Migrants in the City: New Dynamics of Migration in Urban Settings

An interdisciplinary and international conference

Rapid urbanization is radically changing the economic, financial, social, and ecological landscape of our planet. It has been identified as the single greatest development challenge and opportunity for the 21st century. International migration has been, is and will continue to be a key vector both shaping and being shaped by urbanization.

As the UN-Habitat Manifesto for Cities notes, the world has entered an urban era where cities have taken centre stage, inevitably shaping the social and spatial structures and trajectories of cities. The international conference Migrants in the City will provide a forum for the examination of key questions related to contemporary international migration in the context of urban development, residential segregation and diversity. The conference is designed to be global in focus. Contributions are welcomed that reflect on the causes and consequences of all forms of international migration (for example, for employment, for family reasons, to seek refuge, to study) in urban settings, but that also explore intersections between migration, urban development and key related issues, including:

- effects of economic restructuring;
- rising income inequality within and between host/destination countries;
- the growth of megacities and the implications for segregation and migration;
- settlement patterns, diversity, and spatial persistence;
- development and wellbeing implications of migration and segregation;
- effects of climate and environmental change;
- gender and family life of migrant communities and issues of identity;
- the meaning and practice of security;
- migration and urban governance;
- methodological challenges/innovations for migration and segregation research.
Confirmed plenary speakers:
Rt Hon Charles Clarke, former British Home Secretary
Audrey Singer, Brookings Institution, Washington DC
Madeleine Sumption, Oxford Migration Observatory
Ronald Van Kempen, University of Utrecht

Migration research at the University of Sheffield
The conference is co-organised by the Faculty of Social Science Migration Research Group, the Sheffield Methods Institute, and the ESRC Applied Quantitative Methods Network, with additional support from the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Sheffield.

There is a long tradition of migration research in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Sheffield, which is a large and diverse grouping of thirteen departments and one institute, offering research-led degree programmes, including ‘classical’ social science departments and several other major subject areas, some of which are distinctive to Sheffield.

Proposing a panel, paper or poster
We encourage proposals from contributors at all career stages and from diverse disciplinary backgrounds.

Submitting a panel session proposal
Panel proposals should address the conference themes, identified above. Panels are sessions of one and a half hours with a theme and an identified responsible chairperson(s) and should consist of a series of pre-selected speakers and papers (3-4), or may consist of a more innovative format, such as a conversation or debate across a number of speakers, for example.

Please submit one side of A4 including the name of the coordinator, details of the thematic focus, the participants and the format.

Inclusive Society.

World class research, making a difference.
Submitting a paper proposal

Those who prefer to submit a paper should produce an abstract of around 250 words, including the paper title, the author/s, your affiliation and up to five key words. You should also indicate which of the conference theme/s (see above) the paper will address to help the committee ensure that you are located in an appropriate track.

Submitting a poster proposal

Postgraduate students are invited to submit proposals for a Poster Session. Posters will be displayed on bulletin boards and usually include a brief narrative paper mixed with illustrations, tables, graphs, and similar presentation formats. Posters will be displayed for the duration of the conference, so that interested persons can view the work even when the presenters are not physically present. Proposals for Poster presentations should include the following: title of poster; summary of project (max. 250 words); name of presenter(s) and affiliation(s); contact details.

Panel session proposals and abstracts should be sent to migrantsconference@sheffield.ac.uk by Friday 29 May 2015. Please submit all proposals in Microsoft Word format.

The Conference Programme will be finalised in June and participants notified shortly thereafter.