

Urban Studies Journal – Special Issue

Reimagining activity spaces in urban contexts

Jonathan Corcoran and Rebecca Wickes

Rationale

Activity spaces refer to the set of physical locations that are visited as part of everyday routines and are key to understanding the intersection of people and place in urban social life. Advancements in the conceptualisation and measurement of activity spaces underpinned with emergent forms of disaggregate space-time data have deepened our understanding of the places people frequent as part of everyday life. This Special Issue focuses on contemporary approaches to the conceptualisation and measurement of activity spaces in urban studies. Activity space research spans a 25-year period over which there has developed a rich but arguably fragmented literature reflecting its development within discipline boundaries. To date there has been no special issue that has sought to bring together this literature and orientate a future research agenda. This gap is precisely what this special issue aims to redress.

In redressing this gap, this special issue brings together a carefully curated set of papers with diverse yet linked perspectives. Collectively the special issue will include applied contributions that seek to measure, map, and monitor activity spaces across a set of domains including health, transport, crime, spatial inequality, social exclusion, social segregation, social connectedness, and social engagement. Applied contributions will be selected alongside more theoretically orientated pieces that seek to problematise the activity space. Across the suite of papers readers will gain a broad understanding of the contemporary approaches and persistent issues faced in conceptualising, measuring, mapping, and monitoring activity spaces.