

**Local Economy Special Issue:**  
***(Re)appraising place-based economic development strategies***

Guest Editors: Lee Pugalis, Gill Bentley and John Shutt

Economic restructuring, social shifts, cultural transformations, environmental concerns and political ruptures produce unique spatial manifestations and demand continual changes in institutional architecture, geographies of governance and forms of intervention.

The primary aim of this Special Issue of Local Economy is to (re)appraise contemporary place-based economic development strategies and changing institutional structures in response to the ongoing financial crisis. In England, for instance, the regional institutional architecture has been swept away and devolution and decentralisation has promised (but is yet to produce) more locally tailored place-based economic development interventions. Moves to disperse statutory powers and crucial levers of authority to English cities and neighbourhoods appear to be among the most prominent aspects of the localism agenda but have so far failed to connect with the public imagination. Nevertheless, non-governmental actors (primarily business interests) have been put back in the driving seat with the new Local Enterprise Partnerships. This is a prime example of the variegated forms of neoliberal projects that have permeated the policies and economic governance of a significant proportion of countries, especially those of OECD member states.

As the contours of institutional relations evolve, spaces of governance are rescaled, plans are recalibrated and delivery mechanisms reformulated, the question is how does this alter on-the-ground economic development strategies? With growing recognition of the unsuitability of new place-based economic strategies variously described as recovery plans, visions of resilience or smart growth action plans, what are the alternatives? Do past approaches represent failures? These questions present considerable conceptual and practical challenges, especially for those interested in sustainability and inclusivity. It requires critical examination of past, present and future strategies.

**Topics for Discussion**

Papers are invited that:

- Map the broad contours of change, review emergent practice and theorise the capacity of sub-national economic governance configurations, supra-local partnerships and new delivery vehicles to synchronise development goals

- Explore the multi-scalar issues, relational connections and reciprocal interactions that are performing different roles in reformulating state-civil society-business relations
- Examine and critically assess the orientation, merits and dilemmas of pre- and post-financial-crisis place-based economic development strategies
- Analyse novel approaches across the globe which will stimulate new thinking and which could offer alternative frameworks for realising more socially inclusive and sustainable development goals

### **Call for Papers**

Papers for the *Features* section of Local Economy Journal should be approximately 6000 words in length before references. Papers for the *In Perspectives* section, which report current practice, should be around 3,000 words in length, and shorter *Viewpoints* provide space for commentaries on cutting-edge issues.

In the first instance, abstracts (of between 200 -1,500 words) should be submitted to the contacts below by **26<sup>th</sup> October 2012**.

Manuscript submission will be required by **18<sup>th</sup> March 2013**. The Special Issue is scheduled for publication in late 2013. Further details about manuscript submission are to be found at: <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/journalsProdDesc.nav?prodId=Journal202011&crossRegion=eur#tabview=manuscriptSubmission>

### **Contact point:**

#### **Dr Lee Pugalis**

Senior Lecturer in Urban Theory & Practice, Northumbria University  
[lee.pugalis@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:lee.pugalis@northumbria.ac.uk)

#### **Gill Bentley**

Lecturer in Urban and Regional Economic Development Strategy, University of Birmingham  
[g.a.bentley@bham.ac.uk](mailto:g.a.bentley@bham.ac.uk)

#### **Professor John Shutt**

Harris Research Partnership & Newcastle University  
[john.shutt@harrisresearch.co.uk](mailto:john.shutt@harrisresearch.co.uk)