



# A collaborative virtual conference with the University of Pittsburgh

Universities: How can we take a people-centred approach to engage with our places?

## ***A global place-based partnership***

Both Newcastle and Pittsburgh have a history of heavy industry and share the consequences of that legacy locally and globally. The goal of last year's conference was to spark conversations that would lead to collaborations to address the pressing questions for our respective cities and others like them.

Our ambition is that our two universities work with our partners around the world to shape a sustainable, just and inclusive future based on three principles:

1. Our shared economic and social legacies, which help define our sense of mission and the nature of our connections with local communities.
2. A conceptual and pragmatic shift from a model of partnership between institutions of higher education to a model of partnership between places.
3. Constant experimentation and innovation; testing new models for place-based global partnerships.

## ***This year's conference***

Between 19 and 20 October 2022 Newcastle University will host the second collaborative conference. Building on last year's conference we will explore and share best practices on how Universities advance place-based approaches through community and student engagement and importantly how we measure our impact and demonstrate accountability to our communities and stakeholders.

The conference will include a programme of concurrent sessions focussed on the themes of sustainability, health, culture and cities and places. Plenary sessions will draw upon the role universities play in their place, looking at a range of international contexts and approaches to impact and evaluation.

We invite you to join us in exploring innovative approaches to place-based engagement and share your learning and insights.

**REGISTER NOW :**

<https://newcastle-pittsburgh.online-event.co/registration/universities-how-can-we-take-a-people-ce-4>

## **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022**

### **DAY ONE**

#### **Plenary Session One: Welcoming Remarks and Opening Roundtable**

**12:30 - 14:00 BST | 07:30 - 09:00 EDT**

The opening plenary of the conference will welcome delegates from across the globe and set the scene for our collaborative virtual conference - Universities: How can we take a people centred approach to engage with our places?. We will hear from Civic and University leaders on the approach that Newcastle and Pittsburgh have taken to work together with their local communities, sharing both challenges and opportunities which will be explored throughout the conference.

##### WELCOME REMARKS:

- **Chris Day**, Vice Chancellor and President, Newcastle University
- **Chancellor Gallagher**, Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh
- **Dame Jackie Daniels**, Chief Executive, Newcastle Hospitals
- **Michelle Percy**, Director of Place, Newcastle City Council

#### **Plenary Session Two: Glocal: Why is a local to global strategy important and how is it working?’**

**14:10 - 15:10 BST | 09:10 - 10:10 EDT**

The University of Pittsburgh and Newcastle University refer to their local to global strategy. What does it mean in practical terms? How does a local engagement strategy work internationally? The aim of this 1 hour panel debate is to discuss what universities and businesses mean by a local to global approach and what examples are there where this is working. Why is it important and how do various organisations contribute to benefitting local communities whilst having international impact in education and research?

##### SPEAKERS:

- **Richard Davies**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Global, Newcastle University
- **Dominic Endiott**, Venture Partner, Northstar Ventures
- **Sarah Green**, Chief Executive Officer at Newcastle Gateshead Initiative
- **Mike Capaldi**, Dean of Innovation and Business at Newcastle University

## Concurrent Session One

15:20 - 16:35 BST | 10:20 - 11:35 EDT

### ***Session A: Cities and Places - Post-crisis Recovery, Reinvention and Resilience in City Regions - Governance and Leadership***

This session will discuss the role of city regional governance and leadership in fostering and supporting post-crisis recovery, reinvention and resilience. It will address issues of political leadership, devolution and capacity-building, representation and inclusion.

Drawing upon experience from the UK and Pennsylvania, researchers and practitioners will reflect on key governance challenges facing city-regions and the lessons of recent initiatives.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **Chair: John Tomaney**, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, University College London
- **Danny MacKinnon**, Professor of Regional Development and Governance, Newcastle University
- **Kristin Kanthak**, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh
- **Henry Kippin**, Managing Director of North of Tyne Combined Authority

### ***Session B: Health - Building Brain Capital***

Societies that dedicate resources to fostering cognitive and mental health may see the best return on investment. Investing in brain health at all stages of life – building brain capital – is crucial if we are to flourish as individuals and societies. This session explores strategies that support brain health to help ensure people have the opportunity to develop their potential, to work productively and creatively, to build resilience and reserve, and to fulfill personal and social goals. Investigators will assess the contribution of public health, psychiatry, and neuroscience in this effort.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **Chair: Lynne Corner**, Director of VOICE, National Innovation Centre for Ageing, Newcastle University
- **Steven Albert**, Professor of Behavioural and Community Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
- **Harris Eyre**, Co-Lead of OECD Neuroscience-inspired Policy Initiative, Instructor at the Global Brain Health Institute on Brain Health Diplomacy and Brain Health Entrepreneurship, Advisor to the Texas Medical Center Innovation Institute Pro-bono advisor to Heka

- **Kirk Erickson**, Director and Principal Investigator of the Brain Aging and Cognitive Health Laboratory, University of Pittsburgh

### ***Session C: Culture - Co-making Community Memory***

This strand showcases participatory research into community memory. How do communities hold memory - whether place-based or connected to historical events, or both? What is the relationship between community memories and change? What happens when community memories are not heeded or valorised by official structures and authorised heritages and historical narratives? The strand focuses in particular on research involving collaboration between academics and communities, considering the political dimensions of this in terms of ethics, power and agency. We will consider forms of engagement, collaboration, meaning-making and co-production, where memory is not simply 'accessed' as if it were an archival source, but rather actively and creatively made and remade. We ask what important potentials for empowerment and recognition such practice may bring (as well as what liabilities), and what commons exist, both within the memory communities we work with, and across our different projects and ways of working.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

- **Chair: Iain Watson**, Visiting Professor of Practice, Newcastle University
- **Njaimeh Njie**, Multimedia Producer, Pittsburgh
- **Ben Houston**, Senior Lecturer in US Modern History, Newcastle University
- **Chris Whitehead**, Dean of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Newcastle University
- **Tim Shaw**, Lecturer in Digital Media, Newcastle University
- **Francesca Lanz**, Assistant Professor Northumbria University, Visiting Researcher Newcastle University

### ***Session D: Sustainability - Place-based Sustainability Partnerships***

Sustainability in its broadest sense is an area in which significant partnerships have developed between Higher Education Institutions and local organisations across the public, private and third sectors. In this panel debate, we talk to a number of colleagues involved in place-based sustainability partnerships, and discuss key questions around their experience. What has worked and what hasn't in partnerships, what have partnerships achieved, and what might we do better or differently in partnerships with hindsight? Our panel members bring different perspectives of partnership working which will provide engaging insights for the audience.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

- **Chair: Sara Walker**, Professor in Energy & Director of The Centre for Energy,

Newcastle University

- **Stephen Elstub**, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Newcastle University
- **David Lynch**, Energy Innovation Partnership Manager, North East Local Enterprise Partnership
- **Mark Adamson**, Project Director, Creative Fuse North East
- **David Sanchez**, Associate Director Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation

## **Concurrent Session Two**

**16:45 - 18:00 BST | 11:45 - 13:00 EDT**

### ***Session A: Cities and Places - Post-crisis Recovery, Reinvention and Resilience in City Regions - Inclusive Innovation and Growth***

Higher education institutions have expanded well into community engagement and the recognition of the mutual benefits for community applications of university-led research and innovation. In both the UK and US, widening inequalities and the continuing impacts of the COVID pandemic have made many much more aware of the role of essential goods and services of the everyday economy that are so important for sustainability and liveability for so many. This session will highlight important applications of university-community research and innovation to improve living conditions and wellbeing of some of the most affected populations. What is possible at city and regional levels to improve health and resilience through university innovation and community applications and what policy initiatives can play a role?

Key topics:

Foundational/everyday economy

How to spread the benefits of university-led research and innovation more widely

Left behind people and places (levelling up, Biden bill)

Universities as anchor institutions

SPEAKERS:

- **Chair: Sarah Longlands**, Chief Executive of Centre for Local Economic Strategies
- **Andy Pike**, Henry Daysh Professor of Regional Development Studies in the (CURDS), Newcastle University
- **Sabina Deitrick**, Associate Professor of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh
- **Grant Ervin**, Director of ESG and Innovation for S&B USA
- **Nic Palmarini**, Director, National Innovation Centre for Ageing, Newcastle

University

### ***Session B: Health - Building Dementia Friendly Places***

There is strong evidence that people can improve their brain health and support healthier longer lives through lifestyle changes and behaviours such as regular physical activity, keeping socially connected and maintaining good cardiovascular health. This session explores the role of cities and urban spaces in supporting concepts of dementia friendly communities and Cities of Healthy Longevity – and within this context how a range of connected, proactive policies and investment in services are essential to prevent and manage depression and support through life mental health and resilience.

SPEAKERS:

- **Chair: Dr Lynne Corner**, Director of VOICE, National Innovation Centre for Ageing, Newcastle University
- **Professor Charles Reynolds**, Professor of Psychiatry and UPMC Endowed Professor in Geriatric Psychiatry emeritus, University of Pittsburgh
- **Professor Cathrine Degnen**, Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Newcastle University

### ***Session C: Culture - Co-making Places***

Speakers will share their work and experience in hyper-local place making from a range of different perspectives. What is the role of universities in place-making the present (with a necessary eye to the future and understanding of the past)? How can community organisations and university researchers co-create solutions to austerity and neoliberalism? What role does creative arts practice have in universities working with their localities to create the present? What are we both trying to create - what vision or dream do we have for our communities? How can all knowledge be fully respected? What do different academic disciplines bring to place making in the present?

SPEAKERS:

- **Chair: Liz Todd**, Professor of Educational Inclusion , Newcastle University
- **Uta Kogelsberger** , Professor of Practice School of Arts and Cultures, Newcastle University
- **Karen Laing**, Senior Research Associate, Newcastle University
- **Alison Atkinson-Phillips**, Lecturer in Public History, Newcastle University
- **Karla Boos**, Artistic Director, Quantum Theatre
- **Jessica FitzPatrick**, Director of Digital Narrative and Interactive Design (DNID) Program, University of Pittsburgh
- **Armelle Tardiveau**, Lecturer in Architecture, Newcastle University

- **Daniel Mallo**, Senior Lecturer in Architecture, Newcastle University

### ***Session D: Sustainability - Place-based Sustainability Show and Tell***

This session will share best practices across a variety of sustainability research areas, with a focus on collaborative place-based projects and partnerships. In this lightning round experience, each share their experiences on a specific project in a 5-minute “show and tell.”

#### **SPEAKERS:**

- **Emily Elliott** , Director and co-founder of the Pittsburgh Collaboratory for Water Research, Education and Outreach at the University of Pittsburgh
- **Bob Gradeck**, Project Director, Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center at the University of Pittsburgh’s University Centre for Urban and Social Research.
- **Abhishek Visawanathan**, Researcher, University of Pittsburgh
- **Jennine Jonczyk**, Researcher in Water Resources, Newcastle University
- **Nathan Forsythe**, Research Fellow at the School of Engineering, Newcastle University
- **Aurora Sharrard**, Director of Sustainability, University of Pittsburgh
- **Eric Raabe**, Project Manager,CONNECT’s Climate Action Planning (CAP)

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20 2022**

### **DAY TWO**

#### **Opening Plenary : How we understand our place and co-design mutually beneficial outcomes.**

**12:30 - 13:30 BST | 7:30 - 8:30 EDT**

In this session we will hear from leading thinkers and practitioners from the US and UK on approaches to working with local communities to understand what is important to them and how we work together to develop long-term, meaningful and impactful partnerships.

#### **SPEAKERS**

- **Jane Robinson**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Engagement and Place, Newcastle University
- **John Anderson Fry**, President of Drexel University
- **Emily Morrision**, Head of the Institute of Community Studies
- **Jonathan Grant**, Director, Different Angles

### **Concurrent Session Three**

**13:45 - 15:00 BST | 8:45 - 10:00 EDT**

#### ***Session A: Cities and Places - Post-crisis Recovery, Reinvention and Resilience in City Regions - Building Collaborative Partnerships***

What are the parameters of high-impact community-engaged research? Drawing on practices from the UK and Pennsylvania, the panel discusses how researchers, university staff, and community stakeholders design, maintain, and implement collaborative partnerships.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

- **Chair: Mark Tewdwr-Jones**, Professor of Cities and Regions, University College London
- **Michael Glass**, Director of Urban Studies, University of Pittsburgh
- **Louise Kempton**, Senior Research Associate at Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies & Associate Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Newcastle University
- **Matt Wilton**, Assistant Chief Executive at Newcastle City Council

#### ***Session B: Health - Creating Space for Child and Adolescent Thriving***

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted structural inequities that are barriers to thriving for children and youth in neighborhoods with concentrated disadvantage. Health systems responsible for child health have limited guidance about how to establish sustainable cross-sector collaborations that can support child thriving and health equity. This session focuses on the importance of centering community voices and experiences to improve health outcomes. We will explore “thriving” as a vital metric for considering health and well-being, highlighting the value of strengths-based approaches and expanding the health lens to consider healthy environments and vibrant communities. Integration of community members into scientific inquiry as part of collaborative team science, rapid data-to-action cycles, and workforce development are promising strategies to foster child health equity.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

- **Chair: Liz Miller**, Professor of Paediatrics, Public Health, and Clinical and Translational Science, University of Pittsburgh
- **Dr. Jamil Bey**, Founder and President of the UrbanKind Institute
- **Dr Alison Stenning**, Professor of Social and Economic Geography, Newcastle



University

- **Dr Mary L. Ohmer**, COSA Chair Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh

### ***Session C: Culture- Co-making Futures***

In the Co-Making Futures strand speakers will share their individual and collective work in envisioning and presenting prospective futures tied to hyper-local or even global communities. Drawing on particular features of the past and present, in combination with acknowledgement of material realities of a particular location, practitioners and scholars will share on work undertaken in the present to interrogate, explore or perhaps even build towards particular visions of a future.

As a panel our speakers might explore:

What aspects of our present should we build upon as we co-create future aspects of our cities or communities? What elements of erasure in the present should be acknowledged and attended to as we rebuild or build anew moving into future iterations of our place and space? Who will inhabit our future cities and communities? How will individuals and groups be empowered to make features of a future both together and apart? What will we co-make together? And what do we need to do now to safeguard ethics of inclusivity and collectivity as envisioned and made together?

SPEAKERS:

- **Chair: Jennifer Keating** , Senior Lecturer & Writing in the Disciplines Specialists, Institute for Writing Excellence, Dietrich, School of Arts & Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
- **Julia Heslop**, Postdoctoral Fellow in Architecture, Newcastle University
- **Drew Armstrong**, Director of Architectural Studies and Associate Professor , University of Pittsburgh
- **Clare Drobot**, Co Artistic Director, City Theatre Company
- **Hannah Marsden**, PGR, Newcastle University

### **Capstone Conversation**

**15:15 - 16:30 BST | 10:15 - 11:30 EDT**

As we close our annual place-based conference, we will reflect on the themes and ideas which have been shared. What have we learnt and how will we take these ideas and values forward, not just in Newcastle and Pittsburgh, but in other places, expanding our network and range of voices we hear from across the globe. We will hear about

plans to build a wider network to share and develop thinking and impact, and set out ways in which delegates can engage going forward.

SPEAKERS:

- **Jane Robinson**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Engagement and Place, Newcastle University
- **Ariel Armony**, Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Director of the University Centre for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh

Featuring

- **Louise Kempton**, Senior Research Associate at Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies & Associate Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Newcastle University
- **Matt Wilton**, Assistant Chief Executive at Newcastle City Council
- **Aurora Sharrard**, Director of Sustainability, University of Pittsburgh
- **Michael Glass**, Director of Urban Studies, University of Pittsburgh