

# LIVABLE CITIES - Critiquing the Urban Renaissance

**University of Salford, Manchester, UK**

**17-19 June, 2026**

Abstracts: 1 April, 2026 [Final]

<https://amps-research.com/conference/manchester-livable-cities/>

## **CALL:**

Some 25 years ago Richard Rogers proposed an urban renaissance for cities across the UK. It was a moment of optimism for an urbanised world that, a decade ago. The intervening years have brought many criticisms, with cities being seen as places of inequality, social injustice, unsustainability and sites of global health problems. They can, of course, also be places of economic opportunity, cultural creativity, intelligent design and cutting edge architecture and planning. They are, almost by definition, places of contradiction, contrast and contestation.

This conference is interested in diverse readings of the places we inhabit. It is interested in critiques of urban regeneration and creative economies, whether they come from the North or South America. It seeks debate on tourism and its impacts from across Europe, Asia and beyond. It welcomes examinations of the urban economies and smart cities of the digital age, whether stemming from Silicon Valley or Taiwan. It is concerned with health and cultural policies globally, from Africa to the Middle East.

Engaging with these questions from the city of Manchester, UK, the conference location is a perfect example of the complexity that typifies urbanisation. A quintessential post-industrial city, it is the birth place of the industrial revolution. One of the UK's most important historic locations, it is a gateway to the north of England and its iconic country estates and landscapes. A national and global transport hub, it is central to the UK economy. However, alongside these successes are inevitably the long-term problems that typify cities the world over: gentrification, unsustainable design, social divisions, immigration and unaffordable housing, to name but a few.

From this location, the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Livable Cities Conference, 'Critiquing the Urban Renaissance' explores how we live in cities from a range of disciplinary perspectives:

**Architecture, Planning, Sociology, History, Sustainability, Public Health, Infrastructure, Culture** and more.

## **ORGANISERS:**

University of Salford, AMPS, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, UCL Press

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