

The Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society 2026 Conference

16 - 17 July 2026

McGrath Centre, St Catharine's College, Cambridge, UK

PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: Thursday, 16 July

9:00-9:30	Delegate Registration - Coffee & Tea
9:30 -9:45	Welcome and Introduction to the 2026 CJRES Conference Professor Ron Martin, University of Cambridge
9:45-10:30	Session 1: Keynote Speaker Chair: Professor Pete Tyler <i>"The Power and Politics of Agglomerationism: what should we learn from Manchester's pursuit of the agglomeration model in pursuit of political devolution, economic growth and densification?"</i> Professor Graham Haughton, University of Manchester
10:30-11:30	Session 2
	"The Agglomeration case for London" Chair: Professor Pete Tyler Inequality and the Future of London Graeme Atherton "A Glass Half-Full: Reflections on Agglomeration, Economic Productivity and Prosperity in London" Adam Yousef
11:30-11:45	Tea & Coffee
11:45-13:15	Session 3: PARALLEL SESSIONS Please choose one of these sessions below to attend

	<p>Session 3A (McGrath Centre) Chair: Emil Evenhuis</p> <p><i>Digital Territorial Innovation Models: Adapting Agglomeration-Based Concepts to the New Realities in the Platform Economy Era</i> Han Chu & Robert Hassink</p> <p><i>Measuring the strength of urban agglomeration with outward intercity flows</i> Jianfa Shen</p> <p><i>Urban Regeneration, Rent Gaps and the Politics of Density: A Governance Framework from Shimla, India</i> Amisha Thakur</p> <p><i>Who Gains from Urban Agglomeration? Accessibility and the Unequal Distribution of Economic Opportunities</i> Álvaro de Juanes Rodríguez</p>	<p>Session 3B (Ramsden Room) Chair: Raffaele Lagravinese</p> <p><i>The Shadow Side of Urban Agglomeration: Siphoning and Multi-Scalar Inequality in the UK, Europe and China</i> Xintong Li</p> <p><i>Distributional effects of infrastructure strategies in polycentric agglomerations</i> Frank van Oort</p> <p><i>Redistributive Preferences in Latin America: A Center-Periphery Approach</i> Sébastien Carrère</p> <p><i>When Economic Complexity Meets Agglomeration: Unequal Gains across Italian Provinces</i> Eustachio Ferrulli</p>
13:15-14:15	Lunch	
14:15 - 15:45	<p>Session 4: PARALLEL SESSIONS Please choose one of these sessions below to attend</p>	
	<p>Session 4A (McGrath Centre)</p> <p><i>Who gains from density? Rural-urban R&D gaps and distributional effects in EU regions</i> Tryfonas Christou</p> <p><i>The Never Changing Narratives Of Density? Urban Identity, Inequality And Wellbeing Diseconomies In Rotterdam And London</i> Teodora Dogaru & Frank van Oort</p> <p><i>Working from home and learning in big cities – implications for spatial inequality</i> Annekatriin Niebuhr</p>	<p>Session 4B (Ramsden Room)</p> <p><i>The role of economic trends, institutional changes and macroeconomic policies in agglomeration and disparities</i> Ugo Fratesi</p> <p><i>Conceptualising and Evidencing the Role of Institutional Capital within the Six-Capitals Framework to Support Place-based Approaches to Development.</i> Kate Penney & Michael Francis</p> <p><i>Marshall's blind spots: how inclusive innovation reveals the limits of agglomeration</i> Katherine Parsons</p>

15:45-16:00	Tea & Coffee	
16:00-17:30	Session 5	
	Session 5A (McGrath Centre) <i>For whom the bell tolls: Distributional rent effects of an increase in the CBD density</i> <i>Andrea Caragliu</i> <i>Icing on the Cake or Charcoal in the Snow? The Uneven Role of Coworking Spaces in Urban and Rural Entrepreneurship</i> <i>Fangchen (Melanie) Zhang</i> <i>Urban Gravity and Platform Work</i> <i>Camilla Lenzi</i>	Session 5B (Ramsden Room) Chair: James Wood <i>Agglomeration and Job Quality in the US Tech Economy, 2001-23</i> <i>Teresa Lynch</i> <i>Agglomeration and Urban Growth Shadows: Transport Infrastructure in a System-of-Cities</i> <i>Nicholas Sweeney</i> <i>How firm location choices shape the uneven geography of innovation: micro-foundations of innovation clustering across industry life cycles</i> <i>Mihyun Seong</i>
17:30	Conference Programme ends for the day	

CONFERENCE DINNER

19:00 Pre-dinner drinks (in McGrath Foyer)

19:30 Dinner (In the main hall)

DAY TWO: Friday, 17 July

	Morning Coffee & Tea	
9:15-9:30		
9:30-9:45	<p>Welcome and Introduction to the second day of 2026 CJRES Conference Professor Robert Hassink, University of Kiel</p>	
9:45-10:30	<p><u>Session 6: Keynote speaker</u> Chair: Professor Robert Hassink</p> <p>"The restructuring of the international arms industry" <i>Emeritus Professor J Paul Dunne, University of Cape Town & UWE, Bristol</i></p>	
10:30 – 11:45	<p><u>Session 7</u> Chair: Professor Robert Hassink</p> <p><i>The Forest from the Trees: When Technocrats Can't See the System</i> <i>Kimberley Mack</i></p> <p>Clusters and Technology Spillovers in the UK Defence Sector <i>Adam Brown & Jen Nelles</i></p> <p><i>The character and prospects of the AUKUS national security partnership as international industrial policy</i> <i>Chris Wallace</i></p>	
11:45-12:00	Tea & Coffee	
12:00-13:30	Session 8: PARALLEL SESSIONS	
	<p>Session 8A (McGrath Centre) Chair: tbc</p> <p><i>The Defence Industry and its Economic Geographies: A Literature Review</i> <i>Robert Hassink</i></p> <p>The Rise of the Northern Gunbelt: Mapping Canada's Turn to Defence Karen Chapple</p>	<p>Session 8B (Ramsden Room) Chair: tbc</p> <p><i>Socio-spatial implications of urban touristification</i> <i>Angeliki Vatikioti & Petros Kosmas</i></p> <p>Possibility, institutions, and the price of equality in urban economies Anita De Franco</p>

	<p>From Importer to Integrator: Financialisation and Saudi Defence Industrialisation Geographies in the Post-Oil Era Ahmed Alqarout</p>	<p>Do disadvantaged workers benefit from density externalities of urban agglomeration? Darja Reuschke & Donald Houston</p>
13:30-14:30	Lunch	
14:30-15:15	<p>Session 9 <i>Lightning/ Quick Fire sessions</i> <i>Chair: Michael Kitson</i></p> <p>Regional urbanisation levels: population distribution and regional economic growth Emili Tortosa-Ausina</p> <p>Productivity Pioneers and the Distributional Effects of Urban Agglomeration in Central and Eastern European Regions Pawel Dobrzanski</p> <p>The Participatory Paradox in a Densifying Hill City: Who Gains and Who Loses from Urban Governance in Shimla, India Amisha Thakur</p> <p>Bringing Back (Advanced) Manufacturing: Will Reshoring of Advanced Manufacturing Drive Regional Competitiveness in Australia? Sharif Rasel</p>	
15:15-16:00	<p>Session 10</p> <p><i>Discussion topic</i> <i>Roundtable discussion</i> <i>Chair: tbc</i></p> <p>Panel includes:</p>	
16:00	Conference Ends	