

Call for Applications

CIFAR and The British Academy Virtual Knowledge Frontiers Symposium

February and March 2022

Introduction

1. CIFAR and the British Academy are issuing this call for applications inviting applications for early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to participate in virtual research activities on the broad theme of 'What is a good city'.
2. These activities aim to encourage and establish international engagement and collaboration between early career researchers based in Canada and the United Kingdom from a broad range of disciplines within the humanities and social sciences, encouraging the exchange of ideas across both disciplinary and national boundaries.

Purpose and Focus

3. These activities will aim to draw on the insights of the humanities and social sciences to explore varied understandings and experiences of what is a good city.
4. CIFAR and the British Academy are particularly interested in encouraging broad and innovative interpretations of what makes a good city, whether past or present, physical or imaginary from researchers in both the humanities and the social sciences.
5. Cities and urban life have been particularly affected by COVID-19. Cities, as political and economic centres where people live in close proximity, have experienced the repercussions of COVID-19 acutely. The immediacy of varying degrees of 'lockdown' and social distancing measures brought about by COVID-19 in cities has put biopolitics – the political control of bodies – into unusually stark relief. There are lessons we can learn from history, both recent and more distant, about the fluctuation and transformation of urban experience.
6. These questions also relate to varying understandings of how to and who should 'build back better'. Building 'back' carries with it the idea of what it means to be resilient – to bounce back from a stressor to an equilibrium state – however to do so may ignore the underlying and longstanding nature of urban inequalities, structural disadvantage and the key drivers of environmental harm. How, then, can we take seriously the questions of what it is that needs rebuilding, for whom and towards which futures?
7. CIFAR and the British Academy are particularly interested in the following framing questions:
 - a) **Values:** What have been and are the criteria by which a 'good city' is judged? What social, political, economic, and cultural values are embedded in urban policy making? What value is placed on the non-human environment in a 'good city'? When different values and modes of valuation are mobilised, how are such conflicts, frictions and complementarities negotiated? Can an integrated planning be imagined or actualised?

- b) **Preparation:** How have cities prepared for the unexpected, and how can they do so in the future? How can cities steer themselves out of disasters and emergencies, including in the context of the climate crisis, and how have they previously done so? What governance, resilience, adaptation, anticipatory intelligence, social inclusion, political processes and health provision should a ‘good city’ have? Can contingency or serendipity be factored into planning? How might cities respond creatively to the opportunities and possibilities of an open future?
- c) **Space:** What positive measures can a city undertake to make it easier for different groups of people to live together? What infrastructural – understood well beyond the physical – decisions can be taken to better the wellbeing of citizens? How will or can the transformation of urban spaces in a decarbonised society of the future transform collective action and democratic processes?
- d) **Experience:** How is the city experienced? How can we engage across the divide of otherness in a city? The ‘good city’ evokes the good life, yet urban citizens often live with ill health, pollution, poor living conditions, fear, anxiety, isolation, crime and helplessness. How can urban life maintain and repair human wellbeing and mental health rather than harm them?
- e) **Representation:** How does a ‘good city’ represent itself? How does the ‘good city’ create a sense of the urban experience? How does it image its past, present and future? How can a ‘good city’ tackle and mediate difficult histories and legacies? How is the imaginary of the ‘good city’ constituted? How does the image of the city inform the experience of the dweller of the city? How can political representation and the institutional organisation of politics come together and be experimented with in the city?

Virtual Activities

- 8. CIFAR and the British Academy aim to bring together around thirty early career researchers (understood as up to ten years after obtaining a PhD) based in the UK and Canada from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss key questions around the theme of ‘What is a good city?’. The virtual activities will be designed to encourage collaboration and exchange between early career researchers.
- 9. The virtual activities will enable participants to share their research plans and collaboration ideas through a series of sessions that facilitate discussion, feedback and collaborative thinking. CIFAR and the British Academy plan to organise these virtual sessions in February and March 2022 on 22, 23 and 24 February and 1, 2 and 3 March. Most virtual sessions will be two hours long with a fifteen-minute break with a session per day.
- 10. In order to stimulate collaboration and networking, small-scale seed funding will be made available for which participants can apply. These collaborations must be international in their composition and can be either partnerships or groups. Time will be set aside for participants to share and discuss their ideas for collaboration over the course of the virtual sessions. The application form for seed funding will be circulated in advance of the symposium to ensure participants are fully aware of the opportunity and requirements.
- 11. In addition to funding several collaborative proposals, the symposium will aim to provide opportunities for a range of other outputs. Participants, for example, could contribute to a publication focused on the symposium theme, either through individual papers or in

partnership with other symposium participants such as in the Journal of the British Academy or a more policy-oriented briefing.

Eligibility

12. For the purpose of this symposium, early career is defined as being within a ten-year period of the award of the applicant's doctorate (or equivalent research experience). This eligibility will be viewed flexibly in order to take into account instances such as career breaks. Applicants are encouraged to contact the British Academy with any questions they may have related to eligibility.
13. Participants must be based at institutions in Canada or the United Kingdom, or be part of the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars programme.
14. Participants must have fluency in spoken and written English.
15. Participants must be able to participate in at least 75% of the virtual sessions. If this is not met it will result in a participant not being eligible for the seed funding available. Given the time difference between the UK and Canada the sessions are expected to take place in the late afternoon and early evening UK time, and early morning Canada time.
16. UK-based attendees may only participate in two British Academy Knowledge Frontiers Symposia in any 24-month period.

Selection Criteria

17. Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - Proven research interest and/or experience in the symposium's theme;
 - Commitment to interdisciplinary engagement and research;
 - Value of symposium to applicant's career development.
18. For this call, CIFAR and the British Academy recognise that bringing together individuals from multiple backgrounds, perspectives and experiences is integral to advancing excellence and increasing the impact of our organisations. We strive to create an environment that will give our diverse global community of researchers the support to successfully address the most important questions facing science and humanity.
19. Ensuring that every person feels valued and welcome, regardless of age, education, sexual orientation, gender expression, and identity, parental status/responsibility, immigration status, Indigenous status, religion, disability, race, place of origin, ethnicity, culture, socio-economic status, and other attributes is vital to achieving our missions.
20. We strongly encourage applications from members of society who face systemic barriers and biases, including, but not limited to, women, Indigenous persons, members of visible minority/racialized communities, 2SLGBTQ+ persons, members of marginalised gender identity communities, and persons with disabilities.

Application Process

21. Applicants should provide a completed application form, including:
 - A CV which should not exceed two pages;
 - A one-page summary of their initial thoughts on the theme of 'What is a good city?' which could include discussion on one or more of the three outlined topics above;

- An outline of what disciplinary and interdisciplinary skills and/or experience they would contribute to the symposium; and how the symposium could help to develop their own research and career.
22. Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), [Flexi-Grant®](#).
23. **The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 24 November 2021 at 17.00 (UK time).**
24. We will seek to notify successful applicants by January 2021.

Further Information

Further information is available from Flora Langley at f.langley@thebritishacademy.ac.uk

About CIFAR

CIFAR is a Canadian-based, global research organization that convenes extraordinary minds to address science and humanity's most important questions. By supporting long-term interdisciplinary collaboration, CIFAR provides researchers with an unparalleled environment of trust, transparency and knowledge sharing. Our time-tested model inspires new directions of inquiry, accelerates discovery and yields breakthroughs across borders and academic disciplines. Through knowledge mobilization, we are catalysts for change in industry, government, and society. CIFAR's community of fellows includes 19 Nobel Laureates and 400 researchers from 22 countries. In 2017, the Government of Canada appointed CIFAR to develop and lead the Pan-Canadian AI Strategy.

About the British Academy

The British Academy is the UK's national body for the humanities and social sciences – the study of peoples, cultures and societies, past, present, and future. The British Academy's purpose is to inspire and support high achievement in the humanities and social sciences throughout the UK and internationally, and to promote their public value. We have three principal roles:

- A fellowship of distinguished scholars from all areas of the humanities and social sciences, elected by their peers, that facilitates the exchange of knowledge and ideas and promotes the work of our subjects.
- A funding body that supports the best ideas, individuals and intellectual resources in the humanities and social sciences, nationally and internationally.
- A forum for debate and engagement that stimulates public interest and deepens understandings, that enhances global leadership and policy making, and that acts as a voice for the humanities and social sciences.

Application Information

Applications can only be submitted online using the British Academy Flexi-Grant® Grant Management System (GMS) via (<https://britishacademy.flexigrant.com/>). If you have not previously used the British Academy's Flexi-Grant® GMS and were not registered in the previous e-GAP system, please follow the registration process from the Flexi-Grant® homepage. **Applications cannot be submitted on paper or in any other format.**

Before completing the online form, all applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements and ensure all necessary information is presented in the application. These requirements are strictly adhered to, and applications without all the necessary information, or evidence to show the assessment criteria are met, will be rejected.

The deadline for submissions is **24 November (17.00 UK time)**. Applicants will not be allowed to make any changes to their applications or submit any additional information after the **24 November**.

When completing your application on the British Academy Flexi-Grant® GMS, it is recommended that you take particular note of the following points:

- **Personal details:** When registered in the British Academy Flexi-Grant® GMS, a user has the option to add or update personal information such as contact details, log-in details (including email address and password), interests, research and employment details, at any time. This represents a personal record of your account in the system and will help to populate the contact details in any application form you complete. It is useful if this information is kept up to date, but it is not essential to the progress of an application.
- **Automatic log-out:** You are strongly advised to save your work regularly to prevent accidental loss of information. In particular, you should be aware that if the system does not detect any activity for 1 hour it will log out and save the application at that time. Please note that moving between *pages* within an application form will save the page that you are exiting but completing a field on a page is not considered an activity. It is recommended that you write the text for longer sections/fields in a word processor such as Word and then copy and paste into the relevant text box to avoid being timed out in this way.
- **Multiple sessions:** You should not have multiple browser windows/tabs of your application open at the same time as this may cause information to be lost. Only one user should edit an application at a time, otherwise changes might be lost.
- **Word limits:** When completing boxes that have a restricted length (note that it refers to words) you should note that if you exceed the specified amount you will not be able to save when you press the save button. You should type the text for the longer-length boxes in a word processor. You will then be able to check the word count and paste it into the British Academy Flexi-Grant® system. You will then still have a copy of the text to return to in the word processor. The word limit applies to text boxes.
- **Plain text:** If entering plain text, please avoid using symbols as some may not be accepted by the British Academy Flexi-Grant® system. You should generate and view a PDF of your application to check that the application appears as you want it to by clicking on 'print application'.
- **Uploading PDF documents:** Please note the only item you may upload is a copy of a CV. When uploading PDF documents, please add your name and a heading at the top of

every page to show what the document is. Please avoid uploading documents containing illustrations with fine details or colour as this can cause problems when creating a PDF of the application. Please note we will only print your applications in black and white. Each PDF cannot exceed 2 pages in length or 3 Mb in size.

- **Email addresses:** The British Academy Flexi-Grant® GMS relies heavily on automatic email contact. It is essential that you ensure you enter accurate email addresses where requested as it may cause considerable delay in the submission/processing of your application if any of these are incorrect. You cannot make changes to email addresses after your application has been submitted for approval.
- **Submission of application:** You will not be able to submit your application until you have completed each section in full.
- **Application deletion:** You can delete your application at any time although it is often a lot easier to just re-edit your existing application. We will be able to recover a deleted application for a period of 7 days after deletion. After this, it will be permanently removed from the system.
- **Guidance:** In the tables below, you will find in the left-hand column each question as set out in the application form and in the right-hand column useful guidance on its completion.
- **Further clarification:** If any of this advice is unclear, or you need further information, please do not hesitate to seek clarification from the British Academy's International Team (contact details at the end of these notes).

PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU CREATE A PDF OF YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION (by clicking 'Print Application'), AND CHECK IT THOROUGHLY, INCLUDING EMAIL ADDRESSES AND UPLOADED PDF FILES, BEFORE SUBMITTING IT FOR APPROVAL BY YOUR UK HOST ORGANISATION. IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO RECTIFY MISTAKES IN TIME FOR THE DEADLINE.

WORD LIMITS APPLY TO PLAIN TEXT ONLY. PAGE LIMITS APPLY TO PDFs ONLY.

ALL FIELDS MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK* ARE MANDATORY.

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE MULTIPLE BROWSER WINDOWS/TABS OF YOUR APPLICATION OPEN AT THE SAME TIME AS THIS MAY CAUSE INFORMATION TO BE LOST. ONLY ONE USER SHOULD EDIT AN APPLICATION AT A TIME, OTHERWISE CHANGES MIGHT BE LOST.

Completing the application form: The application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:

Page 1: Application Form

Page 2: Applicant Details

Page 3: Equal Opportunities

A full list of question fields to be completed as part of the application can be found in the following table. Each box in the table represents a page of the application form: the left-hand column contains the questions within each of these pages as set out in the form; the right-hand column contains useful guidance on its completion. A red asterisk (*) indicates which questions are mandatory and therefore must be complete before the application can be submitted. **Please read the guidance notes carefully before completing the form.**

SUMMARY

Summary Table

<p>When your application form is complete, all sections on this summary table will be marked as ‘Complete’. The ‘Complete’ status will only appear when all the mandatory fields in that section have been completed. All mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk (*). Only once all mandatory fields are marked as “Complete”, and all Contributors are all marked as “Complete” will a ‘Submit’ button appear for you to be able to submit your application.</p>
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Page 1: APPLICATION FORM

<p>Initial Contribution on the Theme*</p>	<p>Please use the text box provided to outline an initial contribution on the theme of ‘What is a good city?’ based on your research interests and teaching experience.</p> <p>Please note that, if successful, this contribution will be published alongside your biographical details and circulated as part of the pre-symposium introductory materials.</p>
<p>Commitment to Interdisciplinarity*</p>	<p>Please demonstrate your commitment to interdisciplinary engagement and research.</p>
<p>Career Development*</p>	<p>Please outline how you envisage the symposium will contribute to your career development.</p>
<p>Previous Engagement*</p>	<p>Please highlight any previous engagement with the British Academy and/or the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.</p>

PAGE 2: APPLICANT DETAILS

<p>Primary Applicant Contact Details*</p>	<p>Please take care to review and complete your personal details accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in the processing of your application. You can update your personal details by checking ‘my account’ and selecting the link to ‘my contact details’ and ‘my organisation’ and ensuring the relevant details are up to date.</p>
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Present Appointment, Department and Employing Institution*	Please give details of your current appointment. You must be based at institutions in Canada or the United Kingdom, or be part of the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars programme.
Applicant Country*	Please select the relevant country.
PhD Confirmation and Award Date*	<p>Please confirm that you have a PhD by answering yes. If answering 'yes' please enter the date that you were awarded your PhD. If you are an established scholar with relevant equivalent experience, but no doctorate, please select 'no' and indicate under 'personal statement' below why you should be eligible for consideration.</p> <p>Applicants working towards a PhD, or awaiting the outcome of their viva/submission of corrections are not eligible to apply.</p>
Personal Statement	This field is optional, but may be used, for example, in providing information regarding interruptions to an academic career or your equivalent research experience. The limit on this field is 150 words.
CV Upload*	<p>A brief CV should be uploaded here as a PDF file. This should be no more than 2 pages long. <u>Any CV submitted which is over the 2-page limit will render your application ineligible for consideration.</u> In order to comply with this 2-page limit, the applicant could omit, for example, conference presentations from their CV.</p>

Page 3: EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Equal Opportunities	<p>This section is optional. However, the British Academy would greatly appreciate it if you can complete the details to assist us in our diversity monitoring.</p> <p>The British Academy is committed to its policy of Equal Opportunity in the provision of its grants and awards. Please help us to monitor the effectiveness of this policy by providing information concerning your age, gender, ethnic origin and disabilities (if any).</p> <p>This information will be kept separately from the rest of your application and will not be seen by those involved in making decisions in the selection process, including referees and other contributors to your application.</p>
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