



Monday, 20 July

08:00

General

Registration

Venue - Main Hall

Where: Entry hall of the university building, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna

When: We kindly ask you to be at the registration at least **20 min** prior to your sessions.

If your session is in the afternoon, please make sure you have registered in the morning.

What to bring: ID

For poster presenters: Please bring your printed poster to the registration desk. The RC21 staff will then proceed to exhibit them.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Best,

Yuri Kazepov and the local organising team

09:00

Workshop : Round table 6

Mutations of Urbanism: Illiberal cities and what to do about them

Venue - Erika Weinzierl Saal

Organised by: Prof. Jeff Maskovsky (Panel Chair), Prof. Ayşe Çağlar (Panel Chair), Julian Brash (Discussant), Cindi Katz (Discussant), Penn Ip (Discussant), and Sharryn M. Kasmir (Discussant)

Liberalism is all too frequently associated with urban political formations. Across the world, cities are often celebrated as cosmopolitan antidotes to ethnic nationalist, authoritarian, and reactionary political developments. They are frequently seen as tolerant, enlightened enclaves that must be defended against assaults by resentful, angry, and reactionary forces associated with the hinterland. But the liberal urbanite versus reactionary provincialist binary contains

just enough truth to make it very misleading. In this roundtable we seek a more historically, geographically, and ethnographically nuanced understanding of authoritarian populism and other forms of illiberal politics. We develop the concept of illiberal urbanism to unsettle conventional urbanist claims that equate liberalism with urbanity, and we explore instead the multiplicity of liberal and illiberal forces, projects, and antagonisms that shape political life in our urbanizing world.

We are especially interested in probing the connection of illiberal city-making to urbanizing inequalities. Panelists will trace the rise of coercive governing practices and their role in enabling carceral forms of containment, dominant class, race, and gender politics, pernicious securitization schemes, violent counter-insurgency efforts, and the extractivist dynamics of racial capitalist city-making on a global scale. In our discussion, we will examine different urban political regimes from the authoritarian to the putatively neoliberal to tease out frequently unexamined connections between illiberal government on the one hand and new patterns of inequality on the other.

Together, we will devise answers to difficult questions such as, how are coercive forms of urban government, safety and security spatialized across different metropolitan landscapes? How do mass incarceration, segregation, and inequality surface in cities today? How do counterinsurgency, surveillance and securitization affect city-making projects today? What are the class, gender, and racial dimensions of contemporary urbanized inequalities? How do illiberal and liberal measures combine in contemporary forms of city-making? And, most importantly, what kinds of counter- or alter-politics can overcome the production of illiberal inequalities?

Participants are part of a multi-year project called Mutations of Urbanism. We are an international, interdisciplinary scholarly collective organized to explore emancipatory political possibilities and changing urban forms.

Mutations of Urbanism: Illiberal cities and what to do about them

» Prof. Jeff Maskovsky (The Graduate Center, CUNY), Prof. Ayşe Çağlar (University of Vienna)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

09:00

Oral : #8

#8 Rethinking the 'European city': land financialisation, wealth accumulation and the production of new urban inequalities

Venue - Marietta Blau Saal

Organised by: Veronica Conte (Convenor), Johanna Lilius (Convenor), and Georgia Alexandri (Convenor)

European cities have long been regarded as forms of compromise and aggregation of interests, and as political arenas in which different actors negotiate the urban future, within a framework rooted in the provision of social services (Le Galès 2002). However, in the wake of financial, energy and geopolitical crises, the redefinition of the state's role in land development and the reallocation of public resources towards military expenditure have put a strain on European cities, raising questions about whether urban governance can sustain welfare provision while promoting economic growth.

Emerging literature identifies European cities as key sites for the financialisation of land, urban planning, and housing (Holm et al. 2023; Ward 2021; Savini and Aalbers 2016), where the treatment of land as a financial asset serves the broader economic objectives of rentier capitalism. Despite the variety of theoretical and methodological approaches, four points recur: i) at the heart of land market transformations lies the potential of land to create novel values and generate steady income streams for its owners; ii) state policies and regulatory frameworks are indispensable for the functioning of land markets, prompting renewed attention to land politics; iii) recent shifts in land markets foster new forms of wealth accumulation while triggering expulsions, displacement, and novel forms of dispossession; iv) all this intensifies existing urban inequalities and produces new ones, which are intertwined with intergenerational inequalities in wealth transfer and other forms of discrimination based on race, class and gender.

The objective of this session is to interrogate how European cities are being reshaped by new pressures on land. Following Robinson's call for a more plural and situated urban theory, we welcome case studies and comparative works examining how recent transformations in land markets and politics contribute to the production of urban inequalities. To value Europe's contextual specificities, we invite contributions from various regional settings and often-overlooked contexts such as shrinking, small and medium-sized cities. We furthermore invite to rethink the European city 'through elsewhere' (Robinson 2015),

challenging our understanding of the dynamics that lead to urban transformation and considering how these influence urban trajectories in the Global South and beyond.

We welcome submissions addressing the questions below and other interconnected issues:

- Who are the actors driving transformations in European land markets and shaping patterns of ownership, access, and use?
- Through what mechanisms are land markets governed and regulated, and how are these mechanisms changing?
- What new state-market relations emerge from these transformations?
- Which forms of resistance, contestation, and collective action are challenging dominant land politics?
- How do inequalities in land ownership, control and access intersect with intergenerational dynamics and other forms of discrimination based on class, race and gender?
- What new forms of displacement and dispossession are urbanites experiencing in the current conjuncture?
- Which conceptual frameworks, or combinations thereof, best capture ongoing transformations: financialisation, assetisation, commodification, or others?

From Workers' Housing to Development Asset: A Post-Socialist Spatial Reconfiguration

» [Ms. Jovana Đonlić](#) (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad), [Dr. Sonja Pejić](#) (Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad)

Between Entrustment and Investment: Landowner Orientations and Residential Land Retention in Luxembourg

» [Dr. Sila Demirörs](#) (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)), [Dr. Antoine Paccoud](#) (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER))

Student Housing, Tourism and Financialisation: PBSA and the Reshaping of the Southern European University Cities

» [Dr. Mattia Fiore](#) (University of Bologna)

Land financialization and grassroots resistance: counter-expertise and the struggle for the right to the city in Florence

» [Mrs. Francesca Conti](#) (La Sapienza University of Rome)



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

09:00

Oral : #101

#101 Foundational economies in (un-)equal cities

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: Hans Volmar (Convenor), Luca Biserna (Convenor), and Tatjana Neuher (Convenor)

The global regime of profit-driven and growth-centred economies lies at the heart of climate breakdown, whilst also falling short of providing decent living standards for all. Within this system, cities have developed as nodal points of a global economy based on the continuous redistribution of wealth within countries, as well as the exploitation of natural resources and labour in the "Global South"/majority world. Consequently, there is much emphasis on the role of cities in eco-social transformations. On the one hand, they are sites of unbounded consumption and account for almost three quarters of global GHG-emissions. On the other hand, they serve as key arenas for struggles over global climate justice as well as social and spatial inequalities at the local level. Their significance becomes even more prevalent, given the projections of "planetary urbanisation".

Against this background, the Foundational Economy (FE) has developed as a concept and policy paradigm proposing an alternative for organising urban economies. It employs a sectoral understanding of economic processes, with some being foundational to satisfying basic human needs (e.g. water, energy, health), while others are merely creating monetary value for private companies and investors (e.g. finance, insurance and real estate). According to FE-scholars, the privatisation and commodification in those sectors that are foundational is undermining quality and access for large parts of urban populations. They also argue that providing public foundational infrastructures is significantly more climate-friendly, while limiting social and spatial inequalities due to the redistributive effects of collective instead of private consumption. In addition, recent feminist interventions have accentuated the role of de-privatising social infrastructures in redistributing care (work).

In this session we invite contributions investigating the potential of alternative ways of organising urban economies in eco-social transformations according to principles of the foundational economy. Conceptual contributions could attempt to develop the concept further to answers to its structurally inscribed Eurocentrism or feminist critiques of a lingering neglect of the role of care work. Connections to related

concepts such as universal basic services (UBS) or social provisioning are welcome as well. Empirical contributions could focus on in-depth studies of single cities/sectors as well as the role and potential of participation in implementing foundational provisioning. We also invite comparative studies either between cities or between sectors of the foundational economy. We specifically invite contributions from/about cities outside of Western Europe.

The session is intended as an open exchange on the potentials and limits of the foundational economy in eco-social transformations and the organisers will submit a special issue proposal based on the contributions to this session.

Rethinking Participation in Foundational Provisioning Policy: Integrating Active Citizenship

» [Dr. Roman Hausmann](#) (Modul University Vienna)

Clash of gendered expectations: when internalised care duty meets urban economic demand in the Vietnamese context

» [Dr. Nguyen Que Huong Le](#) (Independent scholar)

Contestations of diffusing infrastructural power in the city

» [Dr. Jakob Hartl](#) (Research Institute Social Cohesion), [Ms. Ina Mayer](#) (Research Institute Social Cohesion)

The work(ings) behind foundational provisioning: maintenance, extractivism and informal labour in urban construction

» [Ms. Jasmin Baumgartner](#) (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

09:00

Workshop : Round table 14 / #107

#107 Research-Activist Collaborations and the Politics of Urban Inequalities in the Global South

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: Dr. Sobia Kaker (Convenor), Ayesha Shahid (Convenor), and Prof. Miguel A. Martínez

This roundtable invites critical reflection on the challenges, strategies, and possibilities of scholar-activist collaborations in contexts where inequality is entrenched and state receptivity to pro-poor interventions is limited. Framed within the conference theme "Inequalities and the City: Old Issues, New Challenges", the session situates itself in long-standing debates on the right to the city (Lefebvre, 1968; Harvey, 2012), urban social movements (Holston, 2009; Nicholls, 2008), and the



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

expanding repertoire of innovative methodologies used to understand and contest dispossession, displacement, and disenfranchisement (Simone, 2018; Roy and Rolnik, 2020; Harb, 2021).

As global academic attention to urban challenges grows-often shaped by funding priorities and institutional pressures-how can scholars working in or on Global South cities, particularly those outside the framework of 'urban labs,' confront and respond to the unique challenges of conducting engaged, activist, and policy-relevant research in these contexts? Governments may be hostile to critical scholarship, and activist groups can find themselves surveilled, delegitimised, or excluded from official policy conversations. Against this backdrop, the roundtable asks: what does it mean to "make impact" when there is no receptive platform for research-activist collaborations to land? What counts as success when possibilities for pro-social and pro-poor policy engagement are increasingly constrained?

The discussion will address the following interlinked questions:

- 1.How can research move beyond publications to mobilise social justice and collective action beyond affected (and often exhausted) participant communities?
- 2.How can scholarly work that seeks to resist evictions, dispossessions, and expulsions best navigate the tension between engaging with bureaucracies that often sustain the status quo and aligning with progressive political movements that are still emerging or fragile?
- 3.Where should research "land" to produce meaningful effects in policy and practice?
- 4.What metrics of success make sense in contexts where state power is increasingly exclusionary and resistant to progressive agendas?
- 5.Where should we best situate scholarly that resists evictions, dispossessions and expulsions. between appealing to status-quo maintaining bureaucracies and (often fledgling) progressive political movements?

We particularly seek contributions from scholars working in Global South contexts who have grappled with these tensions in their own work. Participants are invited to explore advocacy after publication, the afterlives of research in activist campaigns, and/or reflections on failure as a form of knowledge production. We are keen to foreground the experiences of early career colleagues and those whose work, campaigns, or collaborations remain under-recognised, to enable a candid conversation about frustrations, learnings, and solidarities.

By bringing together diverse perspectives, this roundtable aims to deepen conversations about urban inequalities while pushing methodological and political imaginations. It will foreground activist collaborations not as ancillary to scholarship, but as central to rethinking what it means to claim the right to the city under conditions of austerity, authoritarianism, and ecological precarity.

Resist, Remember, Repeat: Researching Urban Evictions When the State Refuses to Listen

» [Dr. Kanupriya Dhingra](#) (BML Munjal University)

Militant Research Confronting Infrastructural Capital: Contributions from Mexico and Ecuador

» [Dr. Manuel Bayón Jiménez](#) (El Colegio de México)

Radical advocacy planning in contested cities: Learning from East Jerusalem and Johannesburg

» [Dr. Elya Milner](#) (Technische Universität Berlin), Prof. Colin Marx (University College London)

Understanding spaces for transformative action in Karachi

» [Ms. Saba Aslam](#) (University of Cambridge)

Staying with the Trouble, Theorising from/in the South

» [Dr. Redento Recio](#) (University of the Philippines Diliman)

09:00

Oral : #54

#54 Urban Cohesion and Experiences of Insecurity

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Maria Luisa Méndez Layera (Convenor) and Dr. Quentin Ramond (Convenor)

The aim of this session is to explore how multiple experiences of insecurity relate to the dynamics of urban cohesion in contemporary cities. Components of urban cohesion - such as social bonds, trust, and collective identity - are vital for well-being but are profoundly shaped by socio-spatial inequalities. Affluent urban groups often report stronger place identification and social trust, while residents of disadvantaged areas exhibit more vulnerable forms of cohesion. This suggests that urban cohesion can emerge as a form of privilege, particularly in highly segregated cities. Yet, a growing number of studies have highlighted the



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

need to move beyond residential features to understand what drives social cohesion. This session focuses on the theme of insecurity as a critical lens for understanding how urban cohesion is formed, challenged, or sustained.

Existing research often relies on a limited conceptualization of insecurity as primarily related either to employment instability or exposure to crime and violence. In this session, we take a different approach by defining insecurity as the interplay between an individual's social conditions (housing, job, or citizenship status), their embodied social categories (class, gender, ethnicity), and the situational insecurities of daily life (exposure to crime, diversifying neighborhoods, or limited access to quality public services). Our conceptualization thus emphasizes the interactions between objective and subjective aspects of insecurity and their consequences among different social classes. Consequently, we aim to depart from much of the existing literature that focuses on lower- or middle-class experiences, by also including processes of securitization among urban elites. We argue that these overlapping insecurities may significantly shape how people experience the city, interact with others, and perceive their place within the urban social fabric.

This session contributes to existing literature by adopting a comprehensive understanding of insecurity that extends beyond crime and violence to include housing and job instability, social status uncertainty, and the challenges of navigating rapidly changing urban environments. We particularly encourage proposals examining the following questions: How do different and overlapping forms of insecurity affect, shape, and rebalance urban social relationships? What is the role of socio-spatial inequality in how insecurity is experienced, and how does this impact urban bonds? Do increasing insecurity and securitization diminish or reinforce certain kinds of urban cohesion? What roles can public policies, the state, the private sector, and communities play in addressing the impact of insecurity on urban life? How do intersectional experiences of insecurity transform everyday mobility and urban belonging?

We welcome proposals that address these questions through spatial, qualitative, or quantitative analysis, including case studies from diverse contexts. By bringing together insights from across the world, we seek to foster a robust dialogue on addressing urban inequality in our contemporary moment.

Social infrastructure as mediator for ontological security and social cohesion?

» [Dr. Anna-Barbara Heindl](#) (Research Institute Social Cohesion)

"Dysfunctional City, Dysfunctional State": Classing and Scaling Insecurities in Hybrid Spatial-Media Environments and Eroding Coexistence in Post-Industrial East Berlin

» [Ms. Julia Greve](#) (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Department of Social Sciences), [Prof. Talja Blokland](#) (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Department of Social Sciences)

Do vital communities exist? How perceived insecurity and spatial disadvantage constrain the link between urban vitality and cohesion

» [Mr. Cristóbal Ortiz](#) (Millennium Nucleus Insecurity and Urban Cohesion)

09:00

Oral : #94

#94 Radically (Un)Equal: The New Urban Platform Economy

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Prof. Judit Bodnar (Convenor)

The recent arrival of the platform-based sharing economy--the P2P exchange of goods and services through digital platforms--quickly captured the entrepreneurial spirit and enchanted the masses. It has come with great promises: efficiency and sustainability through the use of idle resources, autonomy and flexibility at work, the opportunity to make easy money by trying oneself out in odd jobs, what one always wanted to do but could not, a quick stint of work during economic crises, and easier access to services that used to be largely confined to the middle classes. The fundamentally democratic core of P2P exchange held out the possibility of a more horizontally organized economy.

There is a growing recognition that sharing platforms haven't delivered on their democratic promises and the platform model of business is still trapped in the logic of capitalism. This panel is meant to examine how the urban platform economy contributes more specifically to the production of inequalities and the uneven production of urban space.

While the platform economy is not confined to the city, sharing platforms thrive particularly under the conditions of the density and mass anonymity of large cities, and they can be considered a primarily urban phenomenon. Short-term rentals (Airbnb), transportation platforms, such as ride hailing (Uber), or micro-mobility vehicle sharing



Continued from Monday, 20 July

(Lime), home restaurants (Eatwith), small service gigs (TaskRabbit), and non-sharing-based food delivery platforms (DoorDash, Wolt, Deliveroo, Zomato) fundamentally shape how residents use the city and its services and reconfigure urban infrastructure and economy. Some of these platforms have created a lot of buzz, been contested by long-term residents and municipal governments, and drawn strong criticism from social scientists. Are shared e-vehicles making urban transportation more sustainable? Do they turn people away from mass transit? Is food delivery primarily helping those with restricted mobility? Does the screening of guests and riders promote homophily and reinforce discrimination, or work against it compared to non-platform-based businesses? Who can make a living in the platform economy? How do housing platforms affect the transformation of residential buildings and entire neighborhoods in the long-run? Do they have a larger impact on the desertion of inner-city areas by permanent residents and the displacement of vulnerable populations? Are we witnessing a simple re-inscription of social inequalities through digital means in the new urban platform economy? Are there new mechanisms at work in the uneven production of urban space?

The session invites papers that address any aspect of these larger processes, how they play out in cities with different regulatory systems, municipal politics and policies, different desirability for tourism, in regions where there is an abundance of cheap labor and services, and in places where there is not. We welcome papers that build on empirical analysis from all regions of the world, more speculative kinds exploring the mechanism through which new inequalities are created or old ones are reinforced, and pieces that theorize the uneven development of platform capitalism at the urban scale.

Vans, Pick-Up Points and Empty Streets: E-Commerce Logistics and Retail Inequalities in a Medium-Sized German City

» [Mrs. Alisa Barannikova](#) (The World Bank)

Frictionless Cities? Platform Work, Urban Inequality, and the Politics of Distance

» [Dr. Ladin Bayurgil](#) (Turkish-German University)

Delivering Faster for Job Security : The Contradictory Promises of Platform Capitalism in Paris

» [Mr. Pierre-Henri Besnard](#) (École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées)

09:00

Oral : #39-1/2

#39 Active Urbanisms: Sport, Movement, and the Contested City (1/2)

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Dr. Lakshya Yog (Convenor) and Devra Waldman (Convenor)

This session seeks papers that interrogate 'active urbanisms' as sites of accumulation, contestation, and social reproduction. In doing so, this session aims to expand critical scholarship on the intersections of physical activity, sport infrastructure, and urban transformation. While existing research in urban studies tends to excessively focus on sporting mega-events and sport-oriented development (Koch, 2018), we aim to broaden the lens to examine the ways in which diverse forms of bodily movement, including elite athletics and everyday walking, from children's play to adapted recreation, are co-produced by contemporary urban processes.

Previously, scholars have shown how mega-events are used as tools to produce a vision of world-class cities while facilitating the displacement of the urban poor, the privatisation of public space and producing new geographies of spectatorship and consumption (Andrews & Silk, 2018; Baviskar, 2014; Hiller, 2000). Yet the mundane everyday movement and associated infrastructures, such as parks, streets, playgrounds, and cycling lanes, equally demand critical scrutiny. These spaces not only embody contested visions of health citizenship but also reveal patterns of racialised and gendered access and increasingly operate as sites of data extraction through fitness platforms and insurance technologies (Lupton, 2013).

In addition, rising temperatures and worsening air quality continue to reshape the possibilities for outdoor activity, particularly in marginalised neighbourhoods lacking shade, cooling infrastructure, or adequate facilities (Harlan et al., 2006). Here, perspectives emerging from disability justice paradigm further outline the exclusion of non-normative bodies due to urban design aimed exclusively at promoting "active living" (Imrie, 2012).

At the same time, the emergence of commodified fitness landscapes, such as wellness districts (Kraus et al., 2019), represents new forms of urban entrepreneurialism, where health promotion intersects with real estate speculation and class/race/gender/ability-based spatial configurations. Meanwhile, DIY practices and tactical approaches focused on informal play spaces, guerrilla sports interventions, and community-led activations suggest counter-practices that resist dominant framings of the "active city." We invite papers engaging with



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

how bodies in motion, whether through organised sport, daily commutes, or spontaneous play, become enrolled in urban governance regimes, property relations, and struggles over the right to the city.

Potential topics include but are not limited to: sport-led displacement and gentrification; mega-event planning, legacies, and labour configurations; datafied mobility and surveillance; climate adaptation and heat inequality; playground design and spatial autonomy of children; disability access and universal design; informal play and spatial appropriation; the care work of infrastructure maintenance; fitness platforms and biopolitical governance; wellness real estate and class restructuring; gender, safety, and public space; and Indigenous land claims around sporting facilities.

We particularly welcome comparative work across cities and regions, interdisciplinary approaches, and scholarship grounded in ethnographic, historical, or mixed methods. By centring critical perspectives on active urbanisms, this session aims to advance understanding of how movement infrastructures reproduce and challenge urban inequalities in the contemporary moment.

Monitoring Movement: A Student Perspective on Urban Health and Design

» [Mr. Rajman Munankami](#) (University of Groningen)

Women's participation in Bogotá's Ciclovía: leisure and the right to difference

» [Dr. Paola Castañeda](#) (Universidad de los Andes), Dr. Álvaro Rodríguez-Valencia (Universidad de los Andes)

Governing Children's Play: Playgrounds in Imperial and Soviet Russia, 1910-1930s

» [Ms. Karina Povsteva](#) (University of Chicago)

Active Urbanisms in a 'City-from-scratch': Freedoms, depletions and place-making in Mahindra World City, Chennai, India

» [Prof. Tanya Jakimow](#) (The Australian National University)

09:00

Oral : #105

#105 Smart and Stratified: Platform Capitalism and Inter-Urban Inequality

Venue - SR 07

Organised by: Antoine Courmont (Convenor) and Mr. Oskar Steiner (Convenor)

In the current era of "platform capitalism," the production, accumulation, and exploitation of data has become a primary vector of economic activity and growth. This development has pronounced consequences for urban governance. Digital firms have seized upon the city as both a resource and a market for data-driven goods and services, while local authorities have (to varying degrees) attempted to steer, appropriate and regulate digital platforms to public ends. Platform capitalism has catalysed a new round of strategic negotiations between public and private actors in the city, the outcomes of which are driving transformations in the instruments, infrastructures, institutions and imaginaries of urban governance.

An important set of questions have emerged relating to the effects of platform capitalism on the shaping of urban inequality. On the one hand, digital platforms in the city may structure the inclusion of certain residents and the exclusion of others. They are vectors for the reproduction of inequalities between urban actors as they are governed. On the other hand, digital platforms in the city attribute an uneven capacity to know and intervene in urban life. They are vectors for the reproduction and transformation of inequalities between urban actors as they govern.

Yet if the mechanisms through which platform capitalism is shaping inequalities within territories are increasingly understood, the ways in which it is shaping inequalities between territories are currently less clear. While it is evident that different cities are being integrated into platform capitalism's value chains in different ways-and able to appropriate these positions to different effects-our understanding of the economic, political, and technological drivers of this differentiation remains limited.

This session, accordingly, invites a methodologically diverse range of theoretical and empirical contributions that interrogate the mechanisms through which platform capitalism is contributing to the (re)making of inter-urban inequalities. Contributions should seek to uncover how the ongoing intersection of corporate strategies, public action, and technological innovation is producing differentiation between territories, and asymmetries in the horizons and governance of urban areas.



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

Contributions may wish to interrogate this development along any of the following (non-exhaustive) thematic axes:

-Uneven materialities: Drivers and consequences of differences between the digital infrastructures of territories (constraints, affordances, harms and benefits...)

-Uneven coverage: Drivers and consequences of the differential deployment of digital goods and services across territories (inclusion and exclusion, rejection and acceptance...)

-Uneven models: Understanding the diverse and distinct forms of platform capitalism across territories (as shaped by local agency, historicity, economic contexts, legislative environments, corporate strategies, material constraints...)

-Uneven positions: Modelling and describing how cities and regions are positioned in global value chains of platform capitalism (territorial specialization, extraction, accumulation, dependency or interdependence...)

-Uneven valuations: Understanding the role of algorithmic platforms and platform capitalism in ranking, classifying, qualifying, and reordering urban areas.

-Uneven futures: Understanding how platform capitalism comes to represent different promises, problems, narratives, and imaginaries in different territories, and how these futures are contested or redefined.

Platform Geographies: The Uneven Visibility of the City on TikTok, Instagram, Google Maps, and Facebook

» [Dr. Reza Shaker](#) (University of Amsterdam), Prof. Justus Uitermark (University of Amsterdam)

City governments, platform capitalism and the EU: uneven political mobilisation and the supranational rescaling of local regulatory conflicts

» [Prof. Claire Colomb](#) (University of Cambridge)

Can all cities become "rebel cities"? Lessons from the Self-Data Project in the Lyon Metropolis (France)

» [Dr. Manon Laugaa](#) (Centre Emile Durkheim - Sciencepo Bordeaux)

Smart Cities and Eco-Digital Platform Urbanism: Inter-Urban Inequalities in the Global Urban Stack

» [Prof. Monica Bernardi](#) (Milano-Bicocca University)

09:00

Oral : #74

#74 "Practising What We Preach": Collective Urban Praxis, Relational and Transformative Approaches to Challenging Urban Inequalities

Venue - HS 01

Organised by: Dr. Roberto Rocco (Convenor), Hugo Lopez (Convenor), and Cristian Olmos Herrera (Convenor)

This session examines how academic engagement can catalyse collective urban action that directly challenges persistent inequalities. We explore methodological and pedagogical innovations through an interactive format that embodies the very principles we advocate. Urban inequalities persist partly because traditional research approaches reproduce extractive relationships between researchers and communities. While participatory methods have gained prominence, many have become institutionalised and procedural, losing their radical potential for structural change. This session seeks to recover engagement practices that operate as prefigurative politics. Rather than traditional presentations about participatory methods, this Interactive Method Lab demonstrates transformative approaches through direct experience, featuring the innovative Mapas Parlantes methodology as a central component, complemented by other approaches. The session operates as a collective rehearsal where participants engage with proven methodologies, breaking down hierarchies between presenter and audience.

Mapas Parlantes Workshop (25 min): A short presentation of the project, followed by participants' experience with this participatory mapping methodology, which combines cartographic representation with oral storytelling to document community knowledge and urban inequalities. Using the platform's digital tools and narrative techniques, attendees create speaking maps of their own urban contexts, demonstrating how communities can become co-producers of spatial knowledge rather than research subjects.

Embodied Mapping Extension (20 min): Building on Mapas Parlantes principles, participants use tactile materials and movement to explore



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

how bodies experience urban inequalities, extending digital mapping into physical space.

Storytelling Circle (20 min): Rotating micro-narratives inspired by Mapas Parlanges' oral tradition, where participants share 3-minute stories of urban transformation, building collective knowledge through voice and memory.

Visual Documentation Lab (15 min): Real-time creation of visual representations combining insights from speaking maps with drawing, collage, and digital tools.

Collective Action Planning (10 min): Using mapping insights to design concrete actions for challenging inequalities in participants' own contexts.

We invite researchers, educators, and practitioners to join our innovative session. This immersive 90-minute workshop explores how participatory methodologies-such as the Mapas Parlanges project-can transform academic practice into collective urban action, challenging inequalities through collaborative mapping, storytelling, and embodied learning. Participants are encouraged to bring their own local and practical experiences to the workshop so we can learn from them and put them in conversation with the Mapas Parlanges project.

Questions Explored:

1. How can collaborative cartographies like Mapas Parlanges challenge rather than merely document urban inequalities?
2. What forms of co-making emerge when communities control their own spatial narratives?
3. How do speaking maps demonstrate the transformative potential of combining digital tools with oral traditions?
4. What does it mean to ""learn solidarity and justice"" through participatory mapping?

Participant Engagement: Attendees rotate through stations, experiencing the Mapas Parlanges methodology alongside complementary approaches. The session generates collective outputs-speaking maps, embodied documentation, action plans-that become shared resources for continued engagement. Participants leave with practical experience of a proven methodology for community-controlled spatial research.

Innovation Rationale: This format aligns methodology with message by centring Mapas Parlanges as an exemplar of how digital and artistic tools amplify rather than extract community knowledge. By experiencing this methodology firsthand, participants explore how academic conferences can serve as sites of prefigurative politics, showcasing concrete

alternatives to traditional research hierarchies.

The session contributes to emerging transdisciplinary discourse on engaged urban praxis while showcasing successful innovations in participatory mapping that directly confront urban inequalities through community-controlled storytelling and spatial representation.

Using Art Based Methods to Stimulate Communication across Difference

» [Dr. K Maeve Powlick](#) (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Exploring Augmented reality (AR)-enabled community-led knowledge production in Indonesia

» [Ms. Meriky Lo](#) (School of Architecture and Planning, The University of Auckland)

Engaging with disabled young people for urban equality

» [Dr. Menna Jones](#) (University of Greenwich)

Supporting Community-Led Mapping: Academic-Civil Society Collaboration in Informal Settlement Upgrading in Namibia

» [Ms. Gaby Hansen](#) (Namibia University of Science and Technology), [Ms. Tapiwa Maruza](#) (Namibia Housing Action Group), [Ms. Ute Vees](#) (University of Stuttgart), [Prof. Marwa Abdel-Latif](#) (Ain Shams University)

09:00

Oral : #80

#80 Entangled Relations of Peripheralization in African Urban Spaces: Rethinking Theories, Methods and Ways of Knowing (2)

Venue - HS 02

Organised by: Dr. Lindsay Sawyer (Convenor) and Lindsay Howe (Convenor)

This double panel invites contributions that critically examine the entangled relationships that shape urban life in African cities, particularly Nigeria and South Africa and in planetary comparative context. For instance, how do informality, the state, and customary authority intersect in the production of space? In contexts such as Lagos and Johannesburg, negotiations around land, property, and ownership remain central to how urban space is claimed, governed, and lived. These practices are bound up with deeper questions of power and sovereignty -questions that unfold through processes of de-/ re-/ territorialization and peripheralization. By foregrounding entanglements,



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

this panel is less concerned with defining what is or isn't informal for instance, but invites creative and bold reflections on what spaces and affects these relationships produce, and what this tells us about the urbanization of African contexts and the possibilities for urban transformation, particularly in regard to peripheralization.

We especially welcome papers that engage with the intersections of design, gender, ecology, and the more-than-human in urban transformations. Urban peripheries often make visible the uneven distribution of resources, the tensions between state and customary authority, and the ways in which extended urbanization reorganizes both human livelihoods and non-human ecologies. Paying close attention to these lived entanglements can help us trace how inequality occurs but also how new practices of organization and solidarity emerge.

Methodology is a core concern of this panel. How can ethnographic, comparative, anti-, de-, non-colonial and mixed-methods research do justice to the complexities of all these entanglements? What different ways of knowing can illuminate and challenge our understandings? What approaches make it possible to move between the scales of the planetary? By focusing on methodological innovation, we aim to open space for dialogue about how to theorize urbanization with and from African urban spaces, and how such knowledge-making might contribute to rethinking urban research, methods, policy and design.

We invite papers that push far beyond Eurocentric paradigms in urban studies (or don't reference them at all), contributing to critical conversations in anti-, de-, non-colonial and comparative urbanism, extended urbanization, and the dialectics of centre and periphery. In doing so, this panel aligns with the mission of the newly created Centre for Urbanisation and Peripheralization (CUSP) to build theory and practice that bridges North-South divides while advancing more socially just and ecologically attuned urban futures.

We welcome paper that address the following themes and questions in regards to urbanisation in African urban spaces, particularly Nigeria and South Africa. Broader comparative perspectives are particularly welcome:

- What are the relationships between informality - the state - customary authorities?
- How do these relationships intersect with land - property - ownership?
- What do these relationships tell us about power - sovereignty -

territorialization and peripheralisation-nature-urbanization?

- What can be learned within and between different urban contexts in comparative perspective?
- What methodologies enable this learning?
- How might such learning enable future or support existing urban transformations?
- Paying particular attention to design, gender, the more-than-human, anticolonialism

Entangled Governance: Resident-Derived Understandings of the State in Johannesburg's Vanguard Periphery

» [Dr. Katrin Hofer](#) (ETH Zürich)

The hydro-social production of health in Lagos

» [Dr. Nura Ali](#) (University of Liverpool)

Monitoring a Mirage: Power, Surveillance, and Informal Urbanization in Béni Mellal, Morocco

» [Ms. Hajar Ribled](#) (National Institute for Urban and Spatial Planning), [Dr. Safiya El Ghmari](#) (International University of Rabat, Urban Innovation and Heritage Lab), [Prof. vladan klement](#) (Czech Technical Univeristy in Prague)

09:00

Oral : #102

#102 Neurodiversity, Inequalities and the City

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: [Dr. Rosalie Warnock](#) (Convenor)

In recent years, neurodiversity has become a buzzword in popular and academic discourse; something which now runs the risk of being coopted under neoliberalism (Runswick-Cole, 2014). But for people who are neurodivergent - a community-developed term describing those who experience the world in a different way to the neurotypical majority - there is nothing 'new' or 'novel' about it (Davidson and Henderson, 2010). Neurodivergence can bring all sorts of gifts - but it can bring challenges, too. For example, heightened sensory sensitivities can make busy urban environments unbearable (Davidson and Henderson, 2010). Difficulties with executive function can make travelling through the city even more challenging (Alarasi et al, 2025). And neurodivergence cannot be separated from the additional intersecting disadvantages of race, class, gender, sexuality, age, disability, and (co-occurring) disability (Angell and Solomon, 2014; Lewis and Arday, 2023;).



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Sociologists and geographers have only very recently started to follow the lead of critical disability studies and other disciplines in examining neurodiversity in more detail (see e.g. Grummt, 2024; Kenna, 2023). The earlier work of a few pioneering neurodivergent scholars (e.g. Davidson and Henderson, 2010; Singer, 1996) is central to this. But there is so much more to do, empirically, theoretically, and methodologically.

This interdisciplinary session encourages contributors and attendees alike to employ neurodiversity as a lens for understanding different and intersecting forms of inequality in the city.

- How, for example, might neurodivergence compound experiences of family homelessness?
- How might the urban environment be structured - physically, socially or bureaucratically - to favour neurotypical people? How might a neurodivergent perspective disrupt or nuance the concept of the right to the city?
- What is the relationship between neurodiversity, ageing and the city?
- How might we 'neuroqueer' the city?
- And finally - what might "neurodivergent joy" in the city look like - and how might neurotypicality restrict this?

This will be a regular panel session, but contributors are welcomed to test the boundaries of what that means if they so wish. Papers can be theoretical, empirical, or methodological in focus. Submissions are particularly welcome from scholars from the Global South and/or in contexts which disrupt Western hegemony over neurodiversity and the neurodivergent experience.

Everyday transitions of care: Neurodivergence, children's everyday (im)mobilities, and the city

» [Dr. Jennie Middleton](#) (University of Oxford), Dr. Anna Plyushteva (University of Oxford), Dr. Haifa AlArasi (University of Oxford)

Hidden, Homeless, and High-Risk: Neurodivergent Children and Families in Temporary Accommodation

» [Prof. Katherine Brickell](#) (King's College London), [Dr. Mhairi-lean Ross](#) (King's College London)

Planning Exclusion: Neurodiversity, Race, and the Colonial Legacies of Urban Policy in Brasilia

» [Mr. Victor Guevara](#) (University College Cork), Ms. Jasmim Barbosa Barros (University of Brasilia - UnB), [Dr. Therese Kenna](#) (University College Cork), [Dr. Eileen Pfeiffer-Flores](#) (University of Brasilia - UnB)

Neuroqueering the City: Neuronormativity, Counter-Spatialities and Urban Inequality

» [Dr. Miriam Serini](#) (University of Milano-Bicocca)

09:00

Oral : #97

#97 Tenants Against Rentier Capitalism: Innovations in Organising, Urban Inequalities, and Transnational Housing Politics

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: Mr. Lucas Vaquero (Convenor), Mr. Pablo Pérez (Convenor), and Dr. Javier Gil (Convenor)

Across cities facing intensifying inequality, housing precarity, and the global reach of corporate landlordism, a new organising wave of tenants' unions is transforming how urban class struggle is waged. From the Madrid Tenants Union, the London Renters Union, and the Los Angeles Tenants Union to newer formations across Europe and the Americas, organisations are deliberately importing labour-organising toolkits-structured one-on-ones, mapping and structure tests, majority thresholds, strike-ready escalations, and dues-based membership models-into the tenant field. This panel examines what is new, what works, and how these innovations convert case-by-case defense into durable, compounding power.

We invite contributions that identify mechanisms of innovation and trace their effects: e.g., how building-level mapping scales to city-wide leverage; how member-led governance (delegates, committees, steward systems) stabilises rapid growth; how strike funds, legal defense ecosystems, and CRM/digital stacks professionalise mutual defense without hollowing out democratic control; how cross-jurisdiction campaigns (against standardised extraction models and cross-border REITs) build transnational repertoires rather than ad-hoc solidarity.

We position these unions as proactive agents contesting the financialisation of housing and rent-extractive urban regimes under conditions of declining labour density, hegemonic homeownership ideology, and thin institutional support. We seek papers that specify how innovations travel across contexts (protocols, playbooks, training curricula, "campaign-in-a-box"), how they are adapted to different tenure



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

regimes and legal geographies, and where they fail or backfire. We especially welcome analyses that foreground race, class, gender, and migration status in shaping recruitment pipelines, leadership reproduction, risk distribution, and organisational cultures.

The panel also interrogates the transnational horizon of tenant organising. While rentier capitalism is globally standardised-assetisation, platformised property management, and private-equity roll-ups-resistance often remains local. Yet infrastructures like the European Action Coalition for the Right to Housing and the City, the Autonomous Tenants Union Network, and recent international gatherings (e.g., Barcelona Housing Justice Encuentro, 2024) reveal early consolidation. We invite critical evaluations of these infrastructures: What are the bottlenecks (language, legal asymmetries, resourcing)? Which coordination mechanisms (synchronised action days, shared targets, data/OSINT hubs) travel across contexts? What constitutes meaningful internationalism when power is anchored in buildings and blocks?

We particularly welcome papers that:

- Demonstrate innovations in organisational form and strategy (base-building pipelines, member defense protocols, rent-strike architecture, dues/governance models).
- Compare mechanisms across cities/regions rather than single-site description, including the Global South and non-metropolitan contexts.
- Analyse metrics and evidence (win-rates, retention, density, leadership development, strike readiness) linking practice to outcomes.
- Theorise housing as a site of class formation, social reproduction, and political transformation under rentier urbanism.
- Evaluate transnational infrastructures of coordination and their limits.

By centring innovative mechanisms over generic narratives, this panel aims to sharpen scholarly and practitioner understanding of how tenants' unions build power and with what consequences for urban inequalities and democratic life.

Rent Strikes: A history of collective tenant actions across the world

» [Dr. Hannes Rolf](#) (Stockholm University), Dr. Lucas Poy (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Tenant Unionism in a Time of Socialist "Co-Governance"

» [Prof. Holden Taylor](#) (CUNY Graduate Center)

Organising without corporate landlords: Organisational experiments from the Thessaloniki Tenants Union

» [Mr. Nikolaos Vrantzis](#) (Institute for Housing and Urban Research), Dr. Theodoros Karyotis (Ghent University)

Old organizations – new movements. Tenant unions as sites of struggle in Berlin and Malmö

» [Dr. Lisa Vollmer](#) (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space)

Local Struggles, Global Challenges: Tenant Rights Movements in Madrid and Winnipeg

» [Ms. Madeline Mesich](#) (Independent Researcher), [Mr. Alberto Crespo](#) (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia), [Dr. Andrés Walliser](#) (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM))

09:00

Oral : #38

#38 Stateness in urban politics: Thinking with, across and beyond Eastern Europe and Africa

Venue - HS 07

Organised by: Dr. Varvara Karipidou (Convenor), Prof. Jennifer Robinson (Convenor), and Dr. Wilfred Jana (Convenor)

This session seeks to foster cross-regional conversations between two regions often treated as peripheral in global urban studies, by bringing together cases from Africa and Eastern Europe to critically engage with analyses of the nature of the state, state actors and state agency in urban development.

The state is an increasingly important actor in many urbanising contexts, notably in relation to large-scale and infrastructure-led development, as well as more authoritarian and centralised modes of urban development. State institutions and actors profoundly shape contemporary urbanisation processes and outcomes. More generally, though, the role of central government in urban development has been neglected (Brenner, 2019; Shatkin, 2022). The conceptualisation of "stateness" therefore demands attention. However, much of the existing theorisation of the role of the state in urban politics, rooted in Western contexts, fails to capture the fluid and negotiated nature of statehood in regions where institutional structures and governance mechanisms intersect with diverse actor interests including personal wealth



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

accumulation, enhancing personal and private networks and projecting legitimacy (Kinossian, 2012; Hagmann and Péclard, 2010).

African studies has a rich literature on the nature of state power and state actors' interests (Fourchard, 2024; Cirolia & Harber, 2022); and Eastern European scholars have engaged with interpreting the transitional forms of statehood after the demise of socialism (O'Dwyer, 2006; Ion, 2014). Scholars across these regions have therefore long grappled with the complexities of state actors, positioning them to make vital contributions to emerging debates on the role of the state in urban transformation. By placing African and Eastern European urban experiences in dialogue the session aims to rethink how we theorise statehood, governance, and urban politics across diverse settings.

The panel will foster comparative conversations that pose questions from each region to inform interpretations of the other. It will encourage thinking with, from, and across Africa and Eastern Europe to advance respectful, grounded, and transformative comparative urban studies. Despite growing calls to decentre knowledge production in urban studies and move beyond dominant Western frameworks, theoretical contributions from underrepresented regions remain marginal in mainstream debates (Müller et al., 2025). Yet both African and Eastern European contexts offer rich sites of theoretical innovation, capable of deconstructing entrenched assumptions and reshaping how we think about the state, urban governance, and the politics of development.

We welcome papers that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- State agency and urban governance: How do state actors navigate, negotiate, and legitimise power in rapidly changing political and economic contexts?
- Emergent stateness: How is 'stateness' or public authority performed or negotiated across a range of actors, institutions and practices?
- Central government actors in urban development? To what extent and on what basis do central government actors and institutions shape urban developments?
- Transnational power relations: How are state actors' priorities and interests shaped by external influences, or "extraversion"?
- Bypassing, corruption and shadow institutions: How do individual actors and political organisations create alternative or hidden procedures to shape outcomes in their interests, or to ensure effective results?

Navigating urban government in the authoritarian state: grassroots initiatives and dynamics of urban conflict in Russian cities

» [Ms. Valeria Rumiantseva](#) (University of Barcelona)

State actors' Dominance in Financing Decisions and Shaping of Large-scale Infrastructure Development in Greater Accra Metropolitan Area: The Case of the Tema port expansion project.

» [Mr. Kofi Amedzro](#) (University of Ghana, Legon)

Performing "Stateness" through Redevelopment: Authority, Legitimacy, and Shadow Governance in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

» [Mr. Semere Zeru Abraha](#) (University of Cincinnati), [Mr. Yohannes Haile Woldu](#) (Mekelle University), [Mr. Daniel Semunugus Negese](#) (Mekelle University)

Internal Extraversion: Diaspora Organizations and the Translocal Making of Stateness in Mali and Comoros

» [Dr. Camille Traoré](#) (Sciences Po Bordeaux)

09:00

Oral : #90

#90 Securing the Unequal City: Policing, Profiling and Urban Resistance

Venue - HS 16

Organised by: Josefa Maria Stiegler (Convenor)

This panel invites contributions that analyze the multiple ways in which security regimes shape racialized, gendered and classed geographies of the city. Cities are not only spaces where inequalities take shape, they are also sites where they are enforced and contested. Policing practices—whether through formal law enforcement or informal community control—shape access to public space, housing, mobility and citizenship. These dynamics reveal how urban governance often relies on racialized imaginaries of "risk" and "disorder," which position certain bodies and neighborhoods as threats to the urban order. Moreover, there is an increasing militarization of cities to facilitate a greater degree of surveillance and control.

This panel explores how security governance, policing and punitive crime policies operate as mechanisms that produce and reproduce urban inequalities, e.g., in the form of racial profiling. It also examines how these dynamics are challenged by residents, activists and civil society, highlighting counter-narratives and resistance practices that



Continued from Monday, 20 July

emerge in response. These initiatives contest dominant policing frameworks and open up possibilities for alternative urban futures grounded in care, solidarity and community-based safety. The session aims to foster dialogue between scholars in urban studies, geography, sociology, criminology, anthropology, and related disciplines who seek to rethink how security and inequality intertwine in the making-and unmaking-of contemporary cities. Contrasting empirical case studies across different geographical and political contexts, it seeks to go beyond a Global South/Global North binary that is often reproduced in research on urban inequalities. The panel invites both theoretical reflections and empirically grounded studies that advance our understanding of policing and resistance along the lines of gender, race and class in urban contexts. Contributions may engage with conceptual debates on power, space and citizenship, or propose novel methodological approaches-including exploratory, collaborative or arts-based methods-to capture the complexities of urban inequality.

Securitization of Space and Non-intervention in Crime as Strategies of Counterinsurgent Urban Governance in Turkey

» [Ms. Arjin Taş](#) (University of Vienna)

Militarization, policialization, and milicianization: security regimes and the production of the unequal city in Rio de Janeiro

» [Dr. Clara Polycarpo](#) (Universidade Federal Fluminense)

Beyond Policing: Criminal Courts and the Governance of Urban Security

» [Dr. Eleonora Di Molfetta](#) (University of Milano-Bicocca), Prof. Fabio Quassoli (University of Milano-Bicocca)

'Safe Space': The Dogwhistle Politics of Race and Space in Contemporary Swedish Urban Development

» [Dr. Burcu Yigit Turan](#) (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Dept. of Urban and Rural Development, Spatial Planning)

Policing the Housing Crisis: Encampments, Repression, and Resistance

» [Dr. Andrew Crosby](#) (Carleton University)

09:00

Oral : #48

#48 Beyond the local turn. Theorizing and researching migration governance in cities.

Venue - HS 21

Organised by: Karolina Łukasiewicz (Convenor), Marta Pachocka (Convenor), and Karolina Podgorska (Convenor)

Since the 1990s, interest in local-level migration governance has grown among scholars and practitioners. The so-called 'local turn' in migration studies, or 'new localism' in urban studies, has revealed various forms and mechanisms that influence migration governance, primarily in the Global North cities (McGuirk et al., 2021; Zapata-Barrero, Caponio, Scholten, 2017; Schiller & Çağlar, 2009). Migration governance, which involves managing migration through state (public) and non-state (e.g, non-profit civil society or for-profit) actors at the local level, has gained significant attention in European public discourse and academic debates, prompting responses from actors at the supranational, national, and local levels (Geddes et al., 2019; Caponio et al., 2018; Pisarevskaya & Scholten, 2025; Çağlar & Schiller, 2023). Much is known about local-level policies being more efficient and innovative than central-level responses to residents' needs (Oosteslynck & Kazepov, 2019). Yet, local-level policies struggle with underfunding, coordinating fragmented services provided by multiple actors, and can contribute to deepening inequalities for residents (Łukasiewicz et al. 2021).

The scholarship on local-level responses to migration beyond single case studies or in contexts beyond Western Europe and North America remains scattered. In this panel, we invite participants who have taken on this challenge and can share the varying ways in which they approached the theoretical and methodological challenges of analyzing migration governance in cities and smaller localities, including comparative studies and those that extend beyond the Global North Context.

The authors will answer:

- How did they theorise their findings?
- What methodological strategies did they use to analyse the empirical material they collected around migration in various large, medium, and small localities?
- What challenges did they experience in their analysis, and how did they address them?
- The panel participants will also discuss synergies in their work and ways to collaborate on further developing local-level scholarship, including theoretically, methodologically, across various geographical areas, and academic fields that have so far been overlooked in the local turn scholarship.



Continued from Monday, 20 July

We invite presentations related to the following conference themes:
Migration, Governance, Recent developments in theory

Planning for Immigrant Inclusion: Welcoming Cities and Nonprofits

» [Prof. Cathy Liu](#) (Georgia State University)

Researching the local governance of arrival in 'tough times': shifting discourses, multi-stakeholder governance as well as empirical challenges within research on local refugee reception (in Leipzig/Germany)

» [Dr. Annegret Haase](#) (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig), Mrs. Anika Schmidt (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig), Mr. Janek Stebut (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig)

09:00

Oral : #31

#31 The Indebted City: Tracing the Unequal Burdens of Housing Financialization

Venue - HS 27

Organised by: Dr. Adriana Hurtado Tarazona (Convenor), Erandi Barroso-Olmedo (Convenor), and Dr. Jess Linz (Convenor)

Amid tumbling wages and rising asset values (Adkins et al., 2020), living with debt has become a defining feature of urban life in the North and South (García-Lamarca & Kaika, 2016). This panel explores debt as an urban condition - one that stretches from the body to the community and urban life.

Recent feminist approaches frame debt as a relationship of domination that organizes daily life, shapes subjectivities, and is inherently gendered (Cavallero & Gago, 2019). Moreover, geographies have pointed to the spatiality of debt (Harker, 2017, 2019). These literatures contend that debt is not merely a financial obligation but also a social relationship that transforms how people inhabit cities, maintain households, and build communities (Lazzarato, 2015; Federici, 2014; Kılıncarslan, 2024). Living in the indebted city disproportionately affects vulnerable individuals and communities across lines of gender, class, race, and migration status. It requires us to understand the ways these individuals and groups endure and respond to the burden of housing

financialization in daily life.

Understanding the spatial and material expressions of debt becomes crucial as housing speculation, evictions, and property neglect reshape urban peripheries and challenge traditional modalities of making home (Aalbers, 2017; Rolnik, 2017). Housing financialization transforms class relations and creates new forms of dependency through formal mechanisms like subprime lending and informal credit networks (Soederberg, 2015; Reis & Antunes De Oliveira, 2023). At the same time, households develop diverse mundane and political responses to cope with debt crises. These relations and practices are conditioned by housing infrastructure and urban geography, as making home in conditions of over-indebtedness shapes relations of belonging and community formation.

We seek to generate dialogue across different urban contexts and housing finance regimes, examining how debt operates as both a mechanism of urban inequality and a site of political contestation. By bringing together diverse empirical cases, methodological and theoretical approaches, the session aims to advance critical understanding of the financialized city while highlighting the agency and resistance strategies of indebted communities.

This panel session welcomes papers addressing the following key themes:

- Care: How debt relationships transform care practices within households and communities, including the gendered division of debt management labor and care work as collateral in informal lending networks.
- Subjectivity: How indebtedness affects the relationship to the self, including but not limited to embodiment, mental and emotional changes, self-perception, agency, spirituality, attachments and perceived position in relation to others.
- Solidarity: What forms of collective action emerge from shared experiences of indebtedness, including tenant organizing, mutual aid networks, and women's collectives challenging financial violence.
- Violence: How indebtedness enables new forms of gender-based and economic violence, including domestic violence linked to housing debt stress and eviction as systematic displacement.
- Digital Applications and Differentiated Debt Sources: How new technologies and diverse credit sources reshape urban debt relations, including fintech applications targeting women and informal workers.



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Gender and Indebted Life: Women's Conflicting Subjectivities after Relocation from Informal to Formal Housing

» [Prof. Tahire Erman](#) (Bilkent University)

Inflating Homes, Shifting Lives: Indexed Mortgages and the Indebted Urban Condition in Iceland

» [Dr. Anne-Cécile Mermet](#) (Sorbonne Université)

Debt Traps Producing Housing Precarity for Roma Women in Czechia

» [Mrs. Katerina Canigova](#) (Masaryk University)

Water carcerality: debt urbanism and the power of the lien

» [Ms. Lucy Everitt](#) (King's College London), Prof. Katie Meehan (King's College London)

09:00

Oral : #16

#16 Aging with Dignity: Supporting Aging Behaviours Through Sustainable Urbanism

Venue - HS 30

Organised by: Sravanti Peri (Convenor)

Theme: Intergenerational Urbanism: Aging is frequently framed narrowly as the final stage of life, resulting in environments, design practices, and policies that marginalise or exclude older adults. This theme reframes aging as a shared, intergenerational experience shaped by socio-spatial contexts and regulatory landscapes, examining how urban environments influence and support aging across the life course.

1. Session Format (Co-Innovation - Let's Design Aging Together): A hands-on, interactive session where participants explore urban aging challenges and co-design inclusive, actionable solutions using insights, snapshots, and prototyping tools.

2. Session Overview: Focusing on the theme of Intergenerational Urbanism, this session engages participants in co-innovating and designing aging together. Building on ethnographic observations of Singapore's wet markets and India's rythu bazaars, the session shares key insights into how everyday contexts influence aging behaviours and participation. These findings are enriched with behavioural theories to

provide a grounded understanding of aging in urban spaces. Complementing this, a critical mapping of global and national (Singapore & India) regulatory landscapes has identified opportunities and gaps for integrating aging into sustainable urbanism. Together, these insights, along with findings from thematic snapshots, set the foundation for an interactive co-design board game where participants collaboratively generate strategies for sustainable, inclusive, and intergenerational urban environments. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to reimagine aging as a shared experience shaped by urban environments.

3. Session Plan (120 mins):

a. Introduction and Context (20 mins)

- Overview of aging in urban environments, relevance to inequalities, and session objectives.
- Observational Insights: Key themes from Singapore's wet markets and India's rythu bazaars.
- Critical Mapping Insights: Key findings from global and national (Singapore & India) regulatory landscapes.

b. Thematic Snapshots (2 to 3 ideas as a poster or mini presentation - 25 mins)

- Focus: Thematic linking of aging, urban environment, and inequality.
- Each presenter: 5-minute input (idea or case).
- Discussions: Connecting participant themes with observational and critical mapping insights.

c. Hands-on Co-Design Workshop (60 mins)

- Interactive activity using the prototype board game "How Do You Want to Age? Design Your Own Journey."
- Collaboratively explore lived experiences and intergenerational needs to co-design sustainable urban environments supporting aging behaviours.

d. Reflection and Discussion (15 mins)

- Synthesise insights from observations, critical mapping, thematic snapshots, and workshop outcomes.
- Key takeaways for age-inclusive sustainable urbanism.

4. Session Objectives:

- Explore how urban environments can support aging as a shared, intergenerational experience by integrating observational insights, critical mapping insights, and thematic snapshots.
- Engage participants in a co-design workshop to generate inclusive, actionable strategies for sustainable urbanism that support aging behaviours.
- Foster interdisciplinary dialogue bridging theory, design, policy, and



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

practice in age-inclusive urbanism.

5. Target Audience: Academics, industry professionals, healthcare professionals, policymakers, practitioners, designers, researchers, students, community stakeholders, and anyone who views aging as a meaningful, ongoing life journey and is interested in co-creating inclusive, age-friendly urban environments.

Promoting a social work perspective on age-inclusive urban environments

» [Ms. Eva Schmolzmüller](#) (University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten)

Weak Ties, Strong Cities: Neighbourhood-Scale Urbanism and Productive Ageing

» [Ms. Namrata Kapoor](#) (IIHS University)

Envejecimiento en el DMQ: Dinámicas de cuidado en contextos urbanos

» [Mr. Jefferson Revelo](#) (Instituto de Investigaciones de la Ciudad), Mrs. Johanna Cruz (Instituto de Investigaciones de la Ciudad), Mrs. Maria Velasquez (Instituto de Investigaciones de la Ciudad)

09:00

Oral : #56

#56 Grassroots Territorial Strategies in Urban Peripheries

Venue - HS 31

Organised by: Ana Clara Monteiro-Macedo (Convenor), Mr. Antonio Sequeira Junior (Convenor), and Lino Texeira (Convenor)

Grassroots territorial strategies developed by groups, organizations, and social movements in favelas and urban peripheries are central features of cities in the so-called Global South, both historically and in the present. In contexts shaped by deep social and spatial inequalities, especially for Black and peripheral populations, collective mobilizations around political agendas, the struggle for rights, and the affirmation of ways of life challenge the dominant logic of urban space production.

This session aims to foster debate on the multiple territorial strategies emerging from peripheral contexts, educational experiences, cultural practices, knowledge production, and other territorially rooted initiatives, and their capacity to influence urban production and public

policies. By articulating different spheres of action and combining local and broader scales, these practices transcend the boundaries of their territories and reverberate across society, calling for a reexamination of the role of the university itself.

We welcome research, completed or in progress, addressing the implications of grassroots territorial practices and collective mobilization in favelas and urban peripheries, especially in relation to:

- i. Knowledge production and engagement with public data;
- ii. Popular mobilization and rights-based agendas;
- iii. Self-managed territorial and organizational practices;
- iv. Political advocacy and strategies of influence;
- v. Artistic practices and cultural politics;
- vi. Heritage and memory;
- vii. Socio-environmental agendas;
- viii. Care networks and the valuing of life.

Counting favelas: the production of data by peripheral subjects

» [Ms. Thais Cruz](#) (Uerj)

How do ordinary inhabitants make sense of social protests in the urban margins? The role of local grassroot organization and territorial memory in the conflictualization of discussions in Ciudad Bolívar, Bogotá.

» [Mr. Maël ALONZO](#) (Université Paris 8)

IN THE WEAVINGS OF KNOWLEDGE AND MEMORIES PRODUCTION IN THE FAVELAS AND PERIPHERIES OF RIO DE JANEIRO

» [Dr. Palloma Menezes](#) (UERJ), [Mr. Gustavo Azevedo](#) (UERJ), [Ms. Kharine Dantasa](#) (UERJ), [Ms. Thais Cruz](#) (University of Antwerp)

09:00

Oral : #76

#76 A Cultural-Cognitive Approach To "Inequalities and the City"

Venue - HS 32

Organised by: Lorenzo Sabetta (Convenor) and Sara Lancieri (Convenor)

How are urban inequalities perceived, and under what conditions are they ignored? What role does spatial knowledge play in reproducing or contesting environmental disparities? In what ways do the social mindscapes of contemporary cities intersect with residential segregation, metropolitan marginalization, and exclusion?

In his influential 2010 Poetics paper, Daina Cheyenne Harvey



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

emphasized the dynamic relationship between space and cognition: cognitive modes shape our understanding of space just as the spatial configuration of social environments shapes our cognitive modes. In a brief article published in 2003, David Harvey similarly suggested the introduction of a "right to the city," arguing how molding the cities we inhabit "more in accord with our heart's desire" (p. 941) would directly affect our comprehension of urban realities and of ourselves, as well as the possibility of altering them. Yet, this dialectical interdependence is still understudied - more than a century after Simmel's seminal essay *The Metropolis and Mental Life*. While the idea that we think not only as individuals but also as members of particular "thought communities" is widely accepted, it has rarely been applied systematically. Other than some notable exceptions (see inter alia Brekhus 2003; Portugali 2011; Scott 2014; Janz 2017; Middleton 2021; Brighenti 2022; Simone 2022), the complex, intersubjective meanings produced within the context of today's cities are often overlooked in discussions of inequality.

The main purpose of this panel is to explore (and update) the substantive connection between the sociology of the mind and the sociology of the city through the prism of inequalities. We invite contributions - both theoretical and empirical, quantitative and qualitative, micro and macro - that approach the city either as an independent variable (i.e., how urban configurations of inequality affect cognitive modes) or as a dependent variable (i.e., how cognitive modes shape urban experiences of inequality).

We especially encourage cross-disciplinary, theory-driven, and empirically grounded work that addresses the following central questions:

- How do socio-mental conventions by which we attend and disattend to features of urban space contribute to the persistence of urban inequalities?
- Conversely, how might these same cultural-cognitive frameworks stem or mitigate such inequalities?
- What circumstances can favor or hinder such processes (and the occurrence of mega-events, the degree of gentrification of urban areas, etc.)?

Relevant sub-themes may include (but are not limited to):

- Differences in the socio-cognitive "politics of perception" existing in cities of the Global South versus the Global North.
- The nexus between the attention economy, technological

developments, contemporary cities, and the reproduction of inequalities.
● Patterns in selecting certain inequalities as extraordinary and remarkable over other forms of inequalities neglected as commonplace and ordinary.

● The social phenomenology of events and infrastructure in urban life, as well as the overlap of mental and material infrastructures in today's city.

● The (shift in) perception of one's city following the implementation of policies aimed at urban regeneration and at the redevelopment of specific neighborhoods.

● The impact of cultural-cognitive "nodes" and features (e.g., feelings/emotions, schemas/frames, visibility, curiosity, etc.) on the interaction with/participation in urban.

Territories and Cognitive Processes: Co-producing Dispositions and Inequalities

» [Dr. Federico La Bruna](#) (Independent Researcher)

Knowing without Naming Embodied Sustainability, Inequality and Space in Migrants' Everyday Life

» [Mr. Niccolò Manfrin](#) (University of Trento), Prof. Martina Cvajner (University of Trento)

A Critical Phenomenology of Residualisation in Australian Social Housing

» [Ms. Mel Powersmith](#) (The University of Queensland)

09:00

Oral : #44

#44 Graffiti and Street Art Between Community and Commerce

Venue - HS 34

Organised by: Dr. Maggie Kusenbach (Convenor)

From quick tags, stickers, or paste-ups to elaborate multi-story murals, graffiti and street art are ubiquitous on urban surfaces around the world. Originating from below and long ignored or criminalized, over the past two decades, these global artforms have increasingly captured the attention of community activists, public officials, and commercial actors alike who seek to influence and maximize their uses in different ways. Today, many cities feature a mixture of government policies and programs (e.g. legal walls), community and non-profit initiatives (e.g. festivals, jams), and private businesses (e.g. galleries) that promote graffiti and street art, giving rise to new urban coalitions, forms of engagement, challenges, and conflicts.



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

This session seeks to gather urban scholars from around the world to share and discuss research, thinking, and engagement regarding the questions listed below with interested colleagues. All theoretical frameworks, research designs, methods, and analytic approaches are welcome. I especially encourage colleagues who are working in, and/or on, underrepresented countries, metro regions, and urban communities to participate in the scholarly conversation. All presentations should be visually engaging yet do not need to follow conventional scripts. Graffiti and street art researchers around the globe are known for their creativity, mutual support, and eagerness to engage with others which we want to showcase and nurture in this session.

I invite papers that address the following questions and issues (among others):

- Is graffiti authentic and subversive by definition, is street art always contrived and established, or are both more complex and dynamic than is often assumed? In which ways do graffiti and street art overlap and influence each other in specific local scenes?
- Which roles do government, community, non-profit, and/or private actors play in graffiti and street art scenes today?
- What are the histories and impacts of graffiti and street art policies, programs, and events, such as legal walls or annual festivals?
- Given their growing popularity and commercial embrace, what remains public and inclusive about graffiti and/or street art, and what does not?
- In which ways do these artforms underpin existing urban inequalities or create new forms of exclusion? Specifically, how do graffiti and street art intersect with tourism and gentrification in local places?

Walking Through Value: Exploring Graffiti and Street Art Through the Go-Along Method

» Mrs. Cecilia Brazili (University of Milan)

Public Walls and the Right to the City: A Case Study of Vienna's Wienerwand

» Mx. Zola Neri (Central European University)

Taming the Urban Canvas: Governance, Actors, and the Multi-Centric Networks of City Murals

» Prof. NIR MUALAM (Technion), Dr. Eynat Mendelson (Tel Aviv University)

09:00

Oral : #88

#88 Vertical Peripheries and the Rescaling of Housing Inequalities

Venue - Franz-König Saal (= HS 06)

Organised by: Prof. Luisa Sotomayor (Convenor) and Dr. Friederike Fleischer (Convenor)

Over the past two decades, verticalization has emerged as a central strategy in mass housing programs, promoted as a response to land scarcity, informal urban growth and rising housing demand. This model has produced a distinctive urban form: large, often state-subsidized towers on the metropolitan edge, frequently constructed on former rural, informal or environmentally sensitive land. Particularly visible in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, but increasingly evident elsewhere, these vertical peripheries promise formalization and modernity, encouraging low-income households to pursue homeownership as a means of achieving social mobility. Yet this aspiration often entails heavy indebtedness and relocation to peripheral areas distant from employment, services, and political representation.

Developed through arrangements that combine public subsidy with private investment, these projects operate where limited state capacity meets speculative accumulation. Guided by state- and developer-led narratives of inclusion, these massified projects redefine citizenship through property, credit and control, often mediated by private governance structures, such as condominium or management boards. Rather than redressing inequality, these schemes tend to reproduce existing urban hierarchies and socio-ecological contradictions at the margins. Crucially, large housing complexes have become key instruments through which governments manage land, housing, and infrastructure, producing new configurations of density, environmental pressure, and social fragmentation that reshape how urban differences and inequalities are organized, negotiated and experienced at the metropolitan scale.

This panel, aligned with the RC21 theme "Inequalities and the City: Old Issues, New Challenges," examines how verticalization is reshaping urban relations of power and governance by extending investment, regulation, and privatized planning across the metropolitan edge. It asks how these housing forms contribute to the rescaling of housing inequality, understood as the shifting distribution of resources, responsibilities, and vulnerabilities between state, market, and household actors in contemporary city regions.

Key themes include the political economy of verticalization, the changing roles of public and private actors in housing delivery, the financialization of social and low-cost housing, and the environmental and scalar politics of high-rise density. The panel also invites analyses of the collective and insurgent practices of adaptation, organization, and resistance emerging



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

within high-rise peripheries, where residents negotiate the contradictions of formal inclusion and material exclusion. We welcome interdisciplinary and methodologically diverse contributions, including ethnographic, historical, political-economic, comparative, and design-based approaches. Together, these perspectives will deepen understanding of how housing and urban governance are rescaling inequality, citizenship, and belonging across contemporary metropolises.

Homeownership, Affordability, and Time: Understanding the Vertical Peripheries from Outside.

» Dr. Raffael Beier (Technische Universität Dortmund)

Profitable Peripheralisation: Vertical Social Housing and the Political Design of Subsidies in Lima

» Dr. Diana Torres-Obregon (Research Centre for Urban and Territorial Theory – URBES-LAB), Dr. Matteo Labarthe (Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología - UTEC)

New Urban peripheries since the 1990s in Germany: Rescaling of social inequalities among two city extensions in Berlin and Frankfurt/ Main

» Prof. Carsten Keller (Kassel University), Mr. Jonas Jehnichen (Kassel University)

The White Towers: Vertical Living and the Contradiction at the Margins

» Dr. Ute Lehrer (York University), Ms. Madison Stirling (York University), Prof. Katherine Perrott (University of Waterloo)

10:30

General

Coffee Break

Venue - Courtyard

11:00

Keynote

Welcome + Keynote: Large-Scale Data and Understanding Economic Inequality - Mario L. Small

Venue - Großer Festsaal

Organised by: Prof. Mario L. Small

Welcome by Sebastian Schütze (Rector, University of Vienna), Yuri Kazepov (Local Organising Committee), and Alberta Andreotti (RC21 President)

Chair: Alberta Andreotti (RC21 Co-President)

Large-Scale Data and Understanding Economic Inequality

» Mario L. Small (Department of Sociology, Columbia University)

11:00

Keynote

Streaming Welcome + Keynote: Large-Scale Data and Understanding Economic Inequality - Mario L. Small

Venue - Audimax

Welcome by Sebastian Schütze (Rektor, University of Vienna), Yuri Kazepov (Local Organising Committee), and Alberta Andreotti (RC21 President)

Keynote Mario Small

Chair: Alberta Andreotti (RC21 Co-President)

Large-Scale Data and Understanding Economic Inequality

» Mario L. Small (Department of Sociology, Columbia University)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

11:00

Poster

Poster exhibition

Venue - Back of the arcaded courtyard

Organised by: Dr. Tatjana Boczy (Convenor), Dr. Yuri Kazepov, Miriam Aistleitner, and Mr. Henning Jostes

Perceived Safety as a Spatial Condition of Inclusion: A Review of Women's Experiences in Public Space

» [Ms. Toka Abdelmutleb](#) (University College Dublin)

Activists, Associative Worlds, and Urban Inequalities: Civic Engagement and the Reinvention of the Local in Four Italian Cities

» [Prof. Tommaso Vitale](#) (SciencesPo (CEE, Urban school))

Environmental inequalities in German cities – Result and continuation of a systematic review

» [Ms. Sarah Tietjen](#) (German Environment Agency), [Dr. Jascha Wiehn](#) (German Environment Agency), [Mrs. Christiane Bunge](#) (German Environment Agency), [Mr. André Conrad](#) (German Environment Agency), [Prof. Tobias Rüttenauer](#) (Goethe University Frankfurt)

The Spatial Transformation of Social Structure and the Geography of Inequality: A GIS-based Analysis of Preschool Children's Environments in Tokyo

» [Mr. Shinichi Taniwaki](#) (Sophia University)

Combatting Inequality. Neighbourhoods in Berlin

» [Mr. Linus Schiedermaier](#) (TU Berlin)

Citizenship from Nowhere: Socio-spatial Violence and the Production of The City

» [Ms. Danielle Rodrigues](#) (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro)

Explaining neighborhood effects on neighborhood cohesion: the varying influence of residential reputation by household income

» [Mr. Cristóbal Ortiz](#) (Millennium Nucleus Insecurity and Urban Cohesion), [Dr. Quentin Ramond](#) (Universidad Mayor)

Producing Urban Informality: From Residential Mobility to Land Trajectories in Northern Lebanon

» [Ms. Mira MINA](#) (Université Paris Cité – CESSMA & Lebanese University – CERDA)

Housing movements, capitalism and class: A political economy of constraints, opportunities and consequences

» [Prof. Miguel A. Martínez](#) (Uppsala University)

Painting Over the Cracks: Street Art, Cultural Legitimacy, and the Contradictions of Creative City Governance in Berlin

» [Ms. Alisha Lynch](#) (Queen's University Belfast)

Coloring the Streets: Student Jackets, Urban Visibility, and Protest under Repression in Indonesia

» [Mr. Rafael Pandu AMARTYA](#) (Universitas Indonesia), [Dr. Raphaella Dewantari DWIANTO](#) (Universitas Indonesia)

Invisible Inequalities in Urban Space: Place, Community, and Perceived Homophobia among LGBTQ Individuals

» [Prof. Amy Adamczyk](#) (John Jay College, CUNY), [Mr. Ricardo Valle González](#) (City University of New York)

The Urban Social Compact in the Digital Age

» [Dr. Nicole Basso](#) (University of Virginia)

Long COVID, Temporal Justice, and Urban Space: Disability, Rhythm, and Public Policy in New York City

» [Dr. Cintia de Freitas Melo](#) (The New School for Social Research)

Gated urbanism: wealth inequality in Johannesburg

» [Ms. Federica Duca](#) (Public Affairs Research Institute, University of Johannesburg)

The Nairobi Eviction Assemblage: Old Logics, New Justifications

» [Mr. Hezron Gathura](#) (KU Leuven), [Prof. Manuel Aalbers](#) (KU Leuven), [Mr. Lawrence Esho](#) (Technical University of Kenya)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

From Competitions to Communities: Spatial Strategies of Shared Living in European Built Projects

» Ms. Nisa Nur Göksel (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University), Prof. Burçin Cem Arabacıoğlu (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University)

Walk or street marketing? When communication becomes aggressive

» Mr. Antonio Iannaccone (Pontifical Gregorian University)

Co-constitution of Feminine Subjectivities and Ethnic Identities in Marginalised Regions of Iran: The Intersection of Tourism and Marginalization

» Ms. Masoumeh Khalilgoudarzi (University of Westminster)

Space for PTSD Survivors of Conflict, Kashmir

» Mr. Haaris Khan (Shri KL Tiwari College of Architecture)

11:30

Workshop

Internal meeting Urban Studies journal

Venue - Green Lounge (=VAM 2)

Organised by: Prof. Kerstin Krellenberg (Convenor)

12:30

General

Lunch

Venue - Courtyard

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 6

Urban Radar

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: Prof. Beth Perry (Panel Chair) and Prof. Tom Goodfellow (Panel Chair)

Scholarly podcasting has been described as an insurgent practice 'against academic structures that curb creativity, inhibit personal and collective transformations and promote self-interest over generosity' (Cook, 2023). In recent decades there has been a strong growth in podcasting as an engagement platform to make scholarship more accessible to audiences beyond the academy, including within urban studies - for instance the City Road Podcast, The Urban Political, or Walking the City With.

In this contribution we will introduce our podcast Urban Radar, which takes an urban lens to contemporary affairs underpinned by a commitment to urban social justice. Launched in 2025, Urban Radar hit the UK social science podcast charts, and was amongst the top 5% of new podcast entrants according to one major streaming platform. It reached listeners in every continent, over 80 countries and 670 cities (47% of listeners are beyond UK). In the last twelve months, we have made 17 episodes, with 40 guests, including leading urban studies theorists and thinkers, early career scholars and PhD students. In this pitch, we reflect on the motivations, process, values and outcomes of making Series 1 and its potential as an 'epistemic living space' (Cox et al, 2023) to challenge traditional modes of knowledge production. We highlight four key characteristics of the Urban Radar approach.

First, our starting point disrupts the usual flows of knowledge in which academic expertise is broadcast to an external audience, via a mode of 'diffusion' which presumes a transfer of expertise from 'inside' the academy to a supposedly less educated 'outside'. By scanning the news, Urban Radar brings ideas in to the academic community, enabling the excellence and rigour of scholarly expertise to be 'infused' with its contemporary relevance. This further requires an epistemic permeability to how we conceptualise the 'urban' and the range of disciplines required to understand and analyse its changing importance as a scale for thinking and doing. Second, whilst sometimes led by the big headlines and stories dominating the news, we actively seek to mitigate spatial blindness (Frickel and Kinchy, 2018) by surfacing urban happenings in less usual settings and places. We seek to foster a space for translocal thinking, moving between and across Easts-Wests-Norths and Souths in search of a global urbanism that transcends usual binaries between global and ordinary cities. Third, Urban Radar operates at a meso-temporality, starting in the here and now, but connecting



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

through discussion with guests to long-standing urban studies debates on inequalities, their structural roots and historical precedents, as well as looking for future imaginaries. Finally, more than passive public engagement, our experience reinforces the potential of podcasting as reflection, agenda-setting and as method (Moore and Theweneti, 2025) for both hosts and guests. Previous podcast guests attending RC21 (with fewer than two contributions) will be invited to discuss their experiences with us, following our presentation before Q&A. If selected to pitch our work, we offer to bring portable podcast equipment and include a feature recorded live from RC21 on a future episode of Urban Radar.

Urban Radar

» [Prof. Beth Perry](#) (Urban Institute, University of Sheffield), [Prof. Tom Goodfellow](#) (University of Manchester)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 13

Uncoding the City: Part One

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: Dr. Regev Nathansohn (Panel Chair)

"Uncoding the City" is a research project based on three Multimodal Anthropological Videographies (MAV) that offers two main contributions to social research: (1) Theoretically, it analyzes urban digitalization through a neo-Bourdieuian approach; (2) Methodologically, it provides an innovative approach to analyzing and presenting ethnographic observations by means of multimodal videography.

This research project is based on a multi-sited ethnography in the field of "smart cities," where digital means are supposedly designed to increase the efficiency and predictability of urban infrastructures, services, and planning. Part one of "Uncoding the City" focuses on how technology companies re-symbolize the urban sphere as a digitally codable sphere. By using Loïc Wacquant's (2023) neo-Bourdieuian approach to urban studies, as composed of the trialectics of social, symbolic, and physical spaces, this MAV analyzes the storytelling and visual techniques that technology companies use to deepen their presence in the urban field, in order to increase their financial capital, data capital, and symbolic capital.

This videography shows how technology companies re-symbolize urban space as future-oriented and digitally codable through the following

chain of speculations: since people have certain needs and since technology is the solution to these needs, the intervention of technology companies in the public sphere becomes unquestionable and inevitable. By juxtaposing marketing materials for smart city products with ethnographic accounts of everyday life in the city, part one of Uncoding the City uncovers and troubles these speculations.

Methodologically, MAV offers an innovative platform for analyzing ethnographic data through experimental editing. Instead of treating different materials separately, presenting them linearly, or highlighting their totality, MAVs juxtapose two or more materials simultaneously on a single screen in creative, original ways that enable dialectical and even trialectical forms of analysis and display.

Works cited:

Wacquant, Loïc. 2023. *Bourdieu in the City: Challenging Urban Theory*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Uncoding the City: Part One

» [Dr. Regev Nathansohn](#) (Independent scholar)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 29

Modern Guide on Urban Poverty

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Prof. David Benassi (Panel Chair), Prof. Enrica Morlicchio (Panel Chair), and Prof. Enzo Mingione (Panel Chair)

This Modern Guide provides a new conceptual framework and vocabulary for understanding and addressing urban poverty in contemporary societies. Contributing authors examine in-depth case studies from cities in the Global North and South, adopting a range of approaches from quantitative analyses to in-depth ethnographies. Chapters highlight how large groups of newly urbanised populations develop informal strategies to cope with extreme living conditions in poor neighborhoods or shantytowns. They illustrate how, amid violence and conflict, these populations create networks of solidarity, forms of resilience and political collectives that demand better living conditions and the right to the city. The book also assesses the ambivalent role of public policies in mitigating or exacerbating urban poverty and explores the emerging realities and trajectories of urban poverty.

Index of the book

Modern Guide on Urban Poverty

Edited by David Benassi, Enzo Mingione and Enrica Morlicchio
Edward Elgar Publishing



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

Contents

Introduction by the editors

Part I - Macro perspectives on Urban Poverty

1. Urban poverty in the United States by Hilary Silver

2. Social innovation tackling poverty in European cities: The complexity of scales and social transformations by Tatjana Boczy and Yuri Kazepov

3. Urban poverty and policy in Africa by Jeremy Seekings

4. Urbanisation of Poverty in China by Yupeng Zhang

Part II - Urban poverty, dispossession and resistance

5. Pipes, tunnels and veins. Inhabiting the underground of dispossession in Bucharest, Romania by Michele Lancione

6. Urban Poverty and Informality in Southern Europe: A View from Naples by G. Laino and M. Trifuoggi

7. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on urban poverty: A case of the northern region of Bangladesh by Khandaker Mursheda Farhana and Kazi Abdul Mannan

8. Community Action, Social Capital, and Care in Oliver Bond House's Struggle Against Poverty in Dublin's Inner City by Lidia K. C. Manzo

9. Dis/possessive geographies: Poverty, violence and private property in the proletarian neighborhoods of Mexico City by Rodrigo Meneses

10. The Vulnerability Context of Homelessness in India's Capital City:

Evaluating the Capacity of Delhi's Network Shelter Governance System to Meet the Needs of the Homeless by Ashwin Parulkar

Part III - Comparing urban poverty

11. Urban poverty and street vending in Mexico City and Milan by Diego Coletto and Veronica Crossa

12. Bricolage at the urban periphery. Poor people's strategies in Argentina and Ecuador by Maricarmen Hernández and Javier Auyero

13. The "double movement" and the distribution of urban poverty amongst Lagos and Mexico City's waste workers by Côme Salvaire

Modern Guide on Urban Poverty

» [Prof. David Benassi](#) (University of Milano-Bicocca), [Prof. Enrica Morlicchio](#) (University of Naples Federico II), [Prof. Enzo Mingione](#) (University of Milano-Bicocca)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 4

Technology and Forced Migration. Ukrainian Migrants in Central and Eastern Europe

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Dr. Bielewska Agnieszka (Panel Chair), Dr. Marie Jelínková (Panel Chair), and Dr. Ewa Ślęzak-Belowska (Panel Chair)

The Russian aggression on Ukraine has drastically altered the migration situation in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) leading to mass forced migration. The book we would like to present details the experiences of countless forced migrants who arrived to Poland, Czechia, Slovakia and Hungary and the governments attempts in managing the forced migration.

Given the pivotal role of information and telecommunication technologies (ICTs) for both migrants and host societies, the book explores the intersection of ICTs and forced migration and uses comprehensive research and robust qualitative methods to demonstrate how these countries are emerging as New Immigration Destinations and handling the influx of Ukrainians. Contributions from economists, sociologists, and political scientists provide a thorough examination of how Ukrainian forced migrants navigate their lives using modern technologies, as well as their impact on these technologies.

It examines both individual and institutional perspectives. The first one shows the role of ICTs in migration decisions making and in migrants' integration. The latter - the use of ICTs by private and public actors. Among private actors, it analyses especially the role of the mobile operators in the reception and integration of Ukrainian forced migrants and the challenges of the public-private partnerships in essential technological services. In case of public actors, it discusses the role of ICTs in migration management, starting from EU migration governance, through the question how states use these technologies to communicate with and provide services to migrants, particularly Ukrainian forced migrants and ending at the city level. It investigates the function of ICTs in disseminating information and facilitating access to public services as a migration-management tool. It also provides an overview of the challenges and opportunities that digital technologies bring in facilitating and regulating forced migration in this part of Europe.



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Technology and Forced Migration. Ukrainian Migrants in Central and Eastern Europe

» [Dr. Bielewska Agnieszka](#) (University of Wrocław), [Dr. Marie Jelínková](#) (Charles University), [Dr. Ewa Słezak-Belowska](#) (Kraków University of Economics)

13:15 Workshop : Pitch your Work 5 People Power in Cities

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: Prof. Kurt Iveson (Panel Chair)

This session will discuss the new book *People Power in Cities* by Amanda Tattersall and Kurt Iveson (Oxford University Press, 2026). Book co-author Kurt Iveson will present an overview of the book's arguments and examples, followed by a short commentary and question-and-answer.

Book Synopsis:

In an era plagued by increasing inequality and intensifying climate change, residents of cities are facing crises on multiple fronts. In response, people are coming together to find solutions. But what does it take for them to change their city for good?

People Power in Cities is an analysis of the strategies people are using to fight for social and climate justice and achieve a greater say in how their cities are run. Highlighting the voices of organizers, activists, thinkers, and movements on the ground, Amanda Tattersall and Kurt Iveson reveal complex ecologies of people struggling for rights to home, dignity, and freedom. They draw from examples around the world, such as the 'be water' fluidity tactic used by crowds in Hong Kong, micro-utopia squats in Cape Town, and electoral reclamation of institutions in Barcelona. Unpacking the advantages and limitations of each strategy, Tattersall and Iveson argue against seeing any one as a 'silver bullet' to the dilemmas faced by urban movements, instead exploring the potential for complementary combinations of strategies that are too often seen in competition. The result is a people power framework that unlocks opportunities for urban movements everywhere seeking to create change. An essential guide for researchers and organizers alike, *People Power in Cities* makes sense of the dynamic, interconnected, and insurgent urban moment, helping us seize the opportunities for democratic experimentation available in our cities.

People Power in Cities

» [Prof. Kurt Iveson](#) (University of Sydney)

13:15 Workshop : Pitch your Work 30 Tenant Stories

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Prof. Carolina Gonzalez Redondo (Panel Chair) and Mr. Pablo Boye (Panel Chair)

Maca rents an apartment in Flores; Sergio, a studio in the Mugica neighborhood (formerly Villa 31); Yani lives in a room in a residential hotel in Constitución. Their stories are different, as are their present lives, but they share one condition: being tenants in the city of Buenos Aires. Through their experiences, *Tenant Stories* invites viewers to reflect on renting as a way of accessing housing. At the same time, this documentary aims to share the results of the Tenant Survey, conducted annually by various academic institutions and civil society organizations in Buenos Aires.

Tenant Stories

» [Prof. Carolina Gonzalez Redondo](#) (CONICET / IEALC-UBA), [Mr. Pablo Boye](#) (ACIJ)

13:15 Workshop : Pitch your Work 9 Everyday Life and Urban Studies / Lived Space and Urban Studies

Venue - SR 07

Organised by: Prof. Sabine Knierbein (Panel Chair)

Everyday Life and Urban Studies revisits the ordinary routines that shape urban life during the crises-ridden last century and early new millennium. Vast parts of Henri Lefebvre's intellectual work on everyday life however remain underappreciated in urban studies. This book seeks to re-integrate Lefebvre's *Critique of Everyday Life* into studies of urbanization. Starting in the 1920s, the book realigns historical insights with contemporary urban phenomena to uncover patterns of capitalist urbanization. By showing the relevance of grasping the minutiae of everyday life to understanding cities, the urban and urbanization today; everyday life, space, and philosophy are brought back in tension. This work combines analytical-methodological exploration, pedagogic mission, and theoretical advances to carve out an everyday-theory-based approach to urban studies situated at the interface of the spatial arts, the humanities, and the social sciences. This book examines the transformative potential that lies hidden in everyday life thereby



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

unravelling a way to nurture hope amid unsettled urban conditions.

The book is essential for students, faculty, and researchers in the fields of urban studies, city planning, urban design, human geography, sociology, cultural studies, and political science.

Everyday Life and Urban Studies / Lived Space and Urban Studies

» Prof. Sabine Knierbein (Technical University Vienna)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 11

The urban life of workers in post-Soviet Russia: Engaging in everyday struggle

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: Dr. Alexandrina Vanke (Panel Chair)

Centring on 'The urban life of workers in post-Soviet Russia: Engaging in everyday struggle' (Manchester University Press, 2024; paperback 2026), this book talk invites a wider international discussion on how ordinary people across different societies experience, negotiate and respond to inequalities in everyday life and urban space.

Drawing on a multi-sited ethnography of workers' lived experiences in Russia's major cities, Moscow and Yekaterinburg, the talk introduces and develops the concepts of structures of feeling (Raymond Williams) and everyday struggle. These concepts are examined within larger orders of power, at the intersection of neoliberal and neo-authoritarian modes of urban and societal governance.

Rather than treating everyday life as politically marginal, the book foregrounds mundane practices, affects and moral orientations through which inequalities are lived, contested and partially reworked. The book talk opens up comparative and transnational conversations by addressing the following questions:

- How can structures of feeling, understood as affective principles ordering senses, imaginaries and struggles in post-industrial cities, be applied in glocal contexts?
- How do neoliberal and authoritarian forms of governance shape the everyday lives of workers, and how do workers respond to these conditions?
- To what extent is the concept of everyday struggle applicable beyond authoritarian settings, including liberal and non-authoritarian societies?

• Are new forms of transnational solidarity among workers and other ordinary people possible in an era marked by wars, conflicts, catastrophes and polycrisis?

The book talk positions everyday struggle as a shared, though unevenly structured, feature of contemporary urban life, opening space for dialogue across regions, political regimes and disciplinary boundaries.

The urban life of workers in post-Soviet Russia: Engaging in everyday struggle

» Dr. Alexandrina Vanke (Institute of Sociology of the Federal Centre of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 12

Radical Municipalism The Politics of the Common and the Democratization of Public Services

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Dr. Iolanda Bianchi (Panel Chair)

This presentation introduces the volume *Radical Municipalism: The Politics of the Commons and the Democratization of Public Services*, published by Bristol University Press as part of the *Alternatives to Capitalism in the 21st Century* series. The volume is co-edited by Iolanda Bianchi (Universitat de Barcelona) and Bertie Russell (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) and brings together contributions from more than thirty authors.

With the ambition of reconnecting with a line of thought left open by state theorist Nicos Poulantzas on the democratic road to socialism, the book explores how common-based strategies can be applied to the production and governance of local public services, and what these experiences reveal about the capacity of cities to democratise public institutions. Recognising the limits of past socialist experiences, including both traditional social-democratic and Stalinist approaches, the volume reflects on how a different form of socialism can be articulated through a radical transformation of the state, starting from the local scale and extending beyond it, while acknowledging that state transformation is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition.

The book is composed of an introduction and two theoretical chapters written by the editors, which provide a shared conceptual and analytical framework for the volume and establish a strong theoretical basis for the analysis that follows. These chapters are followed by a collection of fourteen empirical case studies analysing concrete applications of



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

common-based strategies to local public services. The cases draw on different geographical contexts, mainly across Europe and the Americas. The volume concludes with a set of reflections on three key dimensions considered necessary to advance a radical democratisation of local institutions and beyond: the scalar dimension, the ownership dimension, and the legal dimension.

By bringing together theoretical reflection and empirical analysis, the book contributes to a broader discussion on the role of cities in processes of democratic transformation, while also reflecting on the possibilities and limits of extending these transformations beyond the urban scale.

The book will be presented by one of the co-editors, Iolanda Bianchi, and discussed by one of the contributing authors, before opening the discussion to questions from the audience.

Radical MunicipalismThe Politics of the Common and the Democratization of Public Services

» Dr. Iolanda Bianchi (University of Barcelona, Department of Sociology)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 10

Unlocking parking challenges: Leveraging Amritsar insights to tackle parking challenges in early million-plus cities

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: Mr. Sourav Dhar (Panel Chair)

Rapid urbanisation across the Global South, adding 2.5 billion city dwellers by 2050, is fundamentally reshaping travel behaviour, land use, and urban space demand. In India, the urban population is projected to nearly double from 461 million in 2018 to 877 million by 2050, with half of the country's population expected to live in cities by mid-century. This demographic shift is accompanied by a sharp rise in personal vehicle ownership, expected to increase from 294 million to 494 million vehicles over the same period, with two-wheelers dominating the growth. While urban transport is a key economic driver, unchecked growth in private vehicles is intensifying parking stress, particularly in early million-plus cities that are yet to adopt systematic parking management frameworks. This publication examines the mobility-parking nexus through a detailed case study of Amritsar, positioning it as a representative Indian early

million-plus city undergoing rapid spatial expansion and motorisation.

Evidence from Amritsar illustrates how parking stress develops well before cities reach a metropolitan scale. In Amritsar, surveyed sites showed 40% consistent on-street parking occupancy, peaking at 50-92% during weekday evenings (6-7 pm), driven by work-related travel. Off-street facilities averaged 50-70% utilisation, with users favouring free kerbside parking options. The study also found that, despite multi-story residential growth, vehicle ownership remains subdued due to the abundance of multi-storied residential growth, vehicle ownership remains subdued due to abundant on-street parking. Currently, Amritsar holds a 14,017 Equivalent Car Space (ECS) surplus, but projections indicate a 6,537 ECS gap by 2030, escalating to a 31,412 ECS deficit by 2050.

Comparative analysis across similar Indian cities reveals decadal ground coverage growth of 20-61%, yet vehicle ownership correlates strongly with economic prosperity: two-wheeler stock per 1,000 population yields $r=0.836$ ($p=0.039$) with GDDP per capita (Gross District Domestic Product), while cars show $R^2=0.934$. These patterns underscore a mobility-parking nexus, where unchecked vehicle proliferation outpaces supply, fostering inequalities in access and space. The study recommendations advocate zonal regulations like prioritising Amritsar's 34 sq km city-centre core for strict parking pricing, generating ₹10-15 crore (equivalent to USD 11,00,000- 16,00,000) annually by 2035 to bolster ULB budgets (equal to 3-5% of total municipal budget).

Equally critical is governance, as parking is an inherently localised challenge that requires context-specific, neighbourhood-level responses. The study therefore recommends a decentralised institutional framework with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for urban local bodies, sectoral agencies, and elected representatives. Importantly, well-designed parking regulations can serve as an entry point for polluter-pays instruments, such as low-emission zones, congestion pricing, etc, by familiarising users with pricing, zoning, and compliance mechanisms. While particularly necessary for India's early million-plus cities, this governance-led approach is equally relevant across cities of the Global South, where rapid motorisation, constrained urban space, and limited institutional capacity necessitate scalable, locally grounded mobility management solutions.

Note: The necessary review work and plagiarism check have been completed, and the study is currently in the design phase. The plagiarism check report is attached for reference. The study is expected to be published on CEEW's website by March 2026.



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Unlocking parking challenges: Leveraging Amritsar insights to tackle parking challenges in early million-plus cities

» Mr. Sourav Dhar (Council on Energy, Environment and Water)

13:45

**General
Excursion**

Venue - Meeting Point - U2 metro station Museumsquartier, exit: Mariahilferstrasse

See details and register for the excursions here: <https://rc21-vienna2026.org/excursions/>.

13:45

**General
Excursion**

Venue - Meeting Point - University steps, Universitaetsring

See details and register for the excursions here: <https://rc21-vienna2026.org/excursions/>.

14:00

Oral : #82-1/2

#82 Challenging inequalities through a renewed territorial approach for urban research and action (1/2)

Venue - Green Lounge (=VAM 2)

Organised by: Mr. Christian Schmid (Convenor) and Camilla Perrone (Convenor)

The concept of territory is at once indispensable and contested across different disciplines in urban research, such as sociology, geography, architecture, planning, and urban studies, even if they have quite different genealogies. Two fundamental understandings dominate today (Schmid 2015): A first one, which is particularly prevalent in the English-speaking world in the fields of political science and political geography, focuses on sovereignty and state power. It considers a territory as an abstract space over which a political body exercises power and control. In contrast, a second line, anchored in South American, Mediterranean and Francophone traditions, starts precisely with the materiality of the territory. This strand understands a territory as socially produced through human activity, labour, and symbolic practices. Thinkers such as

Milton Santos, Saverio Muratori, Claude Raffestin, and André Corboz described a territory as appropriation, palimpsest, and socio-material production, forming a layered texture of borders, centralities, and networks, which are continually overwritten by historical processes and power constellations. In dialogue, the Italian Territorialist School, led by Alberto Magnaghi and Giancarlo Paba, reclaims territory as a living milieu and common good. Like Raffestin, they understand territory as a socially appropriated space that embodies memory, culture, and conflict (Perrone 2023). They extend the discussion toward a utopian horizon - the project of communities.

In postcolonial contexts, particularly in Latin America, the production of territory is understood as a dynamic and disputed process, which is bound to specific and multiscale social contexts that harbour multiple temporalities (Streule and Schwarz 2017). Thus, territories are shaped by plural, overlapping, and contested processes between colonial impositions and customary systems. In China, in contrast, the concept of territory plays a key role in understanding the recent state driven forms of urbanization (Wong 2023).

In recent years, the concept of territory became indispensable for understanding the unequal implosions and explosions of capitalist urbanisation, demanding for the exploration of new pathways of inquiry. Thus, Neil Brenner and Christian Schmid situate territory at the core of their concept of planetary urbanisation. Here, the challenge is epistemological: to grasp urbanisation as a planetary process reshaping the entire surface of the earth unevenly and violently.

In this session, we aim to reposition the debate on territory and discuss approaches that treat territories not as bounded units but as a set of contingent, contested, and reparative processes. We would also like to advance a productive and creative understanding of re-territorialisation as a horizon, with the urgent task of re-embedding human and non-human life in sustainable, equal, just, and plural territorialities.

We invite theoretical, methodological, and empirical contributions that reflect and explore the following questions:

- (1) tracing territorialisation as practice through planning, urbanism, and struggles in everyday life;
- (2) examining territorial metabolisms and more-than-human agencies;
- (3) interrogating scalar and topological reconfigurations (regions, corridors, frontiers, platforms);
- (4) exploring epistemologies of territory adequate to fragile, contested, and transitional contexts.



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Multiscalar Frictions in Latin America: the production and contestation of contemporary urban inequalities

» Mr. Apoena Mano (Department of Sociology / Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism)

Re-territorializing democracy: Social service regionalism and 'recalibrated' governance in Ontario's Peel Region

» Prof. Roger Keil (York University), Prof. Luisa Sotomayor (University of Toronto), Mr. Arvind Krishendeholi (University of Toronto)

Rethinking planning and urban-rural relations through a ch'ixi perspective: Lessons from four Indigenous youth struggles in Bolivia

» Dr. Philipp Horn (University of Sheffield)

Insurgent Territorialism: Reflecting on 30 Years of Participatory Urban Action from the Florence School (1995-2025)

» Prof. Maddalena Rossi (Dept. of Architecture, University of Florence (Italy)), Prof. Iacopo Zetti (Dept. of Architecture, University of Florence (Italy))

14:00

Oral : #4-1/2

#4 Architectures of containment and governance: displacement, extractivism, and city-making (1/2)

Venue - Erika Weinzierl Saal

Organised by: Prof. Ayşe Çağlar (Convenor) and Dr. Paolo Novak (Convenor)

This session seeks to trace the deep histories and afterlives of spaces of containment-from sites of coerced and confined labor to centers for asylum seekers, detention facilities, and deportation infrastructures in cities. By bringing together diverse cases, the session aims to critically examine sites of containment that have been repurposed multiple times, often marked by coercion, discipline, violence, and racial hierarchies. We are particularly interested in interrogating how these regimes intersect with various forms of extractivism and the experiences of displaced people including contestation in cities of various scale.

Studies on the governance and management of human mobility have increasingly highlighted the institutional and structural apparatuses

underpinning mobility regimes and bordering dynamics, deepening our understanding of both the processes of displacement and the lived experiences of the displaced. Technologies, policies, and legal frameworks-together with the narratives that frame mobility-have proven crucial in revealing how governance mechanisms simultaneously enable and constrain movement, while reinforcing social, political, and territorial boundaries. Yet, despite the significance of this "mobility turn," research has often overlooked the dynamics and actors involved in the containment of the displaced and the connection of these urban spaces to the circuits of capital. While there is a growing interest in the privatization of "care" and the management of displaced populations, relatively little attention has been given to the spatial arrangements of containment themselves-their built environments, infrastructures, architectures, and especially the historical trajectories that have shaped these urban spaces.

This session calls for papers addressing that gap by tracing the longue durée of spaces of containment-from sites of forced and confined labor to asylum seeker reception centers and detention and deportation facilities in cities located in different parts of the world. By exploring the historically produced infrastructures, logistical systems, and their changing assemblage of actors that give these spaces their "afterlives," the workshop aims to bring together empirical research on the scalar configurations of (im)mobility governance at the intersections of state, capital and labor in city making Some of the questions we seek to explore include:

- How the built environment, architecture, and spatial arrangements shape the experiences of displaced people in cities of various scale;
- The ways these spaces enable discipline, control, surveillance, and the reinforcement of racial hierarchies;
- How such sites are connected to changing forms of extractivism within the shifting dynamics of capitalism and cities;
- How the spatial organizations of these sites interact with broader regimes of confinement, labor exploitation, and the invisibilization of violence.

South-North-East-West dialogues; Built-environments; Governance; Migration; Recent developments in theory

England's Temporary Accommodation: The New Age Debtors' Prison?

» Prof. Katherine Brickell (King's College London), Dr. Mel Nowicki (Oxford Brookes University)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Spores of Displacement: Mold, Legal Containment, and Housing Precarity in German Courtrooms

» [Dr. Sarah Klosterkamp](#) (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Precarious Labour, Structural Underdevelopment, and the Racial Capitalism of India's Sugar Industry

» [Mr. Abhishek Bhosale](#) (SOAS, University of London), [Ms. Savali Sahasrabudhe](#) (Trinity College Dublin)

From the hotel to the camp and back again: the cultural politics of containment in asylum accommodation

» [Prof. Jonathan Darling](#) (Durham University)

Governing Irregularity through In/formality: Infrastructural Bricolage in Local Policy and Service Provision for Illegalized Migrants in Brussels

» [Prof. Thomas Swerts](#) (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Ms. Hannah Kay (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Prof. Godfried Engbersen (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

14:00

Oral : #24-1/2

#24 Popular Economies of Urban Migration: The (Im)migrant Everyday in Unequal Cities (1/2)

Venue - Marietta Blau Saal

Organised by: Prof. Sophie Gonick (Convenor) and Prof. René Kreichauf (Convenor)

Migration-both rural to urban and across international frontiers-has remade metropolitan landscapes across the globe. Navigating cities rife with inequalities, low income new arrivals must contend with shifting demands for labor and employment, precarious and predatory housing markets, and, often, mounting debts incurred through the process of migration. In a moment of rising xenophobia and nativism, meanwhile, many migrants also must confront and manage the self against the brutality of both the state and quotidian populist outrage. From top-down state practices of detention and deportation to bottom-up xenophobia, immigration politics shape the urban and confine and produce the lifeworlds of newcomers.

This session will examine the various tactics (im)migrants pursue in cities

in the global north and south in order to secure basic needs, manage financial uncertainty, and establish a toehold within urban environments, i.e., the practices that "make life worth living" (Simone 2023). From household structures, to labor beyond binaries of work and home, to resistance to hostile policy and racism, (im)migrants deploy a number of practices in order to manage life in deeply unequal cities. These practices might emerge out of the ambivalences and lacunae of regulation and deregulation; the limits of state capacity; temporalities of migration and emplacement; failures in the housing market; economic necessity; and/or popular traditions of dwelling together. Far from constituting their own illicit sphere of action outside and against official forms of city-making, many of these practices, moreover, are woven into dominant, licit modes of urbanism (Tucker 2023). Drawing on scholars of Southern urbanism, we conceptualize these tactics as contributing to a popular economy of urban migration (Gago 2017, Simone 2019). Extending beyond the formal/informal divide, we use this framing to implicate the expressions of kin relations, social reproduction, economic and political action, and everyday life urban newcomers articulate to secure futures in the midst of urban uncertainty.

We thus invite contributions that explore some aspect of the migrant everyday beyond formalized urban systems, and its relation to collective life at the urban margins. Papers might explore these questions in relation to housing practices, experiences of work outside and beyond the wage, debt as it shapes daily life, and/or transformations of the family and the sphere of social reproduction. Contributions might also examine the structural aspects of regulation and governance that shape everyday practice. We welcome papers that examine and trouble the boundaries between formal/informal, licit/illicit, and legal/extralegal/illegal, and global north/south. Papers can be both empirical and theoretical, and draw on cases from cities across the globe.

Works Cited

Gago, V. (2017). Neoliberalism from below: Popular pragmatics and baroque economies. Duke University Press.

Simone, A. (2023). Urban Popular Economies and Territories of Operation. The Oxford Handbook of Superdiversity, 449.

Simone, A. (2019). Contests over value: From the informal to the popular. Urban Studies, 56(3), 616-619.

Tucker, J. L. (2023). Outlaw Capital: Everyday Illegalities and the Making of Uneven Development (Vol. 59). University of Georgia Press.



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Shadow Hustle: Migrant Domestic Workers, Volleyball, and Informal Urban Economies in Singapore

» [Dr. Kristine Aquino](#) (University of Technology Sydney), [Dr. Amanda Wise](#) (Macquarie University), [Dr. Selvaraj Velayutham](#) (Macquarie University)

Rental living space as migrant social infrastructure: How spatial groundings of social support systems transgress the public-private divide

» [Ms. Meghna Mohandas](#) (University of British Columbia)

Making "Majorities": Building Collective Capacities Through Ethnic Trades in Hong Kong

» [Dr. Kit Ping Tammy Wong](#) (Osaka Metropolitan University), [Prof. Geerhardt Kornatowski](#) (Kyushu University)

The Migrant Economies of Credit, Debt and Savings: Transnational Financial Strategies of Low-Wage Overseas Women in Dubai

» [Dr. Deniz Gökalp](#) (American University in Dubai)

14:00

Oral : #15-1/2

#15 Rethinking the Urban Home: Self-Help Housing Re/constructions and Contemporary Challenges (1/2)

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: Slavomíra Ferenčuhová (Convenor) and Dr. Terezie Lokšová (Convenor)

This session invites contributions to discuss self-help housing constructions and reconstructions and do-it-yourself (DIY) housing renovations as practices and strategies with significant societal relevance. Drawing on previous scholarship (e.g., Grubbauer, 2015), we approach home reconstructions undertaken by non-experts as more than isolated household projects; we view them as forms of intervention into urban space and life. Specifically, we aim to contextualize DIY construction and reconstruction within pressing contemporary challenges, including housing unaffordability, climate change impacts, and energy insecurity. The session will address critical questions such as: Do self-help housing re/constructions represent viable responses to such challenges in cities worldwide, how successful are they, and how are these practices performed, negotiated, and interpreted by those

who undertake them?

We welcome submissions that offer empirical insights from diverse geographical and historical contexts, encompassing cities and peri-urban areas, alongside theoretical discussions and conceptual debates. The session is open to a variety of perspectives with no specific methodological or theoretical preferences, reflecting our observation that self-help housing re/constructions are significantly understudied in urban scholarship despite their promising potential for critical insights. The session welcomes comparative discussions, whether across multiple papers or within individual contributions.

The sub-themes of the session include, but are not limited to, exploring interconnections between self-help housing re/constructions and:

- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Environmental aspects and sustainability
- Energy consumption and energy in/security
- Domestic politics and household relationships
- Housing un/affordability, economic aspects, and inequality
- Consumption, maintenance, and repair economies
- Materiality of the house and building practices
- Everyday practices of home-making and dwelling
- History of self-help housing reconstructions
- Cultural meanings and interpretation of DIY housing

References:

Grubbauer, M. (2015). Not everything is new in DIY: Home remodelling by amateurs as urban practice. *Ephemera: theory & politics in organization*, 15(1): 141-162.

Self-Housing Reconstruction in Quilpué (Chile) after the 2024 Wildfires

» [Dr. Katherine Campos-Knothe](#) (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile & CIGIDEN R+), [Dr. Marcelo González Gálvez](#) (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile & CIGIDEN R+), [Mr. Felipe Elgueta-Armijo](#) (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile & CIGIDEN R+)

The micro-politics of energy saving in the home: DIY tinkering in Utrecht

» [Dr. afra foli](#) (Utrecht University)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Unobtrusive Transformations: Housing Reconstructions from below as Incremental Urban Transformation in European Cities

» Mrs. Alkistis Thomidou (HafenCity University Hamburg), Mr. Lucas-Andrés Elsner (HafenCity University Hamburg), Dr. Jakub Galuszka (HafenCity University Hamburg)

The ambiguity of self-help housing: the case of allotment gardens in Hungary

» Dr. András Vigvári (ELTE Centre for Economic and Regional Studies)

Dwelling in Time: Dweller initiated housing transformations in Addis Ababa

» Dr. Brook Teklehaimanot Haileselassie (Delft University of Technology)

14:00

Oral : #96-1/2

#96 Bodies, Inequality and Power: (Un)wanted, (un)housed and (un)essential bodies in the city (1/2)

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: Luanda Vannuchi (Convenor) and Claudia Wilopo (Convenor)

This panel seeks to interrogate how urban space affects different bodies at different times and how everyday life is shaped by mechanisms of power. By attending to the embodied dimensions of urban life, we seek to challenge the separation between body and environment, and to focus on situated ways of knowing the city rooted in lived experience and corporeal politics. We aim to spark discussions on the body as a site of investigation, a methodological tool, and an analytical approach to urban experience, as well as to bring together critical insights into how power operates through embodiment in contemporary urban space.

As cities undergo processes of urban development, urban policies and politics have disproportionately favored white, wealthy, masculine, and socially normative bodies while marginalizing and displacing more precarious and peripheral ones. Privileges are embedded in the urban planning, zoning regulations, surveillance practices, and mobility infrastructure of cities, affecting different bodies along intersecting axes of power such as gender, race, class, ability, and citizenship status. Meanwhile, urban life depends on the labor of precarious and migrant

workers, whose contributions remain invisible and undervalued even as they sustain the very systems that allow the city to operate. For example, unhoused, racialized, and illegalized people are often positioned in the urban peripheries outside the boundaries of urban citizenship and belonging. They are deemed "out of place" through legal, spatial, and discursive mechanisms that determine who has the right to occupy, access, and shape urban space. Bodies themselves challenge dominant narratives of progress, inclusivity, and urban success. They can be the site and substance of urban debates, struggles, and protests.

Various scholars have explored ways the body is linked to personhood, identity, memory, resistance, and refusal, and showed that spatial politics is inherently biopolitical, shaping the way different bodies navigate the city. We aim to discuss approaches to how urban bodies relate to time and space by asking: Who is wanted, housed, and considered essential in the context of urban planning, policy, and politics? Which bodies are seen, supported, and celebrated or excluded, silenced, and rendered invisible? Who can conform to dominant urban norms and possibly challenge and disrupt them?

We invite contributions that engage with questions about how power, bodies, and space intersect in everyday life, particularly from scholars, activists, and practitioners from the Global South and East. We welcome papers exploring themes such as:

- How urban policies and planning have disproportionately favored white, middle-class, and male bodies, while marginalizing and displacing poor, racialized, and peripheral populations;
- How cities materially and symbolically produce distinctions between "wanted" and "unwanted" bodies;
- How emotion and affect circulate through bodies and space, revealing the politics of everyday urban life;
- How bodies, individually or in groups, challenge injustice, protest, and enact practices of solidarity.

Embodied Infrastructures of Exclusion: Dirt, Sanitation, and Urban Citizenship

» Ms. Prerna Singh (University of Edinburgh)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Women's bodies as essential infrastructure that resist 'slow violence' of denial of designed spaces for their differentiated everyday lives and 'unpurposeful' time.

» Ms. Monolita Chatterjee (Department of Architecture and Planning, National Institute of Technology, Calicut), Dr. Chithra K. (Department of Architecture and Planning, National Institute of Technology, Calicut), Dr. Deepthi Bendi (Department of Architecture and Planning, National Institute of Technology, Calicut), Dr. Anke Hagemann (Habitat Unit, Department of Architecture, Technische Universität Berlin)

Feminist disputes in urban spaces: dissident bodily narratives surrounding March 8 and November 25 in Santiago, Chile

» Dr. Javiera Cubillos Almendra (UNIVERSITY OF CHILE), Dr. Vania Reyes (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

Urban territorial (un)making and embodied violence: a cuerpo-territorio approach

» Prof. Elis Borde (Federal University of Minas Gerais)

Mahindra World City as cocoon and showcase: Place and self-making in a mature city from scratch

» Prof. Tanya Jakimow (The Australian National University)

14:00

Oral : #51-1/2

#51 Bourdieu in the Southern City: Between Social Divisions and Urban Inequalities (1/2)

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Dr. Nat Marom (Convenor) and Ms. Aparna Das (Convenor)

Pierre Bourdieu's work continues to grow in prominence among urban sociologists and the wider urban studies community. However, with some exceptions, his ideas have not been put to work in the context of Global South cities, particularly to explore how social distinctions and divisions shape urban spaces, inequalities, and informalities. In his recent book "Bourdieu in the City", Loïc Wacquant asserts that Bourdieu provides "conceptual levers... to the study of cities of the Global South by sketching an analytic that bridges the gap between continents" (2023:5). Could this be reconciled with the "Southern turn" in urban scholarship, which calls for "new geographies of theory" (Roy 2009) and

"homegrown" concepts more attuned to the diverse contexts of the Global South? While acknowledging the obvious discrepancy in using a European "grand theorist" to generate context-specific Southern urban theory - this session hopes to collectively explore whether and how Bourdieu's conceptual apparatus could indeed become a generative source for novel explorations on and from Southern cities.

To give an idea from India, Bourdieu's concepts manifest in various forms across disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, literature, or even in film and music. For instance, in literature, the concept of 'habitus' has been explored in detail, where the body language of urban and village dwellers is described in a nuanced manner. These descriptions shape their positioning within the social hierarchy, which may or may not align with their economic power. However, concepts such as distinction, taste, social capital, or symbolic power tend to be overlooked in urban scholarship. The urban is often portrayed as a neutral, foreign geography - utopian habitats where everyone is supposed to be equal, governed by agnostic institutions that remain unresponsive to local sensibilities and dispositions. This is reflected in the aspiration to build functional housing blocks and supposedly neutral public spaces, based on the belief that well-governed urban areas are devoid of the 'evils' associated with village life, such as caste, traditional authority, etc. This session aims to explore this gap.

As urban scholars and practitioners from the North and South, who have used some of Bourdieu's ideas to frame our research of cities in India and South Africa, we are looking for like-minded explorers who have found Bourdieu fruitful in their own work. We are keen to convene contributions that pragmatically apply any of Bourdieu's many concepts (social space, symbolic power, field, capital, habitus, distinction, practice, doxa, etc.) to the urban South, as well as comparatively across the North/South gap. We welcome papers that address diverse urban themes and problematics, with an emphasis on social divisions and urban inequalities (e.g. informal settlements, urban marginality, deindustrialization, segregation, gentrification, political conflict, urban environmental justice, planning, policing). Papers are welcome to apply or combine different methodologies. We seek papers that offer a distinct yet flexible Bourdieusian framing of Southern urbanism - applying and reshaping his concepts to the realities of 21st century urbanization in the majority world. We hope that this session could lead to the publication of a themed issue.

Aspiration-Achievement Paradox in the Global South: Tertiary Education Goals of Urban Slum Youth in Colombo, Sri Lanka

» Mrs. Sudeshika Watthuwa Durayalage (Bangor university)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Portraits of Migration: Socio-Spatial Position and Experience among Venezuelan Migrants in Lima, Perú

» [Dr. Omar Pereyra](#) (Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru)

Unveiling the Power Field of Urban Projects in the Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Region: Updated Research Findings for 2015–2025

» [Dr. Daniel Freitas](#) (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG))

Caste and Gated Communities in India

» [Ms. Ishita Patil](#) (University of Manchester)

14:00

Oral : #12-1/4

#12 Claiming space: artistic practices, care and resistance in neoliberal cities (1/4)

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Prof. Marianna d'Ovidio (Convenor) and Emanuela Naclerio (Convenor)

Over the past decades, cultural production and the so-called creative industries have been celebrated as catalysts of urban growth, innovation and competitiveness, yet also criticised for their complicity in processes of displacement, gentrification and for deepening inequalities. In the neoliberal cities, the nexus between culture and urban development has often been shaped by logics of extraction and commodification, often exacerbating dynamics of exclusion. However, cultural, creative and artistic interventions have emerged as potential catalysts of resistance, care and solidarity, offering new ways of inhabiting and imagining contemporary urban environments. Mobilizing a variety of bodies, different and subvertive subjectivities, new or unexpected alliances and powerful imaginaries, artistic initiatives have been engaging in enabling more just, inclusive, and sustainable urban futures. At the same time these practices are exposed to the risk of being instrumentalised, co-opted or neutralised by dominant urban forces.

By bringing together diverse perspectives, this panel aims to critically explore artistic practices and interventions in contemporary cities as forms of resistance, care, conviviality and contestation, that challenge the extractivist logic, reclaim spaces and experiment with alternative imaginaries of social life. Moreover, the panel examines those bottom-up artistic practices that focus on care, both in its ethical and political

dimension, in contesting urban inequalities, feeding communities and cultivating spaces of solidarity.

We welcome empirical case studies, comparative perspectives, and conceptual or theoretical reflections. We invite contributions engaging with a wide range of methods, theories, and approaches that may address, but are not limited to, the following key themes and research questions:

- Bottom-up artistic placemaking and its role in challenging urban inequalities.
- Grassroots artistic practices' interventions in urban spaces and their relation with the urban governance.
- The roles that artistic initiatives - stemming from culture, arts or creative industries - play in resisting or/and reconfiguring models of urban development.
- Art-based interventions' articulation of alternative imaginaries of communities, belongings and care.
- The mobilisation of care to sustain solidarity practices and to subvert the dominant urban logics.
- The ambivalent and conflicting nature of bottom-up alternative practices when they are taken up, supported, or co-opted by institutional actors.
- The ecological contribution of grassroots artistic initiatives, particularly in terms of alternative economies, resource reuse, and post-growth imaginaries.

Artwashing, Cultural Organizing, and Radical Worldmaking in Manhattan's Chinatown

» [Dr. Diane Wong](#) (Rutgers University)

Screamo against gentrification: between resistance, care, and self-commodification in Milan, Italy

» [Ms. Valeria Marina Borodi](#) (University of Milano-Bicocca)

Too many Brooklys: Local cultural praesidias in Madrid's Gentrifying Landscape

» [Dr. Andrés Walliser](#) (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)), [Ms. Isabel BARBOZA](#) (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM))

Painting Over the Cracks: Street Art, Cultural Legitimacy, and the Contradictions of Creative City Governance in Berlin

» [Ms. Alisha Lynch](#) (Queen's University Belfast)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Cultural heritage and resistance: how artists' communities can fight off gentrification

» Ms. Chiara Tarulli (Independent Researcher)

Claiming Space or Making Place? Contradictions of Placemaking in Neoliberal Lisbon

» Dr. Elisabete Tomaz (Dinâmia'CET - ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa), Prof. Maria Gato (CIAUD, Research Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Design, Lisbon School of Architecture, Universidade de Lisboa; Dinâmia'Cet-Iscte, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)

14:00

Oral : #2-1/2

#2 Housing and land taxation: value capture, politics, and the making of the (unequal) city (1/2)

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: Dr. Francesca Artioli (Convenor) and Alessandro Coppola (Convenor)

The taxation of land and housing plays a key role in producing the built environment and socio-spatial inequality. Taxes and tax reliefs operate as policy tools that either capture or forgive part of the value accumulated in, and extracted from, land and housing ownership and development. This value can be privatised (by owners, developers, etc.), or collectively appropriated by the state (at various levels) and potentially redistributed. Fiscal arrangements channel capital into specific areas of the city or types of assets, while fiscally attractive locations draw transnational real estate investors. Governments also use taxes and tax reliefs to pursue urban policy goals ranging from boosting housing provision and economic growth to promoting the energy retrofitting of the built environment (Weber 2010; Pollard 2018). The effects of taxes thus materialise in urban forms, from office towers to suburban housing developments driven by tax-relief investment schemes. More broadly, land and housing taxes are embedded in the political economy of national and local welfare (Kholodilin et al. 2022; Martin 2008). They contribute to shaping wealth and income inequality-by facilitating patrimonial transmission, for instance-and unequal access to housing.

Taxes are therefore far from neutral instruments: they embody power relations between the state and property actors-households, corporate owners and developers alike-and reflect institutionalised beliefs around

property rights, land rent, and the legitimate scope of state intervention. While often operating silently, fiscal tools can become matters of political struggle, especially when linked to issues of land and housing affordability, austerity, fiscal justice, socio-economic inequality, or climate change. The level and targets of land and housing taxation thus become objects of renewed political contestation.

Despite this ubiquitous and structural role, the taxation of land and housing remains largely under-researched in urban studies (Tapp and Kay 2019). This panel welcomes contributions from all disciplines and regions, employing qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods to engage with the fiscal-urban nexus.

In particular, contributions may explore:

- What is taxed (or not) across the property cycle-including ownership, development, acquisition, rental income, capital gains, family transmission, and tax reliefs-as well as what escapes taxation through optimisation and evasion strategies;
- Who is taxed (or not) in relation to types of owners (individual, corporate, non-resident, super-rich), uses of assets (primary homes, second homes, short- and long-term rentals, vacant properties), or types of land-use designation;
- How taxation shapes the built environment, influencing investment flows, land values, ownership and development patterns, and the geography of real estate acquisition and disposal;
- The relationship between taxation and socio-spatial inequality, notably how fiscal tools affect asset accumulation, household/corporate wealth, and access to affordable, sustainable housing, and how they balance private benefits and public returns;
- The politics of taxation, namely how fiscal tools are politicised, by whom, and how fiscal policies evolve-toward more progressive forms, or not, and for whose benefit.

By doing so, the panel aims to highlight the central yet often overlooked role of taxation in shaping the urban, while critically examining how old and new urban inequalities are produced-and sometimes contested-across the globe.

Contested Land Values: The Revival and Stalling of Land Value Taxation in Germany

» Mr. Michael Schwind (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Handing on the family home: the political economy of inheritance tax exemptions for kinship and housing

» Mrs. Frida von Zahn (Humboldt University of Berlin), Dr. Stephan Köppe (University College Dublin), Prof. Richard Ronald (University of Amsterdam)

Towards housing "fiscal regimes": the taxation of private property ownership in France and Italy

» Dr. Jeanne Richon (Lab'Urba, University Paris-Est Créteil), Dr. Marta Tonetta (Lab'Urba, University Paris-Est Créteil)

The Politics of Incremental Progressivism: Property Taxation and Land Value Capture in São Paulo

» Dr. Guilherme Minarelli (Centro de Estudos da Metrópole (CEM))

Fueling segregation through taxation: the case of East Germany

» Dr. Matthias Bernt (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space)

14:00

Oral : #40-1/3

#40 Urban timescapes: mobilizing temporality as a critical lens to map urban inequalities (1/3)

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Loraine Kennedy (Convenor) and S. Shakthi (Convenor)

Conceptualizations of temporality provide an overarching framework for urban scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds to question how the workings of time across scales-from the everyday to the epochal-are shaping key dimensions of contemporary urbanization. An increasingly integrated global economy, massive migration, transnational cultural exchange facilitated by internet platforms and the climate crisis are all forces that impact urbanisation processes, as well as the quotidian workings of city life, whether for employment, care, or leisure. In this panel, we will investigate the urban inequalities generated by these forces as temporal phenomena, both shaping and shaped by individual, collective and structural experiences of time.

This choice of framing aims to anchor temporality in debates in critical urban theory. It serves as a base to interrogate the still influential modernist paradigm that assumes that urbanization, like "development"

more broadly, follows a linear pattern. We aim to disrupt this narrative by interrogating "timescapes" (Kitchin 2023) - the differentiated and unequal experiences of temporal regimes - in order to explore "pathways and possibilities for a more global urban studies" (Lawhon and Truelove, 2020).

Our reflections are guided by the large body of literature on temporalities, the most compelling of which go beyond time as history or calculation to examine socio-cultural engagements, how time is mediated, embodied and experienced (Burgess and Elias 2016). Related strands of scholarship are concerned with futurity (Bunnell et al 2022; Chakkalakal and Ren 2022) and how digitalization, standing as a proxy for the current era, interfaces with urbanization (Datta 2022). Of particular relevance for this session is the idea that temporalities are produced, notably through the evolving relationship between time, technologies and socio-economic relations. As Kitchin (2023) argues, temporality is time that is not pre-given or universal but contingent, relational and heterogeneous. Temporalities both reflect and shape power dynamics, with individual experiences of time impacted by structural conditions while simultaneously driven by agential purpose (Sharma, 2014). Thus, temporality can be conceptualized as an intersectional type of social difference structured in specific political economic and geographical contexts.

For this panel, we invite papers that mobilize conceptualizations of temporality to interrogate the relationship between the social and the spatial in the persistence, contestation, and negotiation of urban inequalities, through empirical investigation in any geographical and regional context, but particularly those that are undergoing rapid urbanization. Also welcome are reflections that mobilize temporality as a critical lens to advance conceptual or theoretical propositions in relation to contemporary debates around inequality. Thematic entry points can include (but are not limited to): types and conditions of work in globally connected urban economies, in relation to meanings and usages of time; rhythms and characteristics of the extension of the built environment; access to public services, particularly through the lens of 'speed' or 'slowness'; politics and governance of futurity; evolving subjectivities related to urban life at the crossroads of past/present/future; articulations between modes of urbanisation and urban ecology; urban public spaces as sites for differentiated temporal engagements; and the short- and longer-term work of urban social movements.



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Negotiating Temporal Inequalities in Urban Timescapes: Experiencing Disability in Public Transport

» [Ms. Veronika Kotýnková Krotká](#) (Masaryk University)

Making aspirational cities: Colliding temporalities in the everyday space of the sidewalk

» [Prof. Julie Ren](#) (University of Amsterdam), [Dr. Haiyan Huang](#) (University of Basel), [Mr. Sai Ho Chan](#) (University of Basel)

Nocturnal Pathologies and Possibilities: Governing the Night as an Urban Timescape

» [Dr. Jean-Paul Addie](#) (Georgia State University)

Triggering urban transitions: The real life of mega-infrastructure projects

» [Dr. Neha Sami](#) (Indian Institute for Human Settlements), [Dr. Adele Esposito](#) (CNRS, CESA, EHES)

Rhythms of Inclusion: Co-Documenting Social Patterns at Community Places

» [Dr. Pinar Sefkatli](#) (University of Amsterdam)

14:00

Oral : #73-1/2

#73 Land-use conflicts in the making of the city (1/2)

Venue - SR 07

Organised by: Julie Pollard (Convenor), Lauriane Cailleux (Convenor), and Sabrina Neyret (Convenor)

In recent years, land-use conflicts have attracted growing scholarly attention as crucial entry points for understanding the contemporary production of urban space. Such conflicts illuminate both the material shaping of cities and the social and political processes that structure territorial dynamics. Emerging around urban development projects, the siting of public facilities, or environmental transformations, they crystallize tensions between competing visions for neighborhoods and cities, and highlight unequal access to urban resources. Political decisions regarding the location of infrastructures and amenities can have important social consequences for surrounding areas. These choices may fuel gentrification and the displacement of low-income

groups or, conversely, contribute to the stigmatization and further impoverishment of specific neighborhoods. They also shape the way everyday life unfolds in the neighborhood or the city, whether in terms of mobility, social life or environmental quality.

These conflicts are now unfolding against the backdrop of new urban policy agendas, such as zero net land take, densification, retrofitting, and climate adaptation. While these agendas seek to address pressing environmental challenges, they can also generate new lines of contestation by reshaping spatial priorities and redistributing urban costs and benefits. In many cases, their social, financial, and spatial impacts are borne disproportionately by disadvantaged groups, thereby exacerbating existing urban inequalities and sparking renewed struggles over land use.

Building on these considerations, this panel invites contributions that engage with, while are not restricted to, the following areas:

(1) Actors and social representation. First, we seek to examine who mobilizes in land-use conflicts and how these mobilizations reproduce or disrupt existing social inequalities. Which groups have the resources, time, or institutional access to participate effectively in these conflicts? Do land-use controversies reinforce the dominance of already privileged groups? How do different social interests (along lines of class, gender, race or citizenship) engage with these conflicts?

(2) Narratives and framings. Second, land-use conflicts provide a fertile ground to investigate how inequalities are thematized, represented, and contested in public debates. What kinds of narratives emerge in these conflicts, and how do they frame issues of for instance environmental justice, social inequalities, or gendered experiences of space? In some cases, conflicts can bring latent inequalities to the surface, turning them into explicit objects of contestation. In others, they may sideline certain inequalities, privileging technocratic or depoliticized framings.

(3) Outcomes. Third, we aim to interrogate the outcomes of land-use conflicts in terms of urban inequalities. Do these conflicts sometimes lead to more equitable urban outcomes, by redistributing resources or giving voice to marginalized groups? Or do they exacerbate existing inequalities, for instance by accelerating gentrification, reinforcing exclusionary practices, or entrenching socio-spatial divisions?

We invite contributions from a wide range of theoretical, disciplinary and cross-disciplinary perspectives to explore these questions - including but not limited to urban studies, political ecology and critical policy studies. By bringing together diverse empirical contexts, methodological and



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

conceptual frameworks, this panel aims to foster dialogue across disciplines and case studies across the globe. Ultimately, we seek to interrogate how land-use conflicts reveal and/or produce urban inequalities.

Urban Densification and Its Discontents: Three Dynamics of Land-Use Conflicts in the Geneva Region

» [Mr. Luca Piddiu](#) (University of Geneva)

When Policies Collide: How Institutional Frictions Shape Environmental Conservation and Land Rights in Latin American Cities

» [Ms. Marcela Alonso Ferreira](#) (Sciences Po Paris)

A dynamic analysis of conflicts of use: the concept of space entrepreneur

» [Mrs. Thalia Creac'h](#) (Sciences Po Paris)

Self-organisation and relational governance in contested urban cultural spaces: action pathways for collective collaborative agency

» [Ms. Anne-Sophie Spinaci](#) (University of Lausanne)

14:00

Oral : #46-1/2

#46 Urban divides: Housing and income inequality in an era of uncertainty and transformation (1/2)

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: Dr. Lutfun Nahar Lata (Convenor), Prof. Daniel Kudla (Convenor), and Dr. Andrew Clarke (Convenor)

This panel explores the enduring and emerging dynamics of housing and income inequality in urban and regional contexts across the globe. As cities face intersecting crises, from economic precarity and climate change to post-pandemic recovery and geopolitical instability, questions of who can afford to live, work and thrive in urban spaces have become increasingly urgent. Housing and income inequalities are not merely socioeconomic outcomes, but are actively produced and maintained through state policies, financial logics, spatial planning, labour regimes and everyday practices of exclusion and resistance.

We invite contributions that critically examine how old and new forms of inequality manifest in housing markets, employment structures and urban governance. We are particularly interested in comparative or cross-regional analyses that reveal shared mechanisms and divergent trajectories in the global North and South. Papers might explore topics such as:

- The financialisation of housing and its impact on affordability and displacement
- Informal housing and labour markets in rapidly urbanising regions
- The spatialisation of inequality through zoning, planning and infrastructural neglect
- Rent burden, eviction and homelessness as expressions of structural violence
- Urban social movements and policy interventions that contest inequality
- The racialised, gendered or classed dimensions of housing and income precarity
- New methodological or theoretical approaches to studying housing and income inequality

We welcome scholars from diverse disciplines (e.g., sociology, geography, urban planning, political science and anthropology) and from varied methodological backgrounds (e.g., ethnography, spatial analysis, survey, participatory research and critical theory). By bringing together global perspectives, this panel aims to foster comparative dialogue to illuminate both the specificity and generality of inequality in urban and regional life and to collectively imagine strategies for more just urban futures.

A 'home' in Social housing? Australia's Social Housing Sector under Welfare Residualisation

» [Ms. Mel Powersmith](#) (The University of Queensland)

Financialising social & affordable housing in Australia: processes, politics and implications

» [Dr. Alistair Sisson](#) (Macquarie University), Ms. Hanie Khosravi (Macquarie University)

Housing First without housing: Confronting Housing First policy with affordable housing policy and trends

» [Dr. Cody Hochstenbach](#) (University of Amsterdam), Mx. Dolly Loomans (University of Amsterdam)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Inequality, not regulation, drives America's housing affordability crisis

» Dr. Max Buchholz (University of California, Berkeley), Dr. Tom Kemeny (University of Toronto), Dr. Gregory Randolph (Georgia Institute of Technology), Dr. Michael Storper (University of California, Los Angeles)

Milan inside-out. Housing affordability between the attractive city and its urban region

» Prof. Massimo Bricocoli (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies), Dr. Marco Peverini (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies), Mr. Lorenzo Caresana (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies)

14:00

Oral : #32-1/3

#32 Emotional Heritage, Urban Spaces, and the Politics of Memory (1/3)

Venue - HS 01

Organised by: macarena ibarra (Convenor) and Carolina Stefoni (Convenor)

Over the past three decades, cultural heritage has shifted from being understood as a fixed, material legacy defined by Western cultural codes to a dynamic, socially constructed process. Scholarship now highlights its relational character-rooted in memory, identity, and power-rather than treating heritage as a universal set of inherent values (Smith, 2006; Ashworth, Graham & Tunbridge, 2007; Harrison, 2013; Harvey, 2001; Waterton & Watson, 2015). Understanding both tangible and intangible heritage therefore requires acknowledging its multiple uses and contested meanings, often in tension with the "authorized heritage discourse" (Smith, 2006).

This panel invites contributions that approach heritage as an emotional matter (Waterton & Watson, 2013; Tolia-Kelly et al., 2017). As heritage is not only a set of representations but also lived experiences and affective encounters between people and places, it might generate pride and belonging, but also grief, nostalgia, anger, and claims of injustice. These emotions shape how communities engage with heritage sites, influencing practices of memory, interpretation, and use.

Focusing on urban contexts, the panel seeks to explore how emotions surrounding heritage mediate tensions, silences, and absences, while also creating possibilities for recognition, dialogue, and contestation among different actors and communities. Possible sub-themes include:

- Contested heritage and the politics of memory in cities
- Affective encounters with place and belonging
- Heritage as a site of social conflict, exclusion, or recognition
- Silences, absences, and forgetting in urban heritage
- Everyday, grassroots, and community-led practices of heritage
- Intersections of tangible and intangible heritage in contexts of change, gentrification, conservation or demolition.

We welcome contributions that engage with questions such as: How do emotions such as pride, grief, anger, or nostalgia shape engagements with urban heritage? In what ways do heritage practices mediate inclusion and exclusion in cities? How are silences and erasures emotionally experienced and contested? Can heritage create spaces for dialogue and reconciliation across divided or unequal communities?

Submissions may draw on a wide range of methodological approaches, including oral history, ethnography, discourse analysis, visual methods, participatory and action research, or comparative case studies. The panel particularly encourages work that mobilizes theoretical perspectives from critical heritage studies (Smith, 2006; Harrison, 2013), memory studies (Halbwachs; Nora; Assmann), affect theory (Waterton & Watson, 2013; Tolia-Kelly et al., 2017), and spatial theory (Lefebvre; Massey).

By bringing together perspectives from sociology, anthropology, history, and related disciplines, this panel aims to foreground the affective dimensions of heritage in urban settings and to interrogate how memory, identity, and politics are negotiated through emotional engagements with the past in the city.

The Politics of Emotional Heritage: Caste, Ritual, and Urban Theyyam

» Ms. Shruthy Harilal (PhD Scholar)

Sevastopol in Guidebooks of the 19th-20th Centuries: Urban Space Between Memory, War, and Tourist Narrative

» Mr. Oleg Zubchenok (Kyiv School of Economics (KSE), Ukraine)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Budapest's marginal heritage in tension. Heritage re-appropriation in context of transformation and demolition

» Dr. Sandra Guinand (Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences), Dr. Hanna Szemző (Metropolitan Research Institute)

Developing a Community-Based Approach to the Conservation Dilemma in Dara

» Dr. Zemzem Tasguzen Polat (Mardin Artuklu University), Mr. Mahsum Turk (Mardin Artuklu University)

Urban Memory as a Political Resource: Emotions, Space, and Housing Struggles in Brazil

» Dr. Thalès Breda (Centre d'Étude des Mouvements Sociaux (CEMS/EHESS))

14:00

Oral : #23-1/3

#23 MEGAPROJECT MIRAGES: Understanding the Socio-political Lives of Unbuilt, Incomplete, and Over-Promised Urban Development (1/3)

Venue - HS 02

Organised by: Dr. David Gogishvili (Convenor), David Sichinava (Convenor), and Dr. Suzanne Harris-Brandts (Convenor)

Spectacular megaprojects are key tools for urban governance, supporting nation-building, geopolitical claims, elite boosterism, and property speculation. Amid the intensified global mobility of capital, policies, and urban imaginaries, cities embrace these projects to signify prosperity, with proposals becoming increasingly dramatic and technologically sophisticated (Haines, 2011). Yet, their long timelines mean years pass before tangible outcomes. Meanwhile, these proposals function as powerful 'megaproject mirages'-projects with potent socio-political lives even when they remain entirely immaterial.

Current scholarship on megaprojects acknowledges their high-risk nature but tends to focus on built examples. This overlooks the strategic advantages of schemes that are never completed. The concept of project 'failure' is, therefore, relative (Temenos & Lauermaun, 2020); there are many benefits for politicians, developers, and architects in unbuilt works (Harris-Brandts & Gogishvili, 2018). These mirages, which

resonate with geographical scholarship on spectrality, shape urban economies and political narratives, having active lives on 'paper' (Dogmus & Nielsen, 2020). Their abandonment can thus be seen as an informal policy, the material consequence of state entrepreneurialism that produces ghost housing and urban failures (Liu et al. 2025). Local communities incur significant costs from these schemes as they fuel adjacent speculation, divert public investments, and politically marginalise residents. These real impacts from immaterial schemes highlight the need for new conceptual and methodological tools to analyse their effects, and papers in this session should unpack these key themes.

Arguing that we need to reconsider the notion of failure, this session examines unbuilt, incomplete, and over-promised large-scale urban projects. It explores the utility of megaproject mirages for their proponents while analysing the significant community costs. We invite papers addressing the following (and more) questions: How do these mirages derive their power from specific languages, discourses, and imagery? What is the politico-economic utility of over-promised projects? What are the tangible impacts of seemingly immaterial proposals; on urban land, housing, and communities? What different forms can 'megaproject mirages' take?

We seek proposals that study 'megaproject mirages' across diverse settings-from speculative landscapes of financial centres to state-led visions of emerging economies-and particularly encourage a comparative dialogue. We welcome contributions from a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives that examine the consequences of these unbuilt projects.

References:

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Harris-Brandts, S., & Gogishvili, D. (2018). Architectural rumors: Unrealized megaprojects in Baku, Azerbaijan and their politico-economic uses. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 59(1), 73-97.

Liu A., Jia M. & Chen C. (2025) From speculative dreams to ghost housing realities: homeless homeowners and failed future-making in urban development. *Urban Geography*, 49 (8), 1821-1841.



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

Temenos, C., & Lauermann, J. (2020). The urban politics of policy failure. *Urban Geography*, 41(9), 1109-1118.

The Spectral Presence of China's SEZs in Trump's 'Freedom Cities'

» [Dr. Max Woodworth](#) (The Ohio State University)

Promises First, Plans Later: Velje Brdo and Affordable Housing as Policy Spectacle in Montenegro

» [Ms. Sonja Dragovic](#) (ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)

Media, money and maps: investigating a middle-eastern megaproject mirage

» [Dr. David Murakami Wood](#) (University of Ottawa), Dr. Mehdi Ghassemi (Université Catholique de Lille)

Legitimizing the Unbuilt: Canal İstanbul and the Media Production of Megaproject Futures

» [Dr. ecem ergin](#) (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul)

Rem Koolhaas's legacy and the fall of Assad

» [Mr. Anas Muhammed](#) (Scholitekt)

14:00

Oral : #13-1/2

#13 Inequalities in Urban Walkability: Vulnerabilities, Policies, and Mobilizations (1/2)

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Eliott Ducharme (Convenor), Dr. JEROME MONNET (Convenor), and Dr. Martha Lilia de Alba González (Convenor)

Long overlooked in research and public policy, walking in urban areas is beginning to emerge as a major issue, as the need to rethink urban models to make them more sustainable becomes urgent (Demailly et al., 2021).

However, as walking emerges on political agendas, many aspects are still insufficiently considered. Policies promoting pedestrian areas tend to focus on city centers and commercial zones, often neglecting the outskirts (Monnet, 2022). Walking practices also suffer from the historical bias in the design of circulation spaces, which were primarily

conceived by and for able-bodied, young, and active men. The specific needs of women, people with disabilities, children, and the elderly are not yet sufficiently considered (McFarlane, 2021; Valdivia, 2018). These groups tend to rely on walking and often travel in difficult conditions (Herrmann-Lunecke et al., 2020; Middleton, 2022).

Due to a lack of investment in pedestrian infrastructure, disadvantaged urban residents are forced to walk in unpleasant and dangerous conditions (Figueroa Martínez, 2023). Poorly maintained sidewalks, exposure to pollution and insecurity shape their walking experience (Martínez, 2019). Such inequalities are most apparent in the Global South, but are also present in the Global North, where they tend to be less visible. This call for papers is structured around three themes:

Issue 1. Factors contributing to vulnerability when walking in cities. Recent studies have challenged traditional approaches to "walkability," which focus too heavily on infrastructure, and have highlighted the wide range of factors that hinder walking and increase the vulnerability of certain population groups (Battista & Manaugh, 2018; Middleton, 2022). This theme seeks to foster dialogue around the diverse and intersecting factors that create vulnerability in walking practices. It focuses in particular on the issue of intersectionality (Jirón et al., 2023) and the articulation of different aspects of urban production (social, material, symbolic) in the creation of socio-spatial inequalities.

Issue 2. New methodologies for understanding experienced inequalities. Recent approaches to mobility inequalities have emphasized the lived experience of urban dwellers (Avilés, 2020; Martínez, 2019). Understanding inequalities through the embodied experience of walking requires the development of new methodologies: approaches such as the go-along (Kusenbach, 2003), sombreo (Jirón, 2012), travel diaries (Lazo Corvalán et al., 2024), mental maps created in focus groups (Ducharme, 2025), and many others have emerged in recent years. This theme calls on authors to present their methodological innovations and related questions.

Issue 3. Public policies and citizen mobilization. Issues related to walking for the most vulnerable city dwellers are beginning to give rise to public policies, some of which are innovative. One example is the "Senderos seguros: camina libre, camina segura" project, which was implemented in the municipality of Iztapalapa (Mexico City) and subsequently extended to the rest of the metropolis. We invite contributions that critically analyze such emerging policies. Civil society is also beginning to address the issue of inequalities related to walking. Numerous NGOs are developing around this issue, and mobilizations are springing up. We are interested in work analyzing



Continued from Monday, 20 July

these mobilizations, their actors, and their modes of action.

Materializing Ableism: Walkability, Visual Impairment, and the Everyday Architectural Barrier of Calçada Portuguesa

» [Dr. Fabio Bertoni](#) (Instituto de Ciências Sociais - Universidade de Lisboa)

Walking as method and subject: investigating vulnerability, intersectionality and inequality in cities of the Global South and North

» [Dr. Priscila Izar](#) (University of the Witwatersrand), Dr. Alexandra Halligey (University of the Witwatersrand), [Dr. Margot Rubin](#) (University of Cardiff), Prof. Sarah Charlton (University of the Witwatersrand)

Walking as an affective practice: empirical explorations

» [Dr. Miguel Angel Aguilar Díaz](#) (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa), Dr. Guénola Capron (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana - Azcapotzalco)

A Multidimensional Framework for Walking in Cities

» [Dr. Dorcas Nthoki Nyamai](#) (TU Dortmund University)

Subaltern walkscapes: Comparing women domestic workers' mobility for work in Mumbai and Lima

» [Dr. Himanshu Burté](#) (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay), Mr. Daniel Ramírez Corzo N. (PUCP, Lima), Ms. Nisha Nair (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay), Ms. Fanel Contreras Guevara (PUCP, Lima)

14:00

Workshop : Authors meet Critics 2 - Slot1

Urban Historians Speaking Back to Urban Social Theory: A Discussion of 'The Cambridge History of Urban Europe' (1/2)

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: Prof. Stijn Oosterlynck (Convenor, Panel Chair), Prof. Patrick Le Galès (Discussant), Dr. Patrick Lanschner (Discussant), Bert de Munck (Discussant), and Prof. Liza Weinstein (Discussant)

Although urban studies prides itself on interdisciplinarity, sustained conversations across its various disciplines remain rare (Wolman et al., 2024). Despite shared thematic interests and the conviction that the 'urban' cannot be understood through a single discipline, scholarly knowledge tends to be siloed. This is especially true for urban history and contemporary urban studies fields such as urban sociology. Though they originated from "a single field of discourse," they have long diverged (Sewell, 2005), reinforced by institutional separations in research units, conferences, and publication circuits.

Nonetheless, urban social theorists have consistently drawn on urban history. From Weber's comparative-historical method to understand the Western city (Weber, [1958] 1966), to postcolonial critiques of Eurocentric urban discourses (Roy, 2015), history has informed theory. Urban historians, too, engage with social theory (Prak, 2018), yet, as Sewell notes, they "rarely speak back," prompting his call that "social theory badly needs a serious infusion of historical habits of mind" (Sewell, 2005: 6).

This double 'Author Meets Critics' session seeks to foster dialogue between urban historians and urban social theorists, placing historical analysis at the heart of urban theory. Given the complexity of interdisciplinary exchange, two sessions are proposed to allow for deeper intellectual engagement. Both sessions will center on the forthcoming edited volume *The Cambridge History of Urban Europe*, to be published in autumn 2025. Spanning three volumes, the work combines rich empirical history with theoretical reflections on cities, comparison, citizenship, governance, globalization, and capitalism.

The first session will focus on Volume 2: Medieval and Early Modern Europe, covering European urbanism from 700 to 1850, edited by Patrick Lanschner and Maarten Prak. The editors will present the volume's main arguments. Discussants Patrick Lantschner, Patrick Le Galès, Liza Weinstein and Bert De Munck will then explore its contributions to urban social theory, particularly regarding citizenship, capitalism,



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

comparison, Weber, and the singularity of urban Europe.

This session will be chaired and organized by Stijn Oosterlynck.

The second session will address Volume 3: Modern and Contemporary Europe, edited by Dorothee Brantz and Gabor Sonkoly. Topics such as urban citizenship, mobility, and governance-central to both historians and sociologists-will be discussed in light of current authoritarian politics and assimilationist policies. The session will explore how historical thinking can illuminate the present and suggest alternative forms of urban citizenship and governance.

Editors will introduce the volume's arguments, followed by contributions from Jenny Robinson (Geography, UCL), Stijn Oosterlynck (Sociology, Antwerp), Judit Bodnar (Sociology, Anthropology, CEU Vienna), and Rosemary Wakeman (History, Fordham; attendance confirmed). This session will be chaired and organized by Patrick Le Galès.

Urban Historians Speaking Back to Urban Social Theory: A Discussion of 'The Cambridge History of Urban Europe'

» Prof. Stijn Oosterlynck (University of Antwerp), Prof. Patrick Le Galès (Sciences Po Paris), Dr. Patrick Lanschner (University College London), Dr. Dorothee Brantz (TU Berlin), Dr. Gabor Sonkoly (Paris Institute for Advanced Study)

14:00

Oral : #67-1/4

#67 Inclusive Cities. Reading inclusion challenges through the lens of urban space (1/4)

Venue - HS 07

Organised by: Carolina Pacchi (Convenor) and Silvia Gullino (Convenor)

Cities are dynamic and contested spaces where global challenges converge-social inequality, environmental degradation, economic disparities, and political tensions- all converge more acutely. Urban spaces are not the backdrop of these issues, rather a central arena where they are produced, experienced and potentially addressed.

This panel seeks multidisciplinary contributions that apply a spatial lens

to understand how inclusion is made, unmade and remade. By focusing on spatiality, this session aims to illuminate how inclusiveness is not only a social or political framework, but also a lived experience profoundly shaped by urban form, infrastructure, governance, and everyday interactions.

We invite contributions that critically examine how cities can be sites of inclusiveness-where diverse populations coexist, access rights and opportunities equitably, and where innovative policies are tested to tackle intersecting social, environmental, economic, and political issues. We invite scholars, practitioners, and policymakers working across urban studies, geography, sociology, environmental science, planning, and related fields to engage with themes that foreground spatiality as both a lens and a means in addressing inclusiveness challenges.

Key Themes and Sub-themes:

- Spatial Dynamics of Social Inclusion and Exclusion: How do urban spatial arrangements, segregation, and accessibility shape belonging and marginalisation in cities? What roles do housing, transport, and public space play in reinforcing or disrupting social equity?
- Environmental Justice in Urban Contexts: How are climate risks, pollution, and green space unevenly distributed across urban areas? How can spatial tools support more just environmental policies?
- Economic Inclusion and Urban Spatial Economies: What are the spatial dimensions of economic opportunity and disadvantage? How do location, zoning, and redevelopment affect job access, informal economies, and resilience?
- Political Geography and Governance of Inclusive Cities: How do governance, participation, and spatial control influence inclusive urban futures? What role do policies, planning, and citizen engagement play in shaping equitable cities?

Research Questions:

- In what ways does a spatial lens reveal the complex intersectional nature of social, economic, environmental, and political challenges in urban contexts?
- How can urban policies and planning integrate principles of spatial justice to promote inclusiveness across diverse populations?
- What spatial methods (e.g., GIS, spatial ethnography, participatory mapping) best capture lived experiences of urban inclusion/exclusion?
- How are global challenges (e.g. climate change, migration, digital divides) spatially experienced in cities, and what innovative spatial interventions respond effectively?

Methods, Theories, and Approaches Invited:



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

We welcome empirical, theoretical, and interdisciplinary work on spatial inclusion in cities-ranging from GIS, ethnography, and participatory methods to critical theories like spatial justice. Case studies and policy analyses from global contexts are invited, particularly those examining how planning and governance can promote more inclusive urban futures. Empirical studies using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed spatial methods, including GIS-based analyses, spatial data visualisations, spatial ethnography, and participatory mapping.

This session aims to foster a robust dialogue among researchers and practitioners who view cities as critical spatial arenas where complex global challenges and inclusiveness intersect, offering pathways toward equitable and sustainable urban lives for all.

What Makes a Park Inclusive? Lessons from Three London Parks

» [Dr. Alexandra Gomes](#) (LSE Cities, London School of Economics and Political Science)

Experiences of Leisure, Governance and Protest in the coastline spaces of Beirut

» [Dr. Nadine Khayat](#) (American University of Beirut), Dr. Clare Rishbeth (University of Sheffield)

Proximity, Mobility, and Urban Inclusion: A Spatial Analysis of Transport Accessibility in Karlsruhe, Germany

» [Ms. Lu Ke](#) (Karlsruhe Institut für Technologie (KIT)), Prof. Franziska X. Meinherz (Institute for Geography and Geocology, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology)

14:00

Oral : #7-1/4

#7 The housing-wealth-nexus. Inequality in the age of rentier capitalism (1/4)

Venue - HS 16

Organised by: Agustín Cocola-Gant (Convenor), Sònia Vives Miró (Convenor), and Georgia Alexandri (Convenor)

The overarching aim of this session is to explore how the consolidation of housing as a key asset for storing and generating wealth is deepening inequalities between property owners and non-owners. Over recent decades, property ownership has become a central pillar of wealth

accumulation for both households and institutional investors, with rising housing prices serving as a major driver of financial gains. However, while some individuals and institutions have expanded their property portfolios, evidence shows a simultaneous growth in the number of households without any property at all. This dual trend underscores a widening gap between landlords and tenants-an inequality particularly visible in the current context of generation rent. Escalating house prices, restrictive mortgage access, and stagnant wages have collectively diminished homeownership opportunities, especially for younger generations. As a result, increasing numbers are confined to the private rental sector, facing conditions that make it ever more difficult to transition to ownership. Moreover, the structure of the rental market-where tenants continuously transfer income to landlords-functions as a mechanism of upward wealth redistribution, reinforcing social hierarchies and constraining the well-being and life trajectories of those excluded from ownership.

In light of these dynamics, this session invites research papers and theoretical contributions addressing the following key themes:

Wealth Extraction from Housing

Who are the key actors extracting wealth from housing, and through which mechanisms? To what extent is household wealth increasingly derived from rentier practices? Which assets and real estate products-such as private rentals, short-term and temporary accommodations, or buy-to-leave investments, among others-are being used for wealth accumulation, and by whom?

Wealth Inequality and Intersectionality

How does property ownership contribute to wealth inequality, and how are these disparities mediated by class, gender, race, and age? In what ways does housing function as a driver of impoverishment and social stratification? How is generation rent experiencing economic and social exclusion within increasingly financialised housing systems? What are the spatial logics of housing-related inequalities?

Alternative Futures

What policy measures could reassert housing's social function and curb speculative investment? Which strategies and interventions can effectively reduce housing inequalities and enhance affordability?

Rental housing and wealth extraction under subordinate financialization: Actors and rentier strategies in Buenos Aires

» [Prof. Carolina Gonzalez Redondo](#) (CONICET / UBA)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

When Housing Becomes an Asset: Rental Crisis and Housing-centered Rentierism in Turkey

» Dr. Ezgi Dogru (Anadolu University), [Dr. ISIL EROL](#) (Ozyegin University)

Generation Rent in the Americas: Intergenerational Inequalities and the Reshaping of Housing Trajectories

» [Dr. Francisca Bogolasky](#) (Universidad de Chile), [Dr. Adriana Marín Toro](#) (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso), [Dr. Kristine Stiphany](#) (State University of New York at Buffalo)

On mutually reinforcing rental assets and their owners: carving up unequal urban space through more and less financialisation

» [Ms. Carola Ludovica Giannotti Mura](#) (University of Milan-Bicocca)

Beyond subordination: Opening the boundaries of housing financialisation in Argentina

» [Dr. Simone Tulumello](#) (Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa), [Dr. Agustín David Wilner](#) (Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, KU Leuven)

14:00

Oral : #84-1/2

#84 Visual and Co-Creative Methods in Urban Studies: Rethinking Spaces Through Arts-Based Inquiry (1/2)

Venue - HS 21

Organised by: Helena Segarra (Convenor) and Miriam Haselbacher (Convenor)

Visual and co-creative arts-based methods have gained increasing recognition in urban research for their capacity to challenge dominant epistemologies, capture lived experiences, and amplify underrepresented voices (Carpenter and Horvath, 2022; Trafi-Prats and Castro-Varela, 2022; Kroismayr et al., 2025). These methods also offer an entry point into understanding space not merely as a container or static backdrop, but as an ongoing production shaped by social, material, and symbolic interactions (Lefebvre, 1991; Massey, 2005). This session critically engages with arts-based methodologies and 1) its potentials in enabling nuanced readings of space across diverse geographies, be they metropolitan neighborhoods, peri-urban zones, rural spaces, or borderlands, without reifying rigid spatial categories and with 2) its limits

due to e.g. material and political factors as well as tensions between arts and science (Heines et al., 2024).

By bringing together contributions that expand and diversify the methodological toolkit of urban studies, this session explores how visual and co-creative methods illuminate spatial continuities, tensions, and overlaps. For instance, how might arts-based research contribute to understanding cities and urban life? How do co-creative methods reveal power dynamics, shifting land use, contested identities, or environmental concerns? How can participatory processes reframe local knowledge in ways that disrupt official narratives of spatial development or neglect? What methodologies facilitate the participation of underrepresented groups in urban research? Furthermore, we consider the methodological and ethical implications of working co-creatively with communities. What does it mean to "collaborate" in contexts shaped by power asymmetries, historical marginalization, or extractive research legacies? How can researchers remain accountable to the communities they engage with, and how might artistic practices offer alternative routes to reciprocity, care, and long-term engagement?

In this session we welcome contributions that grapple with such questions and invite scholars, practitioners, and artists to explore the role of visual and co-creative methods in urban spaces and beyond. By centering artistic and participatory practices, we seek to examine how visual tools, such as photography, video, mapping, drawing, and print, as well as collaborative processes, such as co-design, walking interviews, and community-based installations, can offer situated, affective, and embodied insights into spatial experiences and transformations.

We invite submissions that engage with, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Visual explorations of space, place, and identity
- Arts-based research that studies contested, negotiated and (re)claimed spaces
- Reflections on the use of specific visual and co-creative methods and their ethical implication
- Potential and limits of visual arts-based approaches
- Intersections of aesthetics, activism, and knowledge production
- engaging with alternative ways of perceiving and experiencing space, moving beyond conventional spatial categories such as the urban-rural divide

The session aims to foster dialogue across disciplines, including but not limited to urban studies, geography, anthropology, visual sociology, design, and the arts. By focusing on the creative and collaborative



Continued from Monday, 20 July

dimensions of spatial research, this session seeks to open up new methodological horizons that can reframe how we understand and engage with complex, interconnected geographies.

Mapping, Walking, Drawing and Remembering: A Feminist Visual Assemblage

» [Mrs. Marta Maria Nicolazzi](#) (Università degli Studi di Milano)

Transgender Gazes on the City through Visual-Participatory Research

» [Dr. Maria Cristina Bayon](#) (Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

"This system was not made for us": Systems thinking and zine-making as participatory methodologies in tenant organizing and housing justice research

» [Ms. Madeline Mesich](#) (Independent Researcher)

Decolonial Reflections on Participatory Arts Based Visual Worksheets in Research on Housing Precarity

» [Mrs. Katerina Canigova](#) (Masaryk University)

Beyond methodological idealism: Exploring the limitations of creative methods in research with precariously positioned migrants

» [Ms. Franca Roeschert](#) (University of Greenwich)

14:00

Oral : #22-1/2

#22 Morphologies of Mobility: Spatial Form, Movement, and Urban Inequality (1/2)

Venue - HS 27

Organised by: Kritry Gera (Convenor) and Gerhard Bruyns (Convenor)

Urban morphology, the physical form, layout, and evolution of cities, plays a decisive role in shaping everyday mobilities, yet this relationship remains under-explored in urban studies. Mobility is not only about the capacity to move but also about how movement constitutes social identities, belonging, and exclusion. The structuring force of space shapes everyday life, modes of displacement and production, and

opportunities for social participation (Harvey, 1989; Kaufmann, 2002). Beyond physical characteristics, economic and socio-cultural processes of urban form impact everyday mobility through new forms of knowledge and social connections (Panerai et al., 2004). Understanding how morphology channels, constrains, or enables mobility, and vice versa, is vital for addressing questions of inequality and justice in contemporary urban contexts.

This is especially pressing in the Global South, where rapid, often unregulated urbanisation produces informal settlements, fragmented infrastructures, and uneven development. Here, mobility is deeply conditioned by spatial form, which can exacerbate socio-economic exclusion, limit access to livelihoods and services, and reinforce gendered or class-based constraints. Conversely, these morphologies also reveal practices of resilience and survival, as residents carve out alternative mobilities and reshape space through everyday action. Global migration flows, climate change-induced displacements, and shifting urban economies further demand attention to how morphology and mobility interact. Moving beyond the "triple crisis" (Sheller, 2018) to consider emerging polycrisis, it is crucial to highlight new inequalities and challenges in socio-spatial mobilities. The rapid proliferation of technologies and big data through AI, machine learning, and neural networks requires urgent examination of the intricate relationship between urban morphology and mobilities. While these tools expand analytical capacity, they also introduce epistemological and ethical challenges that may reproduce inequalities.

Building on these discussions, we pose two central questions: What are the consequences of the interrelationship between mobility and urban morphology? How does this relationship produce new forms of inequalities and/or offer insights for more inclusive and connected urban futures? We invite papers that explore not only how built form structures movement but also how mobility practices resist, adapt to, or transform morphologies. By bringing together diverse methodological and theoretical perspectives, this session foregrounds the importance of morphology-mobility linkages as a critical frontier for urban research.

We welcome contributions focused on, but not limited to, the following sub-themes and guiding questions:

1. Centre-Periphery: How do morphological differences between urban cores and peripheries shape mobility, access, and inequality?
2. Global North vs Global South: How do morphology-mobility relations unfold across diverse urban contexts?
3. Migration and Marginalisation: How do migrants and marginalised groups navigate or transform morphological constraints in their



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

everyday mobilities?

4. Lived Identities: How do urban forms influence lived experiences of movement, belonging, and identity across gender, class, and culture?

5. Emerging Practices: How do informal or tactical spatial practices reshape urban form and mobility systems?

6. The Role of Technology: How are AI, big data, and digital tools redefining morphology-mobility analysis, and what ethical challenges follow?

7. Exploratory Methods and Future Research: Which innovative, participatory, or sensory methods best reveal mobility inequality guided by spatial form?

Inclusive Periphery or Liberal Core? Gender Segregation and Regional Inequality in Creative Occupations

» [Dr. Emil Israel](#) (Technion-Israel Institute of Technology), Dr. Tal Feder (Technion-Israel Institute of Technology)

The Design and Planning of Colonialism: Exiles in their own lands

» [Mr. Mike Harrington](#) (The New School for Social Research)

Morphologies of inclusion? Walking experiences along a repurposed railway corridor in Helsinki

» [Dr. Christine Mady](#) (Aalto University)

Objective-Perceived Walkability Gaps: Evidence from Safety and Aesthetic Indicators in Çanakkale City Center

» [Ms. Araf Oyku Turken](#) (Yildiz Technical University), Dr. Cenk Hamamcioglu (Yildiz Technical University)

14:00

Oral : #103-1/4

#103 Regeneration and the Remaking of Urban Inequalities (1/4)

Venue - HS 30

Organised by: Prof. Paul Watt (Convenor) and Zheng Wang (Convenor)

Regeneration has been a prominent feature of urban development across cities in the Global North and South for several decades. Whilst regeneration discourses are spatially specific, their broad underlying contours are fairly consistent, i.e. physical redevelopment promoted by the state with variable levels of private sector fiscal and governmental involvement. Regeneration is often associated with the remaking of

urban inequalities, for example via enhancing processes of state-led gentrification in the Global North (Watt and Smets, 2017; Morris, 2019; Watt, 2021), or through large-scale resettlements in the Global South and East (Goodfellow et al.; Wang, 2022; Williams et al., 2022). In this session, we wish to highlight the manifold ways that regeneration reshapes contemporary landscapes of urban inequalities, which may include gentrification but is by no means restricted to gentrification-related issues. Hence, we are interested in theoretical, methodological and empirical research papers which explore how regeneration remakes urban inequalities along class, racial/ethnic, gender, disability, religious and intersectional lines, and this includes the spatial contours of such social inequalities.

Some of the research questions that we are interested in include:

- 'what are the aims of regeneration projects vis-à-vis urban inequalities?';
- 'how do the end results of regeneration change such inequalities?'; 'how do these changes match onto the original regeneration aims?';
- 'to what extent do urban political economies determine or pre-determine how regeneration reshapes inequalities?';
- 'how does contestation and resistance from below affect the manner in which regeneration reshapes urban inequalities?';
- 'does regeneration produce socially uneven inequalities in that some inequalities are ameliorated whilst others are enhanced or vice versa?';
- 'do certain types of regeneration exacerbate urban inequalities more than others?'; and 'what are the policy implications of regeneration vis-à-vis urban inequalities?'
- 'One theme which could be explored is how the temporal process of regeneration unfolds over time - often elongating way beyond the original deadlines - and therefore 'how does such regeneration elongation itself change urban inequalities?'

We are interested in papers which explore the above themes and questions using a range of methods and theoretical approaches.

Regeneration Through Exclusion: How Territorial Stigmatisation Remakes Urban Inequalities in Riga, Latvia

» [Mrs. Veronika Abdian](#) (LSE Inequalities and Social Science)

Beyond Gentrification: Urban Regeneration, Temporal Displacement, and the Reproduction of Urban Inequality in Tarlabaşı, Istanbul, Turkey

» [Ms. Elifsu Sahin](#) (Istanbul University)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Megaprojects and the Afterlives of Displacement: Co-production and the Remaking of Urban Inequality in Jakarta's Kampung Redevelopment

» [Dr. Tessa Talitha](#) (Institut Teknologi Bandung), Ms. Galuh Nastiti Prameswari (Institut Teknologi Bandung)

Cultural Regeneration: Place-making, territoriality, and belonging in Wembley Park

» [Ms. Sara Rodriguez](#) (Birkbeck, University of London)

An Ethnography of Conflicting Values of Urban Regeneration

» [Mx. Catherine Polishchuk](#) (University of Vienna)

14:00

Oral : #1-1/4

#1 Youth, (Un)Care and the City (1/4)

Venue - HS 31

Organised by: Rachel Almeida (Convenor), Prof. Sabine Knierbein (Convenor), and Dr. Nir Cohen (Convenor)

In much of the world, young people have been systematically excluded from decision-making processes concerning urban development and public spaces. Whether through social and territorial marginalisation or through the invisibility of their experiences in policy design, youth are often reduced to "secondary users" of urban spaces, if not treated as a threat to public order. Such a perspective overlooks the fact that young people are protagonists in the social production of space, elaborating creative practices, modes of circulation, everyday resistances, and political mobilisations that fundamentally challenge and reconfigure ways of inhabiting the city.

Far from being passive recipients of urban policies, youth constitute themselves as both collective and individual subjects who articulate desires, practices of care, distinctive aesthetics, and insurgent forms of belonging. Whether through peripheral cultural production, the reappropriation of squares, streets, and public facilities, the experience of new gendered forms of belonging, the creative use of digital technologies, or the building of networks of solidarity and community support, young people exercise careful agency over urban space. These practices, often rendered invisible by formal policies, reveal dynamics that expand the notion of the right to the city towards debates about

urban un(care), question exclusionary logics, and challenge hegemonic models of urban planning.

This session brings together contributions that explore the role of youth in the social production of space and in forms of political incidence across distinct geopolitical contexts. We are interested in understanding how factors such as territory, race, class, gender, education, and generation interact to shape the experiences of youth, influencing their practices of use, access, and appropriation of urban space. Equally relevant are analyses of how mobility, safety, technology, and social media affect the presence and organisation of youth in urban space, and their creative and collective responses to these challenges.

We are especially interested in the role of peripheral youth as intellectuals, resisting artists, and cultural agents who shape new urban horizons through different forms of solidarity and care, as well as innovative and aesthetic types of cultural products. This insurgent knowledge, especially when emerging from the margins, has the potential to influence public debate and inform more caring and democratic urban alternatives.

The session welcomes methodological explorations that articulate youth-oriented research, practice, and collaborative action, such as socio-spatial workshops, mappings, focus groups, exhibitions, and other forms of co-production of knowledge with young people and local communities that seek to combine embodied and virtual spaces into 'vireal' spaces of youth.

We seek contributions that combine empirical analyses, methodological advances, and theoretical reflections, exploring both localised case studies and complementary or transnational approaches. Of particular interest is the promotion of dialogue between researchers, artists, activists, and policymakers working in the fields of youth, urban space, and collective care. By emphasising creative practices, conflicts and possibilities of transformation led by young people, this session sheds light on under-recognised dimensions of youthful urban life and contributes to the construction of fairer cities learning from the new forms of literacy that young people bring along.

Growing Up Informal: Youth, Public Space, and Political Positioning

» [Dr. Jaime Hernandez-Garcia](#) (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana)

Educating for the Right to the City: Youth, Urban Citizenship, and the Co-Production of Urban Knowledge in a Brazilian Oil City

» [Dr. Ana Paula Soares Carvalho](#) (Universidade Federal Fluminense)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

From Control to Care: Critical Perspectives from the Global South in Reformulating Governance and Policy Responses on Street-Connected Youth

» [Dr. Paroj Banerjee](#) (University College London)

Uncertain Certainty: Youth Participation in Urban Governance Amid Lebanon's polycrises

» [Ms. Joana Dabaj](#) (Catalytic Action), [Mr. Hady Naal](#) (Catalytic Action), [Dr. Clara Siagian](#) (University College London (UCL)), [Prof. Andrea Rigon](#) (University College London (UCL))

Youth Managed Assets as Enablers of Care Initiatives. A case study in Barcelona

» [Dr. Marina Pera](#) (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)

14:00

Oral : #17-1/3

#17 Climate adaptation from below: community-led responses to environmental challenges in the Global South (1/3)

Venue - HS 32

Organised by: [Dr. Francesca Ferlicca](#) (Convenor), [Dr. Sonia Roitman](#) (Convenor), and [Dr. Jakub Galuszka](#) (Convenor)

Cities in the Global South face disproportionate impacts from climate change, environmental degradation, and extreme weather events, often exacerbating existing urban inequalities. While top-down climate adaptation strategies dominate policy discourse, grassroots initiatives led by communities, neighbourhood organizations, and informal networks represent crucial yet underrepresented responses to environmental challenges within the mainstream discussion to environmental challenges. These community-led adaptations emerge from the lived experiences of urban residents confronting daily environmental risks, from flooding in informal settlements to heat stress in dense urban areas.

This session explores how communities in the Global South develop strategies for climate adaptation, challenging traditional narratives that position marginalized urban populations solely as vulnerable victims rather than active agents of change. We examine how these bottom-up initiatives intersect with, complement, or contest formal adaptation policies, revealing tensions between community knowledge and

institutional approaches.

Key themes and research questions we invite include:

- Theoretical frameworks: How do community-led adaptation practices challenge and offer alternatives to dominant paradigms dominant climate governance paradigms? What theoretical lenses (from urban studies, development studies, environmental justice, decolonial theory) best capture these dynamics?
- Methodological approaches: How can researchers and communities ethically document and analyze community-led initiatives? What participatory methodologies reveal community adaptation knowledge? How do we avoid extractive research practices?
- Spatial dimensions: How do informal settlements, peripheral neighborhoods, and marginalized urban areas develop place-specific adaptation strategies? What role do urban informality, precarity, and spatial inequalities play in shaping community responses? What are the counter-productive effects of top-down approaches that use climate adaptation as an excuse to relocate communities? How can communities challenge resettlement paradigms through innovative in-situ solutions that question conventional imperatives around flood zones and other environmental risk areas while maintaining their social networks and territorial attachments?
- Social networks and organizing: What forms of collective action, solidarity, and mutual aid and support emerge around environmental challenges? How do gender, ethnicity, class, disability and migration status influence participation in adaptation initiatives?
- Knowledge systems: How do communities combine traditional ecological knowledge, everyday experiences, and external resources? What tensions arise between local and experiential knowledge and technical expertise?
- Policy interfaces: How do community initiatives engage with, resist, or remain invisible to formal governance structures? What opportunities exist for scaling up or institutionalizing community-led practices?
- Cross-regional perspectives: How do community adaptation strategies vary across different contexts in the Global South (Latin America, Africa, Asia and Asia Pacific)? What comparative insights emerge from diverse urban environments?

We welcome contributions from various disciplines including urban studies, geography, anthropology, sociology, environmental studies, and development studies. We encourage papers based on ethnographic research, participatory methods, action research, and comparative approaches. We particularly seek contributions that center community voices and experiences while critically examining power dynamics in climate adaptation processes.



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

This session aims to foster comparative discussions about community agency in environmental governance, contributing to broader debates about urban inequalities, environmental justice, and alternative pathways for sustainable urban development in the Global South.

Intersecting injustices: investigating the role of identity, infrastructure planning and governance in experiences of disasters in India's cities.

» Ms. Vineetha Nalla (University of Toronto)

A relational perspective on agency within contexts of deepening inequities: tracing community responses to eviction and flooding in Metro Manila

» Dr. Nazia Hussain (University of Tokyo), Dr. Carmeli Marie Chaves (The School of Urban and Regional Planning, the University of the Philippines)

Adaptation from Below: Community Responses to Flood Risk in an Informal Settlement in Coastal Peru

» Ms. Luzgéluk Delgado Guerrero (Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC), Barcelona, Spain), Dr. Carmen Mendoza Arroyo (Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC), Barcelona, Spain)

Addressing Informal Process in Urban Climate Governance System: a multiple case study on global south

» Mr. JOSE VITOR GOMES DOS SANTOS (Fundação Getulio Vargas)

14:00

Oral : #10-1/3

#10 The digital frontier (1/3)

Venue - HS 34

Organised by: Prof. Justus Uitermark (Convenor) and Ayona Datta (Convenor)

This session explores digitization in motion and across space. It examines how digital technologies-from artificial intelligence and social media platforms to digital archives-enter into and transform previously analogue life worlds and domains.

Research on digital urbanism shows that corporations and governments deploy digital technologies to expand control, extract data, and

commodify social life. From dating to volunteering, and from taxi rides to land registration, digital infrastructures enable the extension of corporate and governmental power deep into everyday life. This session asks how places, institutions, and relationships are reconfigured through such technologies.

We understand this digital reconfiguration through the notion of the digital frontier. The frontier metaphor highlights processes of expansion: digital technologies enumerate subjects once uncountable, render visible territories once unmapped, and organize political, economic, and social relations previously outside digital grids.

Yet this frontier is not simply a divide between advanced and primitive, or formal and informal. While structural parallels with colonial frontiers remain, today's digital frontiers emerge in a different historical moment and within new constellations of power. Colonial dynamics persist, but in a postcolonial and multipolar world where American and European hegemony is waning. Power relations are often complex: workers or residents sometimes resist digitization but at other times embrace it. While platforms' logics of extraction, commodification, and control permeate social worlds, their advance is never smooth or uniform: wherever digital technologies expand, their operations are contested, reshaped, and transformed.

We invite submissions that examine the digital frontier in different geographical contexts and domains. From the contention over viral food spots or wanghong attractions to disputes over land registration and gig work: we are interested in exploring a wide range of cases to examine general dynamics as well as variations and particularities. We are open to all methods, ranging from computational analyses that chart digital inequalities to deep ethnographies that explore digitization in place, and from cartographic methods that map uneven digitization across space to action research.

Stitching Standards: AI, Labour, and the Geopolitics of African Aesthetics

» Dr. June Wang (City University of Hong Kong)

Exhausting Frontiers of Dis/Connection in the UK's Asylum System

» Dr. Hannah Morgan (Oxford University)

Nocturnal Urbanism and the Digital Frontier: Smart Lighting, Sensory Governance, and Infrastructural Power

» Dr. Nitin Bathla (University of Zurich)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

The datafied migrant home as a new digital frontier in Santiago, Chile

» [Dr. Laura Neville](#) (University College London (UCL))

14:00

Oral : #11-1/4

#11 Invisible Citizens: Experiencing and Resisting Exclusion in the Contemporary City (1/4)

Venue - B.I.G. HS

Organised by: Prof. Anna Domaradzka (Convenor) and Nina Wróblewska (Convenor)

Cities are places of complex coexistence, where people from different social, cultural, and cognitive backgrounds come together in shared public spaces (Fincher and Iveson 2008, Gehl 2010). Unfortunately, these spaces are not always adapted to the needs of all city residents. Many people experience forms of exclusion that remain invisible to policymakers, urban planners, and researchers (Soja 2010, Wilson and Tewdwr-Jones 2021). These 'hidden inequalities' can manifest in various ways, including cognitive or sensory exclusion (Imrie 2011), as well as more visible economic, social, or spatial barriers (Lefebvre 1991, Young 1990).

Some urban citizens are more prone to become 'invisible' - this includes neuroatypical individuals, people with disabilities or mental health issues, women, elderly, members of LGBTQ+ community, migrants, unhoused people and other minorities and equity-seeking groups (Hamraie 2017, Kitchin 1998). Their exclusion is not always overt or intentional, yet it often becomes embedded in the infrastructure, services, and discourses that shape the city (Fainstein 2010, Harvey 2008). This can lead to subtle but profound limitations in navigating public space, accessing city services, participating in policymaking and feeling a sense of belonging (Mitchell 2003).

Growing social, economic, and environmental challenges are increasing the urgency of addressing these forms of inequality (UN-Habitat 2020). Urban expansion, population shifts into major cities, digital transformation, and climate change are reshaping urban life in ways that increase the vulnerability of groups already at risk of exclusion (Anguelovski et al. 2018, Blokland et al. 2015). Research shows that diversity and the inclusion of disadvantaged groups are not only matters of social justice, but also essential for building more resilient, democratic, and innovative urban environments (Fainstein 2010,

Meerow et al. 2016, Soja 2010).

This session aims to create a space for dialogue on how hidden inequalities are produced and experienced, as well as how they are addressed or resisted. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary perspectives and case studies from different geographical, political and ethnical contexts, especially those that are rarely represented in mainstream academic discourse.

We invite authors using diverse theoretical approaches including, but not restricted to: social construction of disability, theories of spatial justice and right to the city, conflict theory, postcolonial theory, indigenous studies or social exclusion and marginality theory. We encourage contributions engaging with concepts like human agency, narratives, spatial and digital practices, cultural representations, and similar.

We aim to address following questions:

1. How 'invisible' forms of exclusion manifest in different urban contexts?
2. In what ways do policies, planning practices, or public discourses reproduce the invisibility of vulnerable groups?
3. How do vulnerable groups resist, negotiate, or reconfigure urban inequalities in their everyday lives?
4. What are the spatial and social - both collective and individual - strategies used by excluded groups striving for safety, privacy, health and well-being in the urban context?
5. What methodological or theoretical approaches are best suited to making 'hidden' experiences visible in urban research?

Invisibility as Spatial Practice: Syrian Mothers & the Gendered Labor of Home-Keeping in Displacement

» [Ms. Maureen Abi-Ghanem](#) (Columbia University in the City of New York)

From Invisibility to Encounter: Kitchen Space, Everyday Resistance, and Refugee Women's Urban Experiences

» [Mrs. merve köseoğlu](#) (Department of Sociology, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Turkey)

Embodied Cartographies of the 'Invisibles': Feminist Counter-Mapping Urban Exclusion in Istanbul

» [Dr. Elif Gökçen Tepekaya Pulat](#) (İzmir Katip Çelebi University)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

From Invisibility to Urban Presence: Feminist Memory and Resistance in Mexico City

» [Ms. M. Sofia Azuara Villanueva](#) (University of Coimbra)

Construction of the "Other" in Dhaka's Urban Inscriptions

» [Ms. Tabassum Zaman](#) (BRAC University)

14:00

Oral : #25-1/3

#25 Inequalities in urban future-making: foundations, framings, and contestations (1/3)

Venue - Franz-König Saal (= HS 06)

Organised by: Monika Grubbauer (Convenor) and Katharina Manderscheid (Convenor)

While questions of urban inequality have long constituted a topic of inquiry for the social sciences, the picture is more ambiguous when it comes to the applied spatial sciences and policy-making concerned with urban development. Questions of access to housing, social services, and infrastructure are certainly of key concern in disciplines such as architecture and planning, both in research as well as in practice. The same is true for new forms of environmental inequalities: As the effects of climate change, such as droughts, heat waves, and flooding, are increasingly felt in cities around the world, it has become also clear that the effects on cities are unequally distributed, particularly affecting urban populations that are the most vulnerable and least affluent. Many cities take measures to tackle these interrelated ecological and social challenges when adapting urban spaces to new realities, reducing the impact of environmental hazards and extreme weather events, and implementing future-oriented strategies. Yet, whether and how forms of inequality are considered, reflected on, and actively approached in such measures and strategies of urban future-making remains open to discussion.

This session examines the capacity of social actors and institutions in urban development in addressing current dynamics of urban inequality. How do the policy instruments, planning strategies, and urban design solutions, which are largely centred on questions of climate change and mitigation and the decarbonization of the building sector, consider implicit or explicit challenges of inequality? The focus is on professionals in built environment disciplines as social actors in various roles in the state administration, private sector, non-profit sector, and civil society

initiatives, as well as on institutions in related fields of action in urban development policy and planning. How do these actors and institutions advance their conceptual and methodological foundations for dealing with forms of urban inequality in the light of new complexities, what types of data are considered, what are the tools and methods used for operationalization and decision-making, and how is each of these aspects legitimized and discursively framed, made accessible to public debate, and potentially contested?

We invite papers which address the above questions from a variety of angles, both theoretically and empirically, and across diverse contexts. Of interest are, particularly, various fields of urban development action which are currently driven by the urgency to transform cities and their built environment in the light of ecological challenges ahead, including housing, transport, energy, and water. Possible subthemes include urban climate and biodiversity strategies, urban megaprojects and urban infrastructure, green building policies, and disaster prevention and mitigation. We welcome papers which provide empirical insights and a critical discussion of how inequality is addressed in these fields of action, but papers which reflect on the epistemological foundations and theoretical implications are equally welcome.

Future-Making in Times of Housing and Climate Crisis: Between Management and Prolongation

» [Ms. Lidia Bär](#) (University of Kassel)

Mobilization of baby boomers' homes through relocation (?)

» [Prof. Annette Spellerberg](#) (University of Kaiserslautern-Landau), Dr. Andreas Hartung (University of Kaiserslautern-Landau)

Retrofitting Abandonment: Indigenous Building Technologies and the Housing-Climate Nexus in Peri-Urban Mexico

» [Prof. Cristina Cerulli](#) (University of Reading)

Campaigning against dampness 1985 to 2025: Notes towards a political economy of damp and mould

» [Mx. Delilah Wallbank](#) (LSE Cities, London School of Economics and Political Science)

Urban experimentation First, Access to Affordable Housing Second? Lessons from two left-wing French Cities

» [Dr. Sonia Dinh](#) (Université de strasbourg)



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

16:00 **General**
Coffee Break
Venue - Courtyard

16:00 **Workshop : Ad-hoc 02**
Early Career Researcher Networking
Venue - Marietta Blau Saal
Organised by: Prof. Hanna Hilbrandt (Convenor) and Prof. Alberta Andreotti (Convenor)

ECR Roundtable

16:15 **General**
Excursion
Venue - Meeting Point - University steps, Universitaetsring
See details and register for the excursions here: <https://rc21-vienna2026.org/excursions/>.

16:30 **Oral : #82-2/2**
#82 Challenging inequalities through a renewed territorial approach for urban research and action (2/2)
Venue - Green Lounge (=VAM 2)
Organised by: Mr. Christian Schmid (Convenor) and Camilla Perrone (Convenor)
The concept of territory is at once indispensable and contested across different disciplines in urban research, such as sociology, geography, architecture, planning, and urban studies, even if they have quite different genealogies. Two fundamental understandings dominate today (Schmid 2015): A first one, which is particularly prevalent in the English-speaking world in the fields of political science and political geography, focuses on sovereignty and state power. It considers a territory as an abstract space over which a political body exercises power and control. In contrast, a second line, anchored in South American, Mediterranean

and Francophone traditions, starts precisely with the materiality of the territory. This strand understands a territory as socially produced through human activity, labour, and symbolic practices. Thinkers such as Milton Santos, Saverio Muratori, Claude Raffestin, and André Corboz described a territory as appropriation, palimpsest, and socio-material production, forming a layered texture of borders, centralities, and networks, which are continually overwritten by historical processes and power constellations. In dialogue, the Italian Territorialist School, led by Alberto Magnaghi and Giancarlo Paba, reclaims territory as a living milieu and common good. Like Raffestin, they understand territory as a socially appropriated space that embodies memory, culture, and conflict (Perrone 2023). They extend the discussion toward a utopian horizon - the project of communities.

In postcolonial contexts, particularly in Latin America, the production of territory is understood as a dynamic and disputed process, which is bound to specific and multiscale social contexts that harbour multiple temporalities (Streule and Schwarz 2017). Thus, territories are shaped by plural, overlapping, and contested processes between colonial impositions and customary systems. In China, in contrast, the concept of territory plays a key role in understanding the recent state driven forms of urbanization (Wong 2023).

In recent years, the concept of territory became indispensable for understanding the unequal implosions and explosions of capitalist urbanisation, demanding for the exploration of new pathways of inquiry. Thus, Neil Brenner and Christian Schmid situate territory at the core of their concept of planetary urbanisation. Here, the challenge is epistemological: to grasp urbanisation as a planetary process reshaping the entire surface of the earth unevenly and violently.

In this session, we aim to reposition the debate on territory and discuss approaches that treat territories not as bounded units but as a set of contingent, contested, and reparative processes. We would also like to advance a productive and creative understanding of re-territorialisation as a horizon, with the urgent task of re-embedding human and non-human life in sustainable, equal, just, and plural territorialities.

We invite theoretical, methodological, and empirical contributions that reflect and explore the following questions:
(1) tracing territorialisation as practice through planning, urbanism, and struggles in everyday life;
(2) examining territorial metabolisms and more-than-human agencies;
(3) interrogating scalar and topological reconfigurations (regions, corridors, frontiers, platforms);



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

(4) exploring epistemologies of territory adequate to fragile, contested, and transitional contexts.

Working across terrains of everyday materialities, ethnicity and popular economy: the case of Hong Kong

» Dr. Kit Ping Tammy Wong (Osaka Metropolitan University)

Bioregional alter-urbanizations

» Prof. Luciano De Bonis (University of Molise), Dr. Giovanni Ottaviano (University of Molise)

Degrowth territorial subjectivities

» Ms. Johanna Waldenberger (University of Amsterdam), Ms. Emma Griffith (University of Amsterdam)

Territory / territorialization / multi-territoriality in Latin American approaches of territorial reparation and peacebuilding

» Dr. Angela Stienen (University of Bern)

Health in contested urban territories: toward a renewed territorial approach to violence, care, and re-territorialisation in Latin American cities

» Prof. Elis Borde (Federal University of Minas Gerais), Prof. Mario Hernández (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)

16:30

Oral : #4-2/2

#4 Architectures of containment and governance: displacement, extractivism, and city-making (2/2)

Venue - Erika Weinzierl Saal

Organised by: Prof. Ayşe Çağlar (Convenor) and Dr. Paolo Novak (Convenor)

This session seeks to trace the deep histories and afterlives of spaces of containment-from sites of coerced and confined labor to centers for asylum seekers, detention facilities, and deportation infrastructures in cities. By bringing together diverse cases, the session aims to critically examine sites of containment that have been repurposed multiple times, often marked by coercion, discipline, violence, and racial hierarchies. We are particularly interested in interrogating how these

regimes intersect with various forms of extractivism and the experiences of displaced people including contestation in cities of various scale.

Studies on the governance and management of human mobility have increasingly highlighted the institutional and structural apparatuses underpinning mobility regimes and bordering dynamics, deepening our understanding of both the processes of displacement and the lived experiences of the displaced. Technologies, policies, and legal frameworks-together with the narratives that frame mobility-have proven crucial in revealing how governance mechanisms simultaneously enable and constrain movement, while reinforcing social, political, and territorial boundaries. Yet, despite the significance of this "mobility turn," research has often overlooked the dynamics and actors involved in the containment of the displaced and the connection of these urban spaces to the circuits of capital. While there is a growing interest in the privatization of "care" and the management of displaced populations, relatively little attention has been given to the spatial arrangements of containment themselves-their built environments, infrastructures, architectures, and especially the historical trajectories that have shaped these urban spaces.

This session calls for papers addressing that gap by tracing the longue durée of spaces of containment-from sites of forced and confined labor to asylum seeker reception centers and detention and deportation facilities in cities located in different parts of the world. By exploring the historically produced infrastructures, logistical systems, and their changing assemblage of actors that give these spaces their "afterlives," the workshop aims to bring together empirical research on the scalar configurations of (im)mobility governance at the intersections of state, capital and labor in city making Some of the questions we seek to explore include:

- How the built environment, architecture, and spatial arrangements shape the experiences of displaced people in cities of various scale;
- The ways these spaces enable discipline, control, surveillance, and the reinforcement of racial hierarchies;
- How such sites are connected to changing forms of extractivism within the shifting dynamics of capitalism and cities;
- How the spatial organizations of these sites interact with broader regimes of confinement, labor exploitation, and the invisibilization of violence.

South-North-East-West dialogues; Built-environments; Governance; Migration; Recent developments in theory



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Asylum infrastructures at urban peripheries in Cyprus

» [Dr. Ana Ricchiardi](#) (University of Cyprus)

Becoming Khandwala: ruining and inhabiting refuge in Trieste, Italy

» [Mr. Stefano Mastromarino](#) (Development Planning Unit, UCL)

Mapping Out the Other's Home: Architectures of Race in French Migrant Housing

» [Ms. Marie-Aminata Peron](#) (University of Toronto)

Space of Welcome and Refuge or Epistemic Violence? Governance and control of refugee bodies in shelter policies in Brazil and Italy.

» [Mrs. Aline Saraiva Leão Lima](#) (Universidade Federal Fluminense), [Prof. Fernanda Sánchez](#) (Universidade Federal Fluminense), [Mr. Stefano Portelli](#) (Università Roma Tre and Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED))

16:30

Oral : #24-2/2

#24 Popular Economies of Urban Migration: The (Im)migrant Everyday in Unequal Cities (2/2)

Venue - Marietta Blau Saal

Organised by: Prof. Sophie Gonick (Convenor) and Prof. René Kreichauf (Convenor)

Migration-both rural to urban and across international frontiers-has remade metropolitan landscapes across the globe. Navigating cities rife with inequalities, low income new arrivals must contend with shifting demands for labor and employment, precarious and predatory housing markets, and, often, mounting debts incurred through the process of migration. In a moment of rising xenophobia and nativism, meanwhile, many migrants also must confront and manage the self against the brutality of both the state and quotidian populist outrage. From top-down state practices of detention and deportation to bottom-up xenophobia, immigration politics shape the urban and confine and produce the lifeworlds of newcomers.

This session will examine the various tactics (im)migrants pursue in cities in the global north and south in order to secure basic needs, manage financial uncertainty, and establish a toehold within urban

environments, i.e., the practices that "make life worth living" (Simone 2023). From household structures, to labor beyond binaries of work and home, to resistance to hostile policy and racism, (im)migrants deploy a number of practices in order to manage life in deeply unequal cities. These practices might emerge out of the ambivalences and lacunae of regulation and deregulation; the limits of state capacity; temporalities of migration and emplacement; failures in the housing market; economic necessity; and/or popular traditions of dwelling together. Far from constituting their own illicit sphere of action outside and against official forms of city-making, many of these practices, moreover, are woven into dominant, licit modes of urbanism (Tucker 2023). Drawing on scholars of Southern urbanism, we conceptualize these tactics as contributing to a popular economy of urban migration (Gago 2017, Simone 2019). Extending beyond the formal/informal divide, we use this framing to implicate the expressions of kin relations, social reproduction, economic and political action, and everyday life urban newcomers articulate to secure futures in the midst of urban uncertainty.

We thus invite contributions that explore some aspect of the migrant everyday beyond formalized urban systems, and its relation to collective life at the urban margins. Papers might explore these questions in relation to housing practices, experiences of work outside and beyond the wage, debt as it shapes daily life, and/or transformations of the family and the sphere of social reproduction. Contributions might also examine the structural aspects of regulation and governance that shape everyday practice. We welcome papers that examine and trouble the boundaries between formal/informal, licit/illicit, and legal/extralegal/illegal, and global north/south. Papers can be both empirical and theoretical, and draw on cases from cities across the globe.

Works Cited

Gago, V. (2017). *Neoliberalism from below: Popular pragmatics and baroque economies*. Duke University Press.

Simone, A. (2023). *Urban Popular Economies and Territories of Operation*. The Oxford Handbook of Superdiversity, 449.

Simone, A. (2019). *Contests over value: From the informal to the popular*. *Urban Studies*, 56(3), 616-619.

Tucker, J. L. (2023). *Outlaw Capital: Everyday Illegalities and the Making of Uneven Development* (Vol. 59). University of Georgia Press.



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Refugee Popular Economies in Cairo: Between Capitalist Integration and Survival Tactics

» [Dr. Ayham Dalal](#) (German University in Cairo)

Popular infrastructures of transcontinental urbanism: tactics of urban living between the UK and Somali Peninsula

» [Prof. Thomas Goodfellow](#) (University of Manchester), Dr. Abdifatah Tahir (University of Sheffield)

Syrian Refugees' Everyday Survival, Housing, and Work Practices after the 2023 Earthquakes in Hatay

» [Dr. Zerrin Arslan](#) (Hatay Mustafa Kemal University)

Navigating Temporariness: State Coercion and Itineraries of Circumvention among migrant Drivers in Cape Town

» [Mr. Samuel Giraut](#) (University of Basel)

Popular economies and the spatio-temporal politics of migrant labour in Bogota

» [Mr. Diego Carracedo](#) (Dublin City University)

16:30

Oral : #15-2/2

#15 Rethinking the Urban Home: Self-Help Housing Re/constructions and Contemporary Challenges (2/2)

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: Slavomíra Ferenčuhová (Convenor) and Dr. Terezie Lokšová (Convenor)

This session invites contributions to discuss self-help housing constructions and reconstructions and do-it-yourself (DIY) housing renovations as practices and strategies with significant societal relevance. Drawing on previous scholarship (e.g., Grubbauer, 2015), we approach home reconstructions undertaken by non-experts as more than isolated household projects; we view them as forms of intervention into urban space and life. Specifically, we aim to contextualize DIY construction and reconstruction within pressing contemporary challenges, including housing unaffordability, climate change impacts, and energy insecurity. The session will address critical questions such as: Do self-help housing re/constructions represent viable responses to

such challenges in cities worldwide, how successful are they, and how are these practices performed, negotiated, and interpreted by those who undertake them?

We welcome submissions that offer empirical insights from diverse geographical and historical contexts, encompassing cities and peri-urban areas, alongside theoretical discussions and conceptual debates. The session is open to a variety of perspectives with no specific methodological or theoretical preferences, reflecting our observation that self-help housing re/constructions are significantly understudied in urban scholarship despite their promising potential for critical insights. The session welcomes comparative discussions, whether across multiple papers or within individual contributions.

The sub-themes of the session include, but are not limited to, exploring interconnections between self-help housing re/constructions and:

- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Environmental aspects and sustainability
- Energy consumption and energy in/security
- Domestic politics and household relationships
- Housing un/affordability, economic aspects, and inequality
- Consumption, maintenance, and repair economies
- Materiality of the house and building practices
- Everyday practices of home-making and dwelling
- History of self-help housing reconstructions
- Cultural meanings and interpretation of DIY housing

References:

Grubbauer, M. (2015). Not everything is new in DIY: Home remodelling by amateurs as urban practice. *Ephemera: theory & politics in organization*, 15(1): 141-162.

DIY in the Soviet-built housing: Between addressing or intensifying the shortcomings of the maintenance system

» [Dr. Daria Volkova](#) (Bauhaus-University Weimar)

Materiality, Affect, and Self-Help: The Trajectory of Concrete Block Housing in Postwar Japan

» [Dr. Yudai Nakagawa](#) (Meiji University)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Putting everything into practice: addressing a step-by-step renovation of a wooden milieu building in Tartu, Estonia

» Ms. Merlyn Dunderdale (University of Tartu), Mr. Kirils Gončarovs (University of Tartu)

Towards an Emotional Landscape of autoconstruction: Fear, Investment, and Uncertainty among Residents of Campamento Alto, Santiago de Chile

» Mr. Alonso López (The New School for Social Research)

Self-Construction, Informal Practices, and Bottom-Up Urban Production in a Rehousing Project in Morocco

» Ms. NHARI samya (UCLouvain)

16:30

Oral : #96-2/2

#96 Bodies, Inequality and Power: (Un)wanted, (un)housed and (un)essential bodies in the city (2/2)

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: Luanda Vannuchi (Convenor) and Claudia Wilopo (Convenor)

This panel seeks to interrogate how urban space affects different bodies at different times and how everyday life is shaped by mechanisms of power. By attending to the embodied dimensions of urban life, we seek to challenge the separation between body and environment, and to focus on situated ways of knowing the city rooted in lived experience and corporeal politics. We aim to spark discussions on the body as a site of investigation, a methodological tool, and an analytical approach to urban experience, as well as to bring together critical insights into how power operates through embodiment in contemporary urban space.

As cities undergo processes of urban development, urban policies and politics have disproportionately favored white, wealthy, masculine, and socially normative bodies while marginalizing and displacing more precarious and peripheral ones. Privileges are embedded in the urban planning, zoning regulations, surveillance practices, and mobility infrastructure of cities, affecting different bodies along intersecting axes of power such as gender, race, class, ability, and citizenship status. Meanwhile, urban life depends on the labor of precarious and migrant workers, whose contributions remain invisible and unvalued even as

they sustain the very systems that allow the city to operate. For example, unhoused, racialized, and illegalized people are often positioned in the urban peripheries outside the boundaries of urban citizenship and belonging. They are deemed "out of place" through legal, spatial, and discursive mechanisms that determine who has the right to occupy, access, and shape urban space. Bodies themselves challenge dominant narratives of progress, inclusivity, and urban success. They can be the site and substance of urban debates, struggles, and protests.

Various scholars have explored ways the body is linked to personhood, identity, memory, resistance, and refusal, and showed that spatial politics is inherently biopolitical, shaping the way different bodies navigate the city. We aim to discuss approaches to how urban bodies relate to time and space by asking: Who is wanted, housed, and considered essential in the context of urban planning, policy, and politics? Which bodies are seen, supported, and celebrated or excluded, silenced, and rendered invisible? Who can conform to dominant urban norms and possibly challenge and disrupt them?

We invite contributions that engage with questions about how power, bodies, and space intersect in everyday life, particularly from scholars, activists, and practitioners from the Global South and East. We welcome papers exploring themes such as:

- How urban policies and planning have disproportionately favored white, middle-class, and male bodies, while marginalizing and displacing poor, racialized, and peripheral populations;
- How cities materially and symbolically produce distinctions between "wanted" and "unwanted" bodies;
- How emotion and affect circulate through bodies and space, revealing the politics of everyday urban life;
- How bodies, individually or in groups, challenge injustice, protest, and enact practices of solidarity.

Bodies, Water, and Climate Precarity in Informal Settlements in Jaipur, India

» Ms. Tripti Singh (University of Warwick)

Unwanted Bodies in the Heat: Disability, Thermal Injustice, and the Praxis of Indispensability

» Prof. Petra Tschakert (Department of Geography, National University of Singapore)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Voluminous skins and situated bodies: investigating self-city performativities through tattoos

» [Dr. Panagiotis Bourlessas](#) (University of Florence)

Racializing sexual desires: the case of gay spas in Metro Manila, Philippines

» [Mr. Nelson Jr Buso](#) (KU Leuven)

In-between the Margins: The Co-Constitution of Translocal Political Imaginaries by Kurdish and Balochi Women in Iran

» [Ms. Chistaa Khalilgoudarzi](#) (University of Westminster), [Dr. Mahsa Alami Fariman](#) (University College London)

'We are not all in Görlitzer Park': The afterlife of colonialism and how Black Britons in Berlin protect themselves from racism

» [Dr. Christy Kulz](#) (Technical University Berlin)

16:30

Oral : #51-2/2

#51 Bourdieu in the Southern City: Between Social Divisions and Urban Inequalities (2/2)

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Dr. Nat Marom (Convenor) and Ms. Aparna Das (Convenor)

Pierre Bourdieu's work continues to grow in prominence among urban sociologists and the wider urban studies community. However, with some exceptions, his ideas have not been put to work in the context of Global South cities, particularly to explore how social distinctions and divisions shape urban spaces, inequalities, and informalities. In his recent book "Bourdieu in the City", Loïc Wacquant asserts that Bourdieu provides "conceptual levers... to the study of cities of the Global South by sketching an analytic that bridges the gap between continents" (2023:5). Could this be reconciled with the "Southern turn" in urban scholarship, which calls for "new geographies of theory" (Roy 2009) and "homegrown" concepts more attuned to the diverse contexts of the Global South? While acknowledging the obvious discrepancy in using a European "grand theorist" to generate context-specific Southern urban theory - this session hopes to collectively explore whether and how Bourdieu's conceptual apparatus could indeed become a generative source for novel explorations on and from Southern cities.

To give an idea from India, Bourdieu's concepts manifest in various forms across disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, literature, or even in film and music. For instance, in literature, the concept of 'habitus' has been explored in detail, where the body language of urban and village dwellers is described in a nuanced manner. These descriptions shape their positioning within the social hierarchy, which may or may not align with their economic power. However, concepts such as distinction, taste, social capital, or symbolic power tend to be overlooked in urban scholarship. The urban is often portrayed as a neutral, foreign geography - utopian habitats where everyone is supposed to be equal, governed by agnostic institutions that remain unresponsive to local sensibilities and dispositions. This is reflected in the aspiration to build functional housing blocks and supposedly neutral public spaces, based on the belief that well-governed urban areas are devoid of the 'evils' associated with village life, such as caste, traditional authority, etc. This session aims to explore this gap.

As urban scholars and practitioners from the North and South, who have used some of Bourdieu's ideas to frame our research of cities in India and South Africa, we are looking for like-minded explorers who have found Bourdieu fruitful in their own work. We are keen to convene contributions that pragmatically apply any of Bourdieu's many concepts (social space, symbolic power, field, capital, habitus, distinction, practice, doxa, etc.) to the urban South, as well as comparatively across the North/South gap. We welcome papers that address diverse urban themes and problematics, with an emphasis on social divisions and urban inequalities (e.g. informal settlements, urban marginality, deindustrialization, segregation, gentrification, political conflict, urban environmental justice, planning, policing). Papers are welcome to apply or combine different methodologies. We seek papers that offer a distinct yet flexible Bourdieusian framing of Southern urbanism - applying and reshaping his concepts to the realities of 21st century urbanization in the majority world. We hope that this session could lead to the publication of a themed issue.

Taking Bourdieu to Nairobi. Urban inequality through the lens of an urban-rural economy of symbolic goods

» [Dr. Jochen Kibel](#) (Technische Universität Berlin)

Habitus Beyond Capital: Politics, Religion, and Middle-Class Lifestyles in Istanbul

» [Dr. MERVE AYGUN](#) (University of Amsterdam, AISSR)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Changed Dispositions: When Refugee Urbanism Meets An Emerging Stateless Habitus

» Dr. Aratrika Bhadra (Jawaharlal Nehru University and Galgotias University, India.)

Hiding in Plain Sight: Symbolic Power and the Reproduction of Urban Privilege in Retiro, Buenos Aires

» Ms. Agustina Vazquez Furgiuele (University of Sheffield)

Typologies of Ex-Territories: Relational Urbanism and Architectural Learning in the Negev Desert.

» Mr. Ron Gross (Bezalel school of Architecture Jerusalem), Ms. Ilana Rudashevski (Bezalel school of Architecture Jerusalem)

16:30

Oral : #12-2/4

#12 Claiming space: artistic practices, care and resistance in neoliberal cities (2/4)

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Prof. Marianna d'Ovidio (Convenor) and Emanuela Naclerio (Convenor)

Over the past decades, cultural production and the so-called creative industries have been celebrated as catalysts of urban growth, innovation and competitiveness, yet also criticised for their complicity in processes of displacement, gentrification and for deepening inequalities. In the neoliberal cities, the nexus between culture and urban development has often been shaped by logics of extraction and commodification, often exacerbating dynamics of exclusion. However, cultural, creative and artistic interventions have emerged as potential catalysts of resistance, care and solidarity, offering new ways of inhabiting and imagining contemporary urban environments. Mobilizing a variety of bodies, different and subvertive subjectivities, new or unexpected alliances and powerful imaginaries, artistic initiatives have been engaging in enabling more just, inclusive, and sustainable urban futures. At the same time these practices are exposed to the risk of being instrumentalised, co-opted or neutralised by dominant urban forces.

By bringing together diverse perspectives, this panel aims to critically explore artistic practices and interventions in contemporary cities as forms of resistance, care, conviviality and contestation, that challenge

the extractivist logic, reclaim spaces and experiment with alternative imaginaries of social life. Moreover, the panel examines those bottom-up artistic practices that focus on care, both in its ethical and political dimension, in contesting urban inequalities, feeding communities and cultivating spaces of solidarity.

We welcome empirical case studies, comparative perspectives, and conceptual or theoretical reflections. We invite contributions engaging with a wide range of methods, theories, and approaches that may address, but are not limited to, the following key themes and research questions:

- Bottom-up artistic placemaking and its role in challenging urban inequalities.
- Grassroots artistic practices' interventions in urban spaces and their relation with the urban governance.
- The roles that artistic initiatives - stemming from culture, arts or creative industries - play in resisting or/and reconfiguring models of urban development.
- Art-based interventions' articulation of alternative imaginaries of communities, belongings and care.
- The mobilisation of care to sustain solidarity practices and to subvert the dominant urban logics.
- The ambivalent and conflicting nature of bottom-up alternative practices when they are taken up, supported, or co-opted by institutional actors.
- The ecological contribution of grassroots artistic initiatives, particularly in terms of alternative economies, resource reuse, and post-growth imaginaries.

Restoring Place Attachment: Grassroots Cultural Practices in L'Aquila's Historic Centre

» Ms. Mariia Samareva (Gran Sasso Science Institute)

Between Two Seas: A Critical Urban Trail (CUT) as a Practice of Creative Resistance in a Global Megacity

» Mr. Serkan Taycan (Carleton University)

Exploring placemaking dilemmas in Vienna's Donaukanal

» Mr. Jorge Mosquera (Eutopian), Ms. Theresa König (superwien), Ms. Johanna Kalinke (University of Applied Arts Vienna)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Resisting urban neoliberal inclusion through queer cultural infrastructure: A transnational comparison of an artist-run gallery and a community-based archive

» Prof. Alison Bain (York University), Dr. Julie Podmore (John Abbott College)

From the Periphery to the Public: A Comparative Case Study of Popular Culture, Law, and Urban Struggle in São Paulo and East Boston

» Ms. Mariana Costa Morais (Johannes Kepler Universität Linz), Dr. Jules Rochielle Sievert (Northeastern University)

16:30

Oral : #2-2/2

#2 Housing and land taxation: value capture, politics, and the making of the (unequal) city (2/2)

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: Dr. Francesca Artioli (Convenor) and Alessandro Coppola (Convenor)

The taxation of land and housing plays a key role in producing the built environment and socio-spatial inequality. Taxes and tax reliefs operate as policy tools that either capture or forgive part of the value accumulated in, and extracted from, land and housing ownership and development. This value can be privatised (by owners, developers, etc.), or collectively appropriated by the state (at various levels) and potentially redistributed. Fiscal arrangements channel capital into specific areas of the city or types of assets, while fiscally attractive locations draw transnational real estate investors. Governments also use taxes and tax reliefs to pursue urban policy goals ranging from boosting housing provision and economic growth to promoting the energy retrofitting of the built environment (Weber 2010; Pollard 2018). The effects of taxes thus materialise in urban forms, from office towers to suburban housing developments driven by tax-relief investment schemes. More broadly, land and housing taxes are embedded in the political economy of national and local welfare (Kholodilin et al. 2022; Martin 2008). They contribute to shaping wealth and income inequality-by facilitating patrimonial transmission, for instance-and unequal access to housing.

Taxes are therefore far from neutral instruments: they embody power relations between the state and property actors-households, corporate

owners and developers alike-and reflect institutionalised beliefs around property rights, land rent, and the legitimate scope of state intervention. While often operating silently, fiscal tools can become matters of political struggle, especially when linked to issues of land and housing affordability, austerity, fiscal justice, socio-economic inequality, or climate change. The level and targets of land and housing taxation thus become objects of renewed political contestation.

Despite this ubiquitous and structural role, the taxation of land and housing remains largely under-researched in urban studies (Tapp and Kay 2019). This panel welcomes contributions from all disciplines and regions, employing qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods to engage with the fiscal-urban nexus.

In particular, contributions may explore:

- What is taxed (or not) across the property cycle-including ownership, development, acquisition, rental income, capital gains, family transmission, and tax reliefs-as well as what escapes taxation through optimisation and evasion strategies;
- Who is taxed (or not) in relation to types of owners (individual, corporate, non-resident, super-rich), uses of assets (primary homes, second homes, short- and long-term rentals, vacant properties), or types of land-use designation;
- How taxation shapes the built environment, influencing investment flows, land values, ownership and development patterns, and the geography of real estate acquisition and disposal;
- The relationship between taxation and socio-spatial inequality, notably how fiscal tools affect asset accumulation, household/corporate wealth, and access to affordable, sustainable housing, and how they balance private benefits and public returns;
- The politics of taxation, namely how fiscal tools are politicised, by whom, and how fiscal policies evolve-toward more progressive forms, or not, and for whose benefit.

By doing so, the panel aims to highlight the central yet often overlooked role of taxation in shaping the urban, while critically examining how old and new urban inequalities are produced-and sometimes contested-across the globe.

Techno-politics of land-value capture in Bogotá, Colombia

» Ms. Isabel Penaranda Currie (University of California, Berkeley)



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Generating Savings Through Taxation: Tax Policy, Capital Gains, and the Financialization of Housing in the United States and the United Kingdom

» [Mr. Maxence Dutilleul](#) (Sciences Po Paris)

How to redistribute profits from rising land values through potential taxes on planning gains? A case study set against the backdrop of Berlin's privatization of public land.

» [Ms. Florine Schueschke](#) (Universität Kassel)

The City as a Rent Machine: Land Value Maximisation as Fiscal Policy in Copenhagen

» [Dr. Mika Hyötyläinen](#) (University of Helsinki)

Land as Political Currency in Post-Conflict Mekelle: Lease Finance, Allocation Discretion, and the Making of Unequal Urban Citizenship

» [Mr. DANIEL NEGESE](#) (Mekelle University, School of Architecture and Urban Planning), [Mr. Yohannes Haile Woldu](#) (Mekelle University), [Mr. Semere Zeru Abraha](#) (University of Cincinnati)

The Just City: Two Principles of Distributive Justice, the Importance of Funding and the Relevance of Value Capture Instruments

» [Prof. Aleksandar Slaev](#) (Varna Free University), [Dr. Peter Nikolov](#) (Varna Free University), [Dr. Boriana Nozharova](#) (Varna Free University)

16:30

Oral : #40-2/3

#40 Urban timescapes: mobilizing temporality as a critical lens to map urban inequalities (2/3)

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: [Loraine Kennedy](#) (Convenor) and [S. Shakthi](#) (Convenor)

Conceptualizations of temporality provide an overarching framework for urban scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds to question how the workings of time across scales-from the everyday to the epochal-are shaping key dimensions of contemporary urbanization. An increasingly integrated global economy, massive migration, transnational cultural exchange facilitated by internet platforms and the climate crisis are all

forces that impact urbanisation processes, as well as the quotidian workings of city life, whether for employment, care, or leisure. In this panel, we will investigate the urban inequalities generated by these forces as temporal phenomena, both shaping and shaped by individual, collective and structural experiences of time.

This choice of framing aims to anchor temporality in debates in critical urban theory. It serves as a base to interrogate the still influential modernist paradigm that assumes that urbanization, like "development" more broadly, follows a linear pattern. We aim to disrupt this narrative by interrogating "timescapes" (Kitchin 2023) - the differentiated and unequal experiences of temporal regimes - in order to explore "pathways and possibilities for a more global urban studies" (Lawhon and Truelove, 2020).

Our reflections are guided by the large body of literature on temporalities, the most compelling of which go beyond time as history or calculation to examine socio-cultural engagements, how time is mediated, embodied and experienced (Burges and Elias 2016). Related strands of scholarship are concerned with futurity (Bunnell et al 2022; Chakkalakal and Ren 2022) and how digitalization, standing as a proxy for the current era, interfaces with urbanization (Datta 2022). Of particular relevance for this session is the idea that temporalities are produced, notably through the evolving relationship between time, technologies and socio-economic relations. As Kitchin (2023) argues, temporality is time that is not pre-given or universal but contingent, relational and heterogeneous. Temporalities both reflect and shape power dynamics, with individual experiences of time impacted by structural conditions while simultaneously driven by agential purpose (Sharma, 2014). Thus, temporality can be conceptualized as an intersectional type of social difference structured in specific political economic and geographical contexts.

For this panel, we invite papers that mobilize conceptualizations of temporality to interrogate the relationship between the social and the spatial in the persistence, contestation, and negotiation of urban inequalities, through empirical investigation in any geographical and regional context, but particularly those that are undergoing rapid urbanization. Also welcome are reflections that mobilize temporality as a critical lens to advance conceptual or theoretical propositions in relation to contemporary debates around inequality. Thematic entry points can include (but are not limited to): types and conditions of work in globally connected urban economies, in relation to meanings and usages of time; rhythms and characteristics of the extension of the built environment; access to public services, particularly through the lens of 'speed' or 'slowness'; politics and governance of



Continued from Monday, 20 July

futurity; evolving subjectivities related to urban life at the crossroads of past/present/future; articulations between modes of urbanisation and urban ecology; urban public spaces as sites for differentiated temporal engagements; and the short- and longer-term work of urban social movements.

Between “Just-in-Time” and “Running Out of Time”: Navigating Discordant Rhythms in a Redeveloping Chinese Garment Enclave

» Ms. Huixuan Huang (Durham University)

“Nothing has changed at all”: Applying a temporal lens to investigate the impacts of climate change in Cape Town’s vulnerable urban settlements.

» Ms. Julia Hope (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town),
Ms. Kanyisile Brukwe (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town)

Rhythms of the Rubbish: Interrogating Temporal Governance and Sociality in Taipei’s Hidden Infrastructure

» Dr. SHAO-YU HUANG (National Taipei University of Technology, Dpt. of Architecture)

Time between care and catastrophe: Negotiating values in Istanbul’s rebuilding

» Mr. Kaan Kubilay Asar (Central European University)

Urban Timescapes of Belonging and Loss: Unequal Temporal Regimes in a Changing Lisbon

» Ms. Denise Santos (Iscte-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Center for Research and Studies in Sociology), Dr. Graça Índias Cordeiro (Iscte-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Center for Research and Studies in Sociology)

16:30

Oral : #73-2/2

#73 Land-use conflicts in the making of the city (2/2)

Venue - SR 07

Organised by: Julie Pollard (Convenor), Lauriane Cailleux (Convenor), and Sabrina Neyret (Convenor)

In recent years, land-use conflicts have attracted growing scholarly attention as crucial entry points for understanding the contemporary production of urban space. Such conflicts illuminate both the material shaping of cities and the social and political processes that structure territorial dynamics. Emerging around urban development projects, the siting of public facilities, or environmental transformations, they crystallize tensions between competing visions for neighborhoods and cities, and highlight unequal access to urban resources. Political decisions regarding the location of infrastructures and amenities can have important social consequences for surrounding areas. These choices may fuel gentrification and the displacement of low-income groups or, conversely, contribute to the stigmatization and further impoverishment of specific neighborhoods. They also shape the way everyday life unfolds in the neighborhood or the city, whether in terms of mobility, social life or environmental quality.

These conflicts are now unfolding against the backdrop of new urban policy agendas, such as zero net land take, densification, retrofitting, and climate adaptation. While these agendas seek to address pressing environmental challenges, they can also generate new lines of contestation by reshaping spatial priorities and redistributing urban costs and benefits. In many cases, their social, financial, and spatial impacts are borne disproportionately by disadvantaged groups, thereby exacerbating existing urban inequalities and sparking renewed struggles over land use.

Building on these considerations, this panel invites contributions that engage with, while are not restricted to, the following areas:

(1) Actors and social representation. First, we seek to examine who mobilizes in land-use conflicts and how these mobilizations reproduce or disrupt existing social inequalities. Which groups have the resources, time, or institutional access to participate effectively in these conflicts? Do land-use controversies reinforce the dominance of already privileged groups? How do different social interests (along lines of class, gender, race or citizenship) engage with these conflicts?

(2) Narratives and framings. Second, land-use conflicts provide a fertile ground to investigate how inequalities are thematized, represented, and contested in public debates. What kinds of narratives emerge in these



Continued from Monday, 20 July

conflicts, and how do they frame issues of for instance environmental justice, social inequalities, or gendered experiences of space? In some cases, conflicts can bring latent inequalities to the surface, turning them into explicit objects of contestation. In others, they may sideline certain inequalities, privileging technocratic or depoliticized framings.

(3) Outcomes. Third, we aim to interrogate the outcomes of land-use conflicts in terms of urban inequalities. Do these conflicts sometimes lead to more equitable urban outcomes, by redistributing resources or giving voice to marginalized groups? Or do they exacerbate existing inequalities, for instance by accelerating gentrification, reinforcing exclusionary practices, or entrenching socio-spatial divisions?

We invite contributions from a wide range of theoretical, disciplinary and cross-disciplinary perspectives to explore these questions - including but not limited to urban studies, political ecology and critical policy studies. By bringing together diverse empirical contexts, methodological and conceptual frameworks, this panel aims to foster dialogue across disciplines and case studies across the globe. Ultimately, we seek to interrogate how land-use conflicts reveal and/or produce urban inequalities.

A Stand-In for the City?: Cemetery Disputes as Proxies for Narratives of Urban Change

» [Mr. Samuel Holleran](#) (RMIT University)

Land-use and sea-use conflicts: waterfront redevelopment and new narratives of centralities in the Barcelona metropolitan area

» [Dr. Marc Pradel-Miquel](#) (Universitat de Barcelona), [Ms. Elinor Chapman](#) (Universitat de Barcelona)

Planners with a heart of stone? Emotional narratives in the conflict over gravel extraction

» [Mr. Stefan Baars](#) (TU Dortmund University)

Shared interests, distinct narratives: framing inequalities in mobilizations against large infrastructure projects in Grenoble

» [Dr. Marine Luce](#) (Centre Emile Durkheim - Sciencepo Bordeaux)

Surface Disputes, Deep Divides: What Urban Sustainability Conflicts Reveal about Inequalities and Justice Challenges of Transitions

» [Dr. Annegret Haase](#) (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig), [Dr. Josef Kaiser](#) (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig), [Prof. Sina Leipold](#) (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig)

16:30

Oral : #46-2/2

#46 Urban divides: Housing and income inequality in an era of uncertainty and transformation (2/2)

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: [Dr. Lutfun Nahar Lata](#) (Convenor), [Prof. Daniel Kudla](#) (Convenor), and [Dr. Andrew Clarke](#) (Convenor)

This panel explores the enduring and emerging dynamics of housing and income inequality in urban and regional contexts across the globe. As cities face intersecting crises, from economic precarity and climate change to post-pandemic recovery and geopolitical instability, questions of who can afford to live, work and thrive in urban spaces have become increasingly urgent. Housing and income inequalities are not merely socioeconomic outcomes, but are actively produced and maintained through state policies, financial logics, spatial planning, labour regimes and everyday practices of exclusion and resistance.

We invite contributions that critically examine how old and new forms of inequality manifest in housing markets, employment structures and urban governance. We are particularly interested in comparative or cross-regional analyses that reveal shared mechanisms and divergent trajectories in the global North and South. Papers might explore topics such as:

- The financialisation of housing and its impact on affordability and displacement
- Informal housing and labour markets in rapidly urbanising regions
- The spatialisation of inequality through zoning, planning and infrastructural neglect
- Rent burden, eviction and homelessness as expressions of structural violence
- Urban social movements and policy interventions that contest inequality
- The racialised, gendered or classed dimensions of housing and income precarity
- New methodological or theoretical approaches to studying housing and income inequality



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

We welcome scholars from diverse disciplines (e.g., sociology, geography, urban planning, political science and anthropology) and from varied methodological backgrounds (e.g., ethnography, spatial analysis, survey, participatory research and critical theory). By bringing together global perspectives, this panel aims to foster comparative dialogue to illuminate both the specificity and generality of inequality in urban and regional life and to collectively imagine strategies for more just urban futures.

The Enclave Under Pressure: Generational Fractures and the Production of Housing and Urban Space in London's Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Community

» Mr. Martin Saps (King's College London)

Invisible Care and Housing Precarity: Single Mothers and Urban Housing Inequalities in Istanbul, Turkey

» Ms. Elifsu Şahin (Istanbul Technical University), Prof. Elif Alkay (Istanbul Technical University Department of City and Regional Planning)

Hierarchies Within Renting: Entry Costs and Asset-Based Inequality in Rental Housing Markets

» Ms. Dasom Hong (University of Oxford), Prof. Hoobin Lee (Kangwon National University)

Racialized Geographies of Displacement and the Financialization of Rental Housing

» Dr. Andrew Crosby (Carleton University), Ms. Monika Imeri (Carleton University), Ms. Sneha Sumanth (Carleton University), Ms. Michelle Liu (Carleton University)

The Glitter Next Door: Housing, Speculation, and the Geographies of Urban Inequality in Kampala, Austin, and Munich

» Dr. Sarah Klosterkamp (Goethe University Frankfurt), Prof. Caroline Faria (University of Texas at Austin)

16:30

Oral : #32-2/3

#32 Emotional Heritage, Urban Spaces, and the Politics of Memory (2/3)

Venue - HS 01

Organised by: macarena ibarra (Convenor) and Carolina Stefoni (Convenor)

Over the past three decades, cultural heritage has shifted from being understood as a fixed, material legacy defined by Western cultural codes to a dynamic, socially constructed process. Scholarship now highlights its relational character-rooted in memory, identity, and power-rather than treating heritage as a universal set of inherent values (Smith, 2006; Ashworth, Graham & Tunbridge, 2007; Harrison, 2013; Harvey, 2001; Waterton & Watson, 2015). Understanding both tangible and intangible heritage therefore requires acknowledging its multiple uses and contested meanings, often in tension with the "authorized heritage discourse" (Smith, 2006).

This panel invites contributions that approach heritage as an emotional matter (Waterton & Watson, 2013; Tolia-Kelly et al., 2017). As heritage is not only a set of representations but also lived experiences and affective encounters between people and places, it might generate pride and belonging, but also grief, nostalgia, anger, and claims of injustice. These emotions shape how communities engage with heritage sites, influencing practices of memory, interpretation, and use.

Focusing on urban contexts, the panel seeks to explore how emotions surrounding heritage mediate tensions, silences, and absences, while also creating possibilities for recognition, dialogue, and contestation among different actors and communities. Possible sub-themes include:

- Contested heritage and the politics of memory in cities
- Affective encounters with place and belonging
- Heritage as a site of social conflict, exclusion, or recognition
- Silences, absences, and forgetting in urban heritage
- Everyday, grassroots, and community-led practices of heritage
- Intersections of tangible and intangible heritage in contexts of change, gentrification, conservation or demolition.

We welcome contributions that engage with questions such as: How do emotions such as pride, grief, anger, or nostalgia shape engagements with urban heritage? In what ways do heritage practices mediate inclusion and exclusion in cities? How are silences and erasures emotionally experienced and contested? Can heritage create spaces for dialogue and reconciliation across divided or unequal communities?



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Submissions may draw on a wide range of methodological approaches, including oral history, ethnography, discourse analysis, visual methods, participatory and action research, or comparative case studies. The panel particularly encourages work that mobilizes theoretical perspectives from critical heritage studies (Smith, 2006; Harrison, 2013), memory studies (Halbwachs; Nora; Assmann), affect theory (Waterton & Watson, 2013; Tolia-Kelly et al., 2017), and spatial theory (Lefebvre; Massey).

By bringing together perspectives from sociology, anthropology, history, and related disciplines, this panel aims to foreground the affective dimensions of heritage in urban settings and to interrogate how memory, identity, and politics are negotiated through emotional engagements with the past in the city.

Urban Heritage as Emotional Practice: Partition Memory, Loss, and Belonging in Delhi and Lahore

» Mr. Abhishek Kumar (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Everyday Heritage and Urban Collective Memory in an Industrial Neighborhood: The Case of Fener, Zonguldak

» Dr. Dicle KIZILDERE (Gebze Technical University), Mrs. Hazal Gebes (Gebze Technical University)

Between Continuity and Co-Optation: Heritage Narratives and Anti-Gentrification Movements

» Ms. Chiara Tarulli (Independent Researcher)

Constructing Mongolness: Contested Heritage and the Politics of Ethnic Identity in Urban Inner Mongolia

» Mr. Lingchen Kong (University of Cambridge)

16:30

Oral : #23-2/3

#23 MEGAPROJECT MIRAGES: Understanding the Socio-political Lives of Unbuilt, Incomplete, and Over-Promised Urban Development (2/3)

Venue - HS 02

Organised by: Dr. David Gogishvili (Convenor), David Sichinava (Convenor), and Dr. Suzanne Harris-Brandts (Convenor)

Spectacular megaprojects are key tools for urban governance, supporting nation-building, geopolitical claims, elite boosterism, and property speculation. Amid the intensified global mobility of capital, policies, and urban imaginaries, cities embrace these projects to signify prosperity, with proposals becoming increasingly dramatic and technologically sophisticated (Haines, 2011). Yet, their long timelines mean years pass before tangible outcomes. Meanwhile, these proposals function as powerful 'megaproject mirages'-projects with potent socio-political lives even when they remain entirely immaterial.

Current scholarship on megaprojects acknowledges their high-risk nature but tends to focus on built examples. This overlooks the strategic advantages of schemes that are never completed. The concept of project 'failure' is, therefore, relative (Temenos & Lauermaann, 2020); there are many benefits for politicians, developers, and architects in unbuilt works (Harris-Brandts & Gogishvili, 2018). These mirages, which resonate with geographical scholarship on spectrality, shape urban economies and political narratives, having active lives on 'paper' (Dogmus & Nielsen, 2020). Their abandonment can thus be seen as an informal policy, the material consequence of state entrepreneurialism that produces ghost housing and urban failures (Liu et al. 2025). Local communities incur significant costs from these schemes as they fuel adjacent speculation, divert public investments, and politically marginalise residents. These real impacts from immaterial schemes highlight the need for new conceptual and methodological tools to analyse their effects, and papers in this session should unpack these key themes.

Arguing that we need to reconsider the notion of failure, this session examines unbuilt, incomplete, and over-promised large-scale urban projects. It explores the utility of megaproject mirages for their proponents while analysing the significant community costs. We invite papers addressing the following (and more) questions: How do these mirages derive their power from specific languages, discourses, and imagery? What is the politico-economic utility of over-promised projects? What are the tangible impacts of seemingly immaterial proposals; on urban land, housing, and communities? What different forms can 'megaproject mirages' take?



Continued from Monday, 20 July

We seek proposals that study 'megaproject mirages' across diverse settings-from speculative landscapes of financial centres to state-led visions of emerging economies-and particularly encourage a comparative dialogue. We welcome contributions from a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives that examine the consequences of these unbuilt projects.

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Harris-Brandts, S., & Gogishvili, D. (2018). Architectural rumors: Unrealized megaprojects in Baku, Azerbaijan and their politico-economic uses. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 59(1), 73-97.

Liu A., Jia M. & Chen C. (2025) From speculative dreams to ghost housing realities: homeless homeowners and failed future-making in urban development. *Urban Geography*, 49 (8), 1821-1841.

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Excavating Infrastructure-Led Development: The Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway as a Megaproject Mirage and the Production of Peripheral Stagnation in the Case of Türkiye

» Mr. Muhammed Emirhan Karaman (Izmir Institute of Technology), Mr. Mehmet Penpecioglu (Izmir Institute of Technology)

Performativity of Failure: Constructing the Real Estate Value of Elbtower

» Dr. Dasha Kuletskaya (ETH Zürich)

IN EVENT WE TRUST: HOW MEGAEVENTS AFFECT URBAN GOVERNANCE IN GLOBAL SOUTH. CASE OF BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

» Dr. Anar Valiyev (ADA University), Ms. Fidan Namazova (ADA University)

Negotiating promises in the Port City of Buenaventura, Colombia

» Ms. Pamela Núñez Basante (Universität wien)

16:30

Oral : #13-2/2

#13 Inequalities in Urban Walkability: Vulnerabilities, Policies, and Mobilizations (2/2)

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Eliott Ducharme (Convenor), Dr. JEROME MONNET (Convenor), and Dr. Martha Lilia de Alba González (Convenor)

Long overlooked in research and public policy, walking in urban areas is beginning to emerge as a major issue, as the need to rethink urban models to make them more sustainable becomes urgent (Demailly et al., 2021).

However, as walking emerges on political agendas, many aspects are still insufficiently considered. Policies promoting pedestrian areas tend to focus on city centers and commercial zones, often neglecting the outskirts (Monnet, 2022). Walking practices also suffer from the historical bias in the design of circulation spaces, which were primarily conceived by and for able-bodied, young, and active men. The specific needs of women, people with disabilities, children, and the elderly are not yet sufficiently considered (McFarlane, 2021; Valdivia, 2018). These groups tend to rely on walking and often travel in difficult conditions (Herrmann-Lunecke et al., 2020; Middleton, 2022).

Due to a lack of investment in pedestrian infrastructure, disadvantaged urban residents are forced to walk in unpleasant and dangerous conditions (Figueroa Martínez, 2023). Poorly maintained sidewalks, exposure to pollution and insecurity shape their walking experience (Martínez, 2019). Such inequalities are most apparent in the Global South, but are also present in the Global North, where they tend to be less visible. This call for papers is structured around three themes:

Issue 1. Factors contributing to vulnerability when walking in cities. Recent studies have challenged traditional approaches to "walkability," which focus too heavily on infrastructure, and have highlighted the wide range of factors that hinder walking and increase the vulnerability of certain population groups (Battista & Manaugh, 2018; Middleton, 2022). This theme seeks to foster dialogue around the diverse and intersecting factors that create vulnerability in walking practices. It focuses in particular on the issue of intersectionality (Jirón et al., 2023) and the articulation of different aspects of urban production (social, material, symbolic) in the creation of socio-spatial inequalities.



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Issue 2. New methodologies for understanding experienced inequalities. Recent approaches to mobility inequalities have emphasized the lived experience of urban dwellers (Avilés, 2020; Martínez, 2019). Understanding inequalities through the embodied experience of walking requires the development of new methodologies: approaches such as the go-along (Kusenbach, 2003), sombreo (Jirón, 2012), travel diaries (Lazo Corvalán et al., 2024), mental maps created in focus groups (Ducharme, 2025), and many others have emerged in recent years. This theme calls on authors to present their methodological innovations and related questions.

Issue 3. Public policies and citizen mobilization
Issues related to walking for the most vulnerable city dwellers are beginning to give rise to public policies, some of which are innovative. One example is the "Senderos seguros: camina libre, camina segura" project, which was implemented in the municipality of Iztapalapa (Mexico City) and subsequently extended to the rest of the metropolis. We invite contributions that critically analyze such emerging policies. Civil society is also beginning to address the issue of inequalities related to walking. Numerous NGOs are developing around this issue, and mobilizations are springing up. We are interested in work analyzing these mobilizations, their actors, and their modes of action.

Crippling the Walk: A mobile autoethnography of wheelchair use in London, UK

» Ms. Katie Pennick (University of Westminster)

From Indicators to Experiences: Methodological Innovations for Understanding Urban Walking Inequalities

» Dr. Oscar Azzimonti (University of Milano-Bicocca), Mrs. Sara Della Santina (University of Milan-Bicocca)

Experiencing walkability through walk-alongs with older adults – Insights from creative research

» Ms. Julie Pélat (Université Gustave Eiffel), Dr. Catherine Gabaude (Université Gustave Eiffel), Dr. Jimmy Armoogum (Université Gustave Eiffel)

"QUARTIER" Qualities, Uses, and Actors of Sidewalks: An exploratory study on the indicators and criteria of quality of an urban infrastructure ?

» Mr. Basile Debuys (Lille), Prof. Julia Froty (Institut national de la recherche scientifique)

Walking under stress: gendered climate vulnerabilities along Belo Horizonte's BRT Amazonas Corridor

» Dr. Natalia Villamizar Duarte (Newcastle University), Dr. Ana Marcela Ardila Pinto (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG)), Dr. Bárbara Abreu Matos (Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto), Dr. Gabriela Cicci Faria (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG))

Crowdsourced Digital Narratives as a Methodology to Identify Walking Vulnerability: Youth Commuting Experiences in Envigado, Colombia

» Mr. Oscar Perilla (Um-Welt), Dr. Jaime Hernandez-Garcia (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana)

16:30

Workshop : AMC 2 - Slot2

Urban Historians Speaking Back to Urban Social Theory: A Discussion of 'The Cambridge History of Urban Europe' (2/2)

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: Prof. Stijn Oosterlynck (Discussant), Prof. Patrick Le Galès (Convenor, Panel Chair), Prof. Tommaso Vitale (Discussant), Prof. Jennifer Robinson (Discussant), and Prof. Judit Bodnar (Discussant)

Although urban studies prides itself on interdisciplinarity, sustained conversations across its various disciplines remain rare (Wolman et al., 2024). Despite shared thematic interests and the conviction that the 'urban' cannot be understood through a single discipline, scholarly knowledge tends to be siloed. This is especially true for urban history and contemporary urban studies fields such as urban sociology. Though they originated from "a single field of discourse," they have long diverged (Sewell, 2005), reinforced by institutional separations in research units, conferences, and publication circuits.

Nonetheless, urban social theorists have consistently drawn on urban history. From Weber's comparative-historical method to understand the Western city (Weber, [1958] 1966), to postcolonial critiques of Eurocentric urban discourses (Roy, 2015), history has informed theory. Urban historians, too, engage with social theory (Prak, 2018), yet, as Sewell notes, they "rarely speak back," prompting his call that "social



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

theory badly needs a serious infusion of historical habits of mind" (Sewell, 2005: 6).

This double 'Author Meets Critics' session seeks to foster dialogue between urban historians and urban social theorists, placing historical analysis at the heart of urban theory. Given the complexity of interdisciplinary exchange, two sessions are proposed to allow for deeper intellectual engagement. Both sessions will center on the forthcoming edited volume *The Cambridge History of Urban Europe*, to be published in autumn 2025. Spanning three volumes, the work combines rich empirical history with theoretical reflections on cities, comparison, citizenship, governance, globalization, and capitalism.

The first session will focus on Volume 2: Medieval and Early Modern Europe, covering European urbanism from 700 to 1850, edited by Patrick Lanschner and Maarten Prak. The editors will present the volume's main arguments. Discussants Patrick Lantschner, Patrick Le Galès, Liza Weinstein and Bert De Munck will then explore its contributions to urban social theory, particularly regarding citizenship, capitalism, comparison, Weber, and the singularity of urban Europe.

This session will be chaired and organized by Stijn Oosterlynck.

The second session will address Volume 3: Modern and Contemporary Europe, edited by Dorothee Brantz and Gabor Sonkoly. Topics such as urban citizenship, mobility, and governance-central to both historians and sociologists-will be discussed in light of current authoritarian politics and assimilationist policies. The session will explore how historical thinking can illuminate the present and suggest alternative forms of urban citizenship and governance.

Editors will introduce the volume's arguments, followed by contributions from Jenny Robinson (Geography, UCL), Stijn Oosterlynck (Sociology, Antwerp), Judit Bodnar (Sociology, Anthropology, CEU Vienna), and Rosemary Wakeman (History, Fordham; attendance confirmed). This session will be chaired and organized by Patrick Le Galès.

Urban Historians Speaking Back to Urban Social Theory: A Discussion of 'The Cambridge History of Urban Europe'

» [Prof. Stijn Oosterlynck](#) (University of Antwerp), [Prof. Patrick Le Galès](#) (Sciences Po Paris), [Dr. Patrick Lanschner](#) (University College London), [Dr. Dorothee Brantz](#) (TU Berlin), [Dr. Gabor Sonkoly](#) (Paris Institute for Advanced Study)

16:30

Oral : #67-2/4

#67 Inclusive Cities. Reading inclusion challenges through the lens of urban space (2/4)

Venue - HS 07

Organised by: Carolina Pacchi (Convenor) and Silvia Gullino (Convenor)

Cities are dynamic and contested spaces where global challenges converge-social inequality, environmental degradation, economic disparities, and political tensions- all converge more acutely. Urban spaces are not the backdrop of these issues, rather a central arena where they are produced, experienced and potentially addressed.

This panel seeks multidisciplinary contributions that apply a spatial lens to understand how inclusion is made, unmade and remade. By focusing on spatiality, this session aims to illuminate how inclusiveness is not only a social or political framework, but also a lived experience profoundly shaped by urban form, infrastructure, governance, and everyday interactions.

We invite contributions that critically examine how cities can be sites of inclusiveness-where diverse populations coexist, access rights and opportunities equitably, and where innovative policies are tested to tackle intersecting social, environmental, economic, and political issues. We invite scholars, practitioners, and policymakers working across urban studies, geography, sociology, environmental science, planning, and related fields to engage with themes that foreground spatiality as both a lens and a means in addressing inclusiveness challenges.

Key Themes and Sub-themes:

- Spatial Dynamics of Social Inclusion and Exclusion: How do urban spatial arrangements, segregation, and accessibility shape belonging and marginalisation in cities? What roles do housing, transport, and public space play in reinforcing or disrupting social equity?
- Environmental Justice in Urban Contexts: How are climate risks, pollution, and green space unevenly distributed across urban areas? How can spatial tools support more just environmental policies?
- Economic Inclusion and Urban Spatial Economies: What are the spatial dimensions of economic opportunity and disadvantage? How do



Continued from Monday, 20 July

location, zoning, and redevelopment affect job access, informal economies, and resilience?
- Political Geography and Governance of Inclusive Cities: How do governance, participation, and spatial control influence inclusive urban futures? What role do policies, planning, and citizen engagement play in shaping equitable cities?

Research Questions:

- In what ways does a spatial lens reveal the complex intersectional nature of social, economic, environmental, and political challenges in urban contexts?
- How can urban policies and planning integrate principles of spatial justice to promote inclusiveness across diverse populations?
- What spatial methods (e.g., GIS, spatial ethnography, participatory mapping) best capture lived experiences of urban inclusion/exclusion?
- How are global challenges (e.g. climate change, migration, digital divides) spatially experienced in cities, and what innovative spatial interventions respond effectively?

Methods, Theories, and Approaches Invited:

We welcome empirical, theoretical, and interdisciplinary work on spatial inclusion in cities-ranging from GIS, ethnography, and participatory methods to critical theories like spatial justice. Case studies and policy analyses from global contexts are invited, particularly those examining how planning and governance can promote more inclusive urban futures. Empirical studies using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed spatial methods, including GIS-based analyses, spatial data visualisations, spatial ethnography, and participatory mapping.

This session aims to foster a robust dialogue among researchers and practitioners who view cities as critical spatial arenas where complex global challenges and inclusiveness intersect, offering pathways toward equitable and sustainable urban lives for all.

Politicising death: how Muslim burial plots in Western Europe are contested and negotiated 'on the ground'

» [Ms. Eva Verschueren](#) (Universiteit Antwerpen), Dr. Imane Kostet (University of Antwerp), Prof. Gert Verschraegen (University of Antwerp)

Making the city – one room at a time: inclusion, exclusion and boundaries in shared housing arrangements

» [Prof. Eduardo Barberis](#) (University of Urbino Carlo Bo), [Dr. Andrea Abbati](#) (University of Urbino Carlo Bo), Prof. Paolo Boccagni (University of Trento)

Inclusive Regeneration? 'Feminist Cities' and remaking spaces of power.

» [Dr. Emma Ormerod](#) (Newcastle University), [Dr. Hanna Ruszczyk](#) (University of Sunderland)

Complexifying the Fifteen minute city fix: deprivation, mobility and unintended consequences in Cardiff

» [Dr. Margot Rubin](#) (University of Cardiff), [Dr. Carmen Guida](#) (University of Naples Federico II)

16:30

Oral : #7-2/4

#7 The housing-wealth-nexus. Inequality in the age of rentier capitalism (2/4)

Venue - HS 16

Organised by: Agustín Cocola-Gant (Convenor), Sònia Vives Miró (Convenor), and Georgia Alexandri (Convenor)

The overarching aim of this session is to explore how the consolidation of housing as a key asset for storing and generating wealth is deepening inequalities between property owners and non-owners. Over recent decades, property ownership has become a central pillar of wealth accumulation for both households and institutional investors, with rising housing prices serving as a major driver of financial gains. However, while some individuals and institutions have expanded their property portfolios, evidence shows a simultaneous growth in the number of households without any property at all. This dual trend underscores a widening gap between landlords and tenants-an inequality particularly visible in the current context of generation rent. Escalating house prices, restrictive mortgage access, and stagnant wages have collectively diminished homeownership opportunities, especially for younger generations. As a result, increasing numbers are confined to the private rental sector, facing conditions that make it ever more difficult to transition to ownership. Moreover, the structure of the rental market-where tenants continuously transfer income to landlords-functions as a mechanism of upward wealth redistribution, reinforcing social hierarchies and constraining the well-being and life trajectories of those excluded from ownership.



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

In light of these dynamics, this session invites research papers and theoretical contributions addressing the following key themes:

Wealth Extraction from Housing

Who are the key actors extracting wealth from housing, and through which mechanisms? To what extent is household wealth increasingly derived from rentier practices? Which assets and real estate products—such as private rentals, short-term and temporary accommodations, or buy-to-leave investments, among others—are being used for wealth accumulation, and by whom?

Wealth Inequality and Intersectionality

How does property ownership contribute to wealth inequality, and how are these disparities mediated by class, gender, race, and age? In what ways does housing function as a driver of impoverishment and social stratification? How is generation rent experiencing economic and social exclusion within increasingly financialised housing systems? What are the spatial logics of housing-related inequalities?

Alternative Futures

What policy measures could reassert housing's social function and curb speculative investment? Which strategies and interventions can effectively reduce housing inequalities and enhance affordability?

Housing classes to asset-based classes – 60 years of theorizing the housing-class-nexus in changing societies

» Dr. Walter Matznetter (University of Vienna)

Towards new trade-offs between housing and pensions? Funded pensions and rental housing decommodification

» Dr. Lorenzo Vidal (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Housing Precarity and the Financialization of Renting

» Dr. Richard Waldron (University College Dublin), Dr. Gertjan Wijburg (KU Leuven)

Mapping Racist Covenants: Housing Injustice, Racial Segregation, and Wealth Inequality in Tucson, AZ (USA)

» Dr. Jason Jurjevich (University of Arizona)

Rental housing at the frontier of capital accumulation in Latin America

» Prof. CAROLINA D'ALMEIDA (Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, University of São Paulo), Prof. Paula Santoro (University of São Paulo (FAU-USP)), Mr. Felipe Ursini (University of São Paulo (FAU-USP))

16:30

Oral : #84-2/2

#84 Visual and Co-Creative Methods in Urban Studies: Rethinking Spaces Through Arts-Based Inquiry (2/2)

Venue - HS 21

Organised by: Helena Segarra (Convenor) and Miriam Haselbacher (Convenor)

Visual and co-creative arts-based methods have gained increasing recognition in urban research for their capacity to challenge dominant epistemologies, capture lived experiences, and amplify underrepresented voices (Carpenter and Horvath, 2022; Trafí-Prats and Castro-Varela, 2022; Kroismayr et al., 2025). These methods also offer an entry point into understanding space not merely as a container or static backdrop, but as an ongoing production shaped by social, material, and symbolic interactions (Lefebvre, 1991; Massey, 2005). This session critically engages with arts-based methodologies and 1) its potentials in enabling nuanced readings of space across diverse geographies, be they metropolitan neighborhoods, peri-urban zones, rural spaces, or borderlands, without reifying rigid spatial categories and with 2) its limits due to e.g. material and political factors as well as tensions between arts and science (Heines et al., 2024).

By bringing together contributions that expand and diversify the methodological toolkit of urban studies, this session explores how visual and co-creative methods illuminate spatial continuities, tensions, and overlaps. For instance, how might arts-based research contribute to understanding cities and urban life? How do co-creative methods reveal power dynamics, shifting land use, contested identities, or environmental concerns? How can participatory processes reframe local knowledge in ways that disrupt official narratives of spatial development or neglect? What methodologies facilitate the participation of underrepresented groups in urban research? Furthermore, we consider the methodological and ethical implications of working co-creatively with communities. What does it mean to "collaborate" in contexts shaped by power asymmetries, historical marginalization, or extractive research legacies? How can researchers remain accountable to the communities they engage with, and how might artistic practices offer alternative routes to reciprocity, care, and long-term engagement?



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

In this session we welcome contributions that grapple with such questions and invite scholars, practitioners, and artists to explore the role of visual and co-creative methods in urban spaces and beyond. By centering artistic and participatory practices, we seek to examine how visual tools, such as photography, video, mapping, drawing, and print, as well as collaborative processes, such as co-design, walking interviews, and community-based installations, can offer situated, affective, and embodied insights into spatial experiences and transformations.

We invite submissions that engage with, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Visual explorations of space, place, and identity
- Arts-based research that studies contested, negotiated and (re)claimed spaces
- Reflections on the use of specific visual and co-creative methods and their ethical implication
- Potential and limits of visual arts-based approaches
- Intersections of aesthetics, activism, and knowledge production
- engaging with alternative ways of perceiving and experiencing space, moving beyond conventional spatial categories such as the urban-rural divide

The session aims to foster dialogue across disciplines, including but not limited to urban studies, geography, anthropology, visual sociology, design, and the arts. By focusing on the creative and collaborative dimensions of spatial research, this session seeks to open up new methodological horizons that can reframe how we understand and engage with complex, interconnected geographies.

Mapping Everyday Resilience: A Co-Creative Photovoice and Walkshop Study of Post-Industrial-to-Green Re-Use Along the Ogallala Aquifer Margin

» [Dr. Asma Mehan](#) (Texas Tech University)

Sensory Walking: Visual and Co-Creative Methods for Researching the Nocturnal City

» [Dr. Nitin Bathla](#) (University of Zurich)

Decoding contemporary urban and industrial interfaces: an artistic-cartographic mapping of Vienna's peripheries

» [Ms. Dorothee Huber](#) (TU Wien), Prof. Ute Schneider (TU Wien), Prof. Angelika Psenner (TU Wien)

A Good Enough Place: Traces of Care, Use, and Everyday Life in Kings Heath

» [Prof. Melanie Jordan](#) (Coventry University), Prof. Andrew Hewitt (University of Northampton)

Architectural Essay Film as Arts-Based Inquiry: Urban Surfaces and Kissing Architecture

» [Ms. Burcu Korkut](#) (Istanbul Technical University)

16:30

Oral : #22-2/2

#22 Morphologies of Mobility: Spatial Form, Movement, and Urban Inequality (2/2)

Venue - HS 27

Organised by: Kriti Gera (Convenor) and Gerhard Bruyns (Convenor)

Urban morphology, the physical form, layout, and evolution of cities, plays a decisive role in shaping everyday mobilities, yet this relationship remains under-explored in urban studies. Mobility is not only about the capacity to move but also about how movement constitutes social identities, belonging, and exclusion. The structuring force of space shapes everyday life, modes of displacement and production, and opportunities for social participation (Harvey, 1989; Kaufmann, 2002). Beyond physical characteristics, economic and socio-cultural processes of urban form impact everyday mobility through new forms of knowledge and social connections (Panerai et al., 2004). Understanding how morphology channels, constrains, or enables mobility, and vice versa, is vital for addressing questions of inequality and justice in contemporary urban contexts.

This is especially pressing in the Global South, where rapid, often unregulated urbanisation produces informal settlements, fragmented infrastructures, and uneven development. Here, mobility is deeply conditioned by spatial form, which can exacerbate socio-economic exclusion, limit access to livelihoods and services, and reinforce gendered or class-based constraints. Conversely, these morphologies also reveal practices of resilience and survival, as residents carve out alternative mobilities and reshape space through everyday action. Global migration flows, climate change-induced displacements, and shifting urban economies further demand attention to how morphology



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

and mobility interact. Moving beyond the "triple crisis" (Sheller, 2018) to consider emerging polycrisis, it is crucial to highlight new inequalities and challenges in socio-spatial mobilities. The rapid proliferation of technologies and big data through AI, machine learning, and neural networks requires urgent examination of the intricate relationship between urban morphology and mobilities. While these tools expand analytical capacity, they also introduce epistemological and ethical challenges that may reproduce inequalities.

Building on these discussions, we pose two central questions: What are the consequences of the interrelationship between mobility and urban morphology? How does this relationship produce new forms of inequalities and/or offer insights for more inclusive and connected urban futures? We invite papers that explore not only how built form structures movement but also how mobility practices resist, adapt to, or transform morphologies. By bringing together diverse methodological and theoretical perspectives, this session foregrounds the importance of morphology-mobility linkages as a critical frontier for urban research.

We welcome contributions focused on, but not limited to, the following sub-themes and guiding questions:

1. Centre-Periphery: How do morphological differences between urban cores and peripheries shape mobility, access, and inequality?
2. Global North vs Global South: How do morphology-mobility relations unfold across diverse urban contexts?
3. Migration and Marginalisation: How do migrants and marginalised groups navigate or transform morphological constraints in their everyday mobilities?
4. Lived Identities: How do urban forms influence lived experiences of movement, belonging, and identity across gender, class, and culture?
5. Emerging Practices: How do informal or tactical spatial practices reshape urban form and mobility systems?
6. The Role of Technology: How are AI, big data, and digital tools redefining morphology-mobility analysis, and what ethical challenges follow?
7. Exploratory Methods and Future Research: Which innovative, participatory, or sensory methods best reveal mobility inequality guided by spatial form?

Mobility, Morphology and Activity Space Segregation Across Europe

» [Dr. Anirudh Govind](#) (KU Leuven), Dr. Olena Holubowska (University of Neuchâtel), Dr. Ate Poorthuis (KU Leuven)

Beyond the X-Minute City: Assessing the Potential for Proximity-Based Accessibility by Bike in an Adapted Framework for Rural Regions

» [Ms. Caro Huth](#) (Insitute for Geography and Geoecology, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology), Prof. franziska x. meinherz (Insitute for Geography and Geoecology, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology)

Urban Form, Bodily Mobility, and the Production of Margins in Kochi

» [Ms. Sunija Muppathupara Vijayan](#) (Independent Researcher)

A Single Axis, Multiple Mobilities: Linear Morphology and Mobility Inequality in Contemporary Tirana

» [Dr. Doriana Musaj](#) (Polis University)

16:30

Oral : #103-2/4

#103 Regeneration and the Remaking of Urban Inequalities (2/4)

Venue - HS 30

Organised by: Prof. Paul Watt (Convenor) and Zheng Wang (Convenor)

Regeneration has been a prominent feature of urban development across cities in the Global North and South for several decades. Whilst regeneration discourses are spatially specific, their broad underlying contours are fairly consistent, i.e. physical redevelopment promoted by the state with variable levels of private sector fiscal and governmental involvement. Regeneration is often associated with the remaking of urban inequalities, for example via enhancing processes of state-led gentrification in the Global North (Watt and Smets, 2017; Morris, 2019; Watt, 2021), or through large-scale resettlements in the Global South and East (Goodfellow et al.; Wang, 2022; Williams et al., 2022). In this session, we wish to highlight the manifold ways that regeneration reshapes contemporary landscapes of urban inequalities, which may include gentrification but is by no means restricted to gentrification-related issues. Hence, we are interested in theoretical, methodological and empirical research papers which explore how regeneration remakes urban inequalities along class, racial/ethnic, gender, disability, religious and intersectional lines, and this includes the spatial contours of such social inequalities.



Continued from Monday, 20 July

Some of the research questions that we are interested in include:

- 'what are the aims of regeneration projects vis-à-vis urban inequalities?';
- 'how do the end results of regeneration change such inequalities?'; 'how do these changes match onto the original regeneration aims?';
- 'to what extent do urban political economies determine or pre-determine how regeneration reshapes inequalities?';
- 'how does contestation and resistance from below affect the manner in which regeneration reshapes urban inequalities?';
- 'does regeneration produce socially uneven inequalities in that some inequalities are ameliorated whilst others are enhanced or vice versa?';
- 'do certain types of regeneration exacerbate urban inequalities more than others?'; and 'what are the policy implications of regeneration vis-à-vis urban inequalities?'
- 'One theme which could be explored is how the temporal process of regeneration unfolds over time - often elongating way beyond the original deadlines - and therefore 'how does such regeneration elongation itself change urban inequalities?'

We are interested in papers which explore the above themes and questions using a range of methods and theoretical approaches.

Regeneration, Informality and the Remaking of Urban Inequalities: Exploring the Hypothesis of Informal Gentrification

» [Mr. Juan Perez Ventura](#) (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM))

Countering gentrification: waterfront regeneration as an evolving state project in Shanghai

» [Dr. Yi Feng](#) (Nanjing University), Prof. David Shaw (Nanjing University)

Unintended Outcomes of Urban Regeneration: The Role of Marketplaces in Mediating Inequalities

» [Ms. francesca ru](#) (Uppsala University)

A Real Youth-Oriented Urban Regeneration? A Case Study of Commercial Renewal on Huaihai Road, Shanghai

» [Ms. Jingyi Qin](#) (University College London (UCL))

The Empty Flats in Resettlement Housing at Poly Longyue Estate, Guangzhou: an Instance of Social-Spatial Segregation

» [Ms. Xuanjing Wang](#) (University of Cambridge)

16:30

Oral : #1-2/4

#1 Youth, (Un)Care and the City (2/4)

Venue - HS 31

Organised by: Rachel Almeida (Convenor), Prof. Sabine Knierbein (Convenor), and Dr. Nir Cohen (Convenor)

In much of the world, young people have been systematically excluded from decision-making processes concerning urban development and public spaces. Whether through social and territorial marginalisation or through the invisibility of their experiences in policy design, youth are often reduced to "secondary users" of urban spaces, if not treated as a threat to public order. Such a perspective overlooks the fact that young people are protagonists in the social production of space, elaborating creative practices, modes of circulation, everyday resistances, and political mobilisations that fundamentally challenge and reconfigure ways of inhabiting the city.

Far from being passive recipients of urban policies, youth constitute themselves as both collective and individual subjects who articulate desires, practices of care, distinctive aesthetics, and insurgent forms of belonging. Whether through peripheral cultural production, the reappropriation of squares, streets, and public facilities, the experience of new gendered forms of belonging, the creative use of digital technologies, or the building of networks of solidarity and community support, young people exercise careful agency over urban space. These practices, often rendered invisible by formal policies, reveal dynamics that expand the notion of the right to the city towards debates about urban un(care), question exclusionary logics, and challenge hegemonic models of urban planning.

This session brings together contributions that explore the role of youth in the social production of space and in forms of political incidence across distinct geopolitical contexts. We are interested in understanding how factors such as territory, race, class, gender, education, and generation interact to shape the experiences of youth, influencing their practices of use, access, and appropriation of urban space. Equally relevant are analyses of how mobility, safety, technology, and social media affect the presence and organisation of youth in urban space, and their creative and collective responses to these challenges.

We are especially interested in the role of peripheral youth as intellectuals, resisting artists, and cultural agents who shape new urban



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

horizons through different forms of solidarity and care, as well as innovative and aesthetic types of cultural products. This insurgent knowledge, especially when emerging from the margins, has the potential to influence public debate and inform more caring and democratic urban alternatives.

The session welcomes methodological explorations that articulate youth-oriented research, practice, and collaborative action, such as socio-spatial workshops, mappings, focus groups, exhibitions, and other forms of co-production of knowledge with young people and local communities that seek to combine embodied and virtual spaces into 'vireal' spaces of youth.

We seek contributions that combine empirical analyses, methodological advances, and theoretical reflections, exploring both localised case studies and complementary or transnational approaches. Of particular interest is the promotion of dialogue between researchers, artists, activists, and policymakers working in the fields of youth, urban space, and collective care. By emphasising creative practices, conflicts and possibilities of transformation led by young people, this session sheds light on under-recognised dimensions of youthful urban life and contributes to the construction of fairer cities learning from the new forms of literacy that young people bring along.

Urban commoning as real utopias: using engaged research to advance relational wellbeing among southern youth in Bogota, Cape Town, & Delhi

» Dr. Adam Cooper (Human Sciences Research Council), Ms. Diana Sanchez-Betancourt (Human Sciences Research Council), Ms. Kinjal Sampat (Indian Institute of Human Settlements), Ms. Geetika Anand (University of Cape Town)

Challenging symbolic power through collective care practices in female youth work

» Mr. Vojin Serbedzija (Humboldt University of Berlin)

Youth-Led Urban Care under Conditions of Un-Care: The Emergence of Architecture Youth Community in Baghdad

» Mr. Yousif Al-waeli (architecture Youth Community Organization), Mr. Mohammed Al-Taiee (architecture Youth Community Organization), Mr. Laith Enieem (architecture Youth Community Organization), Mr. Ahmed Saad Jaafar Al-Ibadi (architecture Youth Community Organization)

Youth, Cultural Practices, and Urban (Un)Care: The Case of the Entre Jardins Collective in São Paulo

» Dr. Luiz Guilherme Rivera de Castro (Mackenzie University), Dr. Mauro Claro (Mackenzie University)

E-welfare in the city. Physical and digital spaces for social inclusion in the Milan Metropolitan Area

» Prof. Stefania Sabatinelli (Politecnico di Milano), Prof. Paola Savoldi (Politecnico di Milano)

16:30

Oral : #17-2/3

#17 Climate adaptation from below: community-led responses to environmental challenges in the Global South (2/3)

Venue - HS 32

Organised by: Dr. Francesca Ferlicca (Convenor), Dr. Sonia Roitman (Convenor), and Dr. Jakub Galuszka (Convenor)

Cities in the Global South face disproportionate impacts from climate change, environmental degradation, and extreme weather events, often exacerbating existing urban inequalities. While top-down climate adaptation strategies dominate policy discourse, grassroots initiatives led by communities, neighbourhood organizations, and informal networks represent crucial yet underrepresented responses to environmental challenges within the mainstream discussion to environmental challenges. These community-led adaptations emerge from the lived experiences of urban residents confronting daily environmental risks, from flooding in informal settlements to heat stress in dense urban areas.

This session explores how communities in the Global South develop strategies for climate adaptation, challenging traditional narratives that position marginalized urban populations solely as vulnerable victims rather than active agents of change. We examine how these bottom-up initiatives intersect with, complement, or contest formal adaptation policies, revealing tensions between community knowledge and institutional approaches.



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

Key themes and research questions we invite include:

- Theoretical frameworks: How do community-led adaptation practices challenge and offer alternatives to dominant paradigms dominant climate governance paradigms? What theoretical lenses (from urban studies, development studies, environmental justice, decolonial theory) best capture these dynamics?
- Methodological approaches: How can researchers and communities ethically document and analyze community-led initiatives? What participatory methodologies reveal community adaptation knowledge? How do we avoid extractive research practices?
- Spatial dimensions: How do informal settlements, peripheral neighborhoods, and marginalized urban areas develop place-specific adaptation strategies? What role do urban informality, precarity, and spatial inequalities play in shaping community responses? What are the counter-productive effects of top-down approaches that use climate adaptation as an excuse to relocate communities? How can communities challenge resettlement paradigms through innovative in-situ solutions that question conventional imperatives around flood zones and other environmental risk areas while maintaining their social networks and territorial attachments?
- Social networks and organizing: What forms of collective action, solidarity, and mutual aid and support emerge around environmental challenges? How do gender, ethnicity, class, disability and migration status influence participation in adaptation initiatives?
- Knowledge systems: How do communities combine traditional ecological knowledge, everyday experiences, and external resources? What tensions arise between local and experiential knowledge and technical expertise?
- Policy interfaces: How do community initiatives engage with, resist, or remain invisible to formal governance structures? What opportunities exist for scaling up or institutionalizing community-led practices?
- Cross-regional perspectives: How do community adaptation strategies vary across different contexts in the Global South (Latin America, Africa, Asia and Asia Pacific)? What comparative insights emerge from diverse urban environments?

We welcome contributions from various disciplines including urban studies, geography, anthropology, sociology, environmental studies, and development studies. We encourage papers based on ethnographic research, participatory methods, action research, and comparative approaches. We particularly seek contributions that center community

voices and experiences while critically examining power dynamics in climate adaptation processes. This session aims to foster comparative discussions about community agency in environmental governance, contributing to broader debates about urban inequalities, environmental justice, and alternative pathways for sustainable urban development in the Global South.

Collecting at the Edge: Social Movements for Mangrove Conservation in Fisherfolk Neighbourhoods of Karachi, Pakistan.

» [Ms. Mehmooda Maqsood](#) (University of Coimbra)

Climate Adaptation from Below: Nature-Based Solutions and Environmental Justice in a Philippine Watershed

» [Ms. Ana Polgar](#) (University of British Columbia)

"Brown is Beautiful": Art-based Co-creation for Dryland Adaptation in Windhoek

» [Ms. Gaby Hansen](#) (Namibia University of Science and Technology),
Prof. Christina Breed (University of Pretoria)

Territories of Resistance: Community-Led Climate Adaptation under Criminal Urban Governance

» [Dr. Priscila Coli](#) (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro)

16:30

Oral : #10-2/3

#10 The digital frontier (2/3)

Venue - HS 34

Organised by: Prof. Justus Uitermark (Convenor) and Ayona Datta (Convenor)

This session explores digitization in motion and across space. It examines how digital technologies-from artificial intelligence and social media platforms to digital archives-enter into and transform previously analogue life worlds and domains.

Research on digital urbanism shows that corporations and governments deploy digital technologies to expand control, extract data, and commodify social life. From dating to volunteering, and from taxi rides to land registration, digital infrastructures enable the extension of corporate and governmental power deep into everyday life. This session asks how places, institutions, and relationships are reconfigured through such technologies.



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

We understand this digital reconfiguration through the notion of the digital frontier. The frontier metaphor highlights processes of expansion: digital technologies enumerate subjects once uncountable, render visible territories once unmapped, and organize political, economic, and social relations previously outside digital grids.

Yet this frontier is not simply a divide between advanced and primitive, or formal and informal. While structural parallels with colonial frontiers remain, today's digital frontiers emerge in a different historical moment and within new constellations of power. Colonial dynamics persist, but in a postcolonial and multipolar world where American and European hegemony is waning. Power relations are often complex: workers or residents sometimes resist digitization but at other times embrace it. While platforms' logics of extraction, commodification, and control permeate social worlds, their advance is never smooth or uniform: wherever digital technologies expand, their operations are contested, reshaped, and transformed.

We invite submissions that examine the digital frontier in different geographical contexts and domains. From the contention over viral food spots or wanghong attractions to disputes over land registration and gig work: we are interested in exploring a wide range of cases to examine general dynamics as well as variations and particularities. We are open to all methods, ranging from computational analyses that chart digital inequalities to deep ethnographies that explore digitization in place, and from cartographic methods that map uneven digitization across space to action research.

AI Enters the Urban Tech Economy: A Preliminary Exploration of Discourse, Events, and Networks in New York

» Ms. Caroline Aung (CUNY Graduate Center), Prof. Sharon Zukin (CUNY Graduate Center)

Platform-mediated transformation of informal street vending: The case of Nanjing's "Ghost Market"

» Ms. Qing Li (Nanjing University), Prof. Zhendong Luo (Nanjing University)

From Shadows to Screens: Ghost Kitchens and Virtual Restaurants in Athens

» Mx. Sofia Fachouridou (Harokopio University of Athens)

Defining the Digital Frontier through the Urban Frontier: When 15-Minute Delivery Meets City Regulation in Paris

» Mr. Pierre-Henri Besnard (École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées)

16:30

Oral : #11-2/4

#11 Invisible Citizens: Experiencing and Resisting Exclusion in the Contemporary City (2/4)

Venue - B.I.G. HS

Organised by: Prof. Anna Domaradzka (Convenor) and Nina Wróblewska (Convenor)

Cities are places of complex coexistence, where people from different social, cultural, and cognitive backgrounds come together in shared public spaces (Fincher and Iveson 2008, Gehl 2010). Unfortunately, these spaces are not always adapted to the needs of all city residents. Many people experience forms of exclusion that remain invisible to policymakers, urban planners, and researchers (Soja 2010, Wilson and Tewdwr-Jones 2021). These 'hidden inequalities' can manifest in various ways, including cognitive or sensory exclusion (Imrie 2011), as well as more visible economic, social, or spatial barriers (Lefebvre 1991, Young 1990).

Some urban citizens are more prone to become 'invisible' - this includes neuroatypical individuals, people with disabilities or mental health issues, women, elderly, members of LGBTQ+ community, migrants, unhoused people and other minorities and equity-seeking groups (Hamraie 2017, Kitchin 1998). Their exclusion is not always overt or intentional, yet it often becomes embedded in the infrastructure, services, and discourses that shape the city (Fainstein 2010, Harvey 2008). This can lead to subtle but profound limitations in navigating public space, accessing city services, participating in policymaking and feeling a sense of belonging (Mitchell 2003).

Growing social, economic, and environmental challenges are increasing the urgency of addressing these forms of inequality (UN-Habitat 2020). Urban expansion, population shifts into major cities, digital transformation, and climate change are reshaping urban life in ways that increase the vulnerability of groups already at risk of exclusion (Anguelovski et al. 2018, Blokland et al. 2015). Research shows that diversity and the inclusion of disadvantaged groups are not only matters of social justice, but also essential for building more resilient, democratic, and innovative urban environments (Fainstein 2010, Meerow et al. 2016, Soja 2010).

This session aims to create a space for dialogue on how hidden



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

inequalities are produced and experienced, as well as how they are addressed or resisted. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary perspectives and case studies from different geographical, political and ethnical contexts, especially those that are rarely represented in mainstream academic discourse.

We invite authors using diverse theoretical approaches including, but not restricted to: social construction of disability, theories of spatial justice and right to the city, conflict theory, postcolonial theory, indigenous studies or social exclusion and marginality theory. We encourage contributions engaging with concepts like human agency, narratives, spatial and digital practices, cultural representations, and similar.

We aim to address following questions:

1. How 'invisible' forms of exclusion manifest in different urban contexts?
2. In what ways do policies, planning practices, or public discourses reproduce the invisibility of vulnerable groups?
3. How do vulnerable groups resist, negotiate, or reconfigure urban inequalities in their everyday lives?
4. What are the spatial and social - both collective and individual - strategies used by excluded groups striving for safety, privacy, health and well-being in the urban context?
5. What methodological or theoretical approaches are best suited to making 'hidden' experiences visible in urban research?

Unpacking (In)Visibility. Visual impairment, ableism, and regimes of seeing and being seen in the city

» Dr. Fabio Bertoni (Instituto de Ciências Sociais - Universidade de Lisboa)

Navigating (non-)normality: prisoners in public

» Dr. Angelina Goeb (HAWK)

Otherring and Access to Housing: A unique navigation of placemaking practiced by Thirunangais in Urban Spaces of Chennai

» Dr. Suchismita Goswami (University of Copenhagen)

Stratified Queer Intimacies: Differentiated Sexual Ecologies and the Urban Development of Contemporary Bangkok

» Mr. Tinnaphop Sinsomboonthong (National University of Singapore)

From intersectional exclusion to urban belonging? Spatial tactics and citizenship practices of queer exiles

» Dr. Karine Duplan (University of Geneva & University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland)

Trapped in the Maze: Invisible Exclusion and Migrants' Encounters with Public Services

» Dr. Maryam Karimi (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies)

16:30

Oral : #25-2/3

#25 Inequalities in urban future-making: foundations, framings, and contestations (2/3)

Venue - Franz-König Saal (= HS 06)

Organised by: Monika Grubbauer (Convenor) and Katharina Manderscheid (Convenor)

While questions of urban inequality have long constituted a topic of inquiry for the social sciences, the picture is more ambiguous when it comes to the applied spatial sciences and policy-making concerned with urban development. Questions of access to housing, social services, and infrastructure are certainly of key concern in disciplines such as architecture and planning, both in research as well as in practice. The same is true for new forms of environmental inequalities: As the effects of climate change, such as droughts, heat waves, and flooding, are increasingly felt in cities around the world, it has become also clear that the effects on cities are unequally distributed, particularly affecting urban populations that are the most vulnerable and least affluent. Many cities take measures to tackle these interrelated ecological and social challenges when adapting urban spaces to new realities, reducing the impact of environmental hazards and extreme weather events, and implementing future-oriented strategies. Yet, whether and how forms of inequality are considered, reflected on, and actively approached in such measures and strategies of urban future-making remains open to discussion.

This session examines the capacity of social actors and institutions in urban development in addressing current dynamics of urban inequality. How do the policy instruments, planning strategies, and urban design solutions, which are largely centred on questions of climate change and



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

mitigation and the decarbonization of the building sector, consider implicit or explicit challenges of inequality? The focus is on professionals in built environment disciplines as social actors in various roles in the state administration, private sector, non-profit sector, and civil society initiatives, as well as on institutions in related fields of action in urban development policy and planning. How do these actors and institutions advance their conceptual and methodological foundations for dealing with forms of urban inequality in the light of new complexities, what types of data are considered, what are the tools and methods used for operationalization and decision-making, and how is each of these aspects legitimized and discursively framed, made accessible to public debate, and potentially contested?

We invite papers which address the above questions from a variety of angles, both theoretically and empirically, and across diverse contexts. Of interest are, particularly, various fields of urban development action which are currently driven by the urgency to transform cities and their built environment in the light of ecological challenges ahead, including housing, transport, energy, and water. Possible subthemes include urban climate and biodiversity strategies, urban megaprojects and urban infrastructure, green building policies, and disaster prevention and mitigation. We welcome papers which provide empirical insights and a critical discussion of how inequality is addressed in these fields of action, but papers which reflect on the epistemological foundations and theoretical implications are equally welcome.

Sustaining geographies of inequality? Interrogating representations of (inter)dependency in the self-proclaimed sustainable urban development of southern Malmö, Sweden

» Dr. Alva Zalar (Lund University)

Integrated Urban Future-Making in Neuperlach: Examining the Capacity of Tailor-Made Planning Tools to Mitigate Socio-Spatial Inequalities

» Prof. Michael Hanslmaier (Technical University of Applied Sciences Nuremberg), Dr. Anne Hackett (City of Munich, Department of Urban Planning), Mrs. Charlotte Poppa (City of Munich, Department of Urban Planning)

Networking in metropolitan planning

» Ms. Laura Pogliani (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies)

Future-Proofing Climate Boomtowns

» Prof. Xuefei Ren (Michigan State University), Dr. Sébastien Lambelet (York University), Prof. Roger Keil (York University), Prof. David Kaufmann (ETH Zürich)

Civic-cultural Facilities and Grassroots organizations: An Analysis of a Symbiotic Relationship for a Socially Just Eco-social transition

» Ms. Alejandra Lopez Martin (University of Barcelona), Dr. Marina Pera (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)

16:30

Workshop : Ad-hoc03

SITE VISIT: Fighting for Equal Work in the City

Venue - Faktory - Universitätsstraße 9, 1010 Wien

Organised by: Ms. Mara Verlič (Convenor), Sara Hassan (Discussant), Robert Walasinski (Discussant), and Malena Haas (Discussant)

Get to know the FAKTory (of the Vienna Chamber of Labour)

What does it take to create fair and inclusive working conditions in today's cities, especially in Vienna? Join us for a visit to the FAKTory, innovation and networking hub of the chamber of labour in Vienna. Located right next to the University of Vienna in the FAKTory, new ideas and alliances are being developed to address the challenges of a changing world of work. Through conversations with representatives of the chamber of labour and of trade unions, researchers, and platform workers, participants will gain first-hand insights into ongoing struggles and innovative approaches to promoting equality, representation, and decent work in urban labour markets.

With:

- Malena Haas (Vienna Chamber of Labour, FAKTory)
- Sara Hassan (author "Wer Gegen wen?")
- Robert Walasinsky (Riders Collective; initiative of bike messengers)
- Moderation: Mara Verlič & Christian Pichler (Vienna Chamber of Labour)

Panel Talk: Fighting for Equal Work in the City

» Members of the Austrian Chamber of Labor and guest (tba)



Continued from **Monday, 20 July**

18:45 **Workshop : Ad-hoc 04**
RC21 Board Meeting
Venue - Green Lounge (=VAM 2)
 Organised by: Prof. Alberta Andreotti and Prof. Claire Colomb

Tuesday, 21 July

08:00 **General**
Registration
Venue - Main Hall
Where: Entry hall of the university building, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna
When: We kindly ask you to be at the registration at least **20 min** prior to your sessions.
 If your session is in the afternoon, please make sure you have registered in the morning.
What to bring: ID
For poster presenters: Please bring your printed poster to the registration desk. The RC21 staff will then proceed to exhibit them.

 Thank you for your cooperation!

 Best,

 Yuri Kazepov and the local organising team

08:00

Poster

Poster exhibition

Venue - Back of the arcaded courtyard

Organised by: Dr. Tatjana Boczy, Dr. Yuri Kazepov, Miriam Aistleitner, and Mr. Henning Jostes

Perceived Safety as a Spatial Condition of Inclusion: A Review of Women's Experiences in Public Space

» [Ms. Toka Abdelmutleb](#) (University College Dublin)

Activists, Associative Worlds, and Urban Inequalities: Civic Engagement and the Reinvention of the Local in Four Italian Cities

» [Prof. Tommaso Vitale](#) (SciencesPo (CEE, Urban school))

Environmental inequalities in German cities – Result and continuation of a systematic review

» [Ms. Sarah Tietjen](#) (German Environment Agency), [Dr. Jascha Wiehn](#) (German Environment Agency), [Mrs. Christiane Bunge](#) (German Environment Agency), [Mr. André Conrad](#) (German Environment Agency), [Prof. Tobias Rüttenauer](#) (Goethe University Frankfurt)

The Spatial Transformation of Social Structure and the Geography of Inequality: A GIS-based Analysis of Preschool Children's Environments in Tokyo

» [Mr. Shinichi Taniwaki](#) (Sophia University)

Combatting Inequality. Neighbourhoods in Berlin

» [Mr. Linus Schiedermaier](#) (TU Berlin)

Citizenship from Nowhere: Socio-spatial Violence and the Production of The City

» [Ms. Danielle Rodrigues](#) (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro)

Explaining neighborhood effects on neighborhood cohesion: the varying influence of residential reputation by household income

» [Mr. Cristóbal Ortiz](#) (Millennium Nucleus Insecurity and Urban Cohesion), [Dr. Quentin Ramond](#) (Universidad Mayor)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Producing Urban Informality: From Residential Mobility to Land Trajectories in Northern Lebanon

» Ms. Mira MINA (Université Paris Cité – CESSMA & Lebanese University – CERDA)

Housing movements, capitalism and class: A political economy of constraints, opportunities and consequences

» Prof. Miguel A. Martínez (Uppsala University)

Painting Over the Cracks: Street Art, Cultural Legitimacy, and the Contradictions of Creative City Governance in Berlin

» Ms. Alisha Lynch (Queen's University Belfast)

Invisible Inequalities in Urban Space: Place, Community, and Perceived Homophobia among LGBTQ Individuals

» Prof. Amy Adamczyk (John Jay College, CUNY), Mr. Ricardo Valle González (City University of New York)

Coloring the Streets: Student Jackets, Urban Visibility, and Protest under Repression in Indonesia

» Mr. Rafael Pandu AMARTYA (Universitas Indonesia), Dr. Raphaella Dewantari DWIANTO (Universitas Indonesia)

The Urban Social Compact in the Digital Age

» Dr. Nicole Bassoff (University of Virginia)

Long COVID, Temporal Justice, and Urban Space: Disability, Rhythm, and Public Policy in New York City

» Dr. Cintia de Freitas Melo (The New School for Social Research)

Gated urbanism: wealth inequality in Johannesburg

» Ms. Federica Duca (Public Affairs Research Institute, University of Johannesburg)

The Nairobi Eviction Assemblage: Old Logics, New Justifications

» Mr. Hezron Gathura (KU Leuven), Prof. Manuel Aalbers (KU Leuven), Mr. Lawrence Esho (Technical University of Kenya)

From Competitions to Communities: Spatial Strategies of Shared Living in European Built Projects

» Ms. Nisa Nur Göksel (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University), Prof. Burçin Cem Arabacıoğlu (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University)

Walk or street marketing? When communication becomes aggressive

» Mr. Antonio Iannaccone (Pontifical Gregorian University)

Co-constitution of Feminine Subjectivities and Ethnic Identities in Marginalised Regions of Iran: The Intersection of Tourism and Marginalization

» Ms. Masoumeh Khalilgoudarzi (University of Westminster)

Space for PTSD Survivors of Conflict, Kashmir

» Mr. Haaris Khan (Shri KL Tiwari College of Architecture)

09:00

Oral : #45-1/2

#45 Rethinking the Household: New Ethnographic Approaches to the Study of Urban Collective Life (1/2)

Venue - Green Lounge (=VAM 2)

Organised by: Pranav Kuttaiah (Convenor) and Teresa Caldeira (Convenor)

A number of stylized statistical facts-falling birth-rates, rising educational aspirations, new modalities of welfare, complex patterns of mobility, explosions of rental housing, rising divorce rates, new cultural practices, novel income-generating and distributional strategies, and reworked languages of masculinity and femininity-all point to a fundamental shift: the reordering of household arrangements. This process is not the direct product of centralized design. Rather, a slow accumulation of minor alterations have quietly diffused to the point of constituting a new common sense. New ways of earning, of caring, of managing, of being in public have crept into daily life, not all at once but in hesitant, partial forms; together unsettling the stable category of the household.

Such macro-level phenomena have thus far been analyzed through broad-based instruments and surveys, moving from large structural claims down to individuals. The evolving relationships between work, home, and family in urban contexts, however, demands a framework capable of listening carefully to the emic logics that underlie everyday improvisations. It calls for a renewed vocabulary-grounded in empirical specificity yet attuned to translocal variation. We propose to think about



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

this fundamental question from the opposite place: we start with our interlocutors, with the logics through which they explain their actions, and develop a qualitative orientation to emergent formations of collective life. This approach is animated by an ability to glean from silences, problematize absences, and think of alternative conditions of possibility through engagement with individual circumstances across different contexts. We define the problem-space as one of sensibilities-of describing and comparing how people learn, gradually, to live together differently.

Through this panel, we seek ethnographically-informed studies that examine the reconfiguration of urban households as sites of provisional belonging, dispersed labor, and negotiated authority. Rather than resorting to moral panics on the 'decline' of the family, we attend to how new forms of householding emerge as responses to-and instruments for navigating-the contradictions of contemporary urban life.

Some key themes include:

- 1.Changing forms of cohabitation, care work, rental practices, and income generation
 - 2.Gendered dimensions of domestic labor, authority, and welfare administration
 - 3.Digital mediation and intergenerational authority
 - 4.Migration, mobility, and dispersed kinship networks
- New modalities of labor and income distribution in household economies

By situating ethnographic cases in dialogue, the panel seeks to illuminate how pressures toward flexible arrangements unfold across distinct historical legacies, labor markets, and kinship systems.

Some theoretical directions include:

- 1.How should we theorize the tension between older teleologies of settlement and autoconstruction, and the emerging logics of transitoriness, mobility and provisional arrangement?
2. How is domestic authority reshaped when women increasingly manage households as income generators and welfare administrators, and what are the implications for urban political economies?
3. How do digital technologies reconfigure intergenerational authority, and what possibilities emerge for collective life?

We invite scholars studying household formations in cities using any methods but with fieldwork or ethnographic insight at the core, or with an interest in theorizing inductively and building new conceptual vocabularies to capture the complex and unstable nature of household

life in urban economies today.

Peripheral territories and the geographies of critical social reproduction: the household in the wageless urbanization

» [Prof. Thiago Canetti](#) (Federal University of Minas Gerais)

Everyday Care in Conditions of Displacement: Precarious Cohabitation among Latin American Asylum-Seeking Women in NYC

» [Ms. Daniela Perleche Ugas](#) (Columbia University in the City of New York)

Care in Our Backyard: The Rise of Home-Based Childcare in the United States

» [Dr. Luis Flores](#) (University of California, Berkeley)

09:00

Workshop : Round table 1

Displacement and Urban Housing Futures: Local Insights/Global Perspectives

Venue - Erika Weinzierl Saal

Organised by: Prof. David Kaufmann (Panel Chair), Prof. Mona Fawaz (Panel Chair), Prof. Jonathan Darling (Discussant), Prof. Liza Weinstein (Discussant), Dr. Dolf te Lintelo (Discussant), and Prof. René Kreichauf (Discussant)

Driven by humanitarian discourses that frame forced displacement as exceptional within a state-centric reading of population movements, much of the urban scholarship has adopted a crisis framing in its approach to refugee migrations. Consequently, studies investigating the urbanization of forced displacement have tended to approach refugee populations, their practices, governance, and the responses to their settlement in isolation of other forces that shape today's cities. However, most urban refugees inscribe themselves in cities alongside other vulnerable urban populations: They access shelter as tenants through the channels of informal housing markets, work as precarious labor, and sometimes negotiate visibility and political identities through the "weapons of the weak" (Scott 1996). Moreover, the conditions urban refugees face, the possibilities they find, and the restrictions they endure are shaped by the same forces that shape today's cities.

This roundtable brings together scholars working on the intersection of forced displacement with urbanization in multiple national and regional contexts. The roundtable approaches displacement as an integral part of



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

the unfolding processes that have historically shaped cities and continue to produce contemporary urbanization. Through critical engagement with existing scholarships and practice, participants will explore how refugee arrival and settlement intersect with processes such as housing and land financialization, neoliberal governance, gray-spacing, the militarization of security, climate change, or the rise of right-wing populist politics. The roundtable seeks to foster comparative dialogues cross-city through grounded discussions of methods, theoretical framings, and case studies particularly focused on the complex intersections of housing, displacement, and urban transformation, drawing connections across Global North and Global South settings.

Key questions include:

How are modalities of housing tenure open to refugees influenced by the changing nature of housing markets (e.g., housing financialization, adoption of platforms in housing markets)

How does the arrival of urban refugees reorganize existing urban social hierarchies, particularly landlord-tenant relations?

How and why are diverse actors (e.g., State actors, NGOs, IOs, FBOs, business) sometimes cooperating together in urban refugee policies and practices?

How do humanitarian shelter interventions reverberate through local housing markets, and what unforeseen linkages, opportunities, or exclusions do they generate?

How do decades of neo-liberal economic policies affect the abilities of local authorities to respond to displacement?

How does the rise of right-wing populist movements influence the governance of displacement and refugees' ability to negotiate pathways of urban integration?

How can we locate contemporary humanitarian responses in the context of historical policies that have governed forced displacement?

Displacement and Urban Housing Futures: Local Insights/Global Perspectives

» Prof. David Kaufmann (ETH Zürich), Prof. Mona Fawaz (American University of Beirut), Prof. Jonathan Darling (Durham University), Prof. Liza Weinstein (Northeastern University), Dr. Dolf te Lintelo (Institute of Development Studies), Prof. René Kreichauf (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

09:00

Oral : #89-1/2

#89 Unveiling the dark side of commons (1/2)

Venue - Marietta Blau Saal

Organised by: Anna Steigemann (Convenor), Lorenza Manfredi (Convenor), and Mari Paz Agundez Leria (Convenor)

"Commons" or the "practice of commoning" is often associated with something positive and beneficial for the development of more inclusive cities. Beyond physical resources such as land or urban infrastructure, the commons refers to the social process of organizing, managing, and caring for collective resources, while maintaining shared access and responsibility. Throughout history, the practice of commoning has been used to resist land privatization or the staggering gentrification, as the Rathausblock or Haus der Statistik in Berlin attest to. Moreover, as many scholars confirm, rather than exploiting the city as a consumable product, fostering the practice of the commons develops an understanding of the city as a collective right. A common space, in which citizens are recategorized as space producers, essential components of the urban landscape, yet implicitly carrying the responsibility to take part in the city-making.

However, commoning and maintaining participatory processes over time require a voluntary, yet deeply engaged human labor, often left unrewarded. Moreover, despite the "open" access these participatory processes advocate for, the reality is that only a limited group of engaged locals remains active in the participatory process/in the co-productive process. The reasons behind this issue are diverse, stemming from a probable short spread of information unable to reach a wider audience, the complexity in understanding the intricate web of actors and institutions managing the participatory processes, the difficulty in maintaining a long-term engagement from the citizens, or the accommodation of these processes in spaces that remain hidden or inaccessible to the greater majority.

Considering all the benefits that the commons and the practice of commoning promise in an urban context, it is crucial to critically examine the social dynamics underpinning these processes.

We therefore ask: Are commons always equal? Are commons always beneficial? What are the limits of commoning? In which spaces do commons unfold? And when does commoning become an exclusionary tool?

Our interest lies in exploring:

- Varied case studies from diverse geographies across both the Global North and South;
- Conceptual and terminological developments;



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

- Mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion;
- Best-practice models, tools, and projects;
- The role of gender equality and ethnic diversity within these processes;
- Research examining both processes and outcomes;

Comparative analyses of models including co-production and co-optation.

Going a step further from participation, urban co-production expands the shared responsibility and decision-making beyond everyday urban residents, including institutions, such as municipalities or district planners. This collaborative approach fosters a common-good orientation as a step further to prevent privatization and counteract the forces of neoliberal urban development. These practices of commoning and co-production continue to evolve and mature; however, since they are still in development, there is a pressing need to examine them critically. We are looking for stories of success and failure to develop further the concepts of commoning and co-production, which are still not ripe.

Examining power dynamics in peri-urban commons through histories and imaginaries: Case studies in Edinburgh and Shillong

» [Ms. Anusha Sanjeev Mehta](#) (Wageningen University)

Uneven Commons? Openness, Power-relations, and the Struggles of Urban Commoning

» [Dr. Ioanni Delsante](#) (University of Pavia), [Dr. Tabassum Ahmed](#) (University College Dublin), [Ms. Linda Migliavacca](#) (University of Pavia)

UNEQUAL COMMONS?: Critically Examining the Impacts of DIY Urbanism and Grassroots Self-Recovery on Marginalized Communities in San Berillo, Italy

» [Mr. Damiano Aiello](#) (Carleton University), [Dr. Suzanne Harris-Brandts](#) (Carleton University)

What Remains of the Commons: An Ethnography of a Theatre House in Urban Space

» [Ms. Nganthil W](#) (Special Centre for the Study of North East India, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

09:00

Oral : #100

#100 Housing Decarbonization as Field of Capital Accumulation

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: [Dr. Lisa Vollmer](#) (Convenor), [Melissa García-Lamarca](#) (Convenor), and [Justin Kadi](#) (Convenor)

Twenty-seven percent of worldwide carbon dioxide emissions stem from the building sector (UNEP 2020). Hence, the decarbonization of housing provision - its construction and operation - is essential to counter climate change. At the same time, housing provision is in a deep affordability and accessibility crisis. The extraction of profit from housing through commodification and financialization contradicts its function as basic need and as place of reproduction and care, (re)producing social inequalities. In this context, governments at various levels have introduced measures to foster housing decarbonization. Yet rather than contributing to equality, e. g. by improving living conditions for those in poorly insulated housing, these measures often trigger green/low-carbon gentrification that benefit middle and upper classes, while exclude working class and racialized residents.

The dynamics around housing decarbonization go beyond the unjust distribution of costs and benefits, however. Real estate, the construction sector, energy providers and other capital fractions increasingly view housing decarbonization as a means to extract profit - a new field of capital accumulation. Employing established or innovative strategies, they use the "greening" of housing to maximize returns, drawing on existing regulatory frameworks or pushing for new ones. These strategies cover different aspects of housing, from construction, management strategies and maintenance practices, to financial instruments in financing and securitization: retrofitting that enables the closure of commodification gaps (Edwards and Bulkeley 2017, Großmann 2019, Knuth 2019), the outsourcing of heat provision to heat contractors, the integration of sustainability into risk calculations through ESG-investment (Parish 2025), the targeting of "green" new housing to higher-income groups, new financial instruments to promote "greening" (Taylor and Knuth 2025), or the establishment of decarbonization as investment product (Knuth 2016).

The panel invites contributions that focus on one of the following aspects (or their interconnection): 1. How (new) regulatory frameworks enable capital accumulation through housing decarbonization. 2. How companies adapt their business models or create new accumulation strategies around housing decarbonization. 3. How emerging conflicts around anti-Environmental Social Governance (ESG) investing (Harmes 2025) is impacting capital accumulation through housing decarbonization.



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Papers may address one or more of the following questions:

- How do (changing) regulatory frameworks of housing decarbonization influence the opportunities of capital accumulation?
- What are the effects of the introduction of mandatory Energy Performance Certificates on the real estate sector and retrofit industry?
- How is the ecological transformation of housing related to financialization? What role do large scale investors and landlords play in establishing housing decarbonization as field of capital accumulation?
- How do interest of state and capital contradict or align? How do interest of real estate and other capital fractions (e. g fossil fuel industry) contradict or align?
- How does the current movement against climate measures by (right-wing) governments affect the ability of capital accumulation in housing decarbonization? What are the broader political/geo-political challenges for housing decarbonization?

We are looking for empirical and contributions and are particularly interested in how the above plays out in different geographies. Single case studies and comparative papers are welcome.

Greening cities through pensions? The ambivalent role of pension funds in urban green transitions

» [Dr. Jessica Verheij](#) (University of Lausanne)

Housing and the politics of climate adaptation: A macrofinancial approach

» [Dr. Jens van 't Klooster](#) (University of Amsterdam), [Dr. Cody Hochstenbach](#) (University of Amsterdam)

The Capture of Decarbonization Governance in the USA by Market Entities

» [Mr. Mahir Takak](#) (University of Connecticut)

Decarbonizing the "Unprofitable" Periphery: State-Led Industrialization of Housing as a Counter-Strategy to Market Failure in Rural Korea

» [Prof. Abraham Ahn](#) (Hanyang University ERICA), [Mr. Seungho Yoo](#) (Replatform), [Mr. Hyungju Yoon](#) (Hanyang University ERICA), [Mr. Seongyun Chung](#) (Hanyang University ERICA)

09:00

Oral : #87

#87 Urban transformations and educational divide

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: [Marta Cordini](#) (Convenor), [Isabel Ramos Lobato](#) (Convenor), and [Quentin Ramond](#) (Convenor)

Cities have become the primary arenas where the contradictions of inequality are most visible. Globalization, economic restructuring, and shifting governance regimes have reconfigured the social and spatial fabric of urban areas, intensifying divisions and producing new forms of exclusion. These dynamics profoundly affect education, as segregation, gentrification, and demographic change reshape the relationship between urban space and educational outcomes (Butler & Robson, 2003). In addition, the erosion of welfare protections and the liberalization of housing and education policies have weakened governments' capacity to mitigate inequalities (Musterd et al., 2017), creating polarized urban landscapes where affluent enclaves coexist with marginalized districts and both residential and school segregation persist (Oberti, 2007). The persistence of school segregation, that has remained high and stable globally despite numerous policy efforts to reduce it (Gutiérrez & Carrasco, 2020) influences educational attainment and achievement (Lauen & Gaddis, 2013) and limits inter-class and inter-ethnic interaction, undermining social cohesion (Janmaat, 2012). The main drivers of school segregation have been identified in residential segregation, middle class school choice and school assignment policies (Bonal & Bellei 2018). The new challenges contemporary societies have to face complicate the intertwin between these three drivers and lead to unexpected and diversified outcomes. In some contexts, for instance, neighbourhood and school composition are becoming more divergent (Bischoff & Tach, 2020), while elsewhere high-income families increasingly use schools as mechanisms of social sorting (Kauppinen et al., 2022). Although school segregation often exceeds residential segregation (Cordini et al., 2019), recent evidence suggests this pattern may be shifting (Cucca & Mouratidis, 2025). These variations highlight the significance of contextual factors such as local housing markets, demographic change, and governance structures.

The housing crisis restricts low- and middle-income families' residential



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

options, while shrinking student populations can trigger school closures and reinforce disadvantage. Processes of gentrification, touristification, and urban renewal also transform neighbourhood composition and access to schools (López Gay et al., 2020). Education policies-particularly those promoting school choice and diversification-interact with these dynamics in ways that often deepen inequalities, despite being framed as equitable reforms (Ball et al., 1995).

Within this increasingly unequal and polarized system, some families from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds develop adaptive strategies to secure learning opportunities, often amid discrimination and exclusion (Carrasco et al., 2021; Ramos Lobato, 2019). This issue becomes more urgent in light of rising anti-immigrant sentiment and growing support for far-right parties worldwide. The intersection of urban transformation and educational inequality therefore demands renewed attention. By linking education to broader processes of socio-spatial change, researchers can better understand how structural inequalities are reproduced and contested in cities.

We invite papers that address the following topics:

- How migration flows, demographic change, and urban renewal reshape school segregation.
- The interaction between housing policies, gentrification, and access to schools.
- The role of school choice, admission rules, and parental strategies in reinforcing or mitigating inequalities.
- The effects of urban polarization on student mobility, school composition, and educational outcomes.
- Policy interventions aimed at reducing school segregation and promoting educational equity.

Private Schooling and School Choice Pathways in Gentrifying Barcelona

» Dr. Sheila Gonzalez-Motos (University of Barcelona), Prof. Xavier Bonal (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Territorial factors, school choice and schools' strategies. The emerging school composition in two Italian urban contexts

» Dr. Giulia Dugar (University of Bologna), Dr. Giulia Marroccoli (Politecnico di Milano)

It depends on where you look from: the joint influence of residential neighborhoods and schools' surrounding areas on school choice

» Dr. Quentin Ramond (Universidad Mayor), Mr. Cristóbal Ortiz (Millennium Nucleus Insecurity and Urban Cohesion)

Choosing Without Choice: Parental Responses to School Composition Information in Germany

» Dr. Robert Vief (Goethe University Frankfurt), Dr. Thomas Zimmermann (Goethe University Frankfurt), Prof. Birgit Becker (Goethe University Frankfurt)

09:00

Oral : #6

#6 Gated Enclaves, Private Education, Land Speculation: Heightened Inequality in Global Urban Margins

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Dr. Ishita Chatterjee (Convenor), Dr. Minati Dash (Convenor), and Dr. Smriti Singh (Convenor)

This session invites scholars to critically analyse the nexus of education, land, and inequality at urban margins. We use urban margins as a productive spatial trope, referring to sites of new urbanisation dynamics, peripheral urban spaces, the violence of urban inequality, and the contested politics of capitalist expansion (Gillespie & Mercer, 2025). Particularly since the neo-liberal turn, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have emerged as key players in these transformations, actively engaging in speculative urbanism as landowners, developers, and major real estate holders in cities and their peripheries (Bagchi, 2021). The focus on the urban margin is critical because these areas represent the 'emergent pattern of urbanisation' across the globe, especially in Global South countries, where they defy the urban-rural dichotomy and operate as contested sites of accumulation and agrarian-urban entanglement driven by speculative real estate and infrastructural corridors.

Education is increasingly being treated as a private commodity rather than a public service, allowing HEIs to pursue institutional expansion by accumulating real estate assets and leveraging their symbolic status to attract investment. Whether operating as 'anchor institutions' in urban development, regeneration (Melhuish, 2015; Perry, Wiewel & Menendez, 2009) or 'corridor urbanisation' in peripheral, peri-urban regions (Balakrishnan, 2013; 2018), universities are actively producing new forms of segregated spaces. University's role as a real estate developer is achieved through the securitisation, surveillance, and policing of space,



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

reinforcing a racial-capitalist logics and exclusionary spatial practices (Baldwin, 2021). This university-led restructuring creates deep social and spatial inequalities often interlinked with gentrification, displacement, and social exclusion. In the Global South (e.g., South Asia), this process takes the form of 'agrarian urbanism', where the conversion of fertile land for 'enclosed elite private education zones' leads to the dispossession of local agrarian communities. The low-income residents are subjected to a two-tier policing system or pushed out by rising housing costs driven by universities' accommodation needs. Locals are frequently relegated to precarious, low-paid informal work within the new enclaves, becoming culturally and socially alienated from the emerging 'knowledge economy'. Elite private institutions globally systematically reinforce hierarchies of privilege, where access is managed through gatekeeping systems that favour students based on race, class, ethnicity, and social status.

This session invites comparative and situated studies that interrogate how HEIs act as urban actors in urban margins and exacerbate inequalities across varied political economies. We invite submissions from diverse disciplines and specifically encourage independent researchers, social workers, activists, practitioners, policymakers, industry professionals, and academics to participate. Related topics include -

1. Comparative analyses of the university-land market nexus in urban frontiers in diverse global settings
2. Socio-spatial exclusion and displacement in urban and peri-urban areas through university-led urbanisation
3. The role of the state and policies rationalised through private educational expansion (e.g., as 'public purpose') or leveraged (e.g., developmental state strategies) to facilitate university accumulation
4. Examine the undermining of rights and access to space by the creation of segregated, corporate academic spaces.
5. The impact of education commodification on equity and access within academic institutions, considering race, class, caste, and gender

Does Urban Population Concentration under Demographic Decline Reduce or Intensify Educational Inequality?: Reconfiguring Upper Secondary Educational Opportunities in Tokyo

» [Dr. Shinichi Aizawa](#) (Sophia University)

Movements on the Margins: Informal Settlement and 'Permanent Temporariness' in a Neoliberalizing Campus Planning Regime

» [Dr. Redento Recio](#) (University of the Philippines Diliman)

Education as Real Estate: The Commodification of Higher Learning and Peri-Urban Transformation in Sonipat, India

» [Dr. Ishita Chatterjee](#) (O. P. Jindal Global University), [Dr. Minati Dash](#) (O. P. Jindal Global University), [Dr. Smriti Singh](#) (Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology-Delhi)

09:00

Oral : #79

#79 Whiteness, Race, and Urban Transformation: Reproducing Privilege Across Diverse Urban Contexts

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Carolina Sternberg (Convenor), Tilman Schwarze (Convenor), and Christine Barwick-Gross (Convenor)

This panel critically examines how whiteness operates as a socio-spatial and political force in shaping urban life and redevelopment across diverse global contexts. While contemporary cities are often celebrated for their ethnic and cultural diversity, the racialized global order continues to influence everyday practices, institutional arrangements, and urban discourses. Processes such as gentrification, social mixing policies, and state-led renewal are frequently framed as neutral or progressive, yet they often reproduce racial hierarchies and privilege whiteness, both materially and symbolically.

Drawing on race-critical and decolonial perspectives, this session foregrounds whiteness not as a bodily trait but as an orientation that structures access to space, resources, and belonging (Ahmed, 2007). We explore how this norm operates in cities of the Global North and South, from post-industrial urban centers to postcolonial and settler-colonial contexts. In North America and Western Europe, redevelopment projects have displaced racialized communities under the guise of "revitalization," privileging white cultural aesthetics and middle-class norms (Sternberg, 2023; Schwarze, 2023; Wilson, 2018). In Latin America, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa, whiteness often manifests through global capital flows, elite planning paradigms, and the marginalization of Indigenous and Afro-descendant populations (Figueiredo et al. 2020; Walker et al. 2020; Manzi et al. 2018).

We invite papers (theoretical, conceptual, and empirical) that address the following questions:

- How does whiteness manifest in everyday encounters, institutional practices, and urban redevelopment strategies?
- In what ways do planning and policy reinforce racial hierarchies and



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

white privilege?

- What historical continuities link colonial urbanism to contemporary redevelopment?
- How do racialized communities resist or reimagine urban space in emancipatory ways?
- What methods allow us to study whiteness beyond visual markers, as a set of norms and values?

By fostering a transnational and interdisciplinary dialogue, this panel seeks to advance critical urban scholarship on race, whiteness, and socio-spatial inequality, while highlighting strategies for challenging these dynamics in diverse urban settings.

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Manzi, T., Lucas, K., & Jones, P. (2018). Neighbourhood planning and the right to the city: Confronting neoliberal state urban practices in Salvador, Brazil. *International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development*, 10(1), 1-15.

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"Is that a crime in this country, to be white and successful?" Conflicts over racial justice in the rezoning of affluent, majority-white neighborhoods

» Mr. Viktor Bensus (CUNY Graduate Center)

"We should occupy spaces of whiteness, because those spaces also belong to us." Breaking the somatic norm of racialized metropolitan space in Santiago, Chile

» Dr. Vania Reyes (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

Colonia Americana, The "Coolest Neighborhood in the World"? Exploring "whiteness" on the digital and on site aesthetics of the urban landscape

» Mrs. Karen Curiel Ruiz Velasco (Ghent University), Mr. Christian O. Grimaldo-Rodríguez (ITESO University (Mexico))

Road Building and Branqueamento: How Physical Infrastructure Whitened Early 20th Century Brazil

» Mr. Thomas Bassett (University of California Los Angeles)

09:00

Oral : #69

#69 Housing and Beyond: Urban Inequalities, Welfare, and Infrastructures in the Global Urban Condition

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: Dhara Patel (Convenor) and Claudia Ba (Convenor)

Urban inequalities persist in city-making, but they take on renewed intensity in contexts shaped by transnational migration, welfare retrenchment, and neoliberal governance. Housing, as both a commodity and a right, remains a central arena where inequalities are materialised: from exclusionary rental markets to the financialisation of urban property. Yet inequalities extend beyond housing, embedded in social infrastructures, welfare regimes, and urban imaginaries that structure access, belonging, and mobility.

This session invites contributions that interrogate the relational and transnational production of urban inequality. We ask:

- Migration, mobility, and imaginaries of home: How do North and South cities become interconnected through migration, investment, and knowledge flows, producing new hierarchies of class, race, gender, and status? How do different forms of mobility-South-South and North-South, cyclical or return migration, forced displacement and refuge-shape experiences of arrival, settlement, and belonging? In what ways do diasporic imaginaries of "home" and "homeland" materialise in urban environments and influence nation-state projects?
- Concepts of arrival and home: Which actors (state institutions, migrant organisations, civil society) mobilise notions of "arrival" and "home," and to what ends? How do these concepts stabilise locally specific claims while also reproducing globally circulating categories of sameness and difference?
- The productivity of inequality: In what ways are inequalities not only reproduced but also productive, structuring urban aspirations, mobilities, and exclusions? How do welfare regimes, housing systems,



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

and governance models across varied contexts manage-or actively generate-new urban inequalities?
 • Beyond housing: infrastructures and welfare: How do infrastructures of arrival (healthcare, education, transport, civic institutions) and welfare regimes intersect with housing to shape belonging and exclusion? Do they mitigate inequalities, or reinforce them across North-South contexts?

We seek papers that mobilise critical and creative frameworks as well as methodological reflections to interrogate urban inequality as more than an outcome of uneven development: as a force that actively shapes urban futures. Approaches such as postcolonial urbanism (Roy 2011) unsettle universalist models of the city, foregrounding how Southern experiences reconfigure theory. Racial capitalism (Robinson 1983; Kelley 2017) highlights the entanglement of economic exploitation with racialised and other forms of difference, showing inequality is structurally generative, not incidental. Neoliberalism as exception (Ong 2006) draws attention to how states selectively suspend or reinvent rules to produce new zones of inclusion and exclusion. Concepts such as the Capability Approach (Sen, 2001) critically address the tropes of 'the good life', well-being, and Urban Quality of Life (uQoL), informing understandings of urban housing markets and global individual possibilities. Together, these perspectives invite us to rethink inequality not as residual or pathological, but as a constitutive logic of contemporary urbanism-a logic that links North and South, South and South, past and present, revealing persistent (neo)coloniality embedded in governance, infrastructures, and everyday urban life.

By foregrounding housing, infrastructures of arrival, migration trajectories and transnational movements as key sites of inquiry, this panel invites comparative, transdisciplinary, historical, and ethnographic contributions that examine how old inequalities persist while new ones are forged, producing cities as contested terrains of exclusion and justice.

Infrastructures of Loyalty: The Clergy as Social Housing Providers in Lebanon's Sectarian Urbanism

» Mr. Elie Harfouche (Lebanese American University)

New affective infrastructures and their spatial correlation. Four latinamerican experiences

» Prof. ANABELLA ROITMAN (University of Buenos Aires), Mrs. Marianela Priori Saenz (Universidad de Buenos Aires), Ms. María Victoria Ara (Universidad de Buenos Aires), Ms. Tamara Kasztan (Universidad de Buenos Aires)

From Decline to Arrival: How Voluntary Care Infrastructures Shape Enclavization in Inner-City Japan

» Prof. Geerhardt Kornatowski (Kyushu University)

Productive Inequality in Public Housing: Governing Through Abandonment in Tor Bella Monaca, Rome

» Mr. Andrea Pietrangeli (La Sapienza University of Rome)

09:00

Oral : #40-3/3

#40 Urban timescapes: mobilizing temporality as a critical lens to map urban inequalities (3/3)

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Loraine Kennedy (Convenor) and S. Shakthi (Convenor)

Conceptualizations of temporality provide an overarching framework for urban scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds to question how the workings of time across scales-from the everyday to the epochal-are shaping key dimensions of contemporary urbanization. An increasingly integrated global economy, massive migration, transnational cultural exchange facilitated by internet platforms and the climate crisis are all forces that impact urbanisation processes, as well as the quotidian workings of city life, whether for employment, care, or leisure. In this panel, we will investigate the urban inequalities generated by these forces as temporal phenomena, both shaping and shaped by individual, collective and structural experiences of time.

This choice of framing aims to anchor temporality in debates in critical urban theory. It serves as a base to interrogate the still influential modernist paradigm that assumes that urbanization, like "development" more broadly, follows a linear pattern. We aim to disrupt this narrative by interrogating "timescapes" (Kitchin 2023) - the differentiated and unequal experiences of temporal regimes - in order to explore "pathways and possibilities for a more global urban studies" (Lawhon and Truelove, 2020).

Our reflections are guided by the large body of literature on temporalities, the most compelling of which go beyond time as history



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

or calculation to examine socio-cultural engagements, how time is mediated, embodied and experienced (Burgess and Elias 2016). Related strands of scholarship are concerned with futurity (Bunnell et al 2022; Chakkalakal and Ren 2022) and how digitalization, standing as a proxy for the current era, interfaces with urbanization (Datta 2022). Of particular relevance for this session is the idea that temporalities are produced, notably through the evolving relationship between time, technologies and socio-economic relations. As Kitchin (2023) argues, temporality is time that is not pre-given or universal but contingent, relational and heterogeneous. Temporalities both reflect and shape power dynamics, with individual experiences of time impacted by structural conditions while simultaneously driven by agential purpose (Sharma, 2014). Thus, temporality can be conceptualized as an intersectional type of social difference structured in specific political economic and geographical contexts.

For this panel, we invite papers that mobilize conceptualizations of temporality to interrogate the relationship between the social and the spatial in the persistence, contestation, and negotiation of urban inequalities, through empirical investigation in any geographical and regional context, but particularly those that are undergoing rapid urbanization. Also welcome are reflections that mobilize temporality as a critical lens to advance conceptual or theoretical propositions in relation to contemporary debates around inequality. Thematic entry points can include (but are not limited to): types and conditions of work in globally connected urban economies, in relation to meanings and usages of time; rhythms and characteristics of the extension of the built environment; access to public services, particularly through the lens of 'speed' or 'slowness'; politics and governance of futurity; evolving subjectivities related to urban life at the crossroads of past/present/future; articulations between modes of urbanisation and urban ecology; urban public spaces as sites for differentiated temporal engagements; and the short- and longer-term work of urban social movements.

Mobile Futures, Local Delays: digital nomadism and urban inequalities in Lisbon and Bali

» [Prof. Maria Gato](#) (CIAUD, Research Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Design, Lisbon School of Architecture, Universidade de Lisboa; Dinâmia'Cet-Iscte, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa), Prof. Ana Rita Cruz (CinTurs- Research Centre for Tourism Sustainability and Well-being, University of Algarve – Faculty of Economics; Dinâmia'Cet-Iscte, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa), Dr. Gieshania Gumilang (ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)

Hometown rhythms extending into the city: queer temporal inequalities

» [Mr. Tilen Kolar](#) (University of Leeds)

Acceleration in the Banlieue: Saint-Denis, the Paris Olympics, and Contested Temporalities

» [Ms. Seyma Yetkin](#) (Central European University)

The Temporalities of Solidarity: Analyzing Urban Mobilities amidst Infrastructural Inequities in Quito, Ecuador

» [Dr. Julie Gamble](#) (Vanderbilt University)

Green Futures, Quarry Pasts: Temporality and Urban Inequality in Post-Industrial Agadir

» [Ms. Bouchra Tafrata](#) (University of Southern California)

09:00

Oral : #29

#29 Researching China in Challenging Contexts: Methodological Innovation and Reflexive Fieldwork

Venue - SR 07

Organised by: Xiaojian Zheng (Convenor)

China's evolving political and social context presents significant challenges for researchers studying local affairs, urban governance, and regional inequalities. Conventional research methods, such as interviews, surveys, and participant observation, face increasing constraints due to restricted access, institutional gatekeeping, surveillance, and sensitivities surrounding political and social issues. These conditions raise essential questions about how knowledge is produced, whose perspectives are represented, and what methodological and ethical strategies are needed to study inequality and social dynamics in contemporary China.



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

This panel brings together scholars exploring empirical studies or case studies that demonstrate innovative methodological approaches to these challenges. We invite contributions that reflect on reflexive, ethical, and creative strategies for fieldwork under conditions of limited access, political sensitivity, or social vulnerability. Approaches may include digital ethnography, remote collaborations, mixed-methods, comparative regional studies, or alternative data sources.

Rather than offering prescriptive "how-to" solutions, the panel foregrounds the complexities of research: negotiating access, engaging reflexively with ethical dilemmas, and managing the emotional and practical challenges of conducting fieldwork in sensitive contexts. By interrogating the methodological conditions of knowledge production, the panel also contributes to theoretical debates on how inequalities are constituted, represented, and contested through research practices.

Discussions arising from these contributions may include, but are not limited to:

- Methodological strategies for researching local governance, urban inequalities, and regional dynamics under restricted access.
- Reflexive engagement with ethical, political, and social dilemmas in fieldwork.
- The role of innovative methodologies in capturing experiences of marginalisation, exclusion, or social tension.
- Comparative insights and implications for understanding urban and regional inequalities in other national or global contexts.

By emphasising methodological innovation, reflexivity, and ethical awareness, this panel contributes to the broader mission of understanding how inequalities are produced, contested, and addressed in urban and regional settings. While grounded in the Chinese context, the panel invites comparative reflections from scholars working in different regions who face similar challenges of limited access or political sensitivity. It highlights the potential of methodological creativity to generate rigorous, contextually grounded knowledge that speaks to both local and global dynamics of inequality.

Urbanization, governance, and well-being: Constructing a multi-level multi-source data architecture for urbanizing China

» [Prof. Juan Chen](#) (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

Multi-sited, multi-situated: A patchwork ethnography of an expressway in Nairobi

» [Mr. Jack Ong'iro Odeo](#) (Stockholm University)

Situational Place as a More Equitable and Less Conspicuous Observational Lens

» [Ms. Siyuan Li](#) (RWTH Aachen University)

09:00

Oral : #14

#14 Inaction under Risk: Inequality and the Politics of Urban Safety

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: Ebru Tekin Bilbil (Convenor)

Urban transformation initiatives in hazardous zones often assume that information and economic incentives suffice to motivate relocation or retrofitting. Yet, empirically, many residents remain in known-risk housing. This session probes that disjunction: it asks how inequalities in material resources, symbolic attachments to place, and distrust in institutional authority mediate the uptake of transformation incentives. Rather than treating residents as passive recipients of messaging, we situate them as interpretive actors working under constraints and meanings.

By foregrounding the political, temporal, and discursive dimensions of risk governance, the session directly addresses how difference, power, and urban inequality shape the production and reception of policies in the city. The purpose is not simply to explain non-uptake but to re-theorize incentive design as a domain of cultural negotiation, not just economic calculus.

The critical urban literature has long cautioned against rationalist assumptions that equate awareness with action. More recent work in disaster studies demonstrates the limited leverage of framing interventions in contexts where local preferences and distrust are strong.

Empirically, our Istanbul-based mixed-methods research substantiates this: a survey experiment deploying three incentive framings (loss, neutral, gain) produced no significant overall effect. Income stratification, rather than framing, emerged as the dominant predictor of willingness to participate. Among higher-income households only, we observed a divergence: loss-framed incentives increased uptake, whereas gain-framed incentives reduced it. Qualitative work revealed emergent themes: residents expressed strong attachments to property, neighborhood continuity, and dignity; some policies were rejected not



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

for lack of financial appeal but because they clashed with assumptions about agency and status. Patterns of skepticism toward contractors and state agents also surfaced repeatedly.

The session will be conducted as follows:

1. Live Mini-Experiment (20 min): Participants are randomly assigned one of the three framings and asked to choose whether they would "participate" in transformation. Real-time visualization of responses sparks immediate reflexivity.
2. Gallery Walk of Mixed Evidence (20 min): Graphs, charts, and selected qualitative extracts (narratives, stakeholder quotes) are displayed. Participants move through spatial stations, annotate, and engage in peer dialog.
3. Rotating Small-Group Dialogue (30 min): Groups rotate across thematic stations prompting reflection on key tensions: What intervenes in the chain? What limits residents in low-resource conditions? How do attachments, place, and distrust reshape incentives?
4. Plenary Reflexive Synthesis (20-30 min): The session chair juxtapose audience responses and Istanbul findings, guiding comparative reflection across cities' political-economic terrains.

The goal is to co-produce design heuristics for incentive architectures that are attentive to inequality and meaning. It challenges narrow behavioral framings by reconceptualizing incentives as sites of symbolic negotiation and structural constraint. It demonstrates how ostensibly "null" experimental results can be generative when coupled with qualitative depth and interactive formats. Also, it compels rethinking transformation programs not merely as technical interventions, but as contested socio-political projects that must grapple with urban inequality, legitimacy, and the politics of recognition.

Technopolitics of Securitization and Militarization in the Facial Recognition Pilot Project

» [Mr. Adriano Mendes](#) (PUC)

Risk Governance: Failure in the Design of the Disaster Risk Management and Reduction Policy in Quito, Ecuador

» [Mr. Jonathan Menoscal](#) (Flacso, Ecuador)

09:00

Oral : #71

#71 Informal Rental Housing: Bridging North-South Divides

Venue - HS 01

Organised by: Dr. Julia Harten (Convenor), Dr. Andreas Scheba (Convenor), Ms. Anam Bashir (Convenor), Dr. Saila-Maria Saaristo (Convenor), and Abraham Matamanda (Convenor)

Informal rental housing has emerged as a significant feature of contemporary urbanism across diverse geographical contexts, challenging conventional assumptions that informality is primarily a Global South phenomenon. From basement suites in Vancouver and London's "sheds with beds" to backyard shacks in Cape Town and overcrowded apartments in Mumbai, informal rental arrangements shape how millions of urban residents access housing amidst intensifying affordability crises. These arrangements exist in regulatory grey zones where legality is ambiguous, enforcement is selective, state complicity is common, and tenants navigate precarious conditions while markets and governments co-produce informality. The global proliferation of informal rental housing-spanning the entire income spectrum from survival housing for marginalized populations to middle-class homeowners supplementing precarious mortgages-demands comparative analysis that bridges persistent North-South divides in urban scholarship. While informal rental practices share common features across contexts-including their emergence as pragmatic responses to housing crises, their role in reproducing inequalities, and their ambiguous relationship with state regulation-they also reflect distinct political-economic configurations, histories, welfare regimes, and planning systems. Understanding these commonalities and differences requires moving beyond simplistic binaries to examine how informal rental housing operates simultaneously as survival strategy, accumulation mechanism, and governance challenge across diverse urban settings.

The aim of this session is to promote comparative dialogue on informal rental housing to advance scholarship that learns from and with theories across geographical contexts. We seek empirically grounded contributions that interrogate how informal rental markets emerge, function, and transform urban inequalities along intersecting axes of class, race, gender, migration status, and geography.

We invite papers that address the following questions:
How do informal rental arrangements expose the limits and contradictions of formal housing systems in both North and South?
What are the political-economic drivers underlying the growth, transformation, typologies and conditions of informal rental housing in different contexts?



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

How do states, markets, and communities differentially produce and govern informal rental housing across contexts?
What factors affect the price, quality and living conditions of informal rental housing within and across urban contexts?
How do inequalities of race, class, gender, and citizenship shape who relies on informal rental housing and on what terms?
What methodological innovations can reveal the hidden and intersecting dynamics (e.g. race, class, gender, migration) of informal rental markets?
And how might comparative perspectives on informal rental housing contribute to broader theoretical debates on urban informality, housing justice, and the right to the city?

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Scheba, A., & Turok, I. (2020). Informal rental housing in the South: Dynamic but neglected. *Environment & Urbanization*, 32(1), 109-132. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956247819895958>

Informal Renting Beyond Informal Settlements: A Non-Binary Perspective from Chile

» [Dr. Felipe Valenzuela](#) (Universidad de Playa Ancha), [Dr. Felipe Link](#) (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

Beyond the Formal and Informal: Rethinking Inequalities in the Rental Housing Market Based on the Tenant Survey in Buenos Aires

» [Prof. Carolina Gonzalez Redondo](#) (CONICET / UBA), [Dr. Florencia Labiano](#) (Center for the Social Studies of the Economy at the School of Interdisciplinary Advanced Social Studies (CESE-EIDAES)), [Dr. María de la Paz Toscani](#) (CEUR-CONICET)

New or Not? Informal Rental Morphologies Across North and South America

» [Dr. Kristine Stiphany](#) (State University of New York at Buffalo)

Statecraft: The making of Cape Town's small-scale rental sector

» [Ms. Noor Mazhar](#) (University of Cambridge)

09:00

Oral : #35-1/2

#35 Experiencing Violences, Shaping (In)securities: Perspectives from Cities of the Global South (1/2)

Venue - HS 02

Organised by: Prof. Gareth Jones (Convenor), Mrs. Morgan Olive-Carmellini (Convenor), and Ms. Line Relisieux (Convenor)

This session addresses the entanglements between urban violence, security, and inequalities in cities of the Global South. Violence, in its multiple forms, remains an important feature of urban life, shaping how people navigate and imagine the city. Its consequences permeate all segments of society, albeit unevenly, as marginalised communities disproportionately bear the burdens of violence. Shaped by enduring urban inequalities, everyday encounters with violence elicit diverse responses and strategies that produce distinct senses and practices of security. These practices can either reinforce existing hierarchies and cycles of violence or open up spaces for resistance and transformation. Understanding security as a terrain of everyday negotiation, struggle, and privilege, the session explores how experiences of violence and practices of security-making interact to reproduce, contest, and reconfigure urban inequalities in the Global South.

The session brings together scholars addressing three interrelated questions. First, how is urban violence experienced by different social groups, and how do racialised, gendered, and classed dynamics shape these experiences? Second, how do state and non-state actors respond to violence, and how are their practices of security-making entangled with existing inequalities? Third, what kind of spatial consequences are produced at these intersections, and how do they reconfigure the organisation of cities?

The session will address several key themes in relation to violence, (in)security, and inequality. Considering that urban violence can be lived as a continuum, it explores the actors and factors that interrupt or reproduce violence, highlighting the everyday negotiations that sustain or transform cycles of (in)security. Second, it investigates experiences and practices of (in)security among diverse social groups, focusing on



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

emotions, affect, and belonging as central to understanding how violence is lived and made sense of. Third, it examines the spatial consequences of (in)security-making, including urban fragmentation, segregation, how protection reshapes the built environment, and changing boundaries of mobility and memory.

Together, these contributions move beyond binary understandings of violence versus security to reveal their socio-spatial embeddedness and ambivalence. They highlight how (in)security is produced through everyday practices that are simultaneously constraining and enabling the reproduction of urban violence. The panel contributes to broader debates on urban inequalities, governance, and everyday life by inviting reflections on the ambivalence of (in)security-making, and on how different actors - from states and armed groups to community organisers and families - forge alternative ways of living with, through, and against violence in cities of the Global South.

The panel welcomes papers adopting ethnographic, participatory, and qualitative approaches that examine:

- the violence-security continuum;
- affect, belonging, and everyday insecurity;
- entanglements of security and inequality;
- spatial reorganisation and fragmentation; and
- rethinking security from the everyday.

Production of Space in Medellin: human geographies of violence.

» [Mr. Ioan Camilo Lopez](#) (London School of Economics)

Property and violence: Learning from Carlota N.

» [Prof. Hanna Hilbrandt](#) (University of Zurich)

Violence as Spatial Pedagogy: The Enduring Socio-spatial Imprints of Violence on Urban Space

» [Ms. Aditi Pradhan](#) (University of Adelaide)

Urban Conflict and Citizen Security in Bogotá: Dynamics, Public Space, and Technology

» [Dr. Jaime Hernandez-Garcia](#) (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana)

Planning as Slow Spatial Violence: Examining Area C in Palestine

» [Mrs. Ruaa Yagkhour](#) (University of Cambridge)

09:00

Oral : #72-1/2

#72 Urban Health and Publicness: Rethinking Inequalities, Governance and Citizenship in Contemporary Cities (1/2)

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Prof. Emanuele Polizzi (Convenor), Sara Vallerani (Convenor), and Prof. Carlotta Mozzana (Convenor)

As urban populations expand, health has become a central arena in which urban inequalities are produced, contested and redefined. This session explores urban health as both an analytical lens and a field of political and social action where cities, institutions, and collective actors negotiate the meanings and practices of care, well-being and citizenship.

Urban health systems are complex socio-political configurations shaped by multi-level governance and by interactions among public, private and civil society actors. From municipal health departments and environmental planning offices to community clinics, social movements and private providers, these actors contribute to (re)defining what counts as "public" in health. Drawing on sociological approaches to public action (Lascombes & Le Galès, 2018; Moini, 2013) and urban citizenship (Isin, 2007; Sassen, 1996), the session invites contributions that analyze how health becomes an object of public concern, intervention and conflict within cities, and how diverse actors shape urban health governance and its inequalities.

The session builds on the idea that the city has a dual nature: it is simultaneously a producer of inequalities and a generator of salutogenic potential. On the one hand, urban environments concentrate structural disparities-unequal access to care, pollution, precarious housing and socio-spatial segregation-making visible how health inequities are rooted in urban forms and political economies. On the other hand, cities are also spaces of possibility, where proximity, density and social heterogeneity enable new alliances, collective actions and innovative practices of care. By being traversed, inhabited and enacted by heterogeneous social actors, cities can become fertile terrains for experimenting with alternative models of welfare, solidarity and participation. This ambivalence calls for analytical frameworks capable of grasping how health inequalities are both produced and contested through urban processes.

We particularly welcome contributions that:



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

examine how inequalities in access to care, environmental health and social determinants are spatially organized and politically contested in urban contexts;
explore how collective social actors (municipalities, NGOs, associations, social movements or professional groups) construct forms of urban health citizenship;
analyze the role of private healthcare actors and market-oriented logics in shaping urban health systems, reconfiguring notions of public responsibility and access;
investigate how governance arrangements - across scales and sectors - shape the publicness of health and the interaction between public and private forms of provision;
propose comparative and methodological reflections on researching health in and of the city.

By bringing together case studies from diverse geographical contexts, this session seeks to foster interdisciplinary and comparative dialogue on how cities operate as laboratories of health governance and as arenas of democratic experimentation. It aims to advance conceptual discussions on urban health as public action, linking sociological perspectives on inequality, governance and citizenship to the challenges of sustainable, inclusive and healthy urban futures.

Public health and the Covid 19 Pandemic: Solidarities in Urban Slums of Kolkata, India.

» Dr. Madhurilata Basu (Swiss Government Excellence Fellow with University of Lucerne/ Sarojini Naidu College for Women, Kolkata, India)

Enhancing Type 2 Diabetes Prevention among young adults: A community-based approach in Canada

» Dr. Carlo Chan (University of Toronto), Dr. Vanita Varma (Humber College), Dr. Maryam Niapour (Sheridan College), Dr. Matthew Adams (University of Toronto)

Inclusive urban ageing in community-based housing: a governance perspective

» Mx. Luise Stoisser (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Prof. Chris Phillipson (University of Manchester)

Reproductive Futures and the City: Inequality, Care, and Urban Health Citizenship

» Ms. Prerna Singh (University of Edinburgh)

09:00

Oral : #21-1/2

#21 Radical Housing Movements and Collective Futures: From Vulnerability and Precarity to Autonomy (1/2)

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: laia garcia fernandez (Convenor) and Dr. Vafa Dianati (Convenor)

Housing struggles have long been central to urban studies, yet current inequalities in access to housing mark a distinct reconfiguration of structural forces. Platform capitalism-through short-term letting and investment tourism-turns cities into speculative markets, while green, student, and tech-driven gentrification deepen inequalities. Grassroots housing movements face growing criminalisation, while private property rights are protected and financial systems favour high-income borrowers over those in precarious work. Vulnerability and precarity are central to these structural dynamics and struggles. Following Butler (2004, 2016), vulnerability denotes a universal human condition of dependence on others, institutions, and material supports, while precarity refers to the politically produced inequality of exposure to harm, where some lives are secured and others rendered expendable. Butler's framework thus offers a critical lens on housing injustices by revealing that deprivation of housing is not merely an economic issue, but a political and ethical question of whose vulnerability is recognised and protected.

Politically engineered precarity has inspired collective responses across cities, including squats, cooperatives, community land trusts, communes, and urban occupations, that reclaim housing as a shared right rather than a commodity. This panel places these counter-institutional practices at the centre of debates on housing inequality by focusing on the transition from vulnerability and precarity to collective care and autonomy, where housing becomes infrastructure for care and mutual aid. These practices are not only responses to crisis or failures of the state but rather world-making political projects that contest the dominant order of property, value, and urban governance. By asserting collective control over land, housing, and care, these movements politicise everyday life and make visible the structural violence of housing markets, racialised displacement, and state neglect. They build infrastructures of the otherwise: new forms of territorial governance, social reproduction, and collective ownership that challenge capitalist urbanism at its root. These are also insurgent practices that reconfigure what counts as infrastructure, who is recognised as a political subject,



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

and what forms of life are deemed liveable.

The panel invites contributions exploring housing as a terrain of struggle, solidarity, and alternative world-making across diverse geographies. We seek papers that situate housing as a political and ethical field where collective actors contest vulnerability and precarity. We welcome interdisciplinary and comparative approaches that foreground the voices, tactics, and imaginaries of communities experimenting with new forms of dwelling, ownership, and care, and encourage dialogue among researchers, activists, and practitioners on how these movements reimagine collective life under precarity and articulate new vocabularies of care, resistance, and belonging.

We welcome a range of contributions, including but not limited to:

- Gendered, racialised, and postcolonial analyses of labour, care, and stewardship within alternative housing movements.
- Ethnographic and participatory approaches highlighting the lived experiences of residents and organisers.
- Comparative and translocal studies tracing the global circulation of ideas, tactics, and governance models.
- Visual, artistic, and spatial methodologies examining the aesthetics, materiality, and spatial practices of collective housing.
- Socio-legal and policy perspectives analysing how alternative housing movements navigate legality, criminalisation, and recognition.

People's Plans: From insurgent planning to building collective utopias

» [Prof. Pablo Sendra](#) (UCL, Bartlett School of Planning)

Occupations as feminist reimaginings of space production: the case of the 9 de Julho occupation in São Paulo

» [Ms. Milagros Vidal](#) (University College London (UCL))

Housing occupations as a form of resistance to the reproduction of spatial injustice in post-Apartheid South Africa

» [Mr. Tommaso Cosentino](#) (Politecnico di Torino)

Fractured Struggles, Fragmented Claims: The Politics of Homelessness Activism in India

» [Dr. Paroj Banerjee](#) (University College London)

09:00

Oral : #52

#52 Algorithmic Governance and Urban Belonging: Emerging Politics, Infrastructures, and Practices in the Platform City

Venue - HS 07

Organised by: Dr. Muhammet Esat Tiryaki (Convenor), Dr. Lutfun Nahar Lata (Convenor), and Aman Hashir (Convenor)

Research on platform urbanism has shown how algorithms reorganise labour relations and reshape urban economies (Lata, 2025; Lata and Copolov, 2025). Yet in cities, these systems also influence who feels they belong, who gains access to space/services, and how people engage politically. As algorithms mediate access to housing, mobility, and work, they create new geographies of inequality that reshape long-standing social and spatial divides. This session examines how algorithmic governance-from predictive policing and automated benefit systems to platform labour and smart city infrastructures-reconfigures the everyday politics and practices of belonging within urban life.

We approach belonging as a relational practice enacted through interactions with digital infrastructures embedded in the city's material fabric. Algorithmic governance operates through ratings, rankings, verification, geo-fencing, and risk scoring, structuring how people access services, navigate space, and encounter one another. These mechanisms generate 'digital shadows'-the often invisible processes that shape who is recognised, trusted, and excluded in everyday life. These dynamics reveal how algorithmic governance structures visibility and access, where some populations become hyper-visible to data systems while others remain unseen.

The session conceptualises algorithmic governance as a constant adjustment between automated regulation and human improvisation, revealing how digital systems are sustained and contested in daily life. Everyday practices of compliance, resistance, workaround, and invention reveal how people inhabit and challenge algorithmic systems, producing new attachments, exclusions, and forms of political agency. Focusing on these engagements, we foreground the affective and spatial dimensions of belonging-the ways in which algorithmic governance shapes who can move, dwell, or participate in urban life.

Empirically, we invite contributions examining diverse sites of algorithmic governance, including ride-hailing, food delivery, care and



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

cleaning platforms, housing and welfare portals, warehouse logistics, short-term rentals, and smart city infrastructures. These domains illustrate how data-driven decision-making and platform interfaces reorganise work, housing, and mobility, redefining what it means to belong in the platform city. We welcome comparative perspectives exploring how these dynamics manifest differently, revealing patterns of inequality and exclusion. Methodologically, we encourage approaches combining ethnography, interviews, and digital methods with algorithmic auditing, collaborative mapping, and data visualisation to make visible the opaque workings of algorithmic governance while centring the experiences of those most affected. Focusing on the intersection of algorithmic governance, belonging, and inequality, this session contributes to RC21's theme, "Inequalities and the City. Old Issues, New Challenges", by showing how algorithmic governance reorganises economic and spatial relations and reshapes the lived politics and practices of belonging in the platform city.

We invite papers addressing, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Everyday negotiations of algorithmic governance: ratings, rankings, dispatch, de/activation, shadow bans, geo-fencing, and verification, and their implications for access, visibility, and exclusion
- Infrastructures of belonging: how payments, ID verification, insurance, or navigation systems mediate attachment, access, and exclusion
- Platform labour and urban space: how gig work and mobility platforms reshape everyday geographies of inequality and belonging
- Smart-city infrastructures and data-driven decision-making: how algorithmic governance transforms participation, recognition, and urban inequality
- Comparative perspectives on algorithmic governance, belonging, and inequality across diverse urban contexts

Governing the Livelihood Portfolio: How Platform Rules Shape Workers' Capacity to Combine Platform, Own-Account, and Wage Work

» [Dr. Aditi Surie](#) (IIHS University)

Algorithmic Governance and Urban Belonging in China's Ride-hailing Economy: Evidence from DiDi Drivers in Xi'an

» [Mr. Yiran Yue](#) (University College Dublin), Dr. Yunpeng Zhang (University College Dublin), Prof. Enda Murphy (University College Dublin)

Algorithmic Visibilities: Machine Learning and the Uneven Governance of Urban Green Space

» [Dr. Taraneh Meshkani](#) (Kent State University)

Decoding digital delivery of convenience: mediating affective and spatial orders of caste in contemporary urban India

» [Mr. Abhishek Sekharan](#) (University of Michigan)

09:00

Oral : #19-1/2

#19 The End of Post? Rethinking Urban Practices and Structures and Their Impact on Inequalities in Post-Socialist and Post-Industrial Cities (1/2)

Venue - HS 16

Organised by: Yvonne Franz (Convenor) and Harutyun Vermishyan (Convenor)

(How) can the concept of the post-socialist city continue to provide an innovative analytical lens through which to understand new and old socio-spatial inequalities? More than three decades after the collapse of socialist regimes across Central and Eastern Europe, the concept of the post-socialist city remains a central yet contested framework for urban studies. While it has enabled scholars to trace the enduring legacies of state socialism in urban governance, spatial organization, and socio-economic structures, it also risks simplifying a transitional narrative that overlooks the evolving complexities of everyday urban life and local economy as well as the differences of perception amongst various societal generations in these regions.

Several authors have challenged the temporal and ideological assumptions embedded in the 'post-' prefix, calling for either abandoning (Müller and Trubina 2020) or reinventing it (Ringel 2022). Slaev and Hirt (2022) have argued for a nuanced understanding of planning cultures in post-socialist contexts. Similarly, Hirt (2013) has highlighted the hybrid nature shaped by both neoliberal reforms and residual socialist structures, which merit continued academic engagement with the 'post-' prefix. Also, Chelcea (2025) sees a strength in pluralistic, open-ended understandings of post-socialism. Key concerns are questions of autonomy and dependency as well as an underdeveloped dialogue



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

between the g/Global E/east and g/Global W/west. Investigations into transnational capital flows and how they shape urban futures in post-socialist regions (see Aruri 2024) are still very much needed.

This panel welcomes innovative contributions exploring how Southeastern and Eastern European cities are embedded in transnational networks of finance, infrastructure, and policy, and how these relationships may reproduce socio-spatial inequalities. We particularly encourage sociological perspectives that address questions of inequality, identity, everyday practices, and the lived experience of urban change. This includes reflecting on the role of civic initiatives, grassroots movements, and alternative (people-centred) planning practices in shaping more inclusive and sustainable urban futures. We invite innovative contributions that critically engage with the post-socialist condition and emphasize the importance of local knowledge and community engagement in resisting top-down planning and fostering spatial justice (see Perić and Maruna (2022)) or explore comparisons with other conditions of 'post'.

References:

- Natasha Aruri, Katleen De Flander, & Andreas Brück, (Eds.) (2024) Critical Mapping for Municipalist Mobilization: Housing Struggles in Belgrade, Berlin, Barcelona. Berlin: Berlin Universities Publishing.
- Liviu Chelcea (2025) Goodbye, post-socialism? Stranger things beyond the Global East, Eurasian Geography and Economics, 66:7, 874-900, DOI: 10.1080/15387216.2023.2236126
- Sonia Hirt (2013) Whatever happened to the (post) socialist city? Cities, 32, 29-538, DOI: 10.1016/j.cities.2013.04.010
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- Ana Perić & Marija Maruna (2022) Post-socialist discourse of urban megaproject development: From City on the Water to Belgrade Waterfront. Cities, 130, 103876, DOI: 10.1016/j.cities.2022.103876
- Felix Ringel (2022) The Time of Post-Socialism: On the Future of an Anthropological Concept. Critique of Anthropology 42:2, 191-208. DOI:10.1177/0308275X221095930
- Aleksandar Slaev & Sonia Hirt (2022) Planning, Pluralism, Markets: Experiences from Post-Socialist Varna, Planning Theory & Practice, 23:3, 461-475, DOI: 10.1080/14649357.2022.2061774.

Crowded out and crowded in: development, displacement and property disuse in Tirana

» Dr. Liam O'Farrell (University of Latvia), Ms. Anna Kondi (Polis University)

The Housing Space Divide: Path Dependence in the Provision of Living Space in Former State-socialist Countries in International Comparison

» Dr. Bence Kovács (Institute for Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences), Prof. Sebastian Kohl (Freie Universität Berlin)

Remaking Józsefváros: identity, politics and the long shadow of Socialism in the in the gentrifying Budapest

» Dr. Hanna Szemző (Metropolitan Research Institute), Dr. Sandra Guinand (Institute for Urban and Regional Research, ÖAW)

Beyond the "Post-": Sevastopol as a Critical Case of Militarized Urbanism in a Post-Socialist City

» Mr. Oleg Zubchenok (Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine)

09:00

Oral : #65-1/2

#65 Mobility Regimes between daily travel practices and Migration. Navigating Inequalities, Diversities, and Accessibility in Contemporary Urban Transformations (1/2)

Venue - HS 21

Organised by: Prof. Maria Manuela Mendes (Convenor), Prof. Matteo Colleoni (Convenor), Prof. Luca Daconto (Convenor), Dr. Simone Caiello (Convenor), and Ms. Stefania Toma (Convenor)

Contemporary inequalities in Europe and beyond are increasingly produced at the intersection of mobility, migration, and spatial organization. On the one hand, international, transnational, and internal mobilities reshape the social and spatial fabric of cities, metropolitan regions, and semi-urban/rural territories, bringing to the fore issues of diversity, categorical inequalities (class, gender, ethnicity, migrant status), and differentiated access to housing, services, and education. On the other hand, these mobility practices unfold within what has been conceptualized as mobility regimes (Kesselring, 2014) - configurations of infrastructures, policy frameworks, socio-technical arrangements, and governing narratives that determine who can move, how, where, and at what cost. Such regimes are never neutral: they are historically and politically situated and deeply implicated in the (re)production of social and spatial inequalities.



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

As a result, cities and metropolitan regions are become sites where inclusion and exclusion are both produced and contested. The plurality of contemporary inequalities asks for a nuanced understanding of how mobility regimes shape both the movement of people and the (re)production of social inequalities in daily lives (from working conditions to reproductive activities and leisure) across European territories and beyond.

To understand how urban and spatial planning, mobility governance, and policy frameworks influence social stratification and everyday practices is essential to pay particular attention to conditions of social disadvantages, like transport poverty (Lucas et al., 2016) that encompasses economic, spatial, temporal, and infrastructural barriers that limit individual's ability to reach essential opportunities such as work, education, housing, services, and social networks. We welcome contributions grounded in direct experiences of migrants and mobile populations, as well as theoretical reflections, empirical research, and comparative perspectives that critically engage with experiences of mobile subjects, the way spatialized inequalities are produced and / contested, and how governance and policy responses mitigate or exacerbate multiple marginalities.

We invite papers that address the following questions (but are not limited to):

- How do migration and everyday mobility practices interact with existing mobility regimes to reconfigure social and spatial landscapes across urban, peri-urban, and rural/metropolitan contexts and what are the lived experiences of migrants navigating these regimes?
- How do policy and governance arrangements respond to (or fail to address) the right to the city, housing, and service access for diverse and mobile populations?
- In what ways do transport and accessibility infrastructures intersect with class, gender, ethnicity, and migrant status to reproduce or alleviate spatialized and multi-dimensional inequalities, within restrictive mobility regimes and transport poverty?
- How can empirically grounded studies inform forward-looking, justice-oriented interventions in mobility, spatial planning, and urban-regional development?
- What new methodological and comparative approaches can be used to capture the mobility-related accessibility, the interplay between physical/digital infrastructures, and lived experiences of inequality?

Beyond Access: Classed Geographies of Intra-Urban Mobility and Circulatory Control in Istanbul

» Ms. senem doyduk (University of Hamburg)

Implementing the mobility transition in sparsely populated areas: a new mobility regime? The case of the Grenoble region (France)

» Ms. Romane GAIDOS (Université Grenoble Alpes), Ms. Sonia Chardonnel (Université Grenoble Alpes), Ms. Sandrine Mathy (Université Grenoble Alpes), Mr. Benjamin Rochetin (Université Lumière Lyon 2)

Stumbling blocks on the way from accommodation to living: Transport poverty, mass accommodation and building a home in rural and suburban Brandenburg

» Ms. Mara Hasenjürgen (BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg), Prof. Birgit Behrensen (BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg)

On the Move: Class, Caste and Everyday Mobility in Central India

» Dr. Sunit Arora (Azim Premji University)

09:00

Oral : #9-1/2

#9 Wealth and the city: Urban territories and spatial trajectories of the economic elite (1/2)

Venue - HS 27

Organised by: Bruno Cousin (Convenor), Rowland Atkinson (Convenor), and Dr. Sharda Rozena (Convenor)

This session invites papers focusing on groups and spaces related to the top of the socio-economic ladder, the upper-middle and upper classes, and on those with significant economic power and wealth. We welcome papers detailing the dynamics of urban concentration, self-segregation, spatial mobility, and multi-territoriality, as well as the ways economic elites make sense of urban space practically and symbolically.

All papers - quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods - should be based on solid empirical evidence and explore the causes, modes and/or effects of the spatiality of the rich, super-rich or economically powerful. Papers may therefore also allow analyses at the intersection between urban and regional studies and other social scientific subfields of investigation. For instance, colleagues working on the expansion and further upgrading of elite spaces as driving forces of the reconfiguration of the entire socio-spatial mosaic of the metropolis they study, or focusing on the relation between super-gentrification and



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

financialization of housing, or measuring the effects of the spatial concentration of certain economic sectors or high-skilled professions in specific areas, or showing how the self-segregation and multi-territorial habits of the wealthy can help describe and define them as geo-social classes with peculiar relations to the biosphere, would all be of great interest.

We are indeed interested in understanding the spatial dimension of all inequality processes that originate close to or at the very top. Similarly, in terms of theory, we - of course - welcome a variety of analytical paradigms where this work is supported by an empirical demonstration.

Affluent Territories and the Spatial Spillover Effect of Super-gentrification

» [Dr. Judith Halasz](#) (State University of New York at New Paltz)

Building Culture: Elite Philanthropy and the Arts in New York City

» [Prof. Bas van Heur](#) (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Against the commons. Pozuelo de Alarcón (Madrid, Spain), a paradigm of residential segregation of the upper classes in Spanish cities

» [Mrs. Angela García Carballo](#) (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid)

09:00

Oral : #104-1/2

#104 The Housing-Climate Nexus: Conflicts, Controversies, and Alternatives (1/2)

Venue - HS 30

Organised by: Dr. Lorenzo Vidal (Convenor), Carlos Delclós (Convenor), Dr. Frances Brill (Convenor), Maxime Felder (Convenor), and Jacob Geuder (Convenor)

"Mainstream solutions to the variegated challenges presented by the housing and climate crises often conflict with one another, due to a profound misalignment between ecological imperatives and social needs. The "green" versus the "just" city, ecological responsibility versus affordability, carbon savings versus inclusion. The opposition between the ecological and social goals of policy "solutions" give way to a core antagonism in contemporary urban political economies, often conceptualised as an "eco-social paradox" (Holm, 2011) or a "new

socio-ecological contradiction" (Rice et al., 2020: 145) conditioning processes of climate adaptation and social reproduction. An illustrative example is a prevailing logic that frames large-scale housebuilding as the primary solution to widespread problems of housing affordability. This approach not only underestimates the environmental costs of construction, but also reinforces the growth-oriented imperatives driving urban development. Conversely, climate mitigation strategies centred on energy efficiency retrofits often fail to account for their negative effects on affordability (Delclós and Vidal, 2021), their role in driving "renovictions" (Polanska and Richard, 2021), or their relationship with "green gentrification" (Anguelovski et al., 2018). Both tendencies likely reinforce and reproduce property and investment regimes that remain insufficiently problematised within academic and policy debates alike.

We invite contributions that analyse these contradictions and explore pathways toward more socially and ecologically just urban futures. How do urban actors such as policy makers, tenants, planners, private sector actors, or housing movement activists navigate (seemingly) competing priorities between social and environmental goals? How do specific housing and climate policies reinforce or undermine existing inequalities or ecological limits in a given territory? How do social actors frame the climate and housing crises through collective action? How do contradictions lead to controversy, and how are these controversies publicly debated? How do tensions arise from the consideration of different temporal horizons (e.g., short-term versus long-term) and spatial scales (more local concerns versus more global approaches)?

We invite papers that address the following topics:

- Case studies of urban conflicts and controversies at the intersection of housing and ecological agendas (e.g. Polanska and Richard, 2021).
- Policy and discourse analyses, as well as controversy mapping, critically examining how climate and housing interventions are framed, implemented, and legitimated.
- Discussions of sufficiency-based approaches to housing stock redistribution and alternative models of provision (e.g. Horn et al., 2025; zu Ermgassen et al., 2022)
- Radical strategies for housing decarbonisation that challenge prevailing property and investment regimes (e.g. García-Lamarca, 2025).

The panel seeks to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue bridging structural critique with grounded research. By catalysing collective reflection on the housing-climate nexus, we hope to advance theory and practice beyond the confines of growth-dependent urbanism, toward a more equitable and sustainable political economy of housing."



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Locked into a green shell? Navigating the eco-social paradox in vienna's subsidised collaborative housing

» Mr. Petr Kodenko Kubala (Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences)

Housing and just climate adaptation in Montreal

» Prof. Sophie L. Van Neste (Institut national de la recherche scientifique), Ms. Béatrice Groulx (Institut national de la recherche scientifique), Prof. Xavier Leloup (Institut national de la recherche scientifique)

Refurbish Don't Demolish: the social and environmental politics of public housing redevelopment in London

» Dr. Joe Penny (University College London (UCL))

Vocabularies on Climate and Housing Justice from a Landfill in Bhalswa, New Delhi, India

» Ms. Rashee Mehra (Indian Institute for Human Settlements), Ms. Ruchika Lal (Indian Institute for Human Settlements), Mr. Sheikh Akbar Ali (Indian Institute for Human Settlements)

09:00

Oral : #49-1/2

#49 The Janus face of urban social mix: The social effects of segregation at the micro scale (Urban Micro-segregation) (1/2)

Venue - HS 31

Organised by: Thomas Maloutas (Convenor), Robert Musil (Convenor), and Stavros Spyrellis (Convenor)

Urban micro-segregation - segregation at the micro scale, i.e., below the neighbourhood level - is a neglected but emerging topic in segregation studies. Neglected because the segregation studies have been traditionally focused on the neighbourhood scale; emerging because more and more evidence on social (or ethnic and racial) hierarchies at the micro scale (within building blocks or apartment buildings) is provided by urban research from many cities across the world. This evidence reveals that social mix can have many different facets and, eventually, different social consequences/outputs. It also raises questions about the importance of social hierarchies at the micro scale and their importance for reproducing or appeasing social inequalities. In this way, it brings back the discussion about the relation between social

and spatial proximity, providing new evidence that spatial proximity can produce both bridges and barriers to social proximity, depending on policy and other parameters related to specific contexts.

The proposed Regular Panel is seeking to provide further evidence of micro-segregation structures and, mainly, on their social effects/outcomes. Different forms of urban micro-segregation -like vertical segregation within apartment blocks, segregation between façade and back-street apartments or housing units on main streets/avenues and back streets and alleys, etc.- and their consequences on social inequalities and any kind of discrimination are welcome to this panel.

The proposed Panel is a follow-up of several publications (Logan, J. R. & Bellman, B. Before The Philadelphia Negro: residential segregation in a nineteenth-century northern city. Soc. Sci. Hist. 40, 683-706 (2016); Logan, J. R. & Martinez, M. J. The spatial scale and spatial configuration of residential settlement: measuring segregation in the Postbellum South. Am. J. Sociol. 123, 1161-1203 (2018); Maloutas, T. & Karadimitriou, N. (eds) Vertical Cities. Micro-Segregation, Social Mix and Urban Housing Markets (Edward Elgar, 2022); Maloutas, T., Lin, S. & Logan, J.R. (eds) Urban Micro-segregation, A special issue of Land (ISSN 2073-445X) https://www.mdpi.com/journal/land/special_issues/938S2A99L1 (2024)); of a workshop at the Institute for Urban and Regional Research (ISR) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Oeaw) in Vienna, under the title: Urban micro-segregation on September 12, 2025.

The proposed Panel aims to provide a space to discuss new and cutting-edge findings on this topic. We invite papers that address the following questions/topics:

1. Conceptual debate on the contradiction between micro-segregation and social mix.
2. Empirical insights on the patterns of microsegregation and its social implications within neighbourhoods.
3. Discussion on the urban context (school system, public space and infrastructure policies) that foster/dissolve social hierarchies and inequalities on the microscale.
4. Innovative methodological approaches to measure social proximity (and social distance) at the micro scale.
5. Implication for urban social, housing and planning strategies/policies focused on improving co-habitation and inclusiveness.

Observing social mix and segregation from Parisian café terraces

» Prof. Sylvie Tissot (Université Paris 8)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Urban growth and changing geographies of urban segregation in the Netherlands: a multi-scalar classification approach

» [Dr. Ioeke Kuyvenhoven](#) (University of Amsterdam), Dr. Wouter van Gent (University of Amsterdam), Dr. Willem Boterman (University of Amsterdam)

Micro-segregation in a Planned Social-Mix Eco-District: Residential trajectories, spatial design and the participatory (re)production of inequalities

» [Dr. Lucien Delley](#) (University of Fribourg), Prof. Muriel Surdez (University of Fribourg)

Generational Micro-Segregation and Housing Inequalities in Milan Functional Urban Area

» [Dr. Niccolò Morelli](#) (Università di Genova), [Dr. Giuliana La Mantia](#) (Università di Genova), [Dr. Igor Costarelli](#) (Università di Genova), Dr. Federica Floridi (Università di Genova)

09:00

Oral : #58-1/2

#58 Old and new geographies of urban thirst: Tracing water conflicts and hydrosocial inequalities in the climate emergency (1/2)

Venue - HS 32

Organised by: Dr. Gala Nettelbladt (Convenor), Dr. Lucia Alexandra Popartan (Convenor), and Dr. Francesca Ferlicca (Panel Chair)

The global water crisis does not seem to be going anywhere: As cities worldwide are profoundly reshaped by depleting water resources, living with too little water has long been common in some, while it is relatively new in others. In Europe, as the South is experiencing increasingly devastating droughts, the historically water-rich North is confronted with altered rainfall patterns and shrinking aquifers. In much of the Global South, the struggle with under-supply and infrastructural neglect has long defined everyday urban life, making water crisis a chronic condition of inequality.

Cities remain intensely thirsty, as Filippo Menga reminds us (2025). Urban agendas continue to rely on growth-oriented logics such as densification, investments into new data storage centres, tourism or the push of renaturing, all of which demand ever more water. However, while 'water scarcity' is a popular buzz-expression in both contemporary

mainstream academic and policy talk, it only seems to inspire supply-oriented fixes, such as desalination plants, which conceal socio-political and environmental tensions around, and uneven distributions of, scarcity. As emergency narratives of singular catastrophic moments and unsurpassable deadlines have successfully transformed dominant understandings of human relationships with water into a spectacle (ibid., 31), this spectacularisation of the water crisis serves the conceptual toolkit of capital, stabilising the very system which caused the emergency in the first place (Kaika et al. 2023).

This session explores how 'urban thirst' in the climate emergency is being produced, experienced, governed and resisted. In what ways do urban water crises intersect with planning traditions, political economies, infrastructures as well as temporalities and imaginaries of the urban? To what extent do experiences of environmental trauma and grief or the politics of calculating and measuring water hinge on the way we understand scarcity? What socio-political and socio-technical conflicts emerge? We invite papers that engage with the uneven geographies of urban thirst, old and new. We are particularly interested in papers that challenge the depoliticized language of scarcity, seeking contributions that foreground the socio-political, cultural, and ecological dimensions of scarcity.

We welcome interdisciplinary perspectives from urban and rural sociology, human geography, planning and urban political ecology on individual or comparative case studies, as well as the scalar entanglements of water politics, e.g. household, watershed, municipal bylaws, financial flows. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- New empirical case studies on urban water crises
- Discourses, imaginaries, narratives of 'water scarcity'
- Temporalities, histories and path-dependencies of urban thirst
- Resistance and mobilisation around urban thirst
- Theoretical and methodological innovations to study 'water scarcity'
- More-than-human perspectives on urban waterscapes
- Case studies of planning instruments and policy experiments, top-down & bottom-up

References

Kaika, M., Keil, R., Mandler, T. Tzaninis Y. (eds). 2023. Turning up the Heat: Urban Political Ecology for a Climate Emergency. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
Menga, F. 2025. Thirst: The Global Quest to Solve the Water Crisis. London: Verso.



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Tug-of-war in managing water availability in São Paulo and the constant threat of water scarcity

» Ms. Anna Carolina de Paula Madrid de Marco (FAU - Universidade de São Paulo)

Urban thirst and water conflict: the case study of the Comunanza Agraria di Bagnara

» Dr. Michele Ravaoli (Politecnico di Torino)

How to be Both: Water Shortage and Abundance as Crisis

» Dr. Noura Wahby (University of Cambridge)

Heterogeneous Water Infrastructure and the Politics of Thirst at the Urban Periphery

» Dr. Jorge A. Ortiz-Moreno (University of Manchester)

09:00

Oral : #33-1/2

#33 Care and Contention: Local Activism and Urban Inequalities (1/2)

Venue - HS 34

Organised by: Anna Zhelnina

Situated at the intersection of personal life and public concern, local initiatives often emerge in response to deteriorating infrastructure, environmental stress, housing insecurity, and the erosion of everyday support systems. These place-based struggles bring global crises, such as climate change, migration, and socio-economic precarity, into focus. From the emerging research we know that participation in local activism can foster mental well-being, emotional resilience, and civic belonging (Gilster 2012; Wardle et al. 2024). Yet these benefits are unequally distributed and often fragile, especially in neighborhoods marked by structural disadvantage. This panel is interested in explorations of in how neighborhood groups manage these tensions and build forms of infrastructural and emotional care that support sustained action over time.

In recent years, we have witnessed growing interest in "care" within urban contexts, driven by housing crises, public health challenges like COVID-19, and persistent social inequalities. Emotional and infrastructural care, mutual aid, and feminist ethics of care are

promising directions for urban research (Tronto 1998; Segal 2023; Carr 2005; Williams 2020). However, the field of urban social movement studies has historically developed to address the agentic dimension of confronting urban inequalities as collectives (Florea et al. 2022).

This session suggests bringing together research on urban social movements and other forms of activism with the increasingly important care paradigm, to lay the groundwork for potentially inspiring new perspectives. To do so, it invites contributions viewing urban neighborhoods and other localities as strategic arenas (Jasper and Duyvendak 2015) of sociality and agency, where care for the communities, self, and urban infrastructure energizes transformative action to combat social inequalities.

The session invites conceptual, methodological, and empirical contributions that may address, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- How do neighborhood initiatives engage with infrastructural inequality, housing struggles, and environmental degradation?
- In what ways do neighborhood-based actors perform "care work" to sustain their engagement and support others?
- How do local policies and institutional frameworks shape the possibilities and limits of neighborhood action?
- What are the risks of burnout, depoliticization, or co-optation in place-based activism?
- How do neighborhood struggles scale up (or fail to scale up) into broader political movements?

The panel welcomes contributions based on research in all regions of the world, specifically encouraging scholars from the Global South and Eastern Europe to share their expertise.

"Women leaders die poor": Who Cares for the Care Advocates? Social Leaders, Burnout, and the Paradoxes of Bogotá's Care System

» Prof. Maria Jose Alvarez Rivadulla (Universidad de los Andes), Mrs. María José Gómez (Universidad de los Andes), Mr. Sebastián Espejo Fandiño (Universidad de los Andes), Dr. Friederike Fleischer (Universidad de los Andes), Dr. Adriana Hurtado Tarazona (Universidad de los Andes)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Tenant organising as a practice of care and mutual aid: a case study from the Madrid Tenants Union

» [Mr. Lucas Vaquero](#) (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)), [Mr. Pablo Pérez](#) (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)

The neighbourhood from within: Volunteering as a caring research method

» [Ms. Mathilde Zanchetta Kock](#) (Utrecht University)

Responding with Material Care – How Inhabitants Make Home and Future through Maintenance and Repair

» [Ms. Ismene Ehrler](#) (University of Zurich)

09:00

Oral : #50-1/2

#50 Mapping Meaning: The Potential of Qualitative GIS and Participatory Mapping for Urban Studies (1/2)

Venue - B.I.G. HS

Organised by: Micaela Mancini (Convenor)

Geospatial tools like GIS have been central to urban studies, particularly in revealing and visualising patterns of inequalities. They have enabled scholars and policymakers to map e.g. accessibility to services, processes of spatial segregation, environmental patterns of injustice with a certain degree of precision and comparison. Yet, they tend to privilege the quantifiable and measurable. Urban inequalities, however, are lived and embodied in ways that are not easily captured by conventional cartography: marginalised voices, invisible boundaries, informal practices and contestations of space do not 'find space' in these representations, as they are often difficult to quantify or make visible in conventional/traditional maps.

Quantitative GIS risks flattening lived experience into standardised layers, reducing complexity to aggregated metrics. It can also reproduce exclusions, by leaving out those whose presence is not well captured in official datasets, e.g. residents of informal settlements, precarious workers, those whose attachments, memories and subjective experiences are not recorded. By presenting space as 'fixed' conventional mapping risks reinforcing the very inequalities it seeks to expose.

This session proposes a critical interrogation of how participatory mapping and qualitative GIS can open up more nuanced, spatially grounded and socially just approaches to studying inequalities in the city. The point is not only to 'add more data', but to 'mobilise different lenses': ways of seeing, hearing, and mapping what often remains off the official grid. We argue that this is essential for capturing a sense of place, peripheral experiences, temporalities, memories, while foregrounding the co-production of space between researchers and communities. Integrating these approaches is essential to urban scholarship that aims not only to represent inequality, but to question the politics of representation itself. This session aims at bringing together scholars who are experimenting with such critical and creative lenses, in order to critique current practice, and to chart methodological and ethical paths forward. In other words, to 'map meaning' together.

We invite contributions along three interconnected threads:

- On epistemologies: how can participatory mapping and qualitative GIS shift knowledge production in urban studies away from top-down methodologies? How are power, authority and inclusion negotiated in mapping processes? Who draws the map, who names the places, whose stories are rendered visible or neglected?
- On methods and creativity: what kinds of qualitative-data-rich, spatially grounded tools are being used, adapted, invented? What are the trade-offs in scale, representation, usability?
- On ethics: what ethical dilemmas arise around spatial literacy, expectations, care, and ownership of data in these processes?
- On impact: beyond data collection and representation, how can participatory mapping and qualitative GIS lead to deeper understanding, community empowerment, policy implications or resistance? What opportunities and challenges arise when trying to embed this type of evidence into policy?

Cartographies of Belonging: From Lived Experience to Situated Civic Knowledge in Digital Participatory Mapping — An Enquiry

» [Dr. Catalina Pollak](#) (University of East London)

Mapping Desires: Independent Art Organisations and Urban Inequalities in Milan, Italy

» [Dr. Cecilia Nessi](#) (Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca), [Dr. Carlos Manzano](#) (Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca), [Prof. Marianna d'Ovidio](#) (Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Maps and Movement: Complementary Methods for Understanding Migrant Newcomers' Personal Geographies

» Ms. Zhuo Pang (University of Sheffield)

Participatory Rhythm Analysis: Co-Producing Spatio-Temporal Knowledge on Neighbourhood Dynamics and Urban Inequalities

» Dr. Pinar Sefkatli (University of Amsterdam)

09:00

Oral : #26-1/2

#26 Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary urban research on inequality: theoretical and methodological challenges in the context of socio-ecological transformation (1/2)

Venue - Franz-König Saal (= HS 06)

Organised by: Alexander Hamedinger (Convenor), Raphaela Kogler (Convenor), Dr. Michael Friesenecker (Convenor), and Prof. Ariane Sept (Convenor)

One of today's most urgent societal challenges is undoubtedly the anthropogenic climate change which is essentially multi-dimensional and multi-scalar regarding its causes and impacts. More fundamentally, climate change affects urban societies unequally because often socially disadvantaged groups are comparatively stronger impacted due to their place of residence and lack of social and economic capital necessary for adapting to climate change (as exemplified by research on urban heat islands). To cope with climate change and to deal with its complexities and intricacies on the urban scale, urban scholars increasingly call for reforms towards socio-ecological transformation of the built environment, but also more radically of the organisation of urban societies and urban economies in general. Socio-ecological transformation brings together demands for sustainability and social justice, democratization, and reduction of resource consumption and decarbonization.

Consequently, researching climate change, understanding and normatively demanding socio-ecological transformation at an urban scale requires multi-dimensional, multi-scale and multi-methods research approaches - in other words, they require interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity. If socio-ecological transformation is to be taken seriously, then hierarchical relations within research teams comprising different disciplines, and between researchers working at research institutions, NGOs, and residents or civil society, must be abandoned in

favour of more cooperative and co-creative forms of knowledge production.

Interdisciplinarity (here understood as the problem-focused integration of different disciplines, their methods and theories) and transdisciplinarity (here understood as participatory knowledge production incorporating various forms of knowledge, particularly that of residents and civil society) have been promoted, particularly since the emergence of the notion of sustainability. However, in practice researchers still face challenges such as integrating theories from different disciplines in urban research, conducting participatory research with and for people without reproducing inequalities, engaging with policy makers in a constructive and trustful manner, and simply conducting urban research within the narrow corsets of funded research projects (e.g., time, team, resources). In addition, especially in transdisciplinary projects, often there are differing expectations and needs of the scientific field on the one hand and the practical fields on the other.

This session addresses urban researchers from different disciplines and welcomes papers which will reflect and discuss the following essential questions, drawing on their projects, challenges and best practices:

- How are interdisciplinarity and/or transdisciplinarity conceptualized in the design and implementation of urban research on inequality?
- How can we take inter- and transdisciplinarity seriously in research without reducing them to mere lip service or (re)producing inequalities?
- Which are the main obstacles of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary urban research experienced in concrete projects about inequality and socio-ecological transformation?
- How are interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity combined in research projects, both process and content-wise?

From Participation to Collective Knowledge-Making: Practice-Based Methods for Interdisciplinary Urban Research on Inequality

» Mr. Tom Harvey (University of Reading)

Roles of Universities in Urban Living Labs. Insights from Creating NEBourhoods Together in Munich

» Prof. Gerald Beck (Hochschule München University of Applied Sciences)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Universities, Socio-Technical Systems and Participatory City-Making: Insights from University Extension Practices in Brazil

» Dr. Ana Farias (Dinâmia'CET - ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa),
Dr. Liza Andrade (Universidade de Brasília)

Unsettling knowledge hierarchies in transdisciplinary urban research: Insights from the ra:ve living lab in Karlsruhe, Germany

» Dr. Agnes Matoga (Karlsruhe Institute for Technology)

10:30

General

Coffee Break

Venue - Courtyard

11:00

Oral : #45-2/2

#45 Rethinking the Household: New Ethnographic Approaches to the Study of Urban Collective Life (2/2)

Venue - Green Lounge (=VAM 2)

Organised by: Pranav Kuttaiah (Convenor) and Teresa Caldeira (Convenor)

A number of stylized statistical facts-falling birth-rates, rising educational aspirations, new modalities of welfare, complex patterns of mobility, explosions of rental housing, rising divorce rates, new cultural practices, novel income-generating and distributional strategies, and reworked languages of masculinity and femininity-all point to a fundamental shift: the reordering of household arrangements. This process is not the direct product of centralized design. Rather, a slow accumulation of minor alterations have quietly diffused to the point of constituting a new common sense. New ways of earning, of caring, of managing, of being in public have crept into daily life, not all at once but in hesitant, partial forms; together unsettling the stable category of the household.

Such macro-level phenomena have thus far been analyzed through broad-based instruments and surveys, moving from large structural claims down to individuals. The evolving relationships between work, home, and family in urban contexts, however, demands a framework capable of listening carefully to the emic logics that underlie everyday

improvisations. It calls for a renewed vocabulary-grounded in empirical specificity yet attuned to translocal variation. We propose to think about this fundamental question from the opposite place: we start with our interlocutors, with the logics through which they explain their actions, and develop a qualitative orientation to emergent formations of collective life. This approach is animated by an ability to glean from silences, problematize absences, and think of alternative conditions of possibility through engagement with individual circumstances across different contexts. We define the problem-space as one of sensibilities-of describing and comparing how people learn, gradually, to live together differently.

Through this panel, we seek ethnographically-informed studies that examine the reconfiguration of urban households as sites of provisional belonging, dispersed labor, and negotiated authority. Rather than resorting to moral panics on the 'decline' of the family, we attend to how new forms of householding emerge as responses to-and instruments for navigating-the contradictions of contemporary urban life.

Some key themes include:

- 1.Changing forms of cohabitation, care work, rental practices, and income generation
 - 2.Gendered dimensions of domestic labor, authority, and welfare administration
 - 3.Digital mediation and intergenerational authority
 - 4.Migration, mobility, and dispersed kinship networks
- New modalities of labor and income distribution in household economies

By situating ethnographic cases in dialogue, the panel seeks to illuminate how pressures toward flexible arrangements unfold across distinct historical legacies, labor markets, and kinship systems.

Some theoretical directions include:

- 1.How should we theorize the tension between older teleologies of settlement and autoconstruction, and the emerging logics of transitoriness, mobility and provisional arrangement?
2. How is domestic authority reshaped when women increasingly manage households as income generators and welfare administrators, and what are the implications for urban political economies?
3. How do digital technologies reconfigure intergenerational authority, and what possibilities emerge for collective life?

We invite scholars studying household formations in cities using any methods but with fieldwork or ethnographic insight at the core, or with an interest in theorizing inductively and building new conceptual vocabularies to capture the complex and unstable nature of household life in urban economies today.



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Working the City: Retail Labor and the Reorganization of Household Life in Lahore, Pakistan

» Ms. Anam Khan (University of Texas at Austin)

From Self-Construction to the Market: Rethinking the Genealogy of Housing Production in the Baixada Fluminense, Rio de Janeiro's Periphery

» Mr. Gustavo Azevedo (UERJ)

Format fictions: dealing with glitches and death in New York City's affordable rental housing

» Mr. Nicholas Shatan (University of California, Berkeley)

11:00

Oral : #86

#86 Intersectional Segregation

Venue - Erika Weinzierl Saal

Organised by: Hilary Silver (Convenor) and Paul Jargowsky (Convenor)
In capitalist housing markets, income sorting of residents is inevitable, while states can make it worse. In contrast, mixing policies - social housing, inclusionary zoning, mobility subsidies, and the like -- can moderate the development of concentrated poverty. Living in an area of concentrated poverty has been shown to have many short- and long-term negative effects (Chetty et al. 2014; Sampson 2024; Wilson 2020). But when income segregation is wedded to status group membership -- be it race, ethnicity, religion, language, and so on -- ghettos or enclaves often form (Marcuse 2005), where social exclusion reinforces and exacerbates material disadvantage. This multidimensional or "intersectional" segregation further reduces the odds of out-movement and social mobility, but may foster internal solidarity, identity and community development. Diversity, anti-discrimination, or integration policies targeted at residential group mixing alone are rarer and more fraught.

This panel invites papers to address aspects of intersectional segregation in various national and urban settings, with preference for comparative analyses and theorizing that includes cases in the Global South. While racial segregation in the United States has been extensively studied, and ethnic or migrant segregation has been analyzed in selective European contexts, intersectionally and cumulatively

disadvantaged spaces in other countries have received less attention (see Maloutas 2012; Musterd 2020). Segregation theories differ in emphasis on such factors as out-group avoidance or in-group affinity, socio-economic status and human capital, or place stratification reproduced by real estate agents, landlords, mortgage lenders, and neighbors (Crowder and Krysan 2016). Consequently, the impact of contextual variation on theoretical development nested in different regions of the world remains underdeveloped. While US research focuses on spatial concentration, social isolation, and the consolidation of race, place, and poverty, studies in some cities of the Global South call attention to different spatial configurations under such rubrics as informal settlements, townships, or slums in which group identities are under-explored. Relations within and across such neighborhoods also differ (Garido 2021). Papers on the similarities and differences in the specific groups that are spatially segregated, the exclusionary mechanisms at work in producing such group-based concentrations of poverty, and the effects of intersectional segregation are especially welcomed.

Chetty, Raj, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, and Emmanuel Saez. "Where is the land of opportunity? The geography of intergenerational mobility in the United States." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129, no. 4 (2014): 1553-1623.
Crowder, Kyle and Maria Krysan (2016). *Moving Beyond the Big Three: A Call for New Approaches to Studying Racial Residential Segregation*. *City & Community* (2016)15, 1: 18-22.

Garrido, Marco. *Reconceptualizing Segregation from the Global South*. *City & Community* 20, no. 1 (2021): 24-37.

Maloutas, Thomas. *Residential Segregation in Comparative Perspective*. Routledge, 2012.

Marcuse, Peter. "Enclaves yes, ghettos no." *Desegregating the city: Ghettos, enclaves, and inequality*, ed. David Varady (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2005): 15-30.

Musterd, Sako, ed. *Handbook of Urban Segregation*. Edward Elgar, 2020.

Sampson, Robert. *Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect*. 2nd ed. University of Chicago Press, 2024.

Wilson, William Julius. *The truly disadvantaged*. 2nd ed.



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Mobility, Segregation and Unequal Accessibility in Contested Cities

» Prof. Jonathan Rock (Northeastern University)

Conflicted Social Mix and the Ambivalence towards Urban "Others": Ethnographic Exploration of Urban Regeneration in a Liminal Space in Tel Aviv

» Dr. Tal Shamur (Tel Aviv University)

From Tenants to Stewards: How DC's Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) Creates Community-Driven Housing Outcomes and Counters Intersectional Segregation

» Mx. Elin Zurbrigg (Mi Casa, Inc.), Mx. Juan Pablo Vacatello (Mi Casa, Inc.)

11:00

Oral : #89-2/2

#89 Unveiling the dark side of commons (2/2)

Venue - Marietta Blau Saal

Organised by: Anna Steigemann (Convenor), Lorenza Manfredi (Convenor), and Mari Paz Agundez Leria (Convenor)

"Commons" or the "practice of commoning" is often associated with something positive and beneficial for the development of more inclusive cities. Beyond physical resources such as land or urban infrastructure, the commons refers to the social process of organizing, managing, and caring for collective resources, while maintaining shared access and responsibility. Throughout history, the practice of commoning has been used to resist land privatization or the staggering gentrification, as the Rathausblock or Haus der Statistik in Berlin attest to. Moreover, as many scholars confirm, rather than exploiting the city as a consumable product, fostering the practice of the commons develops an understanding of the city as a collective right. A common space, in which citizens are recategorized as space producers, essential components of the urban landscape, yet implicitly carrying the responsibility to take part in the city-making.

However, commoning and maintaining participatory processes over time require a voluntary, yet deeply engaged human labor, often left unrewarded. Moreover, despite the "open" access these participatory processes advocate for, the reality is that only a limited group of

engaged locals remains active in the participatory process/in the co-productive process. The reasons behind this issue are diverse, stemming from a probable short spread of information unable to reach a wider audience, the complexity in understanding the intricate web of actors and institutions managing the participatory processes, the difficulty in maintaining a long-term engagement from the citizens, or the accommodation of these processes in spaces that remain hidden or inaccessible to the greater majority.

Considering all the benefits that the commons and the practice of commoning promise in an urban context, it is crucial to critically examine the social dynamics underpinning these processes.

We therefore ask: Are commons always equal? Are commons always beneficial? What are the limits of commoning? In which spaces do commons unfold? And when does commoning become an exclusionary tool?

Our interest lies in exploring:

- Varied case studies from diverse geographies across both the Global North and South;
- Conceptual and terminological developments;
- Mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion;
- Best-practice models, tools, and projects;
- The role of gender equality and ethnic diversity within these processes;
- Research examining both processes and outcomes;

Comparative analyses of models including co-production and co-optation.

Going a step further from participation, urban co-production expands the shared responsibility and decision-making beyond everyday urban residents, including institutions, such as municipalities or district planners. This collaborative approach fosters a common-good orientation as a step further to prevent privatization and counteract the forces of neoliberal urban development. These practices of commoning and co-production continue to evolve and mature; however, since they are still in development, there is a pressing need to examine them critically. We are looking for stories of success and failure to develop further the concepts of commoning and co-production, which are still not ripe.

Urban Commons as Arenas for Negotiating Inequality: From Reproduction to Governance

» Dr. Iolanda Bianchi (University of Barcelona), Dr. Francesco Campagnari (Centre d'Étude des Mouvements Sociaux (CEMS/EHESS))



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Mediated Commoning: How BIP/ZIP Participatory Budgeting Shapes Collective Practice in Lisbon

» Ms. Androniki Pappa (Dinâmia'CET - ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa), Prof. Alexandra Paio (Dinâmia'CET - ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)

Unpacking Public-Commons Partnerships: Insights from Citizen Assets for Community Use and Management Programme in Barcelona

» Dr. Victoria Sánchez Belando (University of Barcelona)

COMMONS AND RESTRICTED NATURE IN MADRID

» Dr. Gonzalo Madrazo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)), Dr. Ester Sáez-Pombo (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid)

11:00

Oral : #95

#95 Still arguing over gentrification? Urban theory for the end of the world (or capitalism)

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: Dr. Simone Tulumello (Convenor) and Niccolò Cuppini (Convenor)

The world is on fire; and the urban world with it. The annihilation of Gaza and the grand plans, by the likes of Donald Trump and the Tony Blair Institute, for a brand-new Riviera city both encapsulate and push to an unprecedented limit the long history of the Janus-faced urban-violence nexus: the violence against the urban and the violence produced by urbanisation. The accumulation of expanding war, of the already devastating impacts of global warming and climate change, of the explosion of inequalities - which have in many places overcome tipping points beyond which speaking of inequality proper becomes hard - marks an age that is increasingly sparking apocalyptic fears: from preppers and billionaires buying estates in New Zealand to climate and anti-war activists, many agree we are running fast toward the end of the world, or maybe "only" of capitalism, as we know it - and of the urban as we have learned to know it at the same time.

And we are still arguing about gentrification (and touristification, and financialisation, and informality...). For instance, we - and in this "we", we include the two of us writing these lines - are arguing about the

epistemological limits of concepts generated decades ago and that, though powerful analytical instruments, may be incapable to provide instruments to chart the present and future we live in.

For this session, we invite papers that engage, through a plurality of epistemological and ontological lenses, with very complex questions that are easily formulated:

- What urban theory is possible at the end of the world?
- What urban theory we need toward the end of capitalism?
- Is urban theory even possible in the 21st century?
- What should urban theory for our present predicament look like?

Answering these questions, analytically and strategically, means not giving up the rich theorisations that urban studies and geography have worked and argued about during the last few decades in the meeting and clash of old and new lenses, at the intersection of Marxist, post- and de-colonial, feminist and queer, materialist and post-structuralist (and so on) lenses.

We invite, in a nutshell, papers capable of taking stock of old debates and pushing them to a new level of abstraction: beyond theorising the urban, we want to create a space to (re-)theorise urban theory for our time - before it is too late.

From gentrification to assetization: rethinking urban transformation under rentier capitalism

» Mr. Alberto Crespo (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia), Dr. Javier Gil (CSIC)

Speculative practice at the end of our world

» Dr. Andrea Pavoni (ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)

Decentring concepts of urbanization

» Mr. Christian Schmid (INURA)

Haunted Transformations: Redevelopment, Monsters, and Survival in Damaged Inner Cities

» Dr. Samuel Mössner (University of Münster), Dr. Carola Fricke (Saarland University)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

11:00

Oral : #81

#81 Epistemic friendships in/across difference: Rethinking methodologies in urban research

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Saanchi Saxena (Convenor), Ms. Aseela Haque (Convenor), and Prof. Julie Ren (Discussant)

Urban research has long grappled with the challenge of conducting inquiry across boundaries, borders, and difference. State borders, linguistic divides, socio-spatial inequalities shape how knowledge is produced, what objects of inquiry come into being, as well as whose voices are centred in scholarship. Critical anthropological scholarship has emphasised how difference is not merely encountered in the field but actively constitutes the very conditions of ethnographic knowledge-production (Gupta and Ferguson 1997). In this context, the notion of epistemic friendship centered on feminist modes of reciprocity, shared responsibility, and relational care as a foundational principle for the production of knowledge (Lugones and Rosezelle 1995) offers a generative way to rethink research methodologies, particularly when tensions in geopolitics, institutional design, and power asymmetries limit conventional modes of collaborations.

Although seldom examined in depth, the role of friendship in research has been increasingly acknowledged by scholars as dismantling hierarchical dynamics in fieldwork (Tillmann-Healy 2003), fostering multivocality and care in the production of knowledge (Owton and Allen-Collinson 2014), and revealing how friendship with interlocutors allows "their interests [to] come to matter to us," making friendship not a threat to objectivity but constitutive of the research process itself (Ramírez-i-Ollé 2019, 309). Friendship comes to have a heightened value as conventional methods become improbable in particularly difficult contexts of war and periods of crisis (de Regt 2015).

What kind of collaborations does epistemic friendship make possible? This panel invites researchers to examine the methodological, conceptual, and political potential of epistemic friendship in and across difference. We call for interventions that critically engage with how friendship reorient research practices when relations are mediated by uneven relations of power, borders, or disciplinary divides in urban research.

Key questions:

We're open to different interpretations of "epistemic friendship" collaborations, but we invite presenters to engage with these key questions, or even go beyond:

1. How can friendships, between researchers, with interlocutors, or encompassing more-than-human relations cut across differences to create new ethnographic objects and comparative insights in the urban?
2. How might epistemic friendship itself become a method of navigating disruptions produced by conflict, climate change, geopolitics, authoritarian governance, securitisation of academic mobility, academic precarity, visa regimes, and so on?
3. How does paying attention to epistemic friendship contribute towards critical approaches of doing comparative urbanism, participatory, and more-than-human research?
3. How can epistemic friendships trouble the 'extractivist' model of research in the urban context? What are the implications for anti-colonial, anti-capitalist, and spatially just interventions and solidarity?
4. While friendship between researchers/interlocutors/research contexts can lead to new and liberatory forms of knowledge, what are some things that are left out, decentred, or constitutive of exclusionary modes of (dis)engagement (e.g. gate keeping, nepotism) that reinscribe unequal relations in cities?

Particular attention will be paid to works grounded in feminist, decolonial, queer, anti-caste, Southern approaches in doing collaborative research on the urban. We highly encourage submissions from joint/co-authored proposals, especially from those writing from precarious academic contexts, and we would like to create space for multiple participants to present their research together.

The Ethics Between Us: Exploring the Role of Friendship in the Research Assistantship

» Mrs. Marta Maria Nicolazzi (Università degli Studi di Milano), Mrs. Maxine Both (European University Institute)

The Fragility of Collaborative Knowledge: Epistemic Friendship in Flood Risk Governance

» Mrs. Annika Kühn (University of Hamburg)

"Despite This, We Are All Friends": Epistemic Friendship, Difference, and Refusal in Urban Research with Children

» Ms. Manasa Gade (University of Edinburgh)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

11:00

Workshop : Innovative Session 2 / #20

#20 Playing [with] Knowledge: Inclusive Games and Experiments in Science Communication

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Dr. Agnes Matoga (Convenor) and Dr. Anastasiya Ansteeg (Convenor)

Cities have long been arenas of inequality, where struggles over housing, livelihoods, welfare, and access to public space shape urban life. Today, these struggles are intensified by interconnected crises, such as rising economic inequality, accelerating climate change, and deepening political exclusion. In this context, urban research faces the dual challenge of analysing these dynamics while actively engaging in co-creating inclusive spaces and communication methods with those most affected by precarious housing and living conditions.

This session starts from the premise that science communication itself is a terrain of inequality. Traditional formats, such as lectures, papers, Q&A, often reproduce hierarchies and exclude communities who lack access to academic spaces or influence over research agendas. To contribute meaningfully to urban debates, science communication must move beyond academic circles, reaching those often ignored or silenced: vulnerable groups and marginalized communities.

The session explores how experimental and playful approaches can reimagine science communication as a practice of inclusion. We ask: How can communicative formats become genuinely accessible? How can "playing" with knowledge respect, rather than trivialize, lived experiences? And how might such approaches help urban researchers not just disseminate findings but reshape relationships between academia, policy, and civil society?

Rather than relying on spoken presentations, the session will function as a laboratory of formats and games that bring knowledge production to wider publics. Participants will engage directly with experimental tools, collaborative games, participatory mapping, storytelling exercises, and visual methods that translate complex urban issues into embodied and interactive experiences.

The session is structured around three parts:

1.Short provocations introducing the challenge of inclusive science

communication and showcasing examples of experimental methods.
2.Hands-on engagement where participants collectively try playful communication tools designed to lower participation barriers and foster dialogue across social positions.
3.Collective reflection on opportunities and limitations of these approaches, discussing how communicative formats can invite collaboration, co-creation, and critique from those usually excluded.

By linking methodological innovation to urgent urban issues, such as housing and energy transitions, the session contributes to RC21's concern with how inequalities are produced, expressed, and contested in cities. It emphasizes that science communication is not an afterthought but a vital arena where struggles over inclusion unfold. Through experimentation in practice, the session offers both methodological insights and thematic contributions, inviting participants to rethink how urban research can build communicative spaces that amplify marginalized voices and co-create transformative responses to inequality.

The session chairs will introduce experiences from the PREFIGURE project and other related initiatives that use playful, participatory tools to engage communities around housing justice and energy transitions.

We invite scholars, practitioners, and activists to submit a short abstract that introduces a challenge, experience, or project related to housing inequalities, energy transitions, or other urban inequalities and reflects on experimental methods for science communication, public engagement, or co-creation.

Gaming-Changers: planning local actions for a just climate transition

» Dr. Ying-Tzu Lin (Utrecht University), Prof. Dick Ettema (Utrecht University), Mr. Rok Kranjc (Futurescraft)

Brick by Brick: introducing urban sustainability to children and families through playful co-creation

» Dr. Carmen Guida (University of Naples Federico II), Dr. Floriana Zucaro (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II), Dr. Gerardo Carpentieri (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

Playing for a Just and Responsible Green Deal: Using Nature's Contributions to People in Urban Planning Games

» Prof. Iacopo Zetti (Dept. of Architecture, University of Florence (Italy)), Prof. Maddalena Rossi (Dept. of Architecture, University of Florence (Italy)), Dr. Cassandra Fontana (Dept. of Architecture, University of Florence (Italy)), Dr. Andrea Testi (Dept. of Architecture, University of Florence (Italy))

11:00 Workshop : Innovative Session 1

Documentary screening: A Place in the City

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: Dr. Gabriel Silvestre (Panel Chair), Prof. Hanna Hilbrandt (Discussant), and Prof. Francisco de Assis Comaru (Discussant)

A Place in the City explores urban struggles and grassroots resistance across Latin America, centring on the lived experiences of communities in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. Blending audiovisual storytelling with academic commentary and archival research, the documentary prompts reflection on the politics of urban space, housing, and collective action.

Produced through a collaboration between the Contested Territories research project and Fundación Ciudades sin Miedo (Argentina), the film interweaves interviews with activists, residents, and scholars. Several academic contributions were recorded during the most recent RC21 meeting in Santiago, creating a direct link between the film and the RC21 community. These reflections offer theoretical grounding for the lived experiences depicted, enriching the narrative with insights into urban governance, housing precarity, and grassroots forms of resistance.

The documentary traces how communities confront displacement, negotiate with state institutions, and mobilize to reclaim urban space. It highlights the role of social movements in imagining and shaping alternative urban futures, adopting a transnational perspective on urban prefiguration and the politics of everyday life. Through an intersectional lens, the film foregrounds the experiences of women, migrants, and racialized groups, showing how struggles over housing and territory are embedded within broader structures of inequality.

A Place in the City (2025)

Duration: 61 minutes

Director: Gabriel Silvestre

Producers: Contested Territories; Fundación Ciudades sin Miedo

Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese

Subtitles: English

Watch trailer on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hZYGVDv2g

Documentary screening: A Place in the City

» Dr. Gabriel Silvestre (Newcastle University), Prof. Hanna Hilbrandt (University of Zurich), Prof. Francisco de Assis Comaru (Federal University of ABC)

11:00 Workshop : Round table 4

Variegated (in)equalities in collaborative housing: critiques and hopes

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Dr. Tomáš Hoření Samec (Panel Chair), Mx. Luise Stoisser (Panel Chair), Prof. Darinka Czischke (Discussant), Dr. Jan Malý Blažek (Discussant), Lucia Chaloin (Discussant), and Mr. Vattani Saray-Delabar (Discussant)

In recent years, collaborative housing has been adopted as an umbrella term describing forms of housing which accentuate self-organisation, collectivity, and sharing in housing provision. The reasons for developing these forms are often related to inequalities and inadequacies in terms of access to (urban) housing markets, environmental challenges, or social isolation. Existing research shows that many contemporary collaborative housing projects emerge as a response to increasingly financialized housing systems, which are predominantly based on individual private homeownership or rental housing. The former being increasingly less acceptable for market-newcomers of younger age and lower-incomes while the later being often linked to a variety of housing disadvantages and precarities. However, while collaborative housing presents a promising innovation in housing provision, it has also been critiqued as potentially too exclusive or constrained by the formal criteria set up by stakeholders (e.g., municipalities) who provide public support (such as long term land lease).

The aim of this round table is twofold: on the one hand, we will discuss how (in)equality is manifested and (re)produced in collaborative housing following-up on the recent vigorous debates on the character of housing and urban inequalities, insecurities and disadvantages; on the other, we want to offer a hopeful, yet critical, account on how collaborative housing may serve to mitigate various and often intersecting inequalities. We aim to provide an account which brings the perspectives from the Northern Western, Central-Eastern and Southern Europe perspectives and finds bridges across the variety of geographical



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

settings and urban scales from major cities such as Vienna or Brussels to the more locally oriented ethnographic research in Italy, Portugal or the Czech Republic.

Next to highlighting the potential of collaborative housing, we aim to discuss (1) tensions arising between formal inclusion criteria set by city governments (e.g., income limits) and inclusion criteria agreed upon by residents (e.g., proportion of LGBTQ+/older residents) in collaborative housing groups that work together with institutional stakeholders, such as social housing organisations; (2) relational aspects of (in)equalities which present the various housing hierarchies as a dynamic interplay between civic, public and private stakeholders with often contingent results as manifested in (3) contradictions embedded in top-down projects that, on the one hand, tend to prioritize the housing inclusion of vulnerable groups reducing social inequalities they experience, and on the other hand, produce wider inequalities of power between institutional actors initiating these projects and the residents.

Variegated (in)equalities in collaborative housing: critiques and hopes

» Dr. Tomáš Hoření Samec (Brno University of Technology), Mx. Luise Stoisser (Society and ageing research lab)

11:00

Workshop : Round table 12

More Than a Place of Worship: Mosques in the Contemporary Western European Cities

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: Dr. Öznur Yardımcı (Panel Chair), Oskar Verkaaik (Discussant), Dr. Martin Lundsteen (Discussant), Devran Koray Öcal (Discussant), and Daryl Martin (Discussant)

This roundtable explores mosque building in contemporary Western European cities as a central site where national belonging, citizenship and racialised forms of urban governance are negotiated. Moving beyond common framings of mosques as faith-based spaces or security concerns, the session foregrounds their sociological, anthropological, urban, political geographic and political economic significance. In contexts marked by the rise of right-wing populist nationalism where Islamophobia plays a central role, mosque projects become key terrains on which struggles over urban space, racialised governance, and the symbolic and material bordering of the political community unfold.

Building on scholarship that conceptualises mosque planning as a site of boundary-making, between insiders and outsiders (Gale, 2004; 2005), Western/non-Western others (Villis and Hebing, 2014), or the 'community of value' (Yardımcı and Martin, 2024), the roundtable brings together scholars working across diverse Western European contexts to reflect comparatively on mosque projects, from the initial planning stage to post-construction everyday use.

In line with the conference theme on inequalities, the session will consider how mosque planning, development and use reflect and reproduce prevalent and emerging forms of racialised urban governance and everyday bordering of the political community. It will also explore the political economy and political geography of mosque buildings in relation to broader urban planning contexts in which they are embedded.

By bringing together an interdisciplinary group of scholars spanning anthropology, political geography, urban studies and sociology, the roundtable offers a historically grounded and comparative lens on mosque building as an urban intervention that reshapes the production of urban space, everyday practices of bordering, and the governance of belonging and citizenship in contemporary Western Europe.

Politics of Belonging amid Right-Wing Populism

What political, symbolic, and social work do mosques perform in contemporary Western European cities beyond their roles as religious spaces?

How are the discourses and spatial strategies of right-wing populist and nationalist movements negotiated, contested, or reconfigured through mosque planning, architecture and everyday use?

Architecture, Planning and Urban Space

How do national and local planning regimes interact to shape mosque architecture, design, and spatial integration in Western European cities? What forms of spatial transformation -symbolic, material, or infrastructural- do mosques generate within and beyond their immediate urban localities?

Concluding Reflections on Mosques as Spaces of Citizenship

How do mosque projects facilitate, mediate, or challenge the social, spatial, and political-economic configurations of community, national belonging, citizenship, and multiculturalism in Western European cities amid the rise of Islamophobic nationalism?



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

More Than a Place of Worship: Mosques in the Contemporary Western European Cities

» [Dr. Öznur Yardımcı](#) (University of York)

11:00

Workshop : Round table 5

Community, Capital, Policy solutions and Contested Claim-Making in Informal Settlements of the Global South

Venue - HS 01

Organised by: Dr. Jeroen Klink (Panel Chair), Dr. Camila Saraiva (Discussant), Prof. Xuefei Ren (Discussant), Karen Coelho (Discussant), and Dr. Lindsay Sawyer (Discussant)

Informal settlements have come to represent a kind of metonym for the contemporary metropolis in the Global South. Since the 1960s, we have seen the emergence of vibrant debates and policy experiments around aided self-help and management, sites-and-services schemes, and in-situ upgrading linked to income and employment generation programs. These initiatives sought to support communities' claims to livelihoods and, ultimately, their right to the city. At the same time, dramatic transformations have taken place in the built environment since then, such as increasing densities, emerging building typologies, and the blurring of boundaries between the "formal" and the "informal." These shifts are intertwined with evolving relationships between markets, states, and collective actors, all of which shape the contested production and appropriation of space in these territories.

This context suggests that progressive, rights-based upgrading policies - as we thought we knew them - must be carefully reconsidered in light of the realities of today's metropolises in the Global South.

To what extent have developmental discourses and approaches - whether rights-based, progressive, or conservative - that envision cities without slums, or aim for their "integration," contributed to a kind of permanent transitoriness of informality and precarity?

How can we imagine forms of statecraft that engage with the socially embedded norms and conventions of informal markets, while also mobilizing the vibrancy and solidarity of community networks in these settlements?

To what extent are newly emerging collective actors - such as gangs, religious organizations, artists and cultural movements, real estate platforms, and large-scale professional developers - reshaping the dynamics of informal settlements and influencing the outcomes of upgrading processes?

How do today's informal settlements challenge internationally established slum upgrading paradigms, which were largely consolidated in the twentieth century?

And finally, how can we mobilize diverse "geographies of theory" to better understand the production of informal settlements and the experiments in upgrading - without falling into the traps of either exceptionalism or universalism?

This roundtable seeks to foster an international dialogue on these issues grounded in the diverse trajectories of informal settlements and upgrading experiments across cities of the Global South.

Community, Capital, Policy solutions and Contested Claim-Making in Informal Settlements of the Global South

» [Dr. Jeroen Klink](#) (Federal University of ABC), [Dr. Camila Saraiva](#) (Federal University of ABC)

11:00

Oral : #35-2/2

#35 Experiencing Violences, Shaping (In)securities: Perspectives from Cities of the Global South (2/2)

Venue - HS 02

Organised by: Prof. Gareth Jones (Convenor), Mrs. Morgan Olive-Carmellini (Convenor), and Ms. Line Relisieux (Convenor)

This session addresses the entanglements between urban violence, security, and inequalities in cities of the Global South. Violence, in its multiple forms, remains an important feature of urban life, shaping how people navigate and imagine the city. Its consequences permeate all segments of society, albeit unevenly, as marginalised communities disproportionately bear the burdens of violence. Shaped by enduring urban inequalities, everyday encounters with violence elicit diverse responses and strategies that produce distinct senses and practices of security. These practices can either reinforce existing hierarchies and cycles of violence or open up spaces for resistance and transformation. Understanding security as a terrain of everyday negotiation, struggle, and privilege, the session explores how experiences of violence and practices of security-making interact to reproduce, contest, and reconfigure urban inequalities in the Global South.

The session brings together scholars addressing three interrelated questions. First, how is urban violence experienced by different social groups, and how do racialised, gendered, and classed dynamics shape these experiences? Second, how do state and non-state actors respond to violence, and how are their practices of security-making entangled with existing inequalities? Third, what kind of spatial consequences are



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

produced at these intersections, and how do they reconfigure the organisation of cities?

The session will address several key themes in relation to violence, (in)security, and inequality. Considering that urban violence can be lived as a continuum, it explores the actors and factors that interrupt or reproduce violence, highlighting the everyday negotiations that sustain or transform cycles of (in)security. Second, it investigates experiences and practices of (in)security among diverse social groups, focusing on emotions, affect, and belonging as central to understanding how violence is lived and made sense of. Third, it examines the spatial consequences of (in)security-making, including urban fragmentation, segregation, how protection reshapes the built environment, and changing boundaries of mobility and memory.

Together, these contributions move beyond binary understandings of violence versus security to reveal their socio-spatial embeddedness and ambivalence. They highlight how (in)security is produced through everyday practices that are simultaneously constraining and enabling the reproduction of urban violence. The panel contributes to broader debates on urban inequalities, governance, and everyday life by inviting reflections on the ambivalence of (in)security-making, and on how different actors - from states and armed groups to community organisers and families - forge alternative ways of living with, through, and against violence in cities of the Global South.

The panel welcomes papers adopting ethnographic, participatory, and qualitative approaches that examine:

- the violence-security continuum;
- affect, belonging, and everyday insecurity;
- entanglements of security and inequality;
- spatial reorganisation and fragmentation; and
- rethinking security from the everyday.

Governing Displacement in Times of Violence: Municipal Response and Socio-Spatial Transformations in South Lebanon

» [Ms. Isabela Serhan](#) (American University of Beirut)

Living with Risk: Platformed Mobility, Fear, and Women's Everyday Travel in Lahore

» [Ms. Ramsha Hasan](#) (University of Bonn)

Stealing to Survive: Mapping the Geographies of Hunger-Driven Crime in São Paulo

» [Mr. Fabiano Jorge Soares](#) (Fundação Getulio Vargas)

11:00

Oral : #72-2/2

#72 Urban Health and Publicness: Rethinking Inequalities, Governance and Citizenship in Contemporary Cities (2/2)

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Prof. Emanuele Polizzi (Convenor), Sara Vallerani (Convenor), and Prof. Carlotta Mozzana (Convenor)

As urban populations expand, health has become a central arena in which urban inequalities are produced, contested and redefined. This session explores urban health as both an analytical lens and a field of political and social action where cities, institutions, and collective actors negotiate the meanings and practices of care, well-being and citizenship.

Urban health systems are complex socio-political configurations shaped by multi-level governance and by interactions among public, private and civil society actors. From municipal health departments and environmental planning offices to community clinics, social movements and private providers, these actors contribute to (re)defining what counts as "public" in health. Drawing on sociological approaches to public action (Lascoumes & Le Galès, 2018; Moini, 2013) and urban citizenship (Isin, 2007; Sassen, 1996), the session invites contributions that analyze how health becomes an object of public concern, intervention and conflict within cities, and how diverse actors shape urban health governance and its inequalities.

The session builds on the idea that the city has a dual nature: it is simultaneously a producer of inequalities and a generator of salutogenic potential. On the one hand, urban environments concentrate structural disparities-unequal access to care, pollution, precarious housing and socio-spatial segregation-making visible how health inequities are rooted in urban forms and political economies. On the other hand, cities are also spaces of possibility, where proximity, density and social heterogeneity enable new alliances, collective actions and innovative practices of care. By being traversed, inhabited and enacted by heterogeneous social actors, cities can become fertile terrains for experimenting with alternative models of welfare, solidarity and



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

participation. This ambivalence calls for analytical frameworks capable of grasping how health inequalities are both produced and contested through urban processes.

We particularly welcome contributions that:

examine how inequalities in access to care, environmental health and social determinants are spatially organized and politically contested in urban contexts;
explore how collective social actors (municipalities, NGOs, associations, social movements or professional groups) construct forms of urban health citizenship;
analyze the role of private healthcare actors and market-oriented logics in shaping urban health systems, reconfiguring notions of public responsibility and access;
investigate how governance arrangements - across scales and sectors - shape the publicness of health and the interaction between public and private forms of provision;
propose comparative and methodological reflections on researching health in and of the city.

By bringing together case studies from diverse geographical contexts, this session seeks to foster interdisciplinary and comparative dialogue on how cities operate as laboratories of health governance and as arenas of democratic experimentation. It aims to advance conceptual discussions on urban health as public action, linking sociological perspectives on inequality, governance and citizenship to the challenges of sustainable, inclusive and healthy urban futures.

From Healthcare to Health: Knowledge Transitions, Action Logics and Modes of Governance in the Making of Community Health Centers in Italy

» Dr. Eugenio Graziano (University Milano-Bicocca), Prof. Emanuele Polizzi (University Milano-Bicocca)

Breathing Inequality: Indoor Air Quality, Housing and Urban Health in Mira-Bhayandar, Mumbai, India.

» Prof. Neha Bhatia (Smt. K.L. Tiwari College of Architecture)

Does Institutional Segregation Follow Residential Segregation Trends? Social Inequality and Health Care Accessibility Amid Physician Segregation in Berlin, Germany

» Dr. Robert Vief (Goethe University Frankfurt), Ms. Marlene Steenken (Humboldt University of Berlin), Ms. Nele Bittner (Humboldt University of Berlin), Dr. Daniela Krüger (Charité University Medicine, Berlin)

Health, Disability, and the Territorial Organization of Inequality in the United States

» Dr. Cintia de Freitas Melo (The New School for Social Research)

11:00

Oral : #21-2/2

#21 Radical Housing Movements and Collective Futures: From Vulnerability and Precarity to Autonomy (2/2)

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: laia garcia fernandez (Convenor) and Dr. Vafa Dianati (Convenor)

Housing struggles have long been central to urban studies, yet current inequalities in access to housing mark a distinct reconfiguration of structural forces. Platform capitalism-through short-term letting and investment tourism-turns cities into speculative markets, while green, student, and tech-driven gentrification deepen inequalities. Grassroots housing movements face growing criminalisation, while private property rights are protected and financial systems favour high-income borrowers over those in precarious work. Vulnerability and precarity are central to these structural dynamics and struggles. Following Butler (2004, 2016), vulnerability denotes a universal human condition of dependence on others, institutions, and material supports, while precarity refers to the politically produced inequality of exposure to harm, where some lives are secured and others rendered expendable. Butler's framework thus offers a critical lens on housing injustices by revealing that deprivation of housing is not merely an economic issue, but a political and ethical question of whose vulnerability is recognised and protected.

Politically engineered precarity has inspired collective responses across cities, including squats, cooperatives, community land trusts, communes, and urban occupations, that reclaim housing as a shared right rather than a commodity. This panel places these counter-institutional practices at the centre of debates on housing inequality by focusing on the transition from vulnerability and precarity to collective care and autonomy, where housing becomes infrastructure for care and mutual aid. These practices are not only responses to crisis or failures of the state but rather world-making political projects that contest the



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

dominant order of property, value, and urban governance. By asserting collective control over land, housing, and care, these movements politicise everyday life and make visible the structural violence of housing markets, racialised displacement, and state neglect. They build infrastructures of the otherwise: new forms of territorial governance, social reproduction, and collective ownership that challenge capitalist urbanism at its root. These are also insurgent practices that reconfigure what counts as infrastructure, who is recognised as a political subject, and what forms of life are deemed liveable.

The panel invites contributions exploring housing as a terrain of struggle, solidarity, and alternative world-making across diverse geographies. We seek papers that situate housing as a political and ethical field where collective actors contest vulnerability and precarity. We welcome interdisciplinary and comparative approaches that foreground the voices, tactics, and imaginaries of communities experimenting with new forms of dwelling, ownership, and care, and encourage dialogue among researchers, activists, and practitioners on how these movements reimagine collective life under precarity and articulate new vocabularies of care, resistance, and belonging.

We welcome a range of contributions, including but not limited to:

- Gendered, racialised, and postcolonial analyses of labour, care, and stewardship within alternative housing movements.
- Ethnographic and participatory approaches highlighting the lived experiences of residents and organisers.
- Comparative and translocal studies tracing the global circulation of ideas, tactics, and governance models.
- Visual, artistic, and spatial methodologies examining the aesthetics, materiality, and spatial practices of collective housing.
- Socio-legal and policy perspectives analysing how alternative housing movements navigate legality, criminalisation, and recognition.

Reclaiming housing for all in the polycrisis: A Manifesto for Just and Democratic Housing in European Cities

» [Prof. Barbara Lipietz](#) (Development Planning Unit, UCL), [Mr. Tim Wickson](#) (Development Planning Unit, UCL), [Prof. Agnès Deboulet](#) (Université Paris 8), [Ms. Helene FROMENT](#) (Un Centre Ville Pour Tous)

Palazzo Morigi: autonomy and queer collective living in Milan, 1976-1978

» [Mr. Giacomo Rossi](#) (ETH Zürich)

Activism, Political Consciousness, and Life Transformation in the Homeless Workers' Movement (MTST)

» [Dr. Alberto Fierro](#) (MTST - People's Research Center), [Ms. Helena Serizawa](#) (MTST - Education Sector)

Homes Without Papers: Mapping the self-organized housing practices of undocumented migrants in their struggle for papers in Brussels

» [Ms. Charlotte Van Rhijn](#) (Department of Architecture, KU Leuven), [Prof. Jeroen Stevens](#) (Department of Architecture, KU Leuven), [Prof. Viviana d'Auria](#) (Department of Architecture, KU Leuven)

11:00

Oral : #78

#78 Re-conceptualizing displacement through intersecting migration and urban theory

Venue - HS 07

Organised by: [Dr. Romola Sanyal](#) (Convenor) and [Prof. René Kreichauf](#) (Convenor)

How do we conceptualize the urban and urban citizenship in an age of global displacements? This question is both complex and urgent as we see displacement has become a key organizing logic of rural and urban life from across the world where "different" forms of displacement are closely intertwined. In this session, we want to bring different parts of the world-Global Southeast, and Global Northwest-together to investigate this question both in its local specificities and its global impacts. Specifically, we want to discuss what knowledge can emerge from bringing evictions, homelessness, disaster induced displacement with rural-urban migration, land dispossessions and displacements due to civil conflict into conversation with each other. Our session aims to decolonize and bridge divides in both urban and migration studies that have long remained separate avenues of inquiry. We welcome contributions that study the ways in displacements overlap, spill into each other and move across the world. Papers can be both empirical and theoretical, however, we highly welcome contributions that attempt to re-conceptualize Western-dominated understandings of displacement.



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Displacement as a Relational Urban Process: Rethinking Migration, Masculinity, and Informality Through Intersecting Theories

» [Mr. Abel Mavura](#) (University of Cambridge)

'Still Never a Local without a Local Hukou': Migrant Understandings of Urban Citizenship and Everyday Displacement in the Chinese Greater Bay Area

» [Dr. Joseph Hongsheng Zhao](#) (University of the West of Scotland)

Anticipatory Urbanism: How Intermediaries Shape Mobility and Displacement Across Ecological Gradients

» [Ms. Aratrika Debnath](#) (The New School for Social Research)

Housing on the Move: A translocal lens on 'displaced housing' practices across three European cities

» [Dr. Tasneem Nagi](#) (KU Leuven), Prof. Viviana d'Auria (Department of Architecture, KU Leuven), [Prof. Luce Beeckmans](#) (KU Leuven)

(Re)bordering the Banlieue: Understanding Displacement in and through Saint-Denis

» [Ms. Seyma Yetkin](#) (Central European University)

11:00

Oral : #19-2/2

#19 The End of Post? Rethinking Urban Practices and Structures and Their Impact on Inequalities in Post-Socialist and Post-Industrial Cities (2/2)

Venue - HS 16

Organised by: Yvonne Franz (Convenor) and Harutyun Vermishyan (Convenor)

(How) can the concept of the post-socialist city continue to provide an innovative analytical lens through which to understand new and old socio-spatial inequalities? More than three decades after the collapse of socialist regimes across Central and Eastern Europe, the concept of the post-socialist city remains a central yet contested framework for urban studies. While it has enabled scholars to trace the enduring legacies of state socialism in urban governance, spatial organization, and socio-economic structures, it also risks simplifying a transitional narrative that

overlooks the evolving complexities of everyday urban life and local economy as well as the differences of perception amongst various societal generations in these regions.

Several authors have challenged the temporal and ideological assumptions embedded in the 'post-' prefix, calling for either abandoning (Müller and Trubina 2020) or reinventing it (Ringel 2022). Slaev and Hirt (2022) have argued for a nuanced understanding of planning cultures in post-socialist contexts. Similarly, Hirt (2013) has highlighted the hybrid nature shaped by both neoliberal reforms and residual socialist structures, which merit continued academic engagement with the 'post-' prefix. Also, Chelcea (2025) sees a strength in pluralistic, open-ended understandings of post-socialism. Key concerns are questions of autonomy and dependency as well as an underdeveloped dialogue between the g/Global E/east and g/Global W/west. Investigations into transnational capital flows and how they shape urban futures in post-socialist regions (see Aruri 2024) are still very much needed.

This panel welcomes innovative contributions exploring how Southeastern and Eastern European cities are embedded in transnational networks of finance, infrastructure, and policy, and how these relationships may reproduce socio-spatial inequalities. We particularly encourage sociological perspectives that address questions of inequality, identity, everyday practices, and the lived experience of urban change. This includes reflecting on the role of civic initiatives, grassroots movements, and alternative (people-centred) planning practices in shaping more inclusive and sustainable urban futures. We invite innovative contributions that critically engage with the post-socialist condition and emphasize the importance of local knowledge and community engagement in resisting top-down planning and fostering spatial justice (see Perić and Maruna (2022)) or explore comparisons with other conditions of 'post'.

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Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

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Felix Ringel (2022) The Time of Post-Socialism: On the Future of an Anthropological Concept. *Critique of Anthropology* 42:2, 191-208. DOI:10.1177/0308275X221095930
Aleksandar Slaev & Sonia Hirt (2022) Planning, Pluralism, Markets: Experiences from Post-Socialist Varna, *Planning Theory & Practice*, 23:3, 461-475, DOI: 10.1080/14649357.2022.2061774.

Post-Communist Temporalities, Hybrid Planning, and Housing Inequality in Yerevan

» [Ms. Heghine Pilosyan](#) (HfX housing studies centre)

Studying Urban Change through Multiple Conditions of 'Post': Class, Race and Moral Economies in East Berlin and Warsaw

» [Dr. Urszula Wozniak](#) (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Department of Social Sciences)

Beyond the "Post-": Ontologies of Urban Orders in Armenian Small Cities

» [Dr. Aram Vartikyan](#) (Yerevan State University), [Prof. Kerstin Krellenberg](#) (University of Vienna), [Dr. Julia Wesely](#) (University of Vienna), [Ms. Milena Sarmakyan](#) (Yerevan State University)

Reconfiguring Responsibility after Mass Privatisation: Housing Governance across Post-Socialist Cities

» [Dr. Elena Batunova](#) (RWTH Aachen University), [Ms. Albina Davletshina](#) (RWTH Aachen University)

11:00

Oral : #65-2/2

#65 Mobility Regimes between daily travel practices and Migration. Navigating Inequalities, Diversities, and Accessibility in Contemporary Urban Transformations (2/2)

Venue - HS 21

Organised by: Prof. Maria Manuela Mendes (Convenor), Prof. Matteo Colleoni (Convenor), Prof. Luca Daconto (Convenor), Dr. Simone Caiello (Convenor), and Ms. Stefania Toma (Convenor)

Contemporary inequalities in Europe and beyond are increasingly produced at the intersection of mobility, migration, and spatial organization. On the one hand, international, transnational, and internal mobilities reshape the social and spatial fabric of cities, metropolitan regions, and semi-urban/rural territories, bringing to the fore issues of diversity, categorical inequalities (class, gender, ethnicity, migrant status), and differentiated access to housing, services, and education. On the other hand, these mobility practices unfold within what has been conceptualized as mobility regimes (Kesselring, 2014) - configurations of infrastructures, policy frameworks, socio-technical arrangements, and governing narratives that determine who can move, how, where, and at what cost. Such regimes are never neutral: they are historically and politically situated and deeply implicated in the (re)production of social and spatial inequalities.

As a result, cities and metropolitan regions are become sites where inclusion and exclusion are both produced and contested. The plurality of contemporary inequalities asks for a nuanced understanding of how mobility regimes shape both the movement of people and the (re)production of social inequalities in daily lives (from working conditions to reproductive activities and leisure) across European territories and beyond.

To understand how urban and spatial planning, mobility governance, and policy frameworks influence social stratification and everyday practices is essential to pay particular attention to conditions of social disadvantages, like transport poverty (Lucas et al., 2016) that encompasses economic, spatial, temporal, and infrastructural barriers that limit individual's ability to reach essential opportunities such as work, education, housing, services, and social networks. We welcome contributions grounded in direct experiences of migrants and mobile populations, as well as theoretical reflections, empirical research, and comparative perspectives that critically engage with experiences of mobile subjects, the way spatialized inequalities are produced and / contested, and how governance and policy responses mitigate or exacerbate multiple marginalities.



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

We invite papers that address the following questions (but are not limited to):

- How do migration and everyday mobility practices interact with existing mobility regimes to reconfigure social and spatial landscapes across urban, peri-urban, and rural/metropolitan contexts and what are the lived experiences of migrants navigating these regimes?
- How do policy and governance arrangements respond to (or fail to address) the right to the city, housing, and service access for diverse and mobile populations?
- In what ways do transport and accessibility infrastructures intersect with class, gender, ethnicity, and migrant status to reproduce or alleviate spatialized and multi-dimensional inequalities, within restrictive mobility regimes and transport poverty?
- How can empirically grounded studies inform forward-looking, justice-oriented interventions in mobility, spatial planning, and urban-regional development?
- What new methodological and comparative approaches can be used to capture the mobility-related accessibility, the interplay between physical/digital infrastructures, and lived experiences of inequality?

Mobilizing migrants to maintain urban mobility: How mobility regimes and migration policy intersect in recruitment for the German mobility sector

» Ms. Esma Gelis (Karlsruhe Institute for Technology), Prof. Franziska X. Meinherz (Institute for Geography and Geoecology, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology)

Rewriting the City: A Palimpsestic Approach to the Socio-Spatial Governmentalities of Itinerant Communities in Post-1972 Switzerland

» Mr. Aron Korozy (Bern University of Applied Sciences)

A reconsideration of urban bias and a search for livability among Filipino mobile populations

» Dr. Carmeli Marie Chaves (School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of the Philippines)

11:00

Oral : #9-2/2

#9 Wealth and the city: Urban territories and spatial trajectories of the economic elite (2/2)

Venue - HS 27

Organised by: Bruno Cousin (Convenor), Rowland Atkinson (Convenor), and Dr. Sharda Rozena (Convenor)

This session invites papers focusing on groups and spaces related to the top of the socio-economic ladder, the upper-middle and upper classes, and on those with significant economic power and wealth. We welcome papers detailing the dynamics of urban concentration, self-segregation, spatial mobility, and multi-territoriality, as well as the ways economic elites make sense of urban space practically and symbolically.

All papers - quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods - should be based on solid empirical evidence and explore the causes, modes and/or effects of the spatiality of the rich, super-rich or economically powerful. Papers may therefore also allow analyses at the intersection between urban and regional studies and other social scientific subfields of investigation. For instance, colleagues working on the expansion and further upgrading of elite spaces as driving forces of the reconfiguration of the entire socio-spatial mosaic of the metropolis they study, or focusing on the relation between super-gentrification and financialization of housing, or measuring the effects of the spatial concentration of certain economic sectors or high-skilled professions in specific areas, or showing how the self-segregation and multi-territorial habits of the wealthy can help describe and define them as geo-social classes with peculiar relations to the biosphere, would all be of great interest.

We are indeed interested in understanding the spatial dimension of all inequality processes that originate close to or at the very top. Similarly, in terms of theory, we - of course - welcome a variety of analytical paradigms where this work is supported by an empirical demonstration.

The elite in middle Brazilian cities: spatial proximity and social distance

» Dr. Maria Encarnação Sposito (São Paulo State University - Unesp),
Dr. Eliseu Savério Sposito (São Paulo State University)

Not Only Figurative: The Vertical Structure of Upper-Class Residential Patterns in Almaty's Pre-Mountain Zone

» Mr. Ivan Riaposov (Almaty Management University (AlmaU))



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Concentrating Wealth in the Periphery: Urban-Regional Situations of Dependency in Latin America

» Prof. Michael Lukas (Universidad de Chile), Prof. Nadine Reis (El Colegio de México)

Green Colonies and Instant Deliveries: Elite Spatial Projects and the Making of Urban Inequality in Contemporary Delhi

» Ms. Malavika Narayan (Cornell University), Mr. Abhishek Sekharan (University of Michigan)

11:00

Oral : #104-2/2

#104 The Housing–Climate Nexus: Conflicts, Controversies, and Alternatives (2/2)

Venue - HS 30

Organised by: Dr. Lorenzo Vidal (Convenor), Carlos Delclós (Convenor), Dr. Frances Brill (Convenor), Maxime Felder (Convenor), and Jacob Geuder (Convenor)

"Mainstream solutions to the variegated challenges presented by the housing and climate crises often conflict with one another, due to a profound misalignment between ecological imperatives and social needs. The "green" versus the "just" city, ecological responsibility versus affordability, carbon savings versus inclusion. The opposition between the ecological and social goals of policy "solutions" give way to a core antagonism in contemporary urban political economies, often conceptualised as an "eco-social paradox" (Holm, 2011) or a "new socio-ecological contradiction" (Rice et al., 2020: 145) conditioning processes of climate adaptation and social reproduction. An illustrative example is a prevailing logic that frames large-scale housebuilding as the primary solution to widespread problems of housing affordability. This approach not only underestimates the environmental costs of construction, but also reinforces the growth-oriented imperatives driving urban development. Conversely, climate mitigation strategies centred on energy efficiency retrofits often fail to account for their negative effects on affordability (Delclós and Vidal, 2021), their role in driving "renovictions" (Polanska and Richard, 2021), or their relationship with "green gentrification" (Anguelovski et al., 2018). Both tendencies likely reinforce and reproduce property and investment regimes that remain insufficiently problematised within academic and policy debates alike.

We invite contributions that analyse these contradictions and explore

pathways toward more socially and ecologically just urban futures. How do urban actors such as policy makers, tenants, planners, private sector actors, or housing movement activists navigate (seemingly) competing priorities between social and environmental goals? How do specific housing and climate policies reinforce or undermine existing inequalities or ecological limits in a given territory? How do social actors frame the climate and housing crises through collective action? How do contradictions lead to controversy, and how are these controversies publicly debated? How do tensions arise from the consideration of different temporal horizons (e.g., short-term versus long-term) and spatial scales (more local concerns versus more global approaches)?

We invite papers that address the following topics:

- Case studies of urban conflicts and controversies at the intersection of housing and ecological agendas (e.g. Polanska and Richard, 2021).
- Policy and discourse analyses, as well as controversy mapping, critically examining how climate and housing interventions are framed, implemented, and legitimated.
- Discussions of sufficiency-based approaches to housing stock redistribution and alternative models of provision (e.g. Horn et al., 2025; zu Ermgassen et al., 2022)
- Radical strategies for housing decarbonisation that challenge prevailing property and investment regimes (e.g. García-Lamarca, 2025).

The panel seeks to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue bridging structural critique with grounded research. By catalysing collective reflection on the housing-climate nexus, we hope to advance theory and practice beyond the confines of growth-dependent urbanism, toward a more equitable and sustainable political economy of housing."

Facing the environmental contradictions of urban densification: comparative insights from Switzerland and Belgium

» Mr. Luca Piddiu (University of Geneva)

Policy Contradictions at the Housing–Climate Nexus: Climate Action and Historic Housing in European Cities

» Prof. Ludek Sykora (Charles University), Mr. Richard Janeček (Charles University), Dr. Sandra Guinand (Institute for Urban and Regional Research, ÖAW), Dr. Said Belguidoum (Aix Marseille Université - IREMAM Aix en Provence), Mr. Richard Bellingham (University of Strathclyde)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Housing as Climate Infrastructure: Public Housing and the Eco-Social Paradox in Graz

» Mr. Joseph Purtell (The Graduate Center, City University of New York)

Housing cooperatives and socio-ecological transition in Berlin. Exploring local pathways to socially just eco-renovation in tense markets and ambivalent institutional conditions

» Dr. Corinna Hölzl (Humboldt University of Berlin), Mr. Sascha Münch (Humboldt University of Berlin)

11:00

Oral : #49-2/2

#49 The Janus face of urban social mix: The social effects of segregation at the micro scale (Urban Micro-segregation) (2/2)

Venue - HS 31

Organised by: Thomas Maloutas (Convenor), Robert Musil (Convenor), and Stavros Spyrellis (Convenor)

Urban micro-segregation - segregation at the micro scale, i.e., below the neighbourhood level - is a neglected but emerging topic in segregation studies. Neglected because the segregation studies have been traditionally focused on the neighbourhood scale; emerging because more and more evidence on social (or ethnic and racial) hierarchies at the micro scale (within building blocks or apartment buildings) is provided by urban research from many cities across the world. This evidence reveals that social mix can have many different facets and, eventually, different social consequences/outputs. It also raises questions about the importance of social hierarchies at the micro scale and their importance for reproducing or appeasing social inequalities. In this way, it brings back the discussion about the relation between social and spatial proximity, providing new evidence that spatial proximity can produce both bridges and barriers to social proximity, depending on policy and other parameters related to specific contexts.

The proposed Regular Panel is seeking to provide further evidence of micro-segregation structures and, mainly, on their social effects/outcomes. Different forms of urban micro-segregation -like vertical segregation within apartment blocks, segregation between façade and back-street apartments or housing units on main streets/avenues and back streets and alleys, etc.- and their consequences on social inequalities and any kind of discrimination are welcome to this panel.

The proposed Panel is a follow-up of several publications (Logan, J. R. & Bellman, B. Before The Philadelphia Negro: residential segregation in a nineteenth-century northern city. Soc. Sci. Hist. 40, 683-706 (2016); Logan, J. R. & Martinez, M. J. The spatial scale and spatial configuration of residential settlement: measuring segregation in the Postbellum South. Am. J. Sociol. 123, 1161-1203 (2018); Maloutas, T. & Karadimitriou, N. (eds) Vertical Cities. Micro-Segregation, Social Mix and Urban Housing Markets (Edward Elgar, 2022); Maloutas, T., Lin, S. & Logan, J.R. (eds) Urban Micro-segregation, A special issue of Land (ISSN 2073-445X) https://www.mdpi.com/journal/land/special_issues/93852A99L1 (2024)); of a workshop at the Institute for Urban and Regional Research (ISR) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Oeaw) in Vienna, under the title: Urban micro-segregation on September 12, 2025.

The proposed Panel aims to provide a space to discuss new and cutting-edge findings on this topic. We invite papers that address the following questions/topics:

1. Conceptual debate on the contradiction between micro-segregation and social mix.
2. Empirical insights on the patterns of microsegregation and its social implications within neighbourhoods.
3. Discussion on the urban context (school system, public space and infrastructure policies) that foster/dissolve social hierarchies and inequalities on the microscale.
4. Innovative methodological approaches to measure social proximity (and social distance) at the micro scale.
5. Implication for urban social, housing and planning strategies/policies focused on improving co-habitation and inclusiveness.

Densification, Micro-Segregation and Social Mix. The case of High-Rise Living in Oslo

» Prof. Roberta Cucca (Norwegian University of Life Sciences), Prof. Per Gunnar Røe (University of Oslo), Dr. Rebecca Cavicchia (Norwegian University of Life Sciences), Dr. Nora Tveter (University of Oslo)

Microgentrification through housing diversification in two Parisian neighbourhoods

» Mrs. Christine Lelévrier (Uni)

Urban micro-segregation and social mixing at a mixed-tenure neighbourhood in London

» Prof. Paul Watt (London School of Economics)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

How is school segregation linked to residential segregation? A micro-scale analysis of Austrian small and medium-sized towns

» [Mr. Iannis Kaucic](#) (Institute for Urban and Regional Research, ÖAW)

11:00

Oral : #58-2/2

#58 Old and new geographies of urban thirst: Tracing water conflicts and hydrosocial inequalities in the climate emergency (2/2)

Venue - HS 32

Organised by: Dr. Gala Nettelbladt (Convenor), Dr. Lucia Alexandra Popartan (Convenor), and Dr. Francesca Ferlicca

The global water crisis does not seem to be going anywhere: As cities worldwide are profoundly reshaped by depleting water resources, living with too little water has long been common in some, while it is relatively new in others. In Europe, as the South is experiencing increasingly devastating droughts, the historically water-rich North is confronted with altered rainfall patterns and shrinking aquifers. In much of the Global South, the struggle with under-supply and infrastructural neglect has long defined everyday urban life, making water crisis a chronic condition of inequality.

Cities remain intensely thirsty, as Filippo Menga reminds us (2025). Urban agendas continue to rely on growth-oriented logics such as densification, investments into new data storage centres, tourism or the push of renaturing, all of which demand ever more water. However, while 'water scarcity' is a popular buzz-expression in both contemporary mainstream academic and policy talk, it only seems to inspire supply-oriented fixes, such as desalination plants, which conceal socio-political and environmental tensions around, and uneven distributions of, scarcity. As emergency narratives of singular catastrophic moments and unsurpassable deadlines have successfully transformed dominant understandings of human relationships with water into a spectacle (ibid., 31), this spectacularisation of the water crisis serves the conceptual toolkit of capital, stabilising the very system which caused the emergency in the first place (Kaika et al. 2023).

This session explores how 'urban thirst' in the climate emergency is being produced, experienced, governed and resisted. In what ways do urban water crises intersect with planning traditions, political economies, infrastructures as well as temporalities and imaginaries of the urban? To what extent do experiences of environmental trauma and grief or the politics of calculating and measuring water hinge on the way

we understand scarcity? What socio-political and socio-technical conflicts emerge? We invite papers that engage with the uneven geographies of urban thirst, old and new. We are particularly interested in papers that challenge the depoliticized language of scarcity, seeking contributions that foreground the socio-political, cultural, and ecological dimensions of scarcity.

We welcome interdisciplinary perspectives from urban and rural sociology, human geography, planning and urban political ecology on individual or comparative case studies, as well as the scalar entanglements of water politics, e.g. household, watershed, municipal bylaws, financial flows. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- New empirical case studies on urban water crises
- Discourses, imaginaries, narratives of 'water scarcity'
- Temporalities, histories and path-dependencies of urban thirst
- Resistance and mobilisation around urban thirst
- Theoretical and methodological innovations to study 'water scarcity'
- More-than-human perspectives on urban waterscapes
- Case studies of planning instruments and policy experiments, top-down & bottom-up

References

Kaika, M., Keil, R., Mandler, T. Tzaninis Y. (eds). 2023. Turning up the Heat: Urban Political Ecology for a Climate Emergency. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
Menga, F. 2025. Thirst: The Global Quest to Solve the Water Crisis. London: Verso.

Temporalities of Thirst: Path-Dependencies in AI Data Center Water Conflicts

» [Mr. Ye Ha Kim](#) (University College London (UCL))

Land as Hydraulic Infrastructure: The Political Ecology of the Volga River's Decline

» [Dr. Marat Nevlyutov](#) (Independent Research Program "Auditoria")

Cartographies of Urban Thirst: Entangled Water Infrastructures and Hydrosocial Inequalities in Istanbul

» [Ms. Elif Soyulu](#) (Independent Researcher)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

Emancipatory watershed planning in the era of AI-driven economic development

» [Dr. Jared Enriquez](#) (University at Albany, SUNY), Ms. Fernanda Farche (University at Albany, SUNY), Ms. Kerry Gibson (University at Albany, SUNY), Mr. Michael Shannon (University at Albany, SUNY)

11:00

Oral : #33-2/2

#33 Care and Contention: Local Activism and Urban Inequalities (2/2)

Venue - HS 34

Organised by: Anna Zhelnina

Situated at the intersection of personal life and public concern, local initiatives often emerge in response to deteriorating infrastructure, environmental stress, housing insecurity, and the erosion of everyday support systems. These place-based struggles bring global crises, such as climate change, migration, and socio-economic precarity, into focus. From the emerging research we know that participation in local activism can foster mental well-being, emotional resilience, and civic belonging (Gilster 2012; Wardle et al. 2024). Yet these benefits are unequally distributed and often fragile, especially in neighborhoods marked by structural disadvantage. This panel is interested in explorations of in how neighborhood groups manage these tensions and build forms of infrastructural and emotional care that support sustained action over time.

In recent years, we have witnessed growing interest in "care" within urban contexts, driven by housing crises, public health challenges like COVID-19, and persistent social inequalities. Emotional and infrastructural care, mutual aid, and feminist ethics of care are promising directions for urban research (Tronto 1998; Segal 2023; Carr 2005; Williams 2020). However, the field of urban social movement studies has historically developed to address the agentic dimension of confronting urban inequalities as collectives (Florea et al. 2022).

This session suggests bringing together research on urban social movements and other forms of activism with the increasingly important care paradigm, to lay the groundwork for potentially inspiring new perspectives. To do so, it invites contributions viewing urban neighborhoods and other localities as strategic arenas (Jasper and Duyvendak 2015) of sociality and agency, where care for the communities, self, and urban infrastructure energizes transformative

action to combat social inequalities.

The session invites conceptual, methodological, and empirical contributions that may address, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- How do neighborhood initiatives engage with infrastructural inequality, housing struggles, and environmental degradation?
- In what ways do neighborhood-based actors perform "care work" to sustain their engagement and support others?
- How do local policies and institutional frameworks shape the possibilities and limits of neighborhood action?
- What are the risks of burnout, depoliticization, or co-optation in place-based activism?
- How do neighborhood struggles scale up (or fail to scale up) into broader political movements?

The panel welcomes contributions based on research in all regions of the world, specifically encouraging scholars from the Global South and Eastern Europe to share their expertise.

Feminist activism, care and gendered urban violence prevention among youth in Rio de Janeiro's favelas

» [Dr. Bruna Ferreira Montuori](#) (King's College London), [Prof. Cathy McIlwaine](#) (King's College London), [Ms. Renata Neuwirth Peppl](#) (Queen Mary University)

Collective Care as Urban Infrastructure: Local Solidarity Campaigns during the COVID-19 Pandemic in São Paulo

» [Ms. Luma Mundin](#) (Universidade de São Paulo)

Care for nature, support the community: grassroots environmentalism and everyday struggle in the city

» [Dr. Alexandrina Vanke](#) (Institute of Sociology of the Federal Centre of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

11:00

Oral : #50-2/2

#50 Mapping Meaning: The Potential of Qualitative GIS and Participatory Mapping for Urban Studies (2/2)

Venue - B.I.G. HS

Organised by: Micaela Mancini (Convenor)

Geospatial tools like GIS have been central to urban studies, particularly in revealing and visualising patterns of inequalities. They have enabled scholars and policymakers to map e.g. accessibility to services, processes of spatial segregation, environmental patterns of injustice with a certain degree of precision and comparison. Yet, they tend to privilege the quantifiable and measurable. Urban inequalities, however, are lived and embodied in ways that are not easily captured by conventional cartography: marginalised voices, invisible boundaries, informal practices and contestations of space do not 'find space' in these representations, as they are often difficult to quantify or make visible in conventional/traditional maps.

Quantitative GIS risks flattening lived experience into standardised layers, reducing complexity to aggregated metrics. It can also reproduce exclusions, by leaving out those whose presence is not well captured in official datasets, e.g. residents of informal settlements, precarious workers, those whose attachments, memories and subjective experiences are not recorded. By presenting space as 'fixed' conventional mapping risks reinforcing the very inequalities it seeks to expose.

This session proposes a critical interrogation of how participatory mapping and qualitative GIS can open up more nuanced, spatially grounded and socially just approaches to studying inequalities in the city. The point is not only to 'add more data', but to 'mobilise different lenses': ways of seeing, hearing, and mapping what often remains off the official grid. We argue that this is essential for capturing a sense of place, peripheral experiences, temporalities, memories, while foregrounding the co-production of space between researchers and communities. Integrating these approaches is essential to urban scholarship that aims not only to represent inequality, but to question the politics of representation itself. This session aims at bringing together scholars who are experimenting with such critical and creative lenses, in order to critique current practice, and to chart methodological and ethical paths forward. In other words, to 'map meaning' together.

We invite contributions along three interconnected threads:

- On epistemologies: how can participatory mapping and qualitative GIS shift knowledge production in urban studies away from top-down methodologies? How are power, authority and inclusion negotiated in mapping processes? Who draws the map, who names the places, whose stories are rendered visible or neglected?
- On methods and creativity: what kinds of qualitative-data-rich, spatially grounded tools are being used, adapted, invented? What are the trade-offs in scale, representation, usability?
- On ethics: what ethical dilemmas arise around spatial literacy, expectations, care, and ownership of data in these processes?
- On impact: beyond data collection and representation, how can participatory mapping and qualitative GIS lead to deeper understanding, community empowerment, policy implications or resistance? What opportunities and challenges arise when trying to embed this type of evidence into policy?

From Infrastructure Audits to Affective Evidence: Reworking GIS for Inclusive Mobility Research

» Ms. Mia Rafalowicz-Campbell (Sheffield Hallam University)

Disoriented maps: African counter-cartographies across neoliberal and authoritarian governance

» Mr. Daanyaal Loofer (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town)

The cartographic mediator: situating 'the researcher' in Participatory GIS methodologies.

» Mr. Jojo Jenner (University of Cambridge)

Beyond the Map: GIS, Machine Learning, and the Limits of Quantifying Homelessness in Skid Row

» Dr. Taraneh Meshkani (Kent State University)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

11:00

Oral : #26-2/2

#26 Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary urban research on inequality: theoretical and methodological challenges in the context of socio-ecological transformation (2/2)

Venue - Franz-König Saal (= HS 06)

Organised by: Alexander Hamedinger (Convenor), Raphaela Kogler (Convenor), Dr. Michael Friesenecker (Convenor), and Prof. Ariane Sept (Convenor)

One of today's most urgent societal challenges is undoubtedly the anthropogenic climate change which is essentially multi-dimensional and multi-scalar regarding its causes and impacts. More fundamentally, climate change affects urban societies unequally because often socially disadvantaged groups are comparatively stronger impacted due to their place of residence and lack of social and economic capital necessary for adapting to climate change (as exemplified by research on urban heat islands). To cope with climate change and to deal with its complexities and intricacies on the urban scale, urban scholars increasingly call for reforms towards socio-ecological transformation of the built environment, but also more radically of the organisation of urban societies and urban economies in general. Socio-ecological transformation brings together demands for sustainability and social justice, democratization, and reduction of resource consumption and decarbonization.

Consequently, researching climate change, understanding and normatively demanding socio-ecological transformation at an urban scale requires multi-dimensional, multi-scale and multi-methods research approaches - in other words, they require interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity. If socio-ecological transformation is to be taken seriously, then hierarchical relations within research teams comprising different disciplines, and between researchers working at research institutions, NGOs, and residents or civil society, must be abandoned in favour of more cooperative and co-creative forms of knowledge production.

Interdisciplinarity (here understood as the problem-focused integration of different disciplines, their methods and theories) and transdisciplinarity (here understood as participatory knowledge production incorporating various forms of knowledge, particularly that of residents and civil society) have been promoted, particularly since the emergence of the notion of sustainability. However, in practice

researchers still face challenges such as integrating theories from different disciplines in urban research, conducting participatory research with and for people without reproducing inequalities, engaging with policy makers in a constructive and trustful manner, and simply conducting urban research within the narrow corsets of funded research projects (e.g., time, team, resources). In addition, especially in transdisciplinary projects, often there are differing expectations and needs of the scientific field on the one hand and the practical fields on the other.

This session addresses urban researchers from different disciplines and welcomes papers which will reflect and discuss the following essential questions, drawing on their projects, challenges and best practices:

- How are interdisciplinarity and/or transdisciplinarity conceptualized in the design and implementation of urban research on inequality?
- How can we take inter- and transdisciplinarity seriously in research without reducing them to mere lip service or (re)producing inequalities?
- Which are the main obstacles of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary urban research experienced in concrete projects about inequality and socio-ecological transformation?
- How are interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity combined in research projects, both process and content-wise?

Reframing Socio-Spatial Analysis as a Critical and Transdisciplinary Tool for Socio-Ecological Transformations

» Mrs. Johanna Gassner (Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien))

Diversity or Similarity? Contrasting Frameworks of 'Comparison' in an Interdisciplinary Project on Urban Sensory Pollution

» Dr. Robert Shaw (Newcastle University), Dr. Sam Booth (Newcastle University)

Climate urbanism and flood management in Indonesia

» Dr. Sonia Roitman (The University of Queensland)

12:30

**General
Lunch**

Venue - Courtyard



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 21

Handbook on International Migration in Small Towns and Rural Areas

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: Prof. Eduardo Barberis (Panel Chair), Prof. Tiziana Caponio (Panel Chair), and Prof. Ruth McAreavey (Panel Chair)

This Handbook provides a critical and comprehensive overview of migration towards small towns and rural areas, considering such locales not as marginal, but as fully involved in global dynamics of mobility, inequality, and social change. This volume takes stock of over two decades of research on migration outside metropolitan gateways to stress the plurality, relevance, and richness of theoretical and empirical contributions on a social issue no longer to be considered as "underexplored".

Focussing on a wide range of international case studies from Europe, North America, Oceania, Africa, and Asia, this collection shows that small towns and rural areas are variously connected in global relations, scalar hierarchies, and mobility patterns, with heterogeneous migration flows, in terms of motivations, trends, and incorporation features. Among the themes explored in its 29 chapters, there are settlement trajectories, the role of civil society and local governance in shaping policy responses, the marginalization and resilience of rural contexts, and exploitative value chains. Furthermore, the Handbook pays specific attention to the methodological and ethical challenges of conducting research in these settings.

This Handbook is an essential resource for scholars and policymakers, offering a nuanced understanding of how migration reshapes the social fabric of small towns and rural areas worldwide.

Handbook on International Migration in Small Towns and Rural Areas

» Prof. Eduardo Barberis (University of Urbino Carlo Bo), Prof. Tiziana Caponio (University of Turin), Prof. Ruth McAreavey (Newcastle University)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 14

Atlas Otherwise:

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: Prof. Nishat Awan (Panel Chair)

Atlas Otherwise considers spatial and visual practices of knowing and locating beyond the evidentiary, considering myths, stories and memory. The result of long-term artistic research on borders and migration, it is concerned with an ecology of practices that emerges across borders - from the coastal knowledge of the Indian Ocean where centuries old myths intersect with infrastructural development to the fragmented journeys of migration where the dreams, delusions and deceptions of borders are endured as a rite of passage, and through an appeal to saints and symbols.

A concern with the atlas and its forms of knowing and representation unfolds alongside a concern with how borders are produced. This is because maps and atlases were foundational to the colonial concept of the border. Atlas Otherwise explores contemporary borders in relation to infrastructural development, ecological breakdown, cross border movements of smuggling and the clandestine movement of people. It addresses these subjects through the many ways those caught within the logic of borders cope within these difficult situations. Far from the usual concerns of migration discourse, the book is concerned with the dreams, delusions and deceptions of borders, and how these are endured as a rite of passage and through an appeal to saints, symbols and stories. It asks what forms of life are produced at the border, and what ecologies of practice support migration and movement across borders as anti-colonial acts.

At a time when migration discourse has become increasingly toxic, and a forensic approach that appeals through evidentiary modes has failed to move the discourse, Atlas Otherwise mobilizes other types of knowledge for an affective response to border politics. Rather than couching the migrant as victim, the book considers them as one amongst many producers of knowledge, practices, and narratives that hold the possibilities of living otherwise amongst the hardening of borders. In this sense, Atlas Otherwise is concerned with other representations of borders and movements across them. It consists of a visual and textual account that bridges the gap between the evidentiary and the affective, and maps the exchange between the digital and the analogue, precisely because these are also modes in which contemporary borders and migration discourse functions. While the digital can be a space of surveillance and control at borders, the book approaches the digital through a technofeminist perspective, as a speculative space for thinking through multiple and overlapping narratives.



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

The book is the result of research carried out between 2014 and 2022 as part of three projects that include two year-long fellowships (Topology and Mapping, University of Sheffield, Faculty Research Fellowship; Migrant Narratives, Independent Social Research Foundation Fellowship) and a five-year European Research Council (ERC) funded project, Topological Atlas: Mapping contemporary borderscapes. All three projects consider the journeys of undocumented migration and the spaces and communities that coalesce around geopolitical borders within the context of increasing inequalities, conflict and the climate crisis.

Attached PDF - collates exhibited work from these projects.

Atlas Otherwise:

» [Prof. Nishat Awan](#) (University College London)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 24

Citizen X: Becoming Undocumented Activists On Both Sides Of The Atlantic.

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Prof. Thomas Swerts (Panel Chair)

How do undocumented migrants become activists? How can we make sense of the fact that undocumented activists are powerful, resourceful, and hyper-visible yet vulnerable, precarious, and relatively invisible all at once? How do the personal and collective activist trajectories of undocumented migrants diverge and converge on both sides of the Atlantic? And why do the actions they organize from the margins hit politics-as-usual in its very core? These are the complex and provocative questions that Thomas Swerts poses in *Citizen X*. Based on years of immersion as an ally in Chicago and Brussels, this transatlantic ethnography offers an unprecedented inside look into the birth, growth, and demise of undocumented-led organizations. In cities on opposite sides of the Atlantic, migrants struggled to create a space from where they could speak their own truth as lived experiences of illegality reinforced their feelings of powerlessness. But as Swerts reveals, under certain conditions, vulnerabilities can be developed into collective strengths. By openly sharing their stories, contesting restrictions on mobility, and publicly expressing their emotions, undocumented activists expose the hidden reality of 'Citizen X'. At a time when legal avenues for migration are becoming narrower and undocumented migrants are

increasingly criminalized and stigmatized, *Citizen X* discloses the fundamental inequalities and social injustices that result from unevenly distributing legal status in the world while highlighting the renewed meaning that non-citizens are giving to citizenship from the ground up.

Discussant: Dr. Sarah Schilliger, Universität Bern

Citizen X: Becoming Undocumented Activists On Both Sides Of The Atlantic.

» [Prof. Thomas Swerts](#) (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 27

Cult of Play: The Culture and Development of Children's Play in Mumbai & Beyond

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Ms. Pritika Akhil Kumar (Panel Chair) and Ms. Martina Soies (Panel Chair)

Despite its positive impact on the cognitive, emotional and physical development of children, the need for free, safe and hygienic play has often been neglected in the development of India's megacities. This is especially true in the case of Mumbai, which under the pressure of increasing urbanisation, tremendous socio-spatial inequalities, and densification, has always provided its youngest citizens with limited and ever-diminishing opportunities for play.

Through this book, we examine the status quo concerning play in Mumbai and the different cultures of play produced by its complex urban fabric. Part I serves as an introduction to the research context. Parts II and III present diverse perspectives from notable to make the case for the necessity of play spaces for children, especially in Mumbai's informal settlements. The diversity of views establishes a collaborative research process, creating rich data while also helping to identify contradictions.

The research project, *The Culture and Development of Children's Play - The socio-cultural influences of playgrounds on the development of children and communities* with case studies in Mumbai, on which this publication is based, is laid out in part IV. Here, three chosen informal settlements in Mumbai and the localised 'cultures of play' observed are presented along with the key aims of the research project. These include: (a) to learn how playgrounds contribute towards the development of children and their communities; (b) to develop a design tool for sustainable playgrounds for children under the age of 16; and (c) to identify obstacles for building and maintaining playgrounds.



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

To achieve these aims, the methodology of participatory action research was employed to engage with the resident children and their communities. Looking at informal settlements through their eyes informed us on how to develop these spaces and to understand what is destroyed by bluntly ignoring their needs. The empirical results of the research project showed that it is difficult to identify a singular culture of play. The more general cultures of play in the available play spaces are refracted by their place specificities and the characteristics of the surrounding social and built spaces.

Building on our research, we developed ideas for a spatial system - a design tool - which is presented in the final part of the book. This tool is designed to create opportunities for play within the community itself, on the doorsteps of the houses, surrounded by the community and flowing into the interiors of their homes, without any restrictions of time. To conclude, we reflect upon the evolution of our project, the development of the design tool and the outcomes of the project.

Cult of Play: The Culture and Development of Children's Play in Mumbai & Beyond

» [Ms. Pritika Akhil Kumar](#) (Co:Lab), [Ms. Martina Soies](#) (Anukruti)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 28

Informal Housing in the Global North: Exploring Practices, Actors and Processes in a Transforming Housing System

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: Dr. Jakub Galuszka (Panel Chair)

Informal Housing in the Global North proposes analytical and conceptual approaches to investigate the progressing 'informalisation' of contemporary housing in the Global North and beyond.

Amidst the ongoing housing crisis, the reading of informalities in the so-called North has increasingly disrupted the conventional understanding of local cities as fully regulated, well-structured and formal. By juxtaposing contested, successful and 'under- the- radar' ordinary housing phenomena across various income levels, this volume seeks to unpack and document the embeddedness of informality in mid- and high-income cities. This investigation reveals the pervasive and hybrid nature of local housing systems, in which formal frameworks defining modes of utilising spaces and architectural design are continuously

reinterpreted by users, public sector actors and market entities alike. It reflects on everyday housing pathways and the agency of those who, by preference or necessity, engage with solutions conventionally labelled as informal.

The volume encompasses cases from Berlin, Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Naples, Oxford, Paris and Sydney. It scrutinises the processes shaping a range of housing phenomena and formats, including flat conversions, secondary dwellings, digital rental markets, occupations of public housing, informal settlements, houseboats, refugee accommodation, property caretaking and sub-letting practices.

Informal Housing in the Global North: Exploring Practices, Actors and Processes in a Transforming Housing System

» [Dr. Jakub Galuszka](#) (HafenCity University Hamburg)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 8

Are They Kissing Us?

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Ms. Burcu Korkut (Panel Chair)

This short architectural essay film examines how urban surfaces function as mediums of political representation in everyday life, foregrounding the visual production of power and inequality in the contemporary city. Focusing on the proliferation of candidate posters during the 2024 local elections in Türkiye, the film traces how faces, slogans, and promises temporarily occupy façades, walls, and public infrastructures, merging with the built environment in fleeting yet intense ways.

Rather than approaching architecture as a neutral backdrop, the film treats urban space as an active interface through which political authority is communicated, negotiated, and normalized. Electoral posters do not merely attach themselves to the city; they transform urban surfaces into communicative fields where visibility is unevenly distributed. Certain bodies and narratives become hyper-visible, while everyday urban practices and alternative forms of presence are pushed into the background. In this sense, representation operates as a spatial practice that contributes to the reproduction of political and social hierarchies within the city.

The project draws conceptual inspiration from Sylvia Lavin's notion of kissing architecture, which describes the intimate and sensorial relationship between architecture and other visual media. Reversing this gesture, the film asks a critical question: Are these representations kissing us? This reversal shifts attention to how political images and architectural surfaces come into contact with urban bodies, shaping



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

perception, affect, and everyday experience. The city emerges as a space where representation does not simply communicate messages but actively addresses, touches, and disciplines its inhabitants. Methodologically, the film operates as a research-based visual experiment situated at the intersection of architectural analysis, urban studies, and visual sociology. Through close observation of urban surfaces, framing, and movement, it approaches the city as an assemblage of images, materials, and temporal layers. The essay film format enables a reflective mode of inquiry that interrogates not only what is made visible in urban space, but also how regimes of visibility are produced and sustained. By focusing on the material and visual conditions through which political representation becomes embedded in everyday urban environments, the film offers a situated perspective on how inequalities are experienced, normalized, and reproduced at the scale of the street. It proposes the architectural essay film as a critical method for engaging with the spatial and visual dimensions of power in the city.

Are They Kissing Us?

» Ms. Burcu Korkut (Istanbul Technical University)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 31

The Non-Post-Socialist City: Urban Policymaking in Central and Eastern Europe

Venue - SR 07

Organised by: Dr. Łukasz Drozda (Panel Chair)

The Non-Post-Socialist City examines contemporary urban policies through case studies of six cities in four states across Central and Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Union (CEE/FSU) region.

This book adopts a rarely used approach in the study of so-called post-socialist cities-combining several years of in-depth empirical research with a broad comparative frame. Building on this foundation, it analyzes urban policymaking processes in Leipzig (Germany), Warsaw and Krakow (Poland), Tallinn (Estonia), and Kyiv and Lviv (Ukraine). The monograph interprets these dynamics through the author's concept of diluted post-socialism, which highlights not only trajectories rooted in the Soviet-dominated era but also a range of pre- or nonsocialist legacies that interact with-and often complicate-the few decades of now-defunct state-socialist rule. Particular attention is given to four policy fields:

mobility, green infrastructure, housing, and spatial planning. While these domains pose broadly similar dimensions across the six cities, their organization reveals a highly diverse urban landscape that is too often flattened under the "post-socialist" label.

The book is intended for scholars, analysts, students, and anyone interested in urbanization processes in the former Eastern bloc, as well as in the impact of the global populist turn on urban policymaking within this region and in a broader urban context.

The Non-Post-Socialist City: Urban Policymaking in Central and Eastern Europe

» Dr. Łukasz Drozda (University of Warsaw)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 34

Old Delhi's Parallel Book Bazaar

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: Dr. Kanupriya Dhingra (Panel Chair)

Published as an Element in the Publishing and Book Culture series by Cambridge University Press, this "minigraph" looks at Old Delhi's Daryaganj Sunday Book Market, popularly known as the Daryaganj Sunday Patri Kitab Bazaar, as a parallel location for books and a site of resilience and possibilities. The first section studies the bazaar's spatiality-its location, relocation, and respatialisation. Three actors play a major role in creating and organising this spatiality: the sellers, the buyers, and the civic authorities. The second section narrativizes the biographies of the booksellers of Daryaganj to offer a map of the hidden social and material networks that support the informal modes of bookselling. Amidst order and chaos, using their specialised knowledge, Daryaganj booksellers create distinctive mechanisms to serve the diverse reading public of Delhi. Using ethnography, oral interviews, and rhythmanalysis, this Element tells a story of urban aspirations, state-citizen relations, official and unofficial cultural economies, and imaginations of other viable worlds of being and believing.

Relevance for the conference:

Situated within wider debates on the sustainability and inequities of contemporary urban life, this Element positions the Daryaganj Sunday Patri Kitab Bazaar as a microcosm through which to study how cities negotiate precarity, aspiration, and coexistence. The bazaar's evolving spatiality, shaped by periodic displacement, regulatory pressures, and everyday negotiations between sellers, buyers, and civic authorities, mirrors the broader urban challenges highlighted by the conference:



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

uneven access to space, social and economic fragmentation, and the tensions between formal governance and informal urban practices.

At a time when cities globally confront pollution, spatial segregation, and shifting political and economic forces, the story of Daryaganj offers a grounded account of how historical urban forms intersect with new pressures. The relocation of the bazaar and the ongoing bureaucratic interventions illustrate how informal cultural economies are repeatedly reshaped by state-led visions of order and progress. Yet the market's endurance, sustained through improvisation, collective labour, and affective ties between sellers and readers, demonstrates how marginalised urban actors adapt to and resist these pressures.

By bringing together ethnography and rhythmanalysis, the Element contributes to the conference's methodological concerns, showing how close attention to the everyday rhythms of an informal marketplace can illuminate lived experiences of inequality, authority, and belonging. Old Delhi's booksellers reveal how alternative urban futures are imagined and enacted not at the scale of masterplans but through small, continuous acts of making space, forging networks, and sustaining access to knowledge. In doing so, the Element offers a textured understanding of how cultural resilience operates within cities marked by both deep historical processes and rapidly evolving contemporary challenges.

Further information:

- (1) <https://linktr.ee/kanupriyadhingra>
- (2) <https://www.instagram.com/booksofdelhi/>

Old Delhi's Parallel Book Bazaar

» Dr. Kanupriya Dhingra (School of Liberal Studies, BML Munjal University, India; The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP))

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 19

Scattered Steel: The Afterlife of the World Trade Center

Venue - HS 02

Organised by: Dr. Max Holleran (Panel Chair) and Mr. Samuel Holleran (Panel Chair)

This book, forthcoming with Three Hills an imprint of Cornell University Press, charts the course of 'survivor steel' from the ruins of the World Trade Center to over 2000 memorials across the world. Of the 200,000 tons of steel recovered, 95% was quickly recycled, but what remained was sacralized, and distributed, to form local memorials primarily in the US but also in Italy, Israel, New Zealand, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. Unlike WWI cenotaphs, located in town centers, or large monuments in capitals, 9/11 steel ended up in small memorials in office parks and traffic circles-the edge spaces of 21st century suburban sprawl. Using newspaper reports, interviews, and materials obtained from a freedom of information request, the book analyzes how dispersed memorialization honored 'first responders' across the U.S., enlarging the geography of trauma from Lower Manhattan to the nation; and how memorials made by local craftspeople brought back themes of spoliation, entropy, and fear from postwar sculpture. We connect the curation, gifting, and transportation of steel to a form of mourning with military antecedents as well as a deliberate focus on strength and martial masculinity in the decade immediately after the 9/11 attacks. This was particularly important to tie the events of 9/11 to the War on Terror which was losing popularity during the 2010s when 9/11 steel artifacts were distributed. Finally, this book focuses on the civic importance of 'laying hands' on survivor steel, showing that even in our digital age the demands of memory remain stubbornly tactile. The book engages with memorialization literature to consider the future of public sculptures and their political meanings.

Scattered Steel: The Afterlife of the World Trade Center

» Dr. Max Holleran (University of Melbourne), Mr. Samuel Holleran (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 17

The Myth of Affordable Housing

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Dr. Quintin Bradley (Panel Chair)

Affordable housing makes housing unaffordable

The Myth of Affordable Housing is a critique of the abject failure of



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

affordable housing policies to address a global crisis of need. Affordability in housing has proved an excuse for unleashing financial speculation in real estate, channelling subsidies to profit landlords, developers, capital markets, and landowners. It is a regressive strategy to maintain demand without reducing price.

The Myth of Affordable Housing is an evaluation of affordability as a policy goal, and it investigates the political economy of housing from a Marxist perspective. The displacement of need by affordability has made market price the standard against which all goals are valued. It is this act of valuation that guides the book's critique of affordability, and it is the value form of affordable housing, its production, circulation and exchange, that provides its trajectory. Just like any other commodity, so-called affordable housing creates value and surplus value in production to realise value as money in exchange. The Myth of Affordable Housing demonstrates the failure of price to effectively fulfil socially needed goals, and it maps out a revolutionary new strategy to bring decent housing for all.

The Myth of Affordable Housing

» Dr. Quentin Bradley (Leeds Beckett University)

13:45

General Excursion

Venue - Meeting Point - U2 metro station Museumsquartier, exit: Mariahilferstrasse

See details and register for the excursions here: <https://rc21-vienna2026.org/excursions/>.

14:00

Oral : #70-1/2

#70 Pluralizing urban property between the state and everyday life: production, knowledges, practices, and imaginaries (1/2)

Venue - Green Lounge (=VAM 2)

Organised by: Dr. Daan Bossuyt (Convenor), Dr. Elya Milner (Convenor), Dr. João Tonucci (Convenor), David Madden (Convenor), Sam Burgum (Convenor), Naama Blatman (Convenor), Prof. Alexander Vasudevan (Convenor), and Dr. Ifigeneia Dimitrakou (Convenor)

We are in a moment of profound reckoning with the power of property. While property is central to urban life, it often hides in plain sight. Property is not just a legal category but also a structuring relation, underpinning and mediating the social relations and everyday interactions that shape and form extended modes of urbanization. At the same time, property operates as a powerful institution that determines who benefits from land and housing (Safransky 2023), and who belongs where, and whose claims to space count (Roy, 2017). Property is a dynamic order of violence and dispossession rooted in longstanding histories of racialisation and settler colonialism (Mbembe 2023; Blatman-Thomas & Porter 2019; Bhandar 2018).

This panel brings into conversation two perspectives that recentre the role of property in an age of ever-expanding urbanisation. We examine how states govern through property via new circuits of value, assetisation, and financialisation and how these processes are lived, negotiated and contested in the realm of everyday urban life. Moving beyond the narrow legalistic "ownership model" of private property (Singer, 2000) we ask: how do "deep infrastructural entanglements" (Christophers 2022, 148) between states and financial capital reshape property regimes? How do state-led processes that intervene in and reorganise property relations intersect with everyday practices of property-making and contestation? What role do competing forms of property knowledge (i.e., from cadastral systems to counter-mappings) play in reinforcing or resisting property regimes? What new imaginaries emerge that subvert existing property regimes and prefigure alternatives in cities?

We invite papers that address the following questions/topics:

- Property knowledges and counter-knowledges
- State power and the re/making of urban property regimes
- Everyday property practices and contestations
- New imaginaries and futures 'beyond property'.

Taken together these topics seek to foreground plural understandings of property explored at once 'from the top' (state) and 'the bottom.' We welcome papers addressing any of the above questions as we hope to bring into dialogue a range of geographies and critical approaches



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

(including ethnographic, conceptual/theoretical, methodological, and creative/visual).

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- Blatman - Thomas, N., & Porter, L. (2019). Placing property: Theorizing the urban from settler colonial cities. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 43(1), 30-45.
- Christophers, B. (2022). The role of the State in the transfer of value from Main Street to Wall Street: US single - family housing after the financial crisis. *Antipode*, 54(1), 130-152.
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- Singer, J. (2000). *Entitlement: the paradoxes of property*. Yale University Press.

Scalability Without Infrastructure? Micro-Development and the Contradictions of Urban Property in South Africa

» [Ms. Nour-Lyna Boulgamh](#) (Harvard University)

'From private ownership to public activation': Compulsory purchase orders, urban vacancy, and the performance of property in post-crash Irish cities

» [Dr. Maedhbh Nic Lochlainn](#) (University College Cork)

Navigating exclusiveness: everyday property-making in Bamako and Ségou, Mali

» [Dr. Elvira Pietrobon](#) (IUAV)

Land, Property, and Inequality: Hybrid Governance and Informal Markets in Lima

» [Dr. Diana Torres-Obregon](#) (Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru)

Societal Property coming to form

» [Ms. Iva marcetic](#) (Universität Kassel)

14:00

Oral : #68-1/2

#68 Working the Urban: Labour, Precarity, and Infrastructures of Social Reproduction (1/2)

Venue - *Erika Weinzierl Saal*

Organised by: Nicolás Palacios (Convenor), Dr. Katrin Hofer (Convenor), and Sarah Schilliger (Convenor)

Session theme

This session takes labour as a lens to examine the relation between work and urban life, focusing on how access, or lack of access, to infrastructures of social reproduction (Gillespie and Hardy, 2021), such as housing (Madden, 2025) mediates this relation. Drawing from an intersectional perspective, it explores how race, gender, class, and migration or citizenship status shape differentiated experiences of urban precarity. By centring the urban dimension, the session highlights how city-specific configurations of housing, care, and everyday infrastructures condition the possibilities of living and working in the city. Fostering an exchange between empirical cases and conceptual approaches from both the Global South and Global North, the session aims to generate nuanced insights into how urban inequalities manifest, evolve, and diverge across different global urban contexts.

Subthemes/keywords

Housing, labour, infrastructures, care, precarity, intersectionality, essential work, migration, urban inequality, platform labour.

Rationale

Labour and social reproduction are deeply entangled in urban life: access to housing, care, and everyday services fundamentally structures who can work and under what conditions, while the type and conditions of labour shape the capacity to reproduce life in the city (Fraser, 2016). This interdependence is especially visible in contexts marked by precarity, where access to infrastructures is fragmented or unequal, where aspects such as race deepen these inequalities (Salamanca and Silver, 2022). We ask: what makes the interdependence between labour, infrastructures and social reproduction distinctly urban? How are they shaped by, and productive of, inequalities across different cities and regions?

Urban studies have long engaged with questions of precarity in informal settlements in the Global South. Yet, precarious infrastructures and practices of informality are increasingly salient in Global North contexts as well (Roy, 2005; Addie, 2022). By bringing these literatures and empirical contexts into dialogue, this session highlights both convergences and divergences in how labour and infrastructures of social reproduction intersect across geographies.

Key themes / possible contributions

-Housing and labour as interdependent infrastructures of precarity.



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

- Migration and border regimes as mediators of access to work, housing, and care.
- Informality and infrastructural gaps in both Global South and Global North cities.
- Care infrastructures and the gendered/racialized dimensions of social reproduction.
- Essential labour and the urban infrastructures that sustain it.
- Platform labour and the specific challenges it brings to the labour and housing nexus

Format

Regular panel with 4-5 paper presentations and open discussion. The session welcomes diverse empirical and conceptual contributions, particularly those that link Global South and Global North perspectives and those that reflect critically on conceptual and policy frameworks addressing urban precarity and social reproduction. Presenters may draw from varied methodologies and theoretical approaches, including urban studies, feminist theory, intersectionality, critical policy analysis, and ethnography.

Labour in the Social Factory: Precarious Infrastructures of Reproduction in Contemporary Urban Capitalism

» [Mr. Nikolaos Vrantzis](#) (Institute for Housing and Urban Research)

Infrastructures of social reproduction and political subjectivation

» [Dr. Andrea Protschky](#) (Bauhaus University Weimar), [Dr. Tabea Latocha](#) (Bauhaus University Weimar)

Spatialising and Embodying Precarity through Infrastructures of Productive and Reproductive Labour

» [Mr. Rahul Raj](#) (University of Sheffield)

Who Cares for Those Who Care? The Un/Making of Urban Precarity

» [Dr. Sarah Schilliger](#) (ETH Zürich)

Illegalized Migrants' Right-to-the-City: Non-Citizen Initiatives as Precarious Solidarity Infrastructures

» [Prof. Thomas Swerts](#) (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

14:00

Oral : #77-1/2

#77 Care Inequalities and the Spaces of Solidarity: Feminist and Queer Geographies of Caring Cities (1/2)

Venue - [Marietta Blau Saal](#)

Organised by: [Bahar Sakizlioglu](#) (Convenor) and [Ceren Lordoglu](#) (Convenor)

Feminist urban scholars have long shown that care is central to how cities function and how urban inequalities are lived (Katz 2001; Williams 2017). Despite growing feminist work on care-full justice (Williams 2020), cities of care (Power and Williams 2019), and social reproduction (Peake et al. 2021), care still remains marginal in urban theory, policy and space. The unequal distribution of care work, largely carried by women, migrants, queer communities and racialized groups, shapes who can access housing, public space, and participation in urban life (Federici 2018; Morrow and Parker 2020).

These care inequalities reflect a deeper absence of a feminist ethics of care in urban policy and governance. In times of multiple crises- ecological, social, and political- a feminist ethics of care may seem as a radical proposition. Nonetheless, feminist thought has long developed the intellectual and political tools required to reimagine care as a social, relational process that supports life rather than simply compensates for systematic neglect. Bringing feminist care ethics into urban politics provides a change away from abstract concepts of justice and toward "care-full" versions of justice that emphasize everyday labor of sustaining shared environments. Such an orientation encourages us to imagine future urbanities in which feminist solidarity is not only an ethical stance, but also an infrastructural practice embedded in community kitchens, cooperative housing, mutual aid networks, and other forms of collective care labor that challenge neoliberal urban rationalities. Centering such ethics means confronting epistemic injustices that make care invisible and undervalued (Williams 2020), and reimagining housing, public space, and the city itself as infrastructures of care (Mee and Power 2021).

This session explores how care inequalities are produced and spatialized and how feminist, queer, and migrant solidarities contest them through everyday practices such as mutual aid networks, childcare and housing cooperatives, and community infrastructures. These practices reshape the spatialities and temporalities of care, creating new forms of connection, belonging, and resistance to urban inequality (Federici 2018).

By linking feminist, queer, and critical urban research, this session asks: What would it mean to build caring cities? How can feminist ethics of



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

care offer epistemic and spatial alternatives to urban inequality and neoliberal urbanization?

We invite empirical and conceptual contributions that examine:

- How care inequalities are produced and distributed across housing, public space, and urban infrastructure
- Solidarity practices that redistribute and politicize care
- Who benefits from solidarities of care, and who remains excluded
- Queer, feminist, migrant solidarities that enact caring cities in everyday life
- Temporalities of care and their role regarding the reconfiguration of belonging and citizenship
- How a feminist ethics of care can guide urban theory, policy, and everyday practices toward more just and caring cities

Embroidered narratives of care: how migrant mothers negotiate urban childcare systems

» [Ms. Bárbara Oliveira Soares](#) (Utrecht University)

Care as a Spatial Practice: Socio-Territorial Foundations of Social Reproduction and Collective Mobilization

» [Dr. Sarah Uhlmann](#) (Kassel University)

Residential care work: considering the housing and care crises as intertwined issues

» [Prof. Salembier Chloé](#) (UCLouvain), Dr. Emma Peltier (UCLouvain), Mr. Ansao Totolehibe (UCLouvain), Dr. Benjamin Leclercq (Université de strasbourg)

Toward Caring Cities: Trans*feminist and Queer Solidarities and the Spatial Politics of Healthcare in Italy

» [Ms. Anna Liliana Arlotta](#) (University Milano-Bicocca), [Ms. Elisa Venturini](#) (Università di Verona)

Knitting the Roof Together: Ecologies of Care as Urban Infrastructure

» [Ms. Begüm Ergün](#) (Boston University)

14:00

Oral : #106-1/2

#106 Contested Governance: Autocratization, Democratic Backsliding, and Urban Politics (1/2)

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: Ulku Doganay (Convenor), Oksana Zaporozhets (Convenor), Oleg Pachenkov (Convenor), and Ana Pajvancic-Cizelj (Convenor)

Democratic governance is under pressure globally. Across diverse contexts, we observe processes of autocratization, democratic backsliding, and the erosion of checks and balances, civil liberties, and rule of law. Cities are both sites where these authoritarian tendencies manifest and arenas where resistance, contestation, and democratic defense are organized. Urban governance arrangements - including municipal autonomy, civil society space, and citizen participation mechanisms - are being reshaped by these broader democratic crises, with profound implications for urban politics, policy, and everyday life. This session examines the urban dimensions of autocratization and democratic backsliding, as well as efforts to defend and deepen democratic governance in challenging political contexts.

We seek to understand how authoritarian tendencies reshape urban governance at multiple scales: from restrictions on civic space and independent media, to centralization of power and attacks on municipal autonomy, to surveillance and control of public space and protest. The session also explores how cities and urban social movements respond to democratic erosion through various forms of resistance, alternative governance experiments, and transnational solidarity networks.

We are particularly interested in papers that analyze the contested nature of urban governance in contexts of democratic stress. How do national-level autocratic tendencies affect municipal politics and policy autonomy? What strategies do urban governments employ to protect democratic space and resist authoritarian encroachment? How do social movements, civil society organizations, and citizens contest autocratization through urban political action? And what forms of solidarity and transnational learning emerge among cities facing similar challenges?

We welcome contributions on the following topics:

- Autocratization processes and their manifestations in urban and regional governance
- Attacks on municipal autonomy and the centralization of urban policy control
- Restrictions on civic space, protest rights, and freedom of assembly in cities



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

- Surveillance technologies and authoritarian control of urban space
- Urban social movements and resistance to democratic backsliding
- Progressive municipal governments in hostile national and regional contexts
- Transnational municipal networks and solidarity across authoritarian contexts
- Comparative perspectives on autocratization and resistance across different regional and political contexts
- Possibilities for democratic renewal and deepening through urban experimentation.

Authoritarian urbanism in the 21st century. Progressive urban design and participatory planning in Hungary and Serbia

» Prof. Daniela Zupan (Bauhaus-University Weimar), Ms. Tanja Potežica (Bauhaus-University Weimar), Ms. Lilla Varga (Bauhaus-University Weimar)

Indigenous autonomy in State planned township: Contested urban local governance in New Shillong

» Mr. Yogesh Kumar (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Territorializing the Rent: Far-Right Interventions in Local Housing Policy

» Dr. Valentin Domann (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Ms. Anna Fernández de la Reguera Villar (University of Vienna)

The Bureaucratization of the Democratic Imaginary: Institutionalizing Citizen Dialogues in the City of Gothenburg

» Dr. Nazem Tahvilzadeh (Södertörn university)

The Death and Life of Civic Space During Georgia's Current Authoritarian Turn

» Dr. Sophie Zviadadze (Ilia State University, Tbilisi)

14:00

Oral : #85-1/2

#85 Political Lives of Policy Instruments in Land and Housing (1/2)

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: Mr. Nicholas Shatan (Convenor), Ms. Marcela Alonso Ferreira (Convenor), and Aurora Echavarria (Convenor)

Title: Political Lives of Policy Instruments in Urban Land and Housing

Organizers:

Marcela Alonso Ferreira, PhD Candidate, Sciences Po Paris
Nicholas Shatan, PhD Candidate, University of California, Berkeley
Aurora Echavarria, Assistant Professor, Florida State University

Much urban scholarship has emphasized the brisk circulation of policies and models across cities and regions (Temenos and McCann 2013; Peck and Theodore 2015). Less attention, however, has been paid to the long-term processes of implementing and sustaining the technical devices that underpin land and housing policy: valuation formulas, fiscal schedules, eligibility criteria, cadastral tools, and so on. While often presented as unbiased or objective, these instruments embody deeply political choices (Lascombes and Le Galès 2007), such as what constitutes value, where and how it is created, how it should be distributed between public and private actors, and who has rights over urban resources (Chhabria 2019; Lund 2020; Zaimi 2020; Cowan 2021; Weber 2021; Becher 2023).

This session invites contributions that trace the political lives of policy instruments in land and housing: how they persist as they are re-made, contested, and hybridized. We are especially interested in how these devices shape trajectories of urban inequality, influence access to land and housing, and configure relationships between the state, markets, society, and the city. Focusing on the durability and transformation of policy instruments can help reveal why they may persist across shifting political regimes, take seemingly illogical forms, or are reshaped through contestation or compromises reflecting constraints and opportunities of specific historical moments.

We welcome papers that address questions such as:

- What do new uses of old policy instruments reveal about contemporary shifts in urban governance, particularly under conditions of populist politics and constrained municipal capacity?
- Why are technical devices in land and housing taken up by actors outside of their intended users, or by groups with politics opposed to that of the original creators?
- How do technical devices and policy instruments encode and classify



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

along lines of social difference (race, gender, class, nationality, normative family structure) and to what effects?

- How do political challenges give life to technical instruments, and how do technical challenges give life to political rationalities?
- How and why do seemingly small changes in calculation have outsized effects on urban life?
- How can approaches spanning from macro-level political economy to micro-level science and technology studies help us understand how such devices persist, are remade, or repurposed amid broader urban transformations?

We invite contributions that draw on a range of theoretical frameworks: from political economy, historical institutionalism, and the sociology of policy instruments, to science and technology studies, valuation studies, and the social studies of finance. Methodologies such as ethnography, archival research, process tracing, and comparative case studies are welcome. By bridging these perspectives, and inviting work across global contexts and historical periods, we aim to initiate a dialogue on how policy instruments themselves shape, reproduce, or unsettle inequalities in land and housing across diverse urban and political contexts.

Political Subjectivation through Housing Policy Instruments: Housing Committees and the Governance of Scarcity in Chile

» [Dr. Javier Ruiz-Tagle](#) (Pontifical Catholic University of Chile)

Pronatalist Housing and “Deserving” Families: Family-Based Housing Subsidies in Hungary Across Regimes

» [Ms. Enikő Zöller](#) (Bauhaus-University Weimar)

Generating Savings Through Taxation: Tax Policy, Capital Gains, and the Financialization of Housing in the United States and the United Kingdom

» [Mr. Maxence Dutilleul](#) (Sciences Po Paris)

The Techno-Politics of Fiscal Design in Bogotá's Land Value Capture instruments

» [Ms. Isabel Penaranda Currie](#) (University of California, Berkeley)

Monetizing the Slum: A Relational History of Mumbai's Slum Rehabilitation Scheme (SRS)

» [Dr. Anitra Baliga](#) (Institute for Housing Studies, Erasmus University)

14:00

Oral : #92-1/2

#92 Theorising and Practicing Housing Justice: Novel Definitions and Emancipatory Epistemologies (1/2)

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Carla Huisman (Convenor), Prof. Miguel A. Martínez (Convenor), Dr. Abigail Friendly (Convenor), Irene Molina (Convenor), Dr. Femke van Noorloos (Convenor), and Dr. Mika Hyötyläinen (Convenor)

Housing inequality is one of the oldest yet deepening forms of inequalities in cities around the world. The current post-neoliberal shift poses new challenges for scholars interested in housing justice. While asset-based wealth often privileges elite actors, housing precarity is experienced by multiple urban dwellers globally. This session seeks to advance discussions of housing justice (Gustafsson et al. 2024) in critical urban and housing studies (Martínez 2024).

What is 'housing justice'? How does context matter for experiences of and aspirations to housing justice? How do morals, values, ideologies and philosophies affect our notion of housing justice? How do critical theorisations of housing justice help understand contemporary unequal cities to develop transformative action?

A key aim of this session is to call for emancipatory epistemologies - geared towards both emancipation and the generation of knowledge - addressing how scholars can promote housing justice. Such ways of knowing would include, in particular, historically marginalised voices aiming to gain and share knowledge as well as promoting social justice (Huisman & Uitermark 2025). Such approaches entail, for example, knowledge sharing and critical thinking (Lima 2025) and knowledge co-production towards housing justice.

We are interested in papers addressing theoretical, conceptual, methodological and action-oriented issues related to housing justice globally, including ecological, feminist, anticolonial and degrowth perspectives. Papers should provide a critical theoretical approach and/or engagement with emancipatory epistemologies. We also welcome reflections aiming to understand intersections between housing justice and related notions such as urban and environmental justice. Likewise, interdisciplinary approaches and original theory-building are encouraged. As we intend to submit the selected papers to a special issue in an academic journal, the texts presented at this



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

session of the RC21 conference should not be committed to other publications.

We invite papers addressing the following topics:

- a) theories of social and housing justice, ranging from distributive justice (availability, affordability), to procedural justice (allocation, inclusion and exclusion mechanisms), and recognition justice (the right to housing, especially for marginalised groups);
- b) urban and housing inequalities; the intersection between social justice and housing issues, including availability, affordability, security of tenure, and the physical and social state of the home and its surroundings;
- c) social hierarchies and oppressions along class, gender, sexuality, age, ethnicity, citizenship, religion, language, geography (Global North/South), ability, and housing tenure lines;
- d) financialized and racial capitalism, authoritarian and far-right politics, patriarchy, and the ecocide;
- e) progressive and reactionary grassroots struggles, ranging from everyday life to macro-political economic structures;
- f) emancipatory epistemologies, new ways of engaging knowledge for social-housing justice.

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Responsibility for housing justice, an emancipatory framework

» Prof. Luca Pattaroni (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)), Dr. Maxime Felder (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL))

Responsibility for Housing Justice? Staying, Arriving, and Living through Crisis

» Mr. Nouri Abdelgadir (University of Zurich)

Epistemologies and methods for understanding contemporary quests for housing justice: the habitability crisis as method (HCM).

» Dr. Margherita Grazioli (Gran Sasso Science Institute)

How to construct the subject of housing justice against the property common sense? A meditation on the Greek housing emergency.

» Dr. Theodoros Karyotis (Ghent University)

Framing Tenability with a Housing Justice Lens - Vocabularies from Delhi

» Ms. Ruchika Lall (Indian Institute for Human Settlements), Ms. Nidhi Sohane (Indian Institute for Human Settlements), Ms. Rashee Mehra (Indian Institute for Human Settlements), Mr. Sukrit Nagpal (Indian Institute for Human Settlements)

14:00

Oral : #12-3/4

#12 Claiming space: artistic practices, care and resistance in neoliberal cities (3/4)

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Prof. Marianna d'Ovidio (Convenor) and Emanuela Naclerio (Convenor)

Over the past decades, cultural production and the so-called creative industries have been celebrated as catalysts of urban growth, innovation and competitiveness, yet also criticised for their complicity in processes of displacement, gentrification and for deepening inequalities. In the neoliberal cities, the nexus between culture and urban development has often been shaped by logics of extraction and commodification, often exacerbating dynamics of exclusion. However, cultural, creative and artistic interventions have emerged as potential catalysts of resistance, care and solidarity, offering new ways of inhabiting and imagining contemporary urban environments. Mobilizing a variety of bodies, different and subvertive subjectivities, new or unexpected alliances and powerful imaginaries, artistic initiatives have been engaging in enabling more just, inclusive, and sustainable urban futures. At the same time these practices are exposed to the risk of being instrumentalised, co-opted or neutralised by dominant urban forces.



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

By bringing together diverse perspectives, this panel aims to critically explore artistic practices and interventions in contemporary cities as forms of resistance, care, conviviality and contestation, that challenge the extractivist logic, reclaim spaces and experiment with alternative imaginaries of social life. Moreover, the panel examines those bottom-up artistic practices that focus on care, both in its ethical and political dimension, in contesting urban inequalities, feeding communities and cultivating spaces of solidarity.

We welcome empirical case studies, comparative perspectives, and conceptual or theoretical reflections. We invite contributions engaging with a wide range of methods, theories, and approaches that may address, but are not limited to, the following key themes and research questions:

- Bottom-up artistic placemaking and its role in challenging urban inequalities.
- Grassroots artistic practices' interventions in urban spaces and their relation with the urban governance.
- The roles that artistic initiatives - stemming from culture, arts or creative industries - play in resisting or/and reconfiguring models of urban development.
- Art-based interventions' articulation of alternative imaginaries of communities, belongings and care.
- The mobilisation of care to sustain solidarity practices and to subvert the dominant urban logics.
- The ambivalent and conflicting nature of bottom-up alternative practices when they are taken up, supported, or co-opted by institutional actors.
- The ecological contribution of grassroots artistic initiatives, particularly in terms of alternative economies, resource reuse, and post-growth imaginaries.

Art-based speculative design workshops as examples of transdisciplinary and co-creative research

» Mr. Kuba Pawlak (Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland)

Co-production of knowledge through artistic performance: art-based method in public space analysis in Milan

» Mrs. Marta Bracci (University of Milano-Bicocca), Mrs. Monica Pentucci (Associazione di promozione sociale WHYNOT APS)

Place-making through self-publishing: encountering small prints in Taipei and Maastricht

» Dr. Haiyan Huang (University of Basel)

Integrating art and culture into community revitalisation activities. An experience of creative placemaking in Italy

» Prof. ROSSANA GALDINI (Sapienza University of Rome), Dr. Silvia De Nardis (Sapienza University of Rome)

Participatory approaches on disability: the city as stage and object against oppression

» Dr. Roberto Falanga (Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa), Mr. João Amorim (Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon), Ms. Mariana Rosa (Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon)

14:00

Oral : #3-1/2

#3 (1m)possibilities of settling down in the post-migrant city (1/2)

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: Dr. Raffael Beier (Convenor) and Dr. Dilek Aysel Tepeli (Convenor)

While literature of post-migration has convincingly argued to see migration as the norm and not as the exception in contemporary urban societies (Yildiz & Hill 2014, Foroutan 2021), likewise, many urban citizens strive for a stable, decent place to inhabit. This basic anthropological need is increasingly under pressure and at risk of being overlooked by scholarship and political debates centring on mobility and movement rather than emplacement. In this session, we wish to shift perspectives, seeking to explore lived experiences of the (im)possibilities of 'settling down' of urban subjects at the intersection of urban and migration studies. Noting a growing concern about people's ability to become and remain emplaced - both as a result of a growing political climate of hostility and a housing crisis marked by a normalization of displacement (Soederberg 2020, Lancione 2020) - we strive to radically rethink the post-migrant urban society from its opposite to mobility, namely human's experiences, practices, and limitations of settling down. Beyond sectional and disciplinary divides, we conceive the



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

'(im)possibilities of settling down' as an emerging, yet unexplored category of social inequality and exclusion in post-migrant societies.

As the housing crisis prevails in today's post-migrant society, different forms of (enforced) mobility - affected by both race and class - are increasingly interwoven (cf., Adscheid 2024, Yiftachel 2020). To what extent does the inability of 'making home' on tense housing markets produce and maintain feelings of 'being migrant', whether it is about intra-urban, regional or transnational migration? Beyond race and class, we suggest our session to explore the '(im)possibilities of settling down' as a new, experiential and affective category of social inequality combining material and socio-emotional forms of social exclusion. It affects 'migrantized' populations and people in precarious employment with and without so-called migration background at the same time. Precarious employment, racial discrimination (particularly being reinforced in the context of right-wing discourses about migration), rising rents, and the commodification of social housing lead to structural barriers on the housing market, which are paired with experiences of ex/inclusion and (non-)belonging on different levels ranging from political debates about re-migration, to non-representation and everyday experiences of bordering and racism in public space (Yuval-Davis et al. 2019). With an intersectional lens on gender, race, and class (Anthias 2012), we argue that it is only through the interplay of material and affective ex/inclusion that we can grasp the experiences of the '(im)possibilities of setting down' over time.

Following this, we invite scholars with diverse disciplinary entry points to urban studies (from sociology to geography, economics as well as anthropology, cultural psychology, among others) to present their theoretical explorations and/or empirically grounded research focusing on the (im)possibilities of settling down. We are especially interested in long-term and biographical perspectives to housing, homing, and inhabitation, that stress both its affective and material dimensions. Likewise, we look forward to scholarly work that privileges intersectional perspectives on questions of urban emplacement and 'settling down' of particularly vulnerable individuals and groups in the post-migrant city.

Redefining homes and roots: on the possibilities of migrantized and racialized subjects to 'settle down' the in post-migrant city

» Dr. Christine Barwick-Gross (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Department of Social Sciences)

Precarious emplacement in the post-migrant city: Housing pathways of Turkey-origin immigrants in Modena, Italy

» Dr. Kumru Çilgin (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University)

Between Arriving, Staying and Moving On: Migrants' Trajectories and Negotiations of Settling Down in Germany

» Dr. Nils Hans (ILS - Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development), Ms. Hannah Brill (ILS - Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development)

Navigating the system. Housing and precarity among Romanian farmworker families in Vienna

» Mr. Paul Sperneac-Wolfer (University of Barcelona), Dr. Katrin Kremmel (University of Zurich), Dr. Sandra King-Savic (University of Zurich)

Residential (im)mobility and settlement of Latin American households in the Madrid metropolitan area

» Ms. Ainhoa Ezquiaga (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)), Dr. Margarita Barañano (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)), Mrs. Rocío Barbosa (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)), Dr. Pedro Uceda (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM))

14:00

Oral : #28-1/2

#28 Governing Food Systems: Understanding Food Inequalities and Food Insecurities in the City (1/2)

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Petra Lütke (Convenor), Prof. Filippo Oncini (Convenor), Dr. Birgit Hoinle (Convenor), Dr. Alejandro Ciordia (Convenor), and Mario Trifuoggi (Convenor)

As urbanization advances, cities face numerous challenges in ensuring the well-being of their inhabitants, of which access to fresh and healthy food is a crucial aspect. This is often distributed unevenly and influenced by factors such as income, education, ethnicity and place of residence, among others. This can lead to social injustices related to food in urban contexts. Thus, urban food insecurity is increasingly becoming a central challenge of contemporary cities, not only in the Global South, but across the Global North, as inequalities intensify under the pressures of economic precarity, inflation, climate shocks, and welfare retrenchment. Against this backdrop, food charities (food banks, mutual aid networks, faith-based distribution, social supermarkets, etc.) have proliferated, as well as alternative food networks and civic governance initiatives, such



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

as Food Policy Councils. However, their roles and outcomes are far from neutral: they exist in dynamic tensions with municipal and national welfare policies, social movements, private food actors, poverty relief measures, and beneficiaries of food support. These initiatives highlight the need for methodological approaches to understand the complexities of urban food systems and its inherent power relations.

This session wants to explore the governance of food inequality and food insecurity in cities through the lens of agency, institutional relations, and spatial dynamics. The session aims to enhance the understanding of food governance from different intersectional and systems perspectives. We invite papers that address some of the following questions:

- What are causes, consequences and coping mechanisms for food inequalities and poverty in urban areas?
- What is the role of power and privilege in shaping food systems and exacerbating food inequalities?
- How do food charities interact with municipal and regional authorities? Under what governance regimes do they become extensions of state social policy, corrective band-aid measures, or sites of resistance and activism?
- How do power relations, politics of scale, and multi-level governance shape charitable food infrastructures and service provisioning?
- In what ways do different models (e.g. emergency relief, food justice, dignity-based access, rights-based frames, cooperative models) produce different outcomes in terms of equality, social inclusion, or political mobilization?
- What are strategies and challenges of alternative food networks and Food Policy Councils to promote food justice and sovereignty?

We see this session as a regular panel of four papers, each with approximately 15 minutes of presentation followed by discussion. The session seeks to foster dialogue across methodological divides (qualitative, quantitative, archival) and across global contexts within and between countries. By bringing together scholars working on food governance, food geography, social policy and infrastructures, we aim to spark new comparative thinking about how cities address or reproduce food inequalities and food insecurities, in times of multiple crisis and beyond.

Foodwork and Hidden Hunger in the Global City: Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore

» [Prof. Brenda Yeoh](#) (National University of Singapore), [Dr. Theodora Lam](#) (National University of Singapore)

Time Poverty, Foodwork, and Urban Food Insecurity: Women's Strategies in a Working-Class Neighbourhood of Milan (Italy)

» [Prof. David Benassi](#) (University of Milano-Bicocca), Dr. Filippo Borreani (Politecnico di Torino), Dr. Sara Mazzeo (Fondazione Bignaschi), [Dr. Jacopo Zappa](#) (University of Trento)

Local Food Security Through Balanced Boundary-Spanning Practices? The Embeddedness of German Food Rescue Organizations in Urban Resource Networks

» [Ms. Silvia Wiegel](#) (University of Bayreuth)

Who Governs Food When Institutions Collapse? Alternative Food Models and Urban Food Inequality in Lebanon

» [Ms. Sherin ASSAF](#) (Université de Poitiers), Prof. Jean Louis Yengue (Université de Poitiers), Prof. Jihad Farah (Lebanese University)

Beyond Food Aid: Addressing Urban Food Insecurity through Public-Community Alliances

» [Dr. María José La Rota Aguilera](#) (University of Barcelona), [Dr. Ana Moragues-Faus](#) (University of Barcelona), Mrs. Andrea Rizo-Barroso (University of Barcelona)

14:00

Oral : #64

#64 Place Valuation and Various Forms of Urban Worth

Venue - SR 07

Organised by: Hesu Yoon (Convenor), Lavinia Pereira (Convenor), and Dr. Andrea Pavoni (Convenor)

Cities have long been sites where social, economic, political, and environmental inequalities are produced, reproduced, and contested. Urban life is marked by stark inequalities in how places are valued-economically and symbolically. A crucial dimension of these dynamics is urban value-how worth is assigned, disputed, and distributed across space, time, and social life. Whether through real estate markets, platform-based ratings and reviews, neighborhood reputations, or planning decisions, the uneven valuation of place shapes contours of urban development and reproduces broader social hierarchies.



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

Understanding these processes is central to shaping urban inequalities and experiences worldwide.

Urban value is not merely an economic figure but a complex negotiation encompassing moral ideals, cultural meanings, ecological metrics, and power relations. From real estate speculation and platform urbanism to grassroots activism and ecosystem services, diverse actors define and contest urban worth, determining who and what is valued-and who is marginalized. Places are framed as desirable or undesirable, safe or dangerous, authentic or inauthentic, investable or risky. These valuations are produced through intersecting logics-market dynamics, racialized and classed spatial biases, digital mediations-that have potential to reinforce or shift existing status hierarchies. Valuation processes underpin persistent inequalities through mechanisms such as gentrification, securitization, financialization, and technological expansions of extraction and surveillance.

Dominant institutional frameworks, such as livability indexes and economic indicators, organize urban life into simplified hierarchies frequently rendering invisible much everyday value produced by marginalized groups, with profound social and political consequences. This raises urgent epistemological and political questions: Who decides what constitutes valuable urban life? How are alternative or overlooked forms of value expressed, contested, or erased? Understanding uneven place valuation requires attention to the causes that generate spatial inequalities, the contours of how they manifest across contexts, and the consequences they produce for various stakeholders of urban futures.

This session aims to construct novel, strategic, and non-normative ways to conceptualize and produce quality of urban life that are alternatives to existing notions and critically assess its translation into economic and financial value. We invite contributions critically engaging with how valuation actively shapes urban inequalities and social relations across diverse global contexts.

We welcome contributions addressing:

- How urban worth is produced and contested through economic, social, cultural, ecological practices by various stakeholders, such as developers, state officials, business owners, cultural intermediaries, community activists and residents
- Speculative and emancipatory reimaginings of urban worth and (e)valuation systems beyond the existing measurements and imageries
- Intersections of place valuation with broader societal transformations

including climate change, digital technologies, political polarization, rising inequalities, gentrification, and migration

- Methodological innovations to capture diverse forms of urban value and (e)valuation
- How racialized and classed biases, historical legacies of segregation and disinvestment structure place value in urban contexts
- Advancing theories of status, reputation, valuation by synthesizing literatures across disciplines
- How financial markets, policies, planning decisions produce uneven place valuations, and how they differently manifest across global cities

Viral Places and Neighbourhood Change

» Ms. Marije Peute (University of Amsterdam), Prof. Ashley Mears (University of Amsterdam), Prof. Justus Uitermark (University of Amsterdam)

Your Future Yard Is Just a DM Away: Realtors, social media and the politics of urban valuation

» Mrs. Sebastian Arguelles Delgado (University of Amsterdam), Dr. Wouter van Gent (University of Amsterdam), Prof. Rivke Jaffe (University of Amsterdam)

Pipeline Politics: Tech Talent and the Making of Urban Value at Amazon HQ2

» Dr. Nicole Basso (University of Virginia)

The Making of a Historic City: The Politics of Heritage and Value in Diyarbakır

» Dr. Firat Genç (Istanbul Bilgi University)

Rethinking urban rewilding. Valuation, Inequality and Postindustrial Ecologies in Montreal

» Dr. Daniela Giudici (Politecnico di Torino)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

14:00

Oral : #83-1/2

#83 Using photography in urban studies. Urban space seen and researched through the lens of the camera. (1/2)

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: Ms. Judith Schnelzer (Convenor), Dr. Sandra Guinand (Convenor), and Katarina Ockova (Convenor)

In the last decade new technologies and socio-technical devices have spurred a renewed interest for visual media, especially images and photography, in the field of urban studies. While there is a rich body of literature on visual studies, there has been limited application of photo methods in urban research (Conord & Cuny, 2015; Schoepfer, 2014; Guinand & al., 2021). Visual methods, and more specifically photography, come from the field of sociology (Harper, 2012; Rose, 2007) anthropology, and ethnography (Bateson & Meads, 1942; Collier & Collier, 1986; Schwartz, 1989). Few urban scholars have acknowledged the advantages of using photo-methods for data collection and knowledge production. Early examples of photos in urban research relate to the dominance of positivism in social sciences. Photos were often used for documentation or illustration, where they supported arguments through alleged "objectivity". Critical voices cautioned that this practice of reifying existing knowledge about urban phenomena creates a so-called "truth effect" (Rose, 2003). An early prominent example is Jacob Riis' (1897) *How the Other Half Lives*, where residents are portrayed in their living conditions in New York's slums in the late 19th century, making audiences aware of urban housing inequality. Over the decades, scholars have developed the use of photography from solely documenting urban conditions or transformations towards more analytical approaches, including formalised analysis with AI. Current applications range from urban designers and planners applying photography as a means to improve their understanding of socio-spatial appropriation and space qualities (Whyte, 1980; Gehl & Svarre, 2013), to others who have considered it useful for studying intangible dimensions of socio-cultural phenomena such as territorial stigmatisation (Cuny, 2019) and metropolitan habitus (Dirksmeier, 2009). Even more so, participatory approaches use photographic methods as a tool give a voice and empower local communities (Wang & Burris, 1997).

Photography as a method can be broken down into different approaches depending on the involvement of citizens as participants in the research (and sometimes even beyond): photographic archive, the use of photography for documentation purposes (scenes of urban life,

public spaces, etc.) or photography as an intermediary and interview medium, as well as a tool for knowledge production: for instance, photographic interview, photo-voice or photo-elicitation. In the scope of this session, we aim at rising discussions among scholars using different photographic approaches in their work.

- How can photographs be mobilized to bring out useful data and help feed research questions?
- What can be seen and collected through the lens of the camera and how?
- How to overcome the subjectivity of the frame and the depiction of "that moment"?

We welcome empirical, theoretical, and methodology-driven proposals that deal with photographic dimensions and issues from a qualitative but also quantitative perspective (AI, automated machine learning). We are especially interested in the use of this medium (how and what has been achieved), benefits, potentialities and shortcomings, questions and issues on the positionality of the researcher(s) vis-à-vis participants, and discussion about ethical dimensions.

Speculative urbanisation and the loss of urban collective memory in East Asian cities: A visual discourse analysis of Seoul's changing urban landscapes

» [Dr. Do Young Oh](#) (Seoul National University)

Image-Driven Heritage Making: Visual Practices and the Camera-Oriented Reproduction of Tianjin's Former Concessions

» [Ms. Chensi Shen](#) (Université Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne)

"Click and walk". Photographic practices and spatialities of authoritarian control in post-revolutionary Downtown Cairo

» [Dr. Laura Monfleur](#) (CEDEJ Le Caire (Centre d'Etudes et de Documentation Juridiques, Economiques et sociales))

Photographing the Affluent City: Uncovering Power, Visibility and Inequality with Participatory and Professional Lenses

» [Dr. Anthony Miro Born](#) (London School of Economics), Ms. Agustina Frisch (Universidad de Buenos Aires)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

Exploring Post-War Mass Housing Estates Through Vintage Postcards

» [Mr. renaud epstein](#) (Sciences Po Saint-Germain-en-Laye)

14:00

Oral : #32-3/3

#32 Emotional Heritage, Urban Spaces, and the Politics of Memory (3/3)

Venue - HS 01

Organised by: macarena ibarra (Convenor) and Carolina Stefoni (Convenor)

Over the past three decades, cultural heritage has shifted from being understood as a fixed, material legacy defined by Western cultural codes to a dynamic, socially constructed process. Scholarship now highlights its relational character-rooted in memory, identity, and power-rather than treating heritage as a universal set of inherent values (Smith, 2006; Ashworth, Graham & Tunbridge, 2007; Harrison, 2013; Harvey, 2001; Waterton & Watson, 2015). Understanding both tangible and intangible heritage therefore requires acknowledging its multiple uses and contested meanings, often in tension with the "authorized heritage discourse" (Smith, 2006).

This panel invites contributions that approach heritage as an emotional matter (Waterton & Watson, 2013; Tolia-Kelly et al., 2017). As heritage is not only a set of representations but also lived experiences and affective encounters between people and places, it might generate pride and belonging, but also grief, nostalgia, anger, and claims of injustice. These emotions shape how communities engage with heritage sites, influencing practices of memory, interpretation, and use.

Focusing on urban contexts, the panel seeks to explore how emotions surrounding heritage mediate tensions, silences, and absences, while also creating possibilities for recognition, dialogue, and contestation among different actors and communities. Possible sub-themes include:

- Contested heritage and the politics of memory in cities
- Affective encounters with place and belonging
- Heritage as a site of social conflict, exclusion, or recognition
- Silences, absences, and forgetting in urban heritage
- Everyday, grassroots, and community-led practices of heritage
- Intersections of tangible and intangible heritage in contexts of change, gentrification, conservation or demolition.

We welcome contributions that engage with questions such as: How do emotions such as pride, grief, anger, or nostalgia shape engagements with urban heritage? In what ways do heritage practices mediate inclusion and exclusion in cities? How are silences and erasures emotionally experienced and contested? Can heritage create spaces for dialogue and reconciliation across divided or unequal communities?

Submissions may draw on a wide range of methodological approaches, including oral history, ethnography, discourse analysis, visual methods, participatory and action research, or comparative case studies. The panel particularly encourages work that mobilizes theoretical perspectives from critical heritage studies (Smith, 2006; Harrison, 2013), memory studies (Halbwachs; Nora; Assmann), affect theory (Waterton & Watson, 2013; Tolia-Kelly et al., 2017), and spatial theory (Lefebvre; Massey).

By bringing together perspectives from sociology, anthropology, history, and related disciplines, this panel aims to foreground the affective dimensions of heritage in urban settings and to interrogate how memory, identity, and politics are negotiated through emotional engagements with the past in the city.

Emotional Heritage and the Governance of Modern Architecture within Historic Urban Landscapes: Adaptive Reuse of a Modern Campus in Eminönü, Istanbul

» [Dr. Aylin Senturk](#) (ISTANBUL TICARET UNIVERSITY)

Living Heritage: A Study of Everyday Practices in Gaothans of Mira Bhayandar

» [Dr. Neethu S. Nair](#) (Smt. K.L. Tiwari College of Architecture)

'How Many Tales the Cobblestones of a Place Can Hold': The Limits of Memory in National Heroes Square, Bridgetown

» [Dr. Meghan Tinsley](#) (University of Manchester)

Emotional heritage from the street: affective encounters, memory, and urban disputes in São Paulo

» [Ms. Marina Rodrigues](#) (University of São Paulo), [Mrs. Laura Salatino](#) (Fundação Getulio Vargas)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Beyond Cultural Branding Regenerating Heritage and Reworking Memory in Chinese Historic Urban Quarters

» [Ms. Xinyu Jin](#) (University of Sheffield)

Affective Counter-Heritage in translocal solidarity networks: remembering racist violence in Germany

» [Ms. Emma Luna Brahm](#) (University of Osnabrück)

14:00

Oral : #23-3/3

#23 MEGAPROJECT MIRAGES: Understanding the Socio-political Lives of Unbuilt, Incomplete, and Over-Promised Urban Development (3/3)

Venue - HS 02

Organised by: Dr. David Gogishvili (Convenor), David Sichinava (Convenor), and Dr. Suzanne Harris-Brandts (Convenor)

Spectacular megaprojects are key tools for urban governance, supporting nation-building, geopolitical claims, elite boosterism, and property speculation. Amid the intensified global mobility of capital, policies, and urban imaginaries, cities embrace these projects to signify prosperity, with proposals becoming increasingly dramatic and technologically sophisticated (Haines, 2011). Yet, their long timelines mean years pass before tangible outcomes. Meanwhile, these proposals function as powerful 'megaproject mirages'-projects with potent socio-political lives even when they remain entirely immaterial.

Current scholarship on megaprojects acknowledges their high-risk nature but tends to focus on built examples. This overlooks the strategic advantages of schemes that are never completed. The concept of project 'failure' is, therefore, relative (Temenos & Lauermaun, 2020); there are many benefits for politicians, developers, and architects in unbuilt works (Harris-Brandts & Gogishvili, 2018). These mirages, which resonate with geographical scholarship on spectrality, shape urban economies and political narratives, having active lives on 'paper' (Dogmus & Nielsen, 2020). Their abandonment can thus be seen as an informal policy, the material consequence of state entrepreneurialism that produces ghost housing and urban failures (Liu et al. 2025). Local communities incur significant costs from these schemes as they fuel adjacent speculation, divert public investments, and politically marginalise residents. These real impacts from immaterial schemes highlight the need for new conceptual and methodological tools to

analyse their effects, and papers in this session should unpack these key themes.

Arguing that we need to reconsider the notion of failure, this session examines unbuilt, incomplete, and over-promised large-scale urban projects. It explores the utility of megaproject mirages for their proponents while analysing the significant community costs. We invite papers addressing the following (and more) questions: How do these mirages derive their power from specific languages, discourses, and imagery? What is the politico-economic utility of over-promised projects? What are the tangible impacts of seemingly immaterial proposals; on urban land, housing, and communities? What different forms can 'megaproject mirages' take?

We seek proposals that study 'megaproject mirages' across diverse settings-from speculative landscapes of financial centres to state-led visions of emerging economies-and particularly encourage a comparative dialogue. We welcome contributions from a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives that examine the consequences of these unbuilt projects.

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Representations of Architectural Urban Futures and the Politics of Unbuilt

» [Dr. Nadia Alaily-Mattar](#) (Technical University of Munich), [Dr. Paul Jones](#) (University of Liverpool), [Prof. Gillian Rose](#) (University of Oxford)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

An autopsy of megaproject mirages: Theorizing failure in new city projects

» [Dr. Sarah Moser](#) (McGill University)

Examining the semiotic role of 'failed' megaprojects. The case of Sociopolis, Valencia

» [Dr. Amparo Tarazona Vento](#) (University of Sheffield)

Infrastructural lag and the political economy of delayed megaprojects: the case of the Terzo Valico dei Giovi

» [Dr. Alberto Valz Gris](#) (Politecnico di Torino)

The Production of Emptiness: inflated buildings, land banking and the temporality of development

» [Dr. Kah-Wee Lee](#) (National University of Singapore)

14:00

Workshop : Round table 9

Degrowth and the politics of space

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Dr. Karl Krähmer (Panel Chair), Ms. Sarah Ware (Discussant), Nikos Katsikis (Discussant), Prof. Roberta Cucca (Discussant), and Dr. Federico Savini (Discussant)

Degrowth has gained wide traction as both a critique of contemporary capitalism and an agenda for emancipatory and democratic spatial politics. Scholars from many disciplines, activists from socio-ecological movements and progressive governments recognize the potential of degrowth propositions to address the intertwined challenges of worsening social inequality, ecological breakdown, and democratic backsliding. In political practice, degrowth is bridging multiple communities, inspiring struggles for reduction of the social metabolism, sufficiency, care, labour rights, as well as those advocating for phasing out fossil capital, capping extreme wealth, and fostering anti-authoritarianism and anti-colonialism.

Despite its increasing visibility and popularity in both research and practice, degrowth still lacks a thorough and systematic development of a spatial perspective. For research, it lacks a theory of spatial change capable of connecting transformations and struggles occurring at multiple scales: from the everyday practices of altering consumption

patterns to local and regional conflicts around growth-fueled investments, contesting the geopolitics of planetary urbanization. Consequently, degrowth-informed research runs the risk of scalar traps: a naïve universalism or a folkloristic localism. A spatial perspective, which is multiscalar and relational, can help to both calibrate radical degrowth practices to specific socio-cultural contexts and to interconnect them within a theory and practice of contesting planetary dynamics of extractivism and exploitation.

The roundtable opens a dialogue between degrowth and spatial politics for both research and practice. Space is addressed as a relation of power, simultaneously a condition, a means and a target of degrowth politics. A degrowth transformation necessarily implies a reorganization of socio-metabolic relations, stocks and flows of matter, capital and energy across spatial scales, and a different cultural imaginary of how we as humans conceptualize our relation to spatial dynamics. If degrowth envisions a spatial politics that counteracts the underlying socio-cultural frames that sustain intrinsically toxic growth ideologies, cultures and institutions, then it needs a theory (and a practice) able to explain how its values are embedded and practiced through multi-scalar socio-spatial transformations.

The round table panel will discuss the following questions:

What makes a spatial perspective different from an a-spatial perspective in the analysis of a growth-focused society and in the development of trajectories of a degrowth transformation?

What are the current perspectives on theories of socio-spatial change in degrowth research and practice? What are their limits for radical action? What kind of contribution can a degrowth perspective bring to existing radical perspectives on inequality such as planetary urbanization, land struggles, urban extractivism, green gentrification?

Degrowth and the politics of space

» [Dr. Karl Krähmer](#) (University of Turin)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

14:00

Oral : #41-1/2

#41 Urban Displacement and Housing Precarity: Rethinking Refugees in Cities (1/2)

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: Dr. David Kostenwein (Convenor)

In the context of overlapping global crises-violent conflict, deepening inequality, and the escalating impacts of climate change-forced migration has reached unprecedented levels. By 2025, over 123 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, with more than 60 per cent residing in urban areas (UN-Habitat, 2025). This demographic shift is not only reshaping the physical and social fabric of cities, but also challenging conventional understandings of housing, urbanisation, and governance.

This panel examines the complex and dynamic relationship between urban displacement and housing precarity, with a focus on how refugees navigate urban environments. Recent scholarship conceptualises these dynamics through the lens of "refugee urbanism" (Darling, 2020), which captures the spatial, social, and political transformations that emerge when displacement becomes a long-term urban condition. Building on this framework, the session interrogates how neoliberalism, characterised by commodification, deregulation, and exclusion, interacts with displacement to produce new forms of urban marginality and resilience.

Bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives from urban studies, migration, and housing policy, the panel hopes to present empirically grounded approaches to studying the relationships between housing, governance structures, and everyday dwelling practices through the perspectives of urban refugees. In doing so, the session foregrounds the agency of displaced refugees and local actors in producing housing arrangements under conditions of uncertainty and sometimes violence.

Ultimately, the panel aims to rethink the concept of refuge in cities as constitutive of contemporary urban life, shifting the lens away from the frameworks of crises and exceptions. It hopes to contribute to broader debates on urban inequality, displacement, and the restructuring of housing systems under global neoliberalism.

We invite interventions that engage questions that address these frameworks, and provide below a list of entry points that work in this

direction:

- How do refugees access housing and navigate staying in place in cities shaped by informality, fragmented governance, and market-driven logics?
- What role do social networks play, what kinds of hierarchies (e.g., gender, national) do they impose? How are these hierarchies reshaped through the negotiation of dwelling and staying in place?
- Where do the materialities of the city, the history of their neighborhoods, building typologies, and tenure arrangements figure in shaping refugee experiences of precarity or stability?
- How do humanitarian responses and state policies intersect, overlap, or contradict each other in the provision of shelter?
- How do legal infrastructures and governance frameworks, whether humanitarian, municipal, or national mediate access to shelter and influence the long-term integration or exclusion of refugees?

Resilience in Precarious Urban Spaces: Displacement, Informal Housing, and Migrant Self-Organisation in Paris

» [Mr. Abel Mavura](#) (University of Cambridge)

Displacement and post-disaster governance: The permanent transitoriness of emergency settlements in Chile

» [Dr. Elizabeth Wagemann](#) (Laboratorio Ciudad y Territorio, Facultad de Arquitectura, Arte y Diseño, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile. CIGIDEN R+), [Ms. Natalia Donoso-Pardo](#) (University of Cambridge), [Dr. Magdalena Gil](#) (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

Global Policies, Local Translations: Thinking Beirut's Humanitarian Housing Governance through Bogotá

» [Ms. Bruna Rohling](#) (ETH Zürich)

Housing precarity and Urban Displacement in the City

» [Dr. Nadine Khayat](#) (American University of Beirut), [Prof. Diana Garces Amaya](#) (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana), [Dr. David Kostenwein](#) (ETH Zürich)

Rethinking Housing through Migration and Displacement in Beirut and Bogotá. Social anchors and their role in informal urban governance

» [Dr. Nadine Khayat](#) (American University of Beirut), [Prof. Diana Garces Amaya](#) (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

14:00

Oral : #67-3/4

#67 Inclusive Cities. Reading inclusion challenges through the lens of urban space (3/4)

Venue - HS 07

Organised by: Carolina Pacchi (Convenor) and Silvia Gullino (Convenor)

Cities are dynamic and contested spaces where global challenges converge-social inequality, environmental degradation, economic disparities, and political tensions- all converge more acutely. Urban spaces are not the backdrop of these issues, rather a central arena where they are produced, experienced and potentially addressed.

This panel seeks multidisciplinary contributions that apply a spatial lens to understand how inclusion is made, unmade and remade. By focusing on spatiality, this session aims to illuminate how inclusiveness is not only a social or political framework, but also a lived experience profoundly shaped by urban form, infrastructure, governance, and everyday interactions.

We invite contributions that critically examine how cities can be sites of inclusiveness-where diverse populations coexist, access rights and opportunities equitably, and where innovative policies are tested to tackle intersecting social, environmental, economic, and political issues. We invite scholars, practitioners, and policymakers working across urban studies, geography, sociology, environmental science, planning, and related fields to engage with themes that foreground spatiality as both a lens and a means in addressing inclusiveness challenges.

Key Themes and Sub-themes:

- Spatial Dynamics of Social Inclusion and Exclusion: How do urban spatial arrangements, segregation, and accessibility shape belonging and marginalisation in cities? What roles do housing, transport, and public space play in reinforcing or disrupting social equity?
- Environmental Justice in Urban Contexts: How are climate risks, pollution, and green space unevenly distributed across urban areas? How can spatial tools support more just environmental policies?
- Economic Inclusion and Urban Spatial Economies: What are the spatial dimensions of economic opportunity and disadvantage? How do location, zoning, and redevelopment affect job access, informal economies, and resilience?
- Political Geography and Governance of Inclusive Cities: How do governance, participation, and spatial control influence inclusive urban

futures? What role do policies, planning, and citizen engagement play in shaping equitable cities?

Research Questions:

- In what ways does a spatial lens reveal the complex intersectional nature of social, economic, environmental, and political challenges in urban contexts?
- How can urban policies and planning integrate principles of spatial justice to promote inclusiveness across diverse populations?
- What spatial methods (e.g., GIS, spatial ethnography, participatory mapping) best capture lived experiences of urban inclusion/exclusion?
- How are global challenges (e.g. climate change, migration, digital divides) spatially experienced in cities, and what innovative spatial interventions respond effectively?

Methods, Theories, and Approaches Invited:

We welcome empirical, theoretical, and interdisciplinary work on spatial inclusion in cities-ranging from GIS, ethnography, and participatory methods to critical theories like spatial justice. Case studies and policy analyses from global contexts are invited, particularly those examining how planning and governance can promote more inclusive urban futures. Empirical studies using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed spatial methods, including GIS-based analyses, spatial data visualisations, spatial ethnography, and participatory mapping.

This session aims to foster a robust dialogue among researchers and practitioners who view cities as critical spatial arenas where complex global challenges and inclusiveness intersect, offering pathways toward equitable and sustainable urban lives for all.

Infrastructure, Resettlement, and Contested Spatial Equity at the Urban Edge in China

» Prof. Jialing Luo (Sichuan University)

Containing Difference: Space, Class, and Domestic Labor in Neoliberal Indian Cities

» Ms. Sanchari Naskar (Rabindra Bharati University)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Inclusive libraries in fragile territories. Reading spaces for inclusion in Milan's San Siro Neighborhood.

» Prof. Lola Ottolini (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies), Prof. Giulia Gerosa (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Design), Ms. Gabriella Cipolla (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies), Ms. Federica Guarnieri (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Design)

Waterscapes of Exclusion: Water Systems as Cultural Infrastructure, and Urban Inequality in Achalpur, India

» Ms. Mayuri Deodhar (Symbiosis School of Architecture, Urban Development and Planning)

Urban inclusion beyond infrastructure: Triple spatiality, lived experience, and the making of just cities in Chile

» Dr. Gabriela Guevara-Cue (University of O'Higgins), Ms. Claudia Alonso (University of Chile)

14:00

Oral : #7-3/4

#7 The housing-wealth-nexus. Inequality in the age of rentier capitalism (3/4)

Venue - HS 16

Organised by: Agustín Cocola-Gant (Convenor), Sònia Vives Miró (Convenor), and Georgia Alexandri (Convenor)

The overarching aim of this session is to explore how the consolidation of housing as a key asset for storing and generating wealth is deepening inequalities between property owners and non-owners. Over recent decades, property ownership has become a central pillar of wealth accumulation for both households and institutional investors, with rising housing prices serving as a major driver of financial gains. However, while some individuals and institutions have expanded their property portfolios, evidence shows a simultaneous growth in the number of households without any property at all. This dual trend underscores a widening gap between landlords and tenants—an inequality particularly visible in the current context of generation rent. Escalating house prices, restrictive mortgage access, and stagnant wages have collectively diminished homeownership opportunities, especially for younger generations. As a result, increasing numbers are confined to the private rental sector, facing conditions that make it ever more difficult to

transition to ownership. Moreover, the structure of the rental market—where tenants continuously transfer income to landlords—functions as a mechanism of upward wealth redistribution, reinforcing social hierarchies and constraining the well-being and life trajectories of those excluded from ownership.

In light of these dynamics, this session invites research papers and theoretical contributions addressing the following key themes:

Wealth Extraction from Housing

Who are the key actors extracting wealth from housing, and through which mechanisms? To what extent is household wealth increasingly derived from rentier practices? Which assets and real estate products—such as private rentals, short-term and temporary accommodations, or buy-to-leave investments, among others—are being used for wealth accumulation, and by whom?

Wealth Inequality and Intersectionality

How does property ownership contribute to wealth inequality, and how are these disparities mediated by class, gender, race, and age? In what ways does housing function as a driver of impoverishment and social stratification? How is generation rent experiencing economic and social exclusion within increasingly financialised housing systems? What are the spatial logics of housing-related inequalities?

Alternative Futures

What policy measures could reassert housing's social function and curb speculative investment? Which strategies and interventions can effectively reduce housing inequalities and enhance affordability?

Unambiguous domination? Articulating housing property relations and class position through the case of French landlords

» Ms. Apolline Meyer (Université Paris 8)

The Owners of the City: Real Estate Concentration in the City of Buenos Aires

» Mr. Fernando Bercovich (Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia), Ms. Catalina Marino (Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia), Mr. Camilo D'Aloisio (Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia)

New landlords in the city. Foreign small- and medium-scale investors in Athens and Thessaloniki

» Dr. Philipp Katsinas (London School of Economics)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Property Ownership as Wealth and Vulnerability: The case of Beirut

» Ms. Reine Chedid (American University of Beirut)

The Socio-Ecological Housing Question in the Green Transition: Financialization, Inequality, and Urban Justice

» Dr. Aysegul Can (Karlsruhe Institute for Technology)

14:00

Workshop : Round table 11

Translocal learning to address inequalities through Urban Labs

Venue - HS 21

Organised by: Dr. Julia Wesely (Panel Chair), Catalina Ortiz (Discussant), Prof. Francisco de Assis Comaru (Discussant), Harutyun Vermishyan (Discussant), and Prof. Kerstin Krellenberg (Discussant)

Urban Labs are increasingly popular modes for co-producing transdisciplinary knowledge on key urban issues. Particularly in the field of urban sustainability transformations, actors from research and practice have argued that social innovation and experimentation are required to address complex sustainability challenges and the structural inequalities at their core (Almeida and Deutsch 2025).

Here, the messy context of "the urban" serves to re-frame the pristine image of the laboratory, while the complex realities of urban dwellers transgress epistemic and heuristic boundaries of a controlled experiment. Acknowledging that the starting points, goals, foci, institutional set-up and spatial-temporal configurations of Urban Labs over the world are highly heterogeneous, the roundtable discussion focuses particularly on university-based Urban Labs. This is due to their underlying promise of establishing a new social contract between universities and cities; where hierarchies of knowledge and practice are questioned and re-worked to become fruitful for transformative change (John 2024). Yet, their impacts, in terms of the change they produce, including their ability to address structural inequalities, remain limited and uncertain. What, then, can be learnt across Urban Labs to strengthen knowledges about their enabling conditions as well as their (transformative) impacts?

In the context of evolving research on enabling conditions for university-based Urban Labs, this roundtable also recognises how academic discourses on Urban Labs are currently strongly biased towards Western

understandings (Roll et al. 2024). This is particularly concerning as numerous Urban Labs from the East and South hold profound experiences across teaching, research and extension, and provide ample conceptual, methodological and practical entry points to exchange, learn from, and learn across (Kohler et al. 2021). Moreover, although being firmly contextualised in their localities, many Urban Labs are deeply entangled in global-local networks: be it through international research projects and funding streams, participation in multilateral city alliances, and engagement with the localisation of global sustainable development agendas, among many other dimensions.

The roundtable discussion therefore brings into conversation experiences from emerging and established Urban Labs associated with universities across diverse geographies such as Armenia, Brazil, the UK and Austria. It seeks to curate cross-learning in multiple directions, making explicit their local, and in particular their translocal dimensions and connections.

The roundtable discussion will address the following topics:

Contributions of Urban Labs from Southern, Eastern, and Western cities towards pluralising global and translocal city networks and alliances
Innovative co-learning methodologies and critical pedagogies within and between Urban Labs
Roles and responsibilities of Urban Labs in addressing (in-)justices and inequalities in university-city relations
Long-term experiences of resourcing and institutionalizing Urban Labs
Social and material (transformative) impacts of Urban Labs
The roundtable discussion is organised with co-funding from the Urban Studies Journal.

Translocal learning to address inequalities through Urban Labs

» Dr. Julia Wesely (Urban Sustainability Living Lab, University of Vienna)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

14:00

Oral : #66-1/2

#66 The Politics and Practices of Infrastructuring: Participation, Mediation, and Variegations in State Engagement (1/2)

Venue - HS 27

Organised by: Carl-Philipp Bodenstein (Convenor), Dr. Sudeshna Mitra (Convenor), Karin Pfeffer (Convenor), and Ms. Federica Duca (Convenor)

"Key Themes: Urban Infrastructuring, Infrastructural Inequalities, Mediation, State Engagement, Participatory Approaches

Urban infrastructures are not merely technical systems; they are deeply embedded in the socio-spatial fabric of cities, shaping and reflecting inequalities across caste, class, race, and other axes of marginalization. The spatial distribution, accessibility, efficiency, and affordability of infrastructure are critical measures of how equitable and inclusive cities are-or can become. In recent years, the concept of "infrastructuring" has emerged to capture the dynamic, processual, and relational nature of infrastructure development. Infrastructuring encompasses the social practices, negotiations, and power dynamics that shape the design, distribution, maintenance, and transformation of infrastructure systems over time.

This panel explores the potential of urban infrastructuring to challenge socio-spatial inequalities while also interrogating how infrastructural systems and processes may reify or exacerbate these inequalities. It brings together two complementary perspectives: (1) the variegated ways in which state and non-state actors engage with the politics of infrastructuring, particularly in the context of the Global South, and (2) the role of participation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange in fostering more just and inclusive urban futures.

On one hand, infrastructuring is a site of contestation, where claims to infrastructure, recognition, and redistribution are negotiated between residents, mediators, and state institutions. These negotiations often reflect and reinforce existing hierarchies, as state responses to infrastructural claims vary across socio-economic groups. For instance, self-provisioning strategies like solar energy systems may be embraced in affluent areas but penalized in marginalized neighborhoods, highlighting the uneven governance of urban infrastructure. On the other hand, infrastructuring also offers opportunities for participatory and collaborative approaches to infrastructure co-production, enabling diverse actors to engage in iterative processes of knowledge exchange and decision-making. Digital tools such as GIS, collaboration platforms, and planning support systems can play a critical role in making these

processes more inclusive and accessible. By bringing together these perspectives, the panel aims to foster a critical dialogue on the transformative potential of urban infrastructuring and the challenges of addressing entrenched inequalities in cities around the world.

We invite papers that address the following questions:

- How do different urban actors-ranging from residents of informal settlements to middle-class and wealthy homeowners-engage with or resist state institutions in their claims to infrastructure?
- What roles do mediators, brokers, and facilitators play in shaping the relationship between state and non-state actors in the context of infrastructuring?
- How do state agencies selectively respond to infrastructural claims, and how do these responses reinforce or challenge existing hierarchies?
- How can participatory and collaborative geo-spatial approaches to infrastructuring address and alleviate socio-spatial inequalities?
- What are the long-term dynamics of infrastructuring processes, and how can they be studied and conceptualized?"

Land rights through infrastructuring: The role of water and mobility delivery in practices of land formalisation in Arequipa, Peru

» [Dr. Christian Rosen](#) (Technical University Darmstadt)

Beyond Bitumen: Thinking through the infrastructure along the Grand Trunk Road

» [Mr. MOHIT DHINGRA](#) (Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi)

From institutional repair to sabotage of infrastructure: the case of the waste treatment plant in Ciudad Nezahualcóyotl, Mexico.

» [Dr. HECTOR NOE HERNANDEZ QUINTANA](#) (Instituto de Geografía, UNAM)

Governing Urban Socio-Ecological Transformations: Ordinary Struggles Around Solar Infrastructures in Paris, Barcelona, and Milan

» [Ms. Marta Tramezzani](#) (Sciences Po Paris)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

14:00

Oral : #103-3/4

#103 Regeneration and the Remaking of Urban Inequalities (3/4)

Venue - HS 30

Organised by: Prof. Paul Watt (Convenor) and Zheng Wang (Convenor)
Regeneration has been a prominent feature of urban development across cities in the Global North and South for several decades. Whilst regeneration discourses are spatially specific, their broad underlying contours are fairly consistent, i.e. physical redevelopment promoted by the state with variable levels of private sector fiscal and governmental involvement. Regeneration is often associated with the remaking of urban inequalities, for example via enhancing processes of state-led gentrification in the Global North (Watt and Smets, 2017; Morris, 2019; Watt, 2021), or through large-scale resettlements in the Global South and East (Goodfellow et al.; Wang, 2022; Williams et al., 2022). In this session, we wish to highlight the manifold ways that regeneration reshapes contemporary landscapes of urban inequalities, which may include gentrification but is by no means restricted to gentrification-related issues. Hence, we are interested in theoretical, methodological and empirical research papers which explore how regeneration remakes urban inequalities along class, racial/ethnic, gender, disability, religious and intersectional lines, and this includes the spatial contours of such social inequalities.

Some of the research questions that we are interested in include:

- 'what are the aims of regeneration projects vis-à-vis urban inequalities?';
- 'how do the end results of regeneration change such inequalities?'; 'how do these changes match onto the original regeneration aims?';
- 'to what extent do urban political economies determine or pre-determine how regeneration reshapes inequalities';
- 'how does contestation and resistance from below affect the manner in which regeneration reshapes urban inequalities';
- 'does regeneration produce socially uneven inequalities in that some inequalities are ameliorated whilst others are enhanced or vice versa?';
- 'do certain types of regeneration exacerbate urban inequalities more than others?'; and 'what are the policy implications of regeneration vis-à-vis urban inequalities?'
- 'One theme which could be explored is how the temporal process of regeneration unfolds over time - often elongating way beyond the original deadlines - and therefore 'how does such regeneration

elongation itself change urban inequalities?'

We are interested in papers which explore the above themes and questions using a range of methods and theoretical approaches.

Temporalities of regeneration and the consequential inequalities for ageing in place

» Ms. Philippa Winship (University of Manchester)

Territorial Stigma, Housing Regeneration and Social Class

» Dr. Emma Ormerod (Newcastle University)

TEMPORARY BELONGING: Middle-Class Residential Experiences in London's Post-Olympic East Village

» Dr. Piero Corcillo (Birkbeck, University of London)

Revaluating the Enclave: Second-Generation Entrepreneurship in Gentrifying Black Immigrant Neighborhoods

» Dr. Maura McGee (Queens College, City University of New York)

Paradox of regeneration through institutionalised uncertainty

» Dr. Jana Šarinić (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Sociology), Mrs. Lora Heršak (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Sociology)

14:00

Oral : #1-3/4

#1 Youth, (Un)Care and the City (3/4)

Venue - HS 31

Organised by: Rachel Almeida (Convenor), Prof. Sabine Knierbein (Convenor), and Dr. Nir Cohen (Convenor)

In much of the world, young people have been systematically excluded from decision-making processes concerning urban development and public spaces. Whether through social and territorial marginalisation or through the invisibility of their experiences in policy design, youth are often reduced to "secondary users" of urban spaces, if not treated as a threat to public order. Such a perspective overlooks the fact that young people are protagonists in the social production of space, elaborating creative practices, modes of circulation, everyday resistances, and political mobilisations that fundamentally challenge and reconfigure ways of inhabiting the city.



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

Far from being passive recipients of urban policies, youth constitute themselves as both collective and individual subjects who articulate desires, practices of care, distinctive aesthetics, and insurgent forms of belonging. Whether through peripheral cultural production, the reappropriation of squares, streets, and public facilities, the experience of new gendered forms of belonging, the creative use of digital technologies, or the building of networks of solidarity and community support, young people exercise careful agency over urban space. These practices, often rendered invisible by formal policies, reveal dynamics that expand the notion of the right to the city towards debates about urban un(care), question exclusionary logics, and challenge hegemonic models of urban planning.

This session brings together contributions that explore the role of youth in the social production of space and in forms of political incidence across distinct geopolitical contexts. We are interested in understanding how factors such as territory, race, class, gender, education, and generation interact to shape the experiences of youth, influencing their practices of use, access, and appropriation of urban space. Equally relevant are analyses of how mobility, safety, technology, and social media affect the presence and organisation of youth in urban space, and their creative and collective responses to these challenges.

We are especially interested in the role of peripheral youth as intellectuals, resisting artists, and cultural agents who shape new urban horizons through different forms of solidarity and care, as well as innovative and aesthetic types of cultural products. This insurgent knowledge, especially when emerging from the margins, has the potential to influence public debate and inform more caring and democratic urban alternatives.

The session welcomes methodological explorations that articulate youth-oriented research, practice, and collaborative action, such as socio-spatial workshops, mappings, focus groups, exhibitions, and other forms of co-production of knowledge with young people and local communities that seek to combine embodied and virtual spaces into 'vireal' spaces of youth.

We seek contributions that combine empirical analyses, methodological advances, and theoretical reflections, exploring both localised case studies and complementary or transnational approaches. Of particular interest is the promotion of dialogue between researchers, artists, activists, and policymakers working in the fields of youth, urban space, and collective care. By emphasising creative practices, conflicts and

possibilities of transformation led by young people, this session sheds light on under-recognised dimensions of youthful urban life and contributes to the construction of fairer cities learning from the new forms of literacy that young people bring along.

Linguistic citizenship and orientation: Multilingualism and place-making among youth in a marginalized area in Gothenburg

» [Dr. Helena Holgersson](#) (University of Gothenburg), [Dr. Maria Löfdahl](#) (Institute for Language and Folklore)

Negotiating Class Religion and Residential Segregation: Aspirations of Muslim Women in Delhi

» [Dr. Aashti Salman](#) (Azim Premji University), [Dr. Balu Sunilraj](#) (NALSAR University of Law)

Struggles for Places of Black, Racialised and Marginalised Youth in Montreal

» [Dr. Leslie Kapo](#) (Institut national de la recherche scientifique), [Mrs. Djazia Bousnina](#) (Institut national de la recherche scientifique), [Mrs. Kelia Islas](#) (Institut national de la recherche scientifique)

Gendered Un(care): Mapping Young Women's Spatial Exclusion and Insurgent Care Practices.

» [Ms. Renata Boeri](#) (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II)

At the Crossroads: Peripheral Youth Contesting Territorial Stigma and Shaping the City

» [Ms. Beatriz Lacerda](#) (Institute of Sociology and Faculty of Arts and Humanities of University of Porto), [Dr. Lígia Ferro](#) (Institute of Sociology and Faculty of Arts and Humanities of University of Porto), [Dr. Otávio Raposo](#) (Iscte- University Institute of Lisbon, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

14:00

Oral : #17-3/3

#17 Climate adaptation from below: community-led responses to environmental challenges in the Global South (3/3)

Venue - HS 32

Organised by: Dr. Francesca Ferlicca (Convenor), Dr. Sonia Roitman (Convenor), and Dr. Jakub Galuszka (Convenor)

Cities in the Global South face disproportionate impacts from climate change, environmental degradation, and extreme weather events, often exacerbating existing urban inequalities. While top-down climate adaptation strategies dominate policy discourse, grassroots initiatives led by communities, neighbourhood organizations, and informal networks represent crucial yet underrepresented responses to environmental challenges within the mainstream discussion to environmental challenges. These community-led adaptations emerge from the lived experiences of urban residents confronting daily environmental risks, from flooding in informal settlements to heat stress in dense urban areas.

This session explores how communities in the Global South develop strategies for climate adaptation, challenging traditional narratives that position marginalized urban populations solely as vulnerable victims rather than active agents of change. We examine how these bottom-up initiatives intersect with, complement, or contest formal adaptation policies, revealing tensions between community knowledge and institutional approaches.

Key themes and research questions we invite include:

- Theoretical frameworks: How do community-led adaptation practices challenge and offer alternatives to dominant paradigms dominant climate governance paradigms? What theoretical lenses (from urban studies, development studies, environmental justice, decolonial theory) best capture these dynamics?
- Methodological approaches: How can researchers and communities ethically document and analyze community-led initiatives? What participatory methodologies reveal community adaptation knowledge? How do we avoid extractive research practices?
- Spatial dimensions: How do informal settlements, peripheral neighborhoods, and marginalized urban areas develop place-specific adaptation strategies? What role do urban informality, precarity, and spatial inequalities play in shaping community responses? What are the

counter-productive effects of top-down approaches that use climate adaptation as an excuse to relocate communities? How can communities challenge resettlement paradigms through innovative in-situ solutions that question conventional imperatives around flood zones and other environmental risk areas while maintaining their social networks and territorial attachments?

- Social networks and organizing: What forms of collective action, solidarity, and mutual aid and support emerge around environmental challenges? How do gender, ethnicity, class, disability and migration status influence participation in adaptation initiatives?
- Knowledge systems: How do communities combine traditional ecological knowledge, everyday experiences, and external resources? What tensions arise between local and experiential knowledge and technical expertise?
- Policy interfaces: How do community initiatives engage with, resist, or remain invisible to formal governance structures? What opportunities exist for scaling up or institutionalizing community-led practices?
- Cross-regional perspectives: How do community adaptation strategies vary across different contexts in the Global South (Latin America, Africa, Asia and Asia Pacific)? What comparative insights emerge from diverse urban environments?

We welcome contributions from various disciplines including urban studies, geography, anthropology, sociology, environmental studies, and development studies. We encourage papers based on ethnographic research, participatory methods, action research, and comparative approaches. We particularly seek contributions that center community voices and experiences while critically examining power dynamics in climate adaptation processes.

This session aims to foster comparative discussions about community agency in environmental governance, contributing to broader debates about urban inequalities, environmental justice, and alternative pathways for sustainable urban development in the Global South.

From shared futures to fragmented commitments: rethinking climate governance in East African cities

» [Dr. Pascale Hofmann](#) (Development Planning Unit, UCL), [Dr. Bruna Ferreira Montuori](#) (Development Planning Unit, UCL), [Dr. Dasha Moschonas](#) (Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction, UCL), [Dr. Jordana Ramalho](#) (Development Planning Unit, UCL)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

Community Led housing Climate Adaptation Strategy. Collective Action to address climate and environmental challenges.

» [Ms. Milka Kori](#) (SDI-Kenya), Mr. Hisham Tariq (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine)

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, EVERYDAY PRACTICES, AND THE GLOBAL HEGEMONIC CONCEPTION OF SUSTAINABILITY: CONFLICTS AND POTENTIALITIES

» [Dr. Luciana de Oliveira Royer](#) (FAU-USP), Dr. Samuel Mössner (University of Münster)

14:00

Oral : #10-3/3

#10 The digital frontier (3/3)

Venue - HS 34

Organised by: Prof. Justus Uitermark (Convenor) and Ayona Datta (Convenor)

This session explores digitization in motion and across space. It examines how digital technologies-from artificial intelligence and social media platforms to digital archives-enter into and transform previously analogue life worlds and domains.

Research on digital urbanism shows that corporations and governments deploy digital technologies to expand control, extract data, and commodify social life. From dating to volunteering, and from taxi rides to land registration, digital infrastructures enable the extension of corporate and governmental power deep into everyday life. This session asks how places, institutions, and relationships are reconfigured through such technologies.

We understand this digital reconfiguration through the notion of the digital frontier. The frontier metaphor highlights processes of expansion: digital technologies enumerate subjects once uncountable, render visible territories once unmapped, and organize political, economic, and social relations previously outside digital grids.

Yet this frontier is not simply a divide between advanced and primitive, or formal and informal. While structural parallels with colonial frontiers remain, today's digital frontiers emerge in a different historical moment and within new constellations of power. Colonial dynamics persist, but in a postcolonial and multipolar world where American and European

hegemony is waning. Power relations are often complex: workers or residents sometimes resist digitization but at other times embrace it. While platforms' logics of extraction, commodification, and control permeate social worlds, their advance is never smooth or uniform: wherever digital technologies expand, their operations are contested, reshaped, and transformed.

We invite submissions that examine the digital frontier in different geographical contexts and domains. From the contention over viral food spots or wanghong attractions to disputes over land registration and gig work: we are interested in exploring a wide range of cases to examine general dynamics as well as variations and particularities. We are open to all methods, ranging from computational analyses that chart digital inequalities to deep ethnographies that explore digitization in place, and from cartographic methods that map uneven digitization across space to action research.

Augmented reality and collective urban imaginaries: Reassembling the digital frontier in Indonesia

» [Ms. Meriky Lo](#) (School of Architecture and Planning, The University of Auckland)

Data intermediaries and territorial, labour and epistemic frontiers in Ireland's planning digitalisation

» [Dr. Juliette Davret](#) (Maynooth University), Prof. Rob Kitchin (Maynooth University)

The digital frontier in India's master planning – the case of GIS-based Master Plans

» [Ms. Arjama Mukherjee](#) (HafenCity University Hamburg)

Predictive Slum Mapping: The Global Program for Resilient Housing and the World Bank's Experimentation with Geospatial Technologies

» [Mr. Christian Jung](#) (University of Zurich)

Frontiering in Place: Urban digital twins and the directionless intensification of the frontier

» [Mr. Oskar Steiner](#) (Sciences Po Paris)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

14:00

Oral : #11-3/4

#11 Invisible Citizens: Experiencing and Resisting Exclusion in the Contemporary City (3/4)

Venue - B.I.G. HS

Organised by: Prof. Anna Domaradzka (Convenor) and Nina Wróblewska (Convenor)

Cities are places of complex coexistence, where people from different social, cultural, and cognitive backgrounds come together in shared public spaces (Fincher and Iveson 2008, Gehl 2010). Unfortunately, these spaces are not always adapted to the needs of all city residents. Many people experience forms of exclusion that remain invisible to policymakers, urban planners, and researchers (Soja 2010, Wilson and Tewdwr-Jones 2021). These 'hidden inequalities' can manifest in various ways, including cognitive or sensory exclusion (Imrie 2011), as well as more visible economic, social, or spatial barriers (Lefebvre 1991, Young 1990).

Some urban citizens are more prone to become 'invisible' - this includes neuroatypical individuals, people with disabilities or mental health issues, women, elderly, members of LGBTQ+ community, migrants, unhoused people and other minorities and equity-seeking groups (Hamraie 2017, Kitchin 1998). Their exclusion is not always overt or intentional, yet it often becomes embedded in the infrastructure, services, and discourses that shape the city (Fainstein 2010, Harvey 2008). This can lead to subtle but profound limitations in navigating public space, accessing city services, participating in policymaking and feeling a sense of belonging (Mitchell 2003).

Growing social, economic, and environmental challenges are increasing the urgency of addressing these forms of inequality (UN-Habitat 2020). Urban expansion, population shifts into major cities, digital transformation, and climate change are reshaping urban life in ways that increase the vulnerability of groups already at risk of exclusion (Anguelovski et al. 2018, Blokland et al. 2015). Research shows that diversity and the inclusion of disadvantaged groups are not only matters of social justice, but also essential for building more resilient, democratic, and innovative urban environments (Fainstein 2010, Meerow et al. 2016, Soja 2010).

This session aims to create a space for dialogue on how hidden inequalities are produced and experienced, as well as how they are

addressed or resisted. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary perspectives and case studies from different geographical, political and ethnical contexts, especially those that are rarely represented in mainstream academic discourse.

We invite authors using diverse theoretical approaches including, but not restricted to: social construction of disability, theories of spatial justice and right to the city, conflict theory, postcolonial theory, indigenous studies or social exclusion and marginality theory. We encourage contributions engaging with concepts like human agency, narratives, spatial and digital practices, cultural representations, and similar.

We aim to address following questions:

1. How 'invisible' forms of exclusion manifest in different urban contexts?
2. In what ways do policies, planning practices, or public discourses reproduce the invisibility of vulnerable groups?
3. How do vulnerable groups resist, negotiate, or reconfigure urban inequalities in their everyday lives?
4. What are the spatial and social - both collective and individual - strategies used by excluded groups striving for safety, privacy, health and well-being in the urban context?
5. What methodological or theoretical approaches are best suited to making 'hidden' experiences visible in urban research?

Beyond infrastructure availability in slums: persistent inequalities in access to basic services in Pune, India

» [Ms. Ranna Abdulhadi](#) (Utrecht University), Prof. Ajay Bailey (Utrecht University), Dr. Femke van Noorloos (Utrecht University)

Between Heritage and Precarity: A Sensory Study of "Oukalisation" and Social Exclusion in Tunis

» [Dr. ANWAR HAMROUNI](#) (American University of the Middle East)

Cognitive Steppe of Resistance: Mongolian Spatial Practices and Subaltern Agency in Urban Hohhot

» [Mr. Lingchen Kong](#) (University of Cambridge)

Visible foods, invisible lives: Racialised foodscapes and everyday negotiations of invisibility in Incheon, South Korea

» [Dr. Iihyun Choi](#) (University of Nottingham)



Continued from Tuesday, 21 July

14:00

Oral : #25-3/3

#25 Inequalities in urban future-making: foundations, framings, and contestations (3/3)

Venue - Franz-König Saal (= HS 06)

Organised by: Monika Grubbauer (Convenor) and Katharina Manderscheid (Convenor)

While questions of urban inequality have long constituted a topic of inquiry for the social sciences, the picture is more ambiguous when it comes to the applied spatial sciences and policy-making concerned with urban development. Questions of access to housing, social services, and infrastructure are certainly of key concern in disciplines such as architecture and planning, both in research as well as in practice. The same is true for new forms of environmental inequalities: As the effects of climate change, such as droughts, heat waves, and flooding, are increasingly felt in cities around the world, it has become also clear that the effects on cities are unequally distributed, particularly affecting urban populations that are the most vulnerable and least affluent. Many cities take measures to tackle these interrelated ecological and social challenges when adapting urban spaces to new realities, reducing the impact of environmental hazards and extreme weather events, and implementing future-oriented strategies. Yet, whether and how forms of inequality are considered, reflected on, and actively approached in such measures and strategies of urban future-making remains open to discussion.

This session examines the capacity of social actors and institutions in urban development in addressing current dynamics of urban inequality. How do the policy instruments, planning strategies, and urban design solutions, which are largely centred on questions of climate change and mitigation and the decarbonization of the building sector, consider implicit or explicit challenges of inequality? The focus is on professionals in built environment disciplines as social actors in various roles in the state administration, private sector, non-profit sector, and civil society initiatives, as well as on institutions in related fields of action in urban development policy and planning. How do these actors and institutions advance their conceptual and methodological foundations for dealing with forms of urban inequality in the light of new complexities, what types of data are considered, what are the tools and methods used for operationalization and decision-making, and how is each of these aspects legitimized and discursively framed, made accessible to public debate, and potentially contested?

We invite papers which address the above questions from a variety of angles, both theoretically and empirically, and across diverse contexts. Of interest are, particularly, various fields of urban development action which are currently driven by the urgency to transform cities and their built environment in the light of ecological challenges ahead, including housing, transport, energy, and water. Possible subthemes include urban climate and biodiversity strategies, urban megaprojects and urban infrastructure, green building policies, and disaster prevention and mitigation. We welcome papers which provide empirical insights and a critical discussion of how inequality is addressed in these fields of action, but papers which reflect on the epistemological foundations and theoretical implications are equally welcome.

Uneven Environmental Infrastructures and the Making of Differentiated Environmental Citizenship

» [Dr. Yonat Rein Sapir](#) (Technion), Dr. Shira Wilkof (Technion)

Negotiated Scaling and the Governance of Inequality in Urban Climate Transition

» [Mr. Vlad Bejinariu](#) (Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work), Dr. Norbert Petrovici (Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work)

Where to draw the line? A framework to understand how spatial dimensions shape whose justice claims matter in urban future-making

» [Dr. Anke Klaever](#) (Karlsruhe Institute for Technology), [Prof. Franziska X. Meinherz](#) (Institute for Geography and Geoecology, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology)

Urban Futures from the Edge: Contested Coastal Development Pathways in Land Reclamation in Cebu, Philippines

» [Mr. John Ryan Jacot](#) (University of the Philippines Cebu)

Challenging inequalities: Grassroots activism for alternative urban futures

» [Dr. Eric Sheppard](#) (University of California Los Angeles), Dr. Helga Leitner (University of California Los Angeles), Dr. Sam Nowak (Durham University), Dr. Emma Colven (King's College London)



Continued from **Tuesday, 21 July**

16:00 **General**
Coffee Break
Venue - Courtyard

16:30 **Keynote**
IJURR Keynote - Sondare the Margins. Why do we still need urban ethnography? - Javier Auyero
Venue - Audimax
Organised by: Prof. Javier Auyero
Chair: Liza Weinstein (IJURR Co-Editor)

Sondare the Margins. Why do we still need urban ethnography?
» Javier Auyero (College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin)

19:00 **General**
City Hall Reception
Venue - Town hall Vienna
We are looking forward to spending the evening with you at the lovely and famous Town Hall of Vienna. The evening will be accompanied by a welcome address by the Vice-Mayor Barbara Novak, followed by drinks and light refreshments that allow for relaxed conversations in a spectacular atmosphere.

What to bring: Your official RC21 badge.

Where: Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz 1, 1010 Vienna

Entrance is through the gates at Lichtenfelsgasse, 1010 Vienna
[Route description](#)

Wednesday, 22 July

08:00 **Poster**
Poster exhibition
Venue - Back of the arcaded courtyard
Organised by: Dr. Tatjana Boczy, Dr. Yuri Kazepov, Miriam Aistleitner, and Mr. Henning Jostes

Perceived Safety as a Spatial Condition of Inclusion: A Review of Women's Experiences in Public Space
» [Ms. Toka Abdelmutleb](#) (University College Dublin)

Activists, Associative Worlds, and Urban Inequalities: Civic Engagement and the Reinvention of the Local in Four Italian Cities
» [Prof. Tommaso Vitale](#) (SciencesPo (CEE, Urban school))

Environmental inequalities in German cities – Result and continuation of a systematic review
» [Ms. Sarah Tietjen](#) (German Environment Agency), [Dr. Jascha Wiehn](#) (German Environment Agency), [Mrs. Christiane Bunge](#) (German Environment Agency), [Mr. André Conrad](#) (German Environment Agency), [Prof. Tobias Rüttenauer](#) (Goethe University Frankfurt)

The Spatial Transformation of Social Structure and the Geography of Inequality: A GIS-based Analysis of Preschool Children's Environments in Tokyo
» [Mr. Shinichi Taniwaki](#) (Sophia University)

Combatting Inequality. Neighbourhoods in Berlin
» [Mr. Linus Schiedermaier](#) (TU Berlin)

Citizenship from Nowhere: Socio-spatial Violence and the Production of The City
» [Ms. Danielle Rodrigues](#) (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro)



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Explaining neighborhood effects on neighborhood cohesion: the varying influence of residential reputation by household income

» Mr. Cristóbal Ortiz (Millennium Nucleus Insecurity and Urban Cohesion), Dr. Quentin Ramond (Universidad Mayor)

Producing Urban Informality: From Residential Mobility to Land Trajectories in Northern Lebanon

» Ms. Mira MINA (Université Paris Cité – CESSMA & Lebanese University – CERDA)

Housing movements, capitalism and class: A political economy of constraints, opportunities and consequences

» Prof. Miguel A. Martínez (Uppsala University)

Painting Over the Cracks: Street Art, Cultural Legitimacy, and the Contradictions of Creative City Governance in Berlin

» Ms. Alisha Lynch (Queen's University Belfast)

Invisible Inequalities in Urban Space: Place, Community, and Perceived Homophobia among LGBTQ Individuals

» Prof. Amy Adamczyk (John Jay College, CUNY), Mr. Ricardo Valle González (City University of New York)

Coloring the Streets: Student Jackets, Urban Visibility, and Protest under Repression in Indonesia

» Mr. Rafael Pandu AMARTYA (Universitas Indonesia), Dr. Raphaella Dewantari DWIANTO (Universitas Indonesia)

The Urban Social Compact in the Digital Age

» Dr. Nicole Bassoff (University of Virginia)

Long COVID, Temporal Justice, and Urban Space: Disability, Rhythm, and Public Policy in New York City

» Dr. Cintia de Freitas Melo (The New School for Social Research)

Gated urbanism: wealth inequality in Johannesburg

» Ms. Federica Duca (Public Affairs Research Institute, University of Johannesburg)

The Nairobi Eviction Assemblage: Old Logics, New Justifications

» Mr. Hezron Gathura (KU Leuven), Prof. Manuel Aalbers (KU Leuven), Mr. Lawrence Esho (Technical University of Kenya)

From Competitions to Communities: Spatial Strategies of Shared Living in European Built Projects

» Ms. Nisa Nur Göksel (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University), Prof. Burçin Cem Arabacıoğlu (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University)

Walk or street marketing? When communication becomes aggressive

» Mr. Antonio Iannaccone (Pontifical Gregorian University)

Space for PTSD Survivors of Conflict, Kashmir

» Mr. Haaris Khan (Shri KL Tiwari College of Architecture)

Co-constitution of Feminine Subjectivities and Ethnic Identities in Marginalised Regions of Iran: The Intersection of Tourism and Marginalization

» Ms. Masoumeh Khalilgoudarzi (University of Westminster)

08:30

General

Registration

Venue - Main Hall

Where: Entry hall of the university building, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna

When: We kindly ask you to be at the registration at least **20 min** prior to your sessions.

If your session is in the afternoon, please make sure you have registered in the morning.

What to bring: ID

For poster presenters: Please bring your printed poster to the registration desk. The RC21 staff will then proceed to exhibit them.



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Thank you for your cooperation!

Best,

Yuri Kazepov and the local organising team

09:00

Oral : #91

#91 Participatory and Deliberative Innovations in a Cul-de-Sac? Critical Accounts on How the Global Industry Neutralizes Political Change

Venue - Green Lounge (=VAM 2)

Organised by: Dr. Nazem Tahvilzadeh (Convenor) and Dr. Roberto Falanga (Convenor)

This panel explores transdisciplinary approaches to how participatory and deliberative innovations are crafted within a relatively new "global industry" that brings together decision-makers, practitioners, NGOs, and scholars around the production of conceptual and operational knowledge for the design and implementation of "good practices" that can remedy the polycrisis of cities. Knowledge is necessarily produced within specific sociopolitical and territorial coordinates, shaped by bureaucratic routines, managerial logics, and market imperatives that celebrate innovations as remedies to the emerging deficits of democracy. However, critical research demonstrates that "good practices" for democratic governance frequently fall short of achieving expected results and/or comply with agendas that essentially reproduce existing inequalities and intersectional struggles. Therefore, by serving as an additional source of political legitimacy, participatory and deliberative innovations risk becoming the antithesis of what they are intended to be and deliver. Empirical studies further illustrate how mainstream tools orchestrated within the "global industry" tend to marginalize conflict, silence dissent, and bring little redistribution of power. While the panel aims to foreground both recent theoretical developments and innovative and critical empirical takes on participatory innovations, it also welcomes contributions on counter-currents. In particular, the panel is open to ongoing reflections on instances where citizens, activists, and municipalities re-politicize arenas by transforming them into spaces of contention and contestation. Therefore, we ask and invite papers with cross- and transdisciplinary methods and theory approaches on how deliberative and participatory

innovations might be reclaimed for struggles over democratic redistribution, recognition, and representation. In particular we encourage South-North dialogues.

Shifting sources of political neutralisation: Czech policy actors, their aims and representations of the top-down participation in the West

» Dr. Terezie Lokšová (Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences)

Reclaiming Participation through Representation Trials: Civic Contestation and Democratic Legitimacy in Governing European Shantytowns

» Prof. Tommaso Vitale (Sciences Po (CEE, Urban school))

How deliberative discourses and scalar limits to participation depoliticize demands made by Brussels' social tenants

» Ms. Lena SWARTZENTRUBER (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Cosmopolis Center for Urban research), Dr. Nele Aernouts (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Cosmopolis Center for Urban research)

09:00

Oral : #43-1/2

#43 Affordable Housing within Planetary Boundaries: Crossing East-West and North-South Divides (1/2)

Venue - Erika Weinzierl Saal

Organised by: Mr. Petr Kodenko Kubala (Convenor), Dr. Rebecca Cavicchia (Convenor), and Slavomíra Ferenčuhová

The increasingly acute crisis of urban housing affordability now intersects with the accelerating environmental emergency. Each challenge has generated a substantial body of research. On the one hand, housing scholars show how financialisation, rising rents, and displacement exacerbate socio-economic inequalities in cities. On the other hand, climate and environmental research traces the ecological footprint of the housing system-spanning operational emissions from heating, cooling, and lighting, as well as embodied emissions from materials and construction-with the buildings and construction sector accounting for roughly a third of energy (and process-related) CO₂ emissions globally. These research streams often run in parallel, with relatively few interconnections identified in empirical research and in urban and housing theorising. Yet an emerging body of work interrogates how policy instruments designed for decarbonisation-green building codes, energy-retrofit programmes, densification, and nature-



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

based solutions-reconfigure affordability, tenure security, and displacement dynamics. For example, recent critical contributions warn of a "green" or "eco-social" paradox: well-intentioned ecological measures can raise rents, catalyse green gentrification, or trigger renovictions.

This session aims to stimulate discussion about the conditions under which green building, retrofits, standards, and financing models advance affordability. We welcome context-sensitive insights, provocative ideas, critical commentaries, theoretical propositions, and/or individual research experiences.

Against that backdrop, we propose a conversation that treats contexts on an equal footing, and thus we explicitly invite participants from Central and Eastern Europe and from the Global South and North to co-produce analyses across housing regimes and to think about the future of affordable and green housing in cities and beyond.

We thus invite papers that address the following questions/topics:

- Under what policy, market, and governance conditions do decarbonisation measures reduce emissions without raising rents or inducing displacement?
- What empirical evidence links specific green interventions to changes in rent levels, tenure security, and patterns of green gentrification?
- Which financing and ownership models align climate goals with long-term affordability, and which fail to do so - and why?
- How do outcomes of decarbonisation processes vary across housing regimes, tenure types, and geographies (especially in Central and Eastern Europe and across the Global South and North)?
- What kind of theories, concepts, and metrics or evaluation methods are needed to grasp decarbonisation and affordability at the same time?

Going Beyond Eco versus Social: Three Pathways towards Eco-Social Housing Research

» Dr. Margaret Haderer (Sociology, Institute for Spatial Planning, TU Wien), Dr. Sören Weißermel (Geography, Kiel University)

Distributional Effects of Energy-Retrofit Policy Instruments on Housing Recommodification and Decommodification: a typology based on European Cities

» Dr. Michael Friesenecker (Technische Universität Wien and BOKU University), Dr. Federica Rotondo (Sciences Po Paris), Prof. Sonia Arbaci (University College London (UCL))

Do retrofitting measures curb housing inequalities? The case of Hungarian renovation processes in large housing estates since the 2000s

» Ms. Éva Gerőházi (senior researcher), Dr. Nóra Teller (senior researcher), Dr. Iván Tosics (senior researcher)

Housing Inequalities and Ecological Transition Policies: Insights from Italian Cities

» Prof. Massimo Bricocoli (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies), Dr. Marco Peverini (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies), Dr. Constanze Wolfring (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies), Mr. Lorenzo Caresana (Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies)

09:00

Oral : #55-1/2

#55 Cities and States: Central-local conflict in the fight against urban inequalities (1/2)

Venue - Marietta Blau Saal

Organised by: Dr. Elisabetta Mocca (Convenor) and Dr. Iolanda Bianchi (Convenor)

Social, economic and environmental inequalities, such as unaffordable housing, uneven distribution of economic resources, unequal access to green space and unfair exposure to environmental pollution, are long-standing problematiques affecting cities, as amply articulated by the wealth of publications in the field of urban studies. However, the ways in which these problems are understood and addressed may vary across different levels of government. Indeed, cities sometimes pursue policy agendas that may differ from those set at regional and national levels. What is more, cities may make up for the lack of state's intervention, dealing with those issues that are overlooked by central governments.

A case in point is the divergence in policy approaches adopted by local governments in relation to key issues such as migration, housing, and climate change. In the field of migration, several local authorities have implemented integration-oriented policies that stand in contrast to the



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

more restrictive and securitised approaches pursued at the national level. With regard to housing, local governments have sought to devise responses to the housing crisis that have been largely neglected in national policy agendas. Similarly, in the area of climate change, cities have undertaken adaptation strategies aimed at increasing urban resilience, often in response to the limited or inadequate action characterising national environmental policies. These examples illustrate how, sometimes, city governments operate in misalignment with the national government, revealing the piecemeal or even inadequate ability of the state to identify and address urban problematiques.

At the local level, such policies may-or may not-be conceived, designed and implemented in collaboration with, in response to, or under pressure from a range of economic and social actors who often urge local governments to respond more directly to their constituencies. In this sense, cities' political actions cannot be viewed solely as those of local governments, but rather as the outcome of coordination, lobbying, collaboration, conflict and contestation within urban society. This includes local governments, social movements, economic actors, and transnational networks that influence city-level policymaking.

In this panel, we focus on the analysis of "rebel cities" (Harvey 2012), which address urban inequalities in opposition to, or with limited involvement of the state. Therefore, we propose to examine the central-local contentions emerging in the design and delivery of social and environmental policy at urban level. We seek contributions examining the tensions - and even conflicts - fuelled by the attempts of cities to independently tackle thorny urban issues (i.e. housing, migration, pollution etc.). We welcome theoretical elaborations of state-local conflict in addressing pressing urban problematiques as well as empirical cases of policy contention in cities located in both the Global North and South. Additionally, we invite papers examining how different urban public, private and civic actors, contribute to this disagreement, placing themselves in opposition to top-down policies. As such, the panel will allow for a discussion on the political agency of urban actors in interpreting and addressing urban issues in relation to, and often in contestation with, central state actors.

Aligning local needs and global agendas: Policy coherence in Spanish Urban Agendas

» [Prof. Maria Angeles Huete](#) (Universidad Pablo de Olavide), Mr. Alejo González-Orge (Universidad Pablo de Olavide), Dr. Rocío Muñoz Moreno (Universidad de Huelva)

The forgotten cousin? Australian local governments' role in homelessness governance

» [Dr. Andrew Clarke](#) (School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales), Ms. Joelle Moore (City Futures Research Centre, University of New South Wales)

What is the scope for agency of insurgent urban governance? 'Reflexive autonomy' and central-local state conflict in 1980s London.

» [Dr. Timothy Joubert](#) (University of Sheffield)

The Multilevel Governance of Canada's Human Rights-Based Homeless Encampment Strategy

» [Prof. Daniel Kudla](#) (Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador)

09:00

Oral : #18-1/2

#18 Urban Subjectivities in Platform Labour: Class, Precarity, and Everyday Experiences of the Digital City (1/2)

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: Francisco Fernández-Trujillo Moares (Convenor) and Ana Santamarina (Convenor)

This panel seeks to examine the subjective and urban dimensions of platform capitalism by focusing on the ways in which workers narrate, embody, and negotiate their experiences in the city. Moving beyond the analysis of material labour conditions, our aim is to foreground how discourses, imaginaries, and lived experiences around platformisation are articulated in relation to urban space, housing and class.

The platform economy has become a central force in reconfiguring the everyday life of cities, producing new forms of spatiality and temporality (Srnicek, 2017; van Doorn, 2020). Workers' subjectivities are shaped not only by their employment relations but also by how they inhabit the urban fabric and make use of - and reshape - public space: from streets, sidewalks, and squares as sites of labour, to housing arrangements marked by overcrowding, insecurity, or long commuting times. The city



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

emerges here as both a resource and a constraint, mediating the contradictions between workers' aspirations for autonomy and flexibility, and their lived experiences of precarity and fragmentation (Harvey, 2012; Fraser, 2016).

This panel invites contributions that consider how these subjectivities intersect with broader social positions and intersectional inequalities. While platformisation appears as a transversal phenomenon across social classes, the most precarised groups-migrant, racialised, and feminised workers-are at the centre of its contradictions. Their voices highlight how urban inequalities are reproduced through platform labour, but also how new forms of belonging, collective identification, and claims to the city emerge (van Doorn & Glöss, 2021; Cant, 2019). By situating these narratives within the urban context, we seek to illuminate the spatial and subjective dimensions of precarity, as well as the tensions between entrepreneurial discourses promoted by platforms and the lived realities of dispossession and constraint.

Central themes for this panel include:

- The articulation of labour subjectivities and urban identities in platform work.
- Housing struggles, precarious dwelling, and the spatialisation of inequality.
- The use and transformation of public space as a site of platform labour.
- Class, migration, racialisation, and gender as axes of subjectivation.
- Contradictions between aspiration, autonomy, and precarity in the digital city.

By exploring these questions, the panel aims to contribute to an understanding of how platform capitalism is not only reorganising labour but also reshaping urban life and subjectivities. In doing so, we address the broader implications of the "digital city" as a terrain of conflict, aspiration, and negotiation (Fraser & Jaeggi, 2018; Sequera & Nofre, 2020).

Migrant agency in labour spatiality: The case of riders in Seville (Andalusia).

» Ms. Lucía Fernández-Salguero Santana (University of Seville), Dr. Francisco José Cuberos Gallardo (University of Seville)

Algorithmic control, social network and migrant work in the platform economy

» Dr. Lutfun Nahar Lata (The university of Melbourne)

Working the streets: street networks, platform Labour and entrepreneurial cultures among bicycle delivery workers in São Paulo (Brazil)

» Mr. João Perin (LISE - Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (FRANCE) and PPGS - Universidade Federal de São Carlos (BRAZIL))

Cycling Buenos Aires through the algorithm: representations, perceptions and appropriations of the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area by digital delivery platform riders

» Ms. María Agustina Peralta (Universidad de Buenos Aires), Mr. Marcos Lautaro Jaramillo (Universidad de Buenos Aires), Dr. Joaquín Benítez (CONICET / UBA), Ms. Lucía Gamino (Universidad de Buenos Aires), Ms. Mailén Gorsd (Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani)

09:00

Oral : #59-1/2

#59 Living with the Weather: Everyday Adaptations to Rain, Heat and Climate Governance (1/2)

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Susana Neves Alves (Convenor) and Kim West (Convenor)

Extreme weather - heatwaves, chronic heat or rain, extreme precipitation, and flooding - is reshaping urban life across Europe. A changing climate is transforming bodily, domestic everyday experiences of city life, while also reshaping governance systems, urban infrastructures and urbanization processes. In response, mainstream urban adaptation planning has largely relied on technocratic, homogenous, expert-led imaginaries to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The problematic outcomes of these approaches (eg. green gentrification) are well documented.

In return, a growing scholarship is exploring ideas of 'transformative' and 'everyday' adaptation to develop justice-focused and situated approaches. These perspectives aim at transforming the socio-economic and political structures that produce vulnerability. In this panel, we are interested in participatory and everyday adaptations - ways of doing grounded in lived experiences that hold the potential to be disruptive and generative - with particular emphasis to practices and ideas coming from marginalised communities, neighbourhoods and geographies.

We invite contributions that explore everyday adaptations - the "small,



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

incremental changes made in our daily lives to accommodate the shifting ecologies in which we live" (Castro and Sen 2022:2) - whether in response to climate events themselves or institutional adaptation strategies. We aim to examine how these practices open new ways of understanding and enacting urban adaptation.

We welcome contributions that address the following questions:

-How can everyday approaches contribute insights to localised, justice-oriented ways of practicing adaptation?

-In what ways can everyday adaptations be examples of transformative adaptation? Can they inform practices of collaboration and co-production of knowledge between marginalised communities and policy-makers or researchers?

-How do everyday adaptations challenge social hierarchies, or reconfigure local infrastructures of care and support?

-What new adaptation imaginaries are emerging from everyday adaptation practices?

Castro, B. and R. Sen. 2022. 'Everyday Adaptation: Theorizing Climate Change Adaptation in Daily Life'. *Global Environmental Change* 75:102555.

Living with heat: Everyday adaptation practices

» Ms. Juliane Frost (Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS)), Ms. Mattea Eschenmann (Kiel University), Ms. Leonie Reuter (Freie Universität Berlin)

Better Weathering and Counter-Hegemonic Heat Mapping

» Prof. Petra Tschakert (Department of Geography, National University of Singapore)

Caring Through Heat: Climate Change, Health and the Hidden Role of Informal Care in a Warming Urban Environment

» Mrs. Jacqueline Ludwig (IMC Krems University of Applied Science), Dr. Jette Lange (IMC Krems University of Applied Science)

Behind closed windows: indoor cooling practices and thermal injustices in Geneva

» Ms. Alice Guilbert (University of Geneva)

09:00

Oral : #60-1/2

#60 Uncertain domesticities: gendered geographies of home-making and displacement (1/2)

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Laura Neville (Convenor) and Dr. YASNA CONTRERAS GATICA (Convenor)

Within feminist scholarship on 'critical geographies of the home' (Blunt & Dowling, 2006; Brickell, 2011), urban domesticities have been conceptualised as 'homemaking in the city' (Blunt & Sheringham 2018), as an inherently political 'elastic space' shaped through affects and experiences (Aedo 2023). As domesticities become entangled to experiences of migration and displacement, the making of home out of new dwellings spaces is further sustained by emotional and gendered labour (Oruc 2025; Rottmann & Sezginalp Özçetin 2024). From the perspective of labour-migration regimes, the insertion of production dynamics within the domestic sphere (Martella & Amann 2022), or the blurred spatialities of labour/home within 'gendered disciplinary apparatuses' (Antona 2023) has sustained the production of 'carceral domesticities' (Krishnan & Antona 2023). At the same time, new reconfigurations of everyday processes of digitalisation and the gendered production of smart homes (Chen et al., 2024) are unfolding, extending other modes of contemporary blurring of the boundaries of domestic and urban space (Martella & Enia, 2020).

This session seeks to examine the politics of continuity and rupture that sustain the shifting and ephemeral temporalities of domesticities through the lens of displacement and migration. How are domesticities reimagined from the fragile, ephemeral geographies of home, that embody the everyday realities of displacement? How are gendered and racialised experiences of domesticities, as a place of perpetual uncertainty, as anticipation (Krishnan & Antona 2023), entwined with forms of emplacements (Bjarnesen and Vigh, 2016)? This session seeks to explore the intimate spaces of the home; the uneven and unequal politics of intimacy and homemaking that are shaped through the embodied and everyday experiences of displacement and migration in the city.

This session seeks to engage with the uncertainty entwined with urban domesticities, which is rooted in the tension of (dis)-placement, and seeks to engage in a conversation on how the embodied acts of making



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

home across spaces and temporalities might be productive to thinking of the (re)production of urban inequalities along dimensions of gender, class, caste, race, sexuality. In this session, we invite contributions from human geography, urban studies, feminist theory, social anthropology, migration studies, that critically engage with the following themes:

- Urban belonging/disbelonging
- Intersectional struggles
- Affect and emotions
- Labour-migration regimes
- Border cities and borderlands
- Environmental risks and harms
- Digitalisation and surveillance
- Smart and AI homes

'It's a women issue. A feminist issue. We live in disrepair': Lifelong experiences of protected private tenure among older female regulated tenants in London.

» [Dr. Sharda Rozena](#) (University of Sheffield)

Family as Metaphor, Rental Units as 'Home': Single Female Tenants as Subjects of Gendered Control in Urban India

» [Ms. Meghna Mohandas](#) (University of British Columbia), Dr. Julia Harten (University of British Columbia)

My Body Is Here, but My Head Is Elsewhere: Spatial Gestures of Home-Making in Berlin

» [Dr. Mariana Morais](#) (TU Berlin)

Ontological (In)Security and Gendered Home-Making Across Housing Formations in German-Speaking Contexts

» [Dr. Carolin Genz](#) (Goethe University Frankfurt)

09:00

Oral : #62-1/2

#62 Vacancy, occupation and commoning in global comparison (1/2)

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: Cian O'Callaghan (Convenor), Dr. Suraya Scheba (Convenor), Judith Lehner (Convenor), and Kathleen Stokes (Convenor)

What happens when urban spaces lie vacant, are reclaimed through occupation, or become sites of commoning? How do these processes unfold differently across cities in the Global North and South, and what can we learn from their intersections?

Vacancy, occupation and commoning have all become popular and overlapping conceptual frames to describe radical experiments in urban space in recent decades. These are defined in spatial terms by marginality and precarity, but this also gives them transgressive and transformative power (Caffentiz and Federici, 2014). However, these relationships have been conceptualised differently across Northern and Southern urban theory. One set of literature has used the global financial crisis (GFC) as a conjunctural opening to understand political occupations as insurgent acts (Garcia-Lamarca, 2017). Conversely, research on Southern cities has treated the occupation of vacant land and commoning practices as a dominant form of urbanisation (e.g., Simone and Pieterse, 2018).

Thus, current scholarship is thematically and geographically divided. Complex geographical variegation and binary thinking have created barriers to global comparative and conceptual advancement. While recent literature has reframed vacancy as "active, lively, and contested" within urbanisation (O'Callaghan, 2024), this has not adequately attended to informality (Caldeira, 2017). Similarly, urban occupation movements in the global North have largely been portrayed as politically motivated, whilst occupations in the global South are framed as a 'survival strategy' (Cirolia et.al, 2021), thus failing to see their interconnections. This session's core aim is to use the tension within these divergent debates to break the impasse of their incommensurability, working towards a global comparative theory of vacancy, occupation and commoning.

This session is interested in contributions that advance conceptual, empirical and methodological knowledge on how these three processes (re)make cities relationally, being both attentive to place while contributing to a global comparative urbanism agenda. We invite papers that address the following topics that engage with vacancy, occupation, and commoning as ongoing urbanisation processes:



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

- South-North-East-West dialogues relating to vacancy, occupation and commoning
- Housing movements' and urban initiatives' struggles in sustaining commoning practices around vacancy
- Land and property occupations and their connection to urban historical processes
- Informal housing and autoconstruction across Northern and Southern geographies as forms of shaping (political) possibilities
- Methodologies allowing to approach vacancy, occupation and commoning comprehensively

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Interconnecting Denotations, Connotations and Meanings Through Narratives of Vacant Spaces in Beirut

» Dr. Marie Reine Karam (Holy Spirit University of Kaslik)

Occupying vacant traffic space for political protest or everyday livelihood?: the unintended commons of activists and street vendors intersecting in Tokyo

» Dr. Shiene Kiriya (University of Tsukuba)

Refuge-Zones as Fragile Commons: Rethinking Vacancy and Occupation Through Migrants' (Self)care projects in Europe

» Dr. Louis Vuilleumier (University of Lausanne)

Colonizing the Colonized: Historical Moralities of Land Appropriation in Occupations of Urban Vacancy

» Ms. Hanxi Wang (University College London)

09:00

Oral : #93-1/2

#93 Tourism, Mobility and Urban Inequality. Governing Overtourism in the 21st Century (1/2)

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Prof. Monica Bernardi (Convenor), neslihan demirtas milz (Convenor), Ko Koens (Convenor), Dr. Kumru Çilgin (Convenor), and Silvia Cesa-Bianchi (Convenor)

In the 21st century, tourism-related mobilities have intensified and diversified, reshaping urban spaces across the globe. Low-cost aviation, platform economies, real estate financialization, and city branding have converged to promote new mobile lifestyles and consumption patterns. These processes are deeply uneven: the capacity to move, settle, and benefit from tourism economies is highly stratified, producing new forms of inequality, exclusion, and environmental pressure. The COVID-19 pandemic, while temporarily reducing mobility, has reinforced the desire for movement and accelerated urban transformations driven by tourism.

Overtourism is therefore not simply a matter of "too many visitors." It is a complex socio-technical assemblage (comprising infrastructures, algorithms, governance systems, and imaginaries) that redistributes urban resources and reconfigures everyday life. It affects housing markets, labour regimes, access to collective goods, and the resilience of urban environments. Short-term rental platforms and multi-listing hosts extract value from housing; cruise and excursion economies externalize noise, waste, and emissions; and destination marketing often privileges episodic, high-intensity consumption over everyday urban rhythms. These effects are never uniform: they are mediated by local histories, classed and racialized boundaries, gendered labour regimes, and environmental vulnerabilities.

At the same time, overtourism triggers experimentation and resistance. Municipal authorities, regional bodies, and grassroots collectives are testing new forms of regulation, citizen sensing, and commons-based governance. These initiatives reveal both the challenges and the possibilities of managing tourism mobilities in more equitable and



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

sustainable ways.

This session explores how tourism mobilities, governance practices, and urban inequalities intersect in the age of overtourism. It invites comparative, multi-scalar, and interdisciplinary perspectives to understand how governance innovations, data infrastructures, and collective action can foster urban justice and resilience. We welcome theoretically informed and empirically grounded contributions that connect micro-level everyday frictions (noise, crowding, displacement) with macro-level processes (financialization, digital platforms, climate change, and post-pandemic reconfigurations of tourism).

We invite papers that address the following questions/topics:

1. How do tourism mobilities reproduce, intensify, or challenge existing urban inequalities and environmental injustices?
2. Which governance tools, policy mixes, and data infrastructures can manage overtourism and redistribute its costs and benefits more fairly?
3. How do residents, workers, and grassroots movements contest and reframe the pressures of overtourism and the right to the city?
4. In what ways do tourism economies reshape housing markets, labour relations, and urban commons in different geographic contexts?
5. How can concepts such as mobility justice, resilience, and environmental governance inform more sustainable and inclusive urban futures?

Keywords:

Overtourism; Tourism mobilities; Urban inequalities; Governance; Resilience; Housing and platform economies; Urban commons; Environmental justice; Mobility justice

Influencer Tourism and the Reproduction of Urban Inequalities in Moroccan Cities

» Ms. Fatima Ezzahra Abali (Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University),
Prof. Aziz El Bakkali (Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University)

The conflict surrounding Lisbon's Europride: the crystallization of divergent and strained city projects

» Dr. Martín Boy (University of Buenos Aires)

Beyond the Resort: migration, social reproduction, and the Urban Labor Regime of Tourism in the Mexican Caribbean

» Mr. Santiago Vélez (El Colegio de México)

Land, Tourism, and Inequality: Transforming Property Relations in the Urban Periphery of the Western Himalayas

» Ms. Ruchi Dwivedi (PhD student at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi)

09:00

Oral : #30-1/2

#30 On brokers and clienteles: new perspectives on urban politics, democracy and inequalities (1/2)

Venue - SR 07

Organised by: Telma Hoyler (Convenor) and Côme Salvaire (Convenor)
Urban political life has long been shaped by overlapping mechanisms of representation and resource distribution. Among them, clientelism and brokerage have historically structured access to goods, services, and opportunities. Yet these practices neither fully explain nor exhaust the complexity of urban politics. Their persistence, transformation, and interaction with other forms of political organization invite us to examine how intermediaries coexist with, adapt to, or are displaced by institutional innovation, bureaucratic reform, and collective action. This raises crucial questions about the role of political intermediaries in representation, democratic life, and the stabilization of urban political systems.

Classic studies of clientelism emerged in contexts marked by rapid urbanization, industrialization, and rural migration-periods when states centralized control over employment, housing, social benefits, and basic services. These settings shaped how scholars conceptualized clientelism: as a mechanism through which access to resources and integration into urban life were mediated, often reinforcing inequalities. While twenty-first-century brokerage shares many of these features, its roles have expanded and shifted. In some contexts, intermediaries now manage informal economies, regulate violence, for instance. At the same time, continuities with earlier forms may remain striking. Contrary to "evolutionist" perspectives that viewed clientelism as a transitory stage of political development, it has persisted-despite democratization, the expansion of mass media, and new religious and civic critiques of intermediation.

We invite contributions that critically examine the categories and dynamics of clientelism, brokerage and participation in urban contexts,



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

with attention to both continuity and change. We particularly encourage papers that address two broad themes:

1. Structuring, Destructuring, and Institutionalization of Clientelism
Clientelism is more than an exchange of resources for votes. It can stabilise political orders, entrench inequalities, and embed networks of loyalty. At the same time, it can undermine institutions, generate conflicts, or destabilize urban societies when it transforms. We welcome papers that explore:

- How clientelism becomes institutionalized across different contexts;
- How it adapts to economic, social, and technological transformations;
- How these processes reshape inequalities and urban political orders.

2. Brokerage, Participation, Representation, and Democratic Life
Political intermediaries-brokers, fixers, social movement coordinators and local leaders-mediate between citizens and institutions. They facilitate resource access, channel demands, and influence both collective action and governance reforms. Yet they also raise crucial questions about representation and inclusion. This panel aim to interrogate their paradoxical role: as mechanisms that reproduce inequality while also creating pathways for representation, redistribution, and democratic practice in the city. We invite papers that investigate:

- How brokers reproduce or mitigate inequalities in housing, welfare, services, and infrastructure;
- How brokerage evolves amid welfare retrenchment, precarity, and shifting state-society relations;
- Comparative perspectives on brokerage in the Global South and North, highlighting convergences and divergences;
- Brokerage as a contested field where actors and institutions negotiate legitimate forms of mediation and representation.

Brokers, Coalitions, and Unequal Participation in Urban Policy-Making: Community Associations and the Revision of a Master Plan in a Brazilian Mid-Sized City

» Mr. Samuel Santos Oliveira (Fundação Getulio Vargas)

The Paradoxes of Urban Popular Leadership: Defensive Behavior and the Construction of the State Power in Guayaquil's poor neighborhoods (2006-2022)

» Dr. José Antonio Villarreal Velázquez (Flacso, Ecuador)

Muscle, Myth, and Everyday Masculinity: Dadagiri as Urban Brokerage along India's Riverfronts

» Dr. Raina Ghosh (University of Amsterdam)

Infrastructure of Waste: Observing Relationships of Political Intermediation

» Dr. HECTOR NOE HERNANDEZ QUINTANA (Instituto de Geografia, UNAM)

09:00

Oral : #75-1/2

#75 Southern Indigenous Urban Praxis: Rethinking planning, urban theory, and the politics of inequality (1/2)

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: Mr. Andres Ramirez (Convenor) and Dr. Philipp Horn (Convenor)

Scholarship on urban indigeneity highlights the entanglement of colonization and urbanization. Foundational work by Evelyn Peters (2002) and others documents the marginalization of Indigenous people in cities, particularly around housing, welfare, and urban reserves. This literature demonstrates that cities function as contradictory spaces: sites of Indigenous dispossession, yet also of presence, resistance, and cultural survival. Key debates have centered around land, whiteness, and property, with scholars like Glen Coulthard (2014) conceptualizing "urbs nullius" to link settler-colonial ideologies with urban gentrification. Research also explores Indigenous planning practices (Jojola, 2008; Porter et al 2017), emphasizing community agency, negotiation with state authorities, and alternative frameworks outside Western paradigms. More recently, the notion of "Indigenous urbanisms" has framed cities as relational, plural, and contested spaces shaped by Indigenous inhabitation (Blatman and Mays, 2023). This approach challenges the dominance of Western knowledge in urban studies and positions planning itself as a colonial practice. Yet, Southern perspectives remain overlooked and understudied within these debates, which predominantly emerge from settler colonial settings like Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States.

Addressing this gap, the panel invites contributions that examine how Indigenous urban communities unsettle established planning norms and expose enduring inequalities in Southern urban settings. Submissions may focus on diverse urban contexts-from Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, to South Asia-to explore how Indigenous epistemologies and collectivities challenge the dominance of linear, property-based, and regulatory models of space and time. We particularly encourage



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

contributions to focus on one or multiple of the following themes:

1. Urban epistemic differences, where Southern urban Indigenous perspectives privilege fluid, relational, and multi-scalar spatialities.
2. Alternative Southern urban Indigenous territorial configurations, where practices of re-territorialization, multi-territoriality, and autonomous governance sustain insurgent logics despite long histories of dispossession.
3. The ethical and conceptual limits of "Indigenous planning" and "Indigenous urbanism" emerging from settler colonial contexts in the global North and their relevance for Southern urban settings.
4. The degree to which Southern Indigenous urban practices constitute planning, something adjacent to planning, or an altogether different ordering of urban life.

In bringing together grounded case studies with collaborative, dialogical modes of analysis, this panel foregrounds Southern Indigenous urban territorialities as both enduring and emergent. It asks how they make visible the layered inequalities inscribed in urban space, while gesturing toward futures that reimagine mobility, commons, and collective belonging. In doing so, the panel positions Southern Indigenous urban life not as marginal or residual, but as generative sites for rethinking planning, urban theory, and the politics of inequality.

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Mesoamerican tianguis against urbs nullius: Indigenous urbanism and the politics of food sovereignty in Mexico

» Dr. Diana Denham (University of Oklahoma)

Indigenous Long-Term Memories and Infrastructural Disputes over Urbanisation in the Ecuadorian Amazon and Yucatán

» Dr. Manuel Bayón Jiménez (El Colegio de México)

Owning modernity: Indigeneity and the aesthetics of modernity in La Paz and El Alto, Bolivia

» Prof. Kate Maclean (University College London (UCL), Bartlett School of Planning)

The Indigenous City: fluid, relational, and multi-linear epistemics in Mapuche creative reimaginings and alternative configurations of the urban

» Dr. Olivia Casagrande (The University of Sheffield)

Rethinking Planning from the Atlantic Forest: Leaning with a Quilombola Territoriality in Rio de Janeiro

» Mr. Hugo Lopez (University of Sheffield)

09:00

Oral : #57

#57 Provocations from the Field: Methodological Innovation and Theorizing Urban Inequalities from the Global South

Venue - HS 01

Organised by: Reeham Mourad (Convenor), Ms. Madhuvani Yella (Convenor), and Chetna Kuanr (Convenor)

Studying urban and rural inequalities in today's Global South requires confronting profound complexity. These landscapes are shaped by historical, socio-material, and scalar processes that overlap, coincide, and clash-intensified by the continuous movement of people, capital, and ideas. This reality unsettles the theoretical and methodological foundations of urban studies.

While larger theoretical frameworks are evolving beyond the theoretical imperialism of the Global North, both conceptual and empirical grounds remain difficult to navigate. Southern realities are characterized by Multi-dimensional inequalities that compound rather than simply add up; Layered tensions, power dynamics, and dispossessions that resist disentanglement; Unique, historically embedded contextualities that



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

defy universal explanation; and the embodied, lived experiences of these complexities, where structural chaos is internalized, navigated, and resisted in everyday life.

Faced with this, what knowledge can PhD researchers produce to meaningfully explain embedded inequalities? We argue that methodological creativity and provocation are essential to develop situated knowledges that are empirically, politically, and conceptually nuanced.

Ethnography serves as a crucial starting point-prioritizing depth, context, and lived experience through encounter and thick description. Yet we are particularly interested in how ethnography is being stretched beyond its traditional, place-bound conventions to account for circulatory, digital, and multi-scalar phenomena. The central innovation we explore is not ethnography itself, but how it is extended, hybridized, and placed in critical conversation with other methods.

We contend that for PhD researchers in the Global South, methodological creativity is not a luxury but a necessity. This panel centers "situated methodological provocations"-the rigorous, reflexive creative labor of researchers working in complex fieldsites. We seek explorations of how researchers mix, adapt, and reinvent methods to connect granular fieldwork to larger political and structural forces. These innovations can take a variety of forms, including combining methods, stretching across time, jumping between scales, and repurposing technology.

We invite contributions that grapple with questions such as:
What methodological provocations are PhD students using to study complex urban and rural phenomena?
How does reflexivity about positionality shape the design and execution of creative methodologies?
How can innovative fieldwork practices reveal embedded inequalities and opportunities?
In what ways can methods themselves generate new categories and concepts that defy inherited frameworks?
How can we think beyond the bounded "case" to treat objects, processes, and sites as distinct-yet recombinable-analytic options?

This panel aims to advance a collective rethinking of methodology as a primary tool for theorizing from the South. Studying urban and rural inequalities in today's Global South requires confronting profound complexity. These landscapes are shaped by historical, socio-material, and scalar processes that overlap, coincide, and clash-intensified by the continuous movement of people, capital,

and ideas. This reality unsettles the theoretical and methodological foundations of urban studies.

While larger theoretical frameworks are evolving beyond the theoretical imperialism of the Global North, both conceptual and empirical grounds remain difficult to navigate. Southern realities are characterized by Multi-dimensional inequalities that compound rather than simply add up; Layered tensions, power dynamics, and dispossessions that resist disentanglement; Unique, historically embedded contextualities that defy universal explanation; and the embodied, lived experiences

Seeing through Skies, Streets, and Stories: Participatory Action Research as Methodological Provocation in a Flood-Prone Lakeshore Barangay

» Ms. Ana Polgar (University of British Columbia), Mr. Janssen Calvelo (University of the Philippines Los Banos), Mr. Kyle Israel (University of the Philippines Los Banos), Mr. Jacob Aganan (University of the Philippines Los Banos), Dr. Jabez Flores (University of the Philippines Open University), Mr. Markus Tan (University of the Philippines Los Banos), Ms. Irah Acerdano (University of the Philippines Los Banos)

Knowledge co-production for intergenerational movement building to address urban inequalities: Methodological innovations from a PAR process in Harare, Zimbabwe, and Nairobi, Kenya

» Ms. Daniela Cocco Beltrame (University of Manchester)

(De)focus: multispecies ethnography practices and potential possibilities from nonhumans

» Ms. Shutian Li (Cardiff University)

Following State-citizen encounters: Trajectory-based mobile methods and urban inequalities

» Mr. Laura Salatino (Fundação Getulio Vargas)



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

09:00

Oral : #5-1/2

#5 Organized Crime and the Production of Unequal City (1/2)

Venue - HS 02

Organised by: Prof. Thiago Canettieri (Convenor), Dr. Priscila Coli (Convenor), and TAIS CLARK (Convenor)

Urban studies literature has historically paid limited attention to the role of criminal organizations (COs) in shaping urban life. Yet in many cities worldwide, these groups produce housing, provide basic infrastructure, regulate markets, and impose their own forms of order. Their role is not only parasitic but also productive, generating particular modes of urbanization, driving environmental degradation, fostering unequal forms of urban citizenship, and reshaping social organization around collective goods and rights, as recent studies from different disciplines have shown. Examples include Brazil's territory-making milícias (Coli, 2025), sectarian armed groups in Baghdad (Windhauser, 2022), Lebanon's religious militias (Bou Akar, 2018), Medellín's narco-urbanism (Moncada, 2016), and Mumbai's development mafias (Weinstein, 2008).

This panel invites contributions from a wide range of disciplines to examine the multifaceted role of criminal groups as "urbanization actors" who directly shape urban form and everyday life. We seek to expand debates on the engagement of criminal organizations in urbanization by exploring how their practices foster new inequalities or deepen existing ones in cities of the Global South and North. By focusing on peripheral and marginalized areas, the panel aims to bring criminal governance into the lens of urban studies, demonstrating that any account of contemporary urbanization must grapple with the interplay between state, civic, market, and criminal actors.

Key questions we aim to explore include:

Criminal Governance: How do criminal organizations regulate land use, provide (or extort) services, and enforce systems of justice in ways that reinforce or produce inequality?

Everyday Life among Criminal Normativity: How does everyday life in territories dominated by criminal actors reflect and reproduce unequal forms of citizenship and belonging?

Illicit Economies & Urban Development: In what ways do illicit economies drive uneven urban development and shape access to

housing, infrastructure, and commercial spaces?

Control and Dispossession: How is control (i.e. territorial control) mobilized to produce spatial exclusion, dispossession, and new urban hierarchies?

Citizenship and Belonging: How do residents navigate overlapping normative regimes to claim rights, build communities, and contest inequality?

Environmental Justice and Degradation: How do criminal organizations shape patterns of environmental harm and access to resources-such as land, water, waste, or green spaces-and what are the implications for environmental justice and inequality in cities?

We welcome papers that engage with one or more of the themes outlined above. While theoretical contributions are valued, our primary emphasis is on empirically grounded research that clearly demonstrates the connections between criminal activity and urban inequality. By bringing together studies from diverse disciplines-including but not limited to sociology, urban studies and planning, anthropology, geography, and political science-and from a range of urban contexts, this panel seeks to foster a comparative discussion that is both necessary and methodologically challenging. Through this multidisciplinary and empirically oriented approach, we aim to question conventional analytical frameworks and contribute to a more nuanced understanding of how urban inequalities are produced, contested, and experienced in cities.

Mumbai's New Development Mafias? Financialized Real Estate Crime in India's Commercial Capital

» [Dr. Anitra Baliga](#) (Institute for Housing Studies, Erasmus University)

Playing inequality: how the criminal land market shapes and exploits urban inequalities in Medellín

» [Ms. Keisha Corantin](#) (Université Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne)

Living in Fear: violence, organized crime and urban space experience in Culiacán

» [Dr. Natalia García](#) (Tecnologico de Monterrey)



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

09:00

Oral : #98

#98 Pretuguês as Counter-Public Sphere: Peripheral Epistemologies and Inequalities in the Latin American City

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Rita Velloso (Convenor), Paolo Colosso (Convenor), Dr. Carolina Maria Soares Lima (Convenor), and Ms. Isis Detomi (Convenor)

Urban peripheries in Latin America and across the Global South have long been marked by structural inequality and contradictions, expressed in precarious access to housing, infrastructure and political participation. Yet, these spaces are also fertile grounds for practices of resistance and epistemological insurrections. This panel aims to explore how linguistic, cultural and collective praxis, emerging from peripheral groups, challenge hegemonic narratives, prefigure utopias and open up new imaginaries of the city.

Drawing on Lélia González (2020) concepts of "Pretuguês" and "Amefricanidade", we emphasize the ways in which hybrid languages, diasporic practices and cultural insurrections constitute spaces of enunciation that contest hegemonic urban categories. These practices can be read as counter-publics (Kluge and Negt, 1973), in which subalternized groups establish new forms of political participation, belonging and critique. Rather than looking at peripheries merely as site of deprivation, this perspective foregrounds their role in the production of knowledge and alternative urban futures.

By situating culture and language as central to urban analysis, the panel seeks to rethink the relationship between inequality and resistance. Gonzalez's takeaways on race, gender and coloniality are inseparable from the urban condition and everyday life, demanding analytical tools that can recognize the epistemological contributions of peripheral communities. The aim is to bring these contributions into dialogue with broader debates on inequality, citizenship and the right to the city.

We invite contributions that include attempts to answer questions around peripheral epistemologies, urban inequalities, intersecting inequalities, memory, enunciation and alternative urban knowledge. Research questions potential contributors may address include:

- a) How peripheral territories develop alternative visions of the city and subaltern epistemologies?
- b) How do hybrid cultural and linguistic practices emerging from the

peripheries contest dominant urban discourses and generate counter-publics?

- c) How are urban inequalities experienced, contested, and redefined through intersectional dynamics of race, gender, and spatial belonging?

The panel welcomes interdisciplinary contributions from sociology, geography, anthropology, political science, and cultural studies. Methodological approaches may include ethnography, participatory research, discourse and textual analysis, and comparative urbanism. The panel especially encourages theoretical interventions grounded in decolonial thought, feminist and Black feminist theory, counter-public theory, and critical urban studies. By highlighting such practices, this panel underscores the importance of cultural and epistemological struggles for understanding urban inequalities. It aims to foster dialogue on how peripheral epistemologies can inform critical urban theory, contribute to more inclusive public spheres, and reimagine the city as a space of collective resistance and transformation. The panel also aims to contribute to critical urban studies by foregrounding peripheral epistemologies as central to rethinking urban inequality, governance, and futures.

Documentary and the City Project: audiovisual readings of afro-diasporic memory

» Mr. Pedro Plácido Teixeira (Instituto de Arquitetura e Urbanismo de São Carlos - Universidade de São Paulo (IAU USP)), Mr. Marcelo Tramontano (Instituto de Arquitetura e Urbanismo de São Carlos - Universidade de São Paulo (IAU USP))

Metropolitan weavings in archipelagic Caribbean landscapes: coastal space production, socio-sociological tensions, and spatial inequality

» Dr. Leonardo Romero (Universidad del Atlántico)

Favelas as symbolic devices: contesting cities imaginaries

» Dr. Miguel Bustamante Fernandes Nazareth (Center for Favela Studies (CEFAVELA))



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

09:00

Oral : #53

#53 Wealth in Action: Extraction, Finance, and the Making of Global Urbanism

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: Prof. Michael Lukas (Convenor), Dr. Corinna Hölzl (Convenor), and David Kornbluth (Convenor)

This panel seeks to advance a comparative urban political economy agenda by focusing on the production and reproduction of wealth as a driver of urban change across different regions of the world. While different forms of poverty, informality, displacement and everyday practices are well researched topics in urban studies, far less attention has been paid to the role of wealth actors - such as locally embedded yet transnationally networked families, firms, funds and state-linked entities - in reshaping cities and specific (global) urban territories.

We invite analyses of how transnational finance, extractive urbanisation, logistics and platform infrastructures, rentierisation and green capitalism organise the capture of value, expand assetisation and draw popular spaces and livelihoods into extractive circuits of capital. By tracing the nexus between wealth accumulation and spatial production, the panel also examines how financialisation and climate/energy finance reshape property regimes, infrastructures, and ecologies, thereby entrenching old and new inequalities while also provoking counter-hegemonic practices. Comparative, historically informed and mixed-methods approaches are encouraged. By re-centring the contested geographies of wealth as processes, practices and relations, the panel contributes to debates on how extractive dynamics might be redirected toward just socio-ecological transformation and post-extractivist forms of global urbanism.

In particular, we invite papers that address the following questions:

What new financial and legal instruments are driving contemporary forms of urban extractivism-such as special purpose vehicles, public-private partnerships, development rights, or nature-based offset schemes-and how do they reorganize power relations between domestic elites, transnational investors and the state?
In what ways do "ordinary cities" or so-called "global cities from off the map" participate in global wealth chains, and how do they mediate the (trans)national extraction, circulation and capture of value beyond established financial hubs?

What new peripheries, dependencies and spatial inequalities are produced through current cycles of extraction, financialisation and green capitalism, and how do these processes reconfigure North-South and intra-national geographies of wealth and power?
How does the consolidation of wealth among corporate and financial actors reorganize the practices and discourses of urban planning, and what new modes of territorial contestation emerge in response?
Which counter-movements and socio-ecological projects are prefiguring post-extractive urban futures, and how do they navigate or reshape existing regimes of property, finance, and territorial governance?

Tracing real estate wealth chains across uneven geographies

» [Dr. Rafaella Lima](#) (University of Sheffield)

"Divide and Conquer": Risk Displacement Through Labor Domination in Asset Management Capitalism

» [Dr. Ismael Yrigoy Cadena](#) (Ismael Yrigoy), Dr. Lorenzo Vidal (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Digital Infrastructures as Wealth Extraction: Data Centers, State Strategies and Uneven Urbanization in Brazil and France

» Dr. Gabriel Teles (Universidade de Brasília), [Dr. Aline Ferreira](#) (Université Paris VIII)

Variegated Geographies of Financialisation in Latin America: Ownership, Control, and Transregional Connectivity

» [Prof. Michael Janoschka](#) (Institute of Regional Science, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT))

09:00

Oral : #99

#99 Chronotopias of Uncertainty: Inequalities and the Multiple Temporalities of the City

Venue - HS 07

Organised by: Jose Eduardo Villanueva (Convenor) and Lucia Alata (Convenor)

Cities are not only divided by space or wealth. They are also divided by time. In many ways, inequality today is also temporal: while some people live in accelerated, hyperconnected realities, others inhabit slower or suspended urban times. From this perspective, time becomes an urban metamaterial: intangible yet materially shaping space.

This approach emphasises anthropological and scientific underpinnings,



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

drawing on Mikhail Bakhtin's concept of the chronotope, adapted from relativistic physics to describe the inseparability of space and time in narrative, and expanded here into urban chronotopia: the simultaneous manifestation of multiple temporalities within a single urban point.

This session explores how these overlapping chronotopias shape new forms of urban inequality. This also overlaps with Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, reinterpreted through an urban lens: the more we try to define or control the city, the less we understand the complexity of how it's lived. This idea helps us question how uncertainty, rather than being a condition to eliminate, can reveal the fragility and diversity of urban experiences. Especially in contexts of inequality, climate crisis, and technological transformation.

In this sense, chronotopias of uncertainty refer to those urban situations where different temporalities coexist: fast and slow, digital and analog, precarious and stable. These overlapping times create tensions but also opportunities to rethink how we inhabit and design our cities. Understanding time as a social and political dimension allows us to see how inequalities are reproduced not only through space, but also through the rhythms of daily life, waiting, access, and adaptation.

The session invites contributions that explore how uncertainty and time intersect with inequality - both theoretically and through grounded, local cases. Some guiding questions would include:

How do different urban communities experience and negotiate uncertainty in their everyday lives?
 What happens when multiple temporalities, such as technological, social and ecological, overlap in the same urban space?
 How can planning, design, and policy acknowledge the diversity of urban times?

We welcome papers from sociology, anthropology, urban studies, architecture, geography, and related fields. Comparative or cross-regional perspectives, particularly from the Global South, are especially encouraged. Case studies, visual research, or artistic approaches are also welcome, as they often reveal temporalities that remain invisible to traditional urban analysis.

Ultimately, this session proposes to open a space for reflection on how uncertainty, far from being only a problem, can become a lens to understand - and possibly rebalance - the unequal times of the city. By

thinking about chronotopias both a theoretical and experiential framework, we can start reimagining urban life beyond fixed forms, and toward more flexible, inclusive, and time-sensitive futures.

Inhabiting Uncertainty: Incremental Housing and Urban Temporalities

» [Mr. Ricardo Javier Chavez Gonzales](#) (Architect and Researcher, Arequipa, Peru)

Chronotopias of Inequality: Governing Urban Time in Contexts of Uncertainty through the Utopia System

» [Ms. isabel serra](#) (USACH), Mr. Pablo Levine (ETH Zürich)

Extended urbanization and Indigenous ferries in the Bolivian Amazonia

» [Mr. Fernando Schrupp Rivero](#) (University of Amsterdam, AISSR)

09:00

Oral : #27

#27 Municipal Practices and Urban Inequalities in SWANA Cities

Venue - HS 16

Organised by: Mona Harb (Convenor), Azadeh Mashayekhi (Convenor), and Azam Khatam (Convenor)

Standard models of decentralization assume uniform local preferences, strong institutions, fiscal autonomy, transparent information flows, and enforceable accountability. These conditions are frequently absent in SWANA and beyond. In such settings, decentralization can intensify exclusion and enable elite capture, producing sharp urban inequalities. Yet, the literature overlooks how decentralization, representation, and participation operate under authoritarian or undemocratic rule. Varied political histories, factional and sectarian conflicts, and hardened legacies of centralization warrant closer scrutiny towards decentralization trajectories.

How are SWANA municipalities (not) governing the intersecting urban challenges and risks facing their residents, and how do their actions mitigate or entrench inequality? The municipal landscape is uneven: in some countries, elections are absent (e.g., Egypt, Syria); in others, political and legal frameworks tightly constrain local authority, recentralize power within ruling elites, and limit room for autonomous governance (e.g., Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Turkey, Iran). Unlike elsewhere, SWANA municipalities often lack institutional and fiscal space, as well as political capital, to maneuver. Where municipal bureaucracies



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

exist, capacity to champion planning and development is frequently thin, and constrained by recurrent cycles of crisis and conflict. Patterns of selective provision are common. Some municipalities still marshal resources for middle- and high-income districts that function as growth machines for local capital, while alliances with real-estate bourgeoisie often anchor these arrangements. By contrast, in low-income areas, municipal authority is largely absent beyond routine policing, and service provision is captured by local actors whose extractive practices are often tolerated, if not enabled.

We invite single-case and comparative papers that examine how municipalities in the SWANA region represent local dwellers, manage territorial affairs across social groups and neighborhoods, and interact with national authorities. We are particularly interested in analyses of urban policies, infrastructure projects, and development interventions that shape patterns of inequality. Contributions can examine these dynamics from the three angles below:

(i) National-local interactions in urban welfare regimes: Centralized political power has typically been coupled with state-led scale-making that positions municipalities at the bottom of bureaucratic hierarchies. How do political, legal, fiscal, and institutional arrangements (re) structure power and authority across national, regional, and urban scales, and across histories?

(ii) Reforms in local governance and power and representation of local dwellers: How have central-local struggles and legal change reshaped municipal capacity? Where decentralization has been adopted, what are the consequences for urban service provision? How do bureaucrats, planners, and activists navigate fiscal and institutional constraints to plan and deliver services? How does decentralization, and the exercise of voice under limited political pluralism, reconfigure local power dynamics, and with what risks of elite capture, inequality, and conflict along social cleavages?

(iii) Selective service provision, inequality, and informality: Where decentralization has produced public-private partnerships and/or municipal devolution, how do selective patterns of service reinforce socio-spatial inequalities and hinge on political or financial support? How do informal groups and local actors step in to govern? How are their practices negotiated with municipal authorities, and with what consequences for residents?

We look forward to discussing together SWANA cities' unequal decentralization and local governance.

Power To and From the People: A Critical Review of Municipal and Central Governments' (Contested) Housing Policies in Izmir, 1970s-2020s

» [Dr. Kivanc Kilinc](#) (Izmir Institute of Technology)

Governing Without the Governed: Municipal Exclusion and Settler-Colonial Urbanism in Jerusalem

» [Dr. Shahd Qannam](#) (Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI)), [Ms. Luzan Munayer](#) (University College London (UCL))

Constrained Participation: Urban Mobilizations under Restricted Municipal Autonomy in Istanbul

» [Ms. Julie Gloannec](#) (Tours University)

Governing and Practicing Public Domains: Collusions of Power and Property in Tripoli-Mina, Lebanon

» [Ms. Petra Samaha](#) (Sciences Po Paris)

09:00

Workshop : Innovative Session 3 / #108

#108 Methodological Visual Lab: Exploring participatory methodologies for territorial planning and research innovation in a multi-crisis context

Venue - HS 21

Organised by: Dr. Elizabeth Wagemann (Convenor), Dr. Magdalena Gil (Convenor), and Ms. Natalia Donoso-Pardo (Convenor)

In a world grappling with multiple simultaneous crises-including climate change, technological disruptions, democratic challenges, humanitarian crises, and social inequalities-it is imperative to rethink territorial planning methodologies. Traditional technocratic approaches and abstract diagnoses are insufficient for addressing the complexity and uncertainty of contemporary cities. Instead, planning must embrace innovative, participatory methodologies that engage civil society, academia, and decision-makers in co-producing knowledge and action. This approach also presents challenges for research and innovation in data collection across different contexts.

In this context, the 'visual turn' in the social sciences becomes particularly relevant. Visual tools such as collaborative maps, models, audiovisual records and graphic narratives enable sensitive socio-spatial



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

dimensions to be captured that are often overlooked by traditional research methods. Recent research has examined the intersection between the social sciences and architecture using visual representations, thereby enhancing our ability to comprehend the intricate relationships between space, usage, and daily life. Revitalising the use of visual methods enhances analytical capacity in the face of complex urban issues. This also makes knowledge production more democratic, offering inclusive and transparent platforms to highlight conflicts and co-design territorial futures in times of multiple crises.

This session aims to explore and debate innovative, participatory methodologies - particularly visual approaches - to strengthen territorial planning in the face of contemporary, multiple crises. Using tools such as visual storytelling, collaborative mapping and participatory models, the goal is to highlight urban and territorial conflicts and create inclusive spaces for dialogue among different societal groups. The session ultimately seeks to revitalise the 'visual turn' in social and urban sciences as a means of understanding the complexity of cities and designing fairer, more resilient and democratic collective responses. Specifically, the session will be a methodological laboratory in which each speaker presents and executes their approach live with audience participation. Attendees will engage with traditional tools such as maps, models and collages, as well as technological and innovative approaches based on artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality, and virtual models that simulate decisions and processes inherent in the proposed methodology when applied to territorial issues in multi-crisis contexts. This format enables collective experimentation with the challenges and learning processes of each approach, turning the session into an interactive exercise in co-producing knowledge and innovative research.

We invite researchers interested in methodological innovation to participate in our laboratory. The aim is to strengthen the potential of participatory research in a multi-crisis context by applying new visual methodological tools. The main themes related to the city and its challenges during times of crisis include the following:

- Climate Crisis and the City
- Technological Development Applied to the City
- Well-Being, Health and Mobility
- The City and the Culture of Care
- Humanitarian Crises and Mass Migration

We welcome proposals for methodological innovations related to these themes, although similar topics are also welcome. Through collective

experimentation, our aim is to enhance participatory research methodologies and encourage interdisciplinary dialogue to address the challenges faced by contemporary cities.

The Visual Turn in Action: Co-Designing Climate-Responsive Urban Spaces for Older Adults

» [Dr. Ana Martins](#) (Faculty of Architecture. University of Porto), Dr. Gisela Lameira (Faculty of Architecture. University of Porto), Dr. Ana Fernandes (Faculty of Architecture. University of Porto), Dr. Rui J. G. Ramos (Faculty of Architecture. University of Porto)

Drawing Space: Visual storytelling of Hair Salons in Khayelitsha

» [Ms. leigh maurtin](#) (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town)

Exploring Urban Futures through Scenario-Based Design and XR

» [Dr. ahmetcan alpan](#) (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul), [Dr. Bahar Aksel](#) (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul), Dr. Melih Birik (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul)

Co-Producing Al-Masar Al-Akhdar: Methodological Investigations Towards Collaborative Urban Design

» [Ms. Maria Rajha](#) (Beirut Urban Lab, American University of Beirut)

09:00

Workshop : Round table 13 / #36-1/2

#36 Reparative Urban Futures: new urban imperatives (1/2)

Venue - HS 27

Organised by: Catalina Ortiz (Convenor) and Dr. Natalia Villamizar Duarte (Convenor)

City-making is a by-product of racial capitalism and a global colonial history of protracted violence. As a result, the multiple harms, territorial wounds and collective trauma have produced and continued to be reproduced urban inequalities that demand new frameworks for conceptualising reparation and territorial healing (Ortiz and Gómez Córdoba, 2023) in cities. This roundtable seeks to frame the political project of reparative justice in urban spaces by opening the debate about practices to heal wounds from epistemic, racial, slow and colonial violence emerging in cities.

The roundtable looks for contributions addressing the profound challenges of climate catastrophe, colonial violence, armed conflict, and authoritarianism that continue to shape urban landscapes. Our aim is to collectively explore how a reparative planning praxis-one that



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

acknowledges territories as living entities-can contribute to healing our damaged relationships with each other and with the Earth. By reframing urban studies as a territorial and ethical praxis, this roundtable positions urban scholarship as central to repairing the planetary civilizational crisis we inhabit.

We would like to expand this debate by engaging in questions such as:

How do processes and practices of reparative justice activate the spatial imagination of communities affected by violence-related trauma?
How can territorial healing and reparative planning perspectives transform cross-disciplinary urban research and practice?
How can we connect place-based memories of violence, healing and reparation with urban policy, planning and design?
What do creative and collaborative methods offer critical urban and civic pedagogies to foster territorial reparation and healing?

References:

Ortiz, C. & Gómez Córdoba, O. (2023) 'Territorial healing: A spatial spiral weaving transformative reparation', *Planning Theory*, 23(2). doi: 10.1177/1473095223118112.

From Resilience to Healing: Urban Poor Women and the Repair of Socio-Ecological Systems in Phnom Penh's In-filled Lakes

» [Dr. Johanna Brugman](#) (School of Architecture and Planning, The University of Auckland)

Repair as city-making: Ethical know-how and urban water in Nairobi

» [Mrs. Monica Martin Grau](#) (The University of Sheffield)

Breaking out of Brussels' captured future: from prefigurative infrastructuring practices to urban scenarios for redrawing citizenship

» [Prof. Luce Beeckmans](#) (KU Leuven), [Mrs. Alik Tzouvara](#) (KU Leuven)

Once, a river ran: reframing changing border ecologies

» [Ms. Lou Elena Bouey](#) (University of Cambridge), Dr. Irit Katz (University of Cambridge)

09:00

Oral : #61

#61 Damaged Landscapes: The Politics of Care in Cities of Accumulated Risk

Venue - HS 30

Organised by: Dr. Marat Nevlyutov (Convenor) and Ms. Nataliya Volkova (Convenor)

In an era of overlapping crises, cities worldwide are becoming landscapes of accumulated risk. The scars of conflict, industrial decline, and environmental degradation create urban environments where vulnerability is woven into the fabric of daily life. These damaged landscapes challenge us to look beyond conventional approaches to urban studies-beyond single disasters and linear recovery-and instead examine how communities learn to live with perpetual uncertainty.

This panel engages directly with the conference theme of "Inequalities and the City" by exploring a crucial dynamic: how systemic risks both deepen social vulnerabilities and inspire innovative practices of care. We focus on what we term "reparative infrastructures"-the daily social practices, political mobilizations, and ethical negotiations that sustain life in compromised urban environments. These are not merely technical solutions but fundamental reimaginings of citizenship and community in spaces marked by neglect or destruction.

We invite papers that examine the intricate relationships between urban inequality, infrastructure, and care. Key questions include:

- How do legacies of conflict and environmental damage reshape urban spaces and intensify social inequalities?
- How does maintaining basic necessities-water, shelter, safety-become a collective political practice in damaged landscapes?
- What emotional connections do communities form with their compromised environments, and how does trauma shape new forms of ecological identity?
- How can we understand "slow crises" that lack clear boundaries, and how do institutions and communities navigate permanent uncertainty?

An interrupted landscape: the canal as an environmental cue.

» [Mrs. Eva Radionova](#) (Independent Researcher)

'A bounded existence': Examining the entanglement of scalar and intersectional experiences of water scarcity in the townships of Cape Town, South Africa

» [Ms. Ariadna Romans i Torrent](#) (University of Amsterdam)



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Slow Violence, Slow Recovery: Reparative Infrastructures of Memory in Istanbul

» Ms. Kivılcım Göksu Toprak (Architectural Designer and PhD Candidate - MPhil/PhD Architectural and Urban History and Theory The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, UK)

the ordinary

» Ms. Meri Pepanyan (Library For Architecture (LFA)), Mr. Aleksei Lashkov (Library For Architecture (LFA)), Ms. Dana Smagina (Library For Architecture (LFA))

09:00

Oral : #37

#37 Gentrification, residential change and displacement in times of big data

Venue - HS 32

Organised by: Prof. Christoph Zangger (Convenor)

Much of the existing research on gentrification and its consequences in terms of (re-)producing social inequalities follows the quantitative-qualitative divide in the social sciences (Brown-Saracino, 2017). Focusing on few, singled-out neighborhoods undergoing gentrification processes, qualitative studies have provided rich insights into the lived experiences of gentrification and displacement, encompassing ethnic, social, cultural and political changes beyond the mere economic and physical upgrading of neighborhoods (Brown-Saracino and Rumpf, 2011; Hyra et al., 2019). Quantitative studies, on the other hand, have used census data to identify and measure the extent of gentrification and displacement across multiple neighborhoods and cities (Easton et al., 2020; Finio, 2022).

Yet, both approaches have their limitations. While qualitative studies tend to focus on selected neighborhoods that often receive public and academic attention, neglecting other, less prominent areas (Barton, 2016), quantitative studies are limited by the availability and granularity of (census) data, failing therewith to assess the multiplicity of gentrification and displacement processes beyond socio-economic indicators and physical upgrading (Slater, 2011). Meanwhile, new data sources (e.g., social media, web-scraped data) and computational methods (e.g., (unsupervised) machine learning, natural language processing) have emerged that allow studying often overlooked aspects of gentrification and displacement in quantitative

research, such as changes in the cultural and social fabric of neighborhoods, and to incorporate information formerly limited to qualitative approaches (e.g., computer vision or using transformer-based methods to analyze visual and textual data; Liu et al., 2019; Naik et al., 2017).

This session invites contributions that explore how new data sources and computational methods can be used to study gentrification, residential change and displacement. We welcome both methodological contributions that discuss the potential and challenges of using new data sources and methods, as well as empirical investigations of how gentrification (re-)produces inequalities in specific contexts.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- New data sources (e.g., social media, web-scraped data) to study gentrification and displacement
- Assessing the multiplicity of gentrification and displacement processes beyond socio-economic and physical upgrading (e.g., cultural or political changes)
- Comparing traditional (e.g., census data) with new data sources
- Identifying gentrification and displacement patterns and trends using computational methods (e.g., (un)supervised machine learning, natural language processing)
- Blending insights from new data sources and methods with qualitative insights on gentrification and displacement
- Risks and biases of new data sources and computational methods (e.g., exclusion of marginalized groups, algorithmic bias, ethical implications for inequality research)

Conceptually, this session aims to bring both quantitative, computational as well as qualitative approaches closer together. We look forward to any contributions that study the drivers as well as the consequences of gentrification in terms of residential change, displacement, and the resulting inequalities using suitable, novel approaches.

The Algorithmic Rent Gap: Measuring Digital Valorization and Predicting Displacement in Paris and Mexico City (2016–2025)

» Mr. Juan Perez Ventura (Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM))

Tracing Commercial Displacement under Tourism Gentrification: Insights from Mixed Data in Reykjavík

» Dr. Anne-Cécile Mermet (Sorbonne Université)



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Monitoring social work casefiles for insights into displacement processes

» Mx. Mae de Monchy (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Cosmopolis Center for Urban research), Ms. Lena SWARTZENTRUBER (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Cosmopolis Center for Urban research)

09:00

Oral : #63

#63 Beyond North-South: Rethinking Urban Inequalities through the Geopolitics of Knowledge and Space

Venue - HS 34

Organised by: Dr. Do Young Oh (Convenor) and Ms. Seungji Han (Convenor)

Urban inequalities have long been analysed through frameworks rooted in Euro-American experiences, shaping dominant understandings of access to housing, infrastructure, services, and citizenship. Postcolonial urbanism has challenged this hegemony by provincialising "universal" theories and foregrounding diverse epistemologies and positionalities (Robinson, 2006; Roy, 2009; Watson, 2009; Lawhon and Truelove, 2019). Yet these debates often remain centred on the geopolitics of knowledge-who produces theory and where-while paying less attention to how inequalities are materially and spatially constituted through colonial, imperial, and neoliberal power geometries.

At the same time, urban theories developed in specific regional contexts-such as the developmental state paradigm in East Asia, dependency-informed analyses of Latin American urbanisation, or post-apartheid urbanism in South Africa-have frequently been treated as "territorially trapped" (Hwang, 2016), confined to explaining regional trajectories of inequality. While these theories have been invaluable, their dominance also risks narrowing the geography of knowledge production. This session, therefore, seeks not only to re-situate such regionally bounded theories within Global Urbanism (cf. Lancione and McFarlane, 2021) but also to foreground insights from contexts often overlooked in the conversation on "Southern Urbanism" (see also Shin, 2021). In doing so, we aim to expand the comparative imagination beyond the usual sites of reference and highlight how inequalities are theorised and contested in less canonical settings.

We invite contributions that interrogate North-South categories themselves as epistemic traps, while examining how urban inequalities are structured and reshaped in sites where spatial and temporal contradictions intersect-such as peri-urban fringes, redevelopment zones, informal settlements, or peripheralised urban landscapes. We

understand these contradictions not as limitations, but as productive fractures: moments where dominant frameworks falter, and where alternative vocabularies, practices, and solidarities can emerge. By focusing on these fractures, this session seeks to advance comparative urbanism as both a critical and generative project.

Topics of interest include:

1. Knowledge and inequality: How epistemic hierarchies shape the study of urban inequality; positionality, translation, and collaborative research ethics.
2. Spatial inequalities and power-geometries: Analyses of how colonial, imperial, and neoliberal projects shape planning, informality, and infrastructure.
3. Re-situating regionally bounded theories: Using "territorially trapped" frameworks to rethink global patterns of inequality.
4. Methodological experimentation: Crossing postcolonial urbanism with Marxist, feminist, or critical race perspectives; new forms of writing and representation to capture multiple inequalities.

Themes:

South-North-East-West dialogues; Recent developments in theory; Built-environments

(re)theorizing urban inequality: semi-rural tent encampments and the epistemic limits of urban informality

» Ms. Allison Evans (University of California, Berkeley)

Performing Colonial Authority: Urban Planning Education and the Reproduction of Spatial Knowledge in Morocco

» Dr. Noussayba Rahmouni (CNRS - MNHN - PALOC)

Global-Urban Dialogues: Flipping the Flows or Making Space for Translocal Knowledge Solidarities?

» Prof. Beth Perry (Urban Institute, University of Sheffield), Prof. Tom Goodfellow (University of Manchester)

Can African urbanisation be a starting point for urban theory? Or, how to avoid the pitfalls of informality, global south and developmentalism.

» Prof. Jennifer Robinson (University College London (UCL))



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

10:30 **General**
Coffee Break
Venue - Courtyard

11:00 **Oral : #43-2/2**
#43 Affordable Housing within Planetary Boundaries: Crossing East-West and North-South Divides (2/2)
Venue - Erika Weinzierl Saal
Organised by: Mr. Petr Kodenko Kubala (Convenor), Dr. Rebecca Cavicchia (Convenor), and Slavomíra Ferenčuhová
The increasingly acute crisis of urban housing affordability now intersects with the accelerating environmental emergency. Each challenge has generated a substantial body of research. On the one hand, housing scholars show how financialisation, rising rents, and displacement exacerbate socio-economic inequalities in cities. On the other hand, climate and environmental research traces the ecological footprint of the housing system-spanning operational emissions from heating, cooling, and lighting, as well as embodied emissions from materials and construction-with the buildings and construction sector accounting for roughly a third of energy (and process-related) CO₂ emissions globally. These research streams often run in parallel, with relatively few interconnections identified in empirical research and in urban and housing theorising. Yet an emerging body of work interrogates how policy instruments designed for decarbonisation-green building codes, energy-retrofit programmes, densification, and nature-based solutions-reconfigure affordability, tenure security, and displacement dynamics. For example, recent critical contributions warn of a "green" or "eco-social" paradox: well-intentioned ecological measures can raise rents, catalyse green gentrification, or trigger renovictions.
This session aims to stimulate discussion about the conditions under which green building, retrofits, standards, and financing models advance affordability. We welcome context-sensitive insights, provocative ideas, critical commentaries, theoretical propositions, and/or individual research experiences.
Against that backdrop, we propose a conversation that treats contexts

on an equal footing, and thus we explicitly invite participants from Central and Eastern Europe and from the Global South and North to co-produce analyses across housing regimes and to think about the future of affordable and green housing in cities and beyond.

We thus invite papers that address the following questions/topics:

- Under what policy, market, and governance conditions do decarbonisation measures reduce emissions without raising rents or inducing displacement?
- What empirical evidence links specific green interventions to changes in rent levels, tenure security, and patterns of green gentrification?
- Which financing and ownership models align climate goals with long-term affordability, and which fail to do so - and why?
- How do outcomes of decarbonisation processes vary across housing regimes, tenure types, and geographies (especially in Central and Eastern Europe and across the Global South and North)?
- What kind of theories, concepts, and metrics or evaluation methods are needed to grasp decarbonisation and affordability at the same time?

Rent Regulation and Retrofit Incentives: Decarbonisation, Affordability, and Uneven Outcomes in German Rental Housing

» [Dr. Matthias Bernt](#) (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space)

Housing Regimes in the Green Transition: Cooperative and Limited-Profit Providers as Mediators of Urban Inequality

» [Dr. Andréanne Chu Breton-Carbonneau](#) (Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (ICTA-UAB))

Innovation through regulation: Socially sustainable renovation and replacement construction in the private housing sector in Zurich, Switzerland

» [Dr. Luisa Gehrig](#) (ETH Zürich), [Dr. Jennifer Duyne Barenstein](#) (ETH Zürich), [Dr. Hannah Widmer](#) (ETH Zürich), [Mrs. Salome Rohner](#) (ETH Zürich)

Policy Dilemmas in France's Housing and Ecological Transitions

» [Prof. Marco Cremaschi](#) (SciencesPo (CEE, Urban school)), [Dr. Antoine Guironnet](#) (SciencesPo (CEE, Urban school)), [Dr. Federica Rotondo](#) (SciencesPo (CEE, Urban school)), [Prof. Tommaso Vitale](#) (SciencesPo (CEE, Urban school))



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

11:00

Oral : #55-2/2

#55 Cities and States: Central-local conflict in the fight against urban inequalities (2/2)

Venue - Marietta Blau Saal

Organised by: Dr. Elisabetta Mocca (Convenor) and Dr. Iolanda Bianchi (Convenor)

Social, economic and environmental inequalities, such as unaffordable housing, uneven distribution of economic resources, unequal access to green space and unfair exposure to environmental pollution, are long-standing problematiques affecting cities, as amply articulated by the wealth of publications in the field of urban studies. However, the ways in which these problems are understood and addressed may vary across different levels of government. Indeed, cities sometimes pursue policy agendas that may differ from those set at regional and national levels. What is more, cities may make up for the lack of state's intervention, dealing with those issues that are overlooked by central governments.

A case in point is the divergence in policy approaches adopted by local governments in relation to key issues such as migration, housing, and climate change. In the field of migration, several local authorities have implemented integration-oriented policies that stand in contrast to the more restrictive and securitised approaches pursued at the national level. With regard to housing, local governments have sought to devise responses to the housing crisis that have been largely neglected in national policy agendas. Similarly, in the area of climate change, cities have undertaken adaptation strategies aimed at increasing urban resilience, often in response to the limited or inadequate action characterising national environmental policies. These examples illustrate how, sometimes, city governments operate in misalignment with the national government, revealing the piecemeal or even inadequate ability of the state to identify and address urban problematiques.

At the local level, such policies may-or may not-be conceived, designed and implemented in collaboration with, in response to, or under pressure from a range of economic and social actors who often urge local governments to respond more directly to their constituencies. In this sense, cities' political actions cannot be viewed solely as those of local governments, but rather as the outcome of coordination, lobbying, collaboration, conflict and contestation within urban society. This includes local governments, social movements, economic actors, and transnational networks that influence city-level policymaking.

In this panel, we focus on the analysis of "rebel cities" (Harvey 2012), which address urban inequalities in opposition to, or with limited involvement of the state. Therefore, we propose to examine the central-local contentions emerging in the design and delivery of social and environmental policy at urban level. We seek contributions examining the tensions - and even conflicts - fuelled by the attempts of cities to independently tackle thorny urban issues (i.e. housing, migration, pollution etc.). We welcome theoretical elaborations of state-local conflict in addressing pressing urban problematiques as well as empirical cases of policy contention in cities located in both the Global North and South. Additionally, we invite papers examining how different urban public, private and civic actors, contribute to this disagreement, placing themselves in opposition to top-down policies. As such, the panel will allow for a discussion on the political agency of urban actors in interpreting and addressing urban issues in relation to, and often in contestation with, central state actors.

Contesting cars - contesting the central state? Central-local automobility conflicts in London, Madrid, Paris, and New York.

» [Dr. Daniel Tjarks](#) (Saarland University)

Creating the "Smart" City: everyday state shaping urban water governance in Udaipur, India

» [Ms. Kritika Singh](#) (University of Birmingham)

Cities Against Nationalism? Central-Local Conflict and the Politics of Urban Inequality

» [Prof. Jonathan Rock](#) (Northeastern University)

Cities and the State: environmental justice and the fight against air pollution

» [Ms. Jade Charbonnier](#) (Université Gustave Eiffel)



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

11:00

Oral : #18-2/2

#18 Urban Subjectivities in Platform Labour: Class, Precarity, and Everyday Experiences of the Digital City (2/2)

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: Francisco Fernández-Trujillo Moares (Convenor) and Ana Santamarina (Convenor)

This panel seeks to examine the subjective and urban dimensions of platform capitalism by focusing on the ways in which workers narrate, embody, and negotiate their experiences in the city. Moving beyond the analysis of material labour conditions, our aim is to foreground how discourses, imaginaries, and lived experiences around platformisation are articulated in relation to urban space, housing and class.

The platform economy has become a central force in reconfiguring the everyday life of cities, producing new forms of spatiality and temporality (Srnicek, 2017; van Doorn, 2020). Workers' subjectivities are shaped not only by their employment relations but also by how they inhabit the urban fabric and make use of - and reshape - public space: from streets, sidewalks, and squares as sites of labour, to housing arrangements marked by overcrowding, insecurity, or long commuting times. The city emerges here as both a resource and a constraint, mediating the contradictions between workers' aspirations for autonomy and flexibility, and their lived experiences of precarity and fragmentation (Harvey, 2012; Fraser, 2016).

This panel invites contributions that consider how these subjectivities intersect with broader social positions and intersectional inequalities. While platformisation appears as a transversal phenomenon across social classes, the most precarised groups-migrant, racialised, and feminised workers-are at the centre of its contradictions. Their voices highlight how urban inequalities are reproduced through platform labour, but also how new forms of belonging, collective identification, and claims to the city emerge (van Doorn & Glöss, 2021; Cant, 2019). By situating these narratives within the urban context, we seek to illuminate the spatial and subjective dimensions of precarity, as well as the tensions between entrepreneurial discourses promoted by platforms and the lived realities of dispossession and constraint.

Central themes for this panel include:

- The articulation of labour subjectivities and urban identities in platform

work.

- Housing struggles, precarious dwelling, and the spatialisation of inequality.
- The use and transformation of public space as a site of platform labour.
- Class, migration, racialisation, and gender as axes of subjectivation.
- Contradictions between aspiration, autonomy, and precarity in the digital city.

By exploring these questions, the panel aims to contribute to an understanding of how platform capitalism is not only reorganising labour but also reshaping urban life and subjectivities. In doing so, we address the broader implications of the "digital city" as a terrain of conflict, aspiration, and negotiation (Fraser & Jaeggi, 2018; Sequera & Nofre, 2020).

Unicorn Buildings: Living Between Space and Platform

» Mr. Pablo Martínez (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia),
Dr. Jorge Sequera (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)

Migrant Riders, the City, and Subjectivities in Platform Capitalism: Experiences of Work and Urban Space in Rome

» Dr. Nicola Venneri (Sapienza University of Rome)

Programming Apps, Programming Workers: Algorithmic Control and the Institutionalization of Autonomy

» Mr. Hyeon Lee (The New School for Social Research)

11:00

Oral : #39-2/2

#39 Active Urbanisms: Sport, Movement, and the Contested City (2/2)

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: Dr. Lakshya Yog (Convenor) and Devra Waldman (Convenor)

This session seeks papers that interrogate 'active urbanisms' as sites of accumulation, contestation, and social reproduction. In doing so, this session aims to expand critical scholarship on the intersections of physical activity, sport infrastructure, and urban transformation. While existing research in urban studies tends to excessively focus on sporting mega-events and sport-oriented development (Koch, 2018), we aim to broaden the lens to examine the ways in which diverse forms of bodily movement, including elite athletics and everyday walking, from



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

children's play to adapted recreation, are co-produced by contemporary urban processes.

Previously, scholars have shown how mega-events are used as tools to produce a vision of world-class cities while facilitating the displacement of the urban poor, the privatisation of public space and producing new geographies of spectatorship and consumption (Andrews & Silk, 2018; Baviskar, 2014; Hiller, 2000). Yet the mundane everyday movement and associated infrastructures, such as parks, streets, playgrounds, and cycling lanes, equally demand critical scrutiny. These spaces not only embody contested visions of health citizenship but also reveal patterns of racialised and gendered access and increasingly operate as sites of data extraction through fitness platforms and insurance technologies (Lupton, 2013).

In addition, rising temperatures and worsening air quality continue to reshape the possibilities for outdoor activity, particularly in marginalised neighbourhoods lacking shade, cooling infrastructure, or adequate facilities (Harlan et al., 2006). Here, perspectives emerging from disability justice paradigm further outline the exclusion of non-normative bodies due to urban design aimed exclusively at promoting "active living" (Imrie, 2012).

At the same time, the emergence of commodified fitness landscapes, such as wellness districts (Kraus et al., 2019), represents new forms of urban entrepreneurialism, where health promotion intersects with real estate speculation and class/race/gender/ability-based spatial configurations. Meanwhile, DIY practices and tactical approaches focused on informal play spaces, guerrilla sports interventions, and community-led activations suggest counter-practices that resist dominant framings of the "active city." We invite papers engaging with how bodies in motion, whether through organised sport, daily commutes, or spontaneous play, become enrolled in urban governance regimes, property relations, and struggles over the right to the city.

Potential topics include but are not limited to: sport-led displacement and gentrification; mega-event planning, legacies, and labour configurations; datafied mobility and surveillance; climate adaptation and heat inequality; playground design and spatial autonomy of children; disability access and universal design; informal play and spatial appropriation; the care work of infrastructure maintenance; fitness platforms and biopolitical governance; wellness real estate and class restructuring; gender, safety, and public space; and Indigenous land

claims around sporting facilities.

We particularly welcome comparative work across cities and regions, interdisciplinary approaches, and scholarship grounded in ethnographic, historical, or mixed methods. By centring critical perspectives on active urbanisms, this session aims to advance understanding of how movement infrastructures reproduce and challenge urban inequalities in the contemporary moment.

Bars, Bodies, and Public Space: Calisthenics and Youth Practices in Urban Parks of Turkey

» [Dr. Büşra Kılıç](#) (Sociology, Ondokuz Mayıs University)

Appropriating the walkable shopping district of affluent hipsters: Parodic street dance by the marginalized teenagers in Harajuku, Tokyo

» [Dr. Shiene Kiriya](#) (University of Tsukuba)

Park design, social norms, and teenage girls' movement in the city

» [Ms. Zeinab Hashem](#) (Birmingham City University)

Arsenal, Adidas and the 'Active' City: the gentrification of youth gamespace in London

» [Dr. Andrew Wallace](#) (University of Greenwich)

11:00

Oral : #59-2/2

#59 Living with the Weather: Everyday Adaptations to Rain, Heat and Climate Governance (2/2)

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Susana Neves Alves (Convenor) and Kim West (Convenor)

Extreme weather - heatwaves, chronic heat or rain, extreme precipitation, and flooding - is reshaping urban life across Europe. A changing climate is transforming bodily, domestic everyday experiences of city life, while also reshaping governance systems, urban infrastructures and urbanization processes. In response, mainstream urban adaptation planning has largely relied on technocratic, homogenous, expert-led imaginaries to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The problematic outcomes of these approaches (eg. green gentrification) are well documented.

In return, a growing scholarship is exploring ideas of 'transformative' and 'everyday' adaptation to develop justice-focused and situated



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

approaches. These perspectives aim at transforming the socio-economic and political structures that produce vulnerability. In this panel, we are interested in participatory and everyday adaptations - ways of doing grounded in lived experiences that hold the potential to be disruptive and generative - with particular emphasis to practices and ideas coming from marginalised communities, neighbourhoods and geographies.

We invite contributions that explore everyday adaptations - the "small, incremental changes made in our daily lives to accommodate the shifting ecologies in which we live" (Castro and Sen 2022:2) - whether in response to climate events themselves or institutional adaptation strategies. We aim to examine how these practices open new ways of understanding and enacting urban adaptation.

We welcome contributions that address the following questions:

-How can everyday approaches contribute insights to localised, justice-oriented ways of practicing adaptation?

-In what ways can everyday adaptations be examples of transformative adaptation? Can they inform practices of collaboration and co-production of knowledge between marginalised communities and policy-makers or researchers?

-How do everyday adaptations challenge social hierarchies, or reconfigure local infrastructures of care and support?

-What new adaptation imaginaries are emerging from everyday adaptation practices?

Castro, B. and R. Sen. 2022. 'Everyday Adaptation: Theorizing Climate Change Adaptation in Daily Life'. *Global Environmental Change* 75:102555.

Living with heat and cold. Thermal inequality among Romanian farmworker communities

» [Mr. Paul Sperneac-Wolfer](#) (University of Barcelona)

Everyday Urban Adaptation: Participatory Co-Design for Climate Resilience in Scottish Cities

» [Dr. Sarah Crowe](#) (University of the West of Scotland)

Beyond Romanticisation: Towards Transformative Grassroots Flood Adaptation

» [Ms. Vija Viese](#) (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

Onto-political dimensions of everyday coping practices in southern urban margins

» [Ms. Nidhi Sohane](#) (Indian Institute for Human Settlements)

11:00

Oral : #60-2/2

#60 Uncertain domesticities: gendered geographies of home-making and displacement (2/2)

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Laura Neville (Convenor) and Dr. YASNA CONTRERAS GATICA (Convenor)

Within feminist scholarship on 'critical geographies of the home' (Blunt & Dowling, 2006; Brickell, 2011), urban domesticities have been conceptualised as 'homemaking in the city' (Blunt & Sheringham 2018), as an inherently political 'elastic space' shaped through affects and experiences (Aedo 2023). As domesticities become entangled to experiences of migration and displacement, the making of home out of new dwellings spaces is further sustained by emotional and gendered labour (Oruc 2025; Rottmann & Sezginalp Özçetin 2024). From the perspective of labour-migration regimes, the insertion of production dynamics within the domestic sphere (Martella & Amann 2022), or the blurred spatialities of labour/home within 'gendered disciplinary apparatuses' (Antona 2023) has sustained the production of 'carceral domesticities' (Krishnan & Antona 2023). At the same time, new reconfigurations of everyday processes of digitalisation and the gendered production of smart homes (Chen et al., 2024) are unfolding, extending other modes of contemporary blurring of the boundaries of domestic and urban space (Martella & Enia, 2020).

This session seeks to examine the politics of continuity and rupture that sustain the shifting and ephemeral temporalities of domesticities through the lens of displacement and migration. How are domesticities reimagined from the fragile, ephemeral geographies of home, that embody the everyday realities of displacement? How are gendered and racialised experiences of domesticities, as a place of perpetual uncertainty, as anticipation (Krishnan & Antona 2023), entwined with forms of emplacements (Bjarnesen and Vigh, 2016)? This session seeks to explore the intimate spaces of the home; the uneven and unequal politics of intimacy and homemaking that are shaped through the embodied and everyday experiences of displacement and migration in



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

the city.

This session seeks to engage with the uncertainty entwined with urban domesticities, which is rooted in the tension of (dis)-placement, and seeks to engage in a conversation on how the embodied acts of making home across spaces and temporalities might be productive to thinking of the (re)production of urban inequalities along dimensions of gender, class, caste, race, sexuality. In this session, we invite contributions from human geography, urban studies, feminist theory, social anthropology, migration studies, that critically engage with the following themes:

- Urban belonging/disbelonging
- Intersectional struggles
- Affect and emotions
- Labour-migration regimes
- Border cities and borderlands
- Environmental risks and harms
- Digitalisation and surveillance
- Smart and AI homes

From Informal to Formal Housing: Negotiating Regulated Domesticity in Renewal Projects Estates

» [Prof. Tahire Erman](#) (Bilkent University)

Hospitality as Inhabitation: Examining the domestication of refuge in the Homes for Ukraine scheme

» [Ms. Rachel Sim](#) (University of Cambridge)

Estrangement in Exile: Homemaking, Urban Marginalization, and the Somatic Cost of Holding On

» [Ms. Begüm Ergün](#) (Boston University)

Caring in Precarity: Venezuelan Migrants and the Making of Care Infrastructures in Lima, Perú

» [Ms. Daniela Perleche Ugas](#) (Columbia University in the City of New York), [Ms. Pamela Hartley-Pinto](#) (Grupo de Investigación en Urbanismo, Gobernanza y Vivienda Social (CONURB-PUCP)), [Ms. Kelly Jaime Arias](#) (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú)

11:00

Oral : #62-2/2

#62 Vacancy, occupation and commoning in global comparison (2/2)

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: [Cian O'Callaghan](#) (Convenor), [Dr. Suraya Scheba](#) (Convenor), [Judith Lehner](#) (Convenor), and [Kathleen Stokes](#) (Convenor)

What happens when urban spaces lie vacant, are reclaimed through occupation, or become sites of commoning? How do these processes unfold differently across cities in the Global North and South, and what can we learn from their intersections?

Vacancy, occupation and commoning have all become popular and overlapping conceptual frames to describe radical experiments in urban space in recent decades. These are defined in spatial terms by marginality and precarity, but this also gives them transgressive and transformative power (Caffentiz and Federici, 2014). However, these relationships have been conceptualised differently across Northern and Southern urban theory. One set of literature has used the global financial crisis (GFC) as a conjunctural opening to understand political occupations as insurgent acts (Garcia-Lamarca, 2017). Conversely, research on Southern cities has treated the occupation of vacant land and commoning practices as a dominant form of urbanisation (e.g., Simone and Pieterse, 2018).

Thus, current scholarship is thematically and geographically divided. Complex geographical variegation and binary thinking have created barriers to global comparative and conceptual advancement. While recent literature has reframed vacancy as "active, lively, and contested" within urbanisation (O'Callaghan, 2024), this has not adequately attended to informality (Caldeira, 2017). Similarly, urban occupation movements in the global North have largely been portrayed as politically motivated, whilst occupations in the global South are framed as a 'survival strategy' (Cirolia et.al, 2021), thus failing to see their interconnections. This session's core aim is to use the tension within these divergent debates to break the impasse of their incommensurability, working towards a global comparative theory of vacancy, occupation and commoning.

This session is interested in contributions that advance conceptual, empirical and methodological knowledge on how these three processes (re)make cities relationally, being both attentive to place while contributing to a global comparative urbanism agenda. We invite papers that address the following topics that engage with vacancy, occupation, and commoning as ongoing urbanisation processes:



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

- South-North-East-West dialogues relating to vacancy, occupation and commoning
- Housing movements' and urban initiatives' struggles in sustaining commoning practices around vacancy
- Land and property occupations and their connection to urban historical processes
- Informal housing and autoconstruction across Northern and Southern geographies as forms of shaping (political) possibilities
- Methodologies allowing to approach vacancy, occupation and commoning comprehensively

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Housing occupations as a form of resistance to the reproduction of spatial injustice in post-Apartheid South Africa

» Mr. Tommaso Cosentino (Politecnico di Torino)

Who Cares Without Property? Care, Occupation and Commoning in Lisbon's Peripheries

» Dr. Joana Pestana Lages (Dinâmia'CET - ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa), Dr. Saira-Maria Saaristo (ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)

Occupying Infrastructure: Vacancy, Commoning and Unequal Access to Basic Services in Central São Paulo

» Dr. Patricia Cezario (Universidade Federal do ABC), Dr. Gabriella Carolini (MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Mr. Fabio Castro Filho (MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Dr. Guilherme Minarelli (Centro de Estudos da Metrópole (CEM))

The Paperless City: Mapping the self-organized housing practices of undocumented migrants in their struggle for papers in Brussels

» Ms. Charlotte Van Rhijn (KU Leuven), Prof. Jeroen Stevens (Department of Architecture, KU Leuven), Prof. Viviana d'Auria (Department of Architecture, KU Leuven)

11:00

Oral : #93-2/2

#93 Tourism, Mobility and Urban Inequality. Governing Overtourism in the 21st Century (2/2)

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Prof. Monica Bernardi (Convenor), neslihan demirtas milz (Convenor), Ko Koens (Convenor), Dr. Kumru Çilgin (Convenor), and Silvia Cesa-Bianchi (Convenor)

In the 21st century, tourism-related mobilities have intensified and diversified, reshaping urban spaces across the globe. Low-cost aviation, platform economies, real estate financialization, and city branding have converged to promote new mobile lifestyles and consumption patterns. These processes are deeply uneven: the capacity to move, settle, and benefit from tourism economies is highly stratified, producing new forms of inequality, exclusion, and environmental pressure. The COVID-19 pandemic, while temporarily reducing mobility, has reinforced the desire for movement and accelerated urban transformations driven by tourism.

Overtourism is therefore not simply a matter of "too many visitors." It is a complex socio-technical assemblage (comprising infrastructures, algorithms, governance systems, and imaginaries) that redistributes urban resources and reconfigures everyday life. It affects housing markets, labour regimes, access to collective goods, and the resilience of urban environments. Short-term rental platforms and multi-listing hosts extract value from housing; cruise and excursion economies externalize noise, waste, and emissions; and destination marketing often privileges episodic, high-intensity consumption over everyday urban rhythms. These effects are never uniform: they are mediated by local histories, classed and racialized boundaries, gendered labour regimes, and environmental vulnerabilities.



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

At the same time, overtourism triggers experimentation and resistance. Municipal authorities, regional bodies, and grassroots collectives are testing new forms of regulation, citizen sensing, and commons-based governance. These initiatives reveal both the challenges and the possibilities of managing tourism mobilities in more equitable and sustainable ways.

This session explores how tourism mobilities, governance practices, and urban inequalities intersect in the age of overtourism. It invites comparative, multi-scalar, and interdisciplinary perspectives to understand how governance innovations, data infrastructures, and collective action can foster urban justice and resilience. We welcome theoretically informed and empirically grounded contributions that connect micro-level everyday frictions (noise, crowding, displacement) with macro-level processes (financialization, digital platforms, climate change, and post-pandemic reconfigurations of tourism).

We invite papers that address the following questions/topics:

1. How do tourism mobilities reproduce, intensify, or challenge existing urban inequalities and environmental injustices?
2. Which governance tools, policy mixes, and data infrastructures can manage overtourism and redistribute its costs and benefits more fairly?
3. How do residents, workers, and grassroots movements contest and reframe the pressures of overtourism and the right to the city?
4. In what ways do tourism economies reshape housing markets, labour relations, and urban commons in different geographic contexts?
5. How can concepts such as mobility justice, resilience, and environmental governance inform more sustainable and inclusive urban futures?

Keywords:

Overtourism; Tourism mobilities; Urban inequalities; Governance; Resilience; Housing and platform economies; Urban commons; Environmental justice; Mobility justice

The Village-City at its Limit: Overtourism, Dispersal, and Inequality in Goa

» Mr. Shashwat Singh (Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani, KK Birla Goa Campus)

Managing Tourism, Manufacturing Gentrification: STR Regulation in Istanbul

» Dr. Dicle KIZILDERE (Gebze Technical University), Ms. Basak OZEN (Gebze Technical University)

Valparaíso and the Post-Unesco Urban Cycle 2003-2022: Touristification, Heritage, and the Configuration of an Elitized Urban Space

» Dr. César Caceres Seguel (Universidad Viña del Mar)

Selective Mobilities and Peri-urban Inequalities: Governing Gastro-driven Gentrification beyond Metropolitan Cores

» Mr. Sadullah Aksoy (Izmir Institute of Technology), Mr. Mehmet Penpecioglu (Izmir Institute of Technology)

11:00

Oral : #30-2/2

#30 On brokers and clienteles: new perspectives on urban politics, democracy and inequalities (2/2)

Venue - SR 07

Organised by: Telma Hoyler (Convenor) and Côme Salvaire (Convenor)
Urban political life has long been shaped by overlapping mechanisms of representation and resource distribution. Among them, clientelism and brokerage have historically structured access to goods, services, and opportunities. Yet these practices neither fully explain nor exhaust the complexity of urban politics. Their persistence, transformation, and interaction with other forms of political organization invite us to examine how intermediaries coexist with, adapt to, or are displaced by institutional innovation, bureaucratic reform, and collective action. This raises crucial questions about the role of political intermediaries in representation, democratic life, and the stabilization of urban political systems.

Classic studies of clientelism emerged in contexts marked by rapid urbanization, industrialization, and rural migration-periods when states centralized control over employment, housing, social benefits, and basic services. These settings shaped how scholars conceptualized clientelism: as a mechanism through which access to resources and integration into urban life were mediated, often reinforcing inequalities. While twenty-first-century brokerage shares many of these features, its roles have expanded and shifted. In some contexts, intermediaries now manage informal economies, regulate violence, for instance. At the same time, continuities with earlier forms may remain striking. Contrary to "evolutionist" perspectives that viewed clientelism as a transitory stage



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

of political development, it has persisted-despite democratization, the expansion of mass media, and new religious and civic critiques of intermediation.

We invite contributions that critically examine the categories and dynamics of clientelism, brokerage and participation in urban contexts, with attention to both continuity and change. We particularly encourage papers that address two broad themes:

1. Structuring, Destructuring, and Institutionalization of Clientelism
Clientelism is more than an exchange of resources for votes. It can stabilise political orders, entrench inequalities, and embed networks of loyalty. At the same time, it can undermine institutions, generate conflicts, or destabilize urban societies when it transforms. We welcome papers that explore:

- How clientelism becomes institutionalized across different contexts;
- How it adapts to economic, social, and technological transformations;
- How these processes reshape inequalities and urban political orders.

2. Brokerage, Participation, Representation, and Democratic Life
Political intermediaries-brokers, fixers, social movement coordinators and local leaders-mediate between citizens and institutions. They facilitate resource access, channel demands, and influence both collective action and governance reforms. Yet they also raise crucial questions about representation and inclusion. This panel aim to interrogate their paradoxical role: as mechanisms that reproduce inequality while also creating pathways for representation, redistribution, and democratic practice in the city. We invite papers that investigate:

- How brokers reproduce or mitigate inequalities in housing, welfare, services, and infrastructure;
- How brokerage evolves amid welfare retrenchment, precarity, and shifting state-society relations;
- Comparative perspectives on brokerage in the Global South and North, highlighting convergences and divergences;
- Brokerage as a contested field where actors and institutions negotiate legitimate forms of mediation and representation.

Organizational Capacity and Brokerage Competition: Street Market Associations and the Governance of Public Space in Mexico City

» [Dr. Irene Farah](#) (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

From Clientelism to Bureaucratic Brokerage: Mediated Access to Social Housing

» [Ms. Tünde Virág](#) (Centre for Economic and Regional Studies)

The "gestor" anomaly o piece clave of Mexico City government's urban governance apparatus

» [Dr. Vicente Ugalde](#) (El Colegio de México)

Brokers without Borders: Translocal clientelism and the institutionalisation of diaspora intermediation in French urban governance

» [Dr. Camille Traoré](#) (Sciences Po Bordeaux)

11:00

Oral : #75-2/2

#75 Southern Indigenous Urban Praxis: Rethinking planning, urban theory, and the politics of inequality (2/2)

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: Mr. Andres Ramirez (Convenor) and Dr. Philipp Horn (Convenor)

Scholarship on urban indigeneity highlights the entanglement of colonization and urbanization. Foundational work by Evelyn Peters (2002) and others documents the marginalization of Indigenous people in cities, particularly around housing, welfare, and urban reserves. This literature demonstrates that cities function as contradictory spaces: sites of Indigenous dispossession, yet also of presence, resistance, and cultural survival. Key debates have centered around land, whiteness, and property, with scholars like Glen Coulthard (2014) conceptualizing "urbs nullius" to link settler-colonial ideologies with urban gentrification. Research also explores Indigenous planning practices (Jojola, 2008; Porter et al 2017), emphasizing community agency, negotiation with state authorities, and alternative frameworks outside Western paradigms. More recently, the notion of "Indigenous urbanisms" has framed cities as relational, plural, and contested spaces shaped by Indigenous inhabitation (Blatman and Mays, 2023). This approach challenges the dominance of Western knowledge in urban studies and positions planning itself as a colonial practice. Yet, Southern perspectives remain overlooked and understudied within these debates, which predominantly emerge from settler colonial settings like Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States.

Addressing this gap, the panel invites contributions that examine how Indigenous urban communities unsettle established planning norms and expose enduring inequalities in Southern urban settings. Submissions



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

may focus on diverse urban contexts-from Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, to South Asia-to explore how Indigenous epistemologies and collectivities challenge the dominance of linear, property-based, and regulatory models of space and time. We particularly encourage contributions to focus on one or multiple of the following themes:

1. Urban epistemic differences, where Southern urban Indigenous perspectives privilege fluid, relational, and multi-scalar spatialities.
2. Alternative Southern urban Indigenous territorial configurations, where practices of re-territorialization, multi-territoriality, and autonomous governance sustain insurgent logics despite long histories of dispossession.
3. The ethical and conceptual limits of "Indigenous planning" and "Indigenous urbanism" emerging from settler colonial contexts in the global North and their relevance for Southern urban settings.
4. The degree to which Southern Indigenous urban practices constitute planning, something adjacent to planning, or an altogether different ordering of urban life.

In bringing together grounded case studies with collaborative, dialogical modes of analysis, this panel foregrounds Southern Indigenous urban territorialities as both enduring and emergent. It asks how they make visible the layered inequalities inscribed in urban space, while gesturing toward futures that reimagine mobility, commons, and collective belonging. In doing so, the panel positions Southern Indigenous urban life not as marginal or residual, but as generative sites for rethinking planning, urban theory, and the politics of inequality.

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Beyond the 'colonial rupture': urban continuities in Interior West African Cities

» [Dr. Elvira Pietrobon](#) (IUAV)

Rethinking Planning: Fisher Commoning in Mumbai's Eastern Fringes

» [Dr. Lalitha Kamath](#) (Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

Claiming spaces: Subaltern collective action and faith tradition as indigenous urban praxis

» [Prof. Ashima Sood](#) (Anant National University)

"Dispossession Through Development: Memory, Justice, and Participatory Governance in Infrastructure-Led Regeneration—The Case of Alexandria's Tram Line Modernization"

» Mr. Ahmed Aly (Teaching Assistant & PhD Student Architecture Department, Faculty of Fine Arts Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt), Mr. Yossri Aly (Teaching Assistant & PhD Student Architecture Department, Faculty of Fine Arts Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt), [Ms. Hagar Nemr](#) (Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Fine Arts Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt)

11:00

Workshop : Round table 2

Urbanists in Times of Genocide: Struggles, Violences, and Liberatory Possibilities

Venue - HS 01

Organised by: Dr. Hiba Bou Akar (Panel Chair), Prof. Mona Fawaz (Panel Chair), Dr. Daniel E. Agbiboa (Discussant), and Dr. Sobia Kaker (Discussant)

"The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house," Audrey Lorde warned us. For urbanists, and more generally academics and members of institutions of higher learning, this provocation carries renewed urgency. The methods, categories, and interventions that define our disciplines, particularly urban planning and design, have been and remain deeply implicated in the conception, implementation, and consolidation of settler colonialism in Palestine, both past and present. Whether through practices of spatial planning, forms of biopolitical governance, or modes of attributing value, academic research has been complicit in justifying and supporting erasure (Yiftachel 2000). This panel invites contributions that interrogate the liberatory possibilities and limits of our disciplinary tools at a time when genocide and erasure are unfolding across Gaza, the West Bank, and beyond.



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Building on long-standing critiques of the academy's complicity in imperial and colonial projects, we ask: How might urbanists reckon with its own intellectual architectures, its theories of space, development, and governance that reproduce domination and dispossession? Is it possible to find liberatory tools within practices that have already solidified oppression, displacement, and control? If so, how can we rethink these tools, and how can we shift the discourse around them to open space for justice, resistance, and collective repair? What responsibilities do we bare as scholars situated within institutions and epistemologies entangled with empire? Beyond complicity, what solidarities and aspirations can we offer?

The round table will bring critical, reflexive, and politically committed interventions that engage with the urban as a site of both colonial violence and potential liberation.

Urbanists in Times of Genocide: Struggles, Violences, and Liberatory Possibilities

» [Dr. Hiba Bou Akar](#) (Columbia University), [Prof. Mona Fawaz](#) (American University of Beirut), [Dr. Daniel E. Agbiboa](#) (Harvard University), [Dr. Sobia Kaker](#) (University of Essex)

11:00

Oral : #5-2/2

#5 Organized Crime and the Production of Unequal City (2/2)

Venue - HS 02

Organised by: Prof. Thiago Canettieri (Convenor), Dr. Priscila Coli (Convenor), and TAIS CLARK (Convenor)

Urban studies literature has historically paid limited attention to the role of criminal organizations (COs) in shaping urban life. Yet in many cities worldwide, these groups produce housing, provide basic infrastructure, regulate markets, and impose their own forms of order. Their role is not only parasitic but also productive, generating particular modes of urbanization, driving environmental degradation, fostering unequal forms of urban citizenship, and reshaping social organization around collective goods and rights, as recent studies from different disciplines have shown. Examples include Brazil's territory-making milícias (Coli, 2025), sectarian armed groups in Baghdad (Windhauser, 2022), Lebanon's religious militias (Bou Akar, 2018), Medellín's narco-urbanism (Moncada, 2016), and Mumbai's development mafias (Weinstein, 2008).

This panel invites contributions from a wide range of disciplines to examine the multifaceted role of criminal groups as "urbanization actors" who directly shape urban form and everyday life. We seek to expand debates on the engagement of criminal organizations in urbanization by exploring how their practices foster new inequalities or deepen existing ones in cities of the Global South and North. By focusing on peripheral and marginalized areas, the panel aims to bring criminal governance into the lens of urban studies, demonstrating that any account of contemporary urbanization must grapple with the interplay between state, civic, market, and criminal actors.

Key questions we aim to explore include:

Criminal Governance: How do criminal organizations regulate land use, provide (or extort) services, and enforce systems of justice in ways that reinforce or produce inequality?

Everyday Life among Criminal Normativity: How does everyday life in territories dominated by criminal actors reflect and reproduce unequal forms of citizenship and belonging?

Illicit Economies & Urban Development: In what ways do illicit economies drive uneven urban development and shape access to housing, infrastructure, and commercial spaces?

Control and Dispossession: How is control (i.e. territorial control) mobilized to produce spatial exclusion, dispossession, and new urban hierarchies?

Citizenship and Belonging: How do residents navigate overlapping normative regimes to claim rights, build communities, and contest inequality?

Environmental Justice and Degradation: How do criminal organizations shape patterns of environmental harm and access to resources-such as land, water, waste, or green spaces-and what are the implications for environmental justice and inequality in cities?

We welcome papers that engage with one or more of the themes outlined above. While theoretical contributions are valued, our primary emphasis is on empirically grounded research that clearly demonstrates the connections between criminal activity and urban inequality. By bringing together studies from diverse disciplines-including but not limited to sociology, urban studies and planning, anthropology, geography, and political science-and from a range of urban contexts, this panel seeks to foster a comparative discussion that is both necessary



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

and methodologically challenging. Through this multidisciplinary and empirically oriented approach, we aim to question conventional analytical frameworks and contribute to a more nuanced understanding of how urban inequalities are produced, contested, and experienced in cities.

Mediating Violence, Producing Legitimacy: Organized Crime and Housing Struggles in Brazil

» Dr. Thalles Breda (Centre d'Étude des Mouvements Sociaux (CEMS/EHESS))

Armed Groups and Real Estate Production in Rio de Janeiro: Readings from Disque-Denúncia Data

» Dr. Larissa Lacerda (Institute of Social Sciences – Rio de Janeiro State University (ICS-UERJ)), Dr. Ivan Kawahara (Federal University of ABC (UFABC)), Mr. Bruno Frazão (Institute of Research and Urban and Regional Planning, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (IPPUR/UFRJ)), Mr. Utanãan Reis (Institute of Research and Urban and Regional Planning, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (IPPUR/UFRJ))

Co-production of security and illegality: the concept of the space entrepreneur

» Mrs. Thalia Creac'h (Sciences Po Paris)

Organised predatory landlordism as an instance of criminal governance and the double failure of the Czech state

» Dr. Václav Walach (University of Ostrava), Dr. Petr Kupka (University of Ostrava)

11:00

Workshop : Round table 3

Vulnerabilities, Urbanity, Differences. Old Issues, new Challenges?

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Dr. Fiorenza Gamba (Panel Chair), Dr. Sandro Cattacin (Discussant), Vincent Kaufmann (Discussant), Mark Vacher (Discussant), Letteria Grazia Fassari (Discussant), and Prof. Adrian Favell (Discussant)

Cities are characterised by pluralism. This fact is becoming increasingly relevant in the practice of urban governance and planning. The handling of differences and vulnerabilities is usually based on an understanding that favours or privileges only one individual feature (such as income)

and addresses only specific groups. This produces a restrictive understanding of differences and vulnerabilities, that imposes exclusive features on individuals or groups, thereby simplify complex identities and reduces inequalities to a limited extent. Individualisation, anarchic community building, mobility and globalisation - and all the current multiplies crisis - are all changing cities and challenging the traditional modus of governing collective spaces (Sassen 2002).

The contemporary trend is toward differentiation and increasing complexity (von Beyme 1992) - toward singular complex (intersectional) identities rather than larger, homogeneous group identities (Cho et al. 2013) - and a focus on the heterogeneity of people living in the same territories, in particular urban ones (Pattaroni 2006; Vertovec 2007; Tasan-Kok et al. 2013).

This heterogeneity and complexity challenge the conceptual categories and analyses that have long been employed in the social sciences, encouraging us to venture into uncertain and "imperfect" territory (Le Galès and Robinson 2024).

There are various loci from which to examine how such complexity can be managed. One such locus is the organisation of urban spaces and urban mobility. There are also different ways to study how cities deal with contemporary challenges. One of these is to take into consideration how differences embodied in contemporary societies are shaped by and framed in contemporary urban contexts. The increasing differentiation in modern societies is most pronounced in cities, especially in urban areas with a highly mobile population (Viry and Kaufmann 2015). Cities attract people from all over the world with diverse origins, religious practices, socioeconomic statuses and everyday practices (Cattacin 2009), and modern cities and their governance are forced to respond to this heterogeneity and demographic change. Although policies regarding, for instance, social security or health needs are usually made at the national level, cities offer an interesting context for the investigation of territorialised practices, because they are confronted with highly diverse lifestyles and specific vulnerabilities, which can turn rapidly on inequalities, and are therefore especially affected by the question of the inclusion of differences. It is also in urban areas that we see a concentrated mobilisation of special resources and innovative, specialised infrastructure implemented at the local level and supported through the participation of all sorts of stakeholders to better respond to the needs of a highly differentiated population (Cattacin 2011). This also has the effect of tackling inequality.

In this roundtable we will discuss with our guests, and then open to audience, on the concepts and practices adopted by cities to deal with



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

these differences and to develop new approaches to planning and thinking the city that promote the inclusion of specific vulnerabilities and, in general, differences.

Vulnerabilities, Urbanity, Differences. Old Issues, new Challenges?

» [Dr. Fiorenza Gamba](#) (University of Geneva), [Dr. Sandro Cattacin](#) (University of Geneva)

11:00

Workshop : Round table 7

Other Voices: Foregrounding Collective Action in Stories of Urban Change

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: Dr. Helen Pineo (Panel Chair), Maria Jose Alvarez Rivadulla (Discussant), Prof. Eduardo Marques (Discussant), Dr. Myfanwy Taylor (Discussant), Geraint Ellis (Discussant), and Prof. Elis Borde (Discussant)

This session will open a conversation about comparing similar processes in cities from different contexts. In particular, the session is interested in how collective action is facilitating or contributing to equitable urban change and at the same time, how this process often becomes invisibilized when cities tell their stories of social change. We present three case studies from a comparative research project to receive feedback from experts and an informed audience on comparison and social movements research and to invite a broader discussion on this topic.

In Belfast, the research team examined community advocacy and activism for housing rights in city emerging from ethno-nationalist conflict and in the midst of contested immigration. In Belo Horizonte, the team studied the city's food security policies, and the way that community and social movement-led practices based on solidarity and resistance have shaped urban policy over time. Finally, Bogotá illuminates the role of women's social movements in advocating for marginalized groups. They do this through official governance processes, which are at the root of the achievements in care infrastructure and other policies.

Our case studies trace the history of these interventions for urban change over time. We describe their present form in detail to unearth their complexities, moving beyond simplified 'best practices'. We bring invisibilized stories - other voices - to the forefront, documenting

collective actors' efforts in meeting the everyday needs of excluded populations. In addition to a researcher from each city, this roundtable invites two experts on political change and community-engaged research to open conversations about these issues with other participants.

Other Voices: Foregrounding Collective Action in Stories of Urban Change

» [Dr. Helen Pineo](#) (University of Washington)

11:00

Oral : #34

#34 'Urban Being' in Suspended Animation: Emerging Theoretical Frameworks and Methodological Approaches in the Global South

Venue - HS 07

Organised by: Rishi Jha (Convenor), Ms. Richa Bhardwaj (Convenor), Richard Ek (Convenor), and Anup Tripathi (Convenor)

The rapid and often unplanned urbanization of the Global South has given rise to distinct forms of urban precarity that challenge established Northern theoretical models. Precarity here extends beyond labour insecurity to encompass a pervasive condition of vulnerability affecting housing, tenure, infrastructure, citizenship, and materiality of urban life. In an ontological sense, it relegates 'Urban Being' to a constant state of flux. This state of flux or suspended animation denotes bureaucratic delays, dispossession, precarity, uncertainty, waiting, violence, systemic abandonment and much more. Thus, speaking from elsewhere(s) than normative Euro-American understanding, this session seeks to critically interrogate and advance the theoretical and methodological tools necessary to analyze the specific manifestations of urban precarity in the cities of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

This session will explore theoretical frameworks that center Southern urban experiences, but also extend and speak vis-a-vis their northern counterparts. We build on meso-concepts like "precarity" (Butler, 2004) and "precarious life" that provide a quasi-philosophical starting point, but often lack political-geographical specificity or generality. Precarity has become new site of negotiation(s) (Bertlesen, 2021). State, politics, market forces and emerging urbanism(s) create pluralities of animations that require theorizing. At the same time, population groups tend to engage with adversities and make urban life possible amidst suspension. Thus, building upon concepts like "quiet" to "loud" encroachment" of people (Bayat, 2004; Gillespie, 2016), we seek to capture and theorise mundane as well as collective, incremental and exceptional urban interfaces negotiating for space which affects their material and socio-political living. We encourage contributions that



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

extend analysis of informality as norm(s), rather than mere exceptions within planetary urbanism (Roy, 2005; Murray, 2017). In what ways, thus, people emerge as infrastructure of being and turn academic gaze towards socio-political collaborations underpinning survival in the absence of formal and functional urban systems (Simone, 2004).

Methodologically, studying such fluid, informal, time- and often politically sensitive contexts demands innovative and sustained approaches that promise to capture the nuanced realities of precarious urbanites. Particularly interesting would be ways researchers can ethically and effectively document emergent lives within uncertainty. We would explore mixed and evolving ways of ethnographic, participatory, action research, using digital and visual methods. A key focus will be on theoretical-methodological reflexivity: how to navigate issues of power, representation, and positionality when researching marginalized communities, and how to develop research practices that are not only about the marginalised population but are accountable to them. By bringing together scholars working across different Southern urban contexts, this session aims to foster a dialogue that provincializes Northern Urbanism and contributes to the development of a more robust, grounded, and ethically-attuned urban theory and practice for the 21st century.

Key Words: Urban Being, Exception(s), Precarity, Institutional Practice(s), Global South

Suspended 'urbanisms:' Housing precarity in semi-rural, small-town Canada

» Ms. Allison Evans (University of California, Berkeley)

Suspension as Women's Time: Homebuying, Homemaking, and Hopes in a Model Chinese City

» Dr. Xuyi Zhao (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

A situated understanding of informality: biographical accounts of agency and everyday hazards in Chilean Campamentos.

» Dr. Katherine Campos-Knothe (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile & CIGIDEN R+)

11:00

Oral : #42-1/2

#42 Informality Beyond the Margins: Everyday Practices of Elites, State Power, and Contestation in Contemporary Cities. (1/2)

Venue - HS 21

Organised by: Vivek Mishra (Convenor), Gavin Shatkin (Convenor), and Chen Zhang (Convenor)

Cities often strive to "formalize" themselves in order to be recognized within the system of "world cities." Yet the more cities appear "formal" in the eyes of global networks of power and ideas, the more they seem to produce multiple, subtle, and overlapping modes of informality within themselves. Informality has become a way of life in many cities (Alsayyad, 2004). Urban studies have long associated "informality" with poverty, marginality, and survival strategies of the poor and documented how subalterns engage in informal economic activities (e.g., street vending and waste picking), build informal housing and neighborhoods (e.g., urban villages and favelas), and create informal social and political networks.

However, informality is not just a realm of urban subalterns. Across cities worldwide, elites, including middle-class residents, developers, and multiple levels of state actors, also engage in varied forms of informal practices that violate planning regulations. This includes luxury apartments and farmhouses that violate land-use codes and zoning regulations, high-rise gated colonies built on wetlands or forest land, and unauthorized commercial development by major real estate developers. Here, we align with Azunre's (2024) argument that studies of informality have largely neglected the role of elites in the production of informal spaces, creating a critical blind spot with significant implications for urban inequality, governance, sustainability, and social justice.

An emerging body of research has begun to examine the role of elites in the production of informality across contexts, including Hong Kong (Lai, 2015; Ho, 2024), Bogotá, Colombia (Martínez and Chiodelli, 2021), and Pakistan (Moatasim, 2019). However, there is still a need for a comparative, historically grounded, and theoretical understanding of everyday socio-spatial, cultural, and political-economic dimensions of how elite informality is produced and maintained in different contexts, and how these multiple forms of elite informality (re)shape urban power dynamics and (re)produce inequality. Therefore, this panel invites papers that explore how administrative, social, economic, and political elites use informal practices to navigate and/or circumvent state regulations. By zooming in on the role of elites in informal urban processes, this panel seeks to reorient debates on informality beyond questions of poverty and marginalization toward an understanding of informality as a constitutive feature of urban governance that cuts across class,



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

geographic, and cultural identities. Such a conceptual reframe can reveal the interplay among informality, class, and power in shaping contemporary urban transformation and development.

In particular, we invite papers from different geographies that address the following questions/themes:

1. Elite informality and urban (in)equality: examines how elite-produced informal practices manifest and/or mitigate inequality - through their everyday self-governance, cultural, and discursive practices, and how they contest state power.
2. Informality and administrative and bureaucratic elites: traces how state agents are not only active consumers of informality, but also deploy governance repertoires such as exceptions, tolerance, selective enforcement, and categorization to negotiate and produce informality.
3. Informality and "formal" urban projects: How contemporary utopian urban projects and discourses around smart-city initiatives, bottom-up planning, climate adaptation or resilience, and anti-immigration urban design produce new forms of informality?

Governance through Informality: Elite Practices in War-Torn Syria

» Mrs. Antonia Maria Bahna (American University of Beirut)

Exceptional Circumstances: The state and urban governance transitions in India

» Dr. Neha Sami (Indian Institute for Human Settlements)

State Informality and the technologies of urban governance

» Dr. Kah-Wee Lee (National University of Singapore)

Franchising Elite Informality: Eagle Hills and the Mobility of the 'Dubai Model' in the Global East

» Dr. David Gogishvili (University of Lausanne)

11:00

Workshop : Round table 13 / #36-2/2

#36 Reparative Urban Futures: new urban imperatives (2/2)

Venue - HS 27

Organised by: Catalina Ortiz (Convenor) and Dr. Natalia Villamizar Duarte (Convenor)

City-making is a by-product of racial capitalism and a global colonial history of protracted violence. As a result, the multiple harms, territorial wounds and collective trauma have produced and continued to be reproduced urban inequalities that demand new frameworks for conceptualising reparation and territorial healing (Ortiz and Gómez Córdoba, 2023) in cities. This roundtable seeks to frame the political project of reparative justice in urban spaces by opening the debate about practices to heal wounds from epistemic, racial, slow and colonial violence emerging in cities.

The roundtable looks for contributions addressing the profound challenges of climate catastrophe, colonial violence, armed conflict, and authoritarianism that continue to shape urban landscapes. Our aim is to collectively explore how a reparative planning praxis-one that acknowledges territories as living entities-can contribute to healing our damaged relationships with each other and with the Earth. By reframing urban studies as a territorial and ethical praxis, this roundtable positions urban scholarship as central to repairing the planetary civilizational crisis we inhabit.

We would like to expand this debate by engaging in questions such as:

How do processes and practices of reparative justice activate the spatial imagination of communities affected by violence-related trauma?
How can territorial healing and reparative planning perspectives transform cross-disciplinary urban research and practice?
How can we connect place-based memories of violence, healing and reparation with urban policy, planning and design?
What do creative and collaborative methods offer critical urban and civic pedagogies to foster territorial reparation and healing?

References:

Ortiz, C. & Gómez Córdoba, O. (2023) 'Territorial healing: A spatial spiral weaving transformative reparation', *Planning Theory*, 23(2). doi: 10.1177/1473095223118112.



Continued from Wednesday, 22 July

Popular Festivities: How Can They Contribute to Processes of Territorial Healing? An Analysis of Carnival Blocs in Pequena África (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

» Mr. Rafael Alves Corradi (Universidade Federal Fluminense), Ms. Luíza Braga (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro), Mr. Calin Jean Pierre (Universidade Federal Fluminense), Prof. Fernanda Sánchez (Universidade Federal Fluminense)

Towards epistemologies of planetary and territorial reparative justice: spatial and environmental ontologies in the Swedish marginalized territories

» Dr. Burcu Yigit Turan (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Dept. of Urban and Rural Development, Spatial Planning)

What can the city promise after an urbicide? Hope, security, and reparative futures in Ukraine

» Dr. Valeria Lazarenko (Universität Hamburg)

What did you dream? Creative and collaborative practices for territorial reparation, healing, and alternative urban futures in partnership with Mapuche artists and co-researchers

» Dr. Olivia Casagrande (The University of Sheffield)

Territorial Healing after Fire: Affect, Memory, and Care in Climate-Affected Urban Peripheries

» Dr. Elizabeth Zenteno-Torres (Universidad de Playa Ancha), Ms. Nicol Cisternas (Universidad de Playa Ancha), Mr. Ignacio Hormazábal (Universidad de Playa Ancha)

11:00

Oral : #47-1/2

#47 Collective Urban Praxis: Relational and Transformative Approaches to Challenging Urban Inequalities (1/2)

Venue - HS 32

Organised by: Hugo Lopez (Convenor), Cristian Olmos Herrera (Convenor), Juliana Goncalves (Convenor), and Caroline Newton (Convenor)

This panel invites contributions that interrogate and experiment with the methodological and pedagogical dimensions of academic engagement for collective urban action. It brings together scholars and practitioners who use research and education as sites for cultivating solidarity, recognition, and transformative spatial practices. In light of the conference's theme, "Inequalities and the City. Old Issues, New Challenges", the session foregrounds the ways in which persistent and emerging urban inequalities are not only analysed but actively challenged, disrupted and politicised, through participatory, embodied, and co-creative modes of inquiry.

Urban inequalities manifest differently across Global North, South, and East contexts, yet share common roots in colonial legacies, neoliberal policies, and exclusionary planning practices. This panel explicitly seeks to centre voices and methodologies from the Global South and East, recognising how innovative approaches to urban research and pedagogy often emerge from contexts of resource constraints and social movements fighting for spatial justice.

In many contexts, participatory approaches have been institutionalised, often losing their transformative edge and becoming procedural rather than political. This panel seeks to recover the radical potential of engagement by exploring situated pedagogies and collaborative methodologies that operate beyond extractive research or consultation logics. We invite reflections on how design studios, artistic and critical research, and spatial practices can become forms of collective rehearsal, prefigurative action and concrete utopias, sites where recognition, resistance, and relational learning are enacted.

Central questions include:

- How can collaborative methodologies challenge rather than merely document urban inequalities?
- What forms of co-making and co-becoming can unsettle traditional hierarchies between expert/participant, teacher/learner, researcher/community and simultaneously challenge the colonial dimension of knowledge production?
- How can relational and sensory methodological innovations from the



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Global South (such as decolonial mapping, community storytelling, performative documentation, or film) inform and transform urban research practices globally, contributing to more ethical, inclusive, and transformative urban knowledge?

- What does it mean to "learn solidarity and justice" through spatial research and practice in contexts shaped by different stories of injustice and inequality?

The panel particularly encourages papers that present methodological innovations (including visual, narrative, sonic, or embodied approaches) that challenge dominant Western academic frameworks and that reflect critically on the ethics, politics, and pedagogy of engagement. Contributions may include case studies of collaborative projects, decolonial and feminist practices, speculative methodologies, or theoretical explorations of recognition, care, and relationality in spatial research.

By bringing together perspectives from different contexts and traditions, the session aims to contribute to an emerging transdisciplinary discourse on engaged urban approaches.

Designing Belonging Through Refusal: Slow countermapping as collective urban praxis in Amman

» [Dr. Jakleen Al-Dalal'a](#) (University College London (UCL))

The Dictionary of Favelas Marielle Franco: an experience of turning high technology into a powerful favela's dispositive

» Dr. Sonia Fleury (FIOCRUZ), [Dr. Palloma Menezes](#) (Uerj)

Dancing the Impossible City: be-longings & Imaginaries in Bristol

» [Dr. Elahe Karimnia](#) (Center of Sustainable Planning and Environments-University of the West of England)

Title: Thinking and Practicing Transformative Justice as Urban Praxis: Collaborative Research within LGBTQ+ and Feminist Communities in Turin

» [Ms. Anna Liliana Arlotta](#) (University Milano-Bicocca)

Agentic space in knowledge production: collective praxis to transform urban inequalities.

» [Ms. Daniela Cocco Beltrame](#) (University of Manchester), Dr. Smith Ouma (University of Manchester), Prof. Diana Mitlin (University of Manchester), Ms. Teurai Nyamangara (Dialogue on Shelter Zimbabwe)

11:00

Workshop : Round table 8

ABC of water-soil governance: transformative Agencies and social-ecological Boundaries in/of (Southeast Asian) Cities

Venue - HS 34

Organised by: Dr. Prathiwi Widyatmi Putri (Panel Chair), Dr. Jan Hui Min Lim (Discussant), Petra Tschakert (Discussant), Elisa Tullia Bertuzzo (Discussant), and Dr. Marc Pradel-Miquel (Discussant)

In the face of extensive and expansive capitalist metabolic processes continually extracting water and soil capacities, and depleting them, society-nature relations are in need of urgent transformation. The round table addresses social-ecological transformations through the analytical lenses of agency, boundaries and the city (ABC). Critical urban theories have helped unpack how capital's institutions and structures, mediated by state power, shape the production of socio-nature on a planetary scale (following e.g. Maria Kaika and Alex Loftus), yet with unequal levels of disadvantage that mirror global, and explicitly colonial, imbalances (see Farhana Sultana, 2022). With the return of both Marxist ontological monist and analytical dualist approaches to nature-and-society (following Kohei Seito, but also Nancy Fraser and Jason Moore on their takes on social movement strategy), it is also necessary to bring back the morphogenetic approach to structure-and-agency (following Margareth Archer, Andrew Sayer and Bob Jessop). Theoretically informed in these ways, our main goal is to provide guidelines that are instructive for our research and collective actions, empirically referring to the environmental (self)governance of cities in the Southeast Asian archipelagos.

The session invites reflections on:

1. Transformative agencies

Public water utilities, water-user associations, housing developers, planners, landscape architects, garbage collectors, urban farmers and soil literacy movements seasonal and migratory species, etc., are just a few among the agencies involved in transforming urban environments, in specific spatial-temporal rhythms. How might we understand the transformative potential of agencies (individual or collective) that are enacted through alternative imaginaries and caring practices for water and soils in the city? In which roles and role-entanglements might such



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

agencies be able to engage in (prefigurative) collective actions? How do we better account for the unequal agential distribution of (climate) disadvantage in analyzing these processes?

2. Social-ecological Boundaries

Many existing institutional-material boundaries lock the alternative potentials such as small-scale, environment-friendly technological systems, not-for-profit food cooperatives, state-community partnerships for livelihoods, etc. What are the key organising principles (in the forms of institutions) that keep us reproducing extractive and destructive urban metabolism? Which are the specificities of the boundaries in Southeast Asia arising from the combination of colonial legacies and, for example, new global labour divisions impacted by the industrialization processes of countries such as Japan, Korea, or China? Which alternative boundaries could give rise to diverse forms of socioecological reciprocity and care, also taking into account the Southeast Asian climate and extreme natural calamities?

3. Transformative Cities

The spatial formations of social-ecological systems - rural-urban boundaries, formal and informal settlements, etc. - are constantly shaped by both agential and institutional dimensions. For cities to function as critical spatial nodes for socio-ecological transformations, in what scalar articulations (of society-and-ecology) can alternative political, governance and economic configurations better support a multiplicity of agencies that push and pull at prevailing institutional-material boundaries, to create new roles and relational practices and secure long-term productive and progressive collective actions?

ABC of water-soil governance: transformative Agencies and social-ecological Boundaries in/of (Southeast Asian) Cities

» Dr. Prathiwi Widyatmi Putri (Independent researcher, Kassel), Dr. Ian Hui Min Lim (KU Leuven)

11:00

Workshop : Authors meet Critics 1

Queerburbia: A Conversation about LGBTQ2S Suburban Place-making

Venue - Franz-König Saal (= HS 06)

Organised by: Prof. Roger Keil (Panel Chair), Prof. Alison Bain (Panel Chair), Dr. Julie Podmore (Panel Chair), Prof. Sylvie Tissot (Discussant), Mr. Tilen Kolar (Discussant), and Dr. Karine Duplan (Discussant)

Long the archetype of queer invisibility - places that in their built environments and social mores are imagined as synonymous with the reproduction of heterocisnormativity - twenty-first century suburbs have diversified and remain marked by significant intersectional inequalities. Yet, sexuality and gender non-normativity represent a significant absence in contemporary suburban studies research.

The recently published book *Queerburbia: LGBTQ2S suburban place-making* (2025) in the Routledge Studies in Urbanism and the City series therefore re-envision metropolitan peripheries as imaginative horizons of queer futurity through ten peripheral municipal case studies from Canada's largest city-regions.

It introduces the neologisms *queerburbia* and *queerburban*, counterpoints to metronormativity's assumptions about where LGBTQ2S identities are situated, and creating synergies for the potential links between the queer and suburban. Tracing a history of old and new LGBTQ2S inequalities, the book analyzes suburban municipal inclusion misrecognition, critical first- and second-order institutional allyship practices and community activist resistance, and the everyday living and dreaming that makes/unmakes/remakes suburbia as queer. Together, its varied forms of analysis (print media and census representations, civic policy documents, informational interviews with municipal and para-public actors and LGBTQ2S activists, and photo-elicitation interviews and collective counter-mapping focus groups) examine what factors unmake and remake suburban places as queer. With consideration to political contestation about access to power-laden opportunity structures and resource landscapes, it ultimately considers whose voices, memories, and stories are embedded in places and whose visions for their future predominate.

It engages with four key questions:

- 1) What role is there for municipal governance in queering Canadian suburbs?
- 2) What forms of institutional allyship inform queerburban place-unmaking?
- 3) How does suburban LGBTQ2S organizing transform micro-public



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

spaces and everyday interactions
4) How do LGBTQ2S suburbanites create liveable lives in place and dream queerer suburban futures.

The book's theorization of place-making extends the geographical comparison still further, offering urban scholars a conceptual framework for unpacking the spatial politics of other marginalized social groups who must also navigate the persistent inequalities of contemporary cities.

Queerburbia: A Conversation about LGBTQ2S Suburban Place-making

» Prof. Roger Keil (York University), Prof. Alison Bain (York University),
Dr. Julie Podmore (John Abbott College)

12:30

General Lunch

Venue - Courtyard

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 22

Transgressive City-Making and Governance. Housing Struggles, Occupations and Evictions in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: Dr. Saila-Maria Saaristo (Panel Chair)

This book interrogates women's struggles with housing precarity in Lisbon, situating these experiences within the broader dynamics of neoliberal governance, austerity, and housing financialisation. Across Europe, homelessness and evictions are escalating; Portugal exemplifies this trajectory. The absence of state-led housing provision and the commodification of housing have produced structural exclusions that disproportionately affect racialised, low-income women-particularly single mothers-who face systemic barriers to securing stable shelter.

Drawing on seventeen months of multisited activist ethnography (2017-2019) in collaboration with the Lisbon-based housing movement Habita, the book offers an ethnographic account of women's negotiations with housing insecurity. Unlike large-scale informal settlements common in

many cities in the Global South, informality in Lisbon materialises within state housing itself: families occupying vacant council flats without authorisation, municipalities deploying extra-legal practices in homelessness governance, and evictions carried out without viable alternatives.

A feminist reading reveals informality as both a mode of governance and a terrain of survival, shaped by gendered responsibilities and inequalities. Informal occupation emerges as a gendered survival strategy under conditions of structural abandonment. Drawing on Soederberg's (2021) concept of displaced survival, the book shows how low-income single mothers become trapped in cycles of displacement-evicted from council housing, priced out of private rentals, and denied re-entry into public housing programmes. These exclusions are profoundly gendered, racialised, and classed.

Central to the analysis is the question of agency: How do women act within structures that severely constrain their options? Scholarship on feminist and southern urbanisms challenges reductive notions of agency as resistance or autonomy, instead locating it within constraints, through everyday practices, and in struggles that may be quiet, ambiguous, or transgressive (Mahmood, 2006; Gago, 2017). The book analyses women's occupations in Lisbon by comparing them with concepts such as "peripheral urbanisation" (Caldeira, 2017), "improvised lives" (Simone, 2019), and what this book terms "transgressive home-making"-practices that exceed or violate regulatory regimes to sustain life. These feminised forms of city-making contest dominant notions of legitimate urban citizenship while addressing immediate needs for care, stability, and survival.

By shifting the lens from legality to care, reproduction, and embodied survival under austerity, the book foregrounds the political significance of women's housing struggles. It argues that informal occupations are not marginal acts but critical practices of urban citizenship and feminist agency in an era of deepening housing precarity.

The book will be presented by the author, followed by a commentary by Dr. Suraya Scheba (University of Cape Town) and a Q&A session.

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Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

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Transgressive City-Making and Governance. Housing Struggles, Occupations and Evictions in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area

» Dr. Salla-Maria Saaristo (DINÂMIA'CET, Iscte - University Institute of Lisbon)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 26

Becoming a Plebeian Leader Moral Careers, Life-Stories and Statecraft in Guayaquil, Ecuador (1960-2022)

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: Dr. José Antonio Villarreal Velázquez (Panel Chair)
 In *Becoming a Plebeian Leader*, José Antonio Villarreal Velázquez examines situations where ordinary women and men become plebeian leaders in urban-popular neighborhoods.

Combining oral history, archival research, and ethnography, the book examines plebeian leaders' moral careers through and within the meaningful and fluctuating connections among urban-popular neighborhoods in the city, and the nation-state from 1960 to the present time. Specifically, Villarreal Velázquez reconstructs, compares, and explains the historical, sociological, and political formation of two plebeian leaders' moral career paths in Guayaquil (Ecuador); the skills, feelings, and knowledge they acquired to perform their tasks and operate within societal hegemonic frameworks and large-scale structural transformations.

Becoming a Plebeian Leader Moral Careers, Life-Stories and Statecraft in Guayaquil, Ecuador (1960-2022)

» Dr. José Antonio Villarreal Velázquez (FLACSO)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 2

Policy Analysis in High Inequalities in Asia: Critical and Pragmatic Perspective

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Mx. Noe John Sacramento (Panel Chair), Prof. Piyapong Boossabong (Panel Chair), and Dr. Pobsook Chamchong (Panel Chair)
 This book explores how policy analysis can be conducted meaningfully in Asian contexts marked by persistent inequalities-economic, social, political, and epistemic. Conceived during the COVID-19 pandemic, it reflects on the difficulties of doing policy work when mobility, funding, and participation are restricted. The crisis magnified long-standing structural inequities in the region and prompted the authors to rethink how policy analysis can remain responsive, inclusive, and context-sensitive. While policy work is often seen either as a technical, evidence-based exercise or as an interpretive, participatory process, the book argues that both approaches face unique challenges in unequal settings where access, voice, and credibility are unevenly distributed.

At the heart of the book is the idea of critical policy inquiry-a progressive effort to move beyond positivism while valuing empirical evidence and interpretive insight. This approach emphasizes meaning-making, framing, and deliberation as essential components of sound policy analysis. The authors engage with dominant frameworks developed in Western contexts, recognizing their usefulness but also questioning their relevance and application in Asian societies. They ask: when Western paradigms are employed in developing contexts, are they applied in the same way, and what variations arise under distinct political and social constraints? The book thus situates Asia not merely as a site of application but as a source of theoretical and practical innovation in global policy analysis.

To respond to these questions, the authors propose a context-sensitive analytical framework built around three core ideas. First, they map spaces of deliberation that range from formal to informal, acknowledging that policy debates occur across multiple, overlapping arenas. Second, they explore narratives-the stories and meanings that circulate among policy actors and shape agendas and legitimacy. Third, they highlight inequalities in knowledge and socio-political status, which determine whose perspectives are recognized and whose evidence is dismissed. Together, these components offer a more grounded understanding of how policy analysis operates amid power imbalances and contested meanings.

Several chapters provide illustrative case studies on youth participation to show how inclusion and engagement can transform policy analysis



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

even under inequality. These examples include youth involvement in crisis response, activism, and experimental "policy lab" initiatives, as well as the authors' own experiences in policy think tanks. Rather than presenting replicable models, these cases reveal the situated, adaptive nature of policymaking in unequal contexts.

The book culminates in the concept of the Critical Pragmatist Policy Laboratory (CPr Policy Lab)-a framework and platform for fostering reflexivity, epistemic diversity, and balance between critique and action. Grounded in critical pragmatism, it demonstrates how contextual sensitivity and pluralism can sustain meaningful analysis despite limitations. Ultimately, the book contends that even in environments defined by inequality and constrained possibility, policy analysis can still widen the horizons of what is politically and socially imaginable. While rooted in Asia, its lessons resonate globally, offering insights for all societies confronting inequality.

Policy Analysis in High Inequalities in Asia: Critical and Pragmatic Perspective

» Mx. Noe John Sacramento (University of the Philippines Cebu & Chiang Mai University), Prof. Piyapong Boossabong (Chiang Mai University), Dr. Pobsook Chamchong (Chiang Mai University)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 3

Contribuições da Mediação de Conflitos nos Processos de Regularização Fundiária (Conflict Mediation and Land Regularization: Legal Pluralism, Informality, and Urban Inequality)

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: Dr. Cintia de Freitas Melo (Panel Chair)

This book offers a critical and empirically grounded examination of conflict mediation within urban land regularization processes, advancing an interdisciplinary dialogue between urban studies, critical legal theory, and socio-spatial analysis. Scheduled to be published in Portuguese in Brazil in 2026, the book is rooted in the Brazilian urban experience while deliberately engaging with international debates on informality, inequality, and urban governance in the Global South.

Challenging dominant legalistic and technocratic approaches, the book argues that land regularization cannot be understood as a neutral administrative procedure aimed solely at formalizing property rights.

Instead, it conceptualizes regularization as a deeply political intervention into territories historically shaped by exclusion, informality, and uneven access to urban land. Informal settlements are treated not as institutional failures, but as spaces produced through capitalist urbanization, speculative land markets, and selective state presence.

Drawing on theories of legal pluralism-particularly the work of Boaventura de Sousa Santos-the book demonstrates how multiple normative orders coexist within informal settlements. Community-based rules governing possession, inheritance, rental relations, and property transfers function as effective legal systems, even when they lack formal recognition. These normative arrangements are not external to state law, but partially overlapping with it, creating hybrid legal landscapes that become sites of tension when formal regularization is initiated.

The central theoretical contribution of the book lies in its critique of judicialized and property-centered responses to land conflicts. Court-based solutions often privilege abstract notions of ownership and legality, disregarding lived social relations and producing displacement, insecurity, and institutional violence. In contrast, the book advances conflict mediation as a democratic, participatory, and emancipatory practice capable of managing normative collisions without erasing local histories and social ties. Mediation is theorized not as a neutral or depoliticized technique, but as a situated practice that redistributes voice, recognizes asymmetries of power, and foregrounds residents as political subjects.

Empirically, the book draws on in-depth case studies of informal settlements in the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte, including long-established occupations located in high-value urban areas. These cases illustrate how conflicts over tenure, family arrangements, informal rental markets, and succession intensify during regularization processes. By examining mediation initiatives developed in collaboration with universities, social movements, public defenders, and community organizations, the book shows how conflict management can mitigate forced displacement, enhance security of tenure, and produce more socially legitimate outcomes.

By bridging urban theory, critical legal geography, and grounded empirical research, this book contributes to RC21 discussions on urban inequality, governance, and the production of space. It positions conflict mediation as a key analytical and practical lens for rethinking land regularization, urban citizenship, and the right to housing in deeply unequal cities. This book examines the role of conflict mediation in urban land regularization processes, offering a critical and practice-oriented contribution to debates on informality, property, and the right to the city.



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

in the Global South. To be published in Portuguese in Brazil in 2026, the book engages directly with Brazilian urban experience while speaking to broader international discussions on socio-spatial inequality and urban governance.

Grounded in the Brazilian context,

Contribuições da Mediação de Conflitos nos Processos de Regularização Fundiária (Conflict Mediation and Land Regularization: Legal Pluralism, Informality, and Urban Inequality)

» Dr. Cintia de Freitas Melo (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 7

Displaced: A City's Scar - Mapping a century of socio-spatial displacement in Lagos, Nigeria

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Dr. Nura Ali (Panel Chair), Mr. Oluwafemi Olajide (Panel Chair), and Mr. Deji Akinpelu

This pitch presents *Displaced: A City's Scar*, a 2025 documentary that maps a century of socio-spatial displacement in Lagos, Nigeria, and interrogates the political, economic, and colonial logics that continue to shape urban inequality in one of the world's fastest-growing megacities. Situated at the intersection of urban political economy, coloniality, and critical urban studies, the documentary aligns closely with RC21's 2026 theme of inequalities and the city: Old Issues, New Challenges. The documentary shows how "old" issues - colonial planning, segregation, and uneven power relations - have combined with "new" challenges such as redevelopment, financialised real estate markets, and megaproject urbanism to deepen contemporary urban inequality.

The documentary traces the genealogy of displacement from early colonial segregation policies to present-day forced eviction regimes, revealing how the language of urban renewal, environmental upgrading, and climate adaptation continues to mask elite-driven spatial reordering. Through archival research, key informant interviews and testimonies of displaced residents, it documents how the rhetoric of urban renewal, environmental upgrading, and megaproject development have continued to mask state modernists development aspiration and elite-driven socio-spatial reordering. A central case is the 1990 demolition of Maroko, where over 300,000 residents were forcibly removed to enable

high-end redevelopment. Rather than treating Maroko as an isolated event, the documentary positions it as emblematic of a persistent governance logic in which environmental risk, and global capital flows are mobilised to justify dispossession. In this way, *Displaced* shows how inequalities are not accidental outcomes of urban growth, but are actively produced through planning instruments, state violence, and market-led urban restructuring.

The documentary demonstrates how displacement has become normalised governance practice in Lagos, reshaping waterfronts, inner-city neighbourhoods, and informal settlements in ways that entrench socio-spatial inequality. The pitch foregrounds displacement not simply as an outcome of growth, but as a structuring urban process where state power, speculative capital, and planning instruments converge to dispossess marginalised communities. In doing so, *Displaced: A City's Scar* argues that Lagos' experience is not exceptional, but symptomatic of a global urban condition in which colonial inequalities intersect with contemporary socio-economic and environmental pressures, producing enduring forms of injustice in the city.

The pitch speaks directly to RC21 debates on how historical processes continue to shape present inequalities, while also engaging emerging challenges associated with climate change, waterfront redevelopment, and speculative urbanism in the Global South. For RC21, this work offers three contributions. First, it provides an empirically grounded, visual methodology for tracing long-term urban injustice. Second, it advances a decolonial analytical framework that links historical colonial planning to contemporary neoliberal urbanism. Third, it centres displaced communities as epistemic agents, foregrounding lived experiences as a form of urban knowledge.

For the "Pitch Your Work" session, we will screen selected excerpts from the 30minute documentary and discuss its methodological and theoretical contribution as a research output for theorising displacement and socio-spatial (in)justice in cities of the Global South. The section will close with an open discussion with session participants.

Displaced: A City's Scar - Mapping a century of socio-spatial displacement in Lagos, Nigeria

» Dr. Nura Ali (University of Liverpool), Mr. Oluwafemi Olajide (Lincoln University), Mr. Deji Akinpelu (Rethinking Cities)



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

13:15 **Workshop : Pitch your Work 16**

Tanaset Water

Venue - SR 07

Organised by: Mr. Bouchta Ezziani (Panel Chair)

In the Moroccan oasis of Figig, situated in the midst of the arid desert, the documentary "Tanaset water" delves into the historical customary system of water distribution, known as 'tanaset', through the narratives of the local inhabitants. It is evident that this endangered practice is not merely an irrigation technique, but rather the foundation of social and symbolic existence.

The oasis can be regarded as a verdant island, demonstrating resilience in the face of climate change and human exploitation. In its journey, the documentary explores an integrated social, cultural and environmental system built on a drop of water.

The film transcends the conventional pursuit of resources and instead explores a philosophy of survival. The oasis' water is revealed to function not only as a resource, but also as a social and moral regulator. Tanas is an oral tradition that is managed by customary committees. These committees are responsible for determining irrigation quotas, timing and duration using the traditional distributor, the Asraifi, and ancient measuring tools such as the tanisa and the kharouba. This ensures justice, solidarity and the preservation of social cohesion against the harshness of the environment.

The film also explores the sacred dimension of water, in which eyes are associated with popular rituals such as 'Taghanja', a rain-making ritual, and blessings such as women bathing in the "Ikoudes", the water distribution centre reserved for men, once in their lifetime when they are brides, reflecting the collective view of water as a divine gift that must be preserved.

Despite the apparent exclusion of women from the official Tanaset councils, the film reveals that women are the actual managers and guardians of water. They act as the unseen entity that facilitates the transformation of the harvest under Tanaset's protection into sustenance for domestic consumption on a daily basis. It is evident that water has a dual function; it serves as a means for personal hygiene in communal washrooms, while also playing a pivotal role in cultural activities. In the context of mounting challenges posed by drought and the repercussions of modernity on customary systems, women donning white haik have been observed participating in demonstrations

Tanaset Water

» Mr. Bouchta Ezziani (Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdi Allah University)

13:15 **Workshop : Pitch your Work 20**

Raise the Roof: Building Tenant Power in Syracuse

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: Prof. Gretchen Purser (Panel Chair)

Raise the Roof takes viewers inside the growing movement for housing justice through the lens of tenant organizing in Syracuse, New York-one of the poorest cities in the U.S. and home to a deep, ongoing housing crisis. With rents rising and buildings crumbling, tenants are coming together to demand better. This award-winning documentary gives a close-up view of what that organizing looks like: from tense meetings and strategy sessions to the day-to-day realities of living under negligent landlords. It offers a rare look at how tenant unions operate, how they build collective power, and what it means to stand up when the system fails. Raise the Roof is a compelling portrait of grassroots action and the people reshaping the fight for fair housing.

[I am happy to leave the presentation entirely by myself by screening excerpts from the film and holding a Q&A. But I am also open to inviting someone to serve as a discussant]

Raise the Roof: Building Tenant Power in Syracuse

» Prof. Gretchen Purser (Syracuse University)

13:15 **Workshop : Pitch your Work 1**

Northern Exposure: Political disaffection in the UK after Brexit and the film documentary From Where We Stand

Venue - HS 01

Organised by: Prof. Adrian Favell (Panel Chair)

Northern Exposure, based at the University of Leeds, is a large scale study of political disaffection and urban transformation in four northern towns in the North of England, that have been a locus for the electoral change in the UK since Brexit. It portrays in depth four dramatic post-industrial locations, representing former steel, coal, textiles and logistics industries: Middlesbrough, Wakefield, Halifax and Preston. As part of the fieldwork for the project, we involved a recognised documentary film maker, Lucy Kaye, to make an independent film of the research. Her one hour film, From Where We Stand, has been shown at film festivals and universities internationally. The project Northern Exposure effectively



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

operated as a production company for the film. At RC28, the PI of the project, Adrian Favell, will introduce the film and its role in the wider urban research of the project, together with a compelling twenty minute segment of the film on the North East former steel town of Middlesbrough. This part of the film focuses on asylum, poverty, urban degradation, community, mutual aid and hope, challenging some of the simplistic stylisations associated with the anger and frustration of the so-called "white working class" in "left behind places" in our understanding of Brexit and after.

Northern Exposure: Political disaffection in the UK after Brexit and the film documentary From Where We Stand

» [Prof. Adrian Favell](#) (University College Cork)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 32

Caste and Emancipatory Quest: Ethnography of Dalits in an Urban Neighborhood

Venue - HS 02

Organised by: Ms. Rama Devi (Panel Chair)

Caste and Emancipatory Quest explores the intertwined relationship between caste and the city, tracing how this interaction continually (re)produces distinct forms of urban stratification. In post-independence India, the fate of caste has been vigorously debated, often leading to a spatialized understanding of caste identity. Rural spaces have been widely perceived as the natural terrain in which caste persists, whereas its manifestations in urban contexts have received limited scholarly attention. The urban, imagined as a modern domain, has frequently been positioned as detached from entrenched structures of oppression-an aspirational, emancipatory space for historically marginalized communities.

Drawing on a qualitative study of a predominantly Dalit neighbourhood in Delhi, this book interrogates the emancipatory promise of the city. Through an ethnographic account of neighbourhood dynamics, intergenerational mobility, and political life, it illuminates how caste continues to shape Dalit experiences, everyday interactions, opportunities, and economic trajectories in urban settings. It argues that the metropolitan city functions as a liminal space: while it offers meaningful avenues for aspiration and upward mobility, it simultaneously imposes structural constraints that impede Dalits' efforts

to achieve the mobility they seek.

Caste and Emancipatory Quest: Ethnography of Dalits in an Urban Neighborhood

» [Ms. Rama Devi](#) (Centre De Sciences Humaines, Delhi)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 36

Viennese Constellations: Explorations of Housing and the "New Vienna"

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Prof. Christoph Reinprecht (Convenor), Nora Walch (Convenor), and Mx. Juma Hauser (Convenor)

This small book is designed as an invitation to explore ten sites across different Viennese neighborhoods connected to the history of housing. The addresses are drawn from extensive documentation assembled as part of a research project on sociological sites in Vienna. What links these locations is their significance to the early history of Viennese housing research-from the turn of the twentieth century to Red Vienna in the interwar years. Framed by an essay on the history of (social) housing in Vienna, each site reveals a distinct perspective on the changing materiality and meanings of housing: from its scientific exploration to its transformation in the present, while also prompting reflections on the future of housing in our cities. To encounter these places today is to be reminded of what New Vienna aspired to be more than a century ago-and of what it still might become.

Viennese Constellations: Explorations of Housing and the "New Vienna"

» Christoph Reinprecht (University of Vienna)

13:15

Workshop : Pitch your Work 35

Esto es el boro. Vidas en la periferia

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: Mr. William Alvarez (Panel Chair)

The work explores the emergence of gangs and the dynamics of their violence, particularly in the peripheries of Cartagena. Through an ethnography of approximately three years, it provides a dense description of the various ways in which violence manifests among these groups, as well as its scope and territorial deployment. The research is situated in Rafael Núñez, a small sector within one of Cartagena's poorest and most violent neighborhoods, with a high



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

proportion of Afro-Caribbean residents. It seeks to establish a connection between the rise of gangs, their forms of violence, and the historical effects of structural sociopolitical marginalization-reflected in the asymmetrical social distribution of space, labor precariousness, and ethno-racial segregation-which has generated an uncontrolled rage among the youth directed both at their own community and the rest of the city.

Esto es el boro. Vidas en la periferia

» [Mr. William Alvarez](#) (Observatorio del Caribe Colombiano)

14:00

Keynote

Closing + Keynote: Life in the city in the times of climate urbanism - Vanesa Castán Broto

Venue - Audimax

Organised by: Prof. Vanesa Castan Broto

Chair and Closing: Claire Colomb (RC21 Co-President)

Life in the city in the times of climate urbanism

» Vanesa Castán Broto (Urban Institute, University of Sheffield)

15:30

Oral : #70-2/2

#70 Pluralizing urban property between the state and everyday life: production, knowledges, practices, and imaginaries (2/2)

Venue - Green Lounge (=VAM 2)

Organised by: Dr. Daan Bossuyt (Convenor), Dr. Elya Milner (Convenor), Dr. João Tonucci (Convenor), David Madden (Convenor), Sam Burgum (Convenor), Naama Blatman (Convenor), Prof. Alexander Vasudevan (Convenor), and Dr. Ifigeneia Dimitrakou (Convenor)

We are in a moment of profound reckoning with the power of property. While property is central to urban life, it often hides in plain sight. Property is not just a legal category but also a structuring relation, underpinning and mediating the social relations and everyday interactions that shape and form extended modes of urbanization. At the same time, property operates as a powerful institution that

determines who benefits from land and housing (Safransky 2023), and who belongs where, and whose claims to space count (Roy, 2017). Property is a dynamic order of violence and dispossession rooted in longstanding histories of racialisation and settler colonialism (Mbembe 2023; Blatman-Thomas & Porter 2019; Bhandar 2018).

This panel brings into conversation two perspectives that recentre the role of property in an age of ever-expanding urbanisation. We examine how states govern through property via new circuits of value, assetisation, and financialisation and how these processes are lived, negotiated and contested in the realm of everyday urban life. Moving beyond the narrow legalistic "ownership model" of private property (Singer, 2000) we ask: how do "deep infrastructural entanglements" (Christophers 2022, 148) between states and financial capital reshape property regimes? How do state-led processes that intervene in and reorganise property relations intersect with everyday practices of property-making and contestation? What role do competing forms of property knowledge (i.e., from cadastral systems to counter-mappings) play in reinforcing or resisting property regimes? What new imaginaries emerge that subvert existing property regimes and prefigure alternatives in cities?

We invite papers that address the following questions/topics:

- Property knowledges and counter-knowledges
- State power and the re/making of urban property regimes
- Everyday property practices and contestations
- New imaginaries and futures 'beyond property'.

Taken together these topics seek to foreground plural understandings of property explored at once 'from the top' (state) and 'the bottom.' We welcome papers addressing any of the above questions as we hope to bring into dialogue a range of geographies and critical approaches (including ethnographic, conceptual/theoretical, methodological, and creative/visual).

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- Christophers, B. (2022). The role of the State in the transfer of value from Main Street to Wall Street: US single - family housing after the financial crisis. *Antipode*, 54(1), 130-152.
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Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Safransky, S. (2023). The city after property: Abandonment and repair in postindustrial Detroit. Duke University Press.
Singer, J. (2000). Entitlement: the paradoxes of property. Yale University Press.

Who Makes Property at the Urban Frontier? Topologies of Power beyond Speculative Urbanism

» Prof. Bhuvaneswari Raman (Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, OP Jindal Global University), Mr. Shubham Shekhar (O.P. Jindal Global University)

The democratisation of municipal property through public-commons partnerships in Barcelona

» Prof. Kurt Iveson (The University of Sydney), Dr. Amanda Tattersall (The University of Sydney)

Struggles over property and its assetization: emerging praxis for urban and housing justice

» Dr. Mara Ferreri (Politecnico di Torino)

The Meaning and Practice of Public Property: Conflicts between Housed and Unhoused Residents

» Dr. Claire Herbert (University of Oregon)

Ex-Property: Repositioning the State Role in Urban Land

» Dr. Francisco Díaz (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

15:30

Oral : #68-2/2

#68 Working the Urban: Labour, Precarity, and Infrastructures of Social Reproduction (2/2)

Venue - Erika Weinzierl Saal

Organised by: Nicolás Palacios (Convenor), Dr. Katrin Hofer (Convenor), and Sarah Schilliger (Convenor)

Session theme

This session takes labour as a lens to examine the relation between work and urban life, focusing on how access, or lack of access, to infrastructures of social reproduction (Gillespie and Hardy, 2021), such as housing (Madden, 2025) mediates this relation. Drawing from an

intersectional perspective, it explores how race, gender, class, and migration or citizenship status shape differentiated experiences of urban precarity. By centring the urban dimension, the session highlights how city-specific configurations of housing, care, and everyday infrastructures condition the possibilities of living and working in the city. Fostering an exchange between empirical cases and conceptual approaches from both the Global South and Global North, the session aims to generate nuanced insights into how urban inequalities manifest, evolve, and diverge across different global urban contexts.

Subthemes/keywords

Housing, labour, infrastructures, care, precarity, intersectionality, essential work, migration, urban inequality, platform labour.

Rationale

Labour and social reproduction are deeply entangled in urban life: access to housing, care, and everyday services fundamentally structures who can work and under what conditions, while the type and conditions of labour shape the capacity to reproduce life in the city (Fraser, 2016). This interdependence is especially visible in contexts marked by precarity, where access to infrastructures is fragmented or unequal, where aspects such as race deepen these inequalities (Salamanca and Silver, 2022).

We ask: what makes the interdependence between labour, infrastructures and social reproduction distinctly urban? How are they shaped by, and productive of, inequalities across different cities and regions?

Urban studies have long engaged with questions of precarity in informal settlements in the Global South. Yet, precarious infrastructures and practices of informality are increasingly salient in Global North contexts as well (Roy, 2005; Addie, 2022). By bringing these literatures and empirical contexts into dialogue, this session highlights both convergences and divergences in how labour and infrastructures of social reproduction intersect across geographies.

Key themes / possible contributions

- Housing and labour as interdependent infrastructures of precarity.
- Migration and border regimes as mediators of access to work, housing, and care.
- Informality and infrastructural gaps in both Global South and Global North cities.
- Care infrastructures and the gendered/racialized dimensions of social reproduction.
- Essential labour and the urban infrastructures that sustain it.
- Platform labour and the specific challenges it brings to the labour and housing nexus

Format

Regular panel with 4-5 paper presentations and open discussion. The session welcomes diverse empirical and conceptual contributions,



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

particularly those that link Global South and Global North perspectives and those that reflect critically on conceptual and policy frameworks addressing urban precarity and social reproduction. Presenters may draw from varied methodologies and theoretical approaches, including urban studies, feminist theory, intersectionality, critical policy analysis, and ethnography.

Rethinking the Informal City from Below: Housing and Work in Valparaíso, Chile

» Mrs. Sara Mengato (Dublin City University)

Gendered Food Practices and Urban Inequalities: Insights from Participatory Food Diaries in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

» Ms. Solimar Carnavalli Rocha (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG)), Ms. Ana Gabriela da Silva Gomes (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG))

"Carrying Children": Intergenerational Care Labour and Everyday Infrastructures of Social Reproduction in Urban China

» Ms. Xin Li (University of Manchester)

E-Waste Labour and the Circularity Promise: Negotiating Risk and Recognition in Kenya's Cities

» Ms. Sveva Lazzati (Stockholm Environment Institute), Dr. Alphayo Lutta (Stockholm Environment Institute), Dr. Daniel Ddiba (Stockholm Environment Institute)

Housing as a contradictory space of social reproduction: the case of urban villages in Shenzhen, China

» Mx. Tianao Guo (Uppsala University)

15:30

Oral : #77-2/2

#77 Care Inequalities and the Spaces of Solidarity: Feminist and Queer Geographies of Caring Cities (2/2)

Venue - Marietta Blau Saal

Organised by: Bahar Sakizlioglu (Convenor) and Ceren Lordoglu (Convenor)

Feminist urban scholars have long shown that care is central to how cities function and how urban inequalities are lived (Katz 2001; Williams 2017). Despite growing feminist work on care-full justice (Williams 2020), cities of care (Power and Williams 2019), and social reproduction (Peake et al. 2021), care still remains marginal in urban theory, policy and space. The unequal distribution of care work, largely carried by women, migrants, queer communities and racialized groups, shapes who can access housing, public space, and participation in urban life (Federici 2018; Morrow and Parker 2020).

These care inequalities reflect a deeper absence of a feminist ethics of care in urban policy and governance. In times of multiple crises- ecological, social, and political- a feminist ethics of care may seem as a radical proposition. Nonetheless, feminist thought has long developed the intellectual and political tools required to reimagine care as a social, relational process that supports life rather than simply compensates for systematic neglect. Bringing feminist care ethics into urban politics provides a change away from abstract concepts of justice and toward "care-full" versions of justice that emphasize everyday labor of sustaining shared environments. Such an orientation encourages us to imagine future urbanities in which feminist solidarity is not only an ethical stance, but also an infrastructural practice embedded in community kitchens, cooperative housing, mutual aid networks, and other forms of collective care labor that challenge neoliberal urban rationalities. Centering such ethics means confronting epistemic injustices that make care invisible and undervalued (Williams 2020), and reimagining housing, public space, and the city itself as infrastructures of care (Mee and Power 2021).

This session explores how care inequalities are produced and spatialized and how feminist, queer, and migrant solidarities contest them through everyday practices such as mutual aid networks, childcare and housing cooperatives, and community infrastructures. These practices reshape the spatialities and temporalities of care, creating new forms of connection, belonging, and resistance to urban inequality (Federici 2018).

By linking feminist, queer, and critical urban research, this session asks: What would it mean to build caring cities? How can feminist ethics of



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

care offer epistemic and spatial alternatives to urban inequality and neoliberal urbanization?

We invite empirical and conceptual contributions that examine:

- How care inequalities are produced and distributed across housing, public space, and urban infrastructure
- Solidarity practices that redistribute and politicize care
- Who benefits from solidarities of care, and who remains excluded
- Queer, feminist, migrant solidarities that enact caring cities in everyday life
- Temporalities of care and their role regarding the reconfiguration of belonging and citizenship
- How a feminist ethics of care can guide urban theory, policy, and everyday practices toward more just and caring cities

At the limits of solidarity: gendered care, humanitarian outsourcing, and urban hosting practices for Ukrainian refugees

» [Dr. Valeria Lazarenko](#) (Universität Hamburg)

Reclaiming with Care: Young Women in Feminist Mobilizations in Argentina (2015–2020)

» [Dr. Anna Bednarczyk](#) (Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland)

Caring from Below: Gender, Solidarity, and Post-Disaster Recovery in Urban

» [Dr. Suchismita Goswami](#) (University of Copenhagen)

Intersectional Injustices in the Housing System: Migrant Women and LGBTQ+ Venezuelans in Bogotá

» [Prof. Diana Garces Amaya](#) (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana)

Micropolitical Matters: Radical Housing, Collective Life, and the Politics of the Everyday

» [Prof. Alexander Vasudevan](#) (University of Oxford), [Dr. Josefina Jaureguiberry Mondion](#) (University of Oxford)

15:30

Oral : #106-2/2

#106 Contested Governance: Autocratization, Democratic Backsliding, and Urban Politics (2/2)

Venue - SR 01

Organised by: Ulku Doganay (Convenor), Oksana Zaporozhets (Convenor), Oleg Pachenkov (Convenor), and Ana Pajvancic-Cizelj (Convenor)

Democratic governance is under pressure globally. Across diverse contexts, we observe processes of autocratization, democratic backsliding, and the erosion of checks and balances, civil liberties, and rule of law. Cities are both sites where these authoritarian tendencies manifest and arenas where resistance, contestation, and democratic defense are organized. Urban governance arrangements - including municipal autonomy, civil society space, and citizen participation mechanisms - are being reshaped by these broader democratic crises, with profound implications for urban politics, policy, and everyday life. This session examines the urban dimensions of autocratization and democratic backsliding, as well as efforts to defend and deepen democratic governance in challenging political contexts.

We seek to understand how authoritarian tendencies reshape urban governance at multiple scales: from restrictions on civic space and independent media, to centralization of power and attacks on municipal autonomy, to surveillance and control of public space and protest. The session also explores how cities and urban social movements respond to democratic erosion through various forms of resistance, alternative governance experiments, and transnational solidarity networks.

We are particularly interested in papers that analyze the contested nature of urban governance in contexts of democratic stress. How do national-level autocratic tendencies affect municipal politics and policy autonomy? What strategies do urban governments employ to protect democratic space and resist authoritarian encroachment? How do social movements, civil society organizations, and citizens contest autocratization through urban political action? And what forms of solidarity and transnational learning emerge among cities facing similar challenges?

We welcome contributions on the following topics:

- Autocratization processes and their manifestations in urban and regional governance
- Attacks on municipal autonomy and the centralization of urban policy control
- Restrictions on civic space, protest rights, and freedom of assembly in cities



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

- Surveillance technologies and authoritarian control of urban space
- Urban social movements and resistance to democratic backsliding
- Progressive municipal governments in hostile national and regional contexts
- Transnational municipal networks and solidarity across authoritarian contexts
- Comparative perspectives on autocratization and resistance across different regional and political contexts
- Possibilities for democratic renewal and deepening through urban experimentation.

Contested Governance of capital Zagreb in urban Europeanization process in Croatia

» [Dr. Anđelina Svirčić Gotovac](#) (Institute for Social Research in Zagreb),
Dr. Jelena Zlatar Gamberožić (Institute for Social Research in Zagreb)

European cities against their illiberal national governments. The case of Budapest in comparative perspective

» [Dr. Iván Tosics](#) (senior researcher)

Associational Control: Street Vending Organizations and Subnational Authoritarianism in Mexico City

» [Dr. Irene Farah](#) (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Urban tensions, democratic stress: security infrastructures in Rio de Janeiro

» [Dr. Clara Polycarpo](#) (Universidade Federal Fluminense), [Mrs. Camila Felix](#) (Instituto de Planejamento Urbano e Regional / UFRJ)

Trans Organising in Istanbul: Assembling Political Capacity Under Democratic Backsliding

» [Mr. Tuna Ogut](#) (London School of Economics)

15:30

Oral : #85-2/2

#85 Political Lives of Policy Instruments in Land and Housing (2/2)

Venue - SR 02

Organised by: Mr. Nicholas Shatan (Convenor), Ms. Marcela Alonso Ferreira (Convenor), and Aurora Echavarria (Convenor)

Title: Political Lives of Policy Instruments in Urban Land and Housing

Organizers:

Marcela Alonso Ferreira, PhD Candidate, Sciences Po Paris
Nicholas Shatan, PhD Candidate, University of California, Berkeley
Aurora Echavarria, Assistant Professor, Florida State University

Much urban scholarship has emphasized the brisk circulation of policies and models across cities and regions (Temenos and McCann 2013; Peck and Theodore 2015). Less attention, however, has been paid to the long-term processes of implementing and sustaining the technical devices that underpin land and housing policy: valuation formulas, fiscal schedules, eligibility criteria, cadastral tools, and so on. While often presented as unbiased or objective, these instruments embody deeply political choices (Lascoumes and Le Galès 2007), such as what constitutes value, where and how it is created, how it should be distributed between public and private actors, and who has rights over urban resources (Chhabria 2019; Lund 2020; Zaimi 2020; Cowan 2021; Weber 2021; Becher 2023).

This session invites contributions that trace the political lives of policy instruments in land and housing: how they persist as they are re-made, contested, and hybridized. We are especially interested in how these devices shape trajectories of urban inequality, influence access to land and housing, and configure relationships between the state, markets, society, and the city. Focusing on the durability and transformation of policy instruments can help reveal why they may persist across shifting political regimes, take seemingly illogical forms, or are reshaped through contestation or compromises reflecting constraints and opportunities of specific historical moments.

We welcome papers that address questions such as:

- What do new uses of old policy instruments reveal about contemporary shifts in urban governance, particularly under conditions of populist politics and constrained municipal capacity?
- Why are technical devices in land and housing taken up by actors outside of their intended users, or by groups with politics opposed to that of the original creators?
- How do technical devices and policy instruments encode and classify



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

along lines of social difference (race, gender, class, nationality, normative family structure) and to what effects?

- How do political challenges give life to technical instruments, and how do technical challenges give life to political rationalities?
- How and why do seemingly small changes in calculation have outsized effects on urban life?
- How can approaches spanning from macro-level political economy to micro-level science and technology studies help us understand how such devices persist, are remade, or repurposed amid broader urban transformations?

We invite contributions that draw on a range of theoretical frameworks: from political economy, historical institutionalism, and the sociology of policy instruments, to science and technology studies, valuation studies, and the social studies of finance. Methodologies such as ethnography, archival research, process tracing, and comparative case studies are welcome. By bridging these perspectives, and inviting work across global contexts and historical periods, we aim to initiate a dialogue on how policy instruments themselves shape, reproduce, or unsettle inequalities in land and housing across diverse urban and political contexts.

Institutionalising the Public Interest: Land Governance as a Key to Housing Affordability in Europe

» [Dr. Julie Lawson](#) (RMIT University), Mr. Oleksandr Anisimov (Aalto University)

Examining Regularisation Instruments in Unauthorised Colonies of Delhi

» [Mr. sukrit nagpal](#) (IIHS University)

Planning for Order, Not Redistribution: "Planos Diretores" in Brazil's Agribusiness Hinterlands

» [Dr. Giselle Mendonça Abreu](#) (Universidade de São Paulo)

The expansion and dissemination of instruments of hybrid governance in São Paulo

» [Prof. Eduardo Marques](#) (University of São Paulo), Mrs. Mariana de Carvalho (University of São Paulo)

Differing methods of estimating housing needs in European secondary cities

» [Ms. Els Keunen](#) (University of Stuttgart), [Dr. Zlata Vuksanović-Macura](#) (Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijic" of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts), [Dr. Marco Allegra](#) (Polytechnic of Turin)

15:30

Oral : #92-2/2

#92 Theorising and Practicing Housing Justice: Novel Definitions and Emancipatory Epistemologies (2/2)

Venue - SR 03

Organised by: Carla Huisman (Convenor), Prof. Miguel A. Martínez (Convenor), Dr. Abigail Friendly (Convenor), Irene Molina (Convenor), Dr. Femke van Noorloos (Convenor), and Dr. Mika Hyötyläinen (Convenor)

Housing inequality is one of the oldest yet deepening forms of inequalities in cities around the world. The current post-neoliberal shift poses new challenges for scholars interested in housing justice. While asset-based wealth often privileges elite actors, housing precarity is experienced by multiple urban dwellers globally. This session seeks to advance discussions of housing justice (Gustafsson et al. 2024) in critical urban and housing studies (Martínez 2024).

What is 'housing justice'? How does context matter for experiences of and aspirations to housing justice? How do morals, values, ideologies and philosophies affect our notion of housing justice? How do critical theorisations of housing justice help understand contemporary unequal cities to develop transformative action?

A key aim of this session is to call for emancipatory epistemologies - geared towards both emancipation and the generation of knowledge - addressing how scholars can promote housing justice. Such ways of knowing would include, in particular, historically marginalised voices aiming to gain and share knowledge as well as promoting social justice (Huisman & Uitermark 2025). Such approaches entail, for example, knowledge sharing and critical thinking (Lima 2025) and knowledge co-production towards housing justice.

We are interested in papers addressing theoretical, conceptual, methodological and action-oriented issues related to housing justice globally, including ecological, feminist, anticolonial and degrowth perspectives. Papers should provide a critical theoretical approach and/or engagement with emancipatory epistemologies. We also welcome reflections aiming to understand intersections between housing justice and related notions such as urban and environmental justice. Likewise, interdisciplinary approaches and original theory-



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

building are encouraged. As we intend to submit the selected papers to a special issue in an academic journal, the texts presented at this session of the RC21 conference should not be committed to other publications.

We invite papers addressing the following topics:

- a) theories of social and housing justice, ranging from distributive justice (availability, affordability), to procedural justice (allocation, inclusion and exclusion mechanisms), and recognition justice (the right to housing, especially for marginalised groups);
- b) urban and housing inequalities; the intersection between social justice and housing issues, including availability, affordability, security of tenure, and the physical and social state of the home and its surroundings;
- c) social hierarchies and oppressions along class, gender, sexuality, age, ethnicity, citizenship, religion, language, geography (Global North/South), ability, and housing tenure lines;
- d) financialized and racial capitalism, authoritarian and far-right politics, patriarchy, and the ecocide;
- e) progressive and reactionary grassroots struggles, ranging from everyday life to macro-political economic structures;
- f) emancipatory epistemologies, new ways of engaging knowledge for social-housing justice.

References

Gustafsson, J., Listerborn, C., & Molina, I. (2024) Struggling for Housing Justice: New Theoretical and Methodological Approaches. *Housing, Theory and Society*, 41(5), 581-590.
 Huisman, C. & J. Uitermark (2025) Emancipatory Epistemologies and Municipalist Policies. *Tijdschrift voor Sociale en Economische Geografie*, 116 (4), 387-390.
 Lima, V. (2025) Knowledge production and learning in housing struggles. *SN Social Sciences*, 5, 76.
 Martínez, M. (2024) Social and critical features of urban sociology. In Martínez, M. (ed.) *Research Handbook on Urban Sociology*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 26-49. Housing inequality is one

Housing justice: towards an actionable agenda to tackle housing precarity

» Ms. Paula Sevilla Nunez (International Institute for Environment and Development), [Dr. Camila Cocina](#) (International Institute for Environment and Development), [Dr. Alexandre Apsan Frediani](#) (International Institute for Environment and Development)

Housing alliances building the post-crisis egalitarian city as a concrete utopia: Lessons from New Orleans, Louisiana.

» [Prof. Angeliki Paidakaki](#) (Harokopio University of Athens), Prof. Nik Theodore (University of Illinois Chicago)

Research co-design for housing justice with the Local Government Sector in NSW, Australia

» [Dr. Greta Werner](#) (The University of Sydney), [Ms. Sylvie Ellsmore](#) (The City of Sydney), Prof. Nicole Gurran (The University of Sydney)

New EU affordable agenda and the peripheral condition of inequality

» [Ms. Iva marcetic](#) (Universität Kassel)

Feminist Political Economy of Housing: Social Reproduction, Class, and Urban Inequalities

» [Dr. Tabea Latocha](#) (Bauhaus University Weimar)

15:30

Oral : #12-4/4

#12 Claiming space: artistic practices, care and resistance in neoliberal cities (4/4)

Venue - SR 04

Organised by: Prof. Marianna d'Ovidio (Convenor) and Emanuela Naclerio (Convenor)

Over the past decades, cultural production and the so-called creative industries have been celebrated as catalysts of urban growth, innovation and competitiveness, yet also criticised for their complicity in processes of displacement, gentrification and for deepening inequalities. In the neoliberal cities, the nexus between culture and urban development has often been shaped by logics of extraction and commodification, often exacerbating dynamics of exclusion. However, cultural, creative and artistic interventions have emerged as potential catalysts of resistance, care and solidarity, offering new ways of inhabiting and imagining contemporary urban environments. Mobilizing a variety of bodies,



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

different and subvertive subjectivities, new or unexpected alliances and powerful imaginaries, artistic initiatives have been engaging in enabling more just, inclusive, and sustainable urban futures. At the same time these practices are exposed to the risk of being instrumentalised, co-opted or neutralised by dominant urban forces.

By bringing together diverse perspectives, this panel aims to critically explore artistic practices and interventions in contemporary cities as forms of resistance, care, conviviality and contestation, that challenge the extractivist logic, reclaim spaces and experiment with alternative imaginaries of social life. Moreover, the panel examines those bottom-up artistic practices that focus on care, both in its ethical and political dimension, in contesting urban inequalities, feeding communities and cultivating spaces of solidarity.

We welcome empirical case studies, comparative perspectives, and conceptual or theoretical reflections. We invite contributions engaging with a wide range of methods, theories, and approaches that may address, but are not limited to, the following key themes and research questions:

- Bottom-up artistic placemaking and its role in challenging urban inequalities.
- Grassroots artistic practices' interventions in urban spaces and their relation with the urban governance.
- The roles that artistic initiatives - stemming from culture, arts or creative industries - play in resisting or/and reconfiguring models of urban development.
- Art-based interventions' articulation of alternative imaginaries of communities, belongings and care.
- The mobilisation of care to sustain solidarity practices and to subvert the dominant urban logics.
- The ambivalent and conflicting nature of bottom-up alternative practices when they are taken up, supported, or co-opted by institutional actors.
- The ecological contribution of grassroots artistic initiatives, particularly in terms of alternative economies, resource reuse, and post-growth imaginaries.

Speculative Visions of Artistic Resistance and Belonging in the Central Area in Seattle

» [Ms. Vinita Goyal](#) (Full Spectrum Labs, Vinita Goyal Consulting, and San Francisco Community Land Trust)

Between Culture and Politics: The Making of Counterpublics and Alliances in Urban Festivals

» [Ms. Virginia Musso](#) (University of Milan-Bicocca)

The Fine Art of Vandalism: Street Art and Counter-Narratives to Tourist Capitalism in Palma de Mallorca

» [Mr. Mateusz Lipko](#) (University of Szczecin)

Art and resistance: Space-making as an Act of Care in Contentious Politics

» [Dr. Kusumika Ghosh](#) (Dublin City University), [Dr. Yael López Torres](#) (Crece en Libertad – Grandir en Liberté)

Feminist Ecology in Practice: The Schokofabrik and the Making of Feminist Architecture in 1980s West Berlin

» [Mrs. Bettina Nagler](#) (University of Kassel)

15:30

Oral : #3-2/2

#3 (Im)possibilities of settling down in the post-migrant city (2/2)

Venue - SR 05

Organised by: Dr. Raffael Beier (Convenor) and Dr. Dilek Aysel Tepeli (Convenor)

While literature of post-migration has convincingly argued to see migration as the norm and not as the exception in contemporary urban societies (Yildiz & Hill 2014, Foroutan 2021), likewise, many urban citizens strive for a stable, decent place to inhabit. This basic anthropological need is increasingly under pressure and at risk of being overlooked by scholarship and political debates centring on mobility and movement rather than emplacement. In this session, we wish to shift perspectives, seeking to explore lived experiences of the (im)possibilities of 'settling down' of urban subjects at the intersection of urban and migration studies. Noting a growing concern about people's ability to become and remain emplaced - both as a result of a growing political climate of hostility and a housing crisis marked by a normalization of displacement (Soederberg 2020, Lancione 2020) - we strive to radically rethink the post-migrant urban society from its opposite to mobility,



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

namely human's experiences, practices, and limitations of settling down. Beyond sectional and disciplinary divides, we conceive the '(im)possibilities of settling down' as an emerging, yet unexplored category of social inequality and exclusion in post-migrant societies.

As the housing crisis prevails in today's post-migrant society, different forms of (enforced) mobility - affected by both race and class - are increasingly interwoven (cf., Adscheid 2024, Yiftachel 2020). To what extent does the inability of 'making home' on tense housing markets produce and maintain feelings of 'being migrant', whether it is about intra-urban, regional or transnational migration? Beyond race and class, we suggest our session to explore the '(im)possibilities of settling down' as a new, experiential and affective category of social inequality combining material and socio-emotional forms of social exclusion. It affects 'migrantized' populations and people in precarious employment with and without so-called migration background at the same time. Precarious employment, racial discrimination (particularly being reinforced in the context of right-wing discourses about migration), rising rents, and the commodification of social housing lead to structural barriers on the housing market, which are paired with experiences of ex/inclusion and (non-)belonging on different levels ranging from political debates about re-migration, to non-representation and everyday experiences of bordering and racism in public space (Yuval-Davis et al. 2019). With an intersectional lens on gender, race, and class (Anthias 2012), we argue that it is only through the interplay of material and affective ex/inclusion that we can grasp the experiences of the '(im)possibilities of settling down' over time.

Following this, we invite scholars with diverse disciplinary entry points to urban studies (from sociology to geography, economics as well as anthropology, cultural psychology, among others) to present their theoretical explorations and/or empirically grounded research focusing on the (im)possibilities of settling down. We are especially interested in long-term and biographical perspectives to housing, homing, and inhabitation, that stress both its affective and material dimensions. Likewise, we look forward to scholarly work that privileges intersectional perspectives on questions of urban emplacement and 'settling down' of particularly vulnerable individuals and groups in the post-migrant city.

Forced Nomadism in Brussels. The continuous making and unmaking of homes in displacement

» Prof. Eva Swyngedouw (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Mrs. Pernelle Godart (Université Libre de Bruxelles), Prof. Mathieu Van Criecken (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

(Im)possibilities of emotional settling as or because of urban conflict? Affective attachments, contested spaces and everyday negotiations in a post-migrant neighbourhood.

» Ms. Emma Luna Brahm (University of Osnabrück)

Housing Crisis in Post-Migrant Istanbul: Unequal Access to Rental Housing and Socio-spatial Inequality in Fatih district

» Dr. Fatma Gül Eryıldız Şenvarlar (Istanbul Technical University)

Where are you from? - From 'Migrants' to 'Translocal Individuals': Rethinking Home and Belonging

» Dr. Shaharin Annisa (University of Stuttgart)

Welcoming or Transit hub? Promises and Barriers of Emplacement in the capital of Croatia

» Prof. Drago Župarić-Iljić (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Sociology)

15:30

Oral : #28-2/2

#28 Governing Food Systems: Understanding Food Inequalities and Food Insecurities in the City (2/2)

Venue - SR 06

Organised by: Petra Lütke (Convenor), Prof. Filippo Oncini (Convenor), Dr. Birgit Hoinle (Convenor), Dr. Alejandro Ciordia (Convenor), and Mario Trifuoggi (Convenor)

As urbanization advances, cities face numerous challenges in ensuring the well-being of their inhabitants, of which access to fresh and healthy food is a crucial aspect. This is often distributed unevenly and influenced by factors such as income, education, ethnicity and place of residence, among others. This can lead to social injustices related to food in urban contexts. Thus, urban food insecurity is increasingly becoming a central challenge of contemporary cities, not only in the Global South, but across the Global North, as inequalities intensify under the pressures of economic precarity, inflation, climate shocks, and welfare retrenchment. Against this backdrop, food charities (food banks, mutual aid networks,



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

faith-based distribution, social supermarkets, etc.) have proliferated, as well as alternative food networks and civic governance initiatives, such as Food Policy Councils. However, their roles and outcomes are far from neutral: they exist in dynamic tensions with municipal and national welfare policies, social movements, private food actors, poverty relief measures, and beneficiaries of food support. These initiatives highlight the need for methodological approaches to understand the complexities of urban food systems and its inherent power relations.

This session wants to explore the governance of food inequality and food insecurity in cities through the lens of agency, institutional relations, and spatial dynamics. The session aims to enhance the understanding of food governance from different intersectional and systems perspectives. We invite papers that address some of the following questions:

- What are causes, consequences and coping mechanisms for food inequalities and poverty in urban areas?
- What is the role of power and privilege in shaping food systems and exacerbating food inequalities?
- How do food charities interact with municipal and regional authorities? Under what governance regimes do they become extensions of state social policy, corrective band-aid measures, or sites of resistance and activism?
- How do power relations, politics of scale, and multi-level governance shape charitable food infrastructures and service provisioning?
- In what ways do different models (e.g. emergency relief, food justice, dignity-based access, rights-based frames, cooperative models) produce different outcomes in terms of equality, social inclusion, or political mobilization?
- What are strategies and challenges of alternative food networks and Food Policy Councils to promote food justice and sovereignty?

We see this session as a regular panel of four papers, each with approximately 15 minutes of presentation followed by discussion. The session seeks to foster dialogue across methodological divides (qualitative, quantitative, archival) and across global contexts within and between countries. By bringing together scholars working on food governance, food geography, social policy and infrastructures, we aim to spark new comparative thinking about how cities address or reproduce food inequalities and food insecurities, in times of multiple crisis and beyond.

Foodification And The Decline of Free and Convivial Food Practices

» [Dr. Sara Chinaglia](#) (University of Bologna), [Mrs. Alessandra Motta](#) (University of Bologna), [Dr. Giulia Ganugi](#) (University of Bologna)

Food support in everyday survival: A comparative relational ethnography of urban poverty in high-income countries

» [Ms. Simona Amaro](#) (Maastricht University), [Ms. Shiori Hagiwara](#) (Maastricht University), [Ms. Marga ter Maat](#) (Maastricht University)

Food issue as a public arena?: A pragmatic account of the trajectory of food policy in a Brazilian city

» [Dr. Lucas Barbi](#) (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG)), [Prof. Waleska Caiaffa](#) (Federal University of Minas Gerais)

Planning for Food Access? The Place of Urban Food Markets in London's Spatial Policy

» [Ms. Martina Rotolo](#) (University College London (UCL))

The politics of pace and space: Urban food charity in Austria

» [Prof. Brigitte Bargetz](#) (JKU Linz/WU Vienna), [Dr. Myriam Gaitsch](#) (WU Vienna/Forba Vienna), [Mx. Jessica Gasior](#) (WU Vienna), [Dr. Markus Griesser](#) (WU Vienna)

15:30

Oral : #83-2/2

#83 Using photography in urban studies. Urban space seen and researched through the lens of the camera. (2/2)

Venue - SR 08

Organised by: [Ms. Judith Schnelzer](#) (Convenor), [Dr. Sandra Guinand](#) (Convenor), and [Katarina Ockova](#) (Convenor)

In the last decade new technologies and socio-technical devices have spurred a renewed interest for visual media, especially images and photography, in the field of urban studies. While there is a rich body of literature on visual studies, there has been limited application of photo methods in urban research (Conord & Cuny, 2015; Schoepfer, 2014; Guinand & al., 2021). Visual methods, and more specifically photography, come from the field of sociology (Harper, 2012; Rose, 2007) anthropology, and ethnography (Bateson & Meads, 1942; Collier & Collier, 1986; Schwartz, 1989). Few urban scholars have acknowledged the advantages of using photo-methods for data collection and knowledge production. Early examples of photos in urban research relate to the dominance of positivism in social sciences. Photos were



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

often used for documentation or illustration, where they supported arguments through alleged "objectivity". Critical voices cautioned that this practice of reifying existing knowledge about urban phenomena creates a so-called "truth effect" (Rose, 2003). An early prominent example is Jacob Riis' (1897) *How the Other Half Lives*, where residents are portrayed in their living conditions in New York's slums in the late 19th century, making audiences aware of urban housing inequality. Over the decades, scholars have developed the use of photography from solely documenting urban conditions or transformations towards more analytical approaches, including formalised analysis with AI. Current applications range from urban designers and planners applying photography as a means to improve their understanding of socio-spatial appropriation and space qualities (Whyte, 1980; Gehl & Svarre, 2013), to others who have considered it useful for studying intangible dimensions of socio-cultural phenomena such as territorial stigmatisation (Cuny, 2019) and metropolitan habitus (Dirksmeier, 2009). Even more so, participatory approaches use photographic methods as a tool give a voice and empower local communities (Wang & Burris, 1997).

Photography as a method can be broken down into different approaches depending on the involvement of citizens as participants in the research (and sometimes even beyond): photographic archive, the use of photography for documentation purposes (scenes of urban life, public spaces, etc.) or photography as an intermediary and interview medium, as well as a tool for knowledge production: for instance, photographic interview, photo-voice or photo-elicitation. In the scope of this session, we aim at rising discussions among scholars using different photographic approaches in their work.

- How can photographs be mobilized to bring out useful data and help feed research questions?
- What can be seen and collected through the lens of the camera and how?
- How to overcome the subjectivity of the frame and the depiction of "that moment"?

We welcome empirical, theoretical, and methodology-driven proposals that deal with photographic dimensions and issues from a qualitative but also quantitative perspective (AI, automated machine learning). We are especially interested in the use of this medium (how and what has been achieved), benefits, potentialities and shortcomings, questions and issues on the positionality of the researcher(s) vis-à-vis participants, and discussion about ethical dimensions.

Photography as a Tool for Emotional and Spatial Preservation: A Case Study from the "City and Art" Course on Istanbul/Turkiye

» Dr. Bahar Aksel (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul), Dr. Arzu Erturan (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul), Dr. Ahmetcan Alpan (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul), Dr. Kumru Çilgin (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University)

Challenging Visual Hierarchies: Negotiating Urban Narratives through Annotated Photography

» Ms. Beatriz Lacerda (Institute of Sociology and Faculty of Arts and Humanities of University of Porto), Ms. Francisca Weiner (Visões Úteis)

Visualising Housing (In)Security: A Feminist Approach in Photo-Elicitation

» Dr. Carolin Genz (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Extractive Zones: Photographic Methods for Researching Nuclear Urbanisms

» Ms. Frederike Lange (Ruhr-University Bochum)

Visual Ethnography and Instagram: Researching the Contemporary Urban Spatial Turn

» Ms. Richi Mohanty (University of Kent)

15:30

Workshop : Editor-Round table

The future of urban studies: editors' perspectives on emerging research agendas

Venue - HS 03

Organised by: Ayona Datta (Discussant), Prof. Mona Fawaz (Discussant), Catalina Ortiz (Discussant), Dr. June Wang (Discussant), Prof. Alberta Andreotti (Convenor, Panel Chair), and Dr. Yuri Kazepov (Convenor, Panel Chair)

This roundtable brings together editors from leading urban studies journals to explore the discipline's current challenges and chart its future directions. Panelists will reflect on how journals shape and steer the field, highlight recent theoretical innovations, map emerging research agendas, and trace the methodological shifts reshaping urban scholarship.



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Ayona Datta (confirmed) - URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Mona Fawaz (confirmed) - INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF URBAN AND REGIONAL RESEARCH

Catalina Ortiz (confirmed) - URBAN STUDIES

June Wang (confirmed) - URBAN AFFAIRS

The future of urban studies: editors' perspectives on emerging research agendas

15:30

Oral : #41-2/2

#41 Urban Displacement and Housing Precarity: Rethinking Refuge in Cities (2/2)

Venue - HS 05

Organised by: Dr. David Kostenwein (Convenor)

In the context of overlapping global crises-violent conflict, deepening inequality, and the escalating impacts of climate change-forced migration has reached unprecedented levels. By 2025, over 123 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, with more than 60 per cent residing in urban areas (UN-Habitat, 2025). This demographic shift is not only reshaping the physical and social fabric of cities, but also challenging conventional understandings of housing, urbanisation, and governance.

This panel examines the complex and dynamic relationship between urban displacement and housing precarity, with a focus on how refugees navigate urban environments. Recent scholarship conceptualises these dynamics through the lens of "refugee urbanism" (Darling, 2020), which captures the spatial, social, and political transformations that emerge when displacement becomes a long-term urban condition. Building on this framework, the session interrogates how neoliberalism,

characterised by commodification, deregulation, and exclusion, interacts with displacement to produce new forms of urban marginality and resilience.

Bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives from urban studies, migration, and housing policy, the panel hopes to present empirically grounded approaches to studying the relationships between housing, governance structures, and everyday dwelling practices through the perspectives of urban refugees. In doing so, the session foregrounds the agency of displaced refugees and local actors in producing housing arrangements under conditions of uncertainty and sometimes violence.

Ultimately, the panel aims to rethink the concept of refuge in cities as constitutive of contemporary urban life, shifting the lens away from the frameworks of crises and exceptions. It hopes to contribute to broader debates on urban inequality, displacement, and the restructuring of housing systems under global neoliberalism.

We invite interventions that engage questions that address these frameworks, and provide below a list of entry points that work in this direction:

- How do refugees access housing and navigate staying in place in cities shaped by informality, fragmented governance, and market-driven logics?
- What role do social networks play, what kinds of hierarchies (e.g., gender, national) do they impose? How are these hierarchies reshapes through the negotiation of dwelling and staying in place?
- Where do the materialities of the city, the history of their neighborhoods, building typologies, and tenure arrangements figure in shaping refugee experiences of precarity or stability?
- How do humanitarian responses and state policies intersect, overlap, or contradict each other in the provision of shelter?
- How do legal infrastructures and governance frameworks, whether humanitarian, municipal, or national mediate access to shelter and influence the long-term integration or exclusion of refugees?

"If you don't have place to rest your head, you can't do anything else": Negotiating housing precarity in Sheffield

» Ms. Holly Rooke (University of Sheffield)



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Precarious Urban Housing in Beirut: Gendered Householding by Displaced Tenants in the Neighbourhoods of Hamra and Karantina

» [Ms. Hala Soufan](#) (American University of Beirut)

Housing as Promise and Constraint: Lived Experiences of Syrian Refugees in Berlin and Beirut

» [Ms. Maureen Abi-Ghanem](#) (Columbia University in the City of New York), Dr. Juliana Canedo (Technische Universität Berlin)

Governing Displacement in Times of Violence: Municipal Response and Housing Precarity in South Lebanon

» [Ms. Isabela Serhan](#) (American University of Beirut)

Occupy, Adapt, Build: Housing Strategies of Venezuelan Migrants in Bogotá

» [Mr. Federico Ruiz Carvajal](#) (Independent), Ms. Sofía Uribe Gómez (ETH Zürich)

15:30

Oral : #67-4/4

#67 Inclusive Cities. Reading inclusion challenges through the lens of urban space (4/4)

Venue - HS 07

Organised by: Carolina Pacchi (Convenor) and Silvia Gullino (Convenor)

Cities are dynamic and contested spaces where global challenges converge-social inequality, environmental degradation, economic disparities, and political tensions- all converge more acutely. Urban spaces are not the backdrop of these issues, rather a central arena where they are produced, experienced and potentially addressed.

This panel seeks multidisciplinary contributions that apply a spatial lens to understand how inclusion is made, unmade and remade. By focusing on spatiality, this session aims to illuminate how inclusiveness is not only a social or political framework, but also a lived experience profoundly shaped by urban form, infrastructure, governance, and everyday interactions.

We invite contributions that critically examine how cities can be sites of inclusiveness-where diverse populations coexist, access rights and

opportunities equitably, and where innovative policies are tested to tackle intersecting social, environmental, economic, and political issues. We invite scholars, practitioners, and policymakers working across urban studies, geography, sociology, environmental science, planning, and related fields to engage with themes that foreground spatiality as both a lens and a means in addressing inclusiveness challenges.

Key Themes and Sub-themes:

- Spatial Dynamics of Social Inclusion and Exclusion: How do urban spatial arrangements, segregation, and accessibility shape belonging and marginalisation in cities? What roles do housing, transport, and public space play in reinforcing or disrupting social equity?
- Environmental Justice in Urban Contexts: How are climate risks, pollution, and green space unevenly distributed across urban areas? How can spatial tools support more just environmental policies?
- Economic Inclusion and Urban Spatial Economies: What are the spatial dimensions of economic opportunity and disadvantage? How do location, zoning, and redevelopment affect job access, informal economies, and resilience?
- Political Geography and Governance of Inclusive Cities: How do governance, participation, and spatial control influence inclusive urban futures? What role do policies, planning, and citizen engagement play in shaping equitable cities?

Research Questions:

- In what ways does a spatial lens reveal the complex intersectional nature of social, economic, environmental, and political challenges in urban contexts?
- How can urban policies and planning integrate principles of spatial justice to promote inclusiveness across diverse populations?
- What spatial methods (e.g., GIS, spatial ethnography, participatory mapping) best capture lived experiences of urban inclusion/exclusion?
- How are global challenges (e.g. climate change, migration, digital divides) spatially experienced in cities, and what innovative spatial interventions respond effectively?

Methods, Theories, and Approaches Invited:

We welcome empirical, theoretical, and interdisciplinary work on spatial inclusion in cities-ranging from GIS, ethnography, and participatory methods to critical theories like spatial justice. Case studies and policy analyses from global contexts are invited, particularly those examining how planning and governance can promote more inclusive urban futures. Empirical studies using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed spatial methods, including GIS-based analyses, spatial data visualisations, spatial ethnography, and participatory mapping.



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

This session aims to foster a robust dialogue among researchers and practitioners who view cities as critical spatial arenas where complex global challenges and inclusiveness intersect, offering pathways toward equitable and sustainable urban lives for all.

Narratives of the new progressive urban housing agenda in Colombia and Chile

» Dr. Miguel Hincapié Triviño (Birmingham City University), Dr. Beatriz Mella Lira (Universidad Andrés Bello), Dr. Jaime Hernandez-Garcia (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana), Mrs. Olga Ceballos-Ramos (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana)

Invisible by Design: Gender and Spatial Justice in Upper Scale Plans in the Case of Istanbul

» Dr. Hatice Kırşuncu (Istanbul Planning Agency Vision 2050), Dr. Ceren Gamze Yasar (TED University), Dr. Nazlı Bülay Doğan (Istanbul Planning Agency Vision 2050)

Bridging social equity and ecological justice through urban food action: theoretical insights and empirical explorations

» Dr. Alessandra Manganelli (University of Barcelona), Dr. Ana Moragues-Faus (University of Barcelona)

Investigating 'spatial culture' of informal street network in a single-party system: A case of alleyway network in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

» Ms. Linh Phamvu (Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London), Dr. Sam Griffiths (Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London)

15:30

Oral : #7-4/4

#7 The housing-wealth-nexus. Inequality in the age of rentier capitalism (4/4)

Venue - HS 16

Organised by: Agustín Cocola-Gant (Convenor), Sònia Vives Miró (Convenor), and Georgia Alexandri (Convenor)

The overarching aim of this session is to explore how the consolidation of housing as a key asset for storing and generating wealth is deepening inequalities between property owners and non-owners. Over recent decades, property ownership has become a central pillar of wealth accumulation for both households and institutional investors, with rising housing prices serving as a major driver of financial gains. However, while some individuals and institutions have expanded their property portfolios, evidence shows a simultaneous growth in the number of households without any property at all. This dual trend underscores a widening gap between landlords and tenants—an inequality particularly visible in the current context of generation rent. Escalating house prices, restrictive mortgage access, and stagnant wages have collectively diminished homeownership opportunities, especially for younger generations. As a result, increasing numbers are confined to the private rental sector, facing conditions that make it ever more difficult to transition to ownership. Moreover, the structure of the rental market—where tenants continuously transfer income to landlords—functions as a mechanism of upward wealth redistribution, reinforcing social hierarchies and constraining the well-being and life trajectories of those excluded from ownership.

In light of these dynamics, this session invites research papers and theoretical contributions addressing the following key themes:

Wealth Extraction from Housing

Who are the key actors extracting wealth from housing, and through which mechanisms? To what extent is household wealth increasingly derived from rentier practices? Which assets and real estate products—such as private rentals, short-term and temporary accommodations, or buy-to-leave investments, among others—are being used for wealth accumulation, and by whom?

Wealth Inequality and Intersectionality

How does property ownership contribute to wealth inequality, and how are these disparities mediated by class, gender, race, and age? In what ways does housing function as a driver of impoverishment and social stratification? How is generation rent experiencing economic and social exclusion within increasingly financialised housing systems? What are the spatial logics of housing-related inequalities?



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Alternative Futures

What policy measures could reassert housing's social function and curb speculative investment? Which strategies and interventions can effectively reduce housing inequalities and enhance affordability?

Housing Stratification and the Politics of Tenure: Socio-Temporal Inequalities in Leipzig.

» Mr. Dennis Hof (Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR))

Assetisation of Student Housing: The Rise of PBSA in Germany

» Ms. Clara Hertz (University of Hamburg)

'Structural determinants of widespread professionalisation: the role of the public rental sector in national STR markets'

» Dr. Matteo Beltramo (Politecnico di Torino)

Airbnb-oriented development and conflicts at the urban frontier: evidences from São Paulo, Brazil

» Mr. Pedro Henrique Rezende Mendonça (University of São Paulo (IME-USP)), Mr. Felipe Ursini (University of São Paulo (FAU-USP)), Ms. Raquel Rolnik (University of São Paulo (FAU-USP)), Prof. Paula Santoro (University of São Paulo (FAU-USP))

A long-term perspective on wealth extraction from short and mid-term housing

» Prof. Christian Smigiel (University of Salzburg)

15:30

Oral : #42-2/2

#42 Informality Beyond the Margins: Everyday Practices of Elites, State Power, and Contestation in Contemporary Cities. (2/2)

Venue - HS 21

Organised by: Vivek Mishra (Convenor), Gavin Shatkin (Convenor), and Chen Zhang (Convenor)

Cities often strive to "formalize" themselves in order to be recognized within the system of "world cities." Yet the more cities appear "formal" in the eyes of global networks of power and ideas, the more they seem to

produce multiple, subtle, and overlapping modes of informality within themselves. Informality has become a way of life in many cities (Alsayyad, 2004). Urban studies have long associated "informality" with poverty, marginality, and survival strategies of the poor and documented how subalterns engage in informal economic activities (e.g., street vending and waste picking), build informal housing and neighborhoods (e.g., urban villages and favelas), and create informal social and political networks.

However, informality is not just a realm of urban subalterns. Across cities worldwide, elites, including middle-class residents, developers, and multiple levels of state actors, also engage in varied forms of informal practices that violate planning regulations. This includes luxury apartments and farmhouses that violate land-use codes and zoning regulations, high-rise gated colonies built on wetlands or forest land, and unauthorized commercial development by major real estate developers. Here, we align with Azunre's (2024) argument that studies of informality have largely neglected the role of elites in the production of informal spaces, creating a critical blind spot with significant implications for urban inequality, governance, sustainability, and social justice.

An emerging body of research has begun to examine the role of elites in the production of informality across contexts, including Hong Kong (Lai, 2015; Ho, 2024), Bogotá, Colombia (Martínez and Chiodelli, 2021), and Pakistan (Moatasim, 2019). However, there is still a need for a comparative, historically grounded, and theoretical understanding of everyday socio-spatial, cultural, and political-economic dimensions of how elite informality is produced and maintained in different contexts, and how these multiple forms of elite informality (re)shape urban power dynamics and (re)produce inequality. Therefore, this panel invites papers that explore how administrative, social, economic, and political elites use informal practices to navigate and/or circumvent state regulations. By zooming in on the role of elites in informal urban processes, this panel seeks to reorient debates on informality beyond questions of poverty and marginalization toward an understanding of informality as a constitutive feature of urban governance that cuts across class, geographic, and cultural identities. Such a conceptual reframe can reveal the interplay among informality, class, and power in shaping contemporary urban transformation and development.

In particular, we invite papers from different geographies that address the following questions/themes:

1. Elite informality and urban (in)equality: examines how elite-produced informal practices manifest and/or mitigate inequality - through their everyday self-governance, cultural, and discursive practices, and how



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

they contest state power.
2. Informality and administrative and bureaucratic elites: traces how state agents are not only active consumers of informality, but also deploy governance repertoires such as exceptions, tolerance, selective enforcement, and categorization to negotiate and produce informality.
3. Informality and "formal" urban projects: How contemporary utopian urban projects and discourses around smart-city initiatives, bottom-up planning, climate adaptation or resilience, and anti-immigration urban design produce new forms of informality?

Elite Capture and the Making of Patchy Urbanism in the Global South

» [Prof. Shubhra Gururani](#) (York University)

Houses That Do Not Exist: Illegal Villas, Tourism, and the Politics of "Elite Informality" in the Mediterranean

» [Mr. Miguel Rossello Xamena](#) (MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

"Go free not go rot" style: Deciphering new urban informality from the small business recovery and emerging "car-trunk market" of Wuhan

» [Dr. Ziming Li](#) (Wuhan University)

Illegal constructions and the rise of hyperlocal politics in Darjeeling, West Bengal

» [Dr. Ratoola Kundu](#) (Tata Institute of Social Sciences), [Dr. Suchismita Chatterjee](#) (Individual Consultant)

Governing the In-Between: Elite Informality and Interstitial Governance in India and Taiwan

» [Mr. Richard Muller](#) (University College London (UCL))

15:30

Oral : #66-2/2

#66 The Politics and Practices of Infrastructuring: Participation, Mediation, and Variations in State Engagement (2/2)

Venue - HS 27

Organised by: Carl-Philipp Bodenstein (Convenor), Dr. Sudeshna Mitra (Convenor), Karin Pfeffer (Convenor), and Ms. Federica Duca (Convenor)

"Key Themes: Urban Infrastructuring, Infrastructural Inequalities, Mediation, State Engagement, Participatory Approaches

Urban infrastructures are not merely technical systems; they are deeply embedded in the socio-spatial fabric of cities, shaping and reflecting inequalities across caste, class, race, and other axes of marginalization. The spatial distribution, accessibility, efficiency, and affordability of infrastructure are critical measures of how equitable and inclusive cities are-or can become. In recent years, the concept of "infrastructuring" has emerged to capture the dynamic, processual, and relational nature of infrastructure development. Infrastructuring encompasses the social practices, negotiations, and power dynamics that shape the design, distribution, maintenance, and transformation of infrastructure systems over time.

This panel explores the potential of urban infrastructuring to challenge socio-spatial inequalities while also interrogating how infrastructural systems and processes may reify or exacerbate these inequalities. It brings together two complementary perspectives: (1) the variegated ways in which state and non-state actors engage with the politics of infrastructuring, particularly in the context of the Global South, and (2) the role of participation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange in fostering more just and inclusive urban futures.

On one hand, infrastructuring is a site of contestation, where claims to infrastructure, recognition, and redistribution are negotiated between residents, mediators, and state institutions. These negotiations often reflect and reinforce existing hierarchies, as state responses to infrastructural claims vary across socio-economic groups. For instance, self-provisioning strategies like solar energy systems may be embraced in affluent areas but penalized in marginalized neighborhoods, highlighting the uneven governance of urban infrastructure. On the other hand, infrastructuring also offers opportunities for participatory and collaborative approaches to infrastructure co-production, enabling diverse actors to engage in iterative processes of knowledge exchange and decision-making. Digital tools such as GIS, collaboration platforms, and planning support systems can play a critical role in making these processes more inclusive and accessible.

By bringing together these perspectives, the panel aims to foster a critical dialogue on the transformative potential of urban infrastructuring and the challenges of addressing entrenched



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

inequalities in cities around the world.

We invite papers that address the following questions:

- How do different urban actors-ranging from residents of informal settlements to middle-class and wealthy homeowners-engage with or resist state institutions in their claims to infrastructure?
- What roles do mediators, brokers, and facilitators play in shaping the relationship between state and non-state actors in the context of infrastructuring?
- How do state agencies selectively respond to infrastructural claims, and how do these responses reinforce or challenge existing hierarchies?
- How can participatory and collaborative geo-spatial approaches to infrastructuring address and alleviate socio-spatial inequalities?
- What are the long-term dynamics of infrastructuring processes, and how can they be studied and conceptualized?"

Governing Incompletion and Incompleteness: Agri-food Market Infrastructure in Urban China

» [Ms. Ziqiu Ren](#) (University of Manchester)

Urban Infrastructures of care: the intertwining of care and wider urban infrastructures in Colombo, Bengaluru and Mossel Bay

» [Ms. Vrashali Khandelwal](#) (Indian Institute for Human Settlements), Dr. Nick Nisbett (Institute of Development Studies), Dr. Mercy Brown-Luthango (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town), Ms. Iromi Perera (Colombo Urban Lab)

Governing Poverty Through Infrastructures: Welfare Networks and Urban Inequality in Milan

» [Dr. Eugenio Graziano](#) (University Milano-Bicocca), [Prof. Carlotta Mozzana](#) (Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca)

Mediated Citizenship: Evidence from Cape Town's small-scale rental sector

» [Ms. Noor Mazhar](#) (University of Cambridge)

Divided Space and Fragmented Futures: Public Transport Electrification and Urban Inequalities in Mexico City's Metropolitan Area

» [Mr. Clovis Lachance](#) (Oxford University)

15:30

Oral : #103-4/4

#103 Regeneration and the Remaking of Urban Inequalities (4/4)

Venue - HS 30

Organised by: Prof. Paul Watt (Convenor) and Zheng Wang (Convenor)

Regeneration has been a prominent feature of urban development across cities in the Global North and South for several decades. Whilst regeneration discourses are spatially specific, their broad underlying contours are fairly consistent, i.e. physical redevelopment promoted by the state with variable levels of private sector fiscal and governmental involvement. Regeneration is often associated with the remaking of urban inequalities, for example via enhancing processes of state-led gentrification in the Global North (Watt and Smets, 2017; Morris, 2019; Watt, 2021), or through large-scale resettlements in the Global South and East (Goodfellow et al.; Wang, 2022; Williams et al., 2022). In this session, we wish to highlight the manifold ways that regeneration reshapes contemporary landscapes of urban inequalities, which may include gentrification but is by no means restricted to gentrification-related issues. Hence, we are interested in theoretical, methodological and empirical research papers which explore how regeneration remakes urban inequalities along class, racial/ethnic, gender, disability, religious and intersectional lines, and this includes the spatial contours of such social inequalities.

Some of the research questions that we are interested in include:

- 'what are the aims of regeneration projects vis-à-vis urban inequalities?';
- 'how do the end results of regeneration change such inequalities?'; 'how do these changes match onto the original regeneration aims?';
- 'to what extent do urban political economies determine or pre-determine how regeneration reshapes inequalities';
- 'how does contestation and resistance from below affect the manner in which regeneration reshapes urban inequalities';
- 'does regeneration produce socially uneven inequalities in that some inequalities are ameliorated whilst others are enhanced or vice versa?';
- 'do certain types of regeneration exacerbate urban inequalities more than others?'; and 'what are the policy implications of regeneration vis-a-vis urban inequalities?'
- 'One theme which could be explored is how the temporal process of



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

regeneration unfolds over time - often elongating way beyond the original deadlines - and therefore 'how does such regeneration elongation itself change urban inequalities?'

We are interested in papers which explore the above themes and questions using a range of methods and theoretical approaches.

When tension over representation overtakes residents' (influence) - In-between the local state and a grassroots resident collective in urban regenerative policy

» [Mr. Yannick Drijfhout](#) (University of Amsterdam), Dr. Shivant Jhagroe (University Leiden), Dr. Nanke Verloo (University of Amsterdam)

RETHINKING URBAN REGENERATION – Addressing democratic and epistemic gaps & invisible inequalities through co-production in Marseille Belle de Mai district

» [Prof. Agnès Deboulet](#) (Université Paris 8), Dr. Philippe Urvoy (University Paris Nanterre), Dr. Bresson Sabrina (Ecole nationale d'Architecture de Paris Val-de-Seine), [Mrs. El Bainouni Alima](#) (APPUII)

Collectives on the border of poverty and income in Amsterdam

» [Dr. Peer Smets](#) (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

“Risky” Kaynartepe: A Case of Counterinsurgent Governance Through Urban Regeneration

» [Ms. Arjin Tas](#) (University of Vienna)

Counterinsurgent practices of public housing estate regeneration

» Dr. Priya Kunjan (RMIT University), [Dr. Alistair Sisson](#) (Macquarie University), [Dr. David Kelly](#) (RMIT University), Dr. Pratichi Chatterjee (University of Sheffield)

15:30

Oral : #1-4/4

#1 Youth, (Un)Care and the City (4/4)

Venue - HS 31

Organised by: Rachel Almeida (Convenor), Prof. Sabine Knierbein (Convenor), and Dr. Nir Cohen (Convenor)

In much of the world, young people have been systematically excluded from decision-making processes concerning urban development and public spaces. Whether through social and territorial marginalisation or through the invisibility of their experiences in policy design, youth are often reduced to "secondary users" of urban spaces, if not treated as a threat to public order. Such a perspective overlooks the fact that young people are protagonists in the social production of space, elaborating creative practices, modes of circulation, everyday resistances, and political mobilisations that fundamentally challenge and reconfigure ways of inhabiting the city.

Far from being passive recipients of urban policies, youth constitute themselves as both collective and individual subjects who articulate desires, practices of care, distinctive aesthetics, and insurgent forms of belonging. Whether through peripheral cultural production, the reappropriation of squares, streets, and public facilities, the experience of new gendered forms of belonging, the creative use of digital technologies, or the building of networks of solidarity and community support, young people exercise careful agency over urban space. These practices, often rendered invisible by formal policies, reveal dynamics that expand the notion of the right to the city towards debates about urban un(care), question exclusionary logics, and challenge hegemonic models of urban planning.

This session brings together contributions that explore the role of youth in the social production of space and in forms of political incidence across distinct geopolitical contexts. We are interested in understanding how factors such as territory, race, class, gender, education, and generation interact to shape the experiences of youth, influencing their practices of use, access, and appropriation of urban space. Equally relevant are analyses of how mobility, safety, technology, and social media affect the presence and organisation of youth in urban space, and their creative and collective responses to these challenges.

We are especially interested in the role of peripheral youth as intellectuals, resisting artists, and cultural agents who shape new urban horizons through different forms of solidarity and care, as well as innovative and aesthetic types of cultural products. This insurgent knowledge, especially when emerging from the margins, has the potential to influence public debate and inform more caring and democratic urban alternatives.



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

The session welcomes methodological explorations that articulate youth-oriented research, practice, and collaborative action, such as socio-spatial workshops, mappings, focus groups, exhibitions, and other forms of co-production of knowledge with young people and local communities that seek to combine embodied and virtual spaces into 'vireal' spaces of youth.

We seek contributions that combine empirical analyses, methodological advances, and theoretical reflections, exploring both localised case studies and complementary or transnational approaches. Of particular interest is the promotion of dialogue between researchers, artists, activists, and policymakers working in the fields of youth, urban space, and collective care. By emphasising creative practices, conflicts and possibilities of transformation led by young people, this session sheds light on under-recognised dimensions of youthful urban life and contributes to the construction of fairer cities learning from the new forms of literacy that young people bring along.

Living Alone Together: Urban (Un)Care, and the Sensory Politics of Young Single-Person Living in Korean Officetels

» Mr. Sunwoo Kim (Goldsmiths university)

Riding the Margins: Children's Mobilities in a Car-Centric Peri-Urban Landscape

» Ms. Carmen Kern (RCE-Centre for Sustainable Social Transformation, University of Graz), Prof. Anke Strüver (RCE-Centre for Sustainable Social Transformation, University of Graz)

Slamming the City: Youth, Care, and New Urban Cartographies in Goma, Eastern DR Congo

» Dr. Silke Oldenburg (Geneva Graduate Institute)

More Than Buildings: Youth Agency, Infrastructure, and the Social Production of Climate-Resilient Education

» Dr. Takudzwa Charisse Taruza (ASCEND, University of Cape Town)

Youth's climate-social futures in Salzburg: an arts-based approach to critical participatory action research

» Dr. FUTURES Collective (BOKU University and Mozarteum University Salzburg)

15:30

Oral : #47-2/2

#47 Collective Urban Praxis: Relational and Transformative Approaches to Challenging Urban Inequalities (122)

Venue - HS 32

Organised by: Hugo Lopez (Convenor), Cristian Olmos Herrera (Convenor), Juliana Goncalves (Convenor), and Caroline Newton (Convenor)

This panel invites contributions that interrogate and experiment with the methodological and pedagogical dimensions of academic engagement for collective urban action. It brings together scholars and practitioners who use research and education as sites for cultivating solidarity, recognition, and transformative spatial practices. In light of the conference's theme, "Inequalities and the City. Old Issues, New Challenges", the session foregrounds the ways in which persistent and emerging urban inequalities are not only analysed but actively challenged, disrupted and politicised, through participatory, embodied, and co-creative modes of inquiry.

Urban inequalities manifest differently across Global North, South, and East contexts, yet share common roots in colonial legacies, neoliberal policies, and exclusionary planning practices. This panel explicitly seeks to centre voices and methodologies from the Global South and East, recognising how innovative approaches to urban research and pedagogy often emerge from contexts of resource constraints and social movements fighting for spatial justice.

In many contexts, participatory approaches have been institutionalised, often losing their transformative edge and becoming procedural rather than political. This panel seeks to recover the radical potential of engagement by exploring situated pedagogies and collaborative methodologies that operate beyond extractive research or consultation logics. We invite reflections on how design studios, artistic and critical research, and spatial practices can become forms of collective rehearsal, prefigurative action and concrete utopias, sites where recognition, resistance, and relational learning are enacted.

Central questions include:

- How can collaborative methodologies challenge rather than merely



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

document urban inequalities?

- What forms of co-making and co-becoming can unsettle traditional hierarchies between expert/participant, teacher/learner, researcher/community and simultaneously challenge the colonial dimension of knowledge production?
- How can relational and sensory methodological innovations from the Global South (such as decolonial mapping, community storytelling, performative documentation, or film) inform and transform urban research practices globally, contributing to more ethical, inclusive, and transformative urban knowledge?
- What does it mean to "learn solidarity and justice" through spatial research and practice in contexts shaped by different stories of injustice and inequality?

The panel particularly encourages papers that present methodological innovations (including visual, narrative, sonic, or embodied approaches) that challenge dominant Western academic frameworks and that reflect critically on the ethics, politics, and pedagogy of engagement. Contributions may include case studies of collaborative projects, decolonial and feminist practices, speculative methodologies, or theoretical explorations of recognition, care, and relationality in spatial research. By bringing together perspectives from different contexts and traditions, the session aims to contribute to an emerging transdisciplinary discourse on engaged urban approaches.

Challenging commercial gentrification: engaged urban research strategies for inclusive traditional retail markets

» Dr. Myfanwy Taylor (University College London), Prof. Sara Gonzalez (University of Leeds)

Teaching and learning "post" socialist urbanism

» Ms. Shushan Abrahamyan (Territorial Studies and Development Lab, Faculty of Sociology, Yerevan State University), Ms. Armine Ghalamdaryan (Department of Theory and History of Sociology, Yerevan State University), Dr. Julia Wesely (Department of Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna)

GUIDE FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCHING FEMINIST URBANISM. Towards learning about cities from an intersectional gender perspective

» Prof. ANABELLA ROITMAN (University of Buenos Aires), Ms. María Victoria Ara (Universidad de Buenos Aires), Ms. Lucia Anahí Casalla (Universidad de Buenos Aires), Ms. María Victoria Frascarelli (Universidad de Buenos Aires)

Improving Cairo's Rooftops through Collaborative Design? Lessons Learned from a Design-Build with a Sudanese Community School in Boulq al-Dakrour

» Dr. Ayham Dalal (German University in Cairo), Dr. Juliana Canedo (Technische Universität Berlin)

Embodiments of Concrete Utopias and the Practice of Liberation Pedagogy: an experimental research and artists' intervention in Jakarta's Urban Kampung

» Dr. Prathiwi Widyatmi Putri (University of Kassel), Mx. Anggraeni Widhiasih (Muara Suara Art Collective), Mx. Dini Adanurani (Muara Suara Art Collective), Mx. Prashasti W. Putri (Muara Suara Art Collective)

15:30

Oral : #11-4/4

#11 Invisible Citizens: Experiencing and Resisting Exclusion in the Contemporary City (4/4)

Venue - B.I.G. HS

Organised by: Prof. Anna Domaradzka (Convenor) and Nina Wróblewska (Convenor)

Cities are places of complex coexistence, where people from different social, cultural, and cognitive backgrounds come together in shared public spaces (Fincher and Iveson 2008, Gehl 2010). Unfortunately, these spaces are not always adapted to the needs of all city residents. Many people experience forms of exclusion that remain invisible to policymakers, urban planners, and researchers (Soja 2010, Wilson and Tewdwr-Jones 2021). These 'hidden inequalities' can manifest in various ways, including cognitive or sensory exclusion (Imrie 2011), as well as more visible economic, social, or spatial barriers (Lefebvre 1991, Young 1990).

Some urban citizens are more prone to become 'invisible' - this includes neuroatypical individuals, people with disabilities or mental health issues, women, elderly, members of LGBTQ+ community, migrants, unhoused people and other minorities and equity-seeking groups



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

(Hamraie 2017, Kitchin 1998). Their exclusion is not always overt or intentional, yet it often becomes embedded in the infrastructure, services, and discourses that shape the city (Fainstein 2010, Harvey 2008). This can lead to subtle but profound limitations in navigating public space, accessing city services, participating in policymaking and feeling a sense of belonging (Mitchell 2003).

Growing social, economic, and environmental challenges are increasing the urgency of addressing these forms of inequality (UN-Habitat 2020). Urban expansion, population shifts into major cities, digital transformation, and climate change are reshaping urban life in ways that increase the vulnerability of groups already at risk of exclusion (Anguelovski et al. 2018, Blokland et al. 2015). Research shows that diversity and the inclusion of disadvantaged groups are not only matters of social justice, but also essential for building more resilient, democratic, and innovative urban environments (Fainstein 2010, Meerow et al. 2016, Soja 2010).

This session aims to create a space for dialogue on how hidden inequalities are produced and experienced, as well as how they are addressed or resisted. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary perspectives and case studies from different geographical, political and ethnical contexts, especially those that are rarely represented in mainstream academic discourse.

We invite authors using diverse theoretical approaches including, but not restricted to: social construction of disability, theories of spatial justice and right to the city, conflict theory, postcolonial theory, indigenous studies or social exclusion and marginality theory. We encourage contributions engaging with concepts like human agency, narratives, spatial and digital practices, cultural representations, and similar.

We aim to address following questions:

1. How 'invisible' forms of exclusion manifest in different urban contexts?
2. In what ways do policies, planning practices, or public discourses reproduce the invisibility of vulnerable groups?
3. How do vulnerable groups resist, negotiate, or reconfigure urban inequalities in their everyday lives?
4. What are the spatial and social - both collective and individual - strategies used by excluded groups striving for safety, privacy, health

and well-being in the urban context?
5. What methodological or theoretical approaches are best suited to making 'hidden' experiences visible in urban research?

Co-Producing Inclusive Urban Regeneration with Marginalised Residents

» Ms. Francesca Araldo (Università degli Studi di Bari "A. Moro")

Reimagining neglected urban spaces – (un)intended inclusion and exclusion

» Dr. Petra Kelemen (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology)

Sonic rights for homeless neurodivergent children living in temporary accommodation

» Dr. Rosalie Warnock (King's College London), Prof. Katherine Brickell (King's College London), Dr. Mhairi-lean Ross (King's College London)

Resisting Invisibility: Participatory and Cultural Strategies Against Spatial Violence in São Paulo and Boston

» Ms. Mariana Costa Morais (Johannes Kepler Universität Linz), Dr. Jules Rochielle Sievert (Northeastern University)

15:30

Workshop : Round table 10

Urban racial bordering

Venue - Franz-König Saal (= HS 06)

Organised by: Dr. Giulia Torino (Panel Chair), Prof. Suzi Hall (Panel Chair), Prof. Nishat Awan (Discussant), Ali Bhagat (Discussant), Dalia Gebrial (Discussant), Matt Mahmoudi (Discussant), and Junxi Qian (Discussant)

This roundtable explores how racial borders shape, and are shaped by, the contemporary urban condition. We understand borders not only as geopolitical spaces but also embodied, infrastructural, and urban processes. In the ordinary life of cities, they are enforced through policing, housing and shelter, formal and informal labour markets, and governance (Mahmoudi, 2025; Bhagat, 2024; Torino, 2023; Gebrial, 2022; Qian, 2022; Hall, 2021; Awan, 2016), among others.

By taking the questions posed by escalating border violences and border regimes around the world seriously (De Genova, 2017; Mezzadra & Neilson, 2013), this panel will discuss an underrepresented relation in urban studies and past RC21 conferences: between racial capitalism (Gilmore, 2022; Robinson, 2020[1983]; Bhattacharyya, 2018), migration



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

regimes, and the city. In doing so, it will address questions such as: How do urban spaces become laboratories of bordering? How do racial borders materialise in the city, and how do communities and solidarity movements inhabit, contest, and rework them? What methods can be used to effectively investigate the workings of racial borders in and beyond cities? And what conceptual tools-e.g. racial borderscapes, necropolitics, racial capitalism-help us grasp these dynamics?

To approach these questions, the roundtable brings together early career and more established scholars to advance a conversation on urban racial bordering as both a structural condition of the global present and a terrain of radical possibility for more just urban futures, opening generative avenues for critical urban studies and cognate disciplines:

Nishat Awan is Prof of Architecture & Visual Culture at UCL Urban Laboratory, whose research visually attends to transnational mobility and the spatial-geopolitical representation of borders 'otherwise', particularly in the UK and Pakistan, among others.

Ali Bhagat is Dr in the School of Public Policy, Simon Fraser University, researching refugee mobilities and livelihoods, migration policy, and intersectional political economy in Kenya, France, Canada, and South Africa.

Dalia Gebrial is Dr of Geography & Social Justice at King's College London, where her research interrogates the geographies of empire, race, and labour, across the digital and political economies of London and the UK.

Matt Mahmoudi is Dr in Digital Humanities at the University of Cambridge, where he researches how "smart" urban systems reproduce racial capitalism, particularly across digital urban infrastructures of migration control, in the USA, Germany, and Palestine.

Junxi Qian is Associate Prof of Geography at Hong Kong University, whose research bridges geography, urban studies, and cultural studies, focusing on urban-rural systems, cultural economies, and the everyday geographies of borders in China.

Session organisers:

Giulia Torino is Dr of Urban Sociology at the London School of

Economics and Political Science, where she researches spaces of displacement and migration, urban margins, Southern urbanisms, and the racial political economy of housing/labour, particularly in Colombia and the Mediterranean.

Suzi Hall is Prof of Sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science; her urban ethnographic work examines migration, street economies, and racialised dimensions of bordering and everyday urban life in the UK and South Africa.

Urban racial bordering

» Dr. Giulia Torino (London School of Economics), Prof. Suzi Hall (London School of Economics)

15:30

General

Excursion

Venue - Meeting Point - U2 metro station Museumsquartier, exit: Mariahilferstrasse

See details and register for the excursions here: <https://rc21-vienna2026.org/excursions/>.

19:30

General

Social Dinner

Venue - Courtyard

We welcome you to enjoy a relaxing summer evening in the beautiful and historic courtyard of the University of Vienna. After three busy days of talks and presentations, you can unwind with regional, sustainably sourced vegan and vegetarian food prepared by Gaumenfreund:innen. The evening will be accompanied by a DJ, creating a comfortable setting for conversations, to socialize with fellow researchers, meet new people, and connect with colleagues in an informal setting.

Where: Courtyard of the main university building, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna

When: Wednesday, July 22nd 19:30 - 22:00

We are looking forward to hosting you at this year's RC21 social dinner!

Best,



Continued from **Wednesday, 22 July**

Yuri Kazepov and the local organising team