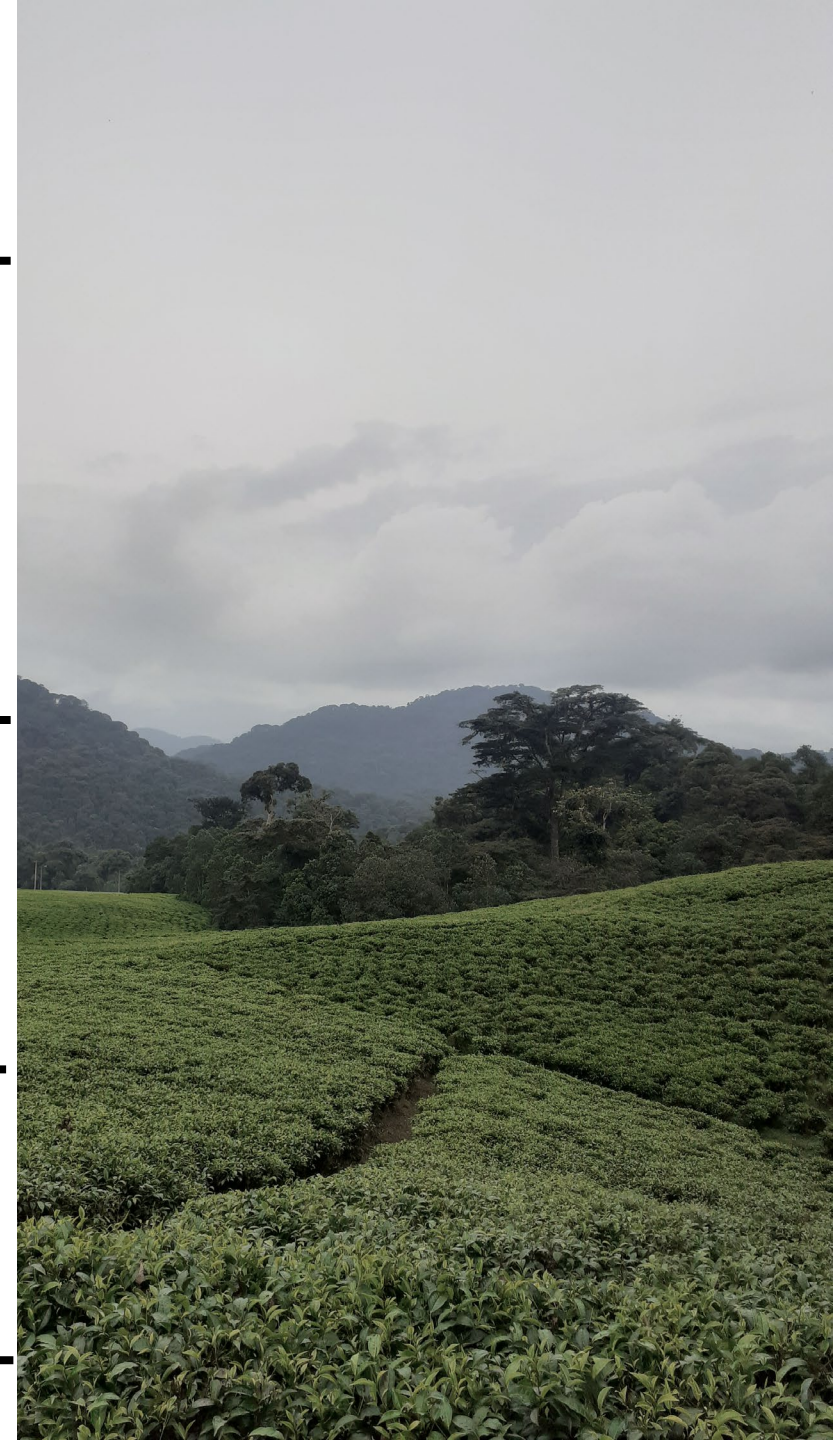
Things we do as a research group

Writing sessions; group away days; talks and paper discussions by group members and invited speakers; socials

For questions/to join the mailing list:

Email katarzyna.cieslik@manchester.ac.uk

And charis.enns@manchester.ac.uk



Environmental Processes Research Group (EPRG)

- **Main focus:** understanding fundamental environmental processes and how they relate to **contemporary environmental challenges**
- Brings together expertise from a **wide range of geographical sub-disciplines**
- Tackles challenging research questions related to **environmental risk and response**
- Main areas of interest: **peatlands** and **ecological resilience**; **wildfires** and biomass burning; **urban green infrastructure** and **nature-based solutions**
- Close collaboration with **practitioners and policymakers**
- Work covers **field experiments, laboratory analyses** and a range of environmental **monitoring and modelling** techniques

How does the group work?

- About 35 people
 - Academics, technicians, PGRs, PDRAs, honorary fellows
- Meet twice a semester
 - Discuss ongoing work, horizon scanning, critical friend, snacks
- Occasional field trip and away day

Group leads



Matthew Dennis



Richard Fewster



Quaternary Environments & Geoarchaeology



Past climates, landscapes, and/or ecosystems. And how such knowledge can inform our understanding of the Earth's climate system and climate future.



QEG Group Dinner at INQUA 2023 in Rome



QEG at the University of Manchester Festival 2026

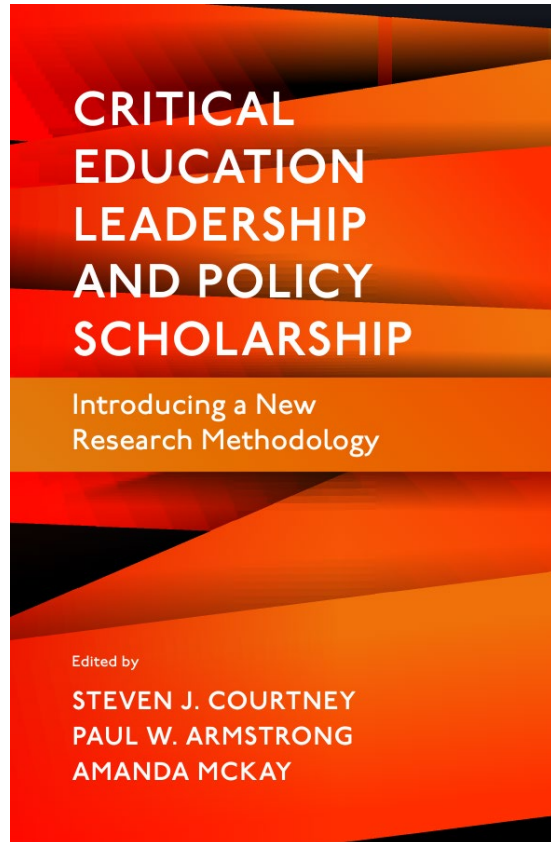
Email anna.hughes@manchester.ac.uk to join

CELP's social-science research confronts attempts to **privatise education** as a **common good** and considers how **equality** may be achieved **locally** and **globally**.

Our values are in **public education** and **social justice**: these values influence our concern with the **power relationships** in which children, young people, professionals and **communities** are located.

We explore the ways in which **advantage** and **disadvantage** are mediated by **place**, **intermediary organisations** and other **anchor institutions** to **structure agency** in **policy design**.

We focus particularly on the **practice** and **experiences** of **leaders**, **teachers**, **pastoral workers**, the **third sector** and **young people**.



Our recent research has made contributions to the following areas:

Privatisation of education nationally and globally (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#))

Education and its leadership as a **public good** (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#))

Privatising education leadership (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) and **governance** (e.g. [1](#), [2](#))

Neighbourhood assets (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#))

Roles, practices & identities of school leaders (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)) and **‘followers’** (e.g. [1](#))

Theorising education leadership & policy (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) and **change** (e.g. [1](#), [2](#))

Collaborations between schools (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#))

System leadership (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#))

Gender and education leadership (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#))

Analysing the field of ed leadership research (e.g. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), **policy** (e.g. [1](#)) and **governance** (e.g. [1](#))

Education and Psychology (E&P):

focuses on the application and critical interrogation of psychology to improve understanding of and inform provision relating to key processes, issues and inequities in educational contexts

Convenors

Kelly Burgoyne Kelly.Burgoyne@manchester.ac.uk

Nicola Lester Nicola.Lester@manchester.ac.uk

Cathy Atkinson Cathy.Atkinson@manchester.ac.uk

WELCOME EVENT: Kro Bar, Friday 25th September 1.00-2.00

We are
SMiLE


The University of Manchester SMiLE Research Centre (Studying Mental Health in Life and Education) carries out high-quality research to improve how mental health and wellbeing are understood and supported in education and in everyday life. Through this work, we hope to help create fairer conditions for children, young people, adults, and communities to thrive.

If your PhD topic relates to mental health and/or wellbeing and would like to join SMiLE please email us at smile@manchester.ac.uk



POWER, INEQUALITY & ACTIVISM

A research & scholarship community asking how power and inequality shape education — and how research can help us imagine, contest and change it.



CRITICAL



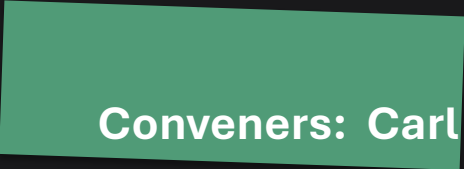
RELATIONAL



ACTIVIST



PLACE-BASED



Conveners: Carl Emery • Helen Hannah • Richard Fay

WHAT IS PIA?

PIA takes power seriously. We are interested not only in what is researched, but how research is done, whose knowledge counts and what research makes possible.

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

POWER

INEQUALITY

ACTIVISM

Critical

We work with feminist, anti-racist, decolonial and other standpoint-informed traditions that foreground power and lived knowledge.

Collaborative

PIA brings together researchers, students, practitioners, communities and scholar-activists across different fields and places.

Committed

We connect analysis with action: challenging dehumanising structures and asking what socially just education might become.

Monthly seminars create a regular space for debate, new work, book launches and conversations across research, practice and activism.

PIA IN PRACTICE

Examples of research & scholarship currently represented on the PIA website

LOCAL MATTERS

Poverty • place • social justice

Participatory research and professional learning supporting educators to become place-based social justice researchers.

ARDWICK WOMEN'S FOOTPRINTS

History • gender • activism

Participatory arts-based research recovering women's social-justice histories in Ardwick and connecting them to place.

VERY LOCAL MATHS

Youth • community • maths

Arts-engaged, youth-led community mathematics that asks what it means to become a 'community mathematician'.

TEACHING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN THAILAND

Citizenship • unrest • politics

Research on teaching politically controversial issues following social unrest and youth movements in Thailand.

L-EARNING

Gender • work • inequality

A three-year study of young women's early experiences of work and how these can contribute to later gendered inequalities.

SOLIDARITY & LIVED INEQUALITIES

Community • solidarity • action

Work exploring how mutual forms of solidarity can respond to racialised, gendered and classed inequalities in Greater Manchester.

POWER INEQUALITY & ACTIVISM

RESEARCH GROUP

piaresearchgroup.com

carl.emery@manchester.ac.uk

WHO ARE WE?

We are a research group that investigates how power and inequality create, shape and maintain the world of education.

FIND OUT MORE

Teacher Education and Professional Learning (TEPL) RSG



We aim to bring together a wide array of researchers, scholars and practitioners to explore questions related to teacher education and professional learning.

Research and scholarly activities include:

- ✓ **TEPL invites...** - online discussion-based sessions led by experts in teacher ed. and professional learning from inside and outside the University
- ✓ **Reading group meetings**- designed to promote discussion and debate
- ✓ **TEPL away days**- peer support for scholarly and research activity including abstract writing, how to write blogs, writing retreats
- ✓ **Annual TEPL conference**- showcasing TEPL members ongoing research and scholarly activity

“As an early career researcher, I found the TEPL conference to be **an incredibly welcoming and insightful experience**. It was my first time attending a TEPL event, and I felt fully **included and inspired by the supportive community**.”

“I’ve found the TEPL group to be an incredibly **welcoming and supportive space** for PGRs. I really encourage new doctoral researchers to try out new groups and opportunities like this – it’s **absolutely worth it**.”

“Presenting at the TEPL conference was a valuable opportunity to **share a part of my research, receive constructive feedback, and engage with education specialists**.”

Everyone is welcome!! Contact elizabeth.gregory@manchester.ac.uk, louisa.dawes@manchester.ac.uk, rosa.archer@manchester.ac.uk, or andrew.j.howes@manchester.ac.uk for more details.

Environment, Policy and Place RG (EPP-RG)

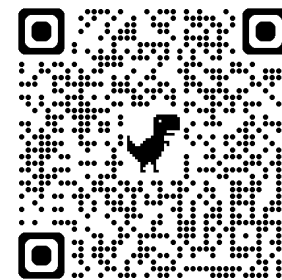


Functions:

- Improved and increased number of funding proposals
- Increased number of collaborations within the RG
- Increased understanding and visibility of RG research
- Improved PGR experience
- Increased numbers of publications
- Informing research led teaching

Contact:

Joseph.Glentworth@manchester.ac.uk



The Manchester Real Estate & Urban Economics (MREUE) Research Group



Anupam Nanda



Sotirios Thanos



Yishuang (Sherry) Xu



Vaidehi Tandel



Eero Valtonen



Ilir Nase



Sahil Gandhi

PhD students

Siqi Huang
Xiaodan Liu
Rashmi Kundu
Ishita Patil
Yangchen Liu
Maryam Almansoori

3rd annual research symposium

[Manchester Real Estate and Urban Economics \(MREUE\)](#) research group

22nd May 2026, [Humanities Bridgeford Street](#) (HBS), University of Manchester, Room HBS G7 (ground floor). The symposium will be held in person.

Each guest speaker presents their research for 40 minutes. 5 minutes for discussant comments and 5 minutes for audience questions.

Programme:

11:00-11:10. Welcome & Introduction to the Symposium

11:10-12:00. Paper 1: “[Development Delayed: The Role of Market Power and Regulatory Restrictiveness](#)” by [Xiaolun Yu](#) (University of Reading), co-authors: Michael Ball, Paul Cheshire, Christian A. L. Hilber

Discussant: [Sahil Gandhi](#) (University of Manchester)

12:00-12:50. Paper 2: “How the Grenfell Fire 'Spread' Across the UK: Housing Markets and Risk Perception” by [Rodrigo Martinez-Mazza](#) (UCL), co-authors: Stanimira Milcheva and Heli Song

Discussant: [Ron Chan](#) (University of Manchester)

12:50-14:00. Lunch and coffee *at the Quad in HBS building (ground floor lobby area)*

14:00-14:50. Paper 3: “Housing Market Response to Floods: Evidence from a Developing Country Coastal Megacity” by [Vaidehi Tandel](#) (University of Manchester), co-authors Thomas Bearpark, Amine Ouazad, and Ashwin Rode

Discussant: [Vimal Balasubramaniam](#) (Queen Mary University of London)

14:50-15:00. Break

15:00-15:50. Paper 4: “[In Search of the Matching Function in the Housing Market](#)” by [Vimal Balasubramaniam](#) (Queen Mary University of London), co-authors Cristian Badarinza and Tarun Ramadorai.

Discussant: [Sotirios Thanos](#) (University of Manchester)

15:50-16:00. Closing remarks



MREUE Invited speakers



Prof. Jean Dubé, Laval University, 4th Feb 2026

Title: Eurasian watermilfoil: a curse for waterfront properties values?
Investigation based on touristic area north of the St. Lawrence River
(Quebec, Canada)



Dr Edward Yiu, University of Auckland, 29th April

Title: RETAIL RESEARCH WITH MOBILE GEOLOCATION DATA:
INSIGHTS FROM AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

An outlet analysis for the output during the current REF period

Academic tiers differ by field. In mainstream economics, specific field guides like the [NYU Stern List](#) set the standard. For broader multidisciplinary categories tiers are typically dictated by impact metrics or the [ARES Academic Journal List](#) for real estate [1, 2, 3].

Tier 1: Top-Tier / Elite Field Journals (A+ / A) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

These are widely recognized as the absolute highest-tier field journals in economics, geography, and real estate. Publishing here carries significant weight for tenure and promotion. [1]

- **Journal of Public Economics:** The absolute premier journal for public economics.
- **Journal of Development Economics:** The leading elite journal for development economics.
- **Journal of Urban Economics (2):** The top-ranked [field journal in urban economics](#).
- **Journal of Economic Geography:** The gold standard intersecting [economics and geography](#).
- **Real Estate Economics:** The flagship journal of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association (AREUEA), rated Exceptional by ARES.

Tier 2: High-Quality Field & High-Impact Interdisciplinary Journals (A- / B+) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

These journals are highly prestigious and possess exceptionally high impact metrics, though they sit just below the elite theoretical field journals in core economics hierarchies. [1]

- **Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics:** A highly regarded, top-tier specialty journal for real estate finance.
- **Journal of Regional Science:** A historic, highly respected core journal for regional scientists.
- **Journal of Population Economics:** The premier dedicated outlet for demographic and labor population economics.
- **Marketing Intelligence & Planning:** A well-established, highly respected journal in marketing strategy and consumer analytics.
- **Cities:** A top-tier, highly cited multidisciplinary journal for urban planning and policy.
- **Land Use Policy:** An elite, high-impact interdisciplinary journal focused on social and economic land use.
- **Applied Geography:** A leading journal for spatial analysis and applied geographic research.

Tier 3: Solid, Respected / Rapid-Growth Fields (B)

These are solid, reliable peer-reviewed outlets. They are well-regarded and indexed, but they lack either the selective prestige of elite field journals or are massive "open access" platforms that prize scientific validity over high selective gatekeeping.

- **The Manchester School:** A respected, long-standing general interest economics journal.
- **Journal of Cleaner Production:** Possesses a massive impact factor, but its massive volume of publications causes many elite academic institutions to view it as a tier below elite field journals.
- **Nature Scientific Reports:** A high-volume open-access mega-journal that prioritizes scientific validity over high selective impact.
- **BMJ Open:** A reputable, high-volume open-access medical and public health journal. While it is part of the prestigious British Medical Journal group, it functions as a mega-journal focused on methodological rigor rather than extreme selectivity.
- **Journal of Digital Economy:** An emerging, highly relevant specialty journal focused on the gig economy and digital platforms. It is formally indexed as an ABDC 'B' ranked journal.
- **Project Leadership and Society:** Published by Elsevier, this is a strong Scopus Q1 journal focusing on social sciences and management. It has a high impact factor but sits outside traditional core business project management metrics.
- **J. Property Investment & Finance:** A solid, highly respected Emerald journal for applied property markets and ESG metrics, though ranked below *JREFE*.
- **Journal of Sustainable Real Estate:** An American Real Estate Society (ARES) journal. It holds [strong Q2 Scopus metrics](#) and is highly valued for niche environmental/sustainability real estate research.
- **Smart Cities:** A rapid-growth, open-access journal that holds a high Scopus Q1 ranking in Urban Studies due to massive citation volume, though some departments view MDPI outlets with caution.
- **Frontiers in Environmental Science:** A well-regarded open-access journal covering environmental policy, dynamics, and engineering with high citation metrics and standard indexing (like Scopus Q1/Q2 and Web of Science). Frontiers Media have been subject to institutional scrutiny.

Tier 4: Niche / Emerging / Lower Tier

These are peer-reviewed and indexed but carry less international institutional prestige or historical impact.

- **J. Chinese Economic and Business Studies:** A solid, niche journal focusing specifically on the Chinese economy; highly targeted but carries less general weight than global economic outlets.
- **Journal of European Real Estate Research:** An Emerald group journal providing good regional insights but ranked lower than global giants like *Real Estate Economics*.
- **Real Estate Finance:** A professional-facing niche journal. It ranks below *Real Estate Economics* in academic rigor.
- **Journal of Urban Management:** A decent peer-reviewed outlet, but it lacks the established historical impact of *Cities* or *Journal of Urban Economics*.

Spatial Policy and Analysis Laboratory



<https://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/planning/research/groups/spatial-policy-and-analysis-laboratory/>



@uomspal



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/uomspal>

1. Who We Are

- Established in 1983 by Prof Brian Robson, SPAL (formerly the Centre for Urban Policy Studies)
- A research group in the Department of Planning, Property and Environmental Management
- A home for staff and students across UoM engaged with urban and regional policy research
- 19 academic staff and post-doc researcher & Over 20 PhD students

2. What We Do (Research Themes)

- Policy, governance and placemaking
- Urbanisation and Urban Development
- Digital Planning and Data Analytics

3. Our Approach

- Integrating spatial thinking, methods & techniques into planning, policy, and governance
- Conducting interdisciplinary, policy and application-oriented research
- Bridging research, policy, and practice to provide understanding into and solutions for the grand challenges facing cities and regions

Learn More: [SPA Lab Website](#)

Directors: Prof Cecilia Wong, Prof Richard Kingston

Research Group Coordinator: Helen Zheng (helen.zheng@manchester.ac.uk)

Your PhD journey at SPA Lab

A research community around your PhD

Support for your research

Develop your ideas

Discuss questions and work in progress

Explore methods

Exchange approaches, data and experience

Find your research community

Connect with PGRs who share your interests

Ways to get involved

Research conversations

Seminars and PGR research presentations

Gathering together

Social events including seasonal gatherings

Peer connections

PGR-led discussions and informal meet-ups

Interested? Tell us about your research and what support you need.

Contact Helen Zheng: helen.zheng@manchester.ac.uk

PGR representative: Ishita Patil

