



Call for Papers Ethnography, diversity and urban space

COMPAS, University of Oxford
22-23 September 2011

The intensification of global flows in the current period has led scholars to describe cities like London as 'super-diverse': a 'diversification of diversity', with a population characterised by multiple ethnicities, countries of origin, immigration statuses, and age profiles (Vertovec 2007). The diversification of diversity in cities opens up two key research agendas: 1) It disturbs traditional ethnographic modes of research. Super-diverse neighbourhoods are more local than ever, but also increasingly transnational. The mythic lone researcher, immersed in a bounded 'community', cannot represent this reality. New modes of collaboration and new forms of the ethnographic imagination are required; 2) Super-diversity is a spatial and an urban process. How are emerging and changing forms of multicultural structured in and by space, and how is urban space structured in and by diversity's multiplication? How is diversity experienced locally, and what new forms of local belonging emerge?

The aims of this conference are: to address the missing dimension of migration and mobility in the literature on urban space, and the missing dimension of spatiality in the literature on diversity; and to develop new modes of inquiry appropriate to the contemporary challenge of super-diversity.

Confirmed keynote speakers: Ash Amin (Geography, Durham) and Nina Glick-Schiller (Research Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures, Manchester).

We invite proposals for papers which investigate aspects related to the conference themes and we welcome in particular proposals that focus on the following areas:

- Understanding belonging and diversity in complex urban spaces
- Changing practices of fieldwork and new and old modes of ethnographic investigation

Abstracts from early career researchers are especially welcome.

If you wish to present a paper please submit an abstract (max 250 words) and a brief CV (1 page) to vanessa.hughes@compas.ox.ac.uk by Monday 6th June 2011. Participants will be notified if their paper has been included by Friday 17th June. Full written papers should be submitted by 30th August 2011 for pre-circulation among participants.

Please note that we can only accommodate a limited number of papers in the conference programme.

It is anticipated to turn conference proceedings into one or two journal special issues in high impact peer-reviewed journals. Papers should therefore be based on original research and should not have been published already or be under consideration for publication elsewhere. Please note that inclusion in any publications arising from the conference will be subject to peer review.

The conference is organised by Mette Berg, Ben Gidley, Vanessa Hughes, and Nando Sigona (COMPAS, Oxford University) and is part of the work programme of COMPAS's research cluster on urban change and settlement.

For further information about the conference and COMPAS' research on urban change and settlement, please visit <http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/research/urbanchange/>