



IGU Urban Commission Meeting 2011

Canterbury Christ Church University

Canterbury, UK

August 14-20, 2011.

IGU - Urban Geography Commission 2008-2012
EMERGING URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

- This commission is designed to encourage geographical research on urban systems and new urban problems, and to further the exchange of findings among urban geographers from many countries.
- Since cities, with their distinctive processes and problems, are major features of the modern world, it is vital to have a commission that focuses on their characteristics, problems and solutions in a comparative global context.
- A key aspect of the new commission will be the encouragement of younger scholars to participate in our meetings.

The following pages include an outline of the meeting. The outline includes information about the conference themes, a conference and excursion schedule, costs of the conference, and how to get there.

Further and more detailed information will be available in early December.

However at this point if you are interested in attending and wish to either make an expression of interest in attending or have further questions please contact

daniel.donoghue@canterbury.ac.uk and include IGU in the email subject area.

Research Theme of the Urban Commission for 2008-2012 EMERGING URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

The Urban Commission has identified 3 main issues :

- interdependent urban systems;
- change and conflict within cities;
- sustainability and social justice.

In addition to these three main issues the Urban Commission has outlined seven specific urban problems that require further investigation. These problems include:

- more complex urban systems;
- contested social spaces;
- creating sustainability;
- dilemmas of aging cities;
- increasing insecurity;
- urban heritage and conservation;
- urban governance

Canterbury Meeting of the Urban Commission 2011

The City of Canterbury is located less than 100km from London. Despite this proximity to a pre-eminent global city Canterbury and its surrounding region suffer from the effects of peripherality. This paradox lends itself to geographical inquiry and guides the theme of this Urban Commission meeting.

Urban Transformations: Exploring Local, Regional and Global City Regions.

The theme Urban Transformations: Exploring Local, Regional and Global City Regions encompasses a wide range of research currently undertaken by members of the Commission and provides a framework within which the three main issues identified above can be explored. The City region concept allows researchers to investigate not just the immediate area of 'the city' but to expand their horizons at a range of geographical scales to look at the vast network of interactions that occur within and between settlements of all sizes within the wider hinterlands of urban places. As such this theme keeps in mind the rationale of the Commission to explore the emerging trends that are rapidly transforming the character of cities and their hinterlands. Although the various processes causing urban transformations are common to many countries, changes in urban systems and the internal geography of cities as well as concerns regarding sustainability, take different forms in different places. This is particularly true for city regions where one can find evidence for remoteness, peripherality and even exclusion among smaller centres despite their immediate locations within spheres of influence of larger metropolitan centres.

This meeting will provide the opportunity for research and ideas from around the world to be brought together so that we may all learn from each other's experiences. As many of the transformations taking place in our cities are contingent upon local, regional, national and

international circumstances it is appropriate that any attempt to explore urban transformations, inter-relationships and interdependencies are conducted within their appropriate regional contexts.

In keeping with the present objectives of the commission two specific urban problems have been chosen as issues – more complex urban systems and creating sustainability. The meeting will focus on complex urban systems and their transformations and will explore the way in which sustainable solutions for transformation are developed. Within these broad issues a number of specific research problems and topics are identified. These problems include both theoretical and applied issues derived from the emerging urban transformations. The meeting will focus on these issues, although not exclusively. The participants will be able to explore the global and regional nature of the urban transformations, to identify solutions to emerging problems, and to create new research networks among urban geographers in various countries and continents.

In keeping with the Theme and Issues of the meeting papers and presentations on the following Topics are most welcome.

- Global Cities and Networks
- Exploring Global, National, Regional and Local Urban Systems
- Urban Regeneration in City Regions - From Small (Seaside) Towns to Metropolitan Mega Projects
- Complex Urban Systems: Socio, Economic, Political and Environmental change
- City Regions and Sustainability
- Periurban geographies – Sustainability at the boundary of cities and city regions
- Problems of peripherality within City Regions
- History, Culture and Tourism: Sustainable Futures for Cities?
- Sustainable Cities: Socio, Economic, Political and Environmental Change
- New Techniques for Urban Analysis

A number of these topics will be examined during a series of scientific excursions that integral to the meeting. These excursions are included in the conference fee and constitute an important part of the meeting. There will be no discount for not going on excursions.

In addition to the Academic Schedule and the Scientific Excursions there will be a full programme of events for accompanying persons. This will include two dedicated days of visits just for them. The scientific excursions will also cater for accompanying persons.

Meeting Schedule

Sunday August 14	Arrival, Registration, Business Meeting and Evening Reception
Monday August 15	All Day – Academic Sessions Accompanying Persons – excursion 1
Tuesday August 16	Scientific Excursion for all – London – Dome, Canary Wharf, Olympic venues, regeneration, Thames Gateway Group evening meal
Wednesday August 17*	Morning – Academic Sessions Afternoon – Walking Tour of Historic Canterbury and Cathedral Visit.
Thursday August 18	All Day – Academic Sessions Accompanying Persons – excursion 2
Friday August 19	Scientific Excursion for all – East Kent – coastal town decline, growth centres, planning issues, and places of interest – White Cliffs of Dover and Dover Castle. Banquet Dinner
Saturday August 20	Morning – Sessions Afternoon – Business Meeting and departure

All presentations will be held on campus where accommodation is located.

Accommodation

75 single rooms in the University Halls of Residence on Campus have been reserved for bed and breakfast. In addition there will be a number of hotels available, for guests to book if they so wish, all within 1km of the University. As Canterbury is a tourist town and the conference is being held in the middle of the summer holidays booking early should be a priority. The next circular will have more details but estimated costs for a double room in Canterbury are in the region of £90 to £120 per night sterling.

Meeting Costs

	UK £	€	US \$
IGU Urban Meeting	£450	€570	\$700
Accommodation (on campus)	£300	€400	\$500
Accompanying Persons	£350	€450	\$550

Packages

Option 1 – Meeting, Excursions, Campus Accommodation, Evening Meal, Banquet (all inclusive)

Option 2 – Acc Persons, Excursions, Campus Accommodation, Evening Meal, Banquet (all inclusive)

Option 3 - Meeting, Excursions, Campus Accommodation

Option 4 – Acc Persons, Excursions, Campus Accommodation

Option 5 - Meeting, Excursions, Evening Meal, Banquet – (arrange own accommodation)

Option 6 - Acc Persons, Excursions, Evening Meal, Banquet – (arrange own accommodation)

Package Costs

Option 1	£700	€900	\$1050	All inclusive
Option 2	£620	€800	\$970	All inclusive
Option 3	£680	€875	\$1020	No Meals option
Option 4	£600	€775	\$940	No Meals option
Option 5	£450	€570	\$700	Off campus option
Option 6	£350	€450	\$550	Off campus option

These are the early bird prices. Bookings made after March 31, 2011 will incur an additional fee of £70, €90 or \$ 110.

Off Campus Accommodation

Make your own arrangements – 3 suggested locations below, all within easy walk of the campus. You will need to get in touch with these hotels as soon as possible as it is a very busy time of year and Canterbury does not have many hotel rooms!

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge – email – stav@canterbury-cathedral.org
www.canterburycathedralodge.org

Ebury Hotel & Cottages email – info@ebury-hotel.co.uk
www.ebury-hotel.co.uk

Best Western Abbots Barton Hotel email – sales@abootsbarntonhotel.com
www.abbotsbarntonhotel.com

Getting to Canterbury

Canterbury is easily accessed from all 5 London airports by rail and road. Canterbury is 60 miles from Central London.

From Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted and City Airports take train or London underground to Central London. Go to either Victoria or St. Pancras stations and take train to Canterbury.

From Luton airport you must take a bus to central London (Victoria). You can then get to Canterbury by train or bus.

The train from St. Pancras is high-speed (one hour) but comes into West Station Canterbury (which is further from campus than where the trains from Victoria Station arrive). Still only a 20 minute walk across the city.

Trains from Victoria arrive at East Station Canterbury (travel time 1 hour 20 minutes) but this will be nearer Campus and if you arrive Sunday afternoon it is only 300 metres from where the registration and arrival reception is being held.

From the registration and reception site transport will be arranged for members to take them to their chosen accommodation.

Trains from continental Europe (Eurostar) stop at Ashford, Kent where one can change trains for Canterbury West Station (20 minute train journey from Ashford to Canterbury).

For groups of two or more it may be just as economical and much quicker to take a taxi from the airport to Canterbury. These can be arranged in advance through the meeting coordinator.