In this issue:
On climate change, risk and relocation
See Focus on, page 2
Climate change brings a particular set of challenges for cities in the global south. The people most affected are the poor living in hazard-exposed locations or areas with inadequate provision for basic services. Resettlement from high-risk areas has been considered a possible disaster risk reduction strategy in response to increased natural hazard risks and disasters brought on by urbanisation and climate change (Correa et al. 2011). However, as this piece will argue, the implementation of resettlement is rarely successful because more often than not it occurs in a top-down manner that fails to consider people’s view of risks and how these are interwoven with people’s values and daily needs. Disaster risks need to be considered as intrinsic to everyday life. Recent DPU research on urban risk and relocation has looked at these issues and put into practice bottom-up methods of defining risk and risk mitigation strategies.

Climate change is expected to impact on people living in urban areas in various ways, and compounds the already existing problem of urban risk. The term ‘urban risk’ covers a wide spectrum of risks that are created through the process of urbanisation – the concentration of people and assets in places that are vulnerable to hazards. Risks are usually not uniform across a city; they are concentrated specifically in areas exposed to natural hazards such as steep slopes and flood plains, and in neighbourhoods lacking adequate infrastructure and services. Research shows that losses from the big intensive disaster events, such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, are actually eclipsed by the losses from smaller or ‘everyday’ events, such as urban flooding, fires, traffic accidents, pollution, eviction and ill health from water and foodborne illnesses (United Nations, 2015). The impacts of climate change come on top of the already existing disasters that many people in cities face.

Whilst cities in high-income nations are more able to manage the effects of climate change, cities in many middle and low-income nations have very large infrastructure deficits that make hazards and climate change much more difficult to withstand. Climate change can bring heavier rainfall that can contribute to flash flooding, higher water tables and landslides in places where there is inadequate drainage infrastructure. Droughts can make water scarcer and more expensive. Sea level rise can permanently inundate once habitable areas. Wind patterns are changing and, in some places, becoming more intense. These impacts can lead to both intensive and smaller-scale disasters.

For most people, disasters are not the greatest threat, but rather an amplification of their daily struggles. People live with ‘tolerable risks’ to maximise the benefits of a certain location. The poorest live in areas exposed to hazards not by choice, but because they are balancing the need for shelter against that for livelihood or employment opportunities, and the threat of a disaster may not be the highest priority. At some point there may be a tipping point—maybe a disaster—that urges people to move of their own volition, or their circumstances change so that they no longer need to ‘tolerate the risks.’

For example, in the Msasani and Mambani neighbourhoods of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, DPU research showed that community members identify crime and poor solid waste management as being the greatest risks, even though they live in areas highly prone to flooding (Ndezee, 2017). In Karonga, a small urban centre in Northern Malawi, community members identify hunger, floods, disease/epidemics and drought as the greatest risks (Manda and Wanda, 2017). The Bwaise and Natete neighbourhoods in Kampala, Uganda, based in the low-lying wetlands of the city, are highly flood-prone. People tolerate the almost daily occurrence of flooding during the rainy season because they have security of tenure in these areas, and life is also affordable. However, it doesn’t mean that people wouldn’t want to move if they had the means. One family, who had lived with the flooding for many years, finally reached a tipping point when the mother fell down in a torrent of water, and almost drowned. They moved to a new location for a couple of years, but eventually came back and rebuilt their house on higher foundations, because the rent elsewhere was too expensive (Johnson et al., 2016).

As these examples illustrate, the manner in which risk is defined, and by whom, has a bearing on decisions about how to approach risk mitigation. Risk is essentially a subjective concept and the threshold of tolerable risk varies by circumstance. Research suggests that individuals accept a certain level of risk in their lives as necessary to avail themselves of certain benefits; benefit and risk have a directly proportional relationship: the higher the benefit/need, the more willing individuals will be to accept risk. Individuals take calculated risks based on the amount of information they have and their experiences in similar situations.

Simply put, risk is indicated by the equation Risk = Hazard x Vulnerability/Capacity to act. But who decides the threshold of risk that is too great to bear? What methodology do authorities use in their calculations in situations of potential resettlement? There are two specific elements at play here, one is around power, and which people or organisations have the power to make decisions or take action, and secondly, how those in power measure or perceive risk.

Legal and policy frameworks are important elements in how governments define and act on risks. Acceptability of societal risks has long been quantified when it comes to engineering and geoscience practices, such as dam safety, flood hazards, or nuclear power plants. Each country defines its own set of risk acceptability, such as the UK’s National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies, based on scientific evidence and expert knowledge. The insurance industry routinely calculates risk to provide coverage for their clients while earning a profit (Nalla, 2017).

When it comes to coping with natural hazards and the impacts of climate change on those living in informal settlements, planning authorities and related government agencies are too often seeking to reduce disaster risks by moving people, typically after a disaster, from hazard-exposed locations. Many international funding agencies as well as national and local governments simplistically assume...
resettlement is a stand-alone tool for disaster risk management, an approach aided by legal and policy frameworks. For example, the concept of ‘un-mitigable risk areas’ in Colombia and Peru and ‘untenable’ areas in India, present visions of risk based on specific methodologies that are acted on by local level institutional actors. The data used for such decisions offers a limited view of risk and the risk mitigation options available. It underestimates adaptation strategies adopted by people living in hazard-prone areas. These laws are rigid, and often place too much power in the hands of the few (Jain et al., 2017).

In Peru, new laws enable the regional and national governments to declare ‘un-mitigable’ risk areas. A ‘high un-mitigable risk’ area is defined as “a zone where the probability exists that the population and its livelihoods will suffer damage and loss because of the impact of events and where the implementation of mitigation measures leads to greater costs and complexity than relocating housing and urban infrastructure” (in Lavell, 2015).

The methodology for defining un-mitigable risk is a calculation of the probability of natural hazards in a specific area based on frequency and magnitude, as well the vulnerability of people and structures, defined by exposure, fragility and resilience. There are parameters built into the methodology that defines the levels of high risk, medium risk and low risk, but the ultimate value depends on the calculation made by the assessor and experts. The final decision about whether to resettle people is taken by the authorities, and does not directly include perspectives of the people who are to be resettled (Caceres, 2017).

The recent nature of all these measures and criteria makes it impossible to judge their efficacy at present. But, what is known is that the law assumes that the population is in agreement with being resettled, which may not be the case (Lavell, 2015). The law states that only prioritised populations who don’t have the means to move by themselves and who do not own any other property would be part of an organised resettlement, but it is not clear what happens when someone does not want to take part in the process, or what options non-poor inhabitants have, such as those in Belén, Peru, who have protested against their resettlement (Caceres, 2017).

In India, ‘un-tenable’ is a term often used to justify moving people from areas deemed to be hazardous. According to the guidelines of the Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) slum improvement programme, “Untenable slums/vacant lands will be only those which are a ‘safety’ or ‘health hazard’ to the inhabitants or their neighbourhoods, even if redeveloped. Such untenable sites or portions will be earmarked for relocation to other redevelopment/vacant sites, preferably within the same zone.” Un-tenable slums are those considered to be located on major storm water or other drains, railway lines, to impede major transport alignment, the beds of rivers or water bodies, or to exist in other hazardous or objectionable areas, including in close proximity to high tension lines. However, it is argued that a robust methodology for measuring tenability is not universally applied, although suggestions for such a methodology have been developed. As low-income households build dwellings and settlements over time, in-situ upgrading is often rejected by public authorities arguing that the community is ‘untenable’ not.
because of any hazard but because they do not adhere to the minimum development control norms or service level benchmarks (Bhan, Anand & Harish, 2014). Yet, our research shows that people who have lived in locations that have been deemed ‘untenable’, for more than 5 years, tend to develop adaptation strategies to deal with those risks (Jain, 2016). The relocation of such settlements should be avoided at all costs as it tends to increase the socio-economic burden on people as well as the city at large.

For example, research by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements looked at Sevanagar Madhurvada, a slum settlement located on railway land in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The Railways needed the land and accepted the help of the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) to evict the residents on the pretext of hazard reduction and ‘untenable’ status. Despite the legal battles between the residents and the Railways and GVMC, the area has now been developed as a railway stadium. The residents were relocated more than 25 km northward to Madhurvada, where there is limited access to physical, economic or social services. The difficult outcomes of the eviction are being felt deeply by the residents. While they are facing greater everyday challenges and also periodic major events, including the cyclone Hudhud in 2014, they have not received aid or government help, which was available in the past in their previous location (Jain, 2016).

Methodologies do exist that make residents’ own views of risk central to decision-making about resettlement. For example, in 2013 a team from the University of Leuven looked at people’s preferences for resettlement from the unstable slopes of Mount Elgon, in eastern Uganda. This is an area where Uganda’s first disaster-induced resettlement scheme was implemented in 2011 after a major landslide. The people were resettled in Kinyandongo, several hundred kilometres away, but many returned to their homes of origin because there was no basic infrastructure, access to public health and safety or opportunities to establish livelihoods in the new settlement. Vlaeminck’s (2016) research showed that the conditions offered for resettlement could make a big difference in people’s decision-making. For example, preference for relocation from landslide areas unsurprisingly tends to be greater for residents located in the steepest slope/highest risk areas, when the compensation to be given is greater (due to a larger land area), or if the location of resettlement is within the same district, rather than far away.

Our research in Kampala, Uganda posited that one’s values have a good deal to do with how one sees staying or moving (Marx et al., 2016). We identified that people’s decisions to remain living in Kampala’s low-lying wetland areas, which are prone to daily flooding during the rainy season, are based on their considerations of the costs of flood risk, mediated by the opportunities that living in that location provide, as well as the ‘values’ that they place on those opportunities. ‘Value’ is broader than financial measures, and therefore is difficult to measure using top-down methodologies. For example, a dwelling is simultaneously a place of security, an asset, a place to work from, and/or a drain on resources to maintain. Values change over time. For example, a parcel of land can change value because people convert it from a commodity to an inheritance – something that they purchased becomes a gift. In such a case, while the ‘market value’ has not gone away, the value of the land is understood within a different set of norms, expectations, obligations and relationships and affects what can and cannot be done with the land. Viewed in this way, people’s decisions about relocation are based on a complex set of values that go well beyond hazard, vulnerability and resilience.

DPU staff have been involved in a number of research projects working on community-driven visions of risk. From our perspective, if those people who bear the burden of risk have a say in identifying those risks and the levels that they are willing to tolerate against other trade-offs, and have the means to communicate this to policymakers, this leads to a more just
evaluation than alternative calculations. We see a stronger community-led risk view as key to improving policy outcomes. It is the people who need to be identifying the risks they face, and working together to act on these.

To this end, Adriana Allen and Rita Lambert have developed the ReMap Risk methodology and applied it in Lima, Peru as part of the CLIMA Sin Riesgo project, and in Freetown, Sierra Leone and Karonga, Malawi, as part of the Urban ARK project. Cassidy Johnson and Emmanuel Osuteye have partnered with the Centre for Community Initiatives and Ardhi University in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to work with two communities to identify the risks they face, to develop action plans and to enter into a dialogue with local authorities about addressing their needs, based on the ‘Action at the Frontline’ methodology, in the AXA project.

At the end of our project Reducing Relocation Risks, we held a multi-stakeholder workshop in Quito with communities facing eviction, policymakers involved in resettlement and researchers. The statement issued from participants in this workshop summarises well the arguments (Jain et al., 2017).

Due to urbanisation processes, poverty conditions, and climate change, the potential numbers of people living in areas exposed to risk is increasing. Relocation and resettlement are last-resort options; the priority is making safe land available for low-income populations, minimising new development on hazard-prone lands, and the integration of current and future risks into development, land use and urban planning. This will reduce risks in the future.

Considering the high numbers of forced evictions in which risk exposure is used as a pretext to move people out and to destroy their property, there is a need for national safety-net policies and procedures that are enforced and monitored. These policies and procedures need to protect people’s rights, and to ensure that due and just procedures are followed.

Analysing disasters, urban risk and climate change cannot be separated from examining everyday life; these must be understood within the broader patterns of society. If one looks solely at risk mitigation, then resettlement may seem a good option. But given the choice, people will rarely choose this resettlement. Risk is a subjective concept and will be defined differently across sectors of society and science. Deciding on how to mitigate risks from disaster and climate change requires a collective understanding of the values that different people have and the current and future hazards in particular places. Better information on the risks people face, and how the people affected see these risks is needed, through bottom-up ways of communicating risk. Science also has an important role to play, as there is a need to communicate the biggest threats, now and in the future. Landslides, flash floods, and worsening conditions from climate change may alter how residents see the problem.

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1 This article draws on research undertaken by a large team, including those that have contributed to the Reducing Relocation Risks project: Allan Lavell, Guttma Jain, Colin Mars, Shuaib Lwasa, Jose Carceres, Vineetha Nalla, and Charlotte Barrow.

2 http://www.cepredi.gob.pe/web/download/DS%20115-2013%20Rgto%20Reasentamiento.pdf

3 https://counterview.org/2015/04/22/most-of-the-slums-can-be-considered-tenable-and-hence-must-be-taken-up-for-in-situ-upgradation/

NOTE:
This article draws on research from a number of DPU-led projects:

• Reducing Relocation Risks with partners Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Latin American Social Science Faculty - FLACSO, and Makerere University, Uganda (www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/development/reducing-relocation-risk-urban-areas)


• Urban Africa Risk Knowledge (Urban ARK) (www.urbankark.org)

• Clima Sin Riesgo (https://climasinriesgo.net/)

References


Head on

Book: ‘Housing in Developing Cities: Experience and Lessons’

Patrick Wakely, a long-standing member of the DPU community, published the book *Housing in Developing Cities* in January this year. In no more than 160 pages, this concise book presents a challenging and necessary endeavour: to systematise the main aspects of almost seven decades of housing approaches in a variety of countries. In Patrick’s words, “Drawing on alternative paradigms and theoretical concepts, and my own experience over some four decades, emphasis is given to operational strategies for public sector engagement in urban housing delivery, maintenance and management.”

Discusses multiple cases, the book offers a comprehensive understanding of how ‘conventional’ and ‘non-conventional’ approaches to housing have been applied in different countries over the last decades. The author is honest in saying that many of the historical accounts are presented “at the risk of gross over-simplification”, but in doing so is able to propose an interesting reflection on how the roles of public and private actors, community-based organisations, NGOs and international agencies have evolved over time. Even if the book focuses mainly on historical processes, towards the end it proposes a series of current challenges for housing: the need for city-scale strategies, for gender and multi-cultural perspectives, and the need to address climate change and environmental sustainability.

Patrick’s book offers a necessary historical account, in which questions about the role of the state, partnerships, participation, and the interaction between informal and formal forms of urban regulation and housing production are addressed; to do so, it presents well-documented cases in Asia, Africa and Latin America, at the same time that global processes are discussed. Creating a dialogue between local and global urban and housing challenges lies at the core of DPU work, and this book will certainly help to frame that endeavour.

Book: ‘Environmental Justice and Urban Resilience in the Global South’

Edited by Adriana Allen, Liza Griffin and Cassidy Johnson, this publication is the outcome of a rich intergenerational conversation amongst members of the Environmental Justice, Urbanisation and Resilience (EJUR) DPU research cluster. Susan Parnell, Professor of Urban Geography at the University of Cape Town, comments that “this timely volume does more than bring together a collection of essays on issues of poverty, climate change and urban planning in the global south. The book knits together rich case studies from across the world to speak, individually and collectively, to the urban sustainability nexus of power, injustice and the environment.”

The volume provides a fresh perspective on the important yet often neglected relationship between environmental justice and urban resilience, bringing together an interdisciplinary and intergenerational group of scholars to examine the contradictions and tensions that play out in cities of the Global South through a series of empirically grounded case studies spanning cities of Asia, Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe.

Professor of Geography at King’s College London, Mark Pelling, described it as “an impressively detailed and wide-ranging collection of case studies that holds urban resilience and environmental justice to account, providing a baseline for work aspiring to enhance justice and resilience in the city.”

Report on ‘Youth Engagement in London Planning (YELP): A collaboration between the MSc Urban Development Planning and the Just Space network’

Supported by a grant from the UCL Grand Challenges of Sustainable Cities, in summer 2017 DPU staff produced a Youth Engagement in London Planning (YELP) report. The document drew together key learnings from an action-research partnership between the DPU’s MSc Urban Development Planning (UDP) programme (2016-2017) and the Just Space network, with the participation of community groups Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum, PenPeople, Take Back the City along with the Greater London Authority’s (GLA) youth-focused Peer Outreach Team.

The co-designed action research engaged community and youth groups across London to interrogate current processes for youth engagement in planning at different scales. The research sought ways such processes could be improved, extended and strengthened. This focus was framed by (1) a shared concern over the de facto exclusion of young people from formal planning processes, and (2) the expectation that a new planning context (a newly elected Mayor with an explicit manifesto for “a city for all Londoners”) offered a small opportunity to revisit the terms of a meaningful engagement in the making of London’s future.

The final YELP report recommended a number of measures to enhance youth engagement in London Planning, and can be downloaded from the DPU website.
LEYES DE SEMILLA
¿DONDE, COMO Y POR QUE?

Diana Salazar led DPU’s participation in the research project Political ecologies of seed cultivation in Colombia. This collaboration between the DPU, Sergio Arboleda University and the NGO Semillas resulted in the publication of the book Leyes de semilla: Dondé, cómo y por qué? (Seed Policies: Where, How and Why?). The research, presented at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2015, offered an analysis of the implications of the seed certification system and its consequences in Colombia.

The book, which includes a foreword by Vanesa Castán Broto and contributions from multidisciplinary authors, explores the tension between the positive law—making obligatory the use of certified seeds—and the natural law enforced by traditional practices of food production at small and medium scales, from four different perspectives: history, ethics, social and ecological struggles, and the networks of production.

Diana’s chapter, ‘Learning from the Agrarian Summit in Colombia: The power of local seeds’, is a critical analysis of the unusual strategic alliances from different social organisations and movements who came together for the Agrarian Summit, exploring their strategies, strengths and challenges. The book is freely available online under a creative commons license: http://repository.sergioarboleda.edu.co/handle/11232/1009.

Lugar Comum visit to the DPU
From 9th to 15th February, the team from the research group Lugar Comum from the Faculty of Architecture of the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA) in Salvador (Brazil) visited the DPU to discuss their collaboration with the team from the MSc Social Development Practice (SDP) programme. Gloria Cecilia Figueiredo, Gaia Gabriela Leandro Pereira and Ana Fernandes joined Alexandre Apsan Frediani, Julian Walker, Andrea Rigon and Federica Risi to discuss the SDP fieldtrip activities in Salvador and to organise a fieldtrip of Brazilian students and staff to London in September 2018. The DPU organised meetings with key community groups to start sharing experiences of housing struggles in Salvador and London. Meetings included a conversation with Just Space representatives; a visit to the Community Land Trust initiative at St Clement's in Mile End with representatives from London Community Land Trust and The East London Citizens Organisation (TELCO); and a visit to Deptford to meet its neighbourhood forum and discuss their neighbourhood planning process. Their visit ended with a presentation by the team sharing the activities of the research group Lugar Comum in a Dialogues in Development event at the DPU.

DPU contributes to the debate on Yangon’s urban challenges
The workshop People-centred design held at Yangon Technological University (YTU) from 13th to 15th February 2018, funded by UCL’s Global Engagement Funds and DPU’s TAS funds, was aimed at building the capacity of young professionals and staff to understand and engage with current urban challenges, in particular low-income communities’ housing problems. The workshop also prepared students for the forthcoming MSc Building and Urban Design in Development (BUDD) fieldtrip by delivering key methodological tools for community engagement and theoretical inputs related to urban design and planning in development in transitional contexts. The recent opening of Myanmar has brought economic growth as well as increasing inequality, and institutions face huge challenges in such a transitional moment. The training helped to challenge orthodox development agendas, and to explore and test enabling and participatory approaches to development through action research. The workshop and training was conducted in collaboration between DPU (Giovanna Astolfo, Camillo Boano, Catalina Ortiz), YTU (Ma Pwint, San San Moe, Jayde Roberts), Silpakorn University (Supitcha Tovivich), Architects Association of Myanmar (Ma Wah Wah), Community Architects Network (Witee Wisuthumporn), Bithukar Community Platform, DPU/ACHR/CAN interns (Saptarshi Mitra and Shoko Sakuma).

The workshop Leveraging Heritage for Sustainable Urban Development in Yangon, held at Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) between 16th-17th February, brought together heritage experts, urban and transport planners, and academics from Yangon, Mandalay, Bangkok and London, to reflect upon participatory and equitable transport-oriented development (TOD) in Yangon. Funded by UCL’s Global Engagement Funds the workshop had a threefold objective: to promote strategic partnerships between UCL-DPU staff and local institutions around heritage, urban planning and development; to contribute to institutional capacity building; and to explore avenues towards long-term research agenda for a UCL-Myanmar strategy. It was coordinated by DPU’s Catalina Ortiz with Giovanna Astolfo jointly with Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) and in collaboration with: Yangon Technological University (YTU), Association of Myanmar Architects (AMA), Women for the World (WfW), Silpakorn University (Supitcha Tovivich), Architects Association of Myanmar (Ma Wah Wah), Community Architects Network (Witee Wisuthumporn), Bithukar Community Platform, DPU/ACHR/CAN interns (Saptarshi Mitra and Shoko Sakuma).

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organizations: Women for the World in Yangon, Myanmar and Sevenatha Urban Resource Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka and DPU Alumni Ruchika Lall, Shoko Sakuma and Saptarshi Mitra. The meeting sparked discussions of the challenges of scaling up people-centred development initiatives. With this series of activities, a multi-layered engagement has been fostered addressing capacity building, research, and career opportunities simultaneously.

Nature sustainability expert panel
Over the last year, Adriana Allen participated in a Nature Sustainability Expert Panel on Urban Science, led by Michele Acuto at the City Leadership Lab at UCL, Susan Parnell from the University of Cape Town and Karen C. Seto from Yale University and assembled with the support of UCL Grand Challenges for Sustainable Cities.

Gathering 30 internationally-recognised experts on urban research and seeking to understand the role of science in the future of cities and urban politics, the panel examined challenges, opportunities and practical policy pathways to facilitate a more effective, accessible and sustainable science-policy interface in and for cities. A commentary produced by the chairs from this conversation is available in the inaugural issue of Nature Sustainability [https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-017-0013-9]

Engaging with a set of panel experts and co-chairs, Adriana Allen joined a roundtable at the African Centre for Cities International Conference held in Cape Town in February 2018, which focused on how to redress these science-policy interaction limits in the Africa context, but also on what cutting-edge practices the African context can contribute to the global urban governance landscape.

Staff News

Le-Yin Zhang has been awarded a visiting research fellowship by the International Institute of Green Finance, the Central University of Finance and Economy, Beijing, China. This will enable her to spend up to two months with the institute in 2018 to explore green finance development in China.

Donald Brown joins the DPU as a teaching fellow and has been teaching on the BUDD and ESD programmes this academic year.

We welcome back Diana Salazar who has returned from maternity leave to her position as Graduate Teaching Assistant for the MSc ESD.

We welcome UDP alumnus Elizabeth Paik as the new GTA for UED.

Kamna Patel welcomed baby Gaia. Vidya Pancholi was hired as maternity cover for Kamna’s MSc Development Administration (DAP) module. Alexander MacFarlane welcomed baby Nico.

Marco Giani has taken over from Prof Antonio Estache as the tutor of the module ‘Introduction to Public Economics and Public Policy’.

David Heymann has been appointed Communications Officer for the ‘Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality’ (KNOW) research project, led by Prof Caren Levy, while Camila Cocina Varas, Emmanuel Osuteye, Chris Yap and Julia Wesely have been appointed Research Associates.

Ingrid Olivo returned to the DPU in October 2017 as a post-doctoral fellow, sponsored by the Urban Studies Foundation. Originally from El Salvador, Ingrid completed her MSc at the DPU in 2001 and her doctoral research in urban planning at Columbia University in 2015.
Julio D Dávila’s involvement in action research in Havana, Cuba continues with an interdisciplinary collaborative research programme involving successive projects and comprising academics from CUJAE (Havana University of Technology), UCL and the Open University (UK). Starting with an initial exploratory visit in late 2013, the overall aim of the current project is to strengthen the ‘vision’ that guides the city’s urban mobility policy through a participatory process involving citizens and institutions at different scales, from the national government to local residents and elected ward representatives. The Cuban research team works closely with the local transport and municipal authorities, as well as engaging active local community participation. Funding sources have included UCL, the UK Government’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ford Foundation. As part of this project, in February 2018 Prof Jorge Peña Diaz, from CUJAE, gave a lecture at the DPU entitled ‘Havana: Exceptions and Epitomes’.

More information, including a short film on a participatory workshop held in the Los Sitios ward, at: http://cuba-research-network.net/havana-sustainable-mobility/

DPU and SLURC launch research project on participatory neighbourhood planning

The second flagship research project of the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), launched in February 2017, aims to examine the extent to which participatory neighbourhood planning has the potential to play a role in making urban development in Freetown more inclusive and equitable. Alexandre Apsan Frediani is coordinating the project with SLURC Co-director Joseph Macarthy. The project has been developed and is being implemented in partnership with the Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor of Sierra Leone, who see this initiative as feeding into their struggles towards securing tenure in Freetown. The project is also part of the partnership with Architecture Sans Frontières-UK, which has sent a field volunteer to support research activities.

The project is an action research initiative, which intends to develop two neighbourhood plans through the ASF-UK Change by Design methodology in the informal settlements of Cockle Bay and Dwar Zack. The researchers from SLURC are collecting data during the process, to explore the current as well as the potential impact of the methodology in bringing about opportunities for a more inclusive and equitable process of urban development. So far, the team has set up a steering committee in each settlement with key local representatives. Also, a local advisory committee was set up, formed by key actors from the Freetown City Council, national ministries and civil society organisations.

Collaborative development of green bonds market in China and the UK

Le-Yin Zhang held a grant between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017 from the British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Scheme on the Collaborative development of green bonds market in China and the UK in cooperation with Yan Yanning of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. Key activities under the grant included running a workshop on ‘Green Finance and the UK-China Collaboration’ in London and conducting field research in Shanghai and Hangzhou, China. The workshop attracted speakers from a range of high-profile London-based organisations including the Bank of England, Bank of China, Climate Bonds Initiative, the HM Treasury and the London Stock Exchange, as well as other leading academic and financial institutions.

Preliminary findings point to explosive growth in green bonds issuance from 2016 in China and close collaboration and mutual learning between the UK and China in developing the green bonds market at home and in championing green finance globally. Nevertheless, significant barriers remain for UK businesses and institutions if they are to be more deeply involved in and to benefit from the expansion of the green bond market in China. While some of these barriers are related specifically to the green bond market, others are more deeply rooted in systemic rule differences.

AXA Project facilitates international workshop on urban risks in Africa

The AXA project Risk in informal settlements: community knowledge for policy action, led by Cassidy Johnson and Emmanuel Osuteye, facilitated an international workshop on ‘Urban Risk in Africa’ on 21st February 2018 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This event brought together researchers from UCL, Kings College London (KCL), University of Cape Town (UCT), the Centre for Community Initiatives Tanzania (CCI) and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) to reflect on their findings. In the context of Dar es Salaam, the workshop engaged a range of stakeholders and practitioners (leading urban planners, community leaders, local researchers, NGOs, policy-makers and scientists working in the city and internationally) to exchange experiences and discuss the knowledge gaps and challenges that need to be addressed for cities to become more resilient.

In addition to the DPU’s AXA project, the presentations were drawn from the UCT- and KCL-led components of the Urban Africa Risk Knowledge project (Urban ARK) exploring governance spaces between local community actors and...
organisations in addressing urban risks and their impact on health. ICLEI also presented projects on the management of nature within fast-growing cities and the regions surrounding them (INTERACT-Bio), and mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into land use planning and local government decision-making processes around urban river systems (UNA-Rivers).

One direct output of the lively debates from the workshop was a commitment by the researchers to produce a series of four short policy briefings to be delivered to the various Municipal Directorates in Dar es Salaam (in the five municipalities of Ilala, Kinondoni, Temeke, Ubungo and Kigamboni). These were also to be disseminated more broadly through the offices of the other stakeholders present. This targeted approach of engaging the Municipal Directorates as policymakers and change agents was well-received by their representatives who attended the workshop.

Rethinking humanitarian practice in moments of urban crisis

As part of the Urban Crises Learning Partnership, a series of outputs have been released addressing the need for preparing and responding to crises in urban areas. In alignment with the current debate about rethinking humanitarian practice, together with a critique of humanitarian urbanism, the two-year initiative (in partnership with Oxfam, the ODI and UCL) includes, among others, a report by the DPU’s Camillo Boano and Ricardo Martén, Think Urban and Learn from the City: Exploring Urban Dimensions of Humanitarianism; and a piece entitled ‘Learning from Crisis’ Humanitarian Formula: Bridging Disaster and Normality’, written by DPU alumnus Estella Carpi. The paper challenges us to articulate what we mean by ‘learning’, while examining the conditions necessary for change if learning is to take place from crises. The series includes several other reports that reflect on the learning experience of the partners in Haiti and Bangladesh.

All the different resources are available at https://www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk/what-we-do/disaster-response/uclp/. The reports encourage humanitarian agencies to recognise the importance of including local authorities and integrating urban infrastructure into their programmes when intervening in crisis-affected settings, and develop a deeper and more nuanced understanding and analysis of the urban context: its infrastructure, services and systems, segregation and fragmentation, informal and community-based networks.

The UCLP project was part of a wider initiative funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) called the Urban Crises Learning Fund and was managed by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

Refugee Self-Reliance and Humanitarian Action in Cities: Book launch with Save the Children

In February, the book Making Lives: Refugee Self-Reliance and Humanitarian Action in Cities, was launched at UCL with the presence of Gareth Owen, OBE, the Humanitarian Director of Save the Children. The book is one of the outputs of an innovative research partnership where Dr Estella Carpi was both a Research Associate at the DPU and a Humanitarian Affairs Advisor at Save the Children. The book was co-edited by Juliano Fiori from Head of Studies at Save the Children and Andrea Rigon. The book focuses on refugee self-reliance in the cities that are home to a growing number of displaced people. It explores the socio-economic practices of refugees and host communities, the challenges faced by refugees in gaining access to labour markets, and the ways in which humanitarian actors, often in collaboration with city authorities, seek to promote refugee livelihoods. This book is the outcome of a collaboration between the Humanitarian Affairs Team at Save the Children, the DPU, and the Jindal School of International Affairs in India. The E-book can be freely downloaded on the project website, refugeesinthe城市.org, and requests for hard copies can be sent to andrea.rigon@ucl.ac.uk.
Connections

Theresa Maria Abrassart (BUD 2016-17) has been working since October 2017 as a disaster risk management (DRM) analyst focused on sub-Saharan Africa as part of the World Bank’s Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice and its Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. The overall Africa DRM program development objective is to support vulnerable countries in the Africa region in their efforts to better manage climate and disaster risks and strive toward disaster-resilient and climate smart development at regional and national levels.

Vitoria Faoro (BUD 2016-17) recently began an internship in the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) in Brasilia. The IPC-IG is a global forum for South-South dialogue on innovative development policies guided by a partnership agreement between the Government of Brazil, represented by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Management and the Brazilian Institute for Applied Economic Research, and the United Nations Development Programme. The IPC-IG’s mandate is to promote the production and dissemination of studies and policy recommendations, the exchange of best practices in development initiatives and the expansion of South-South dialogue. Vitoria is currently a research intern, working on the evaluation of three projects concerning food security in Mozambique.

Juliette Duval (DAP 2015-16) recently finished her first year working with ACTED, where she was a European Union Aid Volunteer in Finance and Logistics for six months at the Paris headquarters, followed by six months in the Beirut office. She has now signed a new contract with ACTED as a regular employee for a six-month mission in Tunisia, where she will be working as a project development officer, managing a civil society-focused project.

Anna Buchmann (DAP 2016-17) took on a position as director of a small social enterprise in India after finishing her MSc. Skilled Impact is a responsible volunteer organisation that connects international volunteers with NGOs and social enterprises in India. The placements are based on skill share, mutual learning and cultural immersion. As director, she has been in charge of different areas of the business, including the development and implementation of strategies for marketing, communications, partnership development, monitoring and evaluation, and impact investment. She is now planning to apply to the German services to become a diplomat.

After graduating, Dinar Dwi Prasetyo (DAP 2016-17) worked as a research assistant at the Faculty of Administrative Science, Universitas Indonesia before joining the SMERU Research Institute as a researcher. His work has focused on gender, livelihoods and return migration to Indonesia. SMERU focuses on areas of social and economic research that are of fundamental importance to contemporary development issues in Indonesia.

Leen Ataya (DAP 2015-16) has a new position as Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning Coordinator at Save The Children International, Lebanon. After finishing her MSc, Clarissa Reichhard (DAP 2015-16) joined the London-based Hurtado Jesuit Centre as a Programme Manager, where she has been responsible for developing and implementing programmes promoting hospitality and social justice, particularly among refugee communities, as well as the day-to-day running of the centre’s facilities. Clarisa is now looking to complete a further postgraduate degree in gender policy, so she can continue to focus her career work in that area.

Doly Begum (DAP, 2014-15) will be standing for the New Democratic Party in the Ontario General Election, in the Scarborough Southwest district, Toronto, to be held by June 2018. Since mid-2016, Doly has been working as Provincial Campaign Coordinator for the activist NGO Keep Hydro Public.

Following graduation from the MSc, Loan Diep (ESD 2013-14) worked as a consultant for the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). There she was involved in several projects, including Resilience and Resource Efficiency in Cities, and presented her research at the 2015 ICLEI conference in Seoul with UNEP. In parallel, she started a career in urban WASH at Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP). One of her roles involved establishing the team advising the government of India on achieving Open Defecation Free cities as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission. She also led a project in partnership with IIED and UNICEF on resilience-building for water service providers during conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa region. Loan is now conducting PhD research at the UCL Centre for Urban Sustainability and Resilience on urban green infrastructure and its challenges in reducing social and environmental vulnerability in dense urban areas.

Sandra Pertek (SDP 2010-12) has recently been awarded a PhD studentship to research sexual and gender-based violence in refugee contexts and humanitarian responses. Her research will build on the work that she has been doing at Islamic Relief, since she left the DPU, as a Senior Gender Policy Advisor.

Rocio Andrade Castro (UDP 2013-14) has been working as an Urban Development Advisor at the Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. In this role, she has taken part in the drafting of bills and regulations on land value capture, disaster risk reduction, and affordable housing, among other issues. In addition, she has served as an advisor for the Housing and Urban Planning Minister on matters reviewed by the Council of Ministers for Sustainability. She also leads a programme to develop a national e-government platform to obtain building permits.

Former PhD student Ahmed Shetawy has been promoted to a professorship at Ain Shams University in Cairo. Ahmed completed his PhD looking at Egypt’s new towns at the DPU in 2004, supervised by Julio Davila.
DPU leads international election observation mission to Somaliland

On March 15th, the final report by the international observation mission to Somaliland’s presidential election in November 2017 was launched. The mission, led by Michael Walls, marked the fourth time the DPU has been invited to observe by Somaliland’s National Electoral Commission since 2005, but the first as sole mission leaders, with UCLC providing project management for the UK government-funded mission.

The mission followed the DPU-led observation of Somaliland’s voter registration in 2016. DPU’s engagement with the unrecognised Horn of Africa state also encompasses women’s political participation, gendered settlements and land markets. With the poll repeatedly delayed by severe drought and other factors, organisation of the mission was both challenging and compressed, with the core team facing massive logistical challenges both ahead of departure and on the ground. But in the end, 60 observers from 27 countries, recruited to balance local knowledge, election experience, gender and nationality, successfully observed 22% of polling stations across Somaliland’s six regions without serious security problems.

The core team spent a month in country, also organising events around media and women’s political participation during the three-week campaign.

The election saw the incumbent president from the Kulmiye party stand down, and his Kulmiye successor emerge victorious, and the mission reported a generally well-organised election, with the ground-breaking biometric voter registration system proving its worth, despite some serious tensions in the week between polling day and the declaration of results.


Participatory photography workshop in Freetown

In February 2018, the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) and the DPU teamed up to lead a week-long participatory photography workshop in Freetown, Sierra Leone with the aim of exploring the interface between citizens’ media, photography and urban planning.

Throughout the week, ten participants from the Cockle Bay and Dwarzack informal settlements were trained in visual literacy and camera skills by facilitators Alexander Macfarlane and DPU alumnus and former SLURC intern Alexander Stone, in order to produce their own photo stories around issues in their areas.

The workshop emerged from a consideration of the fact that residents of informal settlements often struggle against negative representations and lack the opportunity to tell their own stories. The workshop thus explored how groups of citizen journalists could use photography as a tool to create their own narratives, recodify collective identities and interact with mainstream media discourses. The workshop was also intended to feed into the upcoming research project, The Role of Action Area Plans for Inclusive City-Making in Freetown, with SLURC, DPU, and Architecture Sans Frontières UK (ASF-UK).

Delegation from Sierra Leone visits Cape Town to exchange learning on urban development

The DPU and SLURC team organised an international knowledge exchange visit for a 13-person delegation from Sierra Leone to Cape Town from in October and November 2017. The main learning objective was to explore the question: ‘How can localised interventions to improve living conditions of the urban poor link to city-wide impact that addresses socio-spatial inequalities?’

Cape Town was a particularly interesting place to explore this issue because of its long tradition of civil society-led initiatives to improve quality of life in informal settlements in a city that has been heavily shaped by its socio-spatial inequalities. The visit was facilitated by Alexandre Apsc Frediani and Andrea Rigon from the DPU. The Sierra Leonean delegation included the team from SLURC, representatives from
Disrupting Urban Risk Traps in Africa: ‘ReMapRisk’ launched at Urban ARK Annual Meeting in Cape Town

One highlight of the final Urban Africa Risk Knowledge (Urban ARK) project meeting was a public event held on 29th January to launch the ReMapRisk tool. The event emphasised the need for a closer examination of the links between disasters and urban development, and a shift in focus from large-scale events such as earthquakes to capture the everyday risks and small-scale disasters that increase the vulnerabilities of low-income dwellers to multiple hazards over time. The event brought together urban researchers, community leaders, policy makers and practitioners whose work focuses on tackling risk accumulation and building urban resilience in African cities.

ReMapRisk is a community-led methodology developed by Urban ARK researchers based at the DPU and applied in two city contexts, Karonga and Freetown, as a means of documenting cycles of urban risk accumulation or ‘risk traps’ to support grounded and informed action planning. The tool allows users to explore and visualise particular risks, vulnerabilities and capacities to act of city dwellers and various support organisations. It also brings to the fore the experiences of those directly affected by risk traps and their perspectives on the type of action required.

Video output is available on DPU’s YouTube channel. Web links to the tools can be accessed from the Urban ARK project website and the online platforms, ReMapRisk Freetown and ReMapRisk Karonga, also produced for Urban ARK, are likewise available at https://www.urbanark.org/.

MSc ESD collaboration with SLURC

Building on the work undertaken under the Urban ARK research project and under the leadership of Adriana Allen and Rita Lambert, the practice module of the MSc in Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) teamed up with the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) and partners on the ground in Freetown to set up a new learning alliance. Adopting a socio-environmental perspective, the focus of the work is how and why risk accumulation cycles or ‘urban risk traps’ are produced and reproduced in Freetown, how they affect the development of the city and its dwellers and how such traps can be effectively disrupted.

Between September and December 2017, participants in the ESD practice module developed six policy briefs that together offer a comprehensive city-wide analysis of how different hazards converge on the reproduction of risk accumulation cycles. Their research has benefited from invaluable insights from Braima Koroma and Alexander Stone at SLURC as well as Emmanuel Osuteye, Donald Brown, Andrea Rigon and Julian Walker among others at the DPU. The policy briefs can be downloaded from the DPU and SLURC websites. [http://www.slurc.org/]

Since January 2018, the focus of the work has shifted to six informal settlements selected by SLURC and local partners with the intention of deepening the community-led diagnosis already undertaken under Urban ARK and to co-produce transformative pathways to inform the development of local action plans in order to disrupt risk traps in Freetown. The research will include a two-week fieldtrip starting towards the end of April and the outputs from this phase will be publicly available in the summer.

Cycling for accessibility, equity and social inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean

The DPU has been a major contributor to the first guidelines published by an international development bank on cycling policy for accessibility, equity and social inclusion in Latin America. The project was financed by the Inter-American Development Bank and developed in partnership with Universidad de los Andes, Colombia and the cycling advocacy organisation Bicivilizate. Daniel Oviedo from the DPU led the development of the guidelines with the help of doctoral student Veronica Saul. The guidelines, entitled ‘La Bicicleta: Vehículo hacia la equidad: Recomendaciones para la equidad, acceso e inclusión social en la promoción del uso de la bicicleta en América Latina y el Caribe’ in Spanish (The bicycle: Vehicle for equity: recommendations for equity, access and social inclusion in the promotion of cycling in Latin America and the Caribbean) can be downloaded from the IADB website. See more at: https://publications.iadb.org/handle/11319/8677#sthash.P2SgNsIW.dpuf
DPU at the World Urban Forum 2018
The DPU and its networks were active at the UN Habitat 9th World Urban Forum (WUF) in Kuala Lumpur this February. DPU Emeritus Professor Yves Cabannes hosted a series of events on participatory budgeting, with MSc SDP alumnus Ahmad Rifai from the Kota Kita Foundation in Indonesia. These sessions focused on, amongst other issues, the adoption of participatory budgeting in Asian cities, and emerging approaches to engendering participatory budgets. Julian Walker also attended and contributed to a panel led by the Development Action Group and the Habitat International Coalition on the social production of habitat in African cities, drawing on the DPU’s work with the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC). The DPU also hosted an alumni dinner at WUF which was attended by graduates from all DPU MScs as well as the PhD Programme.

DPU attends meeting held by Habitat International Coalition and the Global Platform for the Right to the City
In October, Barbara Lipietz and Alexandre Apsan Frediani were in Nairobi for the 2017 General Assembly of Habitat International Coalition (HIC) and the meeting of the Global Platform for the Right to the City. The HIC General Assembly was attended by 51 participants from 36 organisations and 23 countries. During the assembly, Alexandre in his role as a representative of European members at the HIC board, elaborated on the main activities of members in Europe. Barbara reported back on DPU-specific activities conducted in partnership with HIC, which included the analysis of the national reporting processes informing the New Urban Agenda, as well as the African dossier systematising regional concerns towards the New Urban Agenda.

The meeting of the Global Platform for the Right to the City focused on developing a common agenda for research and communication activities. The DPU team shared its ongoing research focused on issues around the Right to the City, such as evictions in Lagos, participatory neighbourhood planning in Freetown, social auditing in London, and the social production of habitat in inner-city areas in São Paulo and Johannesburg. On the last day of activities in Nairobi, Davinder Lamba, HIC Wisdom Keeper and executive director of the Mazingira Institute, organised a visit to the informal settlement of Mashimoni, located in the Mathare Valley. The visitors met residents of Mashimoni and representatives of the social movement Muungano wa Wanavijiji to discuss the ongoing threats to their security of tenure as well as their practices of mobilisation and resistance.

Barbara Lipietz coordinated a panel with Agnes Deboulet (Université Paris 8) entitled ‘Co-producing knowledge for global urban justice in precarious neighbourhoods: Claims, critical reflexions and coalitions’ at the RC21 conference in Leeds in September 2017. Other presenters included Alexandre Apsan Frediani, Diana Mitlin, and PhD alumnus Hector Becceril.

In the same month, Barbara also worked with Julian Walker to present on the subject ‘Disrupting post-political planning from the ‘South’; the quagmire of urban infrastructure, displacement and the ‘public interest’ in Nigeria’ at the African Urban Planning II conference in Lisbon as part of the Urbanisation Research Nigeria (URN) research on infrastructure-related displacement in Nigeria.

As governments and the international media increasingly recognise the importance of sustainable transport that meets the needs of the urban poor, Julio D Dávila has been interviewed about DPU’s research on the social and urban impact of aerial cable cars in Latin American cities by media outlets including The Economist, The New York Times, BBC World Service, Deutsche Welle and The Guardian.

Adriana Allen has joined the Advisory Board of an exciting research project entitled (Dis)connected Infrastructures and Violence against Women (VAW). With the support of the British Academy, the project is led by Dr Ayona Datta at King’s College London in collaboration with SafetiPin in urban India. Combining a critical feminist perspective with innovations in digital technology and open-source mapping, the project seeks to address VAW by improving women’s knowledge of and safe access to urban infrastructure in Indian cities. For more information visit: https://disconnectedinfrastructures.wordpress.com/vaw-in-urban-india/

Adriana Allen and Haim Yacobi are part of the scientific committee of the conference ‘Through Local Eyes: Place-based approaches to emerging architectural, urban design and planning challenges in Africa and the Global South’. The conference will be held at the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EiABC), in Addis Ababa in October 2018.
Linda Westman successfully defended her thesis entitled ‘Urban climate governance in China: Policy networks, partnerships, and trends in participation’. She argued that the increasing role of governance networks in formulating and delivering climate mitigation policy in China should be seen in light of the fact that participation is only open to actors with political-economic resources or technical expertise, because of enduring techno-economic rationalities that condition practices and activities of political actors in China. Her results contribute to previous research that points to a trend of increasing interaction between public and non-state actors in policymaking processes in China. However, she highlights previously unexplored dimensions of decision-making in networks, such as conflict, balance of power, and the structure of the political economy. The data demonstrates that urban planning processes are shaped by political-economic elites, that planning arrangements protect the status quo and thus reproduce trajectories of high carbon growth. The formulation and delivery of climate mitigation policy in China relies on cross-sector, cross-border interactions. However, entry and participation in these networks remains selective and dependent on conforming to techno-economic rationalities that dominate Chinese urban environmental politics and condition the possibilities for change.

Camila Cociña successfully defended her thesis entitled ‘Housing as Urbanism: The Role of Housing Policies in Reducing Urban Inequalities: A study of post-2006 Housing Programmes in Puente Alto, Chile’ on 26th May. Camila’s supervisor was Jorge Fiori, and her thesis argued that housing policies can play a role in reducing multiple inequalities, but to do so housing must be understood as urbanism, as a multi-scale process with agency at the economic, social and political levels.

Sigi Atteneder successfully defended his thesis entitled ‘Urban Borderlands: Spatial change in Amman and Tel Aviv-Jaffa’. Sigi argued that the balance of power in urban change processes manifests in ‘bordering’ mechanisms that unfold in a space between entities—the borderland. Focusing on Amman, Jordan and Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Israel in a region where state borders are both fiercely contested and seemingly unalterable, he explores the potential of cities—rather than states—to act as sources of change.

Sigi’s research focuses on the complexity of the current spatial constitution in general and that of urban spaces in particular, and as such explores ways to analyse this constitution. Enquiring about the spatial source of urban change, the study is about the coming-together of different spaces, working with progressive notions of borders. A secondary interest considers the potential of such enquiry for more inclusive and just processes in urban change.

In November, Rebeca Dios Lema presented her doctoral research at the Regional Studies Association Early Career Conference in Newcastle University. Focusing on ‘The sustainability of Green Belts: critical aspects and enabling conditions in the re-making of the city-region relationship in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain’, her presentation generated considerable discussion on the research process as well as on her findings. Rebeca will again be presenting on ‘Green Belt Planning’ at the 48th Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference in Toronto in April.

Francisco Vergara Perucich successfully defended his PhD thesis arguing that an alternative theory of urban design under neoliberalism needs to be built. Focusing on Santiago de Chile, the thesis critically discusses the current status of urban design as a disciplinary field and practice. Inspired by the critical reflections of Henri Lefebvre, the thesis maintains that urban design has been wholly reshaped by neoliberalism. It has become a discipline that has neglected its original ethos – designing good cities – in order to align its theory and practice with the objectives of neoliberalism.

Santiago’s urban form is investigated through three main approaches: (i) historical research of the relationship between urban practices and political-economic goals; (ii) recent urban strategies that illustrate the actual neoliberalisation of the city; and (iii) a discursive analysis of urban designers’ practices under a neoliberal framework, focusing on their ethical reflections. As a result, the thesis offers an assessment of the practice of urban design under neoliberalism. A set of theoretically informed reflections point to the much-needed reclamation of the ethical, practical and theoretical dimensions of urban design.
Publications


Cover photo: Flooding in Karonga Central Market, Malawi. Photo by M. Bwana.

Planning for socially just and sustainable development in the global South