



ISSUE 64 SEPTEMBER 2018

# dpu news

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## Focus on

# A response to rising urban inequality: Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality

By Caren Levy

The 'Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality' research programme (KNOW) is a response to growing inequality in the world's cities. Three quarters of cities are now more unequal than in 1996, despite unprecedented growth in wealth over the last 20 years (UN-Habitat, 2016). Improving living conditions in every country depends on humanity's capacity to address urban equality. First, most of the world's population is urban. According to the data collected by the United Nations, since 2010, over half of the world's population lived in urban areas. By 2050, two out of three inhabitants of the Earth will likely live in urban areas. Second, inequalities are cross-cutting structural conditions that undermine efforts to achieve more sustainable and prosperous cities. This is captured in the justification for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially the 'Urban SDG 11' that calls for cities that are safe, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, as well as in the New Urban Agenda (NUA) adopted at Habitat III in Quito, 2016, which calls for cities that "leave no one behind". Advancing urban equality is central to achieving the aspirations of both SDG 11 and the NUA.

Fainstein (2010) argues that a focus on urban equality raises questions of justice. In theoretical debates, Young (1990) and Fraser (1998) emphasise distributional aspects of inequality alongside aspects of recognition and participation. Based on this, in the first instance we define urban equality as encompassing urban citizens' access to income and services; recognition of their diverse social identities in policy and planning initiatives in their cities; and inclusion in political decisions that affect their lives (see also Allen and Frediani, 2013; Levy, 2015). This notion of urban equality is integrated in the work programmes of KNOW.

The road towards greater urban equality requires policy and planning which actively engages all actors in the city and which explicitly addresses differential power relations on the basis of class, gender, ethnicity, age, race, caste,



sexual orientation and differential abilities. We propose a process of 'knowledge in action' which: 1) focuses on knowledge that is immediately relevant for addressing local and global challenges building on the tradition of action research in development studies; 2) is sensitive to the diversity of conditions in which urban dwellers find themselves; 3) recognises the multiple ways in which expertise may be produced amongst all actors including vulnerable communities; 4) recognises the transformative capacity of stakeholder engagement in the process of research and institutional-capacity building; and 5) based on all of the above, embodies an ethics of practice for urban research.

### Experiences of urban equality

Urban equality is a multi-dimensional experience for urban dwellers. Urban equality is a cross-cutting condition that manifests in relation to different wellbeing aspirations. For that reason, the KNOW programme focuses on equality and its relation to three key challenges: delivering prosperity, tackling extreme poverty, and building resilient cities. A collective discussion between members of the project team about local priorities helped to identify these key challenges that have profound implications for urban

*Above: Prof Kombe (Ardhi University) presenting at the KNOW Inception Workshop London 2018 (Photo by David Heymann)*

life in the different cities that participate in KNOW. However, these challenges are approached in an integrated manner as the focus on urban equality reveals the interconnections between such challenges as they are realised in the lives of urban dwellers.

Prosperity is universally recognised as an essential ingredient for the pre- and post-2015 development agendas. Prosperity constitutes a recognition of the multiple forms of wealth that contribute to human wellbeing and that economic growth alone fails to deliver (UCL's Institute of Global Prosperity; Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity). Urban prosperity requires equity and social inclusion, alongside other aspects of well-being such as sustainable livelihoods, quality of life, health and education, environmental sustainability and governance. Labour opportunities, access to services, and the possibility to mobilise different interest groups to advance democracy are different aspects of urban life that contribute to urban prosperity.

Resilience is defined in urban contexts as the ability of a city to "absorb and

recover from any shock or stress while maintaining its essential functions, structures, and identity, as well as adapting and thriving in the face of continual change” (ICLEI 2016: 4). The idea of resilience, however, is not merely to resist or survive shocks, but rather to establish the principles for a society that changes and adapts to inevitable disruptions while advancing the wellbeing of its members. Poorer groups are more exposed to shocks, less able to prepare for them and less able to take on risks which could bring beneficial returns; all of these factors exacerbate inequalities and push people into or further into extreme poverty (World Bank, 2014). While much current policy focuses on environmental disaster and climate change, shocks may also be economic, disease-related, social, and/or political.

Extreme poverty highlights the extent to which urban population groups suffer severe deprivation from basic human needs. Extreme poverty does not only mean that people lack the most essential sustenance for human life, but also that they live within a social and political environment that systematically reproduces the condition of extreme poverty. Although over the last 20 years rates of absolute poverty have reduced, extreme poverty still remains unacceptably high. This is particularly so in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and measures of urban poverty based on national poverty lines do not fully reflect the prevalence of extreme poverty. Specialist organisations have drawn attention to the fact that whole groups of people are missed out in such data gathering, rendering them invisible (UNHABITAT 2016: 194). The condition of living in informal settlements reinforces invisibility through lack of government recognition. Factors such as gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race or religion may contribute to the reproduction of extreme poverty traps. In addition to understanding the dynamics of extreme poverty in urban settlements, KNOW will work with organisations of the urban poor such as the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) and Slum Dwellers International (SDI) who have, in the last few years, been gathering their own data including household enumerations, and mapping, building their visibility and advocacy capacity in political and planning processes.

## KNOW: the research programme

‘Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality’ (KNOW) is a research and capacity building programme that seeks to promote urban equality in selected cities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Led by **Caren Levy** of the Bartlett’s DPU, it brings together a collaborative, interdisciplinary and international team of 13 partners in the UK, Africa, Asia, Latin America and Australia to develop innovative long-term programmes of knowledge co-production for urban equality among governments, communities, business and academia. It is a unique gathering of places, and people, as well as their knowledge, innovation and ingenuity. With a budget of over £7 million, KNOW is a 4-year research and capacity-building programme (2017-2021) funded by ESRC under the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF), a £1.5 billion research programme which forms part of the UK Aid Strategy.

### Programme objectives

Over four years, the work of the KNOW consortium will deliver transformative research for urban equality, help to develop research capacity to address urban equality in different locations and at different levels of governance, and will establish Urban Learning Hubs that will extend the KNOW experience beyond the duration of the project.

**1) Transformative Research for Urban Equality:** the first objective of KNOW is to co-produce knowledge to activate transformations towards urban equality in selected cities in the global South, with a focus on redistributive and integrated actions to address prosperity, resilience and extreme poverty. The overarching research question of this objective is: how can knowledge co-production support the development and implementation of policies and planning that will put urban areas onto trajectories towards urban equality? Focusing on people-centred approaches to urban policy and planning, KNOW seeks to generate knowledge production processes with transformative agency to remove structural barriers to inequality. Such policy and planning is integrated, recognising the multi-dimensional nature of urban inequalities, and the synergies and trade-offs between different sectors. It also involves multi-level forms of governance, understanding



Above: Freetown, one of KNOW’s research cities (Photo by Emmanuel Osuteye)

the different ways that governments, businesses, civil society organisations and communities can enable each other’s action and advance collective goals.

There is a gap in urban research related to people-centred forms of planning and governance. KNOW will explore how urban citizens themselves define urban equality, how they organise collectively to claim better living conditions, and how governments work to strengthen pathways to urban equality. National data is rarely disaggregated at the local level to monitor SDG11 and the NUA. Local governments currently lack the capacity to deliver on these data requirements. Expert-led assessments are often detached from people’s experiences, resulting in stereotype-dominated policies and planning which worsen people’s lives and deny them their rights (Barnett & Parnell, 2016: 92). KNOW will engage with diverse groups of people and aspects of their lives, which often go unrecognised, unmeasured, or are made invisible. KNOW will work with in-city teams who have formulated city-specific research questions to address the overall research question. While engaging with local perspectives, the programme will also engage global debates on urban development.

**2) Building Research Capacity:** the second objective of KNOW is to build and strengthen research capacity in selected DAC-list countries and the UK to tackle the challenges and opportunities of vulnerable urban communities through partnerships of equivalence between networks and organisations of the poor,

government, the private sector, and academia. Achieving urban equality is a persistent challenge that requires building upon existing capacity for research on urban equality, and the development of future capabilities to address emerging challenges. This also means that local actors can mobilise expertise to deliver agile responses to the unequal living conditions that affect them. KNOW will develop research capacity to increase the ability of a wide variety of actors to participate in the process of knowledge production. Collaborative research opens opportunities for pathways to impact and building capacity for such research maximises impact opportunities. This relies on identifying ‘strategic intermediaries’ that can bridge the gap between research, policy-making and the process of implementation.

**3) Developing Urban Learning Hubs:** the third objective of KNOW is to jointly build responsive Urban Learning Hubs (ULHs) in target countries to co-produce relevant knowledge to analyse, plan, monitor and compare city progress towards national and global goals on urban equality, in particular the SDGs and the Habitat III NUA. Through the programme of research and

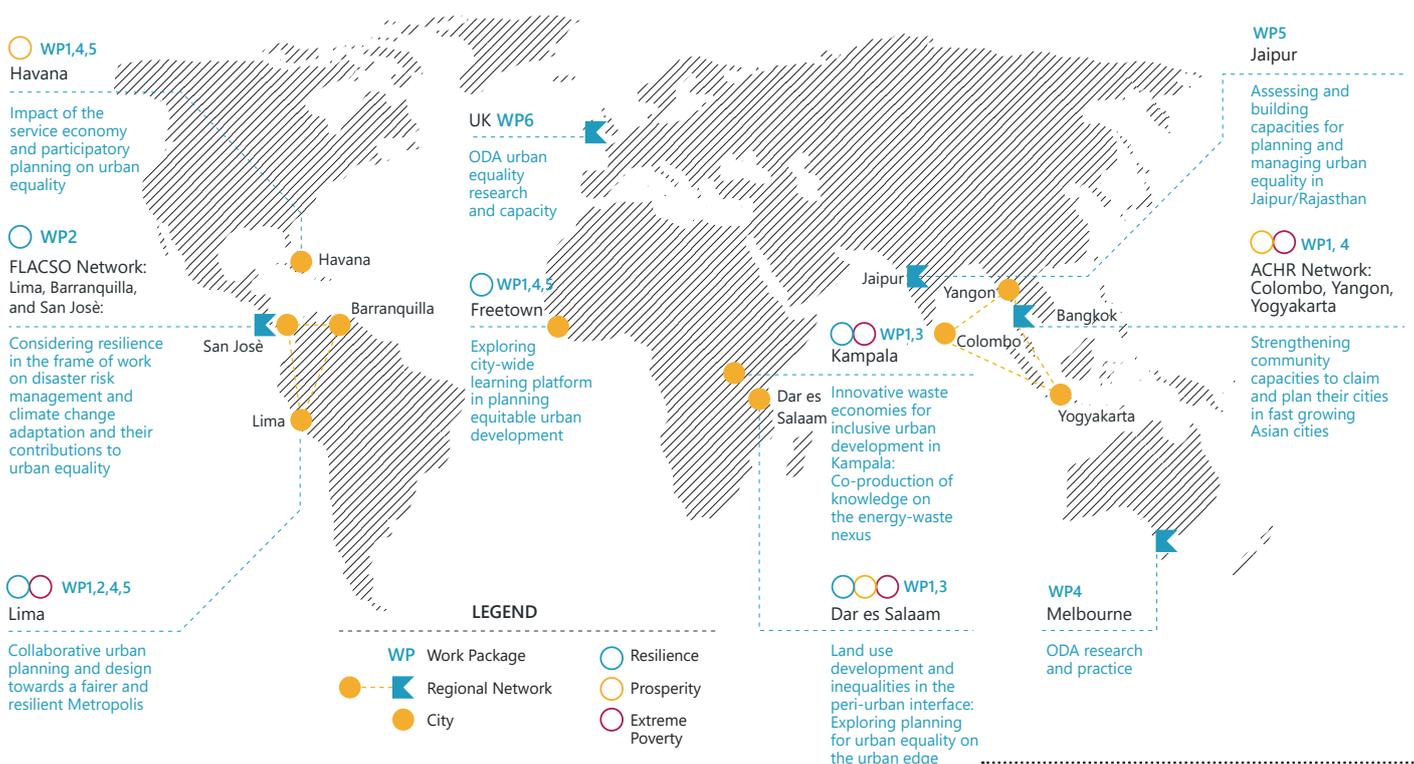
capacity-building, KNOW will strengthen ULHs in selected cities and regions, involving the consolidation of networks of actors with the interest in and capability to address multiple dimensions of urban equality. The outcome will be context specific ULHs that can act as strategic intermediaries between multiple actors delivering research, collaborative decision-making and action for urban equality. The development of ULHs is a means to deliver research and impact for urban equality beyond the lifetime of the project.

**KNOW Principles and Components**

There are a number of challenges to meeting these objectives which we have sought to address in the underlying principles of operation within KNOW and in its structure. The main principle of operation is that of conducting partnerships with equivalence (Levy, 2015) in this collaborative programme. In the unique global partnerships that KNOW represents, mutual respect and trust are at the heart of our interaction, as are the principles of the co-production of knowledge and capacity, reciprocal transparency and accountability, and a commitment to co-learning through collective reflexive practice.

**City Knowledge Co-production** or doing research and building capacity from place or (Work Package 1) is the first stream of work in KNOW. This involves the cities of Lima (Peru), Havana (Cuba), Freetown (Sierra Leona), Kampala (Uganda), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and five cities in the ACHR network across Asia. These are cities where more than a third of the population live in slum-like conditions, with limited access to secure housing and services. Income inequality in countries of the global South, as measured by the Gini coefficient, increased from 38.5 (early 1990s) to 41.5 (late 2000s) (UNDP, 2013). The Gini coefficient in our case study cities varies between 0.35 and 0.5 and is increasing, which indicates income disparities but masks the different constraints to urban equality in each city.

**Comparative Inquiry for Urban Equality** (Work Package 2) examines urban equality across place, with a focus on prosperity, extreme poverty, and resilience in selected KNOW cities. This stream of work is based on the recognition that urban equality is not only understood differently among different groups within cities (WP1), but also across different urban



Above : KNOW City/Regional Research and Capacity Building programmes (Illustration by KNOW)

places. Extending the city base of this work, the development challenge of resilience introduces two other cases into KNOW, Barranquilla (Colombia) and San Jose (Costa Rica). This comparative work will also contribute to the newly emerging reporting process being set up to monitor global targets like the SDGs, contributing both relevant data and a critical assessment of current means of measurement relating to urban equality.

While Work Packages 1 and 2 will map the field, co-produce new knowledge about urban equality alongside building research capacity in and across the 12 KNOW cities, cutting across this situated research, KNOW has three other streams of work to expand the critical dimensions of this transformative research and capacity-building. The wide variety of actors participating in the process of knowledge co-production and capacity-building in twelve DAC countries, throws up the challenge of developing an ethical approach to such collaborative work, particularly in a context of unequal power and recognition in policy and planning. KNOW seeks to address two further ethical issues. The current outcomes oriented character of ODA research in the UK tends to emphasise instrumental results over the transformative potentials of the research process itself. The unequal structure of higher education globally, often drives extractive research to feed the careers of northern researchers.

### Ethics of Research Practice

(Work Package 3) will explore these issues in-depth with partners in selected KNOW cities to contribute to the development of a critical ethics in ODA built environment research and capacity-building.

KNOW also seeks to address the recognised gap in the development field between research and practice. In recent years evidence-based policy has been widely promoted, but there is a growing critique of its practice.

### Translating Research into Practice

(Work Package 4) focuses on the knowledge translation process and mechanisms that enable evidence-based policy to contribute to the conditions for Policies and Planning for Urban Equality (PP4UE) at different scales.

Strengthening the foundations for the development of future practitioners and applied researchers who can address issues of urban equality, requires the

re-invention of planning education and translocal learning to counteract outdated practices.

**Multiplying Translocal Learning in Higher education** (Work Package 5) addresses the key obstacles to urban equality, including the maldistribution - and quantitative and qualitative deficits - of planners across the global South; inadequate planning pedagogies and tools for addressing contemporary challenges; and colonial-era planning curricula. This stream of KNOW work seeks to assess and promote translocal learning across different regions and in selected KNOW cities, adding Jaipur, as an Indian pilot city. Extending the need to challenge global North-centred urban planning and urban knowledge production paradigms, KNOW also addresses ODA practices in the UK.

### Expanding ODA Research Capacity

(Work Package 6) works with higher education institutions and ODA institutions in the UK to co-develop learning platforms that can support a long-term agenda of research and action for urban equality.

### Engaging with KNOW

The KNOW programme constitutes an opportunity to address one of the challenges of our time. The current dynamics of urbanisation open up opportunities for new ways of thinking and looking at the city, putting the most disadvantaged populations at the centre of urban policy. Addressing inequality will have knock on effects in other urban challenges, improving the city's economy, livelihood opportunities, access to services, environmental protection and governance. To advance this wide project, KNOW relies on an international network of academics and partners with different levels of engagement on the ground. In addition, the four years of activity in KNOW will be directed towards enlarging the KNOW community. The constitution of long-term operating Urban Learning Hubs in different locations in South and Central America, Africa, and Asia constitutes an opportunity to open up the participation of urban dwellers and practitioners in KNOW.

We invite those who are interested in engaging with KNOW, both in-country and in the UK to monitor the KNOW website that will disseminate information

about events as well as outputs from the programme. This will include information on our new monthly Dialogues in Urban Equality (DUE) in London, public events in KNOW cities and the soon to be launched Urban Equality Fund to support early career and senior UK researchers to develop new in situ research capacities working with city partners and with relevance to urban equality. This is a challenge that requires global partnerships with equivalence and we are committed to making such partnerships possible.

**For further information:**  
[www.urban-know.com](http://www.urban-know.com)



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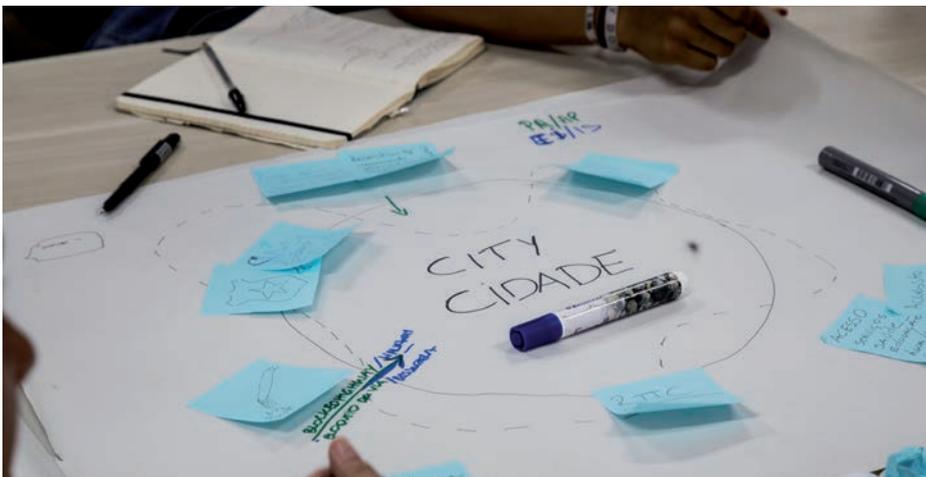
## Dortmund: Can planning deliver healthier cities?

In January 2018, **Julio Dávila** was invited to give a public lecture at the University of Dortmund (Germany) on the topic ‘Can planning help deliver healthier cities?’. In April he was a keynote speaker at the ‘8th International Transport and Mobility Congress’ organised by the Bogota Mayor’s Office and Transmilenio, with a talk on ‘Integrating social equity into urban transport planning’, while in May, he was again a keynote speaker at an international conference ‘About a City: Places, Ideas and Rights for 2030 Citizens’ of the Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, with a talk entitled ‘Cities in the Global South: Urban transport and social equity’.

## Salvador-London Learning Exchange: Exploring mobilisation experiences for more equitable city-making

**Alexandre Frediani** and **Julian Walker**, Programme Leaders of the MSc Social Development Practice, and **Federica Risi**, the programme’s GTA, have coordinated an international learning exchange on strategies for mobilisation towards ‘the equitable city’ to take place from 7th to 14th September in London, as part of the partnership between DPU and the research group *Lugar Comum from the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA)*, Salvador, Brazil. The exchange will see students, academics and activists from Salvador, sharing and comparing experiences of civil society groups in advocating for social justice and collective rights in the city together with students, practitioners, academics and activists from London. Participants will unpick key urban development trends and structural challenges

Below: Working on how to advance towards the equitable city (Photo by A. Macfarlane)



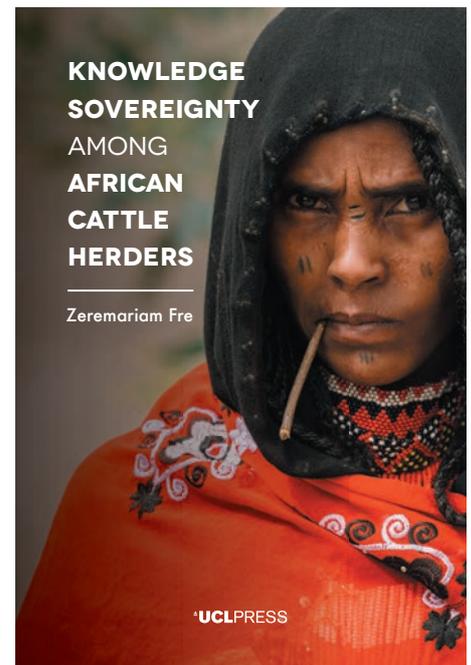
in both cities and learn from context-specific successes to explore adaptable strategies for more equitable city-making. Representatives from London-based organisations and movements such as CitizensUK, Just Space, The Radical Housing Network, Focus E15 and Occupy London among others will be key partners in the exchange.

## Book: Knowledge Sovereignty among African Cattle Herders

**Zeremariam Fre**, who worked among the Beni-Amer cattle owners in the Western part of the Horn of Africa as an activist and a researcher, published a book on ‘Knowledge Sovereignty among African Cattle Herders’ in June this year. Over ten chapters, he pulls together the broad debates around indigenous (local) versus exogenous (western) knowledge systems from natural science and anthropological perspectives. The book also contains a great deal of empirical evidence demonstrating that the Beni-Amer are not only masters in cattle breeding, but they are also ‘knowledge sovereign’ in terms of owning productive genes of cattle and the cognitive knowledge crucial to sustainable development. Several other aspects of indigenous knowledge including ethno-veterinary, ethno-botanic and animal husbandry are also discussed concluding that such knowledge systems and practices could make a direct contribution to our so called ‘western’ knowledge of livestock production. Similar experiences are also drawn upon from other pastoralist communities in the Andes, Asia and West Africa highlighting the importance of the multiple bio-cultural knowledge systems.

Several prominent social and natural scientists have endorsed the book and appreciate the author’s contribution in advancing the knowledge discourse, with Mitiku Haile, Professor at Mekelle

University, Ethiopia, commenting: “indigenous knowledge and the sovereignty issues addressed in the book are hallmarks not only [recognising the prowess of the Beni-Amer as] African cattle herders but [highlighting their use of] this knowledge to mitigate climate change and appreciating the resilience of these herders. The book will be a major resource material for students, researchers and policy makers in Africa and worldwide.”



## Launch of GCRF-Funded T-SUM project

Starting in September, DPU’s **Caren Levy** and **Daniel Oviedo**, alongside Clemence Cavoli from CEGE, will be Co-Is in a new 30-month GCRF-funded research project led by Peter Jones (CEGE). The project, called T-SUM (Transitions to Sustainable Urban Mobility), is an interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaborative project that aims to identify the conditions under which sustainable and inclusive transport and land use development can be accelerated in growing cities in the Global South. It is grounded in the observation that, in the context of still-low-but-rising levels of motorisation, economic growth and increasing social and spatial inequalities, the formulation and implementation of policies, practices and partnerships that can support an accelerated implementation of sustainable mobility structures is an urgent concern for rapidly developing cities. This project will initially focus on Maputo, Mozambique and

Freetown, Sierra Leone as relevant examples of growing urban economies in Sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the Global South. International research partner organisations include the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Mozambican think tank, WAZA, and Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo. T-SUM's inception workshop will take place in London on 7th September. **Julio Dávila** is an advisor to the project.

More information available at: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/development/news/2018/jul/dpu-staff-begin-gcrf-funded-collaborative-research-project-sustainable-and-inclusive>

### 'Development & planning in African Cities' MOOC for urban professionals

The first massive open online course (MOOC) developed by DPU, this programme explores development and planning in African cities through the lenses of spatial justice and social diversity, challenging myths and assumptions about urban development and demonstrating how different processes interact to shape cities. The MOOC is a work-in-progress and was developed by **Andrea Rigon** and Joseph Macarthy with the support of Alexander Stone and Joanna Stroud. It is based on material developed for a face-to-face programme delivered in June to 25 Sierra Leonean civil servants, academics, civil society leaders and urban professionals. The fact that the in-person course was able to accommodate only 25 people from more than 200 applicants vividly demonstrates a need that can be more easily met using a MOOC platform. The organisers believe that the online programme will also link well with other programmes at DPU and Njala University, thus providing an appropriate entry point for further studies where that is needed.

The course steering committee members were Nancy Odendaal, **Adriana Allen**, **Caren Levy**, **Colin Marx**, **Alexandre Frediani** and **Camillo Boano**. The programme itself includes contributions from Vanessa Watson, Blessing Mberu, Colin McFarlane, Adriana Allen, Jonathan Silver, **Julian Walker**, Alexandre Frediani, Colin Marx, Yirah Conteh, Braima Koroma, Alphajor Cham, John Vandy Rogers, Victor Tamba Simbay Kabba, and Austina Sellu plus, most importantly, many of the residents of Freetown. The course will start on October 8th and is free and open to all. The course trailer, registration and further information are all available on the Future Learn

platform, which hosts the course: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/african-cities>

### A recognition of Samir Amin, 1931-2018 (by Robert Biel)

Samir Amin, who passed away in August, brought the logical rigour of economics into the service of liberation movements. When his career began in 1960s Egypt, he positioned himself within what was then still an unbroken tradition, leading from Marx through Lenin's recognition of the oppressed nations as the main revolutionary force. Assuming this legacy carried also the responsibility of critiquing all the errors made by different currents of the Left. The result was an intellectual movement – not altogether adequately called 'Dependency' – that aimed to reinvigorate imperialism theory.

Assessing Amin's contribution, I highlight the following (interdependent) aspects:

1. He initiated the attack on Eurocentrism, well before the later diversions of post-modernism.
2. Historically, Chinese development expresses a certain aspiration to reinvigorate the Left, but there is a lot that can be criticised; Amin sought to develop an independent analytical framework from which to make this critique.
3. He argued forcefully that imperialism must be understood as a system. The overall mechanism is called 'accumulation on a world scale' and its local expression in the South is maldevelopment.

There were also weaknesses in Dependency, notably its neglect of the ecological and thermodynamic mechanisms. But in his later work, Amin was able to adapt to incorporate some of these themes, notably in his recent embracing of agroecology as a key basis of liberation.

Amin's writing has influenced much of DPU's work in the past, but why should we re-read him today? Firstly, his classic works, particularly from the 1970s-1980s, are better than most of what anyone else has written since. Secondly, the link with the 'old' revolutionary-liberation tradition has been weakened today, and we urgently need to rebuild it. Samir Amin has provided a strong foundation for that endeavour.

The Board of Global Reconciliation has awarded **Zeremariam Fre** this year's Desmond Tutu Reconciliation Fellowship. This year's theme for the Fellowship was 'environmental care', and the award reflects Zeremariam's lifetime work in support of pastoral peoples, their rights to land and their care of the natural resources on which they rely. The Fellowship comes with rights to use the letters FGR (Fellow of Global Reconciliation) after one's name and a Aus\$10,000 grant to further develop research. The award ceremony will take place on 4th October in Melbourne, Australia, where the Fellowship will be presented by Tim Flannery, one of Australia's leading conservationists.

Zeremariam also received a small grant from the Global Engagement Strategy (GES) to the value of £2,000 to run a one-week training workshop entitled 'Better understanding the global funding situation and basic fundraising techniques', during the first week of October. The workshop will involve up to 40 participants, involving hands-on assistance designed to enable them to understand donors' thematic areas of interest, the political context of donor aid and techniques for fine-tuning proposals to address that context.

**Catalina Ortiz** and **Giovanna Astolfo** received a Small Grants Scheme award from the UCL Centre for Critical Heritage Studies for the project 'Leveraging Heritage for Just Infrastructural Urbanism in Myanmar' and the UCL's Global Engagement Funds 2018/19 for matching funds. The objectives of the project are: a) Generate a research proposal to explore the political use of heritage in processes of democratic transitions; b) Explore current theoretical debates about the intersections between heritage, infrastructure and spatial justice; c) Strengthen the linkages between Burmese practitioners and British academics.

**Daniel Oviedo Hernandez** alongside Rob Hickman from the Bartlett School of Planning have been awarded £10,000 from the 'Bartlett Synergy Grant' to carry out additional research as part of his project 'CALiveable: in search for inclusive liveable environments'. CALiveable is funded by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and UCL's Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment. **Julio Dávila** and **Haim Yacobi** are co-investigators in the project. The project involves a large partnership between UCL, Universidad del Valle (Colombia), Alcaldía de Cali and Fundación FDI Pacífico. The grant will enable Bartlett PhD student Beatriz Mella Lira to be employed as research assistant applying frameworks of liveability and health equity to the links between transport infrastructure, land use and urban health in Cali's Corredor Verde. The project is an ambitious initiative of co-produced evidence with a vision to support future health impact assessments of transport-led urban transformations. CALiveable will produce qualitative and quantitative evidence using innovative web-based participatory GIS tools to co-produce baseline data on liveability and health which can be used to evaluate health

*Below left:* Yangon, Myanmar (Photo by Ricardo Martén)

*Below right:* Presentation of redevelopment projects for Cali, Colombia (Photo by Daniel Oviedo)



impacts of the Corredor Verde and future projects in the city.

**Michael Walls** has been awarded a small grant from UCL's 'Global Engagement Fund' to run a second research methods workshop in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Michael ran a similar four-day workshop in July 2018, funded by DPU as part of his involvement with the newly established 'Institute of Research, Heritage Protection and Development', based at the Hargeisa Cultural Centre. The aim is to use the IRHPD to help to develop local research capacity. DPU also contributed £300 worth of texts on research methodologies to the IRHPD for use by local researchers.

**Andrea Rigon** has recently been awarded a UCL Education Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to education at UCL, and particularly his work establishing DPU's dissertation fellowship scheme, which has allowed many DPU students to partner with development organisations. Andrea was also awarded the status of Senior Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy. This fellowship was obtained through 'UCL Arena', a programme focusing on advancing research-based education at UCL.

**Andrea De Santis** has joined the KNOW project as Project Manager. He has over 10 years' experience in project management of large-scale research programmes for global organisations, spanning different sectors and geographies, including Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

**Kamna Patel** has been appointed inaugural Vice Dean of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) for the Bartlett faculty. This is the first EDI vice deanship at UCL and signals a strong commitment to action for equality across the university.

**Julio Dávila** has accepted an invitation to become a Fellow of the prestigious Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) headquartered in London. This invitation is a recognition of his track record in research, teaching and consultancy. He is looking forward to sharing his long experience of working on urban infrastructure in rapidly growing cities of the Global South with some of ICE's 93,000 members worldwide.

**Naji Makarem** has launched UrbanEmerge, a self-managed development consultancy, which has a focus on personal development, organisational development and urban and regional development. More information is available at <https://www.urbanemerge.com>

**Andrea Rigon** and Valeria Llano Arias have welcomed baby Gaia. Congratulations!

## Urban Infrastructure Projects and Displacement in Nigeria

Urban displacement is a problem at scale in Nigeria showing no sign of abating. Key drivers include urban infrastructure development programmes aimed at addressing Nigerian cities' substantial infrastructure backlog along with increasing demand for urban land for immediate use and as investment/speculative asset.

In this context, **Julian Walker** and **Barbara Lipietz** collaborated with Nigerian colleagues based in Lagos and Enugu to explore current practices of infrastructure-related displacement in Nigeria. Spurring this research was an exploration of how the need for urban infrastructure could be reconciled with social justice, protecting the interests and rights of low-income or marginalised urban residents in contemporary Nigeria.

The research was structured around two broad components: a national level 'scanning' of urban displacement between 2010 and 2016, synthesising secondary information sources in the public domain, and a city-profile of urban displacement in Enugu city.

The research highlighted the disjuncture between Nigerian reporting on displacement and much of current evictions/displacement literature in the Global North and South, developed based on paradigmatic cases. Notions of market displacement and gentrification did not feature in our study. In part, this can be attributed to the governance of displacement in Nigeria whereby compulsory acquisition of land is, in principle, tied to publicly-owned projects 'in the public interest'. In the context of information asymmetry at multiple levels and where the ambition for 'development' is widely shared, contestation regarding the public nature of infrastructure-related displacement is more often couched in terms of deviance from de jure processes, than on the basis of a right to 'stay put'. This, in turn shapes the definition of 'success' in the context of infrastructure-related displacement - albeit with the concern that emerging contestation on the basis of displaced rights could, in the future, require greater complexity than this broad assessment.

The research report can be downloaded at: <http://urn.icfwebsiteservices.com/publications/urban-infrastructure-projects-and-displacement-in-nigeria>; and is part of the broader Urban Research

Nigeria programme funded by DFID and led by ICF International (see: <http://urn.icfwebsiteservices.com>).

## Marketing Development Studies in UK Higher Education

From August 2018, **Kamna Patel** will lead a scoping study to explore the marketing of 'development studies' in two higher education institutions in the UK, focusing on a critical exploration of representations and their effect on student imaginations of 'development'. The study will bring together two critical fields to encourage cross-disciplinary dialogue. These fields are: marketing higher education in an era of the global neoliberal university, and postcolonial scholarship on the work of representations in and of development. The study seeks to understand the relationship between the marketing rationales that are employed by university staff tasked with marketing development studies programmes and student imaginations of the subject. The research pays keen attention to opportunities for 'pro-education marketing' – meaning marketing messages and approaches that inform and contribute to debates in critical development studies scholarship, particularly current discussions on decolonising development. Kamna will be working closely with higher education researchers Olga Mun, a doctoral researcher with the UCL Institute of Education and Cambridge University, and Lee Rensimer a doctoral researcher with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The study is funded by the Society for Research into Higher Education.

## Capacity building and participation for people with disabilities

From November 2018, **Julian Walker** and **Alexandre Frediani** will be leading a research project, focused on 'Building capacity and participation: driving community-led solutions for people with disabilities'. They will be working with DPU alumna **Vicki Austin**, and partner organisations including Leonard Cheshire, and the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC). This project is part of the wider 'AT 2030 Project', led by the Global Disability Innovation Hub and funded by DFID, which aims to support the development and dissemination of 'life-changing assistive technology' for all. The intention of this research is to better understand existing community

actions to support the aspirations of people with disabilities in urban informal settlements in the Global South. The current plan is to undertake the study in several informal settlements in Sierra Leone and Bangladesh. This research is intended to complement the wider project by building a better understanding of the ways in which assistive technologies are already developed, accessed and used in informal settlements, as well as the context in which they are used, and so to inform the relevance and reach of assistive technologies and the market access mechanisms developed in the AT 2030 programme.

## Bartlett Research Materialisation Grant

With increasing numbers of migrants seeking urban settlement, cities have a pressing responsibility to deal with refugees and asylum seekers specifically. Urbanism has become a salient subject for public discourse and has become central to civil society initiatives at various stages throughout the so-called 'refugee crisis'. Cities are places where both migrants and non-migrants interact, be it through working, studying, living or raising their families or simply walking in the street. While cities offer great opportunities for migrants and refugees, at the same time they are also faced with challenges in creating opportunities for inclusion.

The DPU webpage 'Refugees and the politics of urban space' collates a series of projects conducted by **Camillo Boano**, **Giovanna Astolfo** and **Ricardo Martén** in the past three years on how governments, host communities and aid agencies are challenged by myths of refugees as subjects and spaces of bare life and biopolitics, and to offer a perspective on the close and complex relationship that cities, refugee spaces and their residents have with each other. Each project has fostered interdisciplinary discussion and thinking between external experts and advisors, staff members, research students and civil society. Projects offered the opportunity for the development of collaborative research ideas, methodologies and activities across different departments at UCL, within an expanded network of collaborators from both academia and civil society.

One of the projects, the 'Bartlett Materialisation Grant', will soon come to an end with the October launch of the online interactive platform 'Refugee Spaces'. The platform aims to stimulate



Above: Former refugee camp 'The Jungle', in Calais (Photo by Ricardo Martén)

debate and demystify related issues through the presentation of evidence that draws on experiences associated with the differing responses of European countries to the 'crisis'. Relying on data analysis from institutional and governmental sources, the platform attempts to spatialise the political and security measures designed to contain migration and the mobility of refugees. The research has laid the basis for a larger research enterprise into shelter, accommodation and integration policies and practices, responding to the current change in the pattern of forced displacement in the Mediterranean region. It specifically confronts policy frameworks in Greece and Italy, two of the major entry points to Europe, in an attempt to establish a dialogue and to expand the possibility for translocal learning. By examining existing forms of dwelling, as well as identifying the potential impact of novel housing strategies and legal frameworks, the ongoing collective exploration seeks to address ways in which participatory planning could better support the long-term inclusion of refugees.

The website is at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/development/research-projects/2018/aug/refugees-and-politics-urban-space>

### Pathways Out of Urban Water Poverty

Another research project for Urbanisation Research Nigeria (URN), involving a number of DPU associates, this work has focused on exploring the impacts of policy interventions on urban water poverty, and on identifying effective and sustainable pathways that strengthen access to water in contexts where urbanisation is occurring in the absence of adequate provision of infrastructure. **Pascale Hofmann** explained to DPU News that the research highlights the urgent need to gather more detailed information with and about urban communities that have been experiencing varying degrees of water poverty.

The study focused on current practices and access to water supply and sanitation facilities in two informal settlements in Lagos and aims to contribute to improving future infrastructure planning and service provision and to allow for more effective targeting of potential beneficiaries. Findings will be of value to planners, policy makers and individuals involved in various efforts to reduce urban water poverty in a range of organisations.

### RELIEF project

**Camillo Boano** has been working on a project entitled 'RELIEF: Refugees, Education, Learning, Information Technology, and Entrepreneurship for the Future'. This is a collaborative initiative involving the American University of Beirut (AUB), the Centre for Lebanese Studies and DPU with the aim of responding to the

challenge of creating inclusive prosperity in the context of mass displacement. Camillo's work focuses on 'The Vital City' strand of the project, which explores the complex entanglements in space and time of displacements, crisis and city-futures in Lebanese cities. It investigates infrastructure, services and scarcity, as well as overlapping claims over spaces in the context of crisis characterised by latent conflict and the complexity of governance of local areas.

### Self-Sustaining Amazonian Cities

The action research project 'CASA: Ciudades Auto-Sostenibles Amazonicas' ('HOME: Self-Sustaining Amazonian Cities'), coordinated by BUDD alumna **Belen Desmaison** with the participation of **Camillo Boano** and **Giovanna Astolfo**, won the Water Research Prize at the World Architecture Festival for the design of a rainwater collection system that works as a non-bearing, permeable wall. The project recently published two articles, one in *Medio Ambiente y Urbanización (IIED-AL)* and one in *Espacio y Desarrollo (PUCP)*. In the upcoming months, CASA will release a short documentary, a book and an urban design guide for cities in the rainforest.

Below: Design model for rainwater collection system on permeable wall (Photo by Belen Demaison)



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# Connections

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**Wen Tian** (DAP 2016-2017) has helped establish an initiative involving the Ugandan NGO, Calm Africa, in partnership with a Chinese INGO with which she has a prior involvement, Free Lunch for Children (FLFC). The programme will provide meals to children in Calm Africa's Jolly Mercy Centre, where Wen Tian's team was working for their MSc field trip.

**Tara Shallal** (DAP, 2017-18) has a new temporary role as a consultant at the London-based organisation Alfanar Venture Philanthropy. Through the period of her MSc studies, she was working on a part time basis as a Research Associate for Middle East Relations at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, again based in London.

**Jairo Molina** (DAP, 2016-17) is now a Trainee in the Migration Policy and Democracy Unit of the Party of European Socialists (PES) in Brussels. Since finishing his MSc, Jairo has worked as a Project Assistant with the Young European Socialists (YES), for whom he helped to organise, among other projects, the 2018 IUSY World Congress in Montenegro. His work roles have, in different ways, built on the work he did in his MSc, including his dissertation, which focused on migration and development policy in the EU.

**Pablo Montaño** (ESD 2016-17), along with other young enthusiasts from the political platform Wikipolitica, participated in the 2018 election in Mexico as an independent candidate. In an extraordinary election, Pablo ran for a seat in the Mexican Congress and came a highly creditable second to a coalition of three parties. The motive of Wikipolitica is to prove that politics in Mexico can be done differently, and the movement continues.

**Natalia Mosquera** (BUDD 2014-15) has, since 2016, been a member of Plan Padrino, a programme of the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia under the 'De Cero a Siempre' public policy, whose main objective is to formulate, design and monitor the execution of early childhood development infrastructure projects around Colombia's most vulnerable municipalities. The programme employs a participatory approach which aims to enable beneficiary municipalities to strengthen their traditions, understand their environmental conditions, choose appropriate building materials, while integrating context-appropriate design elements.

**Shannon Lawrence** (BUDD 2016 - 2017) lives and works in Geneva, Switzerland. She has been building an interdisciplinary design consultancy bridging the space between humanitarian aid organisations and their need for specific urban-focused initiatives. She has recently accepted a contract with the City of Toronto contributing to the city's policy and research agenda, undertaking programme development and evaluation activities for the city council's 2018-2023 strategic vision.



Left: Backyard shacks in Masiphumelele, Cape Town (Photo by Federica Risi)

Below: Housing unit in Colombo, Sri Lanka (Photo by Barbara Lipietz)

## Change by Design 2018: re-imagining housing through participatory design in Cape Town, South Africa, 16th-27th July

The 2018 instalment of the Change by Design workshop was coordinated by DPU lecturer **Alexandre Frediani** and Bartlett visiting researcher Beatrice de Carli, with the participation of DPU Alumni and current GTA **Federica Risi**. The workshop, resulting from the partnership between DPU, Architecture sans Frontières-UK (ASF-UK) and the South African-based Development Action Group (DAG), investigated the phenomenon of back-yarding and explored how emerging micro developers could contribute to a more inclusive small-scale rental market and neighbourhood co-production in the city's townships.

## Introducing Sevanatha: A new partnership with an old friend

Having last year concluded a successful four-year engagement with Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), May 2018 marked the beginning of a new MSc UDP field trip partnership with Sevanatha Urban Resource Centre in Colombo (Sri Lanka). This partnership builds on a longstanding relationship between Sevanatha and the DPU – one with roots in the late-1980s when DPU staff (including **Pat Wakely** and **Caren Levy**) became involved with Sri Lanka's Million Houses Programme. More recently, this relationship has been strengthened by Sevanatha's involvement with the DPU/ACHR/CAN Internship Programme and their forthcoming



engagement with ACHR and research around the Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW) Project.

Laying the foundation for ongoing engagement, this year's field trip project aimed to understand the complex upgrading and resettlement processes currently at play in Colombo. In a context dominated by world-class aspirations and attendant regeneration-driven displacement and verticalisation, MSc students worked with local communities, Sevanatha and other civil-society organisations, as well as state-actors, to explore strategies with the potential to promote more just, people-centred development processes in the city.

For more information on the Internship Programme, see: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/>

[bartlett/development/dpuachrcan-internship-programme](https://www.bartlett.ac.uk/development/dpuachrcan-internship-programme)  
And on the Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW) Project: <https://www.urban-know.com>

## Social Impact Assessment in London Planning: A Just Space/UDP Collaboration

In a dense, interdependent and unequal city such as London, the social impact of development should be given equal weight in planning with other forms of impact. This proposition, contained within Just Space's 'Towards a Community-Led Plan for London', framed an ambitious action research project undertaken by 2017-2018 MSc UDP students as part of their practice module.

Working with community groups in Haringey and Southwark, students were asked to develop inclusive Social Impact Assessment (SIA) tools to help elaborate the Just Space proposal, in the context of active long-term strategic planning reformulation at the metropolitan scale. Key questions animating the project included: Is SIA an appropriate tool to foreground local needs and safeguard irreplaceable community assets in London Planning? Could SIA become a platform for genuine co-production in London planning? Findings from the project were presented back for discussion during a public event held with Just Space in December and at a subsequent event organised at the Greater London Authority (GLA) by Just Space as part of their ongoing efforts to influence the New London Plan.

A consolidated report can be downloaded from the DPU website: [https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/development/sites/bartlett/files/social\\_impact\\_assessment\\_in\\_london\\_planning.pdf](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/development/sites/bartlett/files/social_impact_assessment_in_london_planning.pdf)

For further information, see: <https://justspacelondon.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/just-space-a4-community-led-london-plan.pdf>

### Launch of the Latin American branch of the International Network for Transport and Accessibility in Low Income Communities

INTALInC LAC is the Latin American Branch of the International Network for Transport and Accessibility in Low Income Communities, a GCRF-Funded Network of which DPU staff **Julio Dávila** and **Daniel Oviedo** are founding members, and which is coordinated by Karen Lucas from Leeds University. INTALInC LAC extends the network to academics and practitioners in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop an interdisciplinary, collaborative network for the co-production of knowledge around transport, accessibility and social equity. The Latin American network was launched at the 2018 Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference in Barcelona on May 25th, 2018 during the INTALInC-sponsored panels on Urban Mobility and Social Equity in Latin American Cities. The network will also act as a platform for promoting international research collaborations between academic, policy and practitioner communities and develop events and webinars to facilitate exchanges between network members. Daniel Oviedo is the INTALInC primary point of contact for the Latin American branch and coordinates the network alongside Ana

Pinto from the Federal University of Belo Horizonte (Brazil) and DPU alumna **Natalia Villamizar** from the University of Illinois in Chicago.

You can follow updates from INTALInC LAC on twitter at @IntalincLac and contact at intalinc.lac@gmail.com.

### Workshops on hospitality and city-making and design, disaster and development

In early July, **Camillo Boano** participated in a Summer School programme on *Migrazioni nel Mediterraneo*, organised by Centro Studi Medi. Camillo presented a lecture entitled 'Hospitality and city making'. Camillo also participated in a workshop, titled the 'Design, Disaster & Development Research Forum', with colleagues from Europe and Australia. The workshop was held in Barcelona and discussed the challenges around design pedagogies and academic challenges in disaster and development practice, presenting some of the work done in DPU and on the MSc BUDD programme. Between 18th and 20th July, Camillo was invited, together with Samar Maqusi, to the workshop 'Structures of Protection: Rethinking Refugee Shelter' at the University of Oxford, presenting a work titled 'The Paradigmatic Shelter: the archetype of spatial violations'.

### DPU Photography Competition 2018

Students from the different programmes at DPU participated in the annual photography competition, with entries capturing their experiences in the field. As in previous years, entries are required to showcase work undertaken and to encapsulate some of the key themes of DPU: understanding urbanisation in the 21st century, environmental justice, working with diversity, and re-thinking development. After careful consideration from the DPU staff, and with the curation of Alex Macfarlane, this year's winning photograph was taken by ESD student, Jorge Roman, depicting a typical morning in Portee Rokupa, Freetown. The photograph is on the cover of this issue of DPU News. See the full set of images at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dpu-ucl/28426089557/in/album-72157697236137521/>

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*Below:* Residents of Cockle Bay informal settlement, Freetown – 3rd place (Photo by Nam Vo Son)



# Networks and Meetings

**Margarethe Theseira** was invited to participate as an expert panellist at an event at the Mayor of London's office exploring 'London's Productivity Puzzle: Drivers and Outlook'. She was joined by representatives from the Bank of England and the Centre for Cities to share her views on why labour productivity has been growing more slowly since the financial crisis and how this may impact on London's economy and living standards in the city.

Her contribution focussed on how the use of automation as a way of increasing productivity needs to be accompanied by a transformation of education and skills policies to ensure that Londoners are still able to get jobs and why progressive regulatory policy is required for London to continue as a centre for the development and adoption of new technologies while safeguarding worker and consumer interests. She also warned that policies to drive up productivity need to be accompanied by policies that ensure an equitable share of gains for workers as well as company shareholders.

**Catalina Ortiz** and **Barbara Lipietz** attended the annual meeting of the 'Platform for the Social Production of Habitat' (SPH), coordinated by Urbamonde in Geneva between 13th and 16th June. SPH is comprised of representatives from the Global Land Alliance, Grounded Solutions Network, Slum Dwellers International, Asian Coalition of Housing Rights, Cooperative Housing International, Habitat International Coalition and the World Habitat Awards. The meeting aimed to exchange experiences and to evaluate the tools, processes and methodologies designed and implemented by SPH to help further the Platform aims. DPU's contribution was to reflect on the role of universities in the consolidation of this global platform.

**Zeremariam Fre**, presented a paper between 19th and 21st June on 'Evolving pastoralist livelihoods and economic diversification in the Horn of Africa' at the first international conference organised by Samara University in the Afar Region of Ethiopia on the theme of 'Pastoral and agro-pastoral community development for sustainable livelihoods'. The main aim of the conference was to discuss challenges, opportunities and strategies for pastoral and agro-pastoral community development and to provide opportunities for networking and collaboration amongst researchers, scholars, institutions and other stakeholders from different disciplines across the world.

The conference participants were

drawn from local research institutions and universities and from the regional state of Afar and also included international participants from Africa, Europe and Asia. The conference participants issued the 'Samara University Declaration on Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Community Development for Sustainable Livelihoods', calling on concerned parties to build on the outcomes of the research and the recommendations from the conference, as well as the work of other stakeholders actively involved in the Afar Region of Ethiopia, in ways that ensure that livelihood options evolve in a direction suited to the realities of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.



Above: Launch of Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Community Development conference (photo by Zeremariam Fre)

**Camillo Boano** participated in the June kick-off workshop organised by the 'The Vital City' strand of the 'RELIEF: Refugees, Education, Learning, Information Technology, and Entrepreneurship for the Future' project in three out of four sites of inquiry: Saida, Bar Elias, and Ouzai. Nick Tyler, Howayda AlHarithy, Fouad Fouad, Hanna Baumann, Samar Maqusi, Rachel Saliba and DPU alumna, **Joana Dabaj**, now collaborating with the project, were also part of the team.

**Catalina Ortiz** presented at the 'Urban Renewal and Resilience: cities in comparative perspective 17th EAUH Conference' in Rome between 29th August and 1st September. Her paper was entitled 'Politics of heritage in socialist transitions: Comparing Yangon and Havana' and was part of a panel chaired by **Julio Dávila**, Carlos Galviz and Marcello Balbo.



Above: Building in Yangon's historical centre (Photo by Ricardo Martén)

**Camillo Boano**, **Alex Frediani** and **Andrea Rigon**, participated in a workshop in Sao Paulo in March organised by the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP). UNIFESP have just announced a new Masters programme, 'Cities and Global Urbanisation', and the workshop was designed to help develop a joint academic plan and a programme for continued cooperation between UCL and UNIFESP, especially regarding the new Masters programme and the MSc programmes at DPU.

**Julio Dávila** and **Daniel Oviedo** attended the 'XX Latin American Urban and Public Transport Conference' (CLATPU), where they presented a study examining the contribution of public transport to the needs of workers in the informal economy in the Bogotá region. The conference was used as a space for promoting the recently launched Latin American branch of the International Network for Transport and Accessibility in Low Income Communities (INTALiNC LAC) and to strengthen connections between DPU's Cuban research partners, seeking to facilitate new research and practice-based collaborations at the regional level and to increase DPU's role as a leading institution in the study of social issues in transport in Latin America and the Caribbean. Julio Dávila led a series of field visits and collaborations with partners in Medellín and a delegation of nine Cuban visitors from academia and government.

On 11th July, the second series of an ongoing dialogue took place in the KNOW project offices, in Senate House. The KNOW Seminar Series 2 – 'Dialogues in Urban Equality: Knowledge Co-production' was led by Vanesa Castan Broto, **Catalina Ortiz** and **Barbara Lipietz**, and was chaired by **Camila Cociña**.

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# PhD Programme

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**Cristian Olmos** and Sebastian Smart (UCL Institute of the Americas) have been awarded a 'UCL Grand Challenges Doctoral Grant' to analyse the impacts of transnational mining operations based in the UK on affected communities in Chile. Their project has the dual aim of bringing together researchers from different institutes within UCL to discuss an agenda for future research on this topic, while also building networks with external partners in the UK and Chile. Chile is the world's number one exporter of copper and has the largest reserves of lithium, which makes it one of the most extractivist countries in the world. London is turning into a key hub for mining operations and hosts the London Stock Exchange and the London Metals Exchange, where most of the headquarters of mining companies are based.

In collaboration with organisations that work in the fields of environmental justice and human rights, such as War on Want and the London Mining Network, this grant will be used to develop a policy report. It will further support the organisation of a seminar, where members of affected mining communities, academics and members of the civil society will discuss mining impacts on human rights and the environment in Chile and Latin America. Creating bridges between the UK and Latin America is key in the current globalised context of mining extractivism if social justice and sustainability concerns are to be aired and addressed. This initiative can support these efforts by improving the awareness of people in the UK about the standards of mining operations and the conditions of communities that suffer from the externalities of mining projects.

The long term objective of this collaborative project is to create a network of academic and non-academic organisations working on issues of environmental justice and human rights in solidarity with Chilean partners and communities; it aims to address links between social (in)justices, access to key natural resources and human rights.

**Vanessa Galeano Duque** and Verónica Ramírez Montenegro (UCL Institute of the Americas) have been awarded a 2018-2019 Grand Challenges Doctoral Small Grant to further their work on the topic of Justice and Equality. Their project entitled: 'Inclusive city planning: Social impacts of economic urban infrastructure in Colombia' looks to understand how public investment in economic infrastructure could affect political inclusion (through

participatory and popular empowerment processes), social inclusion (considering the population's access to basic services and facilities, such as hospitals and schools), and economic inclusion (by reflecting on the possibilities of change in economic status in neighbourhoods exposed to different investments in social and economic infrastructure). The project will be developed in Colombia focusing on two case studies: Medellín and Buenaventura. Besides contributing to the students' doctoral thesis, the project will sponsor the dialogue between academia, civil society, the Colombian government and the private sector about participatory and inclusive city planning, and public investment in economic vs social infrastructure in urban areas. To further these objectives, the project will close with a colloquium in Medellín, Colombia.

**Veronica Saud Casanova** was invited to participate in the Smart Cycling Futures (SCF) international workshops 2018 in Eindhoven and Amsterdam; a collaboration and publication opportunity that was financed by the Dutch Council for Scientific Research (NWO) programme 'Smart Cycling Futures'. Aiming to promote academic collaboration towards a multidisciplinary perspective on cycling and cycling innovation, the funding covers attendance at the two workshops in Eindhoven (27th-28th June) and Amsterdam (13th November), concluding with the 'First Cycling Research Board Academic Conference' from 14th to 16th November in Amsterdam.

A DPU doctoral research series was held as part of the XXXVI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), held in Barcelona, May 23rd- 26th 2018. Presentations in thematic areas ranged from transport studies, housing and disaster risk management and were given by **Vicente Burgos Salas**, **Eva Filippi**, **Rita Lambert**, **Veronica Saud Casanova** and **Julia Wesely**, as well as PhD alumni **Hector Becerril**, **Vicente Sandoval** and DPU Research Associate **Daniel Oviedo**.

**Fanny Froehlich** published a Bartlett doctoral blog, recounting her experiences during her research work in Ghana, with particular focus on the intersection between gender roles and language. For further information, see: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/news/2018/jun/bartlett-phd-student-recounts-ghana-field-trip-study-gender-roles-and-language>

**Kerry Bobbins** has been awarded a Royal Geographical Society/IBG 'Dudley Stamp

Memorial Award'.

**Kambaiz Rafi** was invited to attend and chair a panel titled 'Historiography: Perspectives on Afghanistan's History' as part of an academic conference for the study of Afghanistan held at the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University (ACKU).

**Ariana Markowitz** presented a paper called, 'It's been years and I still see her: confronting trauma in social science field research', at a workshop in San Salvador, El Salvador, in June on 'Research Challenges in Violent Contexts', organised by the Salvadoran human rights NGO Cristosal.

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DPUNews is published by the Development Planning Unit, UCL.

The Development Planning Unit is an international centre specialising in academic teaching, practical training, research and consultancy in sustainable urban and regional development policy, planning and management.

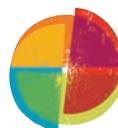
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*Cover photo:* Collecting water at a Portee Rokupa water point, Freetown, Sierra Leone.  
Winner, DPU Student Photo Competition – see other entries at <http://tiny.cc/m0syxy>.  
Photo by J. Roman.



Planning for socially just and sustainable development in the global South