

Urban Economic Resilience and Adaptability

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In view of increasing concern about 'geographies of discontent' and 'places left behind' (Brookings, 2018), we need to better understand the underlying factors which enable local economies to be resilient and adaptable to global processes of change - both trade-related shocks (e.g. following Brexit) and ongoing global 'megatrends', such as automation; climate change and population ageing (OECD, 2019).

New approaches to understanding economic resilience are emerging from the fields of both evolutionary economic geography and spatial analysis. For example, it is now well-established that the branching of local economic sectors over time leads to a set of embedded knowledge and capabilities which can both restrict and enable local adaptation and diversification (Martin, 2011; Boschma, 2015; Diodato and Weterings, 2014). At the same time, Space Syntax analysis has revealed the impact of multi-scale connectivity on opportunities for generating new forms of interaction, innovation-diffusion and exchange (Hillier, 2016; Penn et al, 2009). The spatial configuration of the built environment can be either 'generative' or conservative in respect of locking areas into former patterns of development or supporting new economic emergence and change. This workshop aims to connect and engage these strands of research and others looking at local and urban economic resilience from a variety of perspectives.

This one-day workshop will be introduced by a keynote from Professor Alan Penn¹ (The Bartlett, UCL), followed by eight 30 minute paper presentations and a 'fish-bowl' workshop: an innovative discussion format which engages participants in a way which generates emergent thinking and new ideas.

References

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¹To be confirmed but interest expressed

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