



Capability Statement

Centre for Urban Research

Connecting people and ideas for transformative urban futures





Overview

In a time of changing climate, deepening inequality and volatile global economic conditions, the need for new insights about how our cities and regions work, and how they can change for the better, has never been more urgent. Most people on the planet already live and work in urban areas and cities are vital for our social wellbeing, economic vitality and for addressing urgent issues of climate change and ecological degradation.

We need better insights into these intersecting challenges across housing and land, resource and energy use, infrastructure and mobility, ecology and biodiversity, environmental justice and action on climate.

The Centre for Urban Research is a dynamic hub of interdisciplinary research on the social, ecological and political challenges of urbanisation in the 21st century. Through our research, we aim to contribute new understandings that respond to real-world problems, are critical in orientation and collaborative in how we create and share knowledge.

Our researchers are leading experts in human geography, urban planning, public policy, economics, environmental science, ecology, spatial analysis, history and political science.

Research undertaken by CUR members responds to the United Nations' Global Challenges agenda and is directly aligned with six key UN Sustainable Development goals:





Our Research

The Centre for Urban Research contributes interdisciplinary knowledge and capability for transformation on critical urban questions. Our work revolves around three interdisciplinary themes.

Geographies of Land, Home and Place

Geographies of Land, Home and Place brings together our expertise in understanding the places, homes and land systems on which we live, dwell and belong.

Our research engages directly with geography as a discipline from a local to global scale, engaging with ideas like space, place, temporality and human-environment relations.

We interpret the 'urban' focus of the centre broadly, with an interest in the processes and relations across scales and over time that shape our lives. Research focus areas include housing, land, urban policy, homelessness, displacement and dispossession, informal settlements, inclusion, urban ecologies, social issues and urban cultures.

Regenerative Environments and Climate Action

Regenerative Environments and Climate Action brings together multidisciplinary expertise in understanding the role of human-environmental relationships in how we can create thriving cities for all.

Collectively, our work recognises the interconnectedness of ecological, social, cultural, and economic systems that shape urban life to help us understand how to respond to the complex impacts and injustices of climate change for human and non-human residents.

Among other topics, interest areas for this theme include urban greening, living with heat, low carbon housing, swimmable cities, food sustainability, household waste management, wild cities, and biodiversity conservation.

Planning and Transport for Healthy Cities

Planning and Transport for Healthy Cities brings together our expertise in understanding how cities are planned and designed to create more just, sustainable and healthy outcomes.

We conduct policy-relevant applied research designed to understand the impact of planning and transport systems and inform actions that help change our environments for the better.

Our work spans local to international projects, addressing the needs of policymakers, NGOs, and communities.

Current research activities focus on planning policy and regulatory systems; transport and land-use integration; sustainable mobility and fuel efficiency; housing systems and policy; geospatial and urban analytics; climate resilience and disaster risk reduction; urban design; and population health.



Industry

Partnership

Our research is supported by a network of funding partners, organizations and community groups in Australia and worldwide. Our approach is guided by these core principles:

1. Fostering diverse approaches to knowledge creation and sharing
2. Collaborative, respectful and ethical research practices and relationships
3. Committed to decolonising our research practices and respecting Indigenous perspectives, knowledges and worldviews
4. Valuing lived experience
5. Embracing diversity and fostering inclusivity
6. Contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Centre is located at RMIT University's city campus and has strong partnerships with research institutes, practitioners and change-makers in Government, private sector, service organisations and community groups. We work with a diverse range of partners and collaborators in many different sectors including:

- Urban planning
- Urban design
- Housing and homelessness
- Transport systems
- Technology and digital
- Indigenous knowledge holders and communities
- Social services
- Property and land
- Governance, policy and law
- Ecology and environment
- Critical infrastructure
- Climate resilience and adaptation
- Health

Collaborate with us

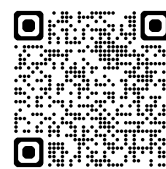
There are many ways you can collaborate or get involved with us at the Center for Urban Research. These encompass:

- Internships and placements
- Collaborative projects
- Industry partnerships
- Consultation services
- Research engagements and dissemination

Contact Us

Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more about our research, opportunities to study with our teaching programs or to partner with us.

Email: cur@rmit.edu.au



Website



LinkedIn

