



## David Atkinson

University of Hull, UK

Professor David Atkinson is a cultural and historical geographer based at the University of Hull, UK. His research interests include mega-events, city-identities in the past and the present, and the intersections of place and memory. His research into mega-events like Eurovision began with the Hull: UK City of Culture year in 2017 and its various impacts, legacies and their contestation by voices from within and beyond Hull. He co-edited *Hull: Culture, History, Place (2017): the state-of-the-art book about Hull's history that contributed to 2017*. He was also involved in the evaluation and assessment of 2017 and its various legacies.

Connected work included a wider European project that compared the impact of mega-events in heritage-rich cities across Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Poland and the UK. This research produced a best-practice manual on how cities can deliver inclusive and sustainable outcomes from urban mega-events while minimising risks. The project won a Europa Nostra prize in 2022 (Europe's top prize for heritage research). A further project explored what we have learned from the Hull and Coventry UK City of Culture experiences. This comparative research offered guidelines for the successful delivery of cultural mega-events, and how to translate effective evaluation into successful future policy.

Atkinson has also written about how port-cities, including Bristol and Hull, are shaped by their multiple flows of people, ideas and commodities - and how these processes can produce contested identities. Finally, he is part of the British Council's evaluation process for Eurovision 2023 and his experience will support the focus on the reach and halo of Liverpool's Eurovision mega-event.