

Urban Incubators, Innovation and Inequality: Sharing and Work in Divided Cities

A symposium sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council and hosted by LSE Cities

Venue: Room 9.04, Tower 2 (9th floor), Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2AZ

Date: Thursday 14th September 2017, 9.30 to 13.30

Organisers: Suzi Hall (LSE) and Max Nathan (University of Birmingham)

The emergence of shared urban workspaces for SMEs across UK cities is evident in the sectors of retail, industry and manufacturing, arts, the creative industries and the digital economy. Innovations in the spatial and cultural life of these economies reveal important practices in the changing nature of urban work, and the reorganisation of city spaces, terms of tenure, and modes of doing and organising economic activity. However, these important shifts across sectors should also be understood in relation to structural factors of inequality, including the casualisation of work contracts, escalating property values, and enduring features of market exclusions on the basis of race, class and gender.

This symposium connects themes of innovation and inequality associated with emerging shared workspace, patterns and practices, with a focus on a divided London. We aim to explore possible overlaps across different sectors of urban work, and outline implications for policy. We will also look at whether a cross-sector set of SME practices is emerging, and whether (and what) sector practitioners and policy makers could learn from one another.

PROGRAMME

09.30-10.00	Coffee and Registration
10.00-10.15	Introduction
10.30-11.30	Presentations
11.30-12.00	Discussion
12.00-12.30	Key Points and Closing Remarks
12.30-13.30	Informal Lunch

PRESENTATIONS

Introduction: Cities, Inequality, Work

Monder Ram, *Director, Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship, University of Birmingham*

Start-ups, co-working and the unlevel playing field

Max Nathan, *Senior Birmingham Fellow in Regional Economic Development, University of Birmingham*

Pop ups and precarity

Ella Harris, *PhD Researcher in Geography, Royal Holloway*

Street retail, race and ethnicity

Suzi Hall, *Director, Cities Programme, London School of Economics and Political Science*