

# *Cities on the Edge*

*Promoting Equity and Resiliency through  
Research, Activism, Planning and Policy*

**2024 International Conference on Urban Affairs**  
**April 24—27, 2024 | New York City**



## **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

Cities are home to more than 55% of the world's population and generate 80% of global GDP. Their economic power and influence are counterbalanced by a growing number of social, political, and environmental challenges that threaten to undermine societies and habitats. Current conditions within cities, as well as their future capacity to become equitable and resilient, are shaped by a complex set of dynamics. Policies and politics operating at the global, regional and local levels produce conflicts, polarization, dislocation, economic instability, and climate change. As the world's cities begin an assumed exit from the recent global pandemic, a singular question emerges: how can cities on the brink of irreversible change develop equitable policy options that will allow for future sustainability and resilience?

The dynamics influencing current conditions in cities, as well as their ability to become equitable and resilient in the future, are complex, and call for a multidisciplinary perspective from urban affairs scholars and practitioners. This conference welcomes researchers, planners, policymakers, advocates, and community leaders to share insights and identify strategies for creating equitable options that ensure sustainable choices. Among the wide range of topics relevant to cities, a set of subthemes are of particular interest.

## **Cities as Global Landscapes**

- Cities as Conflict Zones, Reclaiming and Rebuilding
- Cities in Global Networks (e.g., finance, trade, investment, communications)
- Cities as Migration Centers; Urban Demographic Change; Immigration Rights & Border Politics in Cities

## **Resilient Cities**

- Urban Health (e.g. care crisis and disease); Quality of Urban Life
- Environmental and Energy Policy Challenges in Cities and Urban Green Futures
- Resilience vs Fragility of Urban Areas, Disaster Planning and Management
- Accessibility and Mobility within Urban Areas; Infrastructure, Transport, Services
- Arts, Culture, Preservation and Heritage in Sustainable Cities

## **Rights to the City**

- Community Development, Gentrification, Neighborhood Change
- Urban Economic and Social Exclusion by Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Identity, Age
- Urban Housing Affordability, Financialization and Market Dynamics, Homelessness
- Urban Education, Labor and Employment in Cities, Urban Entrepreneurship
- Urban Technology, Media and Communications, Smart Cities, Digital Divides
- Planning Equitable Cities: Urban Design, Land Use, Public Space, Growth Management, Services
- Urban Income/Wealth Disparities, Poverty, Wage Gaps; Food Insecurity

## **Democracy Under Stress: Institutions and Governance**

- Urban Economic Development Strategies; Urban Fiscal Policies
- Metropolitan and Regional Dynamics; Development Politics
- Urban Public, Private and Non-governmental Sector Roles; Philanthropy and the City
- Urban Political Activism and Social Movements
- Violence, Public Safety Challenges; Challenges to Civil Rights of Urban Residents

The conference site of New York City provides a particularly compelling example of a city on the edge. A global center of finance and trade, the city plays a central role in world economic processes, yet continually faces local and regional pressures as a hyper-diverse and politically charged environment. Through special sessions and a general plenary, the conference will spotlight this unique American city, its uncanny resilience, and challenging future.

## **CONFERENCE ORGANIZING GROUPS**

Urban Affairs Association (Lead Conference Manager)

European Network for Housing Research

European Urban Research Association



**Arturo Flores**, Anahuac University, Mexico

**Jill Gross**, Hunter College, City University of New York, USA

**Thomas Vicino**, Northeastern University, Boston, USA

**Margaret Wilder**, Urban Affairs Association, USA

**Filipe Teles**, University of Aveiro, Portugal

**Valeria Fedeli**, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

**Ignazio Vinci**, University of Palermo, Italy

**Peter Boelhouwer**, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

**Montserrat**

**Pareja-Eastaway**, University of Barcelona, Spain

**Ivan Tosics**, Metropolitan Research Institute. Budapest, Hungary

#### LOCAL HOST COMMITTEE

**James DeFilippis**, Rutgers University

**Jill Gross**, Hunter College, City University of New York

**Kimberley Johnson**, New York University

**Alex Schwartz**, The New School University

**Elena Vesselinov**, Queens College and The Graduate Center-City University of New York

#### PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE

**Santina L. Contreras**, University of Southern California

**William G Holt**, Birmingham-Southern College

**Kathryn Howell**, Virginia Commonwealth University

**Hélène Bélanger**, Université du Québec à Montréal

**Montserrat Pareja-Eastaway**, University of Barcelona

#### CONFERENCE HOTEL

Marriott Marquis Hotel  
1535 Broadway, New York, NY 10036

Experience the vibrant energy of Manhattan at the newly renovated New York Marriott Marquis, located in the heart of Times Square. Our hotel is an iconic fixture of the city and offers easy access to some of the most exciting attractions, including the world-famous Theater District, Rockefeller Center, and Radio City Music Hall. Indulge in our redesigned restaurants, featuring bold New York flavors and innovative menus, including the city's only revolving dining room with 360-degree views of Manhattan. Unwind in our spacious accommodations, equipped with modern amenities and offering stunning views of Broadway, Times Square, and the iconic Manhattan skyline. (Source: Marriott website)

#### KEY DEADLINES

**October 1, 2023 – Abstract/Proposal Submission Ends**

**NO LATE SUBMISSIONS ARE ACCEPTED—This is a STRICT deadline!**

Abstracts for papers/poster and pre-organized session proposals may be submitted until 11:59PM Central Daylight Time (CDT) or 4:59am GMT on October 1. Acceptance or rejection notices will be sent by October 25, 2023.

**Pro Tip:** Do not be fooled by other conferences. UAA does not extend its deadlines. And we do not accept excuses for missed deadlines. Think of the deadlines the way you think of a planned trip on an airplane. The plane will not be there if you miss the boarding deadline. ☺

**December 6, 2023 – Registration deadline for all accepted presenters and moderators**

Registration is conducted online. Payments are accepted using all major credit cards. Failure to register by this deadline will result in exclusion from the conference program.