

22 October 2013; London.

CONTACT: Tessa Norton, +44 (0)20 7955 7753, e-mail: t.j.norton@lse.ac.uk

URBAN AGE CITY TRANSFORMATIONS CONFERENCE 24-25 OCTOBER, RIO DE JANEIRO

This week the world's top urbanists gather for **City Transformations**, the twelfth Urban Age conference in Rio de Janeiro. The two-day event will be live-streamed free of charge at LSE Cities' conference microsite, rio2013.lsecities.net, from 11.30am BST (London), on Thursday 24 October 2013.

Organised by LSE Cities at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society, in partnership with Prefeitura do Rio de Janeiro and Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, the 2013 Urban Age conference will investigate the impact of large scale urban development projects on the social, economic, political and physical make-up of cities.

The full programme is now available online in [English](#) and [Portuguese](#).

LSE Cities have published a conference newspaper, *City Transformations* to coincide with the event. The newspaper features essays from authors including Richard Sennett, David Harvey, Enrique Peñalosa and Deyan Sudjic, alongside an extensive data section, providing a range of data for twelve global cities including urban size and growth rates, inequality, murder rates, water consumption and CO2 emissions. The newspaper is available to download at: rio2013.lsecities.net/newspaper/

The conference will act as a platform for exchange and debate amongst over 150 policy-makers, academics, urban designers, architects, and representatives of NGOs and local community groups building on the Urban Age's network established through previous conferences held since 2005 in New York, Shanghai, Mexico City, Johannesburg, Berlin, Mumbai, São Paulo, Istanbul, Chicago, Hong Kong and London. It will see keynotes from Eduarda la Rocque, President, Institute Pereira Passos, Secretary of Finance, City of Rio de Janeiro 2009 – 2012, Deyan Sudjic, Director, Design Museum London and Amanda Burden, Director, New York City Department of City Planning.

International speakers and local representatives from Rio de Janeiro will exchange experiences on the design, governance and delivery of a number of significant projects in a range of world cities – including São Paulo, Santiago, Medellín, Bogotá, Antofagasta, Mexico City, New York, Detroit, Washington DC, Cape Town, Mumbai, Hong Kong, London, Hamburg, Barcelona and Stockholm.

In addition to investigations of on-going projects in Rio surrounding the Olympics sites, the Bus Rapid Transit system and favelas improvement programme, the conference will feature

international projects including the Olympic Games and Legacy projects in London, Barcelona and The Netherlands; the HafenCity and IBA initiatives in Hamburg; The High-Line and East River waterfront redevelopment in New York City; the Hammarby development in Stockholm, the Transmilenio bus system and ciclovías in Bogotá, the cable-car and arts projects in Medellín as well as the Complexo Alemão, Parco Madureira, Porto Maravilha and other initiatives in Rio. In addition, economists, planners and social commentators will debate the causes for the current wave of large-scale city transformations and their impact on local communities. City mayors and policymakers will reflect on the best models of ensuring sustainable urban governance.

The Twitter hashtag for this event is #UARio. The event will be live-tweeted by the LSE Review of Books (@LSEReviewBooks), and the LSE Cities (@LSECities) and Alfred Herrhausen Society (@AHS_Berlin) web teams.

Contact

For Rio press requests, contact:

Bansen Associates

Bia Bansen bia@bansen.com.br / Clean Barros clean@bansen.com.br

Tel +11 5539 2344

For UK and online press, please contact:

Tessa Norton, Communications Manager. LSE Cities

t.j.norton@lse.ac.uk / Tel: +44(0)20 7955 7753.

For more information on LSE Cities and the Urban Age, visit <http://lsecities.net/ua/>

ABOUT LSE CITIES

LSE Cities is an international centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science supported by Deutsche Bank that carries out research education and outreach activities in London and abroad. Its mission is to study how people and cities interact in a rapidly urbanising world, focusing on how the design of cities impacts on society, culture and the environment. Through research, conferences, teaching and projects, the centre aims to shape new thinking and practice on how to make cities fairer and more sustainable for the next generation of urban dwellers, who will make up over 70 per cent of the global population by 2050.

ABOUT THE URBAN AGE

The Urban Age Programme, jointly organised with Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society, is an international investigation of the spatial and social dynamics of cities centred on an annual conference, research initiative and publication. Since 2005, conferences have been held in London, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Chicago, Sao Paulo, Mumbai, Berlin, Johannesburg, Mexico City, Shanghai and New York. As an event, the Urban Age catalyses the exchange of information, experiences and data across a global network of cities. The conferences operate as mobile laboratories, testing and sampling the social and physical characteristics of global cities through expert presentations and testimonials, research, site visits, mapping and informal information exchange.