

Conference 2017: “Rethinking Global Urban Justice”

RC21 CONFERENCE 2017 “Rethinking Urban Global Justice”
University of Leeds, 11-13th September

CALL FOR SESSIONS
DEADLINE **15th** December, **2016**

<http://www.rc21.org/en/rc21-conference-2017-call-for-sessions/>

We live in an increasingly urban, globalised and unequal world facing multiple crises: from financial and political to infrastructural and ecological. In this context, cities have become both the locus of economic growth and development, and the principle site of social conflict and political contestation over spatial inequalities, belonging, environment and sustainability. Yet many of the forms these dynamics and contestations take are captured only partially or inadequately in both conventional mainstream and radical urban theory. Drawing on past RC21 conference themes, we want to call attention on ‘global urban justice’ as a term to focus our scholarship and research impact on society.

In particular we welcome sessions that will challenge and advance our knowledge and practice around the three mutually connected concepts of Global | Urban | Justice. We suggest the following sub-themes and questions:

- **GLOBAL:** Our world is at the same time global and also rooted in particular places. Migration and refugee flows, global terrorism, climate change, financial capital, social media are all stretched out and expanding as well locked-in particular spatial arrangements mediated through uneven power geometries. How can urban studies capture the multiplicity and simultaneity of global and territorially embedded processes? Which theoretical progress may expand the learning on global urban developments and further de-colonise knowledge production? What methodological advances are best suited for this theoretical endeavour?
- **URBAN:** The urban condition is not contained in cities; it overflows into rural or cybernetic spaces, and it is increasingly mediated through physical and virtual infrastructures. Urban studies have the advantage of bringing together a multitude of disciplines, but how can different theoretical corpus and methodological traditions effectively communicate with each other, thus providing a better understanding for urban studies? Which are the key challenges of the contemporary urban condition and how do they advance paradigmatic transdisciplinary shifts?
- **JUSTICE:** A multitude of calls for justice are being orchestrated by movements and grassroots groups from cities: against displacement and eviction, racism, police violence, climate change and lack of urban democracy. At the same time people are coming up with their solutions from Rojava’s experimental democracy, grassroots solidarity for refugees and migrants, self-built and cooperative housing, reclamation and self-management of food, water, energy and land in cities. How can urban scholarship engage with these struggles in a novel way and co-produce emancipator knowledge in and beyond the academy? Which new insights can we gain from the multiplicity of social struggles taking place around the Globe? What is the role of the state in creating and/or solving these injustices and how can urban scholars engage in policy making?

Send you session proposal to RC21@leeds.ac.uk by the 15th of December

Proposals for sessions will then be selected by the local organising team in collaboration with the RC21 and after that there will be a call for abstracts for the selected sessions

Types of sessions

We welcome a variety of types of sessions: from the more traditional format with around four papers in a two hour session to dynamic workshops, roundtables and sessions with audio-visual material. When you send your sessions proposal indicate clearly what type of session you are planning indicating its length and format.

Responsibilities for session convenors

Session convenors are responsible for one or more slots (the total number of slots will depend on the number of abstracts submitted at a later stage). Convenors will participate in the process of abstract selection for their sessions and the exact process for this will be discussed with the local organising team. Convenors chair their respective session(s). Convenors should not submit abstracts to their own sessions.

What a session proposal looks like

- A session title
- A 300 word short description of the topic, including a description of the format, type and expected length of the session. The content of the session should reflect links to the conference theme.
- Full contact details of the session convenor(s) (with a maximum of two convenors per session): Name, affiliation, postal address, phone number and email.

Important Deadlines

15th of December 2016– deadline for session proposals

10th January 2017– notification of selected sessions

11th January 2017- Call for papers open

28th February 2017- Deadline for abstract submission [we tend not to extend deadlines]

30th March 2017– Notification of selected abstracts

1st April 2017– Registration opens

31st May 2017- Deadline for early bid registration

30th June 2017- Deadline for extended abstract submission

31st July 2017 – papers online and conference programme

About Leeds

Scholars at [Leeds University](#) are at the forefront of rethinking these core and emerging urban studies themes, developing counter-disciplinary thinking across a porous range of topics extending beyond traditional boundaries and working beyond the academy. These qualities are being now put together into an innovative forthcoming MSc programme on Future Cities that speaks to the heart of RC21's mission. Bringing this potential together, the conference is organised by scholars at the [Geography](#), [Sociology and Social Policy](#) departments supported by a new University of Leeds cross-faculty initiative "CITIES", (with substantial presence in engineering and economics faculties) and the [Leeds Social Science Institute](#).

The quintessentially Northern post-industrial city region of Leeds provides a compelling "critical space" for reimagining urban justice within these themes, in a call for work that goes beyond description of urban problems to look at innovative initiatives from social movements, grassroots activists and public/private policy institutions and organisations alike. Its paradigmatic local histories of social decline, unrest, opposition and violence, need contrasting with its recent rebranding as a "powerhouse" with which a distant government seeks to redefine and reinsert the city in global flows.

Core local organising committee at the University of Leeds

Adrian Favell, School of Sociology and Social Policy

Sara Gonzalez, School of Geography

Michael Janoschka, School of Geography

Alex Schafran, School of Geography

Andrew Wallace, School of Sociology and Social Policy

For any communication regarding this conference please use RC21@leeds.ac.uk