

Talking Oxford: Bringing Together Town and Gown to Form a Stronger Community



A series of events, designed to forge closer links between University researchers and Oxford residents through discussions about the key issues of migration, urban planning and inequality, is being launched today (Thursday May 18th) at the Kassam Stadium.

‘Talking Oxford’ will involve public meetings around Oxford to give residents and academics opportunities to share experiences of life in the town, and to understand how and why the city has become the place it is today. The four public events bring together academics and local people in discussions about Oxford planning, migration and history; musical performances and interactive theatre considering the future of the city.

The programme has been put together by Professor Bridget Anderson and Dr Nicola Headlam from the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford. Bridget is a long-standing Oxford resident and Nicola a former Oxford City Council employee.

Professor Bridget Anderson said: *“Even as a small city, Oxford contains the third highest ethnic minority population in the South-East, and 28% of residents are born outside the UK [1]. This makes human migration central to the lives and experiences of city residents, even if these experiences vary in different areas of the city.”*

Events:

1) [What is Oxford’s history of inequality and migration?](#)

18 May | 6pm | Kassam Stadium

2) [How does it feel to grow up in Oxford?](#)

25 May | 5:30pm | Barton Neighbourhood Centre

3) [How should we imagine Oxford’s future?](#)

8 June | 6pm | Rose Hill Community Centre

4) [Fighting racism from Trump to Oxford](#)

15 June | 6pm | Rose Hill Community Centre

Attendance is free but booking is essential. An Eventbrite registration link for each seminar is available on each event page.

Dr Nicola Headlam said: *“Oxford is a unique place, where the high profile of the University can sometimes threaten to overshadow the identities of the people who live and work here. What we’re looking to do is to get the people of the town – whatever their backgrounds - together to build a shared understanding of this place - from the hard realities of poverty, inequality and exclusion to what it means to be a proud Oxford resident.”*

Ends

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About the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS)

The [Centre on Migration, Policy, and Society \(COMPAS\)](#) was founded as an ESRC Research Centre within the University of Oxford. ESRC funding ended in 2014, the centre is now funded by a range of grant-making bodies.

Since 2003 COMPAS has established an international reputation for original research and policy relevance. It has undertaken a strategic programme of multi-disciplinary social scientific research, publication and dissemination, events, knowledge transfer and user engagement activities with a broad set of academic and non-academic users in the UK and abroad.

COMPAS research covers a spectrum of global migration processes and phenomena, from conditions in places of migrant origins, through to institutions and activities affecting mobility, to social and economic effects in receiving contexts. In particular, COMPAS has developed expertise in relation to migration and the labour market, and migration and urban change.

Under the Directorship of Professor Michael Keith, COMPAS currently has more than 18 research staff from a range of social science backgrounds and is actively involved in many national, European and international networks and projects.

COMPAS is based within the [School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography](#) and maintains strong links with departments across the University of Oxford within the [Social Sciences](#) and [Humanities](#) Divisions.