



UCL



ISSUE 65 April 2019

dpu news

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Right to Land

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The Right to Health is the Right to Land: Notes on Settler Colonialism and Health\Space Politics

By Haim Yacobi



In 2005 a petition was filed in the Israeli Supreme Court of Justice by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel and Physicians for Human Rights, on behalf of Ennas Al-Atrash. Ennas was a three-year-old child, living in an unrecognised Bedouin village, who was diagnosed with aggressive Rhabdomyosarcoma cancer in her chest. Following sessions of chemotherapy and a surgery for the partial removal of the tumour, Ennas needed constant antibiotic treatment and injections; medication that must be stored at temperatures of 0-4°C, in a hygienic, air-conditioned environment, especially during the summer days, and which was essential for her recovery.ⁱ

The petition requested that the child's house be connected to the electricity network in order to provide her with proper care. The petitioners emphasised that the state, in refusing to connect the girl's home to the electricity supply, had violated its commitment to protect children and to place the welfare of the child above bureaucratic, land and ideological

considerations.

The Supreme Court rejected the case and accepted the state's proposal to provide the family with about 3,450 USD in order to purchase fuel for their neighbours' generator, which they had been using. Although the judges stated explicitly that this solution was far from adequate, they did not oblige the state to connect the home, claiming that the child's parents "had chosen" to live in an unrecognised settlement, "knowing that they would therefore not be able to connect to basic infrastructure", and recommended that the family move from their home to a formally planned township with proper infrastructure.ⁱⁱ

This case illustrates the ways in which health and space are socially produced and entangled; electricity, clean water or adequate housing are basic conditions for ensuring a healthy environment. Yet they are limited in the context of settler colonialism that is based on the desire to create a new society through the cultivation of what is

Above: Local Water Centre, Umm Batin, an informal Bedouin settlement. (Photo by Haim Yacobi)

considered as terra nullius, a land under no formal ownership, waiting to be seized and used by the modern, advanced nations of the world, while displacing its native communities,ⁱⁱⁱ and prioritising territorial and demographic control over basic rights such as health.

I would argue that links between health and space should be understood within a wider context, where freedom of movement, access to public services as well as freedom from environmental degradation are obvious rights linked to space. Most rights, including health, have a spatial dimension, and the ways in which space is (un)planned, controlled and organised, affect the protection\violation of human rights.^{iv} In other words, considering that space (re)produces power relations and inequality, the fact that premature death or diseases are disproportionately concentrated

within marginalised communities located in specific locations, stresses the necessity to consider health both politically and spatially.

Several scholars discuss settler colonialism and health. Richmond et al^v identified a number of processes through which the people of the Namgis First Nation have experienced decreased access to and control over environmental resources within their traditional territory in contemporary Canada, which had a detrimental impact on community health. Research focused on the Aboriginals in Winnipeg demonstrates how mobility is an intergenerational phenomenon, influenced by colonial practices. That research concluded that although migration of indigenous communities can contribute to positive health experiences, in many cases residential mobility, which is largely involuntary and linked to stressors such as neighbourhood safety, results in negative health effects. Another case examines how economic and social forces affect non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Khayelitsha, a low-income area of Cape Town. This case shows three main pathways through which the built environment impacts NCDs: by forming a complex food environment in which it is difficult to achieve food security, and by creating an environment that is not conducive to safe physical activity, as well as generating high levels of depression and stress. All of these spatial factors are at least partially linked to the isolated, segregated and mono-functional nature of Khayelitsha.^{vii}

Most of the Bedouin settlements in the Negev region were established before 1948, as part of the sedentarisation process under British rule. Some villages were established during the 1950s by Bedouin clans that were transferred from other parts of the Negev to restricted zones. In the newly created land registration and planning system in Israel, these Bedouin villages were not taken into account; the property registration system according to which the Bedouins operate was not recognised by Israeli law, and they were defined as trespassers and invaders, hindering the development and planning of the Negev.^{viii} The Bedouin population reacted to land expropriation

and to their new living conditions by rapid construction of informal settlements, defined by the authorities as illegal and a threat to state control over state land, and therefore regularly subject to demolition of these 'illegal' shelters.

Since the mid-1960s, the government has followed a plan for re-settling Bedouins in modern towns in the Negev. In seven planned towns, housing, infrastructure, education and health services were only partly supplied. In order to be eligible for subsidised plots of state-land in the new Bedouin towns, families that move into them had to withdraw any claims on their unregistered land or informal houses. The incentive for moving to these townships was access to services and infrastructure, which the unrecognised villages lack. However, the infrastructure and services provided in these townships are inadequate, and their residents suffer poverty and social immobility. A large population therefore remain in unrecognised Bedouin villages, which are even more lacking in physical and social infrastructure, including transportation, electricity, running water and welfare services.

Israel's Strategic National Plan perceives the Bedouin population as an "environmental hazard", devoting a section to their "negative effect on the environment" that results from "over-usage" of natural resources and "increased production" of waste.^{ix} However, analysis of the influence of environmental conditions on Bedouins' lives reveals the devastating effects of environmental degradation on that community's health. One environmental risk factor lies in the proximity of many Bedouin villages to industrial plants and chemical waste disposal areas, to quarries and phosphate mining areas, and to army training areas. An example of this is the industrial plant (IP) Ramat Hovav, which includes about twenty industrial chemical facilities. The minimum safety radius around such a plant should be 5 km, but the unrecognised Bedouin village of Wadi al-Na'am is located only 1 km away. Epidemiological research has examined whether mortality rates of the Bedouin population in the southern part of

Israel is associated with their proximity to IPs. According to some findings, there is an increased mortality rate due to symptoms, poorly-defined conditions and non-external causes in the Bedouin population of both sexes, residing up to 20 km away from an IP, compared to those living in more remote areas.^x

An additional report^{xi} indicates that Bedouin babies born to mothers living up to 20km from an IP show higher rates of suffering from congenital malformations and severe defects in the nervous, heart and skeletal systems. These may cause mental retardation, disability, miscarriage, and infant death. The data indicates that the percentage of congenital malformations among Bedouin residents living near Ramat Hovav is twice as high as those found among Bedouin residents who do not live in the area. Neighbours of Ramat Hovav also suffer from a significantly higher rate of respiratory diseases (asthma and pneumonia). These findings include both adults and children and are characteristic of Bedouin communities as well as Jewish villages in the region.

The absence of waste and sewage disposal facilities poses more severe risks to Bedouin health. Unrecognised settlements are not connected to sewage systems and most use improvised septic pits, which attract pests and are a smell hazard. Pits that are not properly cast in concrete can also cause seepage into water sources. Many Bedouin villages are located in dangerous proximity to streams which are polluted with untreated sewage and waste water. The estimated amount of waste produced in the Bedouin villages (as opposed to the assumptions of the Strategic National Plan) is an average of 0.73kg per person per day, less than half the average in Israel. In spite of this relatively small amount of waste being produced, improvised solutions to its disposal - such as burning - cause both air pollution and intense smell hazards.

House demolitions are also an environmental risk linked to waste disposal, since the debris is often never cleared from the villages. Importantly, house demolitions by the state have had particularly harsh impacts on women, by inflicting severe

personal and collective traumas, amplified by women's primary role as mothers. Paradoxically, the very same role also becomes a source of resilience and political resistance, as women act to protect a sense of home and to restore family life in the face of state violence.^{xiii}

Equitable access to safe and clean

Parliamentary Finance Committee to order the establishment of 10 more such "water centres". The request acknowledges that although a permanent solution can only be achieved as part of "a local Detailed Plan and regulated construction", the "water centres" can nevertheless constitute "an efficient temporary solution for more

making it impossible to store medication that requires cooling, such as insulin shots for diabetes sufferers; the rate within the Bedouin population is higher than the Israeli average.

Children are particularly vulnerable; about 60 percent of the Bedouin population are under 17 (compared to about 33



drinking water and sanitation are essential and "an integral component of the realisation of all human rights".^{xiii} Clean water infrastructure is not provided to the unrecognised villages, which suffer severe shortages of potable water and water for hygiene purposes. However, 300 authorised connections to pipes that supply water to nearby Jewish cities do exist for some of the villages. A special committee of the Israeli Water Authority is responsible for approving such connections due to "humanitarian considerations", but between 1997 and 2010 only 106 out of 675 submitted requests were approved.^{xiv} With great relevance to this argument, one of the explanations is that any act of providing infrastructure will make it more difficult to evict the residents of unrecognised villages.

In part of the recognised villages water supply is also provided by "water centres": a central pipe to which families can connect a water meter and a secondary pipe. In 2010, the Physicians for Human Rights NGO submitted a request to the

than 90% of the unrecognised villages' residents". A common way of bringing water to the villages is in plastic or metal tanks, which are filled outside the village and brought to the houses by trucks. As well as the high price of the water and its transportation, these tanks are kept outside, exposed to the sun, and therefore tend to develop mould and rust and are conducive to conditions for the reproduction of infectious organisms that cause gastrointestinal diseases.

Another type of infrastructure that is not provided to Bedouin villages is electricity. Some residents use generators, which operate between 1-4 hours a day, or solar systems that provide low outputs.

Both alternatives are expensive, and therefore many residents have no electricity at all. Beyond the inability to maintain basic life conditions, many health issues result from the fact that houses cannot be cooled or heated in the extreme desert climate. In addition, local health clinics use generators only during opening hours,

Above left: Local Water Centre, Umm Batin, an informal Bedouin settlement. (Photo by Haim Yacobi)

Above right: Local Water Centre, Umm Batin, an informal Bedouin settlement. (Photo by Haim Yacobi)

percent in the general Israeli population and 48 percent in the Muslim population). The health of children is considered an important index for the state of the population in general. The statistics in the Bedouin community reveal a severe situation with infant mortality 2.8 times higher than in the general Israeli population and 1.5 times higher than in the Muslim population. The percentage of Bedouin children with low birth weight (under 2.5 kg) and very low birth weight (under 1.5 kg) is higher than in the general population, in spite of an evident improvement since the 1980s. Again, no clear difference was found between the planned townships and the unrecognised villages. Home accidents are another health risk that is significantly

higher among Bedouin children. The most frequent accident type registered was burns, most prevalent in the youngest age group (0-24 months). Burns were caused by hot liquids, open fires and chemicals, iron, hot oil and electricity. The severity of many of these accidents caused long hospitalisations and permanent damage.^{xvi}

region. His argument is a telling example of the logic behind the production of a settler colonial space, saying that "... different elements will demand national rights within Israel, for example, in the Negev, if we allow for a region without a Jewish majority". Yet territorial control is not detached from biopolitics over the



Above: Solar panel system, Wadi al-Na'am. (Photo by Haim Yacobi)

Access to health services is a major problem, especially in terms of the effect of infrastructural and transportation problems on women; 4 out of 5 Bedouin women cannot go to clinics when they need medical services, mostly because of lack of transportation. Women are dependent on male chaperones, both for cultural reasons (it is not always considered acceptable for women leave their village alone) and for practical ones (for example, more men than women speak Hebrew and can communicate with staff)^{xvii}. When chaperones are not available, many women simply do not receive treatment.

Following the demolition of houses in one of the unrecognised Bedouin settlements, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu commented in a government meeting about the "demographic threat" of losing the Jewish majority in the Negev

colonised subjects, and this, in turn, affects health. In other words, territorial control involves not only land appropriation but also the strategic abuse of basic rights such as health.

As I have illustrated throughout this article, there is a necessity to consider not only physical and economic determinants such as poverty, poor nutrition, inadequate and unsafe housing, exposure to violence, and lack of a social services infrastructure, but also the very political conditions that have created them. These political conditions are the main causes of the inequitable distribution of health in settler colonial contexts. Beyond genetics and allocation of health services, which are often seen as primary causes of health disparities, it is the production of colonial space itself that is the main cause; the right to land is the condition for the right to health and the inaccessibility of water, electricity, or proximity to environmental hazards, are not neutral facts but rather the results of policy and planning.

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T-SUM: International Inception Meeting

The GCRF-funded Transitions to Sustainable Mobility (T-SUM) project, where **Caren Levy** and **Daniel Oviedo** are co-investigators, held its first international meeting between March 6th and 8th, 2019. The project focuses on sustainable mobility transitions in African cities, focusing on Maputo, Mozambique and Freetown, Sierra Leone as case studies. The meeting involved participation of international co-investigators Joseph Macarthy and Braima Koroma at the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Antonio Matos from Universidade Eduardo Mondlane and Joaquín Romero from Think Tank Waza in Mozambique, and high-level officials from the Transport Ministry of Sierra Leone, the Mayor of Freetown, Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, the director of the Transport Metropolitan Agency of Maputo and high-level officials from local governments in Maputo and Matola. The visit also included participation of representatives from the World Bank and the French Development Agency (Afd). **Julio D. Dávila**, DPU Director, sits on the T-SUM international advisory board.

Advisory Committee for Metropolitan Studies

Julio D. Dávila has been invited to be one of four members of the Strategic Advisory Committee of CentroMet (Consortio para el Estudio de Zonas Metropolitanas), a research centre and think tank in Mexico funded by CONACYT, the Government of Mexico's main research funding body. CentroMet's new Director is DPU alumna Karol Yañez. Based in the city of Querétaro, central Mexico, CentroMet specialises in multi-disciplinary research, advice and training for the sustainable development of rapidly growing medium-sized metropolitan areas in Mexico.

Infrastructure of care

Giovanna Astolfo, together with Huda Tayob and Irit Katz, co-organised the *Infrastructures*

Above: T-SUM international meeting, London. Photo by David Heymann

of Care symposium and exhibition, supported by The Bartlett School of Architecture and Institute of Advanced Studies, UCL. The symposium was a one-day event that brought together academics, activists, NGOs and spatial practitioners to discuss questions of infrastructures of care relating to forced migration. The aim was to explore the various spatial, material, human, and humanitarian entanglements of provision created for and by displaced people. In addition, the symposium was supported by an exhibition showing different interpretations and approaches to the lived experience of migration and its often-contested relation to care, hosting and survival.

Conference: Exploring Cities Beyond Ruins

Julio D. Dávila was a joint organiser, with Carlos López Galvis, from Lancaster University, of a session entitled *Beyond Ruinenlust: Historicising Urban Renewal, Regeneration and Resilience* at the European Association of Urban Historians' 2018 conference in Rome (Italy). This was a fascinating chance to examine the issue of ruins in cities from a range of disciplines, historical periods and regions of the world, from the early Roman period to the present, in Europe, Latin America and Asia. Carlos and Julio are currently editing the proceedings of the conference for publication in a special issue of an international journal.

Documentary: John Turner and El Ermitaño

A documentary has been produced by a group of researchers based in Lima (Peru) and Barcelona (Spain) based on the pioneering and hugely influential work on self-help housing of former DPU staff member **John Turner**. The DPU was one of several supporters of the film, which is

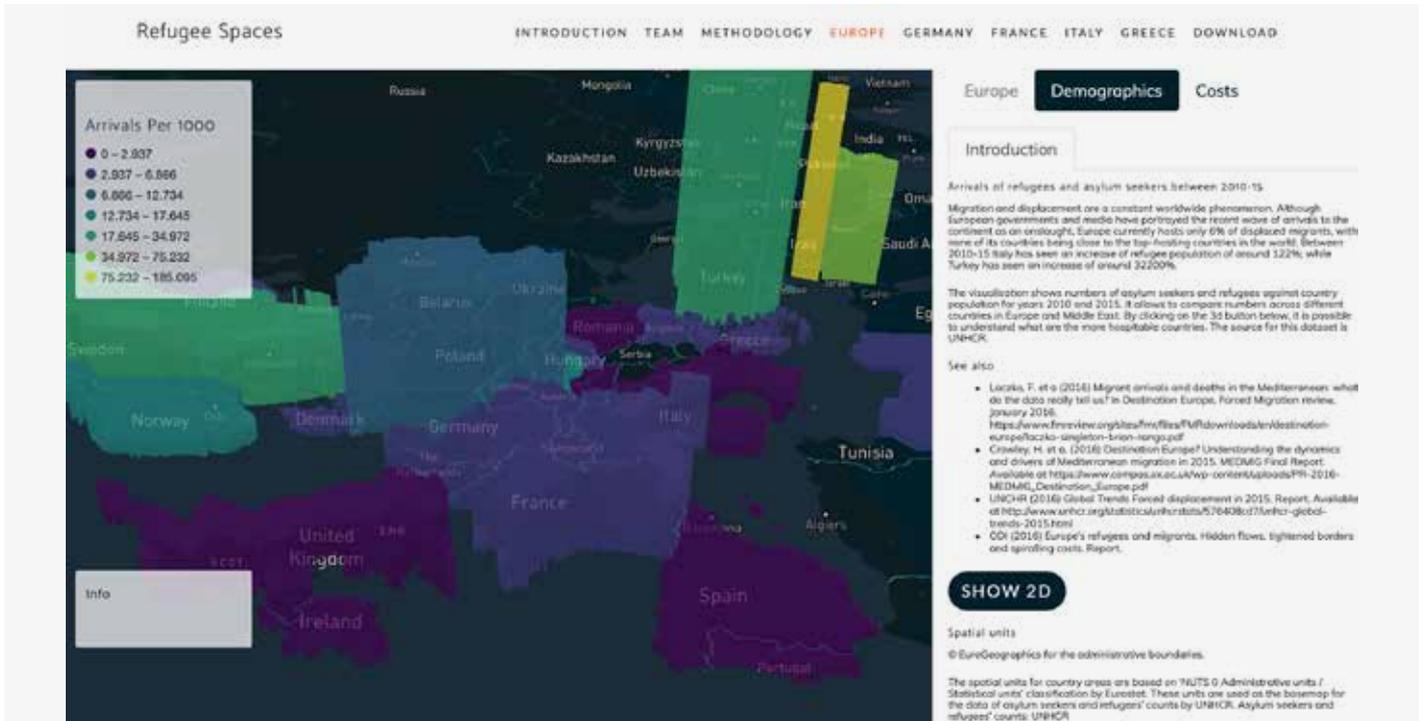
entitled 'City Unfinished: Voices from El Ermitaño'. It tells the story of the self-built settlement of El Ermitaño in Lima (Peru) from the 1960s until today through the voices of its residents. A trailer can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/297974476>

Translocal Pedagogies in Planning Education for Urban Equality

The Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW) project and the DSA Urbanisation and Development Study Group organised a workshop about planning education on October 1st, 2018. It brought together 25 participants from academia and practice in the fields of urban planning and higher education in the UK and overseas, who engaged in rich discussions over three sessions. Firstly, they debated the role of learners and the ways in which their experiences, knowledges and expectations are articulated within the learning process. These discussions were embedded in current trends in the higher education sector and its political economy, which strongly influence learning environments. The second session explored the role of critical pedagogies and the moral and political dimensions of education for future urban practitioners. The final session was kicked-off by four presentations based on different practices of translocal learning across geographies, learners and their practices. These were taken as entry points to discuss how translocal learning might stimulate learner's capabilities to become urban practitioners, who develop skills, values and knowledge for fostering urban equality. The workshop report is available at: <https://www.urban-know.com/wp5-education>

The Camp: Conversations around the making and un-making of bodies, space and time

The DPU and UCL Urban Laboratory have co-organised a series of roundtable conversations around the figure of The Camp. The series has been designed and chaired by **Camillo Boano** and **Ricardo Martén** from DPU, and Samar Maqusi, and has included the participation of experts and practitioners, from academia, the humanitarian sector and civil society. The series operate as horizontal conversations enquiring into the camp (as in 'refugee', 'resettlement' etc) the camp as more than a mere space, discussing it as a form, a practice and a concept. These roundtables have been designed as an inclusive transdisciplinary forum, where participants will have the opportunity to contribute equally to the discussion.



Refugee Spaces Platform Launch

In December 2018, the Refugee Spaces data platform was launched, as part of a two-year project funded by the Bartlett Research Materialisation Grant (BRMG). The event was the culmination of a cross-institutional collaboration involving **Camillo Boano**, **Giovanna Astolfo** and **Ricardo Martén**, from the DPU; Kayvan Karimi and Falli Palaiologou from Space Syntax Laboratory (the Bartlett School of Architecture); and Ed Manley from the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA). The aim of the project is to stimulate and demystify the so-called European migration crisis through an examination of evidence. Using openly available data provided by institutional and governmental sources, the platform attempts to spatialise the political and security measures designed to contain migration and the mobility of refugees. To use the platform, visit: www.refugeespaces.org

DPU/ACHR/CAN Fellowship

The fifth batch of fellows was selected for the DPU/ACHR/CAN young professionals internship. The fellowship is coordinated by **Catalina Ortiz** and **Barbara Lipietz** and supported by **Tim Wickson** and **Azadeh Mashayekhi**. This new batch includes alumni from BUDD, ESD and UDP. Marina Kolovou and Bima Amalsyah work with Women for the World in Yangon, Myanmar and Nada Sallam and Katrin Hofer with CAN chapter in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Above: Screenshot of refugeespaces.org navigation

Bartlett School of the Built Environment Tops International Rankings

The Bartlett has been ranked the top institution in the world for Architecture and Built Environment subjects in the renowned QS World Rankings. The news comes as the faculty is celebrating 100 years of The Bartlett name, and 100 years of global impact, with a story published every day for 100 days on the campaign website <https://bartlett100.com/> and events running throughout the year. The DPU has been part of UCL since 1971 so is well established as the Bartlett's leading unit on issues of planning and research aimed at a socially just and sustainable development in the Global South.

Building Capacity and Participation driving community-led solutions

In January 2019, the research project *Building Capacity and Participation driving community-led solutions* for people with disabilities, was launched. This project is part of the wider AT 2030 Project led by the Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) and is funded by DFID, which aims to support the development and dissemination of *Life-changing Assistive Technology, for all*.

The project is led by **Julian Walker**, with participation from **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** and PhD candidate **Victoria Austin**. The team will be working with a number of partner organisations including Leonard Cheshire, the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) in Freetown, and Kota Kita in Banjarmasin, Indonesia. Recent DPU PhD graduate **Ignacia Ossul Vermehren** joined the team in February as the lead Research Associate for the project.

In January, Victoria and Ignacia participated in the AT2030 Programme Meeting at the World Health Organisation in Geneva, involving inputs from the WHO, UNICEF, Clinton Health Access Initiative, GDI Hub as well as from DPU (see picture below). In Spring 2019 the project team will be setting up in-country partnerships in Sierra Leone and Indonesia ready to launch the main fieldwork phase in May.

Spatial Planning Issues in Camp Coordination and Camp Management

In January 2019, the DPU was selected by the Royal Town Planning Institute to co-produce a research package to critically explore current approaches to the planning of camps, taking into consideration medium and long-term strategic issues relating to spatial planning. **Camillo Boano** and **Ricardo Martén** will lead the research in the coming months, looking to advance knowledge on camps (for refugees, for detention, etc.) and explore their functions as an instrument for the governance – control, containment and protection – of displaced populations, spaces of belonging, and refugee agency.

Legacy building on actionable knowledge to disrupt urban risk traps in Freetown and Karonga

Urban African Risk Knowledge (Urban ARK) concluded in January 2019 but its legacy is still alive. To sustain and expand on the work conducted under Urban

ARK in Malawi and Sierra Leone, DPU's **Adriana Allen**, Mtafu Manda from Mzuzu University, and Braima Koroma, Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre, have been working collaboratively to consolidate and build two key components of Urban ARK's legacy in both cities. The first concerns building local capacities to sustain an update to the ReMapRisk platforms established in each city, which provide community-led information on risk accumulation cycles and capacities to act. The second component seeks to monitor and document the outcomes of the strategic action projects implemented the two cities. In Freetown, these include 14 initiatives co-produced by local communities in 15 informal settlements and in Karonga, 4 strategic action projects prepared by four Neighbourhood Disaster Risk Management Committees (NDRMCs) cover the whole town. Throughout the process, local bodies in both cities have acquired new capacities to act and have been recognised as legitimate local community structures in the wider governance of Disaster Risk Management. Karonga's NDRMCs have been officially recognised in the District Disaster Risk Management Committee (DDRMC) that brings together over 30 organisations and government departments, while the strategic action plans developed through these structures for Freetown were recognised by the Mayor of the City Council and incorporated into *Transform Freetown*, a new city-wide initiative led by the Office of the Mayor. The DPU team also included **Emmanuel Osuteye** and **Rita Lambert** and, more recently, Nam Vo Son (ESD MSc alumnus 2017-18).



Above: Community-led mapping in Cockle Bay, Freetown. (Photo by Rita Lambert)

An integrated urban modelling approach to low-carbon cities

Daniel Oviedo and **Julio D. Dávila** have been recently awarded research funding

under the bilateral scheme UK PACT Colombia as co-investigators in the project titled *Systemic perspectives on low-carbon cities in Colombia: An integrated urban modelling approach for policy and regulatory analysis*. The project is led by Angela Cadena at Universidad de los Andes in Colombia and will involve a large team of local researchers focusing on carbon-intensive sectors such as energy, transport and mining from a perspective of sustainable inclusive development. The project is financed by the International Climate Finance programme of the UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

From emergency to integration: housing and meaningful lives

Giovanna Astolfo and **Camillo Boano** conducted a case study review for the project *Curing the Limbo* (Urban Innovation Action) that identifies and analyses global affordable housing practices in order to show the possibility of application in the case of Athens' registered refugees moving from state-led accommodation to independent housing. The report is available at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/development/research-projects/2018/dec/refugees-and-politics-urban-space>

Social Impact Assessment in London Planning: An Update from the ongoing Just Space/UDP Collaboration¹

In a dense, interdependent and unequal city such as London, the social impact of development should be given equal weight in planning as is given to other impact assessments. For two years, this proposition, in the context of Just Space's *Towards a Community-Led Plan for London*, has framed an action research engagement in DPU's MSc programme, Urban Development Planning, co-designed by **Barbara Lipietz**, **Tim Wickson** and the Just Space network. Having previously paired MSc students with community groups in Haringey and Southwark to co-develop inclusive Social Impact Assessment (SIA) tools, this year's project focused on elaborating methodologies for conducting a baseline assessment of local assets and aspirations. Partnering with Rooms of Our Own, Bengali East End Heritage Society and Community Centred Knowledge, the work overlapped themes of inclusive heritage, social infrastructure, local economies and community spaces. The findings from this project have fed into

Just Space's preparations for upcoming Examination in Public (EiP) sessions concerning the treatment of 'Culture and Heritage' and 'Social Infrastructure' in the Draft London Plan. A consolidated report documenting this collaboration is forthcoming.

Mapping Synergies and the SDGs

Pascale Hofmann is Co-Investigator in an interdisciplinary, cross-departmental UCL project entitled *Mapping Synergies and Trade-offs between Sanitation and the SDGs*. Building on a methodology developed by UCL's Energy and Development Group, the project involves a systematic review of interlinkages between sanitation and all the other SDG targets. By addressing a significant gap in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector, the research expects to help advance understanding and inform decision-making for funding, implementation and sustained provision of sanitation services. The methodology will be shared in an interdisciplinary workshop in June and the project overall aims to develop a compelling evidence base to demonstrate the urgent need for accelerated investment in sanitation and promote the case for cross-subsidy from other sectors.

Below: Water delivery in Dar es Salaam.
Photo by Pascale Hoffman



Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality, Dialogues in Urban Equality Series 2018

The research project, Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW), funded by GCRF and led by **Caren Levy**, continued its public seminar series, Dialogues in Urban Equality. For the third Dialogue, on 1st October 2018, KNOW

brought together **Adriana Allen**, Elaine Unterhalter (UCL, Institute of Education), Lorena Zárata (Habitat International Coalition), and Gautam Bhan (Indian Institute for Human Settlements) to discuss reframing urban planning pedagogies. For the fourth dialogue, on 17th October, KNOW invited Jane Rendell, David Roberts, and Yael Padan (UCL, Bartlett School of Architecture), Ella Parry-Davies (The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama), and Jennifer Roest (University of Oxford, Ethox Centre) to discuss the ethics of research practice in the coproduction of knowledge. For the fifth dialogue on 7th November, KNOW welcomed David Satterthwaite (International Institute for Environment and Development), Caroline Moser (University of Manchester) and Colin McFarlane (Durham University) for an evening chaired by Caren on the challenge of urban extreme poverty. Finally, for its sixth Dialogues event on 15th January 2019, KNOW invited Colin Marx to lead a discussion on the significance of urban land and urban land markets for building pathways to urban equality.

Co-production of knowledge through research: Global North-South partnerships with equivalence²

The KNOW 2019 Annual Workshop took place in Havana, Cuba in February, focusing in large part on the pivotal issues around realising the objectives of co-producing knowledge to activate transformations towards urban equality, and building research capacity in partner countries. KNOW is led by **Caren Levy**, with the Annual Workshop involving over forty members of the KNOW team from eleven different countries.

At the same time, in London, DPU hosted a roundtable meeting focused on the same issue – the co-production of knowledge through research as a means of promoting more equitable North-South partnerships. That latter meeting was organised by **Michael Walls**, with Jama Musse Jama (Redsea Cultural Foundation, Somaliland) speaking, and Michael and Madhu Krishnan, University of Bristol, as discussants. Participants included representatives from Universities of Exeter and London (Birkbeck), SOAS and King's College London, and built on presentations made in the prior days to a select committee on ODA at the UK Parliament.

Research Cluster events

The research cluster on Urban Transformations organised a series of Dialogues in Development led by **Catalina Ortiz** where the sessions involved: Tariq Jazeel, UCL Geography, presented *On singularities: postcolonial geographies*; AbdouMalik Simone, University of Sheffield, presented Living an extended urbanism; Su Su (Mandalay Technological University), Moe Moe (Yangon Heritage Trust), Dean Sully (UCL Archaeology) and Claire Melhuish (UCL Urban Lab) presented *Interrogating Myanmar Heritage in times of political transition* organised also by **Giovanna Astolfo** and funded by the Centre of Critical Heritage, UCL Urban Lab, and the Global Engagement Office.

The State and Market and Urban Transformations research clusters also combined to host a March workshop on *Contested Urban Territories*, introduced by **Haim Yacobi** and **Camillo Boano**, and covering topics including mapping contested/divided/(post)conflict cities (Catalina Ortiz), researching urban planning in Lebanese cities (**Hannah Sender**, PhD candidate, DPU/Institute for Global Prosperity), caste and class as a basis for urban division in Hargeysa, Somaliland (**Michael Walls** and **Amina-Bahja Ekman**), urban infrastructure-related displacement in Nigeria (**Barbara Lipietz**) and landscapes of trauma (**Ariana Markowitz** and **Ayesha Ahmad**, UCL Institute of Global Health), and the neo-apartheid city in Israel (**Haim Yacobi** and **Moriel Ram**, UCL Institute of Advanced Studies and DPU), with discussion led by **Oren Yiftachel** (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beersheba).

¹ See 'Social Impact Assessment in London Planning' at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/development/news/2018/sep/social-impact-assessment-london-planning-report-msc-udp-collaborates-just-space> (accessed 22/3/19).

² Yap, C. (2019) Lessons from Havana: Reflections on KNOW's Second Annual Meeting (March 22) <https://www.urban-know.com/single-post/2019/03/22/Lessons-from-Havana-Reflections-on-KNOW's-Second-Annual-Meeting> (accessed 22/3/19).

PhD Programme

Successful PhD completions

Donald Brown, successfully defended his thesis in July 2018, titled *Small places, big problems: Planning healthy environments in emerging African towns – the case of Karonga Town, Malawi*. Don joined DPU staff as a Lecturer in time for the new academic year, where he is now preparing material for the new MSc in Urban Health and Development, which will launch in September 2019.

Pascale Hofmann successfully defended her EngD thesis in August 2018 entitled *The Dialectics of Urban Water Poverty Trajectories: Policy-driven and Everyday Practices in Dar es Salaam*. Pascale demonstrated that ‘the urban water poor’ in Dar es Salaam move in and out of urban water poverty, undergoing diverse journeys where the level of access to water supply and sanitation services (WSS) frequently fluctuates over time, for better or for worse. She argued that a relational investigation of urban water poverty trajectories can help tackle the problem by identifying which factors and relations pull people out of urban water poverty and which ones push them deeper into it.

Ignacia Ossul Vermehren successfully defended her thesis on *The Politics of Home-Making: The case of informal settlements in Viña del Mar* in Oct 2018. This year, Ignacia has joined the DPU staff as a Research Fellow for the AT2030 project.

In November, **Ana Maria Huaita Alfaro**, concluded her PhD studies, defending her thesis on *Encounters at Lima’s inner-city marketplaces: negotiating fragmentation and common living in urban Peru*, while in the same month, **Stephanie Butcher** was successful in finishing her EngD at UCL Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, with her DPU supervision team of Alex Apsan Frediani and Julian Walker. Stephanie’s thesis was titled *The everyday politics of water: services and citizenship for the urban poor in Kathmandu, Nepal*. Stephanie has now joined the KNOW project, and will work in the team led by Michele Acuto in the Melbourne School of Design, University of Melbourne. Her role will be as “Impact Champion”, working in the international component of the KNOW work package ‘Translating Research into Practice’.

January also saw a couple of successful PhD defences, with **Rita Lambert** completing



Above: Vivas for Cristian Olmos Herrera, Ignacia Ossul Vermehren and Rodrigo Caimanque Leverone. (Photos by DPU)

her doctoral research on Cartographic Calculation and Coordination in the Urbanisation of the Peripheral Slopes of Lima, while **Cristian Olmos Herrera** was also successful with his thesis on *Territorial fragmentation of aboriginal communities in the process of mining expansion: The case of Atacama Desert, Chile*.

In March 2019, **Julia Wesely** successfully completed her PhD on integrated risk management, based on an analysis of the medium-sized city of Manizales in the Colombian Andes. In the same month, **Rodrigo Caimanque Leverone** successfully defended his thesis on *The (urban) politics of Valparaiso’s Regeneration: A scalar assessment of urban governance*.

Doctoral networks

Fanny Fröhlich presented at a conference in December at the University of Legon, Accra, Ghana, entitled *Revisiting the 1958 All-African Peoples Conference - The Unfinished Business of Liberation and Transformation*. Her paper was *Unequal power relations in regard to gender and knowledge production – examining an*

international NGO project conducted in the Eastern Region of Ghana. She was funded to attend the conference by the Bartlett Student Conference Fund.

Marisol Garcia Gonzalez presented her research at the *PhD Research Projects 2019 Conference* at the Bartlett School of Architecture, held in February and organised by Nina Vollenbroeker and Sophie Read. This was the thirteenth annual conference and exhibition related to Bartlett’s doctoral research, which has been devoted, until this year, to contributions from the *Architectural Design and Architectural and Urban History and Theory* programme.

This year, for the first time, contributions were also included from doctoral students at DPU and the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA).

Tin Alvarez co-organised the November 2018 National Conference on Geographical Studies at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City. She was a panellist at the author-meets-critics session for the launch of Arnisson Andre Ortega’s book *Neoliberalising Spaces in the Philippines: Suburbanisation, Transnational Migration, and Dispossession*; as well as chairing panels on urban mobilities and labour geographies. Tin also presented a paper on *Benevolent evictions and resiliency revanchism: Protocols of dispossession, social safeguards, and ‘participatory’ housing solutions* at the 4th Philippine Studies Conference in Japan held in November at Hiroshima University, Japan. Both trips were funded by The Bartlett and the DPU Student Conference Funds. In February, Tin was also invited to give a talk at the inaugural event of the LSE’s *Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre Early Career Researcher Network*.

Swetha Rao Dhananka has been expanding on the research she developed as an affiliate academic at DPU, sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation, over 8 months between 2015 and 2017. In that time, she worked on knowledge networks in the urban periphery of Bangalore, India and finalised several publications and a book manuscript based on her PhD thesis that will be coming out this year with Cambridge University Press. Since September 2018, Swetha has held the post of Professor of Social Work at HES-SO, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, Fribourg.

Connections

Araceli Damián (PhD 1997), who is a professor at Colegio de México in Mexico City, has been appointed Director of the Social Development Evaluation Council of the Government of Mexico City.

Farnaz Arefian (PhD 2015) has been appointed a lecturer at the Australian University of Newcastle, based in Singapore. Her work focuses on disaster management and resilience, urban design and the application of strategic management for delivering and evaluating built environment projects and programmes. As convenor of the Silk Cities initiative, Farnaz is also the organiser of a forthcoming conference entitled *Reconstruction, Recovery and Resilience of Historic Cities and Societies* in the Italian city of L'Aquila, on 10-12 July 2019. Her book *Organising post-disaster reconstruction processes* arising from her PhD research and her prior professional engagement in the Bam earthquake (Iran) was published by Springer in 2018.

Karol Yañez (PhD 2016), who specialises in environmental sustainability and coproduction of knowledge, has been appointed Director of CentroMet, a consortium for the study of Metropolitan Zones in Mexico, which aims to contribute towards understanding and generating solutions, from an interdisciplinary perspective, for pressing issues of the fast-growing medium-sized cities where 50% of Mexico's urban population currently live.

Andreea Savu (MSc DAP 2016) is Policy Advice Officer at the British Medical Association, the trade union representing all doctors and medical students within UK. After graduation, Andreea started a charity leadership and management scheme for the non-profit sector in the UK, Charity Works, and was based at the Royal College of Radiology in their policy and public engagement team. At the BMA, she works with doctors, supporting the development of evidence-based policy work and negotiations with government bodies and NHS-related organisations.

Yasmine Kherfi (MSc DAP 2018) is Projects Assistant at the LSE Middle East Centre, providing research and administrative support for projects at the centre. In November, Yasmine was one of the organisers of the public UCL-hosted meeting *Post-War Syria: Reconstruction, Politics, and Justice*, convened to promote discussion on Syria's options looking ahead.

Roberto Salvador Herrera Castro (MSc DAP 2018) took up a new position, immediately after finishing his MSc, as Junior Consultant at UN-Habitat in Nairobi, where he was quickly promoted to full Consultant.

Ana María (Anukie) de la Parra (MSc SDP 2017) is now in charge of the implementation phase of an inclusive mobility strategy for Valle de Bravo, Mexico, entitled *Valle Te Transporta*. The strategy was co-produced with the local community following a six-month participatory process. The municipal and state governments are now committed to investing in actions based on the views and aspirations of the community as well as guidelines for local communities. Anukie, **Héctor Becerril** (PhD 2015) and **Karol Yañez** (PhD 2016) are the joint authors of a study on Mexico entitled *Coyuca Resiliente al Clima*. This was presented at an event in Quito, Ecuador, and was jointly funded by Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA-Ecuador). The presentation was part of a regional initiative entitled *Climate Resilience Cities in Latin America*, with six projects selected "to identify and promote innovative solutions for climate compatible development in small and medium sized cities" in the region.

Ani Garibyan (MSc ESD 2016) is currently working for the Californian city of Glendale's Urban Design and Mobility division which is part of the city's Planning Department. She writes "in every task I take on, I am always questioning and bringing up challenges that pertain to the most vulnerable groups in the city, especially because recent development in Glendale has caused housing prices to rise, making it difficult for families to afford to live here. ESD has given me a unique perspective on development, specifically in a city where equity is seldom brought forward in discussions and decision making, and green space is difficult to find, especially where the less affluent communities reside."

Angeliki Paidakaki (MSc ESD 2008) has completed her PhD and is now a postdoctoral researcher at KU Leuven. Her research embeds the refugee integration problematic within the larger problematic of European housing systems and their institutional fallacies. By reflecting on governance experiences and imaginaries through post-foundational lenses, the aim of her research project is to provide

suggestions for improving housing governance systems and materialising European egalitarian urbanities.

Laura Beckwith (MSc ESD 2009) is currently pursuing her doctoral studies at the University of Ottawa. She is now based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and her research looks at the community-led adaptation strategies of urban farmers affected by environmental change and urbanisation.

Since the completion of her postgraduate studies at DPU, **Daljeet Kaur** (MSc ESD 2011) has worked as a qualified development sector professional, including assignments at NITI Aayog (Think Tank for the government of India) to rank states' performance and improvements on key social indicators from Health Water and Education. In 2018 she joined DFID India as the Climate and Environment Adviser in the Urban Energy and Green Growth (UEGG) team, where she currently leads the implementation of Infrastructure for Climate Resilient Growth (ICRG).

Stefania Gyftopoulou (MSc BUDD 2014) is Project Manager at Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Athens and has been part of the city team recently awarded of the European Capital of Innovation 2018, which includes a €1 million prize. The prize money will be used to scale up local innovation activities and collaborate with other cities. Amongst the several initiatives listed in the award is Stefania's long-term coordination project, *Curing the Limbo*.

Helene Gourichon (MSc UED 2018) was recruited by the Scottish Government to work as a Food Policy Officer to implement the first-ever food policy developed by a local authority in Scotland. The policy will aim at tackling the economic, social and environmental issues related to food but will also take food as an opportunity to promote sustainable development.

Since November 2018, **Freddy Fashridjal** (MSc UED 2018) has been working as a Consultant for the Indonesia Infrastructure Society. Freddy provides economic and financial analysis for the provincial government of Jakarta to fund the second phase of Light Rapid Transit (LRT) Jakarta and transit-oriented development (TOD) in Kampung Rambutan district.

Leveraging Heritage in Myanmar

Catalina Ortiz and **Giovanna Astolfo** organised the workshop *Leveraging Heritage for Just Infrastructural Urbanism in Myanmar* to explore the intersections between heritage, infrastructure and spatial justice. The workshop brought together Su Su (Mandalay Technological University), Moe Moe (Yangon Heritage Trust), Dean Sully (UCL Archaeology), Claire Melhuish (UCL Urban Lab), **Daniel Oviedo** (DPU), Elizabeth Rhoades (Kings College), and Supitcha Tovivich (Silpakorn University) to find avenues of collaboration for setting a new research proposal. The workshop was funded by the Centre of Critical Heritage, UCL Urban Lab, and the Global Engagement Office.

Silk Cities

DPU is a joint organiser and sponsor of the Third Silk Cities Conference entitled *Reconstruction, Recovery and Resilience of Historic Cities and Societies* in the Italian city of L'Aquila, in July. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the L'Aquila earthquake which devastated the city and its historic centre, affecting over 100,000 people who lived in the city and surrounds. While rebuilding work is ongoing, economic and social recovery is struggling. The city and its people stand to benefit from the global, dispersed knowledge on the subject matter that will be gathered in the city during the conference. This will be the third Silk Cities international conference and it is designed to address the issues surrounding reconstruction in historic cities at two levels. At a local level, the conference will provoke debate on the rebuilding work already carried out and consideration of the next ten years of reconstruction and recovery in L'Aquila. At a wider level, the conference seeks to influence the way in which risk is considered in historic cities and to promote a holistic approach to resilience. More information at <http://silk-cities.org>

SLURC –MSc Action-learning alliance

In 2017, the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) led by Braima Koroma and Joseph Macarthy and the practice module of the ESD MSc led by **Adriana Allen** and **Rita Lambert** set up an action-learning alliance to articulate various streams of ongoing pedagogic, research and action-led collaborative work (see DPU News 63). A second cohort of ESD MSc students have joined this action-learning alliance to continue exploring the drivers of risk accumulation in Freetown and how these can be disrupted. Between September and December 2018, the focus of their work was on understanding how different hazards affect the development of the whole city. Since January 2019, their work has focused on seven informal settlements selected by SLURC and local partners with the intention of deepening and expanding the action-research conducted by the previous cohort of students and also undertaken by local communities under Urban ARK to co-produce transformative pathways to disrupt risk traps in Freetown. The research will include an MSc field trip in April/May 2019 and the outputs from both phases will be publicly available in the summer through the SLURC and DPU websites in the form of policy briefs and videos.

EJUR research cluster seminar: Stimulating a dialogue on disaster risk management between intermediate cities of Latin America

The DPU's PhD students **Eva Filippi** and **Julia Wesely**, together with their thesis supervisor **Cassidy Johnson**, organised an EJUR research cluster seminar to discuss a forthcoming book chapter about the challenges and potentials of intermediate cities in advancing innovative disaster risk

management (DRM) strategies. Based on the case studies of Santa Fe, Argentina, and Manizales, Colombia, they highlighted how both cities have managed to create and sustain enabling environments for innovative DRM approaches. The book chapter aims to explore how a dialogue between both case studies can support a better understanding of their trajectories in DRM policy, innovation and diffusion.

First ACHR/KNOW workshop in Nakhon Sawan, Thailand

The first ACHR/KNOW workshop took place in the city of Nakhon Sawan, Thailand, in January 2019. As part of the KNOW project, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) is coordinating research in four cities, seeking to consolidate a network of co-learning and knowledge co-production towards urban equality. Putting community-led knowledge production at the centre, the four research projects are based on Da Nang (Vietnam), Nakhon Sawan (Thailand), Yangon (Myanmar), and Yogyakarta (Indonesia). This first workshop brought together representatives from each of the cities and members of the ACHR secretariat, led by Somsook Boonyabancha, Minh Chau Tran and Brenda Perez-Castro. The activities were co-facilitated by KNOW researchers **Barbara Lipietz**, **Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, **Emmanuel Osuteye** and **Camila Cociña**, as well as KNOW communication officer **David Heymann**. This team-building exercise provided an opportunity to visit some projects under the Baan Mankong programme and to witness their community engagement process. The visit was also marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Municipality of Nakhon Sawan, ACHR, CODI, the Nakhon Sawan Community Network, and DPU, as a formal exercise to commit the different parties to the implementation of the ACHR/KNOW project in the city.

Below: ESD students during fieldwork in Freetown 2018. Photos by Adriana Allen



Storytelling and Co-Designed Transmedia Workshop

Catalina Ortiz led a workshop for the project Activating Learning for Slum Upgrading: a co-designed transmedia storytelling platform for Medellín, aimed at highlighting the potential of storytelling for urban learning. The objective was to link with the local academic/practitioner community that engages in debates and practices around transmedia storytelling, digital platforms, and urban planning to explore future collaborations. The participants were **Diana Salazar** (UCL), Sandra Gaudenzi (University Westminster), Karen Tucker (University of Bristol), Felipe Caro (Future Cities Catapult), **Liza Griffin** (UCL), **Ricardo Martín** (UCL), Ludovica Fales (University Westminster), Will Pearson (Future Cities Catapult) and Frances Crowley (Kings College).

DPU Collaboration with the Colombian National Planning Department

Julio D. Dávila and **Daniel Oviedo** have entered an agreement with the Colombian National Planning Department to contribute to the design of a battery of access and social inclusion indicators for urban transport projects, as part of the framework of the National Development Plan of the recently elected national government of Colombia. The project will involve research-based co-design of indicators and guidelines for data requirements and involve a support team at both the DPU and professionals from the National Planning Department. The project will also provide inputs for new project design and monitoring for new urban interventions receiving national government funding. The agreement comprises a one-year design and implementation period and research-targeted data sharing in the following years.

Windsor Workshop

After three years, the Windsor Workshop entitled *Negotiating innovative urban development agreements in Medellín, Colombia* coordinated by **Catalina Ortiz** came to an end. The next three years of the Windsor Workshop will be led by **Michael Walls** and will focus on the case of Hargeysa in Somaliland.

Catalina Ortiz won a Bartlett ECR-GCRF at UCL grant (£110,000) to develop the project *Activating Learning for Slum Upgrading: a co-designed transmedia storytelling platform for Medellín*. Focusing on Medellín as a benchmark for Slum Upgrading Strategies, this project aims to offer new visual and digital tools to recalibrate the debate on slum upgrading policies and the role of the circulation of urban knowledge across cities. The main partner institutions include: UN Habitat, Union of Cities and Local Governments [UCLG], Cities Alliance-Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean, Habitat International Coalition [HIC], Slum Dwellers International [SDI], National University of Colombia, Los Andes University, Boulder Colorado University, Exploratorio, Centro Cultural Moravia, Tejearana, Mobility/Movilidad, and the Municipality of Medellín.

Haim Yacobi, Programme Leader of the MSc Health in Urban Development, was awarded a Horizon 2020 grant as part of a consortium dealing with urban exposome. The urban exposome is a set of environmental factors specific to the (outdoor and indoor) urban environment potentially causing adverse human health outcomes, negatively affecting the child development and, the overall life quality and health status of the urban population. The proposal combines environmental monitoring and human biomonitoring systems with statistical modelling techniques in order to analyse multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral (environmental, socioeconomic, population, health) data in selected a model urban environment.

Robert Biel was awarded a UCL Grand Challenges funding for the project *Growing Wellbeing for the Present and Future Environments*. Robert will act as the principal investigator, with support from Rodney Reynolds from the UCL Institute for Global Health. The Calthorpe Project features as an external partner. The project builds on themes explored in some other small grants, including *Closing the Waste-Energy-Food Loop - Applying Anaerobic Digestate to Urban Agriculture* (Catalyst Grant, BHP Billiton Sustainable Communities/UCL Grand Challenge Symposium on Global Food Security: Adaption, Resilience and Risk in partnership with UCL Engineering and external partner, Community by Design and *Creating a living lab for transformative urban agroecology* (University of Coventry, Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Innovation Fund).

Julio D. Dávila was interviewed for a 10-minute video entitled *Why Fixing Slums is Key to the Future of Cities*, part of the 'What Happens Next' series produced by New York-based RetroReport production company mainly for US-based media outlets including the New York Times. The video focuses on Medellín's cable-cars as a mobility solution that benefits mainly the urban poor and can be watched at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoRx_zlwiXM

Daniel Oviedo has joined the DPU from January 2019 as Lecturer in Urban Transport and Development Planning. Daniel will continue teaching the UDP module *Transport Equity and Urban Mobility* and supervise graduate students as well as coordinate DPU's research agenda focused on urban mobility and development.

UCL Press, the DPU and the IAS hosted in March 2019 the launch of the book *Knowledge Sovereignty Among African Cattle Herders* by **Zeremariam Fre**, recipient of the 2018 Desmond Tutu Reconciliation Award. The book is the first to study Beni-Amer practices, arguing for the importance of their knowledge, challenging the preconceptions that regard it as untrustworthy when compared to scientific knowledge from more developed regions.

Yves Cabannes' book, *Integrating Food into Urban Planning*, was launched in March by UCL Press. By drawing on cities of different sizes, from regions across the global north and south, in both developed and developing areas, the book's contributors collectively attest to the importance of global knowledge rooted in local food planning practices, programmes and policies.

We have several new faces joining DPU's different masters programmes, including **Kate Goh** as the new ESD GTA, **Alessio Koliulis** as the new UED GTA, **Qurratulain Faheem** as the new HUD GTA, and **Nicola Dillon** as the new SDP GTA.

After many years of work in the DPU, **Yukiko Fujimoto** has left the professional services staff to become Institute Manager at IGP. We wish Yukiko all the best in this new position!

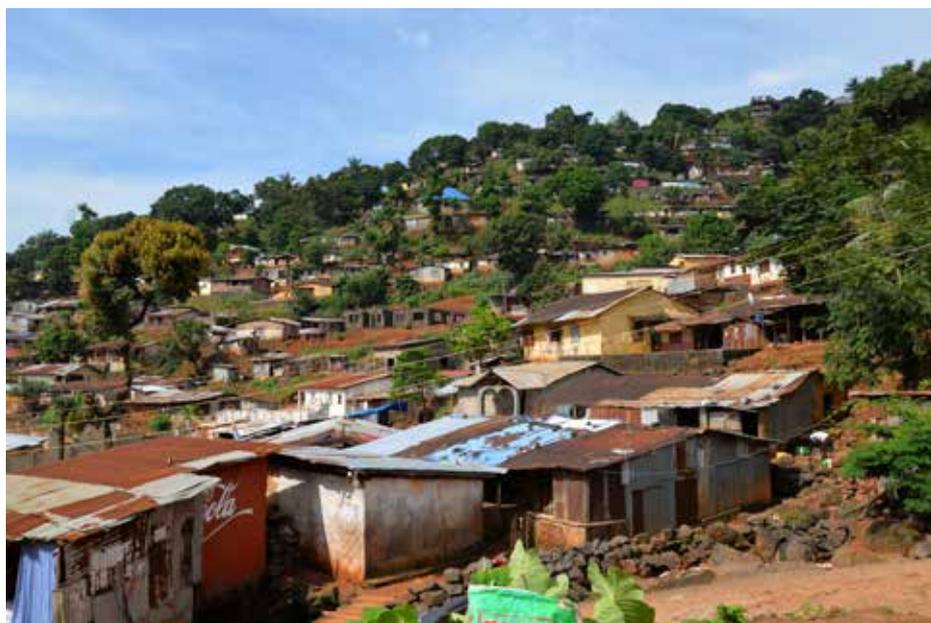
Networks and Meetings

With support from the Urban Transformations Research Cluster, PhD student **Ariana Markowitz** convened a two-day workshop at UCL in January called *Fortify and Heal*, bringing together 25 participants from 10 universities in the UK, Belgium, and the United States. Sessions focused on defining and studying trauma, supervision, and recalibrating risk and ethics for dangerous and sensitive research. Following participant feedback, Ariana organised and now co-administers an online space where the conversations and debates that began in the workshop have continued.

In November 2018 **Camilo Boano** was invited to give a keynote lecture at the Instituto de Estudios Urbanos y Territoriales, from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, where he presented a paper titled *The 'Gigantomachy' and plasticity of urban capitalism: Leviathan-like territories and the potentiality of the urban project*. He also gave a Keynote Lecture at the 8th International Conference on Building Resilience, Risk and Resilience in practice: Vulnerabilities, Displaced People, Local Communities and Heritages, Lisbon, Portugal, with a paper titled *Being critical around resilience: bring about a future different from the present*. Finally, Camillo participated in the panel discussion *Refugee Spaces: Hosting and Encounter, Ancient and Modern* with several experts and scholars. The event was hosted at UCL, as part of the Refuge in a Moving World research network.

On March 13th, **Kamna Patel** gave a keynote address at an event on *Advancing Equality in Higher Education* hosted by Kalwant Bhopal, Deputy Director of the Centre for Research in Race & Education and Holly Henderson at the University of Birmingham. Kamna's talk, titled *Practising Black Feminism in Equalities Work*, navigated through three key principles of Black feminist thought: applying Black feminism as an interpretative framework for understanding the university and the experience it affords women of colour; identifying systems of power and control that maintain our subordination; and subsequently informing action, particularly action led by racialised minority women. The event raised pertinent questions for the way we approach action for equality.

Julio D. Dávila presented a paper on *Medellin's aerial cable-cars: Reducing urban marginalisation through transport connectivity* at a session on urban cable-cars at the European Transport Conference in Dublin.



Above: Dwazarck settlement, Freetown.
Photo by Camila Cociña

In September 2018 **Catalina Ortiz** and **Julian Walker** delivered training on inclusive planning for city officials from 18 cities of the Global South as part of Bartlett DPU alliance with RTPI and CABE for Future Cities Programme from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. **Daniel Oviedo** and **Ricardo Martén** also collaborated during the event.

Vanessa Galeano-Duque, DPU PhD Student, and **Veronica Ramirez-Montenegro**, PhD Student from Institute of Americas, in collaboration with professor and PhD Candidate, **Laura Agudelo Vélez** from Universidad Nacional de Colombia, hosted *Colloquium: Urban Planning and Inclusion – How and for whom do we plan the development?* in Medellín, Colombia last February 6th. The dialogue was centred on two iconic cases of urban intervention in the country: Medellín's ICT Cluster-Ruta N, and Buenaventura's Port. The presentations were followed by a discussion panel including **Natalie Arteaga** (Departamento Nacional de Planeación), **Rafael Aubad** (PROANTIOQUIA), **Peter Brand** (National University of Colombia) and **Victor Vidal** (Comité del Paro Cívico de Buenaventura) and chaired by **Vanessa Galeano - Duque**. The event was co-sponsored by the DPU and small UCL Grand Challenges Doctoral Grant awarded to the PhD students.

In October 2018, a DPU team visited Freetown to discuss the work that the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) is doing as part of the KNOW project. In the context of KNOW, SLURC

is implementing a research and capacity building project entitled *City-wide Learning Platform in Planning Equitable Urban Development in Freetown*. The visit brought together members of two KNOW work packages (**Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, **Camila Cociña** and **Emmanuel Osuteye**) and the SLURC team, holding meetings with Community Learning Platforms in the informal settlements of Dwazarck and Cockle Bay, and hosting the first meeting of a Local Impact Advisory Group. During this meeting it was agreed to set a City Learning Platform, a space for learning and sharing, in which different actors can gather to discuss experiences, coordinate and develop proposals for the upgrading of informal settlements in the city of Freetown. Subsequent to this, the team held a meeting with the Mayor of Freetown, **Yvonne Aki-Sawyer**, OBE, to discuss how the platform could fit within the *Transform Freetown Framework* championed by the Mayor's Office.

Responding to the Bartlett call to improve equality, diversity & inclusion in the faculty, a group of doctoral students launched a series of networking events to offer a platform for women working and studying at the Bartlett to exchange experiences. The platform kicked off in June 2018 with a panel that included **Adriana Allen**, **Yvonne Rydin** and **Sarah Bell** who shared their experiences in negotiating between the professional and the

personal throughout their academic careers at UCL.

Between 10 and 12 December 2018, **Adriana Allen** participated as a keynote speaker in the 11th International Forum of Urbanism, *Reframing Urban Resilience Implementation: Aligning Sustainability and Resilience*, organised by the Urban Resilience Research Network, the School of Architecture of UIC Barcelona and UN-Habitat, Barcelona. Her presentation entitled *Urban resilience or resilient justice? Trajectories, politics and outcomes across the urban global south* argued for a repoliticisation of resilience in which justice matters. Drawing from several research projects, her talk articulated this argument by zooming into the resilience-seeking practices of ordinary women and men across the urban global south. The conference was attended by several DPU alumni who shared their research and insights on the topic, including Angeliki Paidakaki (ESD 2007-08), Laura Beckwith (ESD 2008-09), and Ann Marome Wijitbusaba among others.

Several DPU researchers participated in the CEID Annual Conference on *Higher Education and International Development* on June 19th 2018 at the UCL Institute of Education. Presenting in a panel on "Research Partnerships", **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** and **Andrea Rigon** reflected on Partnering with higher education institutions for social and environmental justice in the global South: lessons from the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre. **Adriana Allen** and **Julia Wesely** shared first insights into their approach of Co-producing knowledge and building capacity in Knowledge in Action for Urban Equalities (KNOW).

Alexandre Apsan Frediani, **Camila Cociña** and **Julia Wesely** participated in the UK and Ireland Planning Research Conference 2018 held at the University of Sheffield between 3rd and 5th September 2018. Based on their work in the KNOW project, they presented two papers on *Knowledge translation in global urban agendas: Historical encounters between planning research and practice* and *Translocal learning to re-frame planning education*. Alexandre and Camila gave a historical account of the UN Habitat conferences, discussing the assumptions and paradigms that have shaped the approach to research, practice and knowledge translation. Julia outlined the challenges of reframing planning education as a core necessity for

engaging urban planning to address urban inequalities.

In October 2019, a senior delegation from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH) visited DPU and had a lively exchange with various members of the KNOW team on knowledge co-production and pedagogic strategies. Discussions focused on potential routes for collaboration and students and staff mobility from UNAH's Doctoral Programme and their MSc Programme on Social Urban Management (currently under restructuring).



Above: UNAH delegation with DPU staff, London. Photo by David Heymann

Adriana Allen will be one of the keynote speakers at the 13th International Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) Young Academics Conference: *Planning inclusive spaces: an inter- and trans-disciplinary approach*. The conference will take place on 2-5 April 2019 in Darmstadt, Germany. Adriana will share some of the findings emerging from the KNOW research project, exploring the convergence and divergence between Higher Education approaches to Urban Planning Education and the capacities 'learnt on the job' to confront urban inequality.

Catalina Ortiz presented her work on *Politics of heritage in socialist transitions: Comparing Yangon and Havana* at the Urban Renewal and Resilience, cities in comparative perspective 17th EAUH conference, Rome, September 2018. Later in the year, in December 2018, Catalina was

invited to the UCL Urban Salon event *From postcolonial critique to decolonizing urban studies* organised by Jennifer Robinson to present her talk on *Mestizo Urbanism: decolonial insights for urban studies*.

In April and May 2018, **Barbara Lipietz** was invited to participate in two Paris/Nanterre based workshops to reflect on the legacy of 50 years of Henri Lefebvre's seminal text - *Le Droit à la Ville* (the Right to the City). The first entailed an engagement between academics, local government practitioners from the Paris 'red belt' and international bodies working with the concept of the

Right to the City. Barbara participated in the round table on *The right to the city in the context of the financialisation of cities*; **Yves Cabannes** participated in the round table on *The right to the city: alternatives towards another possible world?* In May, Barbara participated in a two-day workshop involving academics and activists from the Paris, Lille, Grenoble and Marseille regions, to think through the notion of the *Right to the City from the perspective of the 'Quartiers populaires'* (or working-class neighbourhoods). A short film on the topic was developed and co-funded by DPU, the Global Platform for the Right to the City and the Lavue Lab in Paris, as part of a boarder campaign to capture localised dialogues on the appropriations of the Right to the City in diverse contexts.

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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: Wadi al-Na'am; an unrecognised Bedouin settlement. (Photo by Haim Yacobi)



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