

Call for Papers

## **Edge Conditions: Invented Peripheries, Hidden Centres**

**Proposals are being invited for the 15th Australasian Urban History / Planning History conference to be held in Launceston, Tasmania from 5-7 February 2020.**

Australia is a nation of 'coast-huggers', with the vast bulk of its population residing within 50km of the sea. The geographical centre of the continent constitutes its demographic periphery. This apparent inversion, in which an edge condition fosters fecundity and the centre is displaced to a margin, neatly encapsulates the thematic focus for the 2020 iteration the Urban History Planning History conference. To be held in Launceston, Tasmania, a regional town within an entire state classified as 'regional' – a periphery of a periphery – the conference aims to explore the formation, conditions and potentials of edges, margins, peripheries and islands in illuminating the understanding of cities and urban phenomena.

This thematic is open to both literal and metaphorical readings. The 'edge conditions' of the title may be understood in geographic, demographic, historical, spatial, disciplinary, or methodological terms. Geographically inspired papers may focus on peri-urban zones or suburbia, settlement and mobility patterns mediating edges and centres, forgotten projects or abandoned sites. Demographic approaches may highlight the experience and environments of marginalised groups, ethnic or religious minorities, indigenous or migrant communities. Edge conditions in historical terms may suggest thresholds or 'tipping points' associated with technological, institutional, or environmental change. Spatial and architecturally-oriented studies may consider how edge conditions at various scales may operate variously as transitional or liminal spaces, 'terrains vague', contact zones, public spaces, or delineations of culture and identity. Consideration of edge conditions in disciplinary and methodological terms invites productive engagements with alternate ways of researching the shaping of cities, whether through landscape studies or land economics; actor-network theory or action research.

Our general interest is to explore the valency of edge and periphery in our urban histories, and with it the potential recasting of our imaginative geographies of distance and propinquity.

Notwithstanding the thematic prompt detailed above, submissions on all other aspects of urban and planning history in Australia and New Zealand will also be welcomed.

### **Conference Format**

In the interests of an agile process and a generative gathering, and taking a view of the value of conferences as spaces for developing work-in-progress, we are adopting a simple single-stage review process, reviewing and selecting proposals based on submitted elaborated abstracts of up to 600 words. Full papers and/or presentations will not be further reviewed prior to the conference. Presentation materials will be disseminated in a conference pack, and it is our intention that productive in-situ encounters across papers and between scholars, particularly those engaging the theme, shall form the basis for future publication. We encourage work from doctoral candidates, early-career researchers, local historians, independent scholars, in addition to established and emerging academics from across the Australasian region.

We invite proposals for both individual presentations and grouped thematic panels of up to four presenters. Proposals for roundtables are also welcomed, and will be assessed on their merits.

Further details, including submission instructions, conference pricing and program updates will be posted to the conference website. Prospective attendees are advised to check the site regularly.

### Key Dates

6 Sept 2019	Call for Papers disseminated
1 Nov 2019	Abstract submissions received
15 Nov 2019	Abstract acceptances notified
24 Jan 2020	Paper/presentation materials submitted (for inclusion in conference pack)
5 Feb 2020	Conference opens

### Conference Program

Wed 5 Feb 2020	4:00pm~	Registration opens
	6:00pm~8:00pm	Welcome drinks
Thu 6 Feb 2020	9:00am~10:30am	Day 1 – Morning Sessions 1
	11:00am~12:30pm	Day 1 – Morning Sessions 2
	2:00pm~3:30pm	Day 1 – Afternoon Sessions 1
	4:00pm~5:30pm	Day 1 – Afternoon Sessions 2
	6:00pm~7:00pm	Keynote Speaker 1 // Collateral Program 1
	7:30pm~10:00pm	Conference Dinner
Fri 7 Feb 2020	9:00am~10:20am	Day 2 – Morning Sessions 1
	10:40am~12:00pm	Day 2 – Morning Sessions 2
	12:15pm~1:45pm	UHPH 2022 Working Lunch
	2:00pm~3:20pm	Day 2 – Afternoon Sessions 1
	3:40pm~5:00pm	Day 2 – Afternoon Sessions 2
	5:15pm~6:15pm	Keynote Speaker 2 // Collateral Program 2
	6:15pm~6:30pm	Conference close and farewell
	6:30pm~	(Free evening program – informal gatherings)

### Organising Committee

- Associate Professor **David Beynon**
- Dr **Helen Norrie**
- Professor **Stefan Petrow**
- Dr **Andrew Steen**
- Professor **Julian Worrall**

### Enquiries

General enquiries may be made to the conference email address: [uhph2020@utas.edu.au](mailto:uhph2020@utas.edu.au).  
A conference webpage will be established at [www.utas.edu.au/urban-history-planning-history-conference-2020](http://www.utas.edu.au/urban-history-planning-history-conference-2020), and will be the principal channel for disseminating updates. Prospective attendees are advised to check the site regularly.

### Conference Host

Architecture & Design. School of Technology, Environments and Design. University of Tasmania  
Architecture & Design Building, Inveresk Campus, Launceston, Tasmania  
[www.utas.edu.au/architecture-design](http://www.utas.edu.au/architecture-design)

*This conference forms part of a year-long program of school initiatives to mark two key anniversaries for architectural education in Tasmania: the 70th anniversary of the establishment of an academic program in Architecture (in 1949), and the 50th anniversary of the elevation of Barry McNeill (in 1969) to lead its radical transformation under the banner of Environmental Design. Entitled 'Inhabit', the program includes exhibitions, conferences, alumni gatherings, and research projects, both looking back to celebrate our journey and achievements, and casting forward to develop new potentials and aspirations.*

