



JAM & JUSTICE

'Co-producing Urban
Governance for Social Innovation'

An info-sheet introducing the Jam and Justice project
and outlining how you can get involved.

For more info, contact us:

ontheplatform.org.uk/jam-justice

jamandjustice@gmail.com

 [@jamandjustice](https://twitter.com/jamandjustice)

What is Jam & Justice?

Greater Manchester is leading the way in a series of devolution deals that have been proclaimed by the UK Government as heralding a “revolution in the way we govern England”.

Jam & Justice is a 3-year research project (2016-2019) which aims to seize the opportunity provided by devolution to look at alternative ways to govern in our city-regions.

‘Jam’ is about trying to bring together different partners to address shared problems. ‘Justice’ is about reconnecting with those who are usually left out from the search for solutions.

We are funded by the Economic and Social Research Council’s Urban Transformations programme, a portfolio of projects in the UK which examines major changes taking place in cities across the globe.

We want to know:

- ? How new spaces of urban experimentation and social innovation can help transform urban governance: *can we come up with radically different ways of tackling urgent challenges in Greater Manchester?*
- ? How participative, inclusive urban policy-making processes can be developed: *how can we get people who are not traditionally involved to contribute to strategic decisions about pressing urban problems?*
- ? How to bridge the gap between knowledge and action in urban governance: *how can knowledge be developed and shared collaboratively to help deliver action on the ground?*
- ? How to work between different sectors to catalyse urban transformations: *what makes or stops social innovations work in practice?*

What are we going to do?

We are not interested in looking at the world through a microscope. We believe that we can learn more by getting stuck in. We will be building an Action Research Cooperative (ARC) in Greater Manchester to develop innovative responses to urban governance challenges in 21st century city-regions.

The ARC is a co-produced governance space for social innovation between the academic, voluntary and public sectors. The ARC will bring together people with different knowledge, skills and resources interested in making devolution matter in Greater Manchester.

A key role for the ARC will be to run a series of action research projects which help to test and innovate new ways of governing in our city-regions. We hope these projects will inspire and inform our thinking on inclusive devolved governance. But crucially, these projects will attempt to make a

difference in the here-and-now in Greater Manchester.

Some decisions have already been made by the Jam & Justice team. Others will be devolved to the ARC. The design and operation of the ARC will be open to influence by the people involved in it. The Jam & Justice team will also offer financial resources, training, mentoring, information packs and inspiration from elsewhere around the world.

Underpinning our research design is the concept of 'co-production'. This is an increasingly popular term. It means valuing and integrating the skills and expertise of different stakeholders in and outside universities throughout the whole research process - from cradle to grave. We will document and learn from the journey of the ARC to understand how co-production can help us achieve both 'jam' and 'justice' in theory and practice.

What do we hope to achieve?

Devolution is changing how we govern our cities and who makes decisions. Yet there has been little public debate about the future vision that devolution should help deliver. If the UK government aspires to a 'stronger democracy' this can't be handed down from above - it has to be built. New approaches are needed to make devolution matter.

Jam & Justice looks to seize the seeds of opportunity provided by devolution to explore how we could govern differently in our cities. In times of uncertainty, we believe research can play a central role in understanding current developments in cities and seeking to transform them.

We hope the impact of this project will be significant and there will be an ongoing and sustainable legacy. We will be working with local authorities in Greater Manchester, the national Core Cities voluntary sector group, national government departments and our international partner, Mistra Urban Futures, to achieve this.

We want to:

- Be part of the debate on making devolution matter.
- Deliver action research projects and social innovations in the city-region.
- Demonstrate the value and practice of co-production in urban policy and research.
- Develop concrete examples of how to support more popular and inclusive urban governance.
- Build capacity in Greater Manchester through networks, partnerships and spaces for collaboration.

How can I get involved?

We want to recruit 15 participants to join us in the ARC.

All ARC participants will receive a flat-rate fee in recognition of their participation and contribution, together with appropriate training and support.

Join us in...



Making and researching the Action Research Cooperative - carrying out interviews, site visits and keeping a diary.



Hosting an international gathering to network with other city-regions around the world.



Commissioning/conducting up to ten action research projects into alternative urban governance.



Taking part in a field trip to Scotland to learn and share lessons about devolved governance.



Summarising the research into a forward-looking plan for making devolution matter in Greater Manchester.



Supporting the development of an ARChive of inspirational examples of urban governance from around the world.

Find out more...

Come along to an Open Evening on Friday 13 May 2016, 5-7.30pm at the Left Bank Café, People's History Museum in Manchester. To register: <https://jamlaunch.eventbrite.co.uk>

Participate in our interactive workshops in June and July to join us in planning the research. Visit ontheplatform.org.uk/jam-justice.

Come along to drop-ins and social events where you can meet and start a conversation with the Jam & Justice team. Visit ontheplatform.org.uk/jam-justice.

Read about the project online and via social media, and contact us to join the mailing list, email jamandjustice@gmail.com.

Respond to the formal call for participation which we will launch and publicise in July 2016 with further background information about the project.

Project timeline



Be a friend, build the network

Becoming a member of the ARC is not for everyone. You may just want to support the ARC on a more occasional basis, joining us for events or volunteering, offering resources or providing information.

We will be developing a friendship scheme for those wishing to work alongside us. You can also keep in touch with the ARC via regular updates from Autumn 2016 - email us at jamandjustice@gmail.com to join the network and follow us [@jamandjustice](https://twitter.com/jamandjustice).

Who are we?

Jam & Justice is a 3-year research project (2016-2019), funded by the ESRC Urban Transformations programme. It aims to seize the opportunity provided by devolution to look at alternative ways to govern in our city-regions.

This project is driven by a collective of academics and voluntary sector practitioners: Alex Whinnom, Beth Perry, Bert Russell, Catherine Durose, Liz Richardson, John Hannen, Nathalie Long, Steve

Connor, Suzanne Martikke, Terrence Fernando, Tessa Brannan, Tim May and Vicky Simpson.

The project includes a wide-range of institutional partners, including: Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation, Creative Concern, Association of Greater Manchester Authorities, Core Cities Voluntary Sector Group, Mistra Urban Futures and the following universities: Birmingham, Cape Town, Edinburgh, Illinois, Manchester, Melbourne, Paris Est, Salford, Sheffield.

"For too long people in Greater Manchester have felt disengaged from politics and politicians. Politics is often seen as something that happens down in London with no relevance to us here. The devolution agenda changes all that. Real power is being repatriated from Whitehall to the streets of Greater Manchester. That gives everyone a stake.

There has been criticism of this process that, so far, decisions have been taken behind closed doors and the public has been largely excluded. I understand those criticisms, which is why I want to assure the people of Greater Manchester that they must and will be involved. We are on the brink of change that is real and will be lasting. It is vital the public takes centre stage and is part of the debate. "

Tony Lloyd, Interim Mayor of Greater Manchester, June 2015