

CALL FOR PAPERS

CrossAcross Conference: Theory and Practice

Migration and the City: Aging, Identity, Built Environment & Sustainable Community Futures

Think beyond disciplines. Cross across zones. Connect evidence, practice, policy and technology.

Date: November 21-23, 2026

Venue: Yee Hong Aw Chan Kam Chee Evergreen Manor, Scarborough, Toronto

Collaboration:

CrossAcross
Yee Hong Evergreen Manor;
Laurentian University;
SUNY Oneonta, Department of Sociology, Human Services & Crime Studies

Conference Vision

Migration and population aging are transforming communities at the same time that housing, infrastructure, public space, care systems and local institutions are themselves under pressure to adapt. These transformations are visible not only in global cities, but also in suburbs, small communities and rural regions. The challenge cannot be understood, or solved, within the boundaries of any single discipline or profession.

This conference creates a deliberately cross-disciplinary meeting ground for scholars, practitioners, professionals, community organizations, designers, technology innovators and government policy makers. We invite participants to move beyond familiar academic and professional silos, question the assumptions of their own fields, and work across scales—from the home and care setting to the neighborhood, city, region and transnational community.

The central question is not simply how communities respond to change, but how we can build inclusive, adaptive and sustainable communities in which people of different ages, origins and identities can belong and thrive.

From Conference Dialogue to Publication

The conference is organized in dialogue with the Urban Science Special Issue, **“Migration and the City: Aging, Identity and Built Environment.”** The Special Issue seeks interdisciplinary work on migration, aging, identity formation and spatial transformation across urban, suburban and rural settings, with particular interest in work that bridges theory and practice.

Publication opportunity: Conference participants whose work fits the scope will be encouraged to develop their presentations for independent submission to the Urban Science Special Issue. The Special Issue deadline is June 30, 2027. Conference acceptance does not guarantee journal publication; all journal manuscripts are subject to the journal’s normal editorial screening and peer-review process.

We will also identify conference papers for other publication opportunities under different special issue themes and edited books.

A Conference Designed to Cross Comfort Zones

Many of today's community challenges sit between established fields. Aging is simultaneously a question of health, housing, mobility, design, family, culture, finance and governance. Migration concerns labor and demography, but also identity, belonging, heritage, care, public space and service access. Artificial intelligence can improve planning and service delivery, yet it also raises questions about bias, privacy, digital exclusion, human judgment and accountability.

We welcome contributions that Cross Across a concept from one discipline to another; bring academic research into conversation with front-line practice; compare places or populations that are rarely compared; combine quantitative evidence with lived experience; connect physical design with social policy; or challenge technological solutions with cultural, ethical and community knowledge.

Core Themes

1. Migration, Aging and Changing Communities

- Aging migrants, late-life migration and transnational families
- Immigrant settlement in cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities
- Identity, belonging, social inclusion and place-making across the life course
- Youth outmigration, labor shortages, demographic transition and community continuity

2. Aging in Aging Places: Housing, Care and the Built Environment

- Aging in place and the physical aging of housing, neighborhoods and infrastructure
- Affordable, supportive, intergenerational and culturally responsive housing
- Age-friendly and inclusive design, accessibility, mobility and public space
- Community-based care, long-term care, home care and new models of social support

3. Sustainable Community Development

- Community resilience, social sustainability and local capacity building
- Participatory planning, co-design and community-led regeneration
- Social infrastructure, public services, third places and community organizations
- Climate adaptation, environmental justice and vulnerable populations
- Revitalization without displacement: balancing renewal, memory, affordability and belonging

4. Identity, Culture, Heritage and Intergenerational Life

- Diaspora communities, cultural landscapes and everyday place-making
- Migration, memory, heritage and changing neighborhood identities
- Intergenerational spaces, cultural transmission and social cohesion
- Indigenous and non-Western perspectives on community, aging and spatial belonging

5. AI, Digital Technology and Human-Centred Community Futures

- AI-assisted planning, design, housing and community-service delivery
- Smart aging environments, assistive technologies and digital health/care ecosystems
- Using AI and data to identify service gaps, accessibility barriers and spatial inequalities
- Digital inclusion and exclusion among migrants, older adults and marginalized communities
- Bias, privacy, surveillance, ethics, accountability and the limits of algorithmic decision-making
- How AI can augment—not replace—local knowledge, professional judgment and human relationships

Who Should Participate?

We welcome established and emerging scholars alongside professionals whose knowledge comes from practice, service delivery, design, policy and community leadership.

- Scholars and students (**including those in high schools**) in sociology, gerontology, migration studies, geography, urban studies, architecture, planning, public health, social work, anthropology, environmental studies, business, public policy, data science and related fields;
- Architects, planners, designers, engineers, housing and development professionals;
- Health, long-term care, home-care and community-service professionals;
- Non-profit organizations, community leaders, settlement agencies and social enterprises;
- Technology, AI, digital-health and civic-innovation practitioners;
- Municipal, provincial/state and national government officials, planners and policy makers.

What We Welcome

We welcome rigorous research, but the conference is not limited to conventional academic papers. Contributions may be theoretical, empirical, comparative, methodological, design-oriented, policy-focused or practice-based.

- Individual research papers and works in progress
- Case studies from communities, care settings, housing, planning or professional practice
- Policy analyses and policy innovation proposals
- Thematic panels and cross-sector roundtables
- Design proposals, visual/spatial analyses and community-engaged projects
- Workshops and participatory sessions
- AI demonstrations or critical assessments tied directly to community, aging, migration or the built environment

Presenters are encouraged to end with a “cross-boundary proposition”: one idea that requires collaboration beyond their own discipline, profession, institution or sector.

Abstract Submission

Please submit a **200–250 word abstract** containing:

- Author(s), with an asterisk (*) identifying the presenter(s)
- Professional or institutional affiliation(s)
- Presentation title
- Abstract (200–250 words)
- Four keywords
- Preferred format: paper, case study/practice presentation, panel/roundtable, workshop, design/visual presentation, or AI demonstration

Suggested abstract deadline	October 31, 2026
Notification	Rolling basis, normally within one week (late submission considered)
Conference + site visit	November 21–22, 2026
Urban Science Special Issue	Manuscript deadline: June 30, 2027

Submission contact: Prof. Ho Hon Leung, hohon.leung@oneonta.edu

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