

Urban Studies Journal – Special Issue

Indigenous Urban Studies: Creative Urban Futures, Resistant Histories, Indigenist Subjects

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Rationale

‘Indigenous Urban Studies: Creative Urban Futures, Resistant Histories, Indigenist Subjects’ brings together contributors working across a range of urban problems to address the creative ways Indigenous peoples have contributed to urbanisation and how urbanisation can support sustainable Indigenous futures. The urbanisation of people, space, and the future is occurring on a planetary scale (Brenner & Schmid, 2012). Indigenous peoples have been insightful scholars of urbanisation, at a local, for hundreds of years. The twentieth century urbanisation of Indigenous peoples is a significant and large-scale state implemented urban project (see Barker, 2012; Edmonds, 2010; Howard & Proulx, 2011; Morgan, 2006, 2008; Porter, 2010). And yet, as the authors of the landmark edited collection, *Indigenous in the City: Contemporary Identities and Cultural Innovation* (2013), Evelyn Peters and Chris Andersen note, ‘Cultural innovations in cities are often not viewed as central to the production of contemporary Indigeneity’ (p. 1). Nor are Indigenous contributions to urban planning and infrastructure recognised in dominant historical and policy accounts of cities. In order to critically account for these exclusions, interrogations of non-Indigenous and settler colonial imaginaries and rationales for urbanisation as well as diverse studies of Indigenous urban practices are needed. Using Indigenist and Indigenising analytical foci, this issue prioritises Indigenous contributions to the urban across the collection. The issue focuses on creative urban futures in the context of Indigenous governance, resilience, and creative industries as shaping urban landscapes; the insistence on Indigenous urban presence and history as an embodiment of the continuation and sustainability of Indigenous cultures and sovereignties; and reaffirmations of urban subjects as Indigenous. Concentrating on a range of global case studies from Australia, the Americas, India, and Europe, with a majority of Indigenous authors, the issue centres Indigenous expertise and history to contemporary urban problems and demonstrates the relevance of Indigenist research approaches to international urban debates in order to further Indigenise urban studies.

This special issue is the result of a seminar series funded by the Urban Studies Foundation. ‘Doing Indigenous Urban Research: Creative Futures and Indigenising Urban Studies’ was held at the Dubbo campus of Charles Sturt University in 2019 and featured Auntie Frances Bodkin, Associate Professor Sandra Phillips, Meriki Onus and Tarneen Onus Williams. The aim for the seminar series was to generate a critical mass on Indigenist theoretical and methodological approaches to urban studies and bring interested community members and scholars to the Indigenous urbanism field of inquiry.

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