

The beginning of the 21st century has brought with it a world population that now predominantly resides in urban areas. Popular and academic attention on the "global city", on the information networks connecting financial centres such as London and New York, has put into the shadow the range of everyday urban experiences in apparently unremarkable agglomerations. In short, mundane experiences and aspects of urbanism have tended to be obscured from analysis, despite the potentially rich insights offered by work on such majority experiences. This is a call for papers for a short conference seeking an antidote to the delimitation of much urban research around the bright lights, finance economies and sharper problems of nodal city centres. We seek contributions from across the range of disciplines dealing with the ordinary, the commonplace and the everyday in smaller urban centres as well as treatments of these aspects of life in major metropolitan areas such as: commuting, shopping, organising childcare and domestic life, eating and drinking, moving to and from schools, hospitals and sports facilities, kin and friendship networks and rituals that, taken as a whole, constitute the everyday or ordinary city.

This symposium will bring together researchers from across a range of disciplines whose interests intersect with and/or explore 'Everyday Cities and Ordinary Lives' from the perspectives of literature, film, art, urban studies, geography, music, popular culture, political discourse, social policy and sociological theory. There is no restriction on period, form or genre and we particularly welcome proposals from postgraduate students. The meeting will be used to galvanise connections between the humanities and the social sciences, and is being organised by the interdisciplinary Centre for Modern Studies (based in the Humanities Research Centre) and the Centre for Urban Research (based in the Departments of Sociology and Politics).

Presentations are invited on the following and other relevant topics:

- Moving through space (driving, walking, cycling, public transportation)
- Work
- School and childcare
- Commuting and traffic jams
- Leisure time and entertainment
- Community spaces (church, pub)
- Grocery shopping
- The street and the corner
- Life in the home
- Privacy and private behaviour
- Rituals of social intercourse (etiquette and decorum)
- The city and the body (public amenities)
- Sartorial codes and markers
- The everyday city past and present
- "Kitchen sink cities"
- Towns and small cities

Please send abstracts of no more than 200 words to:

everydaycitiesordinarylives@gmail.com
by 4 May 2012.

Everyday Cities and Ordinary Lives: *Ordinary Lives in Extraordinary Cities*

15th June 2012

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*



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