**Spaces of Urban Vulnerability Workshop**

**Final Programme**

**Treehouse, Berwick Saul Humanities Research Centre,**

**University of York, 13-14 March 2014.**

**Centre for Urban Research (CURB), University of York, Heslington, YO10 5DD.**

Following a successful panel on The Fracturing of Urban Citizenship in Europe at the RC21 Conference in Berlin in August 2013, this 2-day international workshop at the University of York will further explore some of the key themes and methodological challenges arising from the conceptualisation and study of spatial vulnerability in the urban context.

Rashed and Weeks (2003) see vulnerability ‘as an ill-posed problem

defined by multiple solutions and uncertainty about the concepts, rules and principles involved to reach these solutions’ (Ebert, Kerle and Stein 2009). While Smith (2013) argues that ‘vulnerability has been viewed as a rather negative comment on societal ability to cope with risk’. Vulnerability has traditionally been studied in relation to social exposure to natural or environmental hazards. However, much less attention has been paid to the time-space articulation of vulnerability arising from socio-economic inequality, ethnic and cultural discrimination and stigmatisation, state-capital divestment and abandonment, and the negative impact of splintering urbanism (Graham and Marvin 2001).

In seeking to develop a more holistic, structurated and critical approach to the study of disconnected, stigmatised and devalued inhabited spaces, the workshop aims to develop a mixed methods toolkit that will enable an in depth comparative study of Spaces of Urban Vulnerability drawing on an international network of interdisciplinary researchers.

At the end of the workshop we hope to be closer to answering the following questions

* How do we classify vulnerable spaces within and between national territories?
* What are the key factors implicated in urban decline and how can we map and measure them over time?
* What forms of governmentality are involved in state/capital divestment and strategic withdrawal from discrete socio-spatial formations and how and why do they operate?
* How should we survey and acknowledge social harm in spaces of abjection and give voice to often hidden and silenced publics?
* How do we integrate quantitative and qualitative methods and different scalar analyses in the service of developing a robust comparative toolkit for longitudinal, cross-national research on spaces of urban vulnerability?

**Day One, Thursday 13th March 2014**

**Methodological and Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Urban Spatial Vulnerability.**

**10.30 Registration and Coffee**

**11.00** Comparative analyses of spatial urban vulnerability: evidence from existing research (Simon Parker, CURB York).

 The political economy of ‘resilient’ and ‘declining’ neighbourhoods, cities and regions (Manuel Aalbers, Leuven).

**12.15- LUNCH**

**13.15**

**13.15** Qualitative approaches to the study of vulnerable urban spaces and their populations (Talja Blokland, Humboldt, Berlin).

 Urban vulnerability and violence (Gareth Jones, LSE).

 Charting traumatic lives: some personal notes of researching violent men (Simon Winlow, Teesside).

**15.15- BREAK**

**15.30**

**15.30** Marginalised subjects and the right to the city: Transgressing the terror and securitisation of city space. (Nisha Kapoor, University of York)

 Debating vulnerabilities: Stigmatisation of people and places in inner-city Athens (Penny Koutrolikou, Athens).

The urban afterlives of the Dutch “multicultural drama”: Understanding the impact of racialized politics (Anouk de Koning, Nijmegen)

**17.30 Concluding remarks**

**19.00 Speakers’ Dinner – Grays Court, Chapter House Street, York, YO1 7JH.**

**Day Two, Friday 14th March 2014.**

**Lessons from the Field, Innovations in Data Gathering and Assembling the Toolkit.**

**9.30- Coffee available/late registration**

**10.00**

**10.00** **Studying vulnerable urban populations. Reflections from the field.**

 Asylum Housing and Support in the North East of England

 (Steve Hirschler, CURB York).

 ‘ “It aint where you’re from, it’s where you’re at”. Territorial stigma and everyday life in an “Impossible Community.”’ (Gareth Millington, CURB York)

 Policies and production of spaces of urban vulnerability: exclusion from public housing and precarious policies of inclusion (Roman Matoušek, Prague).

Who occupies the street space? Spatial exclusion in in the context of street design, (Adam Zajac, Warsaw).

**12.30- LUNCH**

**13.30**

**13.30**  Potential applications of innovative field methods I: Participatory GIS (Steve Cinderby, YESI, York)

 Potential applications of innovative field methods II: Photo Voice (Amanda Mason-Jones, Health Sciences, York)

**15.00- BREAK**

**15.15**

**15.15** Sandpit Breakout Sessions

**16.15** Report Back and Closing Plenary (Chair Rowland Atkinson, CURB York).

**16.45** Workshop Concludes