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TORONTO

International Doctoral Cluster Cities and infrastructure in a global age

Recruiting 2 New Doctoral Students in Urban Infrastructure to Join International Doctoral Cluster
Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto

Application Deadline: January 15, 2021 for September 2021 start date

The Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto invites applications for **2 Doctoral Studentships** to join an International Doctoral Cluster (IDC) focused on cities and infrastructure in a global age that the University of Toronto and the University of Manchester are launching in September, 2021.

The International Doctoral Cluster will provide a unique opportunity for participating students focused on infrastructure topics enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of Toronto to work with faculty members, conduct comparative research, and be part of a cohort of graduate students at both universities. The IDC will support the comparison and exchange of conceptual, empirical and methodological insights into the past, present and future work of cities and infrastructure in a global age. Alongside academic research the IDC program will include a strong element of engagement, impact and outreach with public, private, and non-profit organizations in the infrastructure sector.

We are especially interested in applications from doctoral students that would like to undertake research on the following topics:

- Infrastructure and global urbanisms/global sub-urbanisms
- Financing infrastructures
- Governing infrastructures
- Infrastructure of adaptation and resilience
- Infrastructures of climate change
- Infrastructures of mobility and transport
- Infrastructure as visioning and worlding strategy
- Infrastructural citizenship
- Infrastructure and statecraft
- Infrastructure and sustainable urbanism
- Low carbon infrastructures
- Race, Gender and Infrastructure
- Infrastructure and Disability
- Social infrastructure
- Every day and incremental infrastructures

See Appendix 1 for a more detailed description of the University of Toronto-University of Manchester IDC focus on cities and infrastructure in a global age.

Benefits from Participating in the IDC

- The opportunity to design and undertake a doctoral research project in an area of your own interest
- A fellowship for 4 years that covers tuition and living expenses at the University of Toronto.
- A chance to work with a significant cluster of faculty and an active cohort of graduate students at both universities that are undertaking cutting edge research on infrastructure.
- A chance to receive a PhD from the University of Toronto, with a supervisory committee that includes leading faculty in the field of infrastructure from both universities.
- Funding for University of Toronto based doctoral students to visit Manchester for research field work and to engage with faculty and students at the University of Manchester (beginning when COVID-19 travel restrictions are lifted and it is safe for visits to resume).
- Participation in IDC events such as annual academic colloquia and joint workshops that bring together leading faculty and graduate students at the two universities. These activities will be hosted virtually and in-person when it is safe to do so.

Statement on Diversity

A strong commitment to diversity is a vital feature of the doctoral programs in Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto, and is critical to the success of the IDC. We especially welcome applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ+ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. We also welcome students with diverse educational backgrounds and work experiences from both Canada and other countries of the world.

How to Apply

The International Doctoral Cluster is open to all applicants to the doctoral program in the Geography and Planning Department at the University of Toronto. All applicants will follow the standard PhD program application process for the department, and then accepted students in the relevant area of infrastructure will be selected for participation in the IDC. Students are encouraged to contact University of Toronto faculty members participating in the IDC listed in Appendix 2 to explore mutual research interests and potential supervision. The admission process will work as follows:

- Applicants to the doctoral program will first be assessed by the Department of Geography and Planning admission committee as part of the general pool of applicants. Students are encouraged to express an interest in being considered for the IDC in their statement of research interest.
- Students accepted into the UofT PhD program with a focus on infrastructure related topics will then be assessed for a place in the IDC program. Students will be selected based on the quality of their application and how their proposed research topic fits with the combined mutual areas of interest and strength at Manchester and Toronto. Students who have been admitted into the UofT PhD program but are not selected for the IDC will still have their place in the PhD program.

For more information on the Admission processes and submission requirements for the doctoral program, please visit the Department of Geography Website at: <https://geography.utoronto.ca/graduate-geography/application-admissions/>

General Inquiries about the IDC can be directed to:

Matti Siemiatycki, Professor of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto
siemiatycki@geog.utoronto.ca

Appendix 1: Description of Cities and Infrastructure in a Global Age

Infrastructure is a concept over which many disciplines claim some intellectual ownership. This includes those in engineering, the environmental and medical, as well the social, sciences. Within the latter we can include anthropology, architecture, business, economics, geography, history, planning, political science and sociology. While for some of these disciplines the interest in infrastructure is long standing, for others it is a more recent development, where there appears to have been something akin to an “infrastructural turn” (Dodson, 2015: 87). One area in which recent years have seen insights from a number of these disciplines converge and overlap is that on infrastructure and urbanization. As cities are increasingly understood as sites – in a both territorial and networked sense – through which planetary futures are being made and remade, so there appears some utility in using “infrastructure” as a lens onto the dynamic, open-ended, relationally-constituted and variegated process of urbanization.

On the one hand, as part of this “turn”, we have witnessed a growth in studies of the different kinds of infrastructure that maintains, nourishes, supports, sustains and underwrites the urban system, while, of course, being constitutive of it. That is both the material infrastructure (and its uneven presence/absence in and between cities) such as that around energy, health, transport, waste and water and the less material or tangible infrastructures such as that which gives coherence and shape to expertise, finance, and master-planning. On the other hand, there has also emerged a parallel discussion on infrastructure *qua* infrastructure. Specifically, on the ways in which the term infrastructure might, itself, be used most productively. So, for Appel et al (2015: np) infrastructure is, “a productive metaphor—for critical theory and the analysis of social life more broadly”, for Carse (2016: 28) it is a collective noun that “refers to the subordinate parts of many projects, from the built systems that move water, sewage, people, and power to components assembled under the rubrics of security, information, health, finance, political mobilization, and environmental management”, while for Wiig and Silver (2019: 913) they understand it as verb, incorporating “the making, maintaining, and use of infrastructure in the reordering of world economy and city-regions.”

This thinking through the different ways in which infrastructure comes to be present in cities, the nature of its relationship with urbanization and how this might involve, perhaps even necessitate, a rethinking of the concept itself, is the overarching focus for this International Doctoral Cluster (IDC). It will bring together faculty and staff in geography and planning, anthropology, architecture, business studies, computer science, development studies, engineering, political science, and sociology from the UoM and UofT to support a series of discrete but related projects as part of a larger program of graduate research. The IDC will support the comparison and exchange of conceptual, empirical and methodological insights into the past, present and future work of cities and infrastructure in a global

age, with the building in of a strong element of engagement, impact and outreach with private, public and third sectors users.

Within the overall program themes likely to be addressed in one or more research projects include:

- Every day and incremental infrastructures
- Financing infrastructures
- Governing infrastructures
- Infrastructure of adaptation and resilience
- Infrastructures of climate change
- Infrastructures of mobility and transport
- Infrastructure as visioning and worlding strategy
- Infrastructural citizenship
- Infrastructure and global urbanisms/global sub-urbanisms
- Infrastructure and statecraft
- Infrastructure and sustainable urbanism
- Low carbon infrastructures
- Race, Gender and Infrastructure
- Social infrastructure

Appendix 2: University of Toronto Geography and Planning Participating Faculty

Name	Research Interests	Contact Details
Matthew Adams	Geographic information systems/science, Exposure science, Urban pollution	md.adams@utoronto.ca
Alana Boland	Environment and development, Sustainability and urban political economy, China (1950s to present)	boland@geog.utoronto.ca
Ron Buliung	Disability studies, Transport geography, Child and youth geographies	ron.buliung@utoronto.ca
Heather Dorries	Indigenous planning, Indigenous knowledge, Settler colonial urbanism	heather.dorries@utoronto.ca
Steven Farber	Transport geography, Spatial analysis, Accessibility	steven.farber@utoronto.ca
Deborah Leslie	Cultural industries, Commodity chains, Material culture	leslie@geog.utoronto.ca
Rajyashree Narayanareddy	Geographies of waste and labour, Urban political ecology, Global urbanism	rajyashree.narayanareddy@utoronto.ca
Scott Prudham	Political ecology, Political economy and environment, Industrial and alternative forestry	scott.prudham@utoronto.ca
Katharine Rankin	Politics of planning and development, Feminist and critical theory, Culture-economy articulations	rankin@geog.utoronto.ca
John Robinson	The intersection of climate change mitigation, Adaptation and sustainability, Sustainable buildings and cities	johnb.robinson@utoronto.ca
Matti Siemiatycki	Infrastructure finance and delivery, mega-projects, transportation	siemiatycki@geog.utoronto.ca
Andre Sorensen	Urban geography, Urban form, Planning history and theory	andre.sorensen@utoronto.ca
Michael Widener	Access to healthy food, Health and transportation geographies, GIS, agent-based modelling, and spatial optimization	michael.widener@utoronto.ca