

WORKSHOP

Thinking about urban infrastructure: what can we learn from intersectionality?

13th March 2018, Urban Institute, University of Sheffield

Abstract: Urban services do not just mirror urban inequalities, but they are also key in reproducing social, political and spatial exclusions. Inequalities in service provision relate to questions of access, use, and control, which translate in the lack of adequate and affordable services for urban citizens. Inherent to this are also questions about circulating models and imaginaries of service provision, and the extent which these relate to the experiences of different cities and people, as well as their needs and aspirations. Intersectionality theory is a crucial contribution from feminist studies which can help thinking urban infrastructure differently. Intersectionality helps us moving beyond the analysis of discrete social categories such as gender, class, race, disability, age etc. The question is not how these separate categories add to each other, but rather, how they are experienced simultaneously as a unique form of deprivation or oppression. This theory has potential to helps us thinking of inequalities in urban service provision. While there is not an identifiable field of 'intersectionality in urban infrastructure' there is clearly a body of research that engages with this question either directly or indirectly (Kulkarni, O'Reilly, & Bhat, 2017; Mollett & Faria, 2013; Sultana, 2009; Truelove, 2011). In this workshop, we attempt to bring disparate thinkers to consolidate this area of studies.

This event was organised under the British Academy project '*Participatory methodologies to address intersectionality challenges in urban service provision*'. The research team is composed of: Vanesa Castán Broto (Principal Investigator, University of Sheffield), Susana Neves Alves (University of Sheffield), Nicholas Phelps (UCL), Jo Howard and Jackie Shaw (Institute of Development Studies).



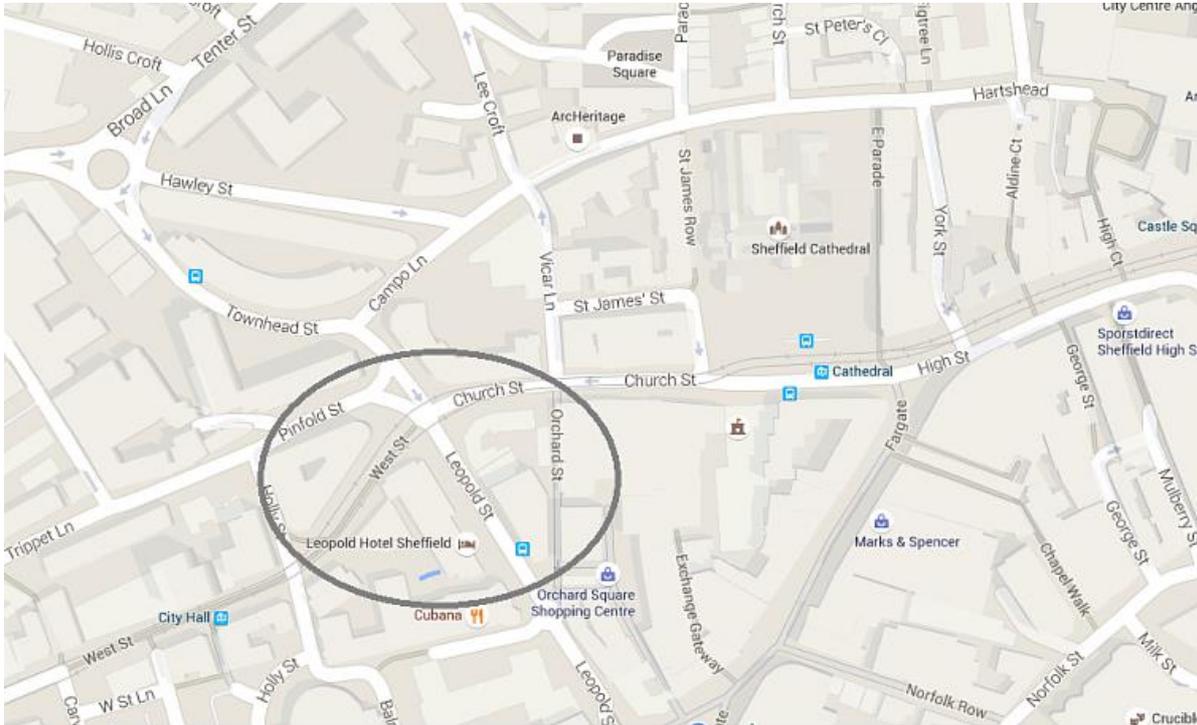
PROGRAMME

- 11h45 – 12h00 Welcome by Vanesa Castán Broto and Susana Neves Alves
- 12h00 – 13h00 Lunch
- 13h00 – 15h00 **Panel I: Intersectionality and the right to the city**
Discussant: Paula Meth (University of Sheffield)
- *'Changing infrastructure of LGBT life'*
Gavin Brown (Department of Geography, University of Leicester)
 - *"Urban/Digital Infrastructures of (In)Visibility"*
Juan Miguel Kanai (Department of Geography, University of Sheffield) and
Gilberto Vieira (Youth, Data and Communications Manager, Observatório das
Favelas, Brazil)
 - *'Disconnected infrastructures: bodies, technology and the political economy
of violence in urban life'*
Ayona Datta (Department of Geography, King's College London)
 - *'Urban Planning and the limits to intersectionality'*
Yasminah Beebeejaun (Bartlett School Planning, University College London)
- 15h00 – 15h30 Coffee Break
- 15h30 – 17h30 **Panel II: Intersectionality and the provision of urban services**
Discussant: Beth Perry ((University of Sheffield)
- *'Situating the Urban Political Ecology of Water: Embodied Infrastructure and
the Intersectionality of Inequality in Delhi'*
Yaffa Truelove (Department of Geography, University of Colorado Boulder)
 - *'Claiming Water, Constructing Urban Citizenship: Intersectional Embodiments
of Gender, Class, and Water Services in the Global South'*
Farhana Sutlana (Department of Geography, Syracuse University)
 - *'Getting poor women and men out of Urban risk traps in Africa: building
collective capacity of informal settlements in Sierra Leone and Malawi'*
Emmanuel Osuteye (Development Planning Unit, University College London)
 - *'"On load shedding days, it becomes a hell of quarrels": urban violence from
an intersectional perspective in Pakistan and beyond. What we know, and
what we want policymakers to do about it.'*
Amiera Sawas (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)
- 17h30 – 18h30 End/ Refreshments
- 19h Official Dinner (speakers only)

Event will take place at *Oak Suite, The Leopold Hotel in Sheffield* (see below for directions and map)



Leopold Hotel Sheffield
2 Leopold Street
Leopold Square
Sheffield
S1 2GZ



Walking Directions from Sheffield Station

Sheffield Station is approx 10 - 15 minutes.

- Leave the Sheffield Railway station from the main entrance, you will see a large fountain on your left hand side
- Cross at the pedestrian crossing heading towards the Howard Pub on to Howard Street
- Continue up the hill towards Sheffield Hallam University building which is on your right
- Cross over the road using the pedestrian crossing and walk up the ramp which leads on to Surrey Street
- Continue along Surrey Street, passing the Town Hall on the left
- You will see a shop called USC on the right and HL Brown on the left, each shop being on opposite sides of Leopold Street
- Continue up Leopold Street and the Leopold Hotel is on the left hand side opposite All Bar One.

Tram from Sheffield Station

- Catch the blue line service direction 'Malin Bridge' to the City Hall stop.
- Exiting the tram turn left and walk 200m down West Street.
- Leopold Street is first right with the hotel entrance 50m on your right