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## Focus on

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# The Development Planning Unit record on Urban Housing: 1971-2018

By Patrick Wakely

Housing constitutes between 60 and 80 percent of the developed land of urban areas and in the order of 50 to 70 percent of the value of the fixed capital formation of towns and cities.<sup>1</sup> It is fundamental in alleviating the impacts of urban poverty and to poverty reduction itself, as well as acting as a key factor in positive social change and cultural conservation. Thus, the production, maintenance and management of housing play fundamental roles in developing cities. Nevertheless, it is useful to examine housing policy and its implementation as a discrete part of economic, social and environmental development of cities, as the DPU has done for half a century.

Urban housing policy and implementation strategies have been central to the teaching, research, advisory and educational extension work of the DPU since its incorporation in UCL in 1971. The Unit's early teaching and consultancy drew heavily on the work of its founder and first Director, Professor Otto Koenigsberger, former Director of Housing of the federal Government of India -1948-51.<sup>2</sup> He, together with the international lawyer Charles Abrams and Ernest Weissmann, was instrumental in the founding of the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning (UNCHBP), an executive centre within Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) of the UN.

As advisors to the Centre, Koenigsberger and Abrams undertook several influential housing and planning policy advisory missions, notably in Ghana (1956), Pakistan (1958), Philippines (1959), Nigeria (1962-65), Singapore (1963) and Zambia (1964-72) that included advice on professional education and training. Through these they developed novel approaches to the production, maintenance and management of public housing, largely based on community and private sector participation with Local Government, such as the internationally influential Ghana Roof-loan Scheme replicated in Bolivia and Nigeria.<sup>3</sup> Otto Koenigsberger's international advisory work with governments, local authorities and teaching and training



institutions laid the foundation for the DPU Training and Advisory Service (DPU-TAS) that has had a significant impact on urban housing policies and their implementation in many countries.

In 1973 UCL appointed John F.C. Turner to the full-time academic staff of the DPU to establish and run a programme of short training courses, for senior policy-makers and public and private sector professionals, academics and NGO leaders from countries in the Global South, on the formulation and implementation of affordable social housing strategies. His teaching drew extensively upon his many years of experience with government housing agencies and community organisations in Latin America and his later teaching and research at the MIT-Harvard University Joint Centre for Urban Studies between 1965 and 1973.<sup>4</sup> Naturally, his ideas on housing production, maintenance and management as a development process - "housing as a verb",<sup>5</sup> not merely a noun or product - and his experience had an important and sustained influence on all aspects of the DPU's work in relation to urban housing.

Over the years, as the DPU has

*Above:* Entry for DPU Photo Competition: 'In the community of Sudagaran, Yogyakarta, female leadership has allowed them to attract partners, generate economic options and strengthen the social fabric' (Photo by John Anzola)

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grown and matured, the academic and programmatic approaches related to urban housing have found a space in four primary areas: teaching, research, training and advisory services, and external evaluations. The following sections explain, in brief, selected examples of some initiatives and projects, showing the historical evolution, methodological diversity and global range that characterises the DPU's commitment to explore housing in urban contexts.

### Teaching programmes

Urban housing constituted a significant part of the curriculum of the DPU Graduate Diploma course in Urban Development Planning Practice, which ran annually from 1971 to 2000. The nine-month course included a three-month (one term) project-based component conducted in conjunction with the Mazingira Institute in Nairobi, Kenya, which invariably gave emphasis to the planning and management

of low-income group housing and the upgrading and servicing of informal settlements in the city and on its peri-urban fringes. The diploma course, Nairobi Project, aimed to expose students (typically from some 10-15 different countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America) to the real-world politics and administration of housing and urban development planning and management. To this end, the 'project' was run in close cooperation with Nairobi City Planning Department and the national Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

The DPU MSc degree course in Urban Development Planning, established in 1980, included a course option on housing policy, theory and practice. Its success and high demand led to the launching of a separate MSc Degree course in International Housing Studies in 1992. The course provided a thorough understanding of the origins and development of urban low-income group housing policies and approaches that had been adopted by governments, worldwide. It examined strategic alternatives to the production, maintenance and management of urban low-income group housing by public housing agencies, the private sector and non-government organisations. It laid some emphasis on innovative housing finance systems, user participation in housing programmes and projects, slum upgrading and low-income group housing as a vehicle for urban regeneration, poverty reduction and social and economic development. The Masters degree course continued to be run until 2012, when the academic teaching of housing was re-absorbed as an option into the MSc course in Urban Development Planning.

The DPU's MPhil/PhD research programme regularly has long had a strong theoretical component on urban housing that has produced interesting and controversial doctoral theses, several of which have attracted international attention.

### Grant-funded Research

The DPU has been involved with several research projects across different cities in the Global South. For example, between 1972-74 the DPU conducted a research project on Planned Urban Growth in Lusaka, Zambia, focusing on 'the absorption of newcomers' (poor urban migrants), funded by the UK Overseas Development Administration (ODA) through its economic and social research programme (ESCOR). It examined the

processes and obstacles to the absorption of rural migrants into the economy, society and culture of the city, the population of which grew five-fold in the 15-year period 1957-73 (from c.80,000, to c.400,000). The project set out to address questions of how the 'newcomers' were enabled, or rather enabled themselves, to achieve socially, economically and politically acceptable conditions of life through improved housing, infrastructure and community organisation and participation, in the context of the city's accelerated population growth.<sup>6</sup> The project's findings that focused on the importance of integrated, inter-institutional approaches to the delivery of affordable housing and infrastructure had a significant impact on the World Bank's widely referenced first sites and services and slum improvement programmes in Zambia, Senegal and later in India and elsewhere in Asia and Latin America.<sup>7</sup>

In 1977-78, the DPU in partnership with the Overseas Division of the UK Building Research Establishment (BRE), undertook a research project, funded by the UK Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM), as it was known at the time, on Developments and Options in Public Sector Housing in Third World Cities, covering "the prevailing experience of national policies and programmes in the field of low-income housing in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean", with some emphasis on the administration of urban housing sites and services projects. The three-volume research report produced by the project that was led by the DPU, made an important contribution to UK aid policy in the field and provided valuable material to support the Unit's teaching and housing research with some emphasis on legislative innovations, particularly with regard to secure and affordable access to land for housing and project administration.

In Latin America, the DPU managed several initiatives, including the early 1980s research programme on Self-help Housing Provision in Latin America, with inter-institutional studies in Venezuela, Cuba and Chile in conjunction with two German research institutions and the AA Graduate School, London, funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The project included studies in Caracas, Santiago, Chile and Havana, Cuba, pointing to the importance of the political dimension of housing policy formulation and implementation requiring integrated institutional development at the level of municipal government.<sup>8 & 9</sup>

More recently, the research project Urban poverty alleviation through environmental upgrading in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, funded by UK-DFID (1999-2000), set out to "identify the characteristics and conceptual foundations of a new generation of low-income group housing policy [exemplified by] the Favela Bairro upgrading programme". Its principal findings revealed the impact of urban environmental improvement and social support facilities on community engagement in local governance. It also demonstrated the extent of household investment in the quality of their dwellings, livelihoods and lifestyle satisfaction, resulting from enhanced environmental conditions and level of service delivery.<sup>10</sup>

Among other projects, the Unit conducted two urban housing research programmes with similar aims, funded by UK DFID: Community Learning, Information and Communication (CLIC), from 1998-2000 in collaboration with the Indian Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) and GHK Research & Training, in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Cochin in India;<sup>11</sup> and Communication for Sustainable Urban Livelihoods (CSUL), from 2001-2003 in Kenya, Sri Lanka and Brazil.<sup>12</sup> In the period 2007-10 the DPU undertook a sustained programme of research funded by the German government (KfW administered by GiZ) on urban informal settlements in Syria, with emphasis on the city of Aleppo, which entailed a review of the social, economic and physical characteristics of all the 22 informal settlements in the city.



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*Above:* Entry for DPU Photo Competition: 'A young man observes the fish market in Kampala, Uganda' (Photo by Yiwen Zhang)

**Training and Advisory Services (TAS)**

The DPU's engagement beyond academic research is reflected in its historical commitment to creating collaborative initiatives with local authorities, academic institutions and international organisations. In the early 1970s, with grant funding by the Nuffield Foundation, the DPU Extension Service was launched with a programme of pre-structured courses on Housing in Urban Development, designed to introduce an integrated approach to housing policy formulation and implementation into the curricula of educational and training institutions in countries of the Global South. Over the subsequent five years, Extension Service courses were conducted in institutions of urban planning, architecture, engineering and public administration in some seven cities in Asia: Baghdad, Iraq; Ahmadabad, Mumbai, Chandigarh in India; Lahore, Pakistan; Colombo, Sri Lanka; and at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The provision of support for strengthening of academic and training capacities of educational and research institutions engaged with housing policy and delivery, initiated by the DPU Extension Service in the 1970s, was taken up again some 40 years later with funding from the

British NGO charity, Comic Relief with the establishment of the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) in Freetown in 2016. This very successful partnership between the DPU and the Institute of Geography and Development Studies, Njala University, in which the SLURC is based, differs from the earlier DPU Extension Service collaborations that principally concentrated on teaching courses and curriculum development, in that it is concerned with strengthening research capacity, with a focus on low-income urban communities and informal settlements. The Comic Relief funding has enabled the DPU to maintain the partnership relationship with Njala University over four years and to extend support to its applied (grassroots) research programme through operational linkages with, and training for, CBOs in Freetown informal settlements and the local NGOs with which they are connected.<sup>13</sup>

As part of a range of initiatives, the DPU has developed and co-produced training and operational manuals including a UNCHS-commissioned training manual in 1981 on The Role of Women in the Execution of Low-income Housing Projects. In 1987 the DPU was commissioned by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (now UN-Habitat; previously the UN Centre

for Human Settlements, or UNCHS) to produce a training manual for Affordable Housing Projects to be used by its Training Division and other UN agencies with housing and urban development operations. Later, in 1991, the UNCHS commissioned the DPU to produce the Housing Finance Manual for Developing Countries: A Methodology for Designing Housing Finance Institutions. The manual covered the institutional setting-up and administration of novel approaches to 'demand-led' finance provision, in contrast to the prevailing 'supply-led' housing banks and mortgage providers.

The DPU has also been at the forefront of refugee housing initiatives. They include the project undertaken in 1987-88 in conjunction with the engineering consultants Mott MacDonald for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to plan, design and lay-out a refugee re-housing settlement of some 2,000 refugees in Port Sudan, Sudan. The project, consisting of over 300 dwellings, was treated by the DPU as a 'demonstration' of a participatory 'enabling'

*Below:* Entry for DPU Photo Competition: 'Young men working in Susan's Bay bakery, Freetown' (Photo by Claudia Nicolini Saldano)



approach to the development of temporary emergency shelter settlement provision. The DPU was also responsible for advising governments on similar approaches to refugee housing in Somalia in 1984 and Zaire in 1985 and in Khartoum-Omdurman, Sudan in 1986, all supported and funded by UNHCR and/or UN-Habitat.

In 2005 the DPU was contracted by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) to advise the then Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on the integration of local government-managed housing and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in refugee camps, administered by the United Nations Works and Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNWRA). Following the Asian Tsunami in December 2004, the DPU was commissioned by UN-Habitat to review the emergency legislation for the creation of a coastal 'buffer zone' in which resettlement was prohibited along with any other development and to recommend its rationalisation. It was also commissioned to review the Maldives national housing policy and to assist the Ministry of Housing to develop a technical assistance and capacity building strategy in the wake of the post-tsunami crisis that engulfed the island state.

Several other housing-related training and operational engagements have been developed in Sri Lanka, India, Ghana, Mongolia, Namibia, Syria, Cambodia and Indonesia, which highlight the continuous involvement of DPU scholars and researchers on the topic.

## Evaluation of Housing Policies and Programmes

The DPU has been active in leading evaluations of international programmes, research projects and development strategies. For example, in 1992 the DPU won an international competitive tender to evaluate the performance of the first three years of the Cities Alliance, a joint venture of the World Bank and UN-Habitat to promote support for: 1) participatory urban housing strategies (Cities Without Slums); and 2) integrated city development strategies (CDS), by bilateral donor agencies. For this, the DPU fielded a team of two senior academic staff, an urban economist and a housing specialist, who worked on programme and project records with the technical and managerial staff in the Cities Alliance offices in the World Bank in Washington DC, with visits to Cities Alliance projects in São Paulo and Salvador, Bahia in Brazil and San Fernanda,

Tagatay City, Muntinlupu City, Sorsogon City, and Marikina City in Philippines. The findings of the evaluation, which were generally supportive, were well received and discussed at a Cities Alliance Consultative Group meeting, co-chaired by the chief executives of UN-Habitat and the World Bank Urban Division in Brussels in October 2002 and incorporated in the Cities Alliance programme phase that followed.

In 1998 the DPU in conjunction with the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) was commissioned by UNDP to evaluate the implementation of the Indonesian Community-based Housing Development Programme (CBHD), an "enabling strategy for shelter development"; an innovative social housing finance initiative of the national Ministry of Housing (Kantor Menpera), administered by the State Savings Bank (Bank Tabungan Negara – BTN) to support local enterprise development and income generation through slum upgrading and the construction of new low-income group housing by organised communities. The evaluation was to be "forward-looking" to contribute to the forthcoming five-year national development plan (Repelita VII, 1999-2004) in the context of the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

In 2013 the DPU, in conjunction with the NGO, Practical Action (formerly ITDG), was commissioned to evaluate Practical Action's project People's Plans into Practice (PPP) in the towns of Kisumu and Kitale in Western Kenya. The evaluation emphasised the need to strengthen (formalise) linkages between urban CBOs and agencies of local government.

## Conclusion

Clearly social justice, democracy and the engagement of low-income households and communities in the planning, design, production, maintenance and management of their dwellings, domestic infrastructure and local service delivery has been central to the DPU teaching, training, research and advisory work on urban housing. In this, emphasis has been given to strengthening the will and capacity of governments, notably local (municipal) governments, to engage, enable and support community organisations to operate effectively and equitably in partnership with them. The political, legislative, managerial and technical capacity of governments to create and maintain authentic and risk- and benefit-sharing partnerships with urban poor communities and households is critical

in delivering equitable housing outcomes and must be continued, developed and taken forward by the DPU.

Since the late 1990s, in reference to the procurement, maintenance and management of domestic infrastructure and delivery of local services, the term 'partnership' has tended to be abandoned and replaced by 'co-production'. Though conceptually there is little difference, 'co-production' provides a conceptual framework, rather than an operational strategy, into which the notion of 'strategic partnership' (intellectually) fits comfortably!<sup>14</sup>

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# Head on

## Symposium: Geopolitics and Nationalism

**Camillo Boano** co-organised, with Sara Fregonese (Birmingham) and Jonathan Rokem (Kent), a one-day symposium at the University of Kent in June 2019 on Cities against Nationalism? A number of scholars took part in this event, focusing on an under-theorised research field of urban geopolitics and nationalism. The symposium focused on experiences where cities and regions oppose nationalism – with reference to the relations between local urban conditions of minorities and immigrants in times of increased political uncertainty.

## Transport and Accessibility for Low-Income Communities

DPU leads the Latin American Chapter of the International Network for Transport and Accessibility in Low-Income Communities (INTALInC LAC). This Latin American chapter of the GCRF-funded INTALInC network launched its website on 1st September 2019 as a platform for connecting researchers working on urban mobility, sustainability, equity and inclusion in cities of Latin America and the Caribbean. The network organises a series of events and webinars, and is currently coordinating the publication of a book in the Emerald series on sustainable mobility. **Daniel Oviedo** at the DPU is the director of the INTALInC LAC network and leads on outreach, publication and research activities. Prof **Julio D. Dávila** is also a member of INTALInC LAC and is a founding member of INTALInC International. More information: [www.intalinc-lac.com](http://www.intalinc-lac.com)

## Community-Led Habitat Awards at the First UN-Habitat Assembly

The DPU's **Alexander Macfarlane** and **Étienne von Bertrab** took part in the First UN-Habitat Assembly which took place between 27th and 31st May in Nairobi. They were invited to be on the judging panel for the first Community-Led Habitat Awards. The awards recognise inspirational habitat solutions from across Africa, with the aim of advocating for the expansion of community-led housing in three areas: media and documentation; active partnerships with local government; and innovative and affordable housing and upgrading solutions. As a recognition for the work of several DPU staff, now under the umbrella of the civic urban media initiative, the Unit was invited to participate



in the Best Film category. DPU Media and Communications Officer, Alexander Macfarlane, and lecturer, Étienne von Bertrab, contributed in Nairobi by helping judge the films, present awards and provide feedback to the process through a press conference and panel discussion.

*Above:* Habitat Award winners and participants together with Alex Macfarlane and Étienne von Bertrab (Photo by Ed Melia from World Habitat)

## UCL Mexican Society Summit

**Catalina Ortiz**, **Julio D. Dávila**, **Étienne von Bertrab** and **Daniel Oviedo** were invited as speakers at the summit Cities: Challenges of an Urban Globe, organised by the UCL Mexican Society. Catalina was part of a panel on Social Equity and Gender. She presented her reflections on the need for renewal in planning practises to foster empathy, affective bonding and cross-learning based on counter story-telling strategies.

## Right to the City and Radical Municipalism

**Alessio Kolioulis** presented a paper on the right to the city's night-time at City Futures IV Conference in Dublin and took part in the Annual International Conference of the Royal Geographical Society, in the roundtable session on Experimental Recipes for a Radical Municipalism.

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

As reported in the last edition of DPU News (Issue 65), the DPU and UCL Urban Laboratory co-organised a series of roundtable conversations centred on The Camp, with participation from a number of experienced practitioners, researchers and scholars. Since that report, the series has concluded, having been developed over three sessions, chaired by **Camillo Boano** and **Ricardo Martíen** from DPU, and Samar Maqusi. The sessions looked at Hosting Conflicts - creation and evolutions (February 27th); Hosting People - existential relationships, archives and heritage (March 19th); and Hosting Time - the before and after the camp (negotiating displacement) (April 24th). They included lead-off interventions from Andrew Powell of Save the Children, Wan Sophonpanich from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Irit Katz from the University of Sheffield.



*Above:* Catalina Ortiz at the 2019 Mexican Society Summit (Photo by UCL Mexican Society)



*Above:* Participants during the second roundtable of The Camp (Photo by Ricardo Martén)

### Urban Learning for Slum Upgrading

**Catalina Ortiz** was invited to present the transmedia storytelling methodological strategies based on the research project COiNVITE: Activating Urban Learning for Slum Upgrading to the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub. The Hub is an alliance between Cities Alliance, Techo, Habitat for Humanity, Network of Latin-American Housing Researchers (RIVHA), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), UN-Habitat and the Inter-American Union for Housing (UNIAPRAVI).

### AESOP Annual Congress

**Camillo Boano, Ricardo Martén** and Michele Vianello (Royal Town Planning Institute) presented a paper at the AESOP annual congress 2019, titled The future of the humanitarian camp; a part of a session entitled Transition paths and urban futures. The conference was held in Venice, Italy, as part of the research project Considering Spatial Planning Issues in Camp Coordination and Camp Management. This initiative is a joint research collaboration between the RTPI and the DPU, which looks to review and advance knowledge on camps (for refugees, for detention, etc) as instruments for the governance - control, containment and protection - of displaced populations and spaces of belonging and refugee agency. The project embeds the study of camps in the context of responses to the recent refugee and migration crisis.

### In memory: Patrick W. Crooke 1927-2018

Pat Crooke, who died in October 2018 at the age of 91, was closely connected to the DPU for much of his working life. He was a highly experienced international housing and urban development policy researcher, adviser to governments and international agencies, and an engaging and compassionate teacher.

He studied architecture at the Architectural Association (AA) School of Architecture 1944-52, where he had a brilliant student career and struck up his life-long friendship with fellow student John F.C. Turner, with whom he worked for many decades on community-based 'self-help' housing and urban development in developing countries of the Global South. On graduating from the AA, he lived and worked in Bogotá, Colombia where he had a major role in establishing the Faculty of Architecture in the Universidad de los Andes. In 1958, following a highly destructive earthquake in Peru, he joined John Turner supporting settler communities to develop their own organisations, housing and social and environmental infrastructures in the *barriadas* of Lima, following which he initiated and ran a highly successful support programme in the Peruvian Ministry of Public Education for the construction of school buildings by urban and rural communities themselves.

On leaving Latin America in the 1960s he joined the teaching staff of the Department of Architecture, University of Khartoum, Sudan, following which he moved to Nigeria, where he lived and worked in the rapidly growing city of

Ibadan as a consultant to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), principally on the local re-organisation of community and village markets.

In 1967 he was commissioned by the UN to lead a research mission on the social, economic and environmental conditions of urban informal (squatter) settlements, and official policy and strategic approaches to them, in 16 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. He then returned to the UK and settled in London, where he lectured at the DPU and tutored students on their individual and group research projects and final diploma papers. Drawing on his extensive international experience and teaching, Pat, together with John Butler produced an influential book *Urbanisation* (1973. Sydney: Angus & Robertson).

In 1976-77 he led a team of DPU staff and associates in a major project, *Urban Housing: Review: Developments and Options in Public Housing Practice in Third World Cities*, commissioned by the Overseas Division of the UK Government Building Research Establishment. This comprehensive study covered urban land policies, management and legislation; citywide and local infrastructure and services provision, maintenance and management; urban public financial management and administration; strategic approaches to public housing procurement, with some concluding emphasis on sites and services projects and informal settlement upgrading programmes, reinforcing the themes of his book with additional empirical evidence.

Pat Crooke unquestionably made an invaluable contribution to the theoretical and operational understanding and practice of devolved and inclusive urban development and housing in developing cities of the Global South.

He will be missed, not only for his knowledge and wisdom, but also for his calm, thoughtful and sensitive friendship.

## Research outputs from KNOW

Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW), funded by ESRC-GCRF and led by Prof **Caren Levy**, promotes pathways to urban equality in cities across the Global South (for details see DPU News 64). KNOW continues to support research projects in cities in Latin America, Africa, and South East Asia in collaboration with both academic and community-based partners. Now into its second year, KNOW research and capacity building activities are well underway on all fronts.

The team working on KNOW Work Package 1 (WP1), comprising **Cassidy Johnson**, Vanesa Castán Broto (University of Sheffield), **Barbara Lipietz**, **Catalina Ortiz**, Wilbard Kombe (Ardhi University) and **Emmanuel Osuteye**, has been deepening its research into the process and potentials of knowledge co-production for making cities more equal places. The team is working closely with city-based research partners in nine cities across Latin America, Africa and South-East Asia.

In Freetown, city partners, the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) led by DPU alum Josph Macarthy, are working with the local government to co-develop city-level learning platforms that promote transformative urban change. In June 2019, **Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, **Emmanuel Osuteye** and **Camila Cociña** spent a week with SLURC colleagues to better understand and support emerging platforms of local stakeholders, including the Community Learning Platform and the City Learning Platform. This followed the visit to SLURC by a UCL delegation led by Dame Nicola Brewer, UCL's Vice Provost (International) - see further detail elsewhere in this issue.

In Dar es Salaam, city partners Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) are focusing on the issues of waste, water, and sanitation, and their significance for urban equality. In July, **Emmanuel Osuteye**, Saffron Woodcraft (UCL Institute for

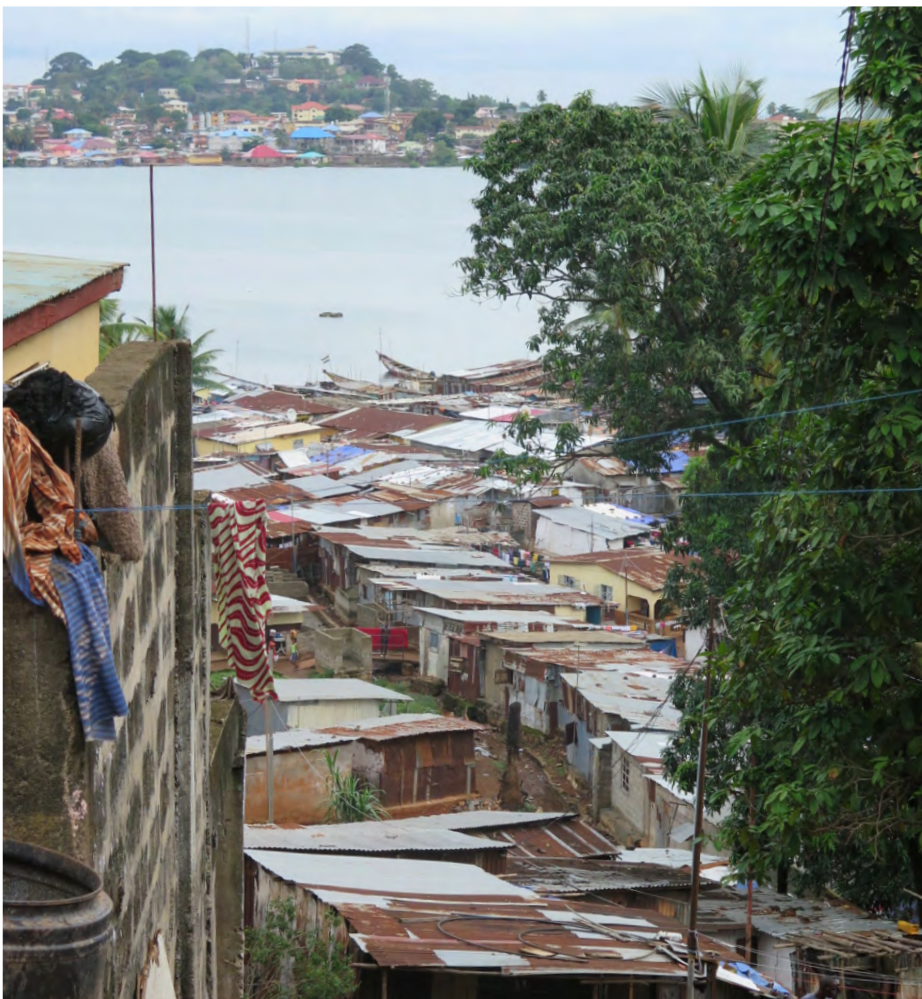
*Below:* Informal settlement in Freetown, Sierra Leone (Photo by Julio D. Dávila)

Global Prosperity), Yael Padan (UCL Bartlett School of Architecture) and **David Heymann** travelled to the city to co-convene a workshop with CCI exploring questions of research methods and ethics for co-producing pathways to prosperity with people living in Vingunguti-Mji Mpya settlement. At the same time, city partners, Ardhi University, are developing a comparative study on the impact of urban interventions for reducing poverty and inequality in two settlements in the city: Hanna Nassif and Sandali.

In Lima, the city partners PUCP, in which DPU alumna, Belen Desmaison, plays a leading role, is exploring collaborative urban planning and design that will lead towards a fairer and resilient Metropolis in collaboration with local NGOs, CENCA, CIDAP and Foro Ciudades Para la Vida. In Havana, the team led by Prof Jorge Peña Díaz at the Instituto Superior Politécnico José Antonio Echeverría (CUJAE), is examining the impact of the service economy and participatory planning on urban equality in Havana.

The WP2 team, Prof Colin McFarlane (University of Durham), **Christopher Yap**, Prof Henrietta Moore (UCL Institute for Global Prosperity), Saffron Woodcraft, and Allan Lavell (FLACSO), has been exploring the links between the challenges of extreme poverty, prosperity, and resilience, as well as the potentials of comparative inquiry for urban equality. The team is also coordinating programmes of work with partners in Lima, San José, Barranquilla, Kampala, and Dar es Salaam. The WP3 team, Prof Jane Rendell (UCL Bartlett School of Architecture) and Yael Padan, has been working across the KNOW project to explore the ethics of research practice, and in the last 6 months have been experimenting with using colour and language to explore 'ethically important moments' across disciplines, cultures, and contexts.

In the past few months, the WP4 team, **Alex Apsan Frediani**, **Camila Cociña**, Prof Michele Acuto (University of Melbourne), and Stephanie Butcher (University of Melbourne) has been working closely with partners in Freetown and Havana to better understand pathways to impact for urban equality research, and how research might be translated into practice. Focusing on 'interfaces of knowledge translation',





the team is: collaborating with WP1 and SLURC to support the city-wide learning platforms in Freetown; researching the role of the university in policy and planning that promotes urban equality in Havana; and, in collaboration with the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), exploring how a regional organisation can support the strengthening of city-wide community capacities to promote urban equality.

The WP5 team, Prof **Adriana Allen** and **Julia Wesely** in collaboration with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, has been exploring the political economy of planning education around the world. They are now focusing on understanding the individual and institutional learning trajectories of urban planners and practitioners. As part of the DPU/SLURC co-learning alliance and the fieldtrip of the MSc ESD practice module, they conducted a series of interviews and a workshop with young professionals and local interns in Freetown. In addition, the team initiated ethnographic research with members of the Habitat International Coalition - America Latina (HIC-AL) in Colombia and Chile to improve understanding of the networks' pedagogic approach and the effect of its role as a popular planning platform in Latin America.

The WP6 team, **Colin Marx** and **Christopher Yap**, has continued its work on the historical trajectory of 'the urban' through UK ODA policy and programming, conducting interviews with current and former senior civil servants and academics in the UK. The team also launched the KNOW Small Grants Fund that enables UK-based scholars to conduct primary research on issues relating to urban equality in collaboration with KNOW city partners. The first awards were made to Prof Graeme Were (University of Bristol) and **Pascale Hofmann**.

### Global Knowledge Partners Framework: a new international research project with Osaka University

The DPU has been awarded an international research project grant as part of the Osaka University's International Joint Research Programme under the Global Knowledge Partners framework. The project will be led Prof. Michihiro Kita from the Urban Development Planning Lab of the Graduate School of Engineering in Osaka University and **Daniel Oviedo** from the DPU.

The research, entitled Shaping informal futures: Urban mobility-based approach to improving settlements in African cities, will focus on Freetown as a case study and will involve researchers at SLURC as local partners. The three-year project will have total funding of approximately £150,000 and will involve research and knowledge exchange and co-production between the three lead academic institutions and local partners in government and civil society in Freetown. The partnership is part of a larger bilateral exchange between UCL and Osaka University and it looks to expand conceptual and methodological approaches to the study and improvement of urban mobility in informal settlements in African cities.

### COiNVITE Research Project

As part of the research project COiNVITE: Activating Urban Learning for Slum Upgrading, financed by the Bartlett ECR-GCR, **Catalina Ortiz** led a multi-actor research collaboration. This alliance involves UN-Habitat, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C), Cities Alliance, the Municipality of Medellin, Moravia Cultural Centre, Exploratorio – Parque Explora and six grassroots organisations; each part of the Inhabitants Movement from Medellin. The collaboration took place in the context of an international workshop between 27th March and 2nd April 2019 in Medellin, with the alliance enabling co-design of a digital platform that helps promote learning about slum upgrading strategies across cities. This

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*Above: Catalina Ortiz during a COiNVITE community event in Medellin, Colombia (Photo by COiNVITE).*



project aimed at finding alternative spaces and methodologies to recalibrate the debate on slum upgrading policies and the role of the circulation of urban knowledge across cities through new visual and digital tools.

### Safe Routes for Active Transport: Safe Active Routes for Adolescents in Cali, Colombia

The DPU is part of an international consortium that was recently awarded funding from the Botnar Foundation through the Botnar Challenge of Healthy Cities for Adolescents. The project is led by Fundación Despacio in Colombia in partnership with the WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, Cali's Secretariat of Sustainable Mobility and Secretariat of Education, and the DPU. **Daniel Oviedo** is DPU's co-investigator in the project, the main objective of which is to reduce health risks and increase adolescents' physical activity in Cali's low-income areas through Safe Routes for Active Transport. The project also aims to define indicators to evaluate safe routes' progress and impact on participants' health and well-being, and build local capacity for participation, mapping and monitoring. The outputs of the participatory research will include both academic publications, practical guidelines and public datasets, as well as pilot interventions in the streets of low-income neighbourhoods in Cali.

### FAIRVILLE: Urban Alliances for Urban Global Justice

**Barbara Lipietz** is to be Co-Investigator of an international research project - FAIRVILLE - whose objective is to investigate the growing phenomenon of urban alliances for urban global justice and their transformative potential. Using dialogue cases from the Global North (Paris, Barcelona, London and Brussels) and the Global South (Dakar, Jakarta and Beirut), FAIRVILLE will develop background data, analysis and comparative methodological tools, as building blocks towards an H2020 research grant application. The project, funded by MRSEI (Montage de Réseaux Scientifiques Européens ou Internationaux) is led by Prof. Agnès Deboulet (Université Paris 8, Laboratoire LAVUE). Barbara will work with **Julian Walker** and **Azadeh Mashayekhi** from DPU, along with the Just Space network of community and grassroots organisations. Additionally, and as part of this research, Barbara was awarded a Seed Funding Grant 2019-20 from UCL Cities Partnership Programme (Paris).

# Connections

DPU alumni **Joana Dabaj** and **Riccardo Conti** (BUDD 2013-14) had their Jarahieh School project shortlisted for the 2019 Aga Khan Award for Architecture, one of the most prestigious architecture awards. The project, implemented by Catalytic Action, a UK Charity founded by Joana and Riccardo, and chaired by DPU's Andrea Rigon, is competing for US\$ 1 million. The Aga Khan Award for Architecture is one of the oldest major awards in the field of architecture. It selects projects – from slum upgrading to high-rise 'green' buildings – that not only exhibit architectural excellence but also improve overall quality of life. The Award rewards architects, but also identifies municipalities, builders, clients, master artisans and engineers who have played important roles in the realisation of a project.

*Below:* Jarahieh school and the informal tented settlement of Jarahieh, Al-Marj, Lebanon. (Photo by Aga Khan Trust for Culture / Cemal Emden)



**Amna Ansari** (DAP 2012-13) is now working as an education consultant for a World Bank project for the Government of Punjab in Pakistan. She comments that the job is demanding, though rewarding, and particularly appreciates the experience she had in developing development reports with

colleagues on her MSc programme, as it has helped equip her to work collaboratively with colleagues in her current role.

**Franklin Obeng-Odoom** (UED 2006-7) has joined the University of Helsinki as an Associate Professor of Sustainability Science with Development Studies. Franklin completed his PhD at the University of Sydney and is now chairing the Finnish Society for Development Research for whom he is organising the Development Days 2020 conference *Inequality Revisited: In Search of Novel Perspectives on an Enduring Problem*, to take place in February 2020.

**Edwar Hanna** (BUDD 2015-16) has co-founded the Syrbanism which aims to engage Syrian people and involve them in the post-conflict recovery of their cities. In August 2019 the work of Syrbanism was shortlisted by Tamayouz Excellent Award also known as the Middle Eastern Architectural Personality

of the Year. In the past few years Syrbanism's campaigns have attracted media attention as well as key stakeholders.

**Marianne Petri Kristensen** (DAP 2010-11) has held a number of roles since completing her MSc, including with

ActionAid Denmark, Leonard Cheshire Disability, WaterAid and the Equal Rights Trust, before returning to ActionAid in May 2019 to take up a new role in Humanitarian Monitoring Evaluation and Learning.

**Lucy Warin** (BUDD, 2015-16) is leading the project Oxford is My Home at Open House Oxford. The project focuses on housing & homelessness, storytelling, and the importance of creativity in bringing people from across the community together. Lucy was recently interviewed by BBC and the podcast of the interview is available at [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07hnt4](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07hnt4).

DPU Working Paper No.200, entitled *How can urban food policies contribute to a sustainable city economy? The case of London* and authored by UED alumna **Hélène Gourichon** (UED 2017-18) was published in July 2019. Hélène is currently working as Food Policy Officer for South Lanarkshire Council, implementing the first-ever food policy developed by a local authority in Scotland.

**David McEwan** (BUDD, 2014-15) has been involved in campaigning to save Tottenham's Latin Village in London and the campaign has successfully raised funds through crowd-sourcing and has been able to help shape the Wards Corner Community.

**Stephanie Butcher** (SDP 2010-11 & PhD 2014-19) has joined the DPU-led KNOW project, relocating to Melbourne to take up her new role. Stephanie is based at the University of Melbourne's School of Design, working closely with Prof Michele Acuto, Alexandre Apsan Frediani, and Camilla Cociña on part of the project that focuses on Translating Knowledge into Practice.

**Ruchika Lall** (BUDD 2017-18) joined the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) to conduct research as part of the Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW) programme, where she is working on issues related to education and pedagogies for urban planners and practitioners.

# PhD Programme

**Mariajosé Nieto** is the recipient of the DPU60 Scholarship for 2019. She is an Economist by training with an MSc in Development from the National University of Colombia and an MSc in Environmental Policy and Regulation from the London School of Economics. She has already worked as a Research Assistant with the DPU's Daniel Oviedo, gaining an insight into the Unit's research work on mobility and its influence on social exclusion.

In 2014, the DPU celebrated 60 years of education, training, research, consultancy and knowledge sharing in urban, regional and national development policy and planning in the Global South. Coinciding with our 60th anniversary year, the DPU PhD scholarship scheme was launched. To date we have had 7 recipients: Monica Bernal Llanos, 2014; Don Brown, 2015; Harsh Jatkar, 2016; Andrew Knight, 2017; Jing Zhang, 2017 (half-tuition scholarship); Carmen Abouamra, 2018; Tin Alvarez, 2018. For 2019 we had 15 applicants who met the eligibility criteria, 6 of whom were shortlisted and interviewed, with Mariajosé being the recipient.

Warm congratulations to all DPU's new doctors:

**Rodrigo Caimanque Leverone** successfully defended his thesis titled *The Politics of Urban Regeneration: The construction of uneven urban agendas through multi-scalar coalitions in Valparaiso* in April 2019.

**Jamal Abiola Akinade** successfully defended his thesis in June 2019. Jamal was supervised by Michael Walls and Colin Marx on the topic *Development Ethics and the Political Economy of Industrial Policy: A Case of Northern Nigeria*. Jamal impressed his examiners with analysis as to the possible nature of an ethics-based industrial policy operating within the context of Islamic teaching on social justice.

**Giorgio Talocci** also completed a successful June defence, with his thesis titled *The ambivalence of urban obsolescence: questioning emancipatory design practices in Phnom Penh, Cambodia* supervised by Camillo Boano and Jorge Fiori. It focused on the significance of obsolescing processes in the production and governance of urban space in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Giorgio's thesis was praised by his examiners for the cross-scalar approach to the study of Phnom Penh, and for the impressive amount of empirical evidence collected.

Completing a busy June for PhD vivas, **Nicola Antaki** passed her viva for a PhD in Architecture, jointly supported by the Bartlett School of Architecture and the DPU, and supervised by Yeoryia Manolopoulou and Camillo Boano. Nicola's thesis was titled *A Learning Architecture: Developing a collective design pedagogy in Mumbai* with Mukangan School and the Mariamma Nagar community.

**Modesta Alozie** successfully defended her thesis in July, titled *The Political Ecology of Oil in Nigeria: Understanding Youth Violence from the Perspectives of Youths*. Modesta's thesis investigated how oil exploration affects the youths from two ethnic groups in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria (Ijaw and Ogoni), with strong attention to the ongoing crisis of masculinity. She was supervised by Vanesa Castan Broto and Julian Walker.

**Marisol García** presented her research at the Chile Conference UK 2019, held in July in London and Oxford and organised by Chilean students of LSE, Oxford and Cambridge with the support of the School

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*Below: Jamal Abiola Akinade (centre) after his Viva, together with PhD supervisor Michael Walls (right) and internal examiner Naji Makarem (left) (Photo by Michael Walls)*



of Public Policy of LSE, the Blavatnik School of Government of the University of Oxford and the Embassy of Chile in the United Kingdom. The conference combined high-level speakers, academics and policy experts, with PhD students and focused on the question Chile: What country do we want to be? Specifically, Marisol participated on a roundtable *The future of cities and the role of governance*, debating the role of urban policies, politics and governance in Chile.

DPU PhD candidate **Mark Jones** has recently completed a period at the University of Dhaka as a Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Geography and Environment. Mark spent most of his time in Dhaka in Kalyanpur Pora Bostee, the case study slum for his dissertation on energy justice. His research looks to identify energy injustices and their causes in the slum, emanating from the broad socio-political landscape of Bangladesh, from the energy system of Dhaka and as a result of local energy practices in the slum. Mark is presently spending time as a Visiting Scholar at his home university, the University of Queensland in Australia, where he is lecturing and engaging with UQ's Energy and Poverty Research Group.

In March **Ariana Markowitz** presented a paper, co-written with Ayesha Ahmad (UCL Institute of Global Health), at Uppsala University. It was titled *Across space, not time: situating landscapes of trauma* and the presentation was part of a workshop on the spatiality of violence in post-war cities. In April, Ariana presented the paper *The disappearing act: fear in the context of extreme and chronic violence* at the International Conference of Critical Geography in Athens and in May, she presented on researcher risk, wellbeing, and trauma at The Bartlett Socially Just Planning Network alongside Catalina Ortiz and published an article in *Geopolitics* entitled *The better to break and bleed with: Research, violence, and trauma which will be part of a special issue on reimagining fieldwork as social transformation*. Ariana was also awarded the Crosby Hall Fellowship in Geneva in July at the Centenary Celebration of Graduation Women International.

**Kerry Bobbins** has been selected as one of '50 outstanding alumni' to attend the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research's Green Talents Networking Conference in Berlin this October.

# Hands on

## Silk Cities International Conference

The third Silk Cities International Conference 2019 was successfully held in L'Aquila, 10-12 July 2019. Silk Cities 2019, Reconstruction, Recovery and Resilience of Historic Cities and Societies was organised by Silk Cities ([www.silkcities.org](http://www.silkcities.org)), UCL and University of L'Aquila ([www.univaq.it/en/](http://www.univaq.it/en/)). With sponsoring and organisational support, the DPU provided four conferences grants for graduate students from low and middle-income countries. The grants covered conference registration fees, flights to/from Italy and accommodation in L'Aquila. Grantees included Sabeah Affaki from Syria, Neda Elfeituri from Libya, Arezoo Khazanbeig from Iran, and Judy Mahfuz from Syria. With the participation of **Julio D. Dávila**, the conference included three days of a highly interactive and engaging conference included presentations and keynote talks, roundtable and special sessions, a book session and exhibition, plus reconstruction walking tours and sightseeing. All were designed to facilitate vibrant discussion at local and international levels. Over 100 participants from around the world attended the conference, which included 76 presentations, addressing Chile, Cyprus, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Libya, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Spain, Syria, Vietnam, the UK and the US.

*Below:* The DPU's Silk Cities International Conference Delegation.  
(Photo by Julio D. Dávila)



## Electric Dreams in Latin America

The project COiNVITE: Activating Urban Learning for Slum Upgrading led by Catalina Ortiz was selected for presentation at Electric Dreams Latin America, organised by Crossover Labs, The British Council and London College of Communication. The event displayed pioneering work on virtual reality, games and interactive work from South America. COiNVITE uses a transmedia storytelling platform to ask 'What

can we learn from informal neighbourhood upgrading from the people that have helped build them?' Following an unlikely encounter of different urban actors, COiNVITE takes users on a journey where the power of collective storytelling offers a wide view of the cities of the future.

## Planning, informality and the production of urban land

From 14th to 21st of June, **Rita Lambert** presented her work: Opening the black box of peripheral urbanisation, interrogating planning, informality and the transversal logic in the production of urban land. She shared the epistemological, methodological and empirical contributions of her 5-year doctoral research funded by the Economic and Social Research Council at the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería (UNI) as well as in a dedicated conference at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. She also presented and took part in a workshop bringing experts from different universities, NGOs, research organisations and students across various faculties to discuss the relationship between planning, informality and urbanisation in contemporary Lima. Moreover, Rita shared her findings with the inhabitants and leaders of the settlements where she conducted her research and presented to authorities at the ministerial and district municipality level.

*Below:* Chengdu, Sichuan: High rise developments threaten the future of traditional danwei housing for workers (Photo by Giorgio Talocci)



## DPU 2019 summerLab series

The 2019 DPU summerLab programme included workshops in Chengdu, Hargeysa, Athens and London. The initiative is led by **Giorgio Talocci**, **Camillo Boano** and **Azadeh Mashayekhi**, with collaboration from **Michael Walls**, who coordinated the Hargeysa workshop. The programme for the 2019 series was shaped in collaboration with a range of local partners, including Andy Hilton and Yi Luo from Urban Synthesis (China) Ltd., Chengdu; the Institute for Research, Heritage, Preservation and Development and the Redsea Cultural Foundation in Hargeysa; Stefania Gyftopoulou and Panagiotis Tzannetakis, in Athens; David McEwen from Unit 38 and the West Green Road / Seven Sisters Development Trust in London. The annual summerLab workshops aim to leverage the reality of the city as a laboratory for developing socially responsive design and planning measures, drawing on the progressive action-research ethos of the DPU in collaboration with local partners. It is intended to provoke, stimulate, and reconsider the role of designers and practitioners in promoting spatial justice.

## Health in Urban Development Scholarship

Last May, the DPU officially launched the Health in Urban Development Scholarship. Its purpose is to support candidates of the highest calibre for postgraduate study on the Health in Urban Development (HUD) MSc programme, in the expectation that as graduates, these scholars will make important



*Above.* Entry for DPU Photo Competition: ‘New Housing, New Curiosity’ in Yangon, Myanmar (Photo by Pedro Contrucci).

contributions to urban health by drawing on the strengths of the international perspective and leading position of the DPU in the development field.

### Julio D. Dávila invited by World Bank to join advisory panel

Prof **Julio D. Dávila** was invited by the World Bank to be part of an advisory panel on a concept review for a new aerial cable-car in Lima, Peru, to be partially funded by the World Bank. Julio was also appointed as part of a selection panel for a joint British Academy-Royal Academy of Engineering research funding call on ‘Urban infrastructures of wellbeing’.

### Public Art Seed Grant

**Barbara Lipietz** has been awarded the UCL Public Art Seed grant 2019-20 for a project entitled ‘Acting out a ‘City for All Londoners’: Exploring the role of performance in just planning for London’. The research project seeks to initiate an

exploration of the role of live performance in supporting – indeed amplifying – current initiatives to bolster community-led planning in London. This is an important area of concern in a context where urban development and regeneration are largely being experienced as a burden, rather than an uplifting or creative force, by many of London’s diverse communities, and young people specifically. Working through ‘theatre of the oppressed’ methodologies, and in collaboration with performance artists and young Londoners, the project will pilot theatre’s ability to bring out the complex impact of regeneration on young people. It will also explore live performance’s ability to facilitate cross-London communities discussions (and ultimately campaigns) on the issues of community-led planning in the face of high intensity regeneration processes.

### DPU Photography Competition 2019

DPU students again 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 one (or more) of several key themes: 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 DAP student, **Sebastián Paredes Smith**, depicting busy urban life in Kampala, Uganda. The photograph features on the cover of this issue of DPU News, while other entries have been used to illustrate Prof Patrick Wakely’s Focus On article. See the full set of images at the DPU’s Flickr page: [www.flickr.com/photos/dpu-ucl/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/dpu-ucl/albums).

# Networks and Meetings

In June 2019, Dame Nicola Brewer, the UCL Vice Provost (International), led a high-level delegation to visit SLURC and Njala University in Sierra Leone. The delegation included DPU Director, Prof **Julio D. Dávila**, **Michael Walls**, **Alexandre Frediani**, **Andrea Rigon**, **Camila Cociña** and **Emmanuel Osuteye**, as well as UCL Pro-Vice Provost for Africa and the Middle East, Prof Ijeoma Uchegbu, and staff from UCL's Global Engagement Office. While in Sierra Leone, the delegation held talks with the SLURC management team and International Advisory Board in Freetown, and with Njala University management in Njala, as well as with a range of international NGOs, the in-country head of DFID and the British High Commissioner, plus officials and politicians in the national and municipal governments. A centrepiece of the visit was participation in the international conference *Urban Transformations in Sierra Leone*; the second major international conference organised by SLURC, and this year hosted by the British Council in Freetown. The Mayor of Freetown, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, gave a keynote speech in which she praised the significant contribution made by SLURC in fostering and expanding dialogue

*Below:* View of informal settlement in Freetown, Sierra Leone (Photo by Julio Davila)



between different levels of government and slum communities and the poorer residents of Freetown. The conference itself was a great success and featured heavily in local media, including headline slots on the main evening news bulletins; each of which highlighted the impact SLURC has had in promoting more effective policy-making and in supporting local mobilisation in enhancing the lives of urban dwellers in Sierra Leone. The visit of the UCL high-level delegation laid the foundation for a continued and expanding partnership between UCL and SLURC, and DPU looks ahead to building on the enormous amount of hard work put in to date by those involved in Freetown and in London.

**Daniel Oviedo** took part in the 15th Edition of the World Conference on Transport Research in Mumbai India. Dr Oviedo led a special session focusing on improving accessibility and mobility of low-income populations where he presented preliminary findings from the T-SUM project. The DPU participated with four co-authored papers involving staff members including Prof **Julio D. Dávila** and Prof **Caren Levy**.

The future of the Latin American City is the subject of a lecture Prof **Julio D. Dávila** gave to a group of students and scholars at Goodenough College in London in March. The talk examined demographic projections as well as economic, social and environmental trends, and highlighted the policy implications of these, particularly in terms of the governance and institutional challenges that are likely to arise in the next half a century.

In June 2018, Prof **Camillo Boano** participated as chair in the UCL/British Academy symposium *Vulnerability, Infrastructure, and Displacement: The role of public services in Lebanese spaces of migration*, and he also chaired a session on *Vulnerability and (built) environment* and participated in a paper presentation entitled *Making the city and its suburbs through housing vulnerabilities: a close up on women and the elderly in Beirut's Tareek el Jdeide*. On the 2nd April, Camillo was also a speaker at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, *City Debates 2019* event, presenting the paper *Learning to be a city. Emerging Practices for Housing the Displaced* in Bar Elias co-authored with Howayda Al Harithy and Joana Dabaj as part of the RELIEF project.

**Catalina Ortiz** participated in several events over the past months. She was a guest speaker in *Urban Design Research* in the Bartlett Faculty, organised by the Bartlett Schools of Architecture and of Planning. She presented a critical analysis of the pedagogies for an 'un-disciplined' urban design in the Global South. Catalina was also invited to speak at the BPS series on *Working with co-design, violence and fear of crime, views from Latin America*, organized by the Just Planning Network from the Bartlett School of Planning. She presented the role of co-design practices in contexts of post-conflict cities. Catalina was a discussant at the LSE South East Asia Centre, analysing research on *Planning Practices on the Red River Development in Hanoi*. The debate centred on the contested framing of planning agencies and the tensions around large-scale waterfront projects in Asian cities. Finally, Catalina met in Barcelona with the lead of the Learning Division and the Secretariat Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights from United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to discuss synergies for their upcoming *Global Congress and Learning Forum* using transmedia storytelling strategies.

The British Academy and the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona jointly organised a public debate with several invited speakers from Europe and the UK entitled *Cities and the Anthropocene: a Mediterranean perspective*. Prof **Julio D. Dávila** was one of the speakers, presenting on the tensions arising between urban sprawl and the need to move towards more sustainable non-motorised forms of urban transport.

**Daniel Oviedo** took part in June in the 15th biennial NECTAR (Network of European Communications and Transport Activities Research) conference, *Towards human scale cities – Open and happy in Helsinki*. He presented results from the CALiveable project and methods for participatory liveability mapping in cities of the Global South.

Sergio Fajardo, former mayor of Medellín and former Presidential candidate in Colombia, spoke at the DPU on 15th May in an event organised by the UCL Colombian Society. Entitled *Discussing Colombian Politics*, the occasion saw lively discussion on current and recent political issues.

# Staff News

A number of DPU staff members have been successful in the latest round of UCL senior academic promotions. From 1 October this year, **Michael Walls** becomes Professor of Development Politics and Economy, while **Catalina Ortiz**, **Kamna Patel**, and **Andrea Rigon** become Associate Professors. We congratulate our colleagues on these achievements, a tribute to the hard work they have put in over the years.

Prof **Haim Yacobi**, Programme Leader of the MSc Health in Urban Development programme, received a Bartlett Synergy Grant in collaboration with Christopher Harker (UCL Institute of Global Prosperity) and Prof Michelle Pace from Roskilde University. Synergy Grants support interdisciplinary research collaborations in the Built Environment. This project, entitled *Gaza: Violence, Health and the Built Environment*, aims to bring different scientific fields into conversation in order to critically understand how the organisation of space affects the right to health of communities and individuals in Gaza.

Haim also received a Wellcome Trust Small Grant in Humanities and Social Science for *Gaza: The spatio-politics of health, death and life*. This research also involves a collaboration with Prof Michelle Pace (Roskilde University) and focuses on the urgent humanitarian situation in Gaza.

The volume *The Capability Approach, Empowerment and Participation*, co-edited by **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** with David Alexander Clark and Mario Biggeri, was published by Palgrave Macmillan. The book explores the linkages between Amartya Sen's Capability Approach and participatory forms of development - especially those associated with critical pedagogy and empowerment from the bottom-up.

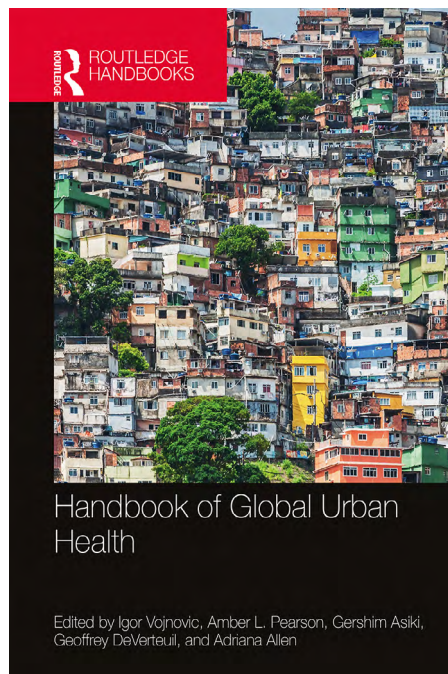
**Barbara Lipietz** is to join UCL's Scientific Advisory Group to shape the upcoming June 2020 UCL SDGs conference. The conference organisation reflects UCL's coordination role of the newly formed U7 Alliance of international universities committing to work together to address major global challenges such as climate change and inequality ([www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2019/jun/ucl-among-leading-global-universities-form-u7-alliance](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2019/jun/ucl-among-leading-global-universities-form-u7-alliance)).

**Andrea Rigon** from the DPU, and team members from Njala University, SLURC and UCL Digital Education were awarded the UCL Education Award and shortlisted for a Provost's award. The team has worked towards introducing some of the processes, conceptual issues, and tensions that exist within urban planning

and development for African cities to professionals in Sub-Saharan Africa who wish to pursue a career in the field.

The *Handbook of Global Urban Health*, co-edited by Prof **Adriana Allen** with Igor Vojnovic, Amber L. Pearson, Gershim Asiki and Geoff DeVerteuil, has been published by Routledge. The book is a collection that examines advanced and cutting-edge theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of the health of urban populations.

*Below: Cover of Handbook of Global Urban Health (by Routledge)*



Dear DPU I have loved all of you,  
From Julio's wine cellar to the leaking lool!  
The parties, the students, all fired-up and keen,  
The PS staff, Nkenji, Sharon, Elsa, Annette, Michael, Alex and of course, Roisin Breen!  
And those in the 'KNOW', in Senate House,  
The Cheeseplant in 201 and tales of the DPU mouse.  
With your diverse team, of talent untold,  
You bring the gift of learning and the building of a better world.

One January day, like a leaf from a tree,  
I was blown from the cold into the DPU family,  
So lucky to be there, so lucky to stay,  
To progress and to grow in the DPU's way.

So the day has come when I must take my leave,  
Though no reason for sadness, no reason to grieve,  
I must admit, in my soul there's an ache...  
But I take with me Annette's mantra of "let them eat cake!"  
I will not be far away, so please stay in touch,  
Thank you all from my heart,  
I will miss you so very much.

Thanks, Jackie, and we wish you all the best in your new position!

Prof **Adriana Allen** has been appointed Vice-Dean International for the Bartlett Faculty, while **Kamna Patel** is Vice Dean for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Kamna's role is the first of its kind in any UCL faculty. The DPU now have two Vice Deans (out of eight in the faculty) who sit at the monthly faculty management (MAG) meetings with the Dean and heads of schools and help to shape faculty policies.

Several new faces are joining the DPU. **Alexandra (Xaxa) Panman** is the new UED Lecturer in Economics and Public Policy, having joined DPU in August 2019; **Afia Afenah** is the new SDP Teaching Fellow starting this September; and **Jordana Ramalho** will be the new Lecturer in Development Planning for Diversity starting in January 2020. **Gabriela Neves de Lima** will be the new UDP GTA, and **Aoife Nevin** will act as the new Programme Administrator.

Prof **Julio D. Dávila** has been appointed a member of the Scientific Committee of the Pan-American Conference of Transportation Engineering and Logistics (PANAM).

**Alessio Kolioulis** was successful in his application to become an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

**Tim Wickson**, GTA from UDP is leaving in September to begin a PhD at the DPU, **Ottavia Pasta** has been appointed Graphic Design Officer and **Liza Griffin** will be on maternity leave from October.

**Jackie Hartley** (former Unit Administrator) left to join the UCL Institute of Global Health (IGH) on 6th August. In fact, to mark her move, Jackie compiled a small poem which we feel compelled to share:

# Publications

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