GURU25
GLOBAL URBAN RESEARCH UNIT
This Timeline celebrates 25 years of research and scholarship in the Global Urban Research Unit (GURU). Building on previous research strengths in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (APL) at Newcastle University, GURU was founded under a different name in 1993.

Today, GURU, through collaboration with other research centres from across the University and beyond, is internationally recognised for its theoretical contributions to planning, governance and urban studies, and its engagement with public policy, community development and professional practices. Over the past 25 years, it has consistently promoted academic excellence and creativity to enable progressive urban policy and practice. Since 1993, GURU members have supervised about 400 international Doctoral students who have contributed significantly to the Centre’s vibrant research environment.

Current research focuses on five distinct but interrelated themes:

- People, Place & Politics
- Infrastructure & Digital Technologies
- Identity, Culture & Heritage
- Urban Design & Human Flourishing
- Environmental Planning & Management

Year by year, the Timeline showcases selected examples of our research projects - funded by a wide range of local, national and international organisations - and publications, some of which have been highly influential in shaping the debate in the field. It highlights some of GURU’s key achievements and contributions to academic and practice communities, indicating a long standing determination to generate lasting and visible impacts.

The Timeline is the product of our collective efforts and especially the generous time and support given by Loes Veldpaus, Ruth Raynor, Jennifer Manuel and Sarah Delap.

Professor Simin Davoudi
Director of GURU
GURU’s predecessor, the Centre for Research in European Urban Environment (CREUE) was formally approved by the University, with Patsy Healey as its founding Director. Patsy joined Newcastle University in 1989 as the Head of Department of Town and Country Planning.

The centre was launched following a keynote lecture by Professor David Harvey of Johns Hopkins University.

CREUE worked in collaboration with the Centre for Architectural Research and Development Overseas (CARDO) that had existed since 1971 and was formally established in 1985 in the Department of Architecture with two key members: Graham Tipple and Peter Kellett.

Richard Williams completed his term of office as the third Secretary General of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP).
1993 saw the flourishing of the *Journal of Environmental Planning & Management* that was established by John Benson and Ken Willis in 1992 and replaced Planning Outlook, published since 1948.

The 6th Thomas Sharp Lecture was presented by John Bridge.

**MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS**


Healey, P. 1993–1994, Movement and mobility in the post–Fordist city, ESRC.


**KEY PUBLICATIONS**


Patsy Healey became the 4th President of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP).

The ESRC-funded Seminar on Challenges in Urban Management led to the Managing Cities book in 1995. The photograph overleaf, taken at the end of the seminar, shows some of the speakers and participants.

**MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS**


KEY PUBLICATIONS


Two new research centres were established: Centre for Urban Technology (CUT) by Simon Marvin, Steve Graham and Simon Guy, and Centre for Research in Environmental Appraisal and Management (CREAM) by Ken Willis and John Benson.

Both centres continued to work collaboratively with CREUE which by then had significantly expanded its multidisciplinary and international collaboration.

**MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Graham, S. April 1995. Urban & Technological Futures, ESRC-funded seminar.


CREUE hosted a seminar on social cohesion in collaboration with the newly established Institute for Urban and Rural Research (directed by John Goddard) with a keynote speech by Alain Lipietz, Director of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).

The Thomas Sharp Lecture was presented by Edward Cullinan.

KEY PUBLICATIONS
The Department of Town and Country Planning celebrated the **50th Anniversary** of its establishment of the first undergraduate planning degree in the UK with 31 full time students and a growing number of international students from India, Egypt and West Indies. **Jo Allen** became the first Chair of Town and Country Planning.

The 50th anniversary was marked by the publication of a book edited by **Cameron Blackhall**, the acting Head of Department in 1986, with contributions from staff and alumni.

Centre for Architectural Research and Development Overseas (CARDO) celebrated its 25th anniversary.
MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


KEY PUBLICATIONS


Patsy Healey’s influential book Collaborative Planning was published. The Thomas Sharp Lecture was presented by David Lock.

**MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS**

- Speak, S. 1997, Young Men & Women from Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods, Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
KEY PUBLICATIONS


Angela Hull became AESOP’s Secretary General.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


KEY PUBLICATIONS


Department of Town and Country Planning and Department of Architecture merged into the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape. John Wiltshire became the first Head of School.

Patsy Healey was awarded an OBE for her services to town and country planning. Her paper with Steve Graham won the AESOP prize for best paper in European Planning Studies.

The Thomas Sharp Lecture was presented by Rodney Beaumont.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


Guy, S. 1999–2000, Towards Continuous Strategic Asset Management in the Northumbrian Water Group, NLTRC.


KEY PUBLICATIONS


Steve Graham became consultant to the UN Centre for Human Settlements on cities and new technologies for their Cities in a Globalizing World report and became a joint founder of the journal Surveillance and Society.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


Coaffee, J., Cameron, S., Gilroy, R. & Speak, S. 2000, Scoping Social Inclusion, One North East.

Hull, A.D. 2000–2003, Neighbourhood Housing Models, NEHOM CEC.

Powe, N.A. & Willis, K.G. 2000, Providing a Profile of the Agricultural and Rural Economy in the NY Moors, NP Land Management Initiative Area Countryside Agency.


KEY PUBLICATIONS
Cameron, S. 2000. European integration and housing policy (Book review), European Planning Studies, 8(4), 540.
Patsy Healey was awarded the 2000 Chester Rapkin Award (by Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning) for the best article in volume 19 for her article on Institutionalist analysis, communicative planning and shaping places published in *Journal of Planning Education and Research*.

Steve Graham and Simon Marvin’s influential book *Splintering Urbanism* was published.

Maggie Roe won the Landscape Institute’s Award for Research on Landscape and Community.

**MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS**


KEY PUBLICATIONS


The three research centres CUT, CREUE and CARDO merged to form GURU as a University-recognised research centre.

Stuart Cameron became Director of GURU.

Patsy Healey was awarded Doctor of Technology Honoris causa, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg.

Steve Graham won 2nd International Bauhaus Award, Dessau.
MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


Thompson, I., Ballantyne, A., Menin, & Townshend, T. 2002, Preparation of case-study material for the CABE online digital library, Commission for Architecture & the Built Environment.


KEY PUBLICATIONS

Benson, J., Jackson, S., Roe, M. & Thompson, I.H. 2002. Response: Redressing the balance on The Unsustainability of Sustainability and Other Green Myths, Landscape Design, 310, 11–12.


Jean Hillier joined GURU as Professor of Town and Country Planning.

Frank Moulaert joined GURU as Professor of European Planning and Development.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


Cameron, S. 2003, Influencing UK Regeneration Policy, North East Regional Assembly.


Graham, S. 2003–2004, Multispeed Cities and the Logistics of Living in an Information Age, ESRC.


KEY PUBLICATIONS

Gilroy, R. 2003. Why can’t more people have a say? Learning to work with older people, Ageing and Society, 23(5), 659–674.


Jean Hillier became Director of GURU.

Patsy Healey was awarded Honorary Fellow of AESOP.

Maggie Roe became Deputy Editor of Landscape Research and Managing Editor in 2009.

The Landscape Research Group joined GURU and continued its collaboration with McCord Centre for Landscape.
MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS
Shaw, T. 2004–2005, Strategic Planning and Regeneration Through Sport and Recreation, County Surveyors Society.
Townshend, T. 2004, NE1 Want to Live Here? Shaping attitudes to urban living and housing options in Newcastle Gateshead, Newcastle City Council.

KEY PUBLICATIONS
Mark Shucksmith joined GURU as Professor of Spatial Planning and was appointed Board Member of the Commission for Rural Communities.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

Gunn, S. 2005, Intra-regional co-ordination: Through the lens of housing strategy-making, ESRC.


Shucksmith, M. 2005–2006, A research agenda for new rural economies: Building research-user alliances across the devolved administrations, ESRC.


Townshend, T. & Madanipour, A. 2005, Public Space Vitality in the NE Region, OneNE and CultureNE.


GURU members co-organised the 13th Waseda University Machizukuri Symposium in Tokyo and Sendai.

KEY PUBLICATIONS


Geoff Vigar became Director of GURU and initiated the refurbishment of GURU Space.

Simin Davoudi joined GURU as Professor of Environment and Planning, and Co-Director of Institute for Research in Environment & Sustainability. She completed her term as the 9th President of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP).

Patsy Healey was awarded the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gold Medal for her outstanding achievement in the field of town and country planning.


Mark Shucksmith appointed to the Government’s Affordable Rural Housing Commission.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


Pendlebury J. 2006–2007, Valuing the historic environment, RCUK & English Heritage


**KEY PUBLICATIONS**


Patsy Healey’s Gold Medal was presented to her in a ceremony hosted by Newcastle University, following a seminar on Strategic Spatial Planning.

Simin Davoudi was appointed member of the Department of Communities and Local Government’s Expert Panel on Housing Markets and Planning Analysis and Wibaut Visiting Professor at University of Amsterdam.

Mark Shucksmith was appointed Chair of the Scottish Government’s Committee of Inquiry into Crofting, 2007–2008, which led to the Crofting Reform Act 2010.

The Thomas Sharp Lecture was presented by Richard Simmons.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


KEY PUBLICATIONS

Fischer, T.B. & Gazzola, P. 2007. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), *Town Planning Review*, 78(4), 531–537.


GURU hosted the meeting of the UN Global Research Network on Human Settlements (followed by a Newcastle Lord Mayor’s reception) to discuss the 2009 UN Habitat Global Report: Planning for Sustainable Cities with a chapter by Davoudi, Healey & Vigar. The Report was launched in the House of Commons in 2009.

Simin Davoudi appointed advisor to: Swedish School of Planning at BTH; Irish Social Science Platform; and EU Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion.

Andrew Donaldson awarded the 2008 Ashby Prize for the most innovative paper in Environment and Planning A.

Peter Kellett appointed advisor to the UK Government’s Foresight Programme.

**MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS**


Roe, M. 2008–2009, Establishment of baseline for, and monitoring of the impact of, the European Landscape Convention in the UK, DEFRA.

Shucksmith, M. 2008–2011, EDORA Energy transition, ESPON.


KEY PUBLICATIONS


GURU hosted the annual *UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference*, Unequal places: planning and territorial cohesion, 1–4 April.

**Patsy Healey** became Fellow of the British Academy.

**Mark Shucksmith** was awarded an OBE for services to crofting and rural development.

**Simin Davoudi** joined the editorial team of the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management (JEPM).

**MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS**


Davoudi, S. 2009–2011, Climate Change and territorial effects on European regions, EU ESPON.

Gilroy, R. 2009, Elder count: developing the agenda, Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Roe, M. 2009, Establishment of baseline for, and monitoring of the impact of, the European Landscape Convention in the UK, DEFRA.


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<th>Key Publications</th>
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Steve Graham re-joined GURU as Professor of City and Society.

Simin Davoudi was appointed member of ESRC Grant Assessment Panel C, 2010–2014, and Alexander von Humboldt Visiting Professor at University of Nijmegen.

Maggie Roe became Editor of Landscape Research.

Tim Townshend made Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Ali Madanipour appointed as City of Vienna Senior Visiting Professor at Technical University of Vienna.

Neil Powe became the Managing Editor of JEPM.

The Thomas Sharp Lecture was presented by Rob Cowan.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


KEY PUBLICATIONS


A new research centre: Architecture Research Collaborative (ARC) was established in the School with Mark Dorrian as its first Director.

Simin Davoudi and Maggie Roe were appointed members of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework Sub-Panel on Built Environment.

Ali Madanipour appointed as the Wits-Claude Leon Distinguished Scholar at University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


Townshend, T. 2011, From Park to Club: Youth, Alcohol and Place, Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
KEY PUBLICATIONS


Ali Madanipour became GURU Director. GURU celebrated the 10th anniversary of the merger of CREUE, CUT and CARDO in an Urban Symposium on Justice and the City.

Mark Tewdwr-Jones joined GURU as Professor of Town and Country Planning.

Simin Davoudi was appointed Member of the Social Science Expert Panel for the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the Department of Energy & Climate Change.

Mark Shucksmith appointed Director of Newcastle University Institute for Social Renewal.

Maggie Roe appointed member of Scientific Advisory Committee for Scottish Natural Heritage.

The Thomas Sharp Lecture was presented by Gillian Darley.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


Madanipour, A. & Shucksmith, M. 2012–2014, TIPSE: Territorial Indicators of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe, EU EPSON.

Pendlebury, J. & several GURU members. 2010–2016, PUMAH: Planning, Urban Management and Heritage, FP7 Marie Curie IRSES.

Pendlebury, J. 2012, Research for Community Heritage, AHRC.

KEY PUBLICATIONS
Brooks, E. 2012. Social Isolation as it Affects Older People in Rural Areas, Comm. for Rural Communities.
Simin Davoudi served as Vice Chair of the ESRC Research Seminar Assessment Panel, became member of the International Advisory Committee of Dutch Research Council’s Urbanising Deltas of the World programme (2013–2019).

Peter Kellett appointed Visiting Professor at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS
Gilroy, R. & Speak, S. 2013, PHFI - UK Consortium Wellcome Trust Capacity Building Programme Faculty Exchange Visit, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.
Pendlebury, J. 2013–2015, A Sustainable Future for the Historic Urban Core, AHRC.

Roe, M. 2013. Policy Change and ELC Implementation: Establishment of a baseline for understanding the impact on UK national policy of the European Landscape Convention, Landscape Research, 38(6), 768–798.


Speak, S. 2013. ‘Values’ as a tool for conceptualising homelessness in the global south, Habitat International, 38, 143–149.


The Thomas Sharp Lecture was delivered by Sir Peter Hall who also launched Newcastle City Future exhibition in Newcastle Guildhall, curated by Mark Tewdwr-Jones.

Simin Davoudi appointed member of the commissioning panel for the Europe–China research on the Green Economy, Beijing.

Mark Shucksmith became Trustee of Action with Communities in Rural England.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

Gilroy, R. 2014–2017, Co-design of the Built Environment for Mobility in Later Life, EPSRC.

Gilroy, R. & Townshend, T. 2014–2017, MyPLACE: Mobility & Place for the Age-friendly City Environment, EPSRC.


Roe, M. 2014–2017, Towards Hydrocitizenship, Connecting Communities with and through responses to independent multiple water issues, AHRC.

Shucksmith, M. 2014–2015, Bridging the gap between academic research and the third sector, Bussey & Armstrong Ltd.

KEY PUBLICATIONS
Paul Cowie received RTPI Research Excellence Awards for wider engagement for his work on The Town Meeting, in collaboration with Cap-a-Pie Theatre Company.

Simin Davoudi appointed Visiting Professor at Virginia Tech and RMIT Melbourne.

Patsy Healey awarded Doctor of Civil Law, Honoris Causa, by Newcastle University.

Peter Kellett’s exhibition on everyday life in Ethiopia opened in the University’s Long Gallery.

Maggie Roe appointed member of Natural England’s Landscape Advisory Group.

GURU members (Hart, Davoudi, Pendlebury, Vigar, Webb and Townshend) co-authored the 15th edition of Town and Country Planning in the UK, the highly cited text book known as the ‘Bible of Planning’.

Ali Madanipour appointed as Visiting Professor at Milan Polytechnic.
MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

KEY PUBLICATIONS
Davoudi S. 2015. Planning as Practice of Knowing, Planning Theory, 14(3) 316–331
Simin Davoudi became Director of GURU.

She was appointed member of Social Science Expert Group for Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and the Advisory Board of Urban Academy, setup by the City of Helsinki and Universities of Helsinki and Aalto.

Roger Burrows joined GURU as Professor of Cities and appointed Trustee of Sociological Review Foundation Ltd.

Steve Graham’s book ‘Vertical’ became Guardian book of the week and one of the Financial Times and Observer books of the year.

Ruth Raynor and Ruth Machen joined as the first GURU Research Fellows.

Mark Shucksmith appointed Trustee of Carnegie UK Trust.

Dave Webb won AHRC Best Research Film Award for his work on You Can’t Move History. He organised the co-operative neighbourhoods, regional conference at Newcastle University.

Tim Townshend was awarded the Royal Society prize for Public Health.

The Thomas Sharp Lecture was presented by Michael Hebbert.
MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


Hamza, N., Pendlebury, J. & Speak, S. 2016–2018, Sustainable Green Markets, regenerating the urban historic core to sustain Socio-Cultural heritage and economic activities, AHRC.


Shucksmith, M. & Tewdwr-Jones, M. 2016–2019, ACCOMPLISSH: Accelerate co-creation by setting up a multi-actor platform for impact from Social Sciences and Humanities, EU.


KEY PUBLICATIONS


Button, C. 2016. The co-production of a constant water supply in Mumbai’s middle-class apartments, Urban Research and Practice, 10(1), 102–119.


GURU research was reorganised under five new themes that were launched at the GURU Symposium at The Core with invited speakers and panel discussions by GURU members.

Simin Davoudi appointed Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Andy Law organised Confucius Institute’s conference Risks to life, heritage, and community on the Yangtze River, Newcastle University.

Loes Veldpaus and John Pendlebury organised a Workshop on Brexit & Heritage, ESRC IAA in Newcastle University’s London Campus.
**MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS**


Mallo, D. & Tardiveau, A. 2017–2018, Scotswood Natural Community Garden: evaluating human and non-human assets for the co-production of a new facility, ESRC IAA.


**KEY PUBLICATIONS**


Jeremy Crampton joined GURU as Professor of Urban Data Analytics and one of 4 SAM@Newcastle Chairs for interdisciplinary research on cities.

Roger Burrows and Maggie Roe appointed members of the REF2021 sub-panels.

Simin Davoudi appointed member of the UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellowships Panel College.

Mark Shucksmith appointed as Specialist Advisor to House of Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy, 2018–2019.

Mark Tewdwr-Jones appointed chair of the Regional Studies Association.

Maggie Roe was elected Academic Fellow of the Landscape Institute.

Loes Veldpaus and John Pendlebury organised Crossing Borders: Heritage and Brexit in the North of England and Scotland workshop, funded by NISR.

The Thomas Sharp Lecture was presented by Marion Roberts.
MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS


Gilroy, R. 2018, Hanover Housing Association, Innovate UK.

Jeffries, J. & Gilroy, R. 2018, Reinvigorating the policy and practice arena by facilitating workshops between disabled users with mobility needs and city place makers, ESRC IAA.

Midgley, J. 2018–2020, Recipe for Success, ESRC IAA.


Raynor, R. 2018, Imagine Sunderland/Imagine Gateshead: Creating futures in uncertain times, ESRC IAA.

Tewdwr-Jones, M. 2018, Ensuring a Policy Impact Legacy from the Newcastle City Futures (NCF) Urban Living Partnership Pilot, ESRC IAA.

Townshend, T. 2018, How can behavioural science be utilised to alter the lived/built environment to improve health, Public Health England.

KEY PUBLICATIONS


2018 marked the 25th anniversary of GURU. We launched our celebratory activities by becoming the first planning school in the UK to host **AESOP’s 13th Heads of Schools Conference** on 20th April. About 100 delegates, representing over 45 universities from across Europe and beyond, participated in the conference, held in Newcastle University Urban Sciences Building. Speakers reflected on the past, present and future of planning research and education with a keynote speech by Patsy Healey. The conference was followed by a series of celebratory events throughout 2018:

- 25 April, Planning: A Participatory Sport? Seminar organised by **Maggie Roe**
- May–October, Canny Planners Workshops organised by **Teresa Strachan**
- 21 May, Planning For Healthier Diets Seminar organised by **Tim Townshend**
- 13 June, Interrogating Form: Creative and Cultural Participatory Practice Workshop organised by **Ruth Raynor**
- 17 October, From Epistemologies to Ontologies: Changing Trajectories of Environmental Research Workshop with a guest lecture by Jenifer Gabrys (Cambridge University) organised by **Ruth Machen**
- 30 October, Changes in Planning Systems, Workshop with a guest lecture by Panu Lehtovuori (Tampere University) organised by **Georgiana Varna**
- 12 December, GURU: A Photo Exhibition organised by **Cat Button**
Dr Raymond Abdulai
Senior Lecturer in Real Estate &
Urban Development

Dr Cat Button
Lecturer and Degree Programme
Director

Dr Andrew Donaldson
Senior Lecturer and Director of
Postgraduate Research

Dr Dominic Aitken
Research Associate

Dr Paola Gazzola
Senior Lecturer in Planning and
Director of Learning & Teaching

Dr Elizabeth Brooks
Research Associate

Prof. Jeremy Crampton
Professor of Urban Data Analysis

Prof. Rose Gilroy
Professor of Ageing, Policy &
Planning

Prof. Roger Burrows
Professor of Cities

Prof. Clive Davies
Visiting Fellow

Prof. Simin Davoudi
Professor of Environment &
Planning and Director of GURU

Prof. Stephen Graham
Professor of Cities and Society
Dr Susannah Gunn
Director of Planning and Senior Lecturer in Planning

Emeritus Prof. Patsy Healey OBE
Emeritus Professor of Town & Country Planning

Dr Andrew Law
Senior Lecturer in Town Planning

Dr Ruth Machen
Research Fellow in Spatial Planning

Prof. Ali Madanipour
Professor of Urban Design

Dr Diego Garcia Mejuto
Teaching Fellow and Degree Programme Director

Dr Jane Midgley
Senior Lecturer in Planning

Aidan Oswell
Teaching Fellow

Dr Brian Peel
Teaching Fellow

Daniel Mallo
Lecturer in Architecture
Armelle Tardiveau  
Lecturer in Architecture

Prof. Mark Tewdwr-Jones  
Professor of Town Planning and Director of Newcastle City Futures

Dr Georgiana Varna  
Lecturer in Planning and Urbanism

Dr Loes Veldpaus  
Research Associate

Prof. Tim Townshend  
Professor of Urban Design for Health

Prof. Geoff Vigar  
Professor of Urban Planning and Deputy Head of School

Dr David Webb  
Senior Lecturer in Town Planning and Degree Programme Director

Dr Sebastian Weise  
Lecturer in Digital Civics

Emeritus Prof. Ken Willis  
Emeritus Professor of Economics of the Environment