

# Cities and Politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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Cities have always been hubs of innovation and invention, centres of industry, and diverse, rich places of social connection and belonging. Twenty-first century cities are all this, and they're much more complex, for many reasons. This lecture will highlight some of the productive tensions between city governments and the public in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are two key trends that lead to these tensions. First, a new economy, often called a 'sharing' or 'collaborative' economy – think AirBnB and Uber – is emerging. These new economic activities are sometimes seen to pose a threat to business as usual. At the same time, they provide opportunities for regular people to engage as economic producers after a 20<sup>th</sup> century economy based largely on regular people as economic consumers.