

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

# Canada–United Kingdom Workshop on Devolution, Local Autonomy, and Multi-Level Governance

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY, UK, FEBRUARY 20–22, 2023

We live in an era of growing demands from local communities for greater **autonomy** and new moves by central governments to **devolve** authority and responsibilities to the local level. At the same time, we see growing interest in more integrated **multi-level governance** as a means of targeting resources to needs across scales. Debates surrounding these demands and agendas are especially vibrant in the UK and Canada, two countries that appear to share similar governing systems.

**We invite UK and Canadian scholars from any relevant discipline to collectively explore the following themes at a three-day in-person workshop at Cardiff University in February 2023:**

- › How should *local autonomy*, *devolution*, and *multi-level governance* be conceptualized in normative and practical terms? Are they distinct or aspects of the same phenomenon?
- › What *causes* local autonomy demands, devolutionary projects, and multi-level governance?
- › Can *multi-level governance* provide a way out of zero-sum conflict between levels of government? If so, how should it be structured?
- › There is a growing trend toward *asymmetrical arrangements* in both countries, including ‘city deals’ and ‘city charters’. What are the political limits of asymmetry?
- › What are the dangers of ‘*liberalized*’ *governance regimes*?
- › Do local authorities make full use of the autonomy they have? If not, why not?
- › How do *parallel devolutionary agendas* focused on neighbourhoods, cities, regions, or nations compete with or complement one another?
- › What is the prospect for enhancing self-governance at the *neighbourhood scale*, given the dominant policy focus on larger, more institutionalized scales of authority?

**GOALS** By bringing together UK and Canadian scholars, we aim to reveal new comparative insights and promote knowledge exchanges that generate publications and lay the groundwork for establishing a new international research network to explore the intersections between local autonomy, devolution, and multi-level governance. Workshop participants will attend motivating presentations on normative and practical questions by senior scholars, participate in facilitated thematic discussions, and present a short paper connected to one of the above themes, or a related idea.

**FUNDING** The workshop is funded by a British Academy/CIFAR Seed Grant and a Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Exchange Grant. Meals and three nights’ accommodation will be provided. Air and ground travel costs will be reimbursed up to a maximum amount (\$1,000 for Canadian and £250 for UK participants). Please indicate if you can fund your own expenses as it will enable us to subsidize more attendees. Early-career scholars and advanced doctoral students are encouraged to apply.

**TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE**, please submit the following to [cardiff@uwo.ca](mailto:cardiff@uwo.ca) before **November 4, 2022**:

- › A paragraph statement on how these themes relate to your past and future work
- › A brief abstract for your short paper
- › An estimate of your air and ground travel expenses
- › Your willingness to share hotel accommodation with another person of the same gender.

**CONTACT** Please visit <https://nest.uwo.ca/urbancentre/research/cardiff.html> or email [cardiff@uwo.ca](mailto:cardiff@uwo.ca) for more information. The workshop is organized by:

**Dr Zack Taylor** Department of Political Science, Western University, London, Canada

**Dr Matt Wargent** School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK