

Urban Studies

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Authors should explain in their covering letter how their submitted paper engages with broad international debates in urban theory, and should consider how their paper fits with past and ongoing debates in the *Urban Studies* journal. We strongly encourage authors to familiarise themselves with, and cite where appropriate, articles in the journal relevant to their own perspectives and arguments.

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Research articles

Articles may be theoretical or empirical, but authors should note that in the case of empirically focused manuscripts the subject matter should be suitably positioned in theoretical and/or conceptual terms. All articles are expected to have original content. They should not have been previously published, nor be under simultaneous consideration by another academic journal – if this is found to be the case, your paper will be withdrawn immediately. Authors should be aware that pre-posting may be used as grounds for rejection, where the editors feel that authors' anonymity may be compromised in the review process.

Originality, clarity of writing style, logical structure of argument and integrity of empirical data are essential for an article's acceptance. Authors are asked to submit articles that convey a strong sense of urban place. Relevant contextual background must be provided to enable an international readership to be fully cognizant of the urban location under study. Any local terms must be explained. The article should not assume any prior knowledge of the local setting. Authors are encouraged to reflect on urban debates in this journal and beyond.

Authors need to choose an analytical structure that supports the logical unfolding of the text and assists the reader in following the argument. The structure of an article is greatly enhanced by a strong introduction and conclusion. The introduction is key to signposting what the article is about and the conclusion must highlight the article's various findings and themes, inter-relating them and drawing attention to their more general analytical significance.

The word restriction on submitted manuscripts is between 6,000 and 8,500 words (including abstract, references, notes, appendices, tables and figures). One table or figure will count as approximately half a page of text or 250 words. If your paper exceeds the specified word limit it will be withdrawn.

Book reviews

Proposals for Book Review Forums can be sent to the Book Review Editor via the [Editorial Office](#).

The Book Review Forum should normally run to no more than 8500 words in total and consist of:

1. A minimum of two and a maximum of six book reviewers (reviews should run between 1000 to 1400 words per review – with references included)
 - Reviews should address very clearly the relationship between the book and current debates in urban theory, through the prism of current voices working clearly in urban studies.
 - the mix of reviewers for the forum should attend to a diversity of voices in urban theory (e.g. career stages, Southern voices, genders)
2. A short introduction by the forum organisers (up to 500 words – the introduction section should not be written by the author)
3. An author's response to the reviewers (max 1500 words)

Books chosen for the forum need to have been published in the last 2 years and address clearly key contemporary issues in urban studies and urban theorising.

For more information on formatting please click [here](#).

If you have any difficulties or questions, please contact Lindsey Towers at the [Urban Studies Editorial Office](#).

Critical commentaries

Critical commentaries provide a forum for debate within the urban academic community. We encourage submissions from authors capable of taking a critical issue relating to the contemporary urban condition and developing a reasoned argument, exposing, inter alia, its nature, its presentation as (policy) discourse, contradictions, and amenity to policy. A Critical commentary is less likely to offer new research findings as to present a point of view, doing so in a reasoned, powerful and less formal style than is typical for an academic paper.

The preferred length is 4,000 to 6,000 words including abstract and references.

For examples of past Critical commentaries, please see [here](#).

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Debates in urban studies

We invite critical review articles that outline and assess current trends and developments in key areas of urban studies, summarising existing literature on cities and regions and taking it forward by providing fresh perspectives and insights.

The new section will complement our existing and well-regarded *Critical commentaries* section. *Critical commentaries* allow for the development of a reasoned and powerful point of view in a somewhat less formal style than normal articles; short, topical think-pieces rather than full-length review articles. Articles in *Debates in urban studies* will engage with ongoing debates around specific concepts, trends and urban processes, but offer significant new insights or syntheses, extend urban debates into new areas, or capture an emergent literature around new urban phenomena. We invite papers that will promote new thinking and analysis on the broader urban condition, challenge existing thinking and wisdom, or foster debates within specialist subfields (politics and governance, economic development, culture, housing and real estate, finance and financialisation, labour markets, environment and climate transition, gentrification, marginalisation and exclusion, etc.).

Debates in urban studies offers a potential platform for early career researchers (ECRs) who, through their PhD work or post-doctoral research, have been involved in a substantive and critical engagement with a corpus of urban literature and debate; and also to established scholars wishing to offer meta-perspectives on progress and future directions in their chosen fields of inquiry. For both ECRs and established scholars, the *Debates in urban studies* section provides a space for new and provocative insights on the urban condition, which, at the same time, demonstrate in-depth and critical knowledge of established and ongoing work in the field.

We invite papers of between 8000 and 10,000 words for *Debates in urban studies*, to allow sufficient space for rigorous and critical dialogue with existing perspectives and traditions in urban research. We are not seeking extended literature reviews; papers must make a novel contribution, but this can be in a plethora of different ways. In this respect, innovation and creativity in approach are also encouraged.

For further information or advice prior to submitting a paper, prospective authors are strongly encouraged to contact the [Editorial Office](#) in the first instance with a brief 150 word synopsis setting out the broad idea that they have in mind.

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