

CALL FOR PAPERS

Beyond 'deficits and dividends'

Interdisciplinary and critical perspectives on migration-driven superdiversity

9-11 September 2020

University of Birmingham

[DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 15 APRIL 2020]

Over the past three decades, the size, speed and spread of human mobility has grown in significance. New routes, channels, connections and migration hubs have emerged, while existing ones have experienced unprecedented changes and pressures.

The sedimentation of these changes over time are transforming local communities and the dynamics and politics of diversity at destination as well as at origin, as shown by the growth of diaspora institutions over the same period. Worldwide, these migration-driven trends are transforming societies in complex ways spanning social, demographic, cultural, economic and political structures.

Not surprisingly, these processes have been met with mixed responses. Anti-immigration sentiments, racism, religious intolerance and xenophobia are common currency in mainstream political discourse in several countries, which is increasingly polarised along a nationalist vs globalist binary. Rapid and sustained changes in population's diversity pose challenges and opportunities for societies – including public services, labour markets, political movements and intergeneration relations.

The Institute for Research into Superdiversity at the University of Birmingham is organising the 6th International interdisciplinary conference on causes, consequences, challenges and opportunities emerging from migration-driven superdiversification.

We intend to provide an opportunity for participants (scholars, policymakers, practitioners and civil society organisations) not only to examine both deficits and dividends, recognising that these are multi-faceted and frequently inter-connected, but also to put forward alternative ways to frame the debate away from simplistic binaries.

The conference will be held on the **9-11th September 2020**. It will feature keynote speeches, invited plenaries, academic panels and a policy roundtable on topics at the forefront of the superdiversity research agenda. We are inviting paper and panel submissions on the following themes:

- Diversity and mobility in hostile environments
- Encounters, conviviality and social networks
- Multi-scalar politics and policy of diversity in more and less diverse contexts
- Cities, neighbourhoods and places of welcome and sanctuary. Urban renewal, housing markets, neighbourhood effects and place making
- Economic benefits of diversity and immigration including innovation, entrepreneurship and skills provision
- Nexus between labour/skill shortages in aging countries and migration and its long term consequences
- Creative methods and experimental approaches to the study of migration and superdiversity
- Rethinking cohesion and integration in an age of rapid demographic change
- Superdiversity and intercultural communications: Discourse, rhetoric and everyday narratives
- Representing superdiversity: Art, culture and literature
- Child and youth migration, social mobility and intergenerational dynamics
- Intersecting gender, race, class and sexuality
- Attitudes, beliefs, contestations and responses to superdiversity
- Identity politics, rights claim and citizenship
- Welfare state contributions and pressures: Organisational and institutional changes

We welcome academics from a range of disciplines including but not exclusively anthropology, sociology, social policy, cultural studies, geography, linguistics, history, psychology, economics, business, medicine, demography, politics, and development studies, policymakers, and practitioners to submit innovative papers and panel proposals.

Doctoral researchers are very welcome to submit their work. The conference will be an opportunity for meeting early career researchers and senior academics working on superdiversity.

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts should be submitted electronically, using the [on-line submission system](#) by **15th April 2020**.

Paper proposals should include an abstract (max 250 words) and short biographical note (max 100 words) about the author including their current position and interest in the field of diversity and migration. The selected papers will be grouped by themes in parallel sessions. Each presentation will last 15-20 minutes and followed by 10 minutes discussion.

Panel proposals should include the names of three speakers and a chairperson, an overview abstract (250 words), an abstract for each associated paper (250 words) and short biographical note (100 words) for each author. Each panel will be allocated a 90 minute slot.

Workshop proposals: We welcome proposals for workshops with a dialogical format. In this case, please submit a longer abstract (500 words) and short biographical notes (100 words each) for each author. Workshops may include up to 6 speakers, excluding the chair(s). Each workshop will be allocated a 90 minute slot.

Applicants will be informed about the selection committee's decision by **Friday 8th May**.

Presentation Format: The selected papers will be grouped by themes in parallel sessions. Each presentation will last 15-20 minutes and followed by 10 minutes discussion.

Conference publications: delegates will be offered the opportunity after the conference to submit their papers for consideration to be included in an edited book and/or journal special edition.

Other: Travel and accommodation expenses should be covered by the participants. A concessionary registration fee will be available for early career participants, civil society organisations, and participants from low income countries.

Further info: please contact Ann Bolstridge, IRiS Administrator: a.bolstridge@bham.ac.uk

[Visit the conference Website](#)