



Global Urban Challenges: The Role of Research Universities

International Conference | November 18-20, 2013 | Chicago, Illinois

Conference Summary

In 2011, the United Nations projected that nearly two-thirds of the world's population will be living in cities by 2050. Yet the physical and social infrastructures of most cities are ill-prepared to absorb the expected influx of new residents. This conference will bring to Chicago representatives from leading international research universities to discuss the challenges of urban growth, and more specifically, the role that university-based research plays in understanding and addressing challenges confronting cities in the areas of health, education, and urban systems. Staffed with expert faculty members and thought leaders on these issues, research universities are especially qualified to develop new knowledge and creative solutions that could be beneficial to cities around the world.

This three-day international conference will pose in a series of plenary and working group sessions questions about the role of the research university in better understanding current and future urban issues—particularly urban health, urban education, and urban planning—and in translating research findings into improved urban policy and institutions. Leading experts, practitioners and administrators from universities around the world will discuss the interactions and structures of the university-government relationship, examine research methods and the use of data, and explore the role of technology in addressing challenges posed by urbanization.

The world's leading research universities can serve as a valuable asset as cities tackle urban challenges. This conference aims to frame the challenges in areas of urban health, urban education, and urban planning; serve as a forum to exchange ideas and research expertise; and provide opportunities to forge institutional or individual collaborations. A final conference report will be drafted to summarize the proceedings and highlight initiatives taking place around the world.

The conference is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Northern Trust, the Patrick G. and Shirley Welsh Ryan Foundation, the Segal Family Foundation and the Spencer Foundation.

Agenda

Monday, November 18

- 2:00 p.m.** Meet for bus departure
The Fairmont Hotel, 200 North Columbus Drive, Chicago, Illinois
Meet at B-2 level of Fairmont Hotel
- 2:15 p.m.** Bus departs from Fairmont Hotel to Northwestern University
- 3:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.** Northwestern University Campus Tour (via bus)
- 4:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m.** **Working Group Session I: Understanding University Relationships with Key Institutions in Addressing Challenges Posed by Urbanization**
At Northwestern University
Norris University Center, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, Illinois

The opening working groups will focus on the current structures and models in place for university interactions with government and other nonprofit and for-profit institutions, the evolving nature of the relationships, and recommendations for the future of the relationships. The discussions will also cover the challenges and the risks of such relationships, and the possible changes to existing structures and models that would enhance the effectiveness of the interactions. Each of the sessions will focus on several specific issues of urban health, education, and vitality as illustrative of models of interaction.

Concurrent Working Group Sessions:

Urban Health: A Community-Based Model for Leveraging the Resources of the University

The panel will explore some of the similarities between local and global problems, and the use of academic research, education and service in improving health. One such approach that will be discussed is ABCD a methodology of development economics that emphasizes the resources of a community as a primary factor in economic growth, taking into account the broad social and economic contexts of developing communities. The ABCD model and urban health systems are fundamentally linked, as it has been shown that economic growth and the health of populations mutually impact each other in dynamic ways. The ABCD model represents an exciting way in which the major research university can play a major role in improving urban health. Some key questions that will be explored include: What is the relationship between urban development and the health of populations in cities? How can research in urban development and urban economics contribute to the strengthening of local health systems and communities? What is the relationship between university-based research and university-led community engagement projects? What does the current direction of urban development economics indicate for the future of urban health?

Chairs: Sola Olopade, Clinical Director, Center for Global Health, and Professor of Medicine and Family Medicine, University of Chicago and **Ronald T. Ackermann**, Director of the Center for Community Health in the Northwestern University Institute for Public Health and Medicine

- **John Kretzmann**, Director, Asset- Based Community Development Institute and Research Associate Professor, Northwestern University
- **Doriane Miller**, Associate Professor of Medicine and Director, Center for Community Health and Vitality, University of Chicago Medicine
- **Deborah Puntenney**, Research Associate Professor, School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University

The Research University and Urban Education

This session will address questions of why there is a disparity between the quality of higher education and public K-12 education. Are there any promising examples of research universities that today are having a significant impact on urban education, and what is the nature of such impact? What is it about the contemporary political-economic environment—or about how Universities operate—that is enabling or hindering effective university impact on urban education environments?

Chair: Jim Spillane, Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Professor in Learning and Organizational Change, Northwestern University

- **Marco Oberti**, Chair of the Sociology Department, Sciences Po
- **Charles Payne**, Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor in the School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago
- **Steve Tozer**, Professor and Director, University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Urban Education Leadership

New Roles for the Urban University in Fostering Cross-Sector Collaboration

Internationally, processes of urbanization, economic liberalization, and globalization have changed the face of cities and their place in the broader socioeconomic landscape. Along with some social benefits, these changes challenge urban vitality and resiliency across a number of dimensions. These changes have also been accompanied by changing relationships among the state, market, and civil society actors. In many cases, this has entailed important shifts away from “traditional” governing arrangements, with increased reliance on market processes and public-private partnerships to shape and implement policy. Shifts in the roles and relationships of state, market, and non-state actors create new challenges. In this context, the urban research university has a potentially powerful role to play.

Chair: Robert Chaskin, Associate Professor and the Deputy Dean for Strategic Initiatives at the School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago and **Scott W. Allard**, Associate Professor in the School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago

- **Derek Douglas**, Vice President for Civic Engagement, University of Chicago

- **Rebecca Ginsburg**, Associate Professor of Education Policy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **Manish Jha**, Professor and Chairperson in the Centre for Community Organisation and Development Practice, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

5:45 p.m.-6:15 p.m. Reception Following Working Group Sessions

For all conference participants

At Northwestern University

Norris University Center, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, Illinois

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Opening Dinner

Dinner is by invitation-only for international delegates, conference speakers, and invited guests.

Welcome by **Morton O. Schapiro**, President, Northwestern University

8:30 p.m. Bus transports delegates back to the Fairmont Hotel

Tuesday, November 19

7:45 a.m. Breakfast Buffet and Registration

The Fairmont Hotel

200 North Columbus Drive, Chicago, Illinois

International Ballroom, 2nd Floor

8:30 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**

Ambassador Ivo H. Daalder, President, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel, Mayor, City of Chicago (*invited*)

9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Presentation by Host University Presidents

Plenary Session

Robert A. Easter, President, University of Illinois

Morton O. Schapiro, President, Northwestern University

Robert J. Zimmer, President, University of Chicago

Moderator: David Hiller, President and CEO of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Coffee Break

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. A View from the City: Managing Urban Challenges Worldwide

Plenary Session

This plenary session will feature a diverse group of former mayors and municipal officials who have been at the heart of addressing urban challenges as they saw populations increase in their cities. Many cities around the world were not built to accommodate the large number of inhabitants that are currently drawn to them. Working under budget constraints and political gridlock, these officials identified new opportunities for collaborations with universities and other entities to identify long-term solutions for their cities' challenges.

Moderator: Julia Stasch, Vice President of US Programs, MacArthur Foundation and Former Chief of Staff to Mayor Richard Daley

Washington Fajardo, Secretary of Cultural Heritage, Urban Intervention, Architecture and Design of the City of Rio de Janeiro

Dick Gleeson, City Planner, City of Dublin

Heng Chye Kiang, Former Board Member for Singapore's Urban Redevelopment Authority and Dean, School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore

12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. The Future of Cities

Luncheon and Keynote Address

Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, and Co-Chair, Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University

In conversation with **Richard C. Longworth**, Senior Fellow, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. Meet for bus departure
The Fairmont Hotel, 200 North Columbus Drive, Chicago, Illinois
Meet at B-2 level of Fairmont Hotel

2:45 p.m. Bus departs from Fairmont Hotel to the University of Chicago

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Travel from hotel to the University of Chicago

3:15 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. University of Chicago Campus Tour (via bus)

4:15 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Working Group Session II: Research Methodologies and Case Studies
At the University of Chicago
The Charles M. Harper Center, 5807 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

The working groups will explore research methodologies, the use of data, and ways that researchers and policymakers could collaborate to guide research and policy. The working groups will also look at case studies from around the world where researchers have identified best practices and effective outcomes.

Concurrent Working Group Sessions:

Innovative Approaches to Improving Urban Health

Cities provide unique opportunities and challenges with respect to health. Whereas the health challenges to cities once dominated, today the reverse may be true, with unique opportunities to mobilize large populations and data on those populations to improve health and advance biomedical science clustered in cities, and even central to their economic success. Nevertheless, cities still have important health problems related to poverty and other adverse socioeconomic conditions, infectious disease, and the sheer complexity of their health care systems. This session will discuss several innovative approaches to advance our understanding of, and to improve, health in cities.

Chair: David Meltzer, Director, Center for Health and Social Sciences and Chief of the Section of Hospital Medicine, University of Chicago and Principal Investigator of the Chicago Learning Effectiveness Advancement Research Network

- **Charles Catlett**, Senior Computer Scientist, University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory
- **Chang-Chuan Chan**, Director, Global Health Center and Associate Dean, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University
- **Abel Kho**, Assistant Professor, Northwestern University and Principal Investigator of the Chicago Health Atlas

Urban Education: Innovative Research Methodologies

One key way in which universities can address modern education challenges is through the use of cutting-edge research methodologies and emerging large administrative datasets. In this session, each presenter describes research that uses innovative research methodologies and data to address a different urban education challenge. The questions studied are of global interest and represent a range of methodologies, public policy areas, and disciplinary perspectives, and highlight the role of the research university in helping to address serious challenges in urban education around the world.

Chair: Kim Graber, Professor, Kinesiology & Community Health, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- **Sigal Alon**, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tel-Aviv University
- **Nicholas Burbules**, Professor, Department of Educational Policy Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **David Figlio**, Director, Institute for Policy Research, and Orrington Lunt Professor of Education and Social Policy and of Economics, Northwestern University
- **Jens Ludwig**, McCormick Foundation Professor of Social Service Administration, Law, and Public Policy, School of Social Service Administration and the Harris School; Director, University of Chicago Crime Lab; and Co-director, University of Chicago Urban Education Lab

Urban Vitality: Integrating Big Data and City/Neighborhoods with University Researchers

Researchers and policymakers face common challenges: both, for example, are working to adjust to how quickly the world is changing (for example, in terms of data collection, analysis and transmission possibilities) and to solve problems which have persisted and grown more varied and costly over decade. The presentations will address the interdisciplinary collaborations as well as the university-neighborhood/city collaborations to help identify critical, relevant policy problems that such collaborations can address. While Big Data certainly plays an important role the presenters will be exploring the broader dynamics of collaborative research, as opposed to 'silo-ed' research in which academics identify policy issues of interest to them whether or not useful or important to the policy community.

Chairs: Michael Pagano, Dean, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago and **Roseanna Ander**, Executive Director, Crime Lab, University of Chicago

- **Mario Small**, Dean of the Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago
- **Nik Theodore**, Professor of Urban Planning, University of Illinois at Chicago
- **Deborah Youdell**, Director of the Public Service Academy, University of Birmingham

6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Reception Following Working Group Sessions

For all conference participants

The Charles M. Harper Center, 5807 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Dinner and Keynote Address

Dinner is by invitation-only for international delegates, conference speakers, and invited guests.

Introduced by **Robert J. Zimmer**, President, University of Chicago

The Honorable Shaun Donovan, United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

8:00 p.m.

Bus transports delegates back to the Fairmont Hotel

Wednesday, November 20

- 7:00 a.m.** Breakfast buffet available for Fairmont Hotel guests
The Fairmont Hotel, The Cuvee Room, Lobby Level
- 7:45 a.m.** Meet for bus departure
Meet at B-2 level of Fairmont Hotel
- 8:00 a.m.** Bus departs from Fairmont Hotel to the University of Illinois at Chicago
- 8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.** Travel from hotel to the University of Illinois at Chicago (via bus)
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.** **Working Group Session III: Translating Research into Policy and Practice**
At the University of Illinois at Chicago
Student Center East Conference Center
750 South Halsted, Chicago, Illinois

What methods are being used to translate research into policy and practice? How do researchers evaluate their impact? What are some best practices for engaging industry and government as a partner? What are issues of bringing projects to scale and what are possible roles for the research university? How have barriers been overcome for putting the best research into practice?

Concurrent Working Group Sessions:

Translating Global Health Initiatives into Policy, Programs, and Practice

Global Health is more than humanitarian care and medical disaster relief. Focus should be centered on empowering communities through academia, research, and education training. This panel is comprised of individuals whose objectives are not only to render aid globally, but to present information and lessons learned from the field that relate to health care issues that can benefit from cutting edge translational policies, programs and practices.

Chairs: **Timothy Erickson**, Professor of Emergency Medicine and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago and **Stacie Geller**, G William Arends Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Director, Center for Research on Women and Gender, College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago

- **Damiano Rondelli**, Michael Reese Professor of Hematology, Chief of Hematology/Oncology and Director Blood & Marrow Transplant, University of Illinois at Chicago
- **Daniel Hryhorczuk**, Professor and Director of Environmental Global Health, University of Illinois at Chicago
- **Gregorio T. Obrador**, Dean and Professor of Medicine, Health Sciences Faculty and School of Medicine, Universidad Panamericana

Urban Education: Bringing Research to Practice

Policymakers and practitioners in education are increasingly under pressure to use data and research to guide their efforts. This provides an opportunity for researchers to support educational improvement through outreach and partnerships, but requires effective strategies for bridging the separate worlds of research and practice. This session will provide an analysis of approaches researchers have used to impact educational policy, and describe successful examples of new models of collaboration between educational researchers and school practitioners.

Chair: Penny Sebring, Co-Founder, University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research

- **Elaine Allensworth**, Lewis-Sebring Director, University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research
- **Cynthia Coburn**, Professor, School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University
- **Jose Weinstein**, Director of the Doctorate of Education, Universidad Diego Portales in Chile

Urban Vitality: Evaluating Success in Bringing Research to Practice in Urban Social Issues

This session will discuss case examples of research that have been translated into policy and programs to benefit cities. It will ask: What lessons can be learned from these examples about how to best move research into practice and how to evaluate the resulting policies and programs?

Chair: Fay Lomax Cook Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and of Political Science; Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University

- **Alex O. Awiti**, Director of the East African Institute of the Aga Khan University
- **Ho Kong Chong**, Associate Professor of Sociology and Vice Dean (Research) at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore
- **Lincoln Quillian**, Professor of Sociology and Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University
- **James Rosenbaum**, Professor of Education and Social Policy and of Sociology; Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University

Urban Vitality: Research to Practice in Urban Sustainability

Rapidly growing cities must employ new energy, food, water, sanitation, and transportation systems if they are to support healthy human life far into the future. A comparative analysis can help highlight innovative solutions and, more importantly, identify the structural elements that may be preventing global urban centers from making the necessary changes to meet sustainability goals. This panel will generate new ideas about the best ways to compare cities from a sustainability perspective, and asks participants to explore their own ideas about these issues. We will ask what works? What doesn't? And Why?

Chairs: **Brian Deal**, Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and **William Sullivan**, Professor, Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- **Chang Chun-Yen**, Professor of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, National Taiwan University
- **Vladimir Cvetkovic**, Water Resources Engineering, KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- **Eric Miller**, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Toronto

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Presentations on Working Groups

Plenary Session

University of Illinois at Chicago

Student Center East, Illinois Room

Welcome: **Michael O'Grady**, Executive Vice President and CFO, Northern Trust

Moderator: **Arthur Sussman**, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Respondents Include:

John Bryson, Professor of Enterprise and Competitiveness, University of Birmingham

Jorge Las Heras, Vice Dean, School of Medicine, Universidad Diego Portales

Firoz Khan, Senior Lecturer, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University

Liang Benfan, Director of the Global Joint Research Center for Low-Carbon Cities, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Welcoming Remarks and Lunch

Welcome: **Paula Allen-Meares**, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. International Collaborations: The Way Forward

Closing Luncheon Presentation

Moderator: **Robert A. Easter**, President, University of Illinois

Peter Gudmundson, President, KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Umrhan Inan, President, Koç University

Carlos Ivan Simonsen Leal, President, Fundação Getulio Vargas

1:30 p.m. Closing Remarks

Rachel Bronson, Vice President, Studies, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. University of Illinois at Chicago Campus Tour (via bus)

**2:45 p.m. Bus returns to the Fairmont Hotel
Conference Adjourns**