

**FUSING LOCALITIES?**

UNDERSTANDING EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Friday, 29th November 2013

Manchester Metropolitan University

Workshop session

**Time:** 10.30am - 2pm including break

**Location:** Geoffrey Manton Building, Room307

**Organisers:** Lee Miles (Loughborough University)

Magnus Lindh (Karlstad University)

Marius Guderjan (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Panel discussion

**Time:** 2.30-4.30pm

**Location:** Geoffrey Manton Building, Lecture Theatre 7

**Speakers:** Professor Lee Miles (Loughborough University)

Magnus Lindh (Karlstad University)

Dr Marius Guderjan (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Cllr Sue Murphy (Manchester City Council)

Nora Ricken (State Chancellery North-Rhine Westphalia)

Over the last two decades, local and regional governments have built proactive relationships with the European Union. EU legislation and policies affect municipal practice and have triggered European engagement of local authorities. Cities and counties have gradually taken a greater role for the delivery of the EU’s strategic objectives. A major challenge for 2014-2020 will be the implementation of the EU’s regional and cohesion policy through effective coordination and cooperation across local, regional, national and European governments.

The panel explores to what extent local authorities across Europe have ‘fused’ into a compound system of governance and contribute to European integration. Insights from English, German and Swedish policy-makers, practitioners and academics provide the basis for a lively and insightful discussion.

Professor Lee Miles will present a general perspective on European integration of subnational government in the light of an asymmetrical allocation of competencies and capacities across different levels of governance. This perspective takes a new turn on the multilevel governance framework by accounting for the EU as a system of fused network governance.

Magnus Lindh is a lecturer at Karlstad University researching EU-related activities of Nordic regions. He will outline cooperative actions and structures to deal effectively with EU policies in West Sweden.

Dr Marius Guderjan works for the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at MMU. He will provide an introduction into the relationship between the EU and local government within the North West of England and North-Rhine Westphalia.

Cllr Sue Murphy is Deputy Chair of Manchester City Council leading on international issues. She will offer insights into European and international activities of Manchester.

Nora Ricken from the Team for European and International Affairs of the North-Rhine Westphalian government developed a set of guidelines to certify Europe-active cities, counties and municipalities. She will talk about the European engagement of local authorities in relation to regional government.

For further information contact [m.guderjan@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:m.guderjan@mmu.ac.uk).