



UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference 2026

Building Planning Up

7-9th of September 2026

Department of Geography and Planning
School of Social and Spatial Sciences
Cardiff University

60

60 mlynedd o Gynllunio
ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd
1966 ~ 2026
60 Years of Planning
at Cardiff University

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Welcome

On behalf of Cardiff University's Department of Geography and Planning and the newly established School of Social and Spatial Sciences, I am delighted to welcome you to the UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference.

This year's conference comes at an exciting moment for planning at Cardiff University. As we celebrate 60 years since planning was first taught here, we also look forward to a new chapter through the creation of the School of Social and Spatial Sciences, bringing together world-leading expertise across planning, geography and social sciences. The conference therefore provides a timely opportunity to reflect on the past, present and future of planning research, education and practice.

We were delighted to receive an outstanding response to the call for papers, with contributions from academics, practitioners and postgraduate researchers from across the UK, Ireland and beyond. We hope the conference will foster lively debate, new collaborations and meaningful exchanges between those engaged in planning research and practice.

The theme of this year's conference, "Building Planning Up," reflects both the importance of planning's contribution to society and the recognition that the profession and discipline must continue to evolve to meet the challenges of the future. At a time of housing pressures, climate change, infrastructure demands, growing inequalities and rapid technological change, there is a need to reaffirm the value of planning while critically examining how it can become more effective, inclusive, adaptable and ambitious.

Alongside the conference sessions, we are pleased to offer a series of mobile tours showcasing Cardiff. These tours provide an opportunity to explore firsthand the planning, development and regeneration challenges shaping contemporary Wales, and to consider how planning is responding to changing social, economic and environmental contexts. We also look forward to celebrating the achievements of the planning research community through the RTPi Awards for Research Excellence and to welcoming both established and emerging scholars to the conference. I would particularly like to extend a warm welcome to our postgraduate researchers and early career colleagues. We hope the conference provides an inclusive and supportive environment in which to share ideas, develop networks and contribute to the ongoing conversation about how we can continue to build planning up.



Dr Brian Webb
Head of Geography and Planning
Cardiff University

Conference Team

Professor Jon Anderson

Professor in Human Geography

Professor Richard Cowell

Professor of Environmental Policy and Planning

Jillian Gettrup

Postgraduate Researcher

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Senior Lecturer in Planning and Land Policy

Dr. Edward Shepherd

Senior Lecturer in Planning and Development

Dr. Mirka Virtanen

Lecturer in Transport Planning and Mobilities

Dr. Brian Webb (Chair)

Reader in Spatial Planning

Information for Delegates

We look forward to welcoming you to UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference on Monday 7th September 2026.

Date: Monday 7th – Wednesday 9th September 2026

Venue: Glamorgan Building

Address: King Edwards VII Avenue, CF10 3WA

Conference contact details

If you have any questions before the conference, please contact: prc2026@cardiff.ac.uk

Arrival and registration

Registration will take place in the main entrance lobby of the Glamorgan Building from 4:00pm-6:00pm on 7th September. If you arrive late on the 7th and wish to attend the Opening Reception you can still be checked in directly at the Temple of Peace. On all other days registration will be open from 8:30am in the Glamorgan Building. Please enter the building via the main entrance. Directional signage and members of the team will be available to help you find the registration area.

Conference programme

The full conference programme is available here:
<https://www.conftool.pro/prc2026/sessions.php>



Venue and directions

The conference will take place in the heart of Cardiff's Civic Centre in the:

Glamorgan Building ([click here for directions](#))
King Edwards VII Avenue
CF10 3WA

Approximate walking times:

- **5-10 minutes** from Cardiff city centre
- **5 minutes** from Cathays railway station
- **20 minutes** from Cardiff Central railway station



Information about travelling to the venue can be found here:

Directions and travel information: [Directions - Visitor information - Cardiff University](#)
Campus map: [University map - Visitor information - Cardiff University](#)

Refreshment breaks and lunch

Refreshment breaks will take place in the **Committee Rooms** of the **Glamorgan Building**.

Lunch will take place in the **Exhibition Hall** of the **Bute Building**, which is located next door to the Glamorgan Building on the other side of the car park.

Parking

Please be aware that on-site parking is limited and cannot be guaranteed. Delegates are encouraged to travel by public transport or use one of the public car parks near the venue.

Parking information: [Visitor parking - Visitor information - Cardiff University](#)

Accessibility

Accessibility information for the venue, including step-free access, accessible entrances and toilet facilities, can be found here:

Venue accessibility information: [Glamorgan Building - Visitor information - Cardiff University](#)

AccessAble venue guide: [AccessAble - Your Accessibility Guide](#)

If you require any reasonable adjustments or additional support to attend the conference, please contact prc2026@cardiff.ac.uk

Quiet Room

A quiet room is available for delegates that need a break from socialising and networking and is located in Room 1.52 on the 1st Floor (Annex) of the Glamorgan Building.

This is a strictly quiet space. We kindly request that the space is not used for emailing, last-minute work, meetings or conversation.

Meeting Room

Delegates wishing to do emails, work on presentations, have meetings, or conversations may make use of Room 0.02 on the Ground Floor (immediately to the right when you enter the building) of the Glamorgan Building.

Wi-Fi

Complimentary delegate Wi-Fi will be available at the venue. Login instructions will be provided upon arrival. Eduroam is provided throughout the venue for those already registered to use this service.

Catering and dietary requirements

Delegates with a declared dietary requirement should speak to a member of the hospitality team.

Please note that food is prepared in kitchens where allergens are handled. While reasonable precautions are taken, the complete absence of allergen cross-contamination cannot be guaranteed.

Emergency information

In the event of an emergency, please follow instructions from venue staff and conference representatives.

If the fire alarm sounds, leave the building using the nearest available exit and proceed to the designated assembly point. Do not use the lifts.

Venue or campus security: [+44 \(0\)29 2087 4444](tel:+442920874444)

Emergency services: 999

We hope you enjoy the conference and look forward to welcoming you to Cardiff University.



Conference Overview

The full conference programme is available here:

<https://www.conftool.pro/prc2026/sessions.php>



Day 1: Monday 7 September

09:30 - 10:00	PhD Workshop – Arrival and tea/coffee
10:00 - 16:30	PhD Workshop – separate programme circulated to registered PhD students
13:30 - 14:00	Planning Schools Forum Lunch
14:00 - 16:30	Planning Schools Forum Meeting
16:00 - 17:30	Conference Registration
16:30 - 17:00	‘Meet the editors’ with Town Planning Review and International Planning Studies
17:30 - 18:00	Drinks Reception
18:00 – 18:30	RTPI Awards for Research Excellence Ceremony
18:30 - 19:30	Opening Roundtable

Day 2: Tuesday 8 September

08:30 - 09:00	Morning Tea, Coffee, Welsh Cakes
09:00 - 10:00	Opening Plenary
10:00 – 11:00	Concurrent Paper Sessions
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:15	Concurrent Paper Sessions
12:15 - 13:15	Plenary Roundtable
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 - 15:35	Concurrent Paper Sessions
15:35 – 15:50	Break
15:50 – 17:15	Mobile Tours
19:00 – 21:00	Conference Dinner (ticketed)

Day 3: Wednesday 9 September

08:30 - 09:00	Morning Tea, Coffee, Welsh Cakes
09:00 - 10:00	Concurrent Paper Sessions
10:00 – 11:00	Concurrent Paper Sessions
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:35	Concurrent Paper Sessions
12:35 – 13:30	Closing Roundtable
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
Conference ends	

Simplified Conference Programme

Date: Monday, 07/Sept/2026	
9:30am -	PhD Workshop Registration: Arrival and tea/coffee Location: Committee Room 2 / Glamorgan Building
10:00am	
10:00am -	PhD Workshop: See full programme emailed to PhD students Location: Committee Room 1 / Glamorgan Building
4:30pm	
1:30pm -	Planning Schools Forum: Lunch Location: 0.02 / Glamorgan Building
2:00pm	For Heads of Planning Schools
2:00pm -	Planning Schools Forum Meeting: Heads of Planning Schools Location: Council Chamber / Glamorgan Building
4:30pm	For Heads of Planning Schools
4:00pm -	Conference Registration Day 1: Conference Registration Desk Open Location: Lobby / Glamorgan Building
5:30pm	
4:30pm -	Meet the editors: 'Meet the editors' with Town Planning Review and International Planning Studies Location: Committee Room 1 / Glamorgan Building
5:00pm	
5:30pm -	Opening Reception: Opening Drinks and Canapes Reception Location: Marble Hall / Temple of Peace
6:00pm	
6:00pm -	RTPI Awards: Awards for Research Excellence Ceremony Location: Marble Hall / Temple of Peace
6:30pm	
6:30pm -	Opening Roundtable: Addressing the "skills gap" in planning – where does the responsibility lie? Location: Marble Hall / Temple of Peace
7:30pm	

The full conference programme is available here:
<https://www.conftool.pro/prc2026/sessions.php>



Date: Tuesday, 08/Sept/2026

8:30am - 9:00am	Morning Tea, Coffee, Welsh Cakes Location: Committee Room 1 / Glamorgan Building					
8:30am - 4:00pm	Meeting Room Location: 0.02 / Glamorgan Building Room for meetings, networking, chatting		Quiet Room Location: 1.52 / Glamorgan Building Quiet Room - Strictly no emails, meetings, socialising, etc.		Conference Registration Day 2: Conference Registration Desk Open Location: Lobby / Glamorgan Building	
9:00am - 10:00am	Opening Plenary: Un-Naming the Plotlands: On What Foundations Do We Build Planning Up? Location: -1.64 / Glamorgan Building					
10:00am - 11:00am	Housing Challenges Location: 1.68 / Glamorgan Building	Mobility Transitions Location: 1.65 / Glamorgan Building	Planning and Place Location: 1.74 / Glamorgan Building	Planning Through Time Location: 0.81 / Glamorgan Building	Sustainability Challenges Location: 1.67 / Glamorgan Building	Women Shaping Cities Location: 1.75 / Glamorgan Building
11:00am - 11:15am	Morning Refreshment Break Location: Committee Room 1 / Glamorgan Building					
11:15am - 12:15pm	Making Voices Heard Location: 1.74 / Glamorgan Building	Neighbourhood Renewal Location: 1.68 / Glamorgan Building	Planning and Delivery Location: 1.65 / Glamorgan Building	Planning in the Digital Age Location: 0.81 / Glamorgan Building	Resilient Sustainable Futures Location: 1.67 / Glamorgan Building	Roundtable: (Environmental) Planning Theory, Governance and Practice Revisited Location: 1.75 / Glamorgan Building
12:15pm - 1:15pm	Plenary Roundtable: In honour of Malcolm Tait (1972-2026) Location: -1.64 / Glamorgan Building					
1:15pm - 2:15pm	Lunch Location: Bute Exhibition Hall / Bute Building					
2:15pm - 3:35pm	Governance in Practice Location: 1.65 / Glamorgan Building	Knowledge Production and Planning Futures Location: 0.81 / Glamorgan Building	Nature, Health and Place Location: 1.67 / Glamorgan Building	Place, Identity and Urban Experience Location: 1.74 / Glamorgan Building	Rethinking Planning Education Location: 1.75 / Glamorgan Building	Roundtable: Zines for Building Planning Up Location: 1.68 / Glamorgan Building
3:35pm - 3:50pm	Afternoon Refreshment Break Location: Committee Room 1 / Glamorgan Building					
3:50pm - 5:15pm	Mobile Tours Location: Front of Glamorgan Building Meet in the front of the Glamorgan Building at 3:50pm					

The full conference programme is available here:
<https://www.conftool.pro/prc2026/sessions.php>



Date: Wednesday, 09/Sept/2026

8:30am - 9:00am	Morning Tea, Coffee, Welsh Cakes Location: Committee Room 1 / Glamorgan Building				
8:30am - 2:30pm	Meeting Room Location: 0.02 / Glamorgan Building Room for meetings, networking, chatting	Quiet Room Location: 1.52 / Glamorgan Building Quiet Room - Strictly no emails, meetings, socialising, etc.	Conference Registration Day 3: Conference Registration Desk Open Location: Lobby / Glamorgan Building		
9:00am - 10:00am	Climate Transitions, Adaptation and Resilience Location: 1.67 / Glamorgan Building	Community Knowledge and Social Inclusion Location: 1.75 / Glamorgan Building	Delivering Urban Transformation Location: 1.68 / Glamorgan Building	Reimagining Planning Pedagogy Location: 1.65 / Glamorgan Building	Transforming Places, Remembering Pasts Location: 0.81 / Glamorgan Building
10:00am - 11:00am	Governing Cities Through Digital Technologies Location: 0.81 / Glamorgan Building	Inclusive Planning and Social Justice Location: 1.75 / Glamorgan Building	Infrastructure, Mobility and Development Location: 1.68 / Glamorgan Building	Planning Sustainable Transitions Location: 1.67 / Glamorgan Building	Reflective Practice and Planning Education Location: 1.65 / Glamorgan Building
11:00am - 11:15am	Morning Refreshment Break Location: Committee Room 1 / Glamorgan Building				
11:15am - 12:35pm	Communities, Knowledge and Planning Location: 1.75 / Glamorgan Building	Managing Urban Growth and Development Location: 1.68 / Glamorgan Building	Roundtable: What's new? Continuity, change, 'grit' and irony in the UK and Ireland's planning systems Location: 1.65 / Glamorgan Building	Social Justice and Planning Practice Location: 1.67 / Glamorgan Building	Theories and Practices of Planning Governance Location: 0.81 / Glamorgan Building
12:35pm - 1:30pm	Closing Roundtable: Planning Tzar Hustings for Planning Education Location: -1.64 / Glamorgan Building				
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Lunch Location: Bute Exhibition Hall / Bute Building				
2:30pm - 2:40pm	Conference Ends Location: Bute Exhibition Hall / Bute Building				

The full conference programme is available here:

<https://www.conftool.pro/prc2026/sessions.php>



Conference Activities

PhD Workshop

The PhD Workshop will be held in the Glamorgan Building. Full room details have been circulated separately to PhD delegates.

Planning Schools Forum

The Planning Schools Forum for Heads of Planning Schools will take place on the 7th of September in the Glamorgan Building:

- Lunch: Room 0.02 (@1:30pm)
- Forum: Council Chamber (@2:00pm)

Meet the Editors

Representatives of Town Planning Review and International Planning Studies will be running a discussion session from 4:30-5:00pm on the 7th of September in Committee Room 1 of the Glamorgan Building.

Opening Event

An evening **drinks reception, RTPI Awards and opening round table** will take place at:

Venue: Temple of Peace

Address: King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3AP ([click here for directions](#))

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

RTPI Awards for Research Excellence

Conferred by RTPI President Jan Bessell, the **RTPI Awards for Research Excellence** celebrate the best spatial planning research from RTPI-accredited planning schools, highlight the implications of academic research for policy and practice, recognise the valuable contribution of planning consultancies to planning research and promote planning research generally.

Roundtable: Addressing the “skills gap” in planning – where does the responsibility lie?

Ever more voices argue that there is a “skills gap” in planning practice, in the UK at least (RTPI 2025; House of Lords Built Environment Committee 2025). This is partly a question

of the overall supply of planners, but also relates to the skills and knowledge of those working in practice. One example is the economics of development – a recent study of the motivations of planning students found that student planners did not seem particularly interested in “economic change” (Hickman, McClymont & Melasecchi 2025) – but “viability” is an increasingly important aspect of planning decision-making in the UK and a lack of knowledge of such matters can lead to concerns over a lack of scrutiny of development proposals (Hickman, Linovski & Sturzaker 2025). Similarly, there have been calls for a greater engagement on matters related to the ethics of planning amongst practicing planners (Sturzaker & Hickman 2024a, 2024b; TCPA, 2026), amidst a broader debate about where the responsibility does, and should, lie for educating/upskilling planners and how skills and knowledge develop or can be “layered” over time (Parker & Maidment 2023, 2026). This roundtable brings together some of these perspectives, seeking to generate reflection on what, if any, skills or knowledge areas are lacking in today’s planners and how the profession and discipline might go about addressing any such gap.

Contributors: John Sturzaker, Gavin Parker, Hannah Hickman, Hugh Ellis, & Gillian Bristow

Opening Plenary: Un-Naming the Plotlands: On What Foundations Do We Build Planning Up?

Dr. Katie McClymont and Dr. Richard Bower will present the opening Plenary on the topic of **Un-Naming the Plotlands: On What Foundations Do We Build Planning Up?**

Today's housing crisis is, in part, a failure of imagination: a loss of the vocabulary through which community-led, informal, and incremental housing was once possible. This plenary takes the conference theme seriously enough to contest it. Building planning up implies strengthening existing foundations – but what if those foundations are themselves part of the problem? What if the intellectual architecture of contemporary planning was constructed, in part, through the systematic exclusion of alternative ways of thinking about housing, community, and land?

Roundtable: In Honour of Malcolm Tait (1972-2026)

Malcolm Tait's scholarship on planning spans nearly three decades. This roundtable reflects on the immense contribution he has made to the field of British planning. Malcolm's overarching engagement has been with questions of trust, legitimacy, and the public interest. Through a commitment to theoretically engaged and often ethnographically oriented research he developed a critical understanding of the planning system as a lived practice. A key strand from his work has been charting how the planning system has adapted and responded to the impacts of neo-liberalization and privatization (with Ben Clifford, Geoff Vigar, Andy Inch, and others). His most recent work on biodiversity, nature, and spatial planning with Kiera Chapman has already made a significant policy impact and attracted media attention, including the building of new connections with activists and campaigners across the UK. Malcolm's life and work has

been brutally cut short. In this roundtable we seek to honour his remarkable contribution and his overriding desire to create a better planning system for people and nature alike.

Contributors: Yasminah Beebeejaun, Kiera Chapman, Ben Clifford, Andy Inch, & Katie McClymont

Mobile Tours

Four mobile tours are offered on the 8th of September from 3:50pm-5:15pm. Delegates are asked to please select the tour they would like to attend in advance by completing the following form:



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/CuqtJMnywH>

Reel Cathays Park - Professor Jon Anderson

Walk into the 'alternative atlas' of Cathays Park, where a familiar place is transformed through the magic of screen productions. Walk through the 'Fourth Wall' and see where and why a host of film and television productions (from Doctor Who, to Discovery of Witches, to His Dark Materials) use Cathays Park as a stage set, and explore the tourism and planning consequences of engaging with place in this way.

Women's History Walking Tours – Professor Sara Huws

Home to the main University Campus, as well as Government buildings, City Hall and institutions such as National Museum Cardiff, it is an area known for its dazzling white buildings and its association with the 'great and the good' of the city's past – mostly men on plinths with big moustaches.

However, look closely, and you'll see that women's history is everywhere, woven into the fabric of our public spaces. From activists to scientists, musicians to militant suffragettes – this tour brings together a snapshot of women's history in Cardiff. This is a step-free tour lasting around 60 minutes at a leisurely pace.

Tiger Bay/Mermaid Quay: Regeneration Bingo – Dr Margot Rubin

Tiger Bay has a long and illustrious history: a port that brought sailors from all over the world to distribute Welsh coal for the burgeoning Industrial Revolution. However, times and tides change and by the middle of the twentieth century and waning of coal as the fuel of choice, the area faced decline. The 1990s brought a new wave of investors and the site was redeveloped into Mermaid Quay, a desirable waterfront development. The walking tour traces the history of displacement and redevelopment of Tiger Bay, looking

at the displacement of the local community and subsequent commercialisation of the area. The tour will have a slight twist as participants play regeneration bingo!

This tour will mean a few minute walk to Cathays Station and a train ride to Cardiff Bay (£4.30 return), a whirlwind tour of the Bay and then participants are welcome to walk or train back.

City Centre Development tour – Dr Brian Webb

Over the past two decades, Cardiff has pursued an ambitious programme of city centre development and regeneration aimed at strengthening its position as a major regional retail hub. Through projects such as pedestrianisation, retail and leisure expansion, and public realm improvements, the city has sought to enhance its attractiveness as a shopping and visitor destination.

This tour will explore the key initiatives that have supported Cardiff's retail growth, while critically reflecting on their benefits and drawbacks for different parts of the city. It will also examine how Cardiff is seeking to address ongoing changes in the retail sector through emerging urban development and regeneration strategies, particularly the decline of large-scale department stores and attempts to improve the leisure offer and promote high-rise residential growth.

Conference Dinner

A conference dinner (pre-purchased ticket required at registration) will take place on the 8th of September at:

Venue: Cornerstone

Address: Charles St, Cardiff CF10 2GA ([click here for directions](#))

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm



Closing Roundtable: The Planning Tsar Hustings

In the context of a profession under significant pressure from climate change, capitalism and Artificial 'intelligence' what is the future of planning and how can we educate people to meet the future. **The Planning Tsar Hustings** invites reflection and debate on multiple alternative futures for planning education.

Contributors: Elaine Edmonds, Odran Reid, Andrew Hoolachan Richard Nunes, and Andrew Ivins

Presentation Information

Delegates **do not need to submit a paper in advance** of the conference.

Concurrent paper sessions will last either **60 or 80 minutes**, depending on the session.

Presenters should bring their presentation on a **USB stick** in either **PowerPoint** or **PDF** format.

Presentations should be planned for **15 minutes**, followed by **5 minutes for questions and discussion**.

To ensure fairness for all presenters, session chairs will ask speakers to conclude if they exceed the allocated 15-minute presentation time.

Roundtable sessions are scheduled during the concurrent session periods and will last **60 minutes**.

A **static PC and projection facilities** will be available in all presentation rooms.

Any Questions?

Email

If you have any questions before the conference, please contact the organising team at prc2026@cardiff.ac.uk.

In Person

During the conference, members of the conference team will be on hand throughout the event.