

## *Palgrave Series in Literary Urban Studies*

<https://link.springer.com/series/15888>

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### **Series outline**

Recent decades have seen an increasing interest in the study of the city in literature, and a continued move towards multidisciplinary approaches to literary urban studies, with individual scholars, research networks, and institutions fostering research and teaching cooperation between approaches from the humanities, social sciences and urban studies, (cultural) geography, architecture and planning. These advances have kept pace with global developments: the present century has already become the urban century, in which the majority of the world's population lives in urban environments. Challenges such as the threat of economic disruptions and environmental change have only added to the urgency inherent in studying how the city and the urban condition are narrated.

In the wake of these developments, it has become possible to speak of literary urban studies as a distinctive field of study, in dialogue with a wide range of existing approaches to the city in literature. The Literary Urban Studies Series constitutes an important focal point for developing this innovative, global, and multi-disciplinary scholarly field. The series has a strong thematic focus on the literary city and on aspects of urban conditions and urban representation, and a specific interest in developing interdisciplinary methodological approaches to the study of literary cities. Echoing the Russian formalist interest in *literaturnost* or *literariness*, the Literary Urban Studies Series emphasizes the “citiness” of its study object – the elements that are specific to the city and the urban condition, and an awareness of what this “citiness” brings to the source material and what it implies in terms of methodological avenues of inquiry. Such elements include but are not confined to the simultaneity, contingency and palimpsestic nature often associated with city experiences in modernist literature. A focus on “citiness” in literature takes into account the density, diversity, and size dimensions of the urban condition that are foregrounded in classical urban studies, but also the more recent interest in function, scale, and the interrelationality of cities. City literature is seen as relating to actual cities on a range of different levels. City literature can function, for example, as a response to material cities, as a semi-autonomous aesthetic construct, and as an active shaper of how we think and talk of cities, their everyday life, their problematics, planning and development.

Titles in the series include monographs as well as collections of essays devoted to literary criticism and theory of the city and literature. The books' primary focus on cities and fiction will allow the inclusion of perspectives from related fields such as urban history, urban planning, and cultural geography. All titles will be written in English. The series does not set a limit in time or space on the source material. Interdisciplinary in approach and global in range, the series actively commissions and solicits works that can speak to an international and cross-disciplinary audience.

## **Areas of interests for the series:**

### Methodology in LUS, with a specific focus on interdisciplinarity.

A key area for the publications in this series is the development of methodologies of literary urban studies. The series wants to foster an open and critical dialogue about the methods and sources used to examine literary cities in a wide range of existing academic fields. It welcomes approaches from various disciplines such as urban studies, sociology, cultural geography, urban history, and the history of architecture and design, while keeping a topical focus on cities and the urban experience, and on the investigation of the “citiness” of city literature. As such, the series aims to be a catalyst for developing interdisciplinary methodologies by providing a publishing forum where different methodological avenues of inquiry from a variety of disciplines challenge and question each other.

### New research in LUS

The series provides a leading publishing outlet for cutting-edge new research into the city in literature. This includes also new readings of classical city texts as well as critical reassessments of city writing produced in particular national and/or period contexts. One key area of books published in the series is research that questions and shifts the existing canon of literary cities. The series aims to fuel such developments by actively soliciting new research on peripheral cities, second cities, and cities from geographical and cultural contexts that have remained underexamined in Western academic studies, with specific attention to African, Latin American and Asian Cities.

### Teaching LUS

A separate area for publishing is edited collections or monographs that specifically address the current need for academic handbooks for teaching literary urban studies. From Hong Kong to Helsinki, from Johannesburg to New York, regular courses on the city in literature are taught, often within a multidisciplinary context, and we encourage scholars teaching city literature to submit book proposal for handbooks for teaching city literature.

## **Editorial process**

All titles are subject to rigorous peer review and evaluation, including an initial review by the editors, external reader report from a recognized authority in the field of literary urban studies, and a final clearance report. All proposals are examined from the perspective of methodological innovation (with focus on interdisciplinarity) and research novelty (specifically in terms of reassessment of the established canon of major literary cities).

## **Things to consider when submitting a proposal to the Palgrave series in Literary Urban Studies**

A proposal is expected to include a thorough introduction to the book, as well as one sample chapter. The proposal and introduction should clearly state how the proposed book fits in with literary urban studies as a field, and with the aims of the series.

It is important to contextualize the book within existing research in the city in literature, both in classical writing on city literature and in the more recent research literature. The introductions to relevant books published so far in the series will provide some overviews of relevant literature in the field, as do the introductions to existing companions and handbooks to literary urban studies and/or to the city in literature.