

In the KNOW



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Introduction to
Knowledge in Action for
Urban Equality

Overview of KNOW
Work Packages and Investigators

City in Focus - Freetown

Translocal Learning Workshop

PlanLima



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In the KNOW is our bi-annual newsletter providing a space to share project outputs, updates, stories, and more from Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW). It is co-produced by our KNOW Investigators, City Partners, and Associates working in the fields of urban equality, resilience, prosperity, extreme poverty, and urban development policy, planning, research, and capacity-building in cities of the global South.

In the KNOW may be downloaded, shared, and cited, subject to the usual rules governing academic acknowledgement. Comments and correspondence are welcomed by authors and should be sent to:
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On the cover

*Kampala City Partner site, Bawise III Community
Image: David Heymann, 2018*

KNOW Why

An Introduction to KNOW

About the Author

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

By Caren Levy

Welcome to the first issue of the KNOW Newsletter. 'Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality' (KNOW) is a research and capacity-building programme that seeks to promote urban equality in selected cities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Led by the Bartlett's Development Planning Unit (DPU), KNOW brings together a collaborative, interdisciplinary, and international team of 13 partners in the UK, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Australia to develop innovative, long term programmes of knowledge co-production for urban equality among governments, communities, business, and academia. It is a unique gathering of places, people and their knowledge, innovation, and ingenuity. With a budget of over £7 million, KNOW is a 4-year research and capacity-building programme (2017-2021) funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) under the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF), a £1.5 billion research fund which forms part of the UK Aid Strategy.

KNOW is a response to the growing inequality in the world's cities.

Three quarters of cities are now more unequal than in 1996, despite unprecedented growth in wealth over the last 20 years (UN-Habitat, 2016). Improving living conditions in every country depends on humanity's capacity to address urban equality. First, most of the world's population is urban. According to the data collected by the United Nations, since 2008, over half of the world's population lives in urban areas. By 2050, two out of three inhabitants of the Earth will likely live in urban areas. Second, inequalities are cross-cutting,

structural conditions that undermine efforts to achieve more sustainable and prosperous cities. This is captured in the justification for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Urban SDG 11, that calls for cities that are "safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable", as well as in the New Urban Agenda (NUA) adopted at Habitat III in Quito, 2016, which asks for cities that "leave no one behind". Advancing urban equality is central to achieve the aspirations of both SDG 11 and the NUA.

Fainstein (2010) argues that a focus on urban equality raises questions of justice. In theoretical debates, Young (1990) and Fraser (1996) emphasise distributional aspects of inequality alongside aspects of recognition and participation. Based on this, in the first instance, we define urban equality as encompassing urban dwellers' access to income and services; recognition of their diverse social identities in policy and planning initiatives in their cities; and inclusion in political decisions that affect their lives, (see also Allen and Frediani, 2013; Levy, 2015) This notion of urban equality is integrated in the work programmes of KNOW.

The road towards greater urban equality requires policy and planning that actively engages all actors in the city and which explicitly addresses differential power relations on the basis of class, gender, ethnicity, age, race, caste, sexual orientation, and differential abilities. We propose a process of 'knowledge in action' which:

- 1) focuses on knowledge that is immediately relevant to address local and global challenges, building on the tradition of action research in development studies;
- 2) is sensitive to the diversity of conditions in which urban dwellers find themselves;
- 3) recognises the multiple ways in which expertise may be produced amongst all



Left

KNOW-ACHR Regional Meeting in Nakhon Sawan, Thailand with City Partner ACHR Indonesian team, Image: David Heymann 2019

actors including vulnerable communities;
 4) recognises the transformative capacity of stakeholder engagement in the process of research and institutional capacity-building; and
 5) based on all of the above, embodies an ethics of practice for urban research.

Experiences of urban equality

Urban equality is a multi-dimensional experience for urban dwellers. Urban equality is a cross-cutting condition that manifests in relation to different wellbeing aspirations. For that reason, the KNOW programme focuses on equality and its relation to three key challenges: delivering prosperity, tackling extreme poverty, and building resilient cities. A collective discussion between the project team about local priorities helped to identify these key challenges that have profound implications for urban life in the different cities that participate in KNOW. However, these challenges are approached in an integrated manner as the focus on urban equality reveals the interconnections between such challenges as they manifest in the lives of urban dwellers.

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

Resilience is defined in urban contexts as the ability of a city to “absorb and recover from any shock or stress while maintaining its essential functions, structures, and identity, as well as adapting and thriving in the face of continual change” (ICLEI 2016:4). The idea of resilience, however, is not to resist or survive shocks, but rather establish the principles for a society that changes and adapts to inevitable disruptions while advancing the wellbeing of its members. Poorer groups are more exposed to shocks, less able to prepare

for them, and less able to take on risks that could bring beneficial returns. These all exacerbate inequalities and push people into, or further into, extreme poverty (World Bank 2014). While much current policy focuses on environmental disasters and climate change, shocks may also be economic, disease-related, social, and/or political.

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

KNOW objectives

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

1) Transformative Research for Urban Equality:

The first objective of KNOW is to co-produce knowledge to activate transformations towards urban equality in selected cities in the global South, with a focus on redistributive and integrated actions to address prosperity, resilience, and extreme poverty. The overarching research question of this objective is: how can knowledge co-production support the development and implementation of policies and planning that will put urban areas onto trajectories towards urban equality? Focusing on people-centred approaches to urban policy and planning, KNOW seeks to generate knowledge production processes with transformative agency to remove structural barriers to inequality. Such policy and planning is integrated, recognising the multi-dimensional nature of urban inequalities, and the synergies and trade-offs between different sectors. It also involves multi-level forms of governance, understanding the different ways that governments, businesses, civil society organisations, and communities can enable each other's actions and advance collective goals.

There is a gap in urban research related to people-centred forms of planning and governance.

KNOW will explore how urban citizens themselves define urban equality, how they organise collectively to claim better living conditions, and how governments work to strengthen pathways to urban equality. National data is rarely disaggregated at the local-level to monitor SDG11 and the



NUA. Local governments currently lack the capacity to deliver on these data requirements. Expert-led assessments are often detached from people's experiences, resulting in stereotype-dominated policies and planning which worsen people's lives and deny them their rights (Barnett & Parnell, 2016, p.92). KNOW will engage with diverse groups of people and aspects of their lives, which often go unrecognised, unmeasured, or are made invisible. KNOW will work with in-city teams who have formulated city-specific research questions to address the overall research question. While engaging with local perspectives, the programme will also engage global debates on urban development.

2) Building Research Capacity:

The second objective of KNOW is to build and strengthen research capacity in selected DAC-list countries and the UK to tackle the challenges and opportunities of vulnerable urban communities through partnerships of equivalence between networks and organisations of the poor, government, the private sector, and academia. Achieving urban equality is a persistent challenge that requires building upon existing capacity for research on urban equality, and the development of future capabilities to address emerging challenges. This also means that local actors can mobilise expertise to deliver agile responses to unequal living conditions that affect them. KNOW will develop research capacity to increase the ability of a wide variety of actors to

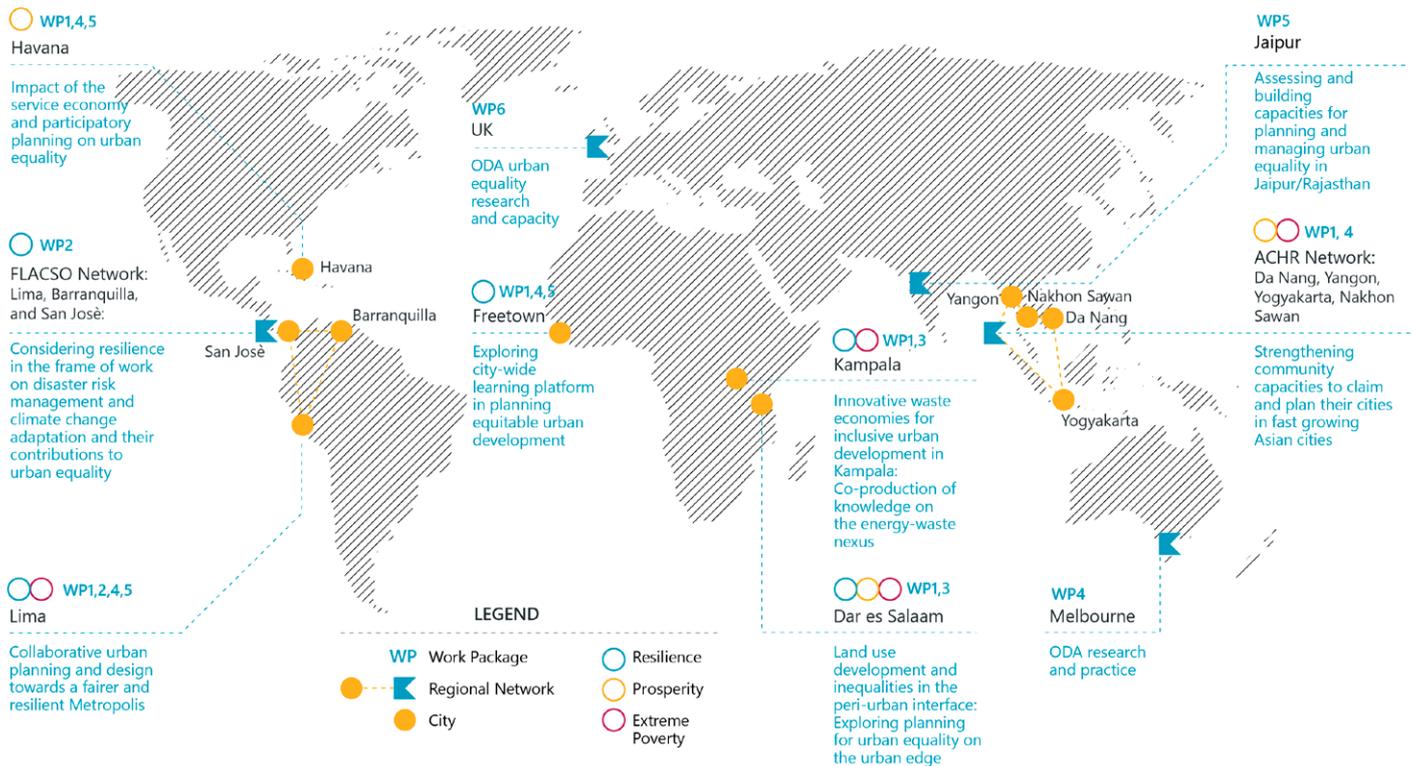
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Vingunguti Settlement, site of KNOW city partner, CCI, research and capacity-building, Dar es Salaam, Image: David Heymann, 2018

participate in the process of knowledge co-production. Collaborative research opens opportunities for pathways to impact and building capacity for such research maximises impact opportunities. This relies on identifying 'strategic intermediaries' that can bridge the gap between research, policy-making, and the process of implementation.

3) Developing Urban Learning Hubs:

The third objective of KNOW is to jointly build responsive Urban Learning Hubs (ULHs) in target cities and regions to co-produce relevant knowledge to analyse, plan, monitor, and compare city progress towards national and global goals on urban equality, in particular the SDGs and the Habitat III NUA. Through the programme of research and capacity-building, KNOW will strengthen ULHs in selected cities and regions, involving the consolidation of networks of actors with the interest in and capability to address multiple dimensions of urban equality. The outcome will be context-specific ULHs that can act as strategic intermediaries between multiple actors delivering research, collaborative decision-making and action for urban equality. The development of ULHs is a means to deliver research and impact for urban equality beyond the lifetime of the project.



Above

KNOW City/Regional Research and Capacity-Building Programmes, Illustration: KNOW

KNOW principles & components

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

City Knowledge Co-production:

Work Package 1 is the first stream of work in KNOW. This involves the cities of Lima (Peru), Havana (Cuba), Freetown (Sierra Leona), Kampala (Uganda), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and four cities in the ACHR network across South-East Asia (Yangon, Yogyakarta, Nakhon Sawan, and Da Nang). These are cities where more than a third of

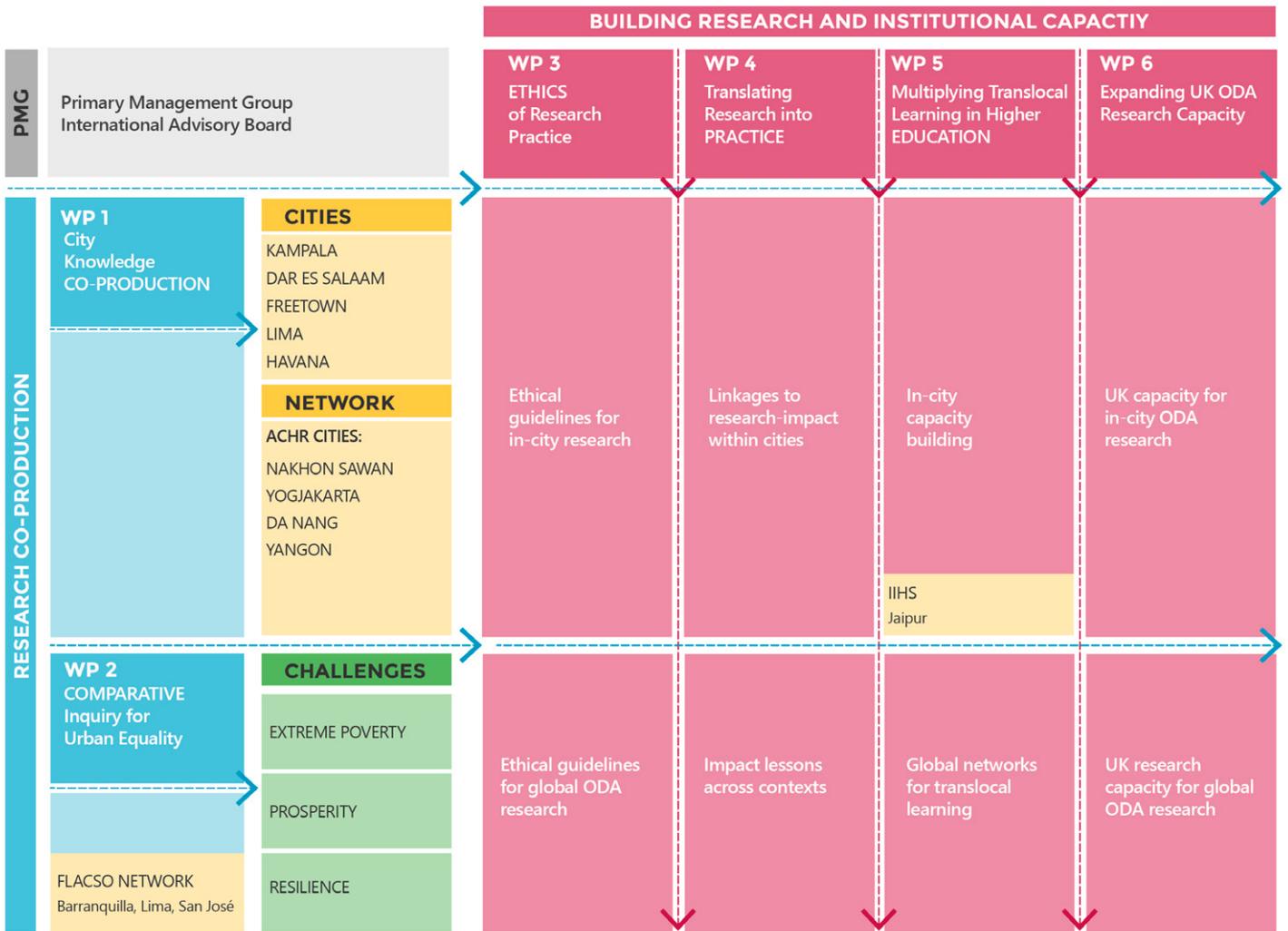
the population lives in slum-like conditions with limited access to secure housing and services. Income inequality in countries of the global South, as measured by the Gini coefficient, increased from 38.5 (early 1990s) to 41.5 (late 2000s) (UNDP, 2013). The Gini coefficient in our case study cities varies between 0.35 and 0.5 and is increasing, which indicates income disparities but masks the different constraints to urban equality in each city.

Comparative Inquiry for Urban Equality:

Work Package 2 examines urban equality across places, with a focus on prosperity, extreme poverty, and resilience in selected KNOW cities. This stream of work is based on the recognition that urban equality is not only understood differently among different groups within cities, but also across different urban areas. Extending the city base of this work, the development challenge of resilience introduces two other cases into KNOW: Barranquilla (Colombia) and San José (Costa Rica). This comparative work will also contribute to the newly emerging reporting process being set up to monitor global targets like the SDGs, contributing

both relevant data and a critical assessment of current means of measurement relating to urban equality.

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



Above
KNOW Work Package Structure, Illustration: KNOW

KNOW aims to deliver transformative research through six core Work Packages (WPs). These WPs do not work in isolation, but intersect through the research and capacity-building of City Partners, individually and comparatively, through collective outputs, and through the co-production of local, regional, and global Urban Learning Hubs.

Abbreviations

- ACHR Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
- FLACSO Latin American Social Sciences Institute
- IIHS Indian Institute for Human Settlements
- ODA Official Development Assistance
- WP Work Package

Ethics of Research Practice

Work Package 3 will explore these issues in-depth with partners in selected KNOW cities to contribute to the development of a critical ethics of ODA built environment research and capacity-building. KNOW also seeks to address the recognised gap in the development field between research and practice. In recent years, evidence-based policy has been widely promoted, but there is a growing critique of its practice.

Translating Research into Practice

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

Multiplying Translocal Learning in Higher Education

Work Package 5 addresses key obstacles to urban equality, including the maldistribution and quantitative and qualitative deficits of planners across the global South; inadequate planning pedagogies and tools for addressing contemporary challenges; and colonial-era planning curricula. This stream of KNOW work seeks to assess and promote translocal learning across different regions and in selected KNOW cities, adding Jaipur as an Indian pilot city. Strengthening the foundations for the development of future practitioners and applied researchers who can address issues of urban equality, requires the re-invention of planning education and translocal learning to counteract outdated practices.

Expanding ODA Research Capacity

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

Extending the need to challenge global North-centred urban planning and urban knowledge production paradigms, KNOW also addresses ODA practices in the UK.

Engaging with KNOW

The KNOW programme constitutes an opportunity to address one of the challenges of our time.

The current dynamics of urbanisation open up opportunities for new ways of thinking and looking at the city, putting the most disadvantaged populations at the centre of urban policy

Addressing inequality will have knock-on effects on other urban challenges, improving the city's economy, livelihood opportunities, access to services, environmental protection and governance. To advance this wide project, KNOW relies on an international network of academics and partners with different levels of engagement on the ground.

In addition, the four years of activity in KNOW will be directed towards enlarging the KNOW community. The establishment of long-term operating Urban Learning Hubs in different locations in South and Central America, Africa, and Asia constitutes an opportunity to open up the participation of urban dwellers and practitioners in KNOW.

We invite those who are interested in engaging with KNOW, both in-country and in the UK, to monitor the KNOW website at www.urban-know.com, which will disseminate information about events as well as outputs from the programme. These include this six-

monthly KNOW Newsletter, information on our monthly Dialogues in Urban Equality in London, public events in KNOW cities, and the recently launched KNOW Small Grants Fund. The latter supports early-career and senior UK-based researchers to develop new in-situ research capacities working with city partners and with relevance to urban equality. This is a challenge that requires global partnerships with equivalence, and we are committed to making such partnerships possible.



Above

Prof Kombe (Ardhi University) presenting at the KNOW Inception Workshop, London 2018, Image: David Heymann, 2018

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KNOW How

Overview of KNOW Work Packages

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Work Package 1 City Knowledge Co-Production

Work Package 1 addresses the overarching research question: 'How can knowledge co-production support the development and implementation of policies and planning in the KNOW cities, that will put them onto trajectories towards urban equality?'

This inquiry is undertaken with KNOW City Partners across 9 cities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Each City Partner has also defined their own specific priority research and capacity-building.

In the second half of 2018, a series of co-learning workshops were hosted in Freetown (focusing on the establishment of a city-wide learning platform for different urban actors and decision-makers), Dar es Salaam (examining extreme poverty in inner city informal settlements and in rapidly expanding peri-urban settlements) and Kampala (looking at the energy-waste nexus in the city through the production of fuel briquettes from organic waste). These workshops provided opportunities for collaborative work with the city teams, supporting research design, and an initial engagement with networks of integral partners and stakeholders.

We unpack and interrogate the significance of knowledge co-production processes in a wider context

And furthermore, observe how capacity-building occurs throughout this process.

2019 will see a continuation of co-learning workshops in partner cities and collaboration with other Work Packages to document the processes of co-production and capacity-building.



Work Package 2 Comparative Inquiry for Urban Equality

Work Package 2 links the city-based research agenda in Work Package 1 with contemporary debates on global urbanism.

We aim to mobilise comparison as a mode of thinking and learning across cities, regions, and urban challenges

At the same time, we engage critically with the idea of comparison, and put it to work through a diversity of processes. The Work Package is structured around three development challenges – three lenses – that represent important potential pathways to urban equality: reducing urban extreme poverty; increasing prosperity; building resilient cities.

The extreme poverty theme began the project by asking the question, 'how do we research urban extreme poverty?' A forthcoming paper proposes an approach to urban poverty research that engages with poverty as both a condition and, drawing on critical theoretical traditions including urban political ecology and critical feminist theory, as a set of processes nested within broader urban processes. In 2019, building on the work of KNOW City Partners, we will explore how economies of waste relate to issues of extreme poverty and urban equality, and initiate a comparative research programme with colleagues in Lima.

The prosperity theme approaches prosperity as a place-based assemblage - of people, livelihoods, cultural frameworks, political systems, economic conditions, physical infrastructures, and histories – producing contextually specific conditions that enable, or inhibit, prosperity. A forthcoming paper argues for an 'ethics of

Work Package 3

Ethics of Research Practice

diversity' as the principle for developing new thinking about prosperity. It is a perspective that recognises that visions of prosperity are plural, as are the particular material contexts and processes that lead to improvements in prosperity. Future work with City Partners will examine the intersections that enable conditions for prosperity and reduced inequality, and those that don't. In this sense, the theme will engage with comparison in relation to impact and ask what comparison can reveal about processes and pathways for future prosperity and urban equality.

The resilience theme also establishes a distinction between product and process. Following initial discussions on resilience in the context of disaster and climate change risk, a holistic, continuum view has been adopted whereby product and process are understood as linked; post-impact resilience to shocks is conditioned and dictated by pre-shock disaster risk management activities and everyday risk conditions. A two-day workshop in San José, Costa Rica brought together the three country-city research teams (Barranquilla, Colombia; Lima, Peru; San Jose, Costa Rica) to discuss concepts, methods, and implementation. A first phase of research was marked by the production of city profiles dealing with risk at the city-level and relations to the themes of poverty, prosperity, and development pathways.

A workplan for 2019 has been developed and work on the second stage of research has commenced; constructing a typology of risk areas in each city through the use of secondary and on-the-ground information.



Right

KNOW team and ACHR partners visiting the self-built housing upgrade project in Ron Na Chai community, Thailand, Image: David Heymann, 2019

Work Package 3 aims to develop a situated ethics approach that supports knowledge co-production for urban equality. This approach is theoretically informed and conceptually driven. At the same time it is practice-led and action-oriented. Its development is also guided by relational, dialogic, and participatory principles. It will be developed in the light of current debates relating to ethics of urban research and planning, with specific focus on urban inequalities. The relations between applied and situated ethics form a conceptual backdrop to our work, and debates concerning the ethics of situated knowledge and site-specific practice, and how these relate to fieldwork as a situated and ethical practice, inform our methodology. We aim to contribute to this discourse by focusing on how the issues of urban inequality necessitate a new type of ethical methodology.

We aim to develop a situated ethics approach that supports the knowledge co-production for urban equality

We began by analysing ethical codes and procedures coming from institutions in the global North and relating to research in the global South. Reflecting on these issues in relation to questions of ethics and urban inequality, we focus on two cities from the KNOW project: Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and Kampala in Uganda.

We ask whether ethical concepts are universal or specific, and whether they vary in different geographic and cultural contexts. We hope to answer these questions by working closely with our City Partners to identify connections between ethical principles and the situated conditions on the ground; to analyse

commonalities and specificities; and to examine the cultural relevance of principles. We began our research by interviewing the KNOW research team, asking them how they define ethics, what guidelines and procedures they use when they conduct research, and how they perceive the cultural relevance of these procedures in different locations. While many agreed that the principles which are at the core of global North academic research ethics—minimising harm, informed consent, and protection of privacy—are all relevant and important, they nevertheless offered a much wider view of ethics, focused on reflexive processes and notions of respect, consideration, and reciprocity.

We aim to contribute to the formation of pathways to urban equality by formulating an atlas/lexicon of ethics, designed to map concepts and principles into their geographic and cultural context. The purposes are to emphasise that ethics terminologies in different languages mean different approaches; to think about different existing definitions, and to consider that even similar ethical conclusions ('universal' or 'general principles') can be arrived from very different theoretical reasons, based on different religious, philosophical, or cultural contexts. We also intend to formulate tools and guidelines, using case studies. Such tools are intended to be useful for other cities as well, both within the KNOW project and beyond.



Work Package 4

Translating Research into Practice

The work of Work Package 4 supports the processes of translating learning generated by the research activities into policy and planning practices, strengthening pathways to urban equality. Therefore, the key focus of Work Package 4 is on investigating the challenges of knowledge translation processes with KNOW City Partners, exploring and supporting the various ways in which they take place.

Supporting and researching knowledge translation processes, we seek to strengthen their impact in policies and planning practices

Opportunities in society can only be transformed if unequal relations and geographies of power in knowledge production are challenged. Work Package 4 understands knowledge translation as multi-scalar and non-linear processes of encounter between research and practice that are shaped by various local, national, and global dynamics. The main questions that Work Package 4 seeks to address are: 'how do knowledge translation processes take place; and how might interfaces of knowledge translation facilitate encounters between various co-production processes in the city?' Our underlying goal is to find ways in which knowledge co-production processes can support and foster the capabilities and conditions that enable policies and planning for urban equality. Part of Work Package 4 is specifically tasked to assess the impact of international actors, agendas, and dynamics (e.g. the UN New Urban Agenda and SDG implementation) on local processes. Ultimately, Work Package 4 seeks to build local capacities to better leverage processes of knowledge co-production and to investigate and foster the institutional capabilities required to support policies and planning practices for urban equality.



Work Package 5

Multiplying Translocal Learning in Higher Education

Work Package 5 aims to analyse and address the current challenges and potential of planning education in providing urban practitioners with the knowledge and capabilities required to contribute to pathways to urban equality. We depart from a shared understanding of planning as a networked field of governance and education – be it higher education, professional training, or other forms – as a central driver for contesting or exacerbating current urban inequalities. Our central question is therefore:

'How can planning education become instrumental in building the capacities of urban planners and planning institutions?'

And, 'how will planning education work within a networked field of governance to challenge urban inequality and foster translocal learning at scale?' We deploy a wide range of action-research methods to provide answers to this question, ranging from the spatial analysis of trends, pedagogic ethnographies and experimentation, and in-depth interviews with a wide range of actors engaged in planning education internationally.

Through interviews and desktop studies, we investigate the contemporary and historical developments of planning organisations and planning education associations with a focus on Higher Education Institutions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This analysis supports a more nuanced understanding of current crises in planning education and its resulting praxes, and explores the room for innovative pedagogies and learning environments to stimulate transformative learning at scale. We will further conduct ethnographic studies with innovative pedagogic approaches implemented in different cities to then facilitate translocal learning from and across them. This will

happen regionally, as well as with several KNOW city partners including Freetown, Lima, Havana, and Jaipur. The Work Package further aims to support critical pedagogies through facilitating innovative approaches and resources co-developed with local and regional stakeholders. These will include co-learning exchanges to improve existing, and support the establishment of new, curricula with a focus on urban equality. Furthermore, we aim to develop a modular training of trainers in co-learning alliances of universities, civil society organisations, and residents. Through these research and capacity-building activities, we aspire to foster the articulation and mobility of a variety of knowledges and capabilities – understood both as ways of learning the city and acting upon urban equality.



Work Package 6

Expanding UK ODA Research Capacity

Work Package 6 aims to identify and expand the capacities that UK Higher Education and research institutions need in order to engage with issues of urban equality in the global South. The WP also aims to better understand the relationships between research and capacity-building in cities in the global South and Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy-making in the UK.

We work with Higher Education Institutions to support a long-term agenda of action for urban equality

Throughout 2018, Work Package 6 has been engaged in two parallel streams of work. The first involved developing a conceptual and institutional map of existing UK research on urban equality in the global South. Through the mapping process three key areas of research were identified that pertain to the idea of urban equality: gender equality, health equity, and infrastructure and service provision.

The second stream of work examines the historical trajectory of ‘the urban’ in UK ODA policy and planning. This research involves interviews with key figures from both the academic and policy spheres, who have worked in universities and government ministries over the past thirty years, to better understand how urban development and cities have been characterised through changing political contexts and development paradigms. This work will continue in 2019.

Work Package 6 aims not only to better understand how UK ODA research on urban equality is conducted, and how it informs UK policy, but also how we might better integrate perspectives from the global South into UK ODA policy-making. Over the coming months, we will begin to work more closely with UK universities and academics to collectively identify how we might promote pathways to urban equality through UK academic research and practice.

Finally, in 2019, WP6 and the KNOW project launched the Small Grants Fund, which allows UK-based researchers to travel to KNOW partner cities to conduct research that relates to the theme of urban equality.



More information is available at: urban-know.com/smallgrantsfund

Top image below
KNOW WP1, WP2, and WP3 investigators with Kampala City Partners at Makerere University, Image: David Heymann, 2018

Bottom image below
Dr Colin Marx presenting at KNOW Dialogue #6 on Urban Land Markets Image: David Heymann, 2019



KNOW What

City in Focus –
Freetown

Translocal
Learning
Workshop

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City in Focus

Co-Creating City-Wide Learning and Capacity-Building in Freetown

By **Camila Cociña, Emmanuel Osuteye, Alexandre Apsan Frediani, Joseph Macarthy, and Braima Koroma**

WP4, WPI Investigators, and Freetown City Partners

Freetown, the capital and main urban centre in Sierra Leone, forms part of the global network of cities of the KNOW project. This partnership builds upon a long-standing collaboration between the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) and The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU). In the context of the KNOW programme, SLURC is developing a research and capacity-building project entitled: “City-wide Learning Platform in Planning Equitable Urban Development in Freetown”.

This project builds upon previous research conducted by the DPU in Freetown, in particular, the ‘Urban Livelihoods Project’ and the ‘ReMapRisk’ process and tool for profiling and mapping urban risk (part of the Urban Africa Risk Knowledge Programme - Urban ARK), and more recently, on the experience of SLURC developing Community Action Area Plans (CAAPs) in two informal settlements of the city: Dwazarck and Cockle Bay. In each of these settlements, where a CAAP has been formulated, in collaboration with representatives of the Federation of the Rural and Urban Poor and residents, SLURC will develop an Informal Settlement Profile, combining activities that involve capacity-building, participatory research methods, and conventional qualitative and quantitative methods to consolidate its catalogue of community-based research. A third CAAP will be produced for the settlement of Portee-Rokupa. As part of the project, SLURC is setting up a City Learning Platform and consolidating three Community Learning Platforms from the settlements selected, as a way of sharing lessons from the process and to scale-up these experiences

In this context, members of the KNOW team visited Freetown in October 2018, to discuss and consolidate the work of the city team in collaboration with Work Package 1 (City Knowledge Co-production) and Work Package 4 (Translating Research into Practice). The visit included a series of

meetings and site visits, working together to define the plans and next steps, as well as a strategy to strengthen the impact of the project.

As part of the activities, the team held meetings with steering committees in Dwazarck and Cockle Bay, in order to evaluate the process of engagement that had already taken place between these settlements and SLURC, and to allow the residents to share their expectations and recommendations for the KNOW project. These meetings were an opportunity to set up the basis for the Community Learning Platforms. The aspirations shared by the residents will constitute an active input into the design and implementation of the project, based on agreed ethical principles. The residents’ expectations included: the generation and sharing of more information about the settlements; co-learning and creating capacities within the communities; increasing the diversity and participation within the local platforms; and having tools to move the CAAP forward.

The aspirations shared by the residents will constitute an active input into the design and implementation of the project, based on agreed ethical principles.

Additionally, the visit was an opportunity to convene the first meeting of a Local Impact Advisory Group, which included representatives of the communities, the City Council, Ministries and NGOs. During this meeting it was agreed to create 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.

Freetown faces enormous challenges in terms of addressing urban equality. They range from access to basic services such as water, to issues of risk management – which dramatically gained public attention after the 2017 mudslides – and to challenges related to health and sanitation – which urgency became evident when various informal settlements were seriously affected by the Ebola outbreak in 2014 and 2015. The KNOW project seeks to foster pathways to urban equality in Freetown through strengthening democratic spaces at different scales that allow policy dialogue, the institutionalisation and scaling-up of participatory planning methodologies, and the enabling of concrete actions that mitigate urban inequality.



Above
Freetown Learning Platform for Informal Settlement Upgrading Flyer: KNOW, 2018

K
For more information please contact:
camila.cocina@ucl.ac.uk

Below
KNOW team with the Mayor of Freetown Yvonne Aki-Sawyer and SLURC team
Image: Camila Cocina, 2018



Mobilising Actors for Change
PlanLima Conference

By Belén Desmaison

**KNOW Lima City Partner, Pontificia
 Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP)**

On 13th September, PUCP's Centro de Investigación de la Arquitectura y la Ciudad (CIAC), and KNOW joined forces to envisage plans for a liveable, sustainable, and inclusive Lima, the capital of Peru. The aims of the PlanLima Seminar were to promote discussion and debate and put on the agenda the urgent need for an urban plan for the Peruvian capital. To this end, the seminar sought to make an academic contribution towards building political momentum, and an agreement, to take on this challenge.

This agreement promotes the collaborative and inter-institutional generation of a plan that will allow advances in the construction of a safe, participatory, and resilient city. This initiative embraces: a plan that transforms urban mobility from an act of daily violence into an expression of coexistence and mutual respect, starting with pedestrians; and a road map that recognises and revalues Lima's remarkable built and cultural heritage.

The aspiration is for a city that is sustainable and harmonious with its territory; an environmentally friendly and socially just city that encourages the full development of its inhabitants.

To this end, a variety of specialists and representatives from national and international institutions were invited to participate in three thematic roundtables:

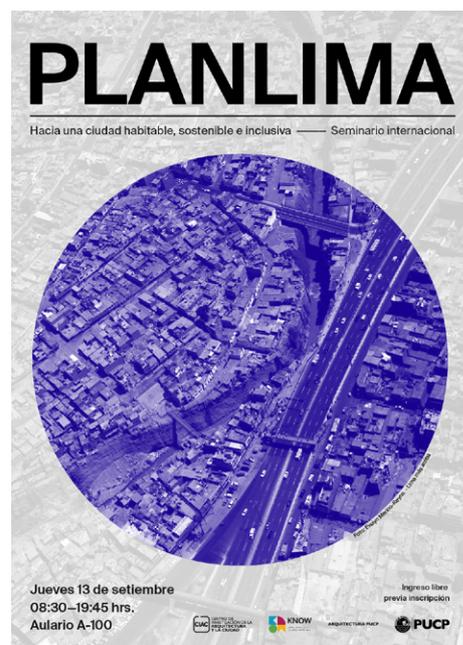
- 1) planning and sustainability;
- 2) planning and governance;

3) planning, accessibility, and inclusion. Each roundtable presented national and international experiences, drawing out good practices, along with presentations that made visible the challenges that lie ahead to make Lima a liveable city.

In this way, the seminar sought to promote discussion and debate, and to render visible and strengthen the role of planning as a tool capable of providing solutions to urban challenges. In the closing session, the candidates running for the Office of Mayor of Lima who attended the seminar shared their planning proposals and signed an agreement for Lima along with citizens and representatives from a variety of institutions. This document was shared through social networks, joining the ongoing efforts of citizens committed to improving the quality of life in their city.

To achieve these goals, it is critical that we promote alliances between academia, public and private sectors, and especially with organised civil society. There are many neighbourhood associations and community organisations willing to endorse proposals for the development of the city. In this way, we promote greater participation of those organisation in the decision-making processes, as a way to ensure that decisions are implemented beyond the timing of local elections, which might otherwise interrupt the necessary processes required to achieve positive transformation.

We welcome the newly elected public representatives and confirm our commitment to making Lima a liveable, sustainable, and inclusive city through our research, the KNOW project and transformative action.



Above
 PlanLima Seminar Poster: PUCP; and seminar in process,
 Image: Belén Desmaison, 2018

For more information please contact:
 belen.desmaison@pucp.pe
And visit the project website at:
<http://conocimientoenaccion.pe/>

KNOW when

Past and Upcoming KNOW Dates

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Past Events

Monthly Seminar | London Dialogues in Urban Equality #1-6

The "Dialogues in Urban Equality" series is a London-based monthly seminar that provides a space of encounter to discuss the challenges of urban equality through different perspectives, geographies, and voices. Organised by KNOW Research Fellows, each seminar contributes to a greater understanding of KNOW themes relating to a different Work Package.

Our past KNOW Dialogues have include:

- 07 June 2018
#1 Climate Resilience
- 11 July 2018
#2 Co-Production
- 01 October 2018
#3 Planning Education
- 17 October 2018
#4 The Ethics of Urban
Research Practice
- 07 November
#5 Extreme Poverty
- 15 January 2019
#6 Land Markets

Want to know more?

You can catch up on all our past Dialogues via our [Media Resources page](#) and/or

Vimeo Channel:

vimeo.com/urbanknow

See overleaf for our upcoming Dialogues

For more information contact:

info@urban-know.com

Past Workshops

21 July 2018 | London KNOW At the Tate Exchange

The KNOW Team were excited to present the project as part of the Bartlett Spatial Engagement Network's workshop at the Tate Exchange series: Methods for Civic Action. The day long session unpacked 'Ideas for Civic Action' with a wide range of community groups, practitioners and researchers, including, Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW).

01 - 03 October 2018 | San José FLACSO Introductory Workshop on Risk

This introductory workshop aimed to offer a space in which to discuss the general defining elements, concepts, and goals of the KNOW Programme and suggest how these can be incorporated into the specific projects to be developed in each country in the FLACSO Network (Colombia, Costa Rica, and Peru). In addition, the meeting helped core FLACSO researchers get to know each other, exchange perspectives and discuss potential research methods.

22 October 2018 | London Translocal Pedagogies Workshop

The KNOW Work Package 5 team hosted a workshop about "Translocal Pedagogies in Planning Education for Urban Equality" in collaboration with the DSA Urbanisation and Development Group. The event brought together 25 participants from academia and practice in the fields of urban planning and higher education in the UK and overseas. It facilitated discussions about the potential and shortfalls of urban planning education to stimulate learning across localities.

Past Partner Visits

13 September 2018 | Lima PlanLima Conference

On September 13, PUCP, and KNOW joined forces to envisage a future plan for Lima towards a liveable, sustainable, and inclusive city. The PLANLIMA Seminar proposed to debate and put on the agenda the urgent need for an urban plan for the Peruvian capital. The seminar sought contributions from the academic sector to build political agreements to help better shape Lima in a sustained manner.

Read more in 'KNOW Why'

28 November 2018 | Dar es Salaam Everyday Risks in Informal Settlements

CCI (Centre for Community Initiatives, Tanzania) hosted a Workshop based on a recently completed AXA funded project. The workshop invited community participants, KNOW representatives and other key stakeholders to discuss the key findings of the project looking into everyday risk in informal settlements of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

15 January 2019 | London Lessons and Reflections on Co-Production

As part of the KNOW Work Package 1 activities, this inception workshop was organised to bring together a panel of researchers to reflect and exchange views on co-production and urban change based on their involvement in large multi-disciplinary research projects. These projects include the 'Mistra Urban Futures', 'Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED)' and the IDS 'Participation, Inclusion and Social Change' Programme.

15-18 October 2018 | Freetown Transform Freetown

Part of the KNOW team visited Freetown in October 2018 to discuss and consolidate the work of the city team in collaboration with Work Package 1 – City knowledge co-production – and Work Package 4 – Translating research into practice. The visit included a series of meetings and site visits, working together to define the plans and next steps, as well as a strategy to strengthen the impact of the project.

Read more in 'KNOW Why'

26-30 Nov 2018 | Dar es Salaam Ardhi University & Centre for Community Initiatives

Members of KNOW Work Packages 1, 2, 3, and management, met with Dar es Salaam partners, CCI and Ardhi University, to visit sites across the city, discuss project outputs and co-production. The overall aim of the trip was for the London team to co-develop a robust understanding of the partners' area of work and scope for future collaboration within the broader KNOW project and themes.

05-14 December 2018 | Kampala Makerere University

During early December 2019, part of the KNOW team visited the Kampala city research Team, where the groups participated in a number of site visits, community meetings and workshops. On 13 December, a focus workshop brought together local researchers and stakeholders, to better understand and co-create the objectives and partnerships for the Kampala project focusing on the energy-waste nexus in the city through localised production.

21-27 January 2019 | Nakhon Sawan Asian Coalition for Housing Rights

KNOW Researchers spent an inspiring week in Thailand, co-learning with ACHR Regional Partner City Teams (Da Nang, Vietnam; Yangon, Myanmar; Yogyakarta, Indonesia; and Nakhon Sawan, Thailand), to develop outputs, themes and objectives for city based research. The week also included a MOU signing with the Nakhon Sawan Municipality and numerous site visits to self-built ACHR housing projects.



Above
KNOW Team in Dar es Salaam with CCI Partners,
Image: David Heymann, 2018

Upcoming Events

27 Feb 2019 | Havana Dialogues in Urban Equality #7

The next KNOW Dialogue in Urban Equality will take place during the KNOW Annual Workshop 2019, in Havana, Cuba, with a focus on the Challenges of Urban Equality and Prosperity in Havana.

This event will be recorded and available online afterwards.

19 March 2019 | London Dialogues in Urban Equality #8

The eighth Dialogue in our series will be part of the #Bartlett100 series and in partnership with the UCL Institute for Global Prosperity. The dialogue will focus on 'Re-thinking Prosperity'.

Discussants will include:

- Professor Henrietta L. Moore, Founder and Director of the Institute for Global Prosperity, UCL, and KNOW Co-Investigator on Prosperity for Work Package 2
- Dr José Gabriel Palma, Emeritus Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Economics, Cambridge University.

Full details at www.urban-know.com/events
See also bartlett100.com/

25 Feb - 01 March 2019 | Havana 2019 Annual Workshop

Each year, the KNOW team meets in one of our partner cities to discuss, share, and co-develop the future of the project. The second of our annual workshops will be held in Havana Cuba, where we will review the year gone by, plan for the future and focus on four key themes:

1. Reviewing our collective understanding of Urban Equality
2. Co-Production of Knowledge
3. Co-Learning in KNOW
4. Activating collective action: creating conditions for change

The time in Havana will also be spent visiting field sites and research partners.

KNOW More

Call for Applications KNOW Small Grants Fund

The KNOW Small Grants Fund will award grants that enable UK-based scholars—at UK universities, policy research institutions, and NGOs with a research portfolio—to conduct research relating to the theme of urban equality in one of the KNOW partner cities.

Applications are welcome from early-career, mid-career, and senior researchers. Applicants will be required to prepare a research proposal that relates to the theme of urban equality and to the priorities of a local partner. The Fund supports interdisciplinary inquiry and we welcome applicants from a range of academic disciplines.

Find out more and apply online at:
urban-know.com/smallgrantsfund

News KNOWnow Blog

Our KNOWnow Blog is a fantastic way to stay up to date with all latest from KNOW online. Catch up on our latest events, stories from our city partners, workshops, resources, and more.

See more at urban-know.com/knownow

Coming Soon Working Paper Series

The KNOW Working Papers provide an outlet for KNOW investigators, City Partners and KNOW Associates working in the fields of urban equality and other KNOW themes and challenges in cities of the global South.

They present 'work in progress' with the aim to disseminate ideas, initiate discussion and elicit feedback.

These will be made available online at:
www.urban-know/resources

Online Video Channel Urban-Know Vimeo

View the latest KNOW video and audio content on our urban-know Vimeo channel. Currently you can catch up on our latest Dialogues, but stay tuned for lots of content from our partner cities, Work Package teams and more in 2019.

Stay in the KNOW Join our mailing list

To stay in the KNOW with all our latest updates, events, resources, and more, please join our global community of researchers, students, practitioners, and critical thinkers, shaping pathways to urban equality.

Join us at urban-know.com

You can also find us on social media at:
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Next issue Coming June 2019

In the Know is made possible by contributions from the whole KNOW team and all our partners (overleaf)

Opposite page

*Women's Group Meeting, Kasuubi Zone 3, Kampala,
Image: David Heymann, 2018*



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KNOW Communication Officer

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The Bartlett DPU, UCL

Dr Catalina Ortiz, Co-Lead
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

Prof Wilbard Kombe, Africa Regional Lead,
Ardhi University

Research Fellow

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Abbreviations

DPU	Development Planning Unit
DFID	Department for International Development
FLACSO	Latin American Social Sciences Institute
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
MSD	Melbourne School of Design
UCL	University College London

KNOW Partners



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSIDAD
CATÓLICA
DEL PERÚ



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



In the KNOW

Achieving sustainable development requires putting a stop to the growing rates of inequality around the world. Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW) asks how citizens can be involved in delivering equality in the cities of the future. KNOW is a 4-year research and capacity-building programme (2017-2021) that seeks to promote urban equality in selected cities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Led by Prof Caren Levy of The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, it brings together an interdisciplinary international team of 13 partners in the UK, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Australia to develop innovative long-term programmes of knowledge co-production for urban equality among governments, communities, business, and academia. It is a unique gathering of places, people and their knowledge, innovation, and ingenuity. KNOW is funded by the ESRC under the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF), a £1.5 billion research programme which forms part of the UK Aid Strategy.



For more information please visit
www.urban-know.com