

Symposium Proposal Guidelines

IJURR does not publish special issues, i.e. entire issues dedicated to a specific theme. But the journal does publish occasional symposia, comprising 3–4 articles, plus an introduction, allowing for an in-depth and comparative exploration of important urban themes and concepts. A strong introduction is an important component of most symposia. It should indicate clearly the originality and coherence of the symposium.

Recently we published the following symposia:

- *Theorizing the Politicizing City* (vol. 41.1)
- *The Variegated Financialization of Housing* (vol. 41.4)
- *Spatial Spillovers Revisited: Innovation, Human Capital and Local Dynamics* (vol 41.6)
- *Engineering Cities: Mediating Materialities, Infrastructural Imaginaries and Shifting Regimes of Urban Expertise* (vol 42.2)

Symposium articles should reflect the journal's international outlook and critical stance, bringing fresh perspectives and insights to the debate. Conceptual innovation is the main criterion of acceptance for publication.

Symposia may cover any aspect of urban and regional studies. Some, but not all, symposia arise from workshops or sessions at conferences.

The journal editors will be pleased to consider symposium proposals. These should comprise:

- *An outline of the issues to be explored;*
- *An assessment of the collection's contribution to the research;*
- *The names of proposed contributors; and*
- *Preliminary abstracts of the proposed articles.*

Proposals are usually between 4 and 8 pages in length. The editorial board considers proposals, and may make suggestions regarding the scope or coverage of the proposed symposium and the selection of contributions.

A positive assessment of the proposal does not guarantee publication of all or some of the articles and guest editors are asked to ensure that contributing authors understand that there is a review process. The guest-editor is expected to exercise an editorial role in preparing articles both prior to submission for review, and during any revisions as required in light of reviews. Individual contributions must meet with the standards of publishable research and engage with the symposium rationale,

conceptual framework and definitions outlined in the introduction. Individual contributors should be familiar with the other articles in the collection to avoid repetition and enable the articles to talk to one another. If these conditions are not met, the IJURR editors may decide not to send submissions out for review, i.e. approval of a proposal for a symposium and invitation to submit the articles does not guarantee that the articles will be put through the review process. Guest editors should note that the introduction is an especially important part of any symposium. When the complete set of articles is submitted to IJURR, it will be reviewed as a collection. Individual articles may also be reviewed separately by experts in the field.

The most common flaws in proposals for symposia are (1) that the proposal fails to explain clearly how and why the collection will make a substantial and original contribution to the relevant literature(s), and (2) the proposal fails to demonstrate the coherence of the proposed symposium, which instead seems to comprise a handful of loosely linked articles that might be on similar topics but fail to engage with each other.

Symposium proposals should be submitted by email in the first instance to the managing editor, Terry McBride (ijurr.tmcbride@gmail.com), taking account of the annual symposium competition guidelines and submission deadline of *1st September*.