UrbanMetaMapping Semester Talks: Winter Term 2021/22
via zoom, 12.00 - 13.00 (CEST)
Registration via: talks.urbanmetamapping@uni-bamberg.de

October, 20:
John Pendlebury, Newcastle University
Conservation, planning and regeneration in the post-war British city: the case of York

This presentation will focus upon the evolving relationship between understandings of urban conservation, planning and regeneration in the post-war city. In the process, ideas of heritage conservation transformed from being focused upon a few isolated buildings and structures to becoming an integral part of urban management. Retaining heritage underwent a radical repositioning from being understood as a constraint, something to be worked around in the process of modernisation, to being positioned as something to positively facilitate change. This a shift from an understanding of cultural heritage as preserved monument to flexible social and economic resource.

Underpinning this is a wider change in planning practice. Central area planning in the immediate post-war period was often characterised by precise master plans, suggesting an unrealistic certainty of long-term urban form. The presentation will examine these issues by touching on a range of cities in northern England, before focusing on the case of York. York is a city long understood as historic, and which developed both an infrastructure and a vision for using its past as part of its future quicker than most places, including re-establishing a larger central residential population from the 1970s.