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In this issue:

How can urban interventions
respond to social complexity?

See Focus on, page 2

Focus on

Well-being and multiple identities in cities

How can urban interventions respond to social complexity?

By Alexandre Apsan Frediani and Julian Walker



Urban poverty has always been a central concern of the DPU, and of the organisations with whom we work. The continued increase in the proportion of people living in cities means that the urgency of this issue is now more widely acknowledged than ever. For example, the Millennium Development Goals address the crisis of urban poverty, specifying the improvement of the quality of lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. At the same time there is a growing stress on the need to understand poverty reduction as the promotion of well-being, rather than narrowly focusing on increased incomes. Well-being can be defined as “an interplay between the resources that a person is able to command; what they are able to achieve with those resources; and the meanings that frame these and that drive their aspirations and strategies.”²¹

One crucial means of promoting the well-being of urban slum dwellers is the provision of secure and decent shelter. But if we are to understand shelter and poverty in terms of their implications for well-being, the focus of housing interventions should not merely be to deliver physical improvements, but rather to reveal how people use housing resources, and how this affects their freedom to pursue the things they value. Thus improvement in the well-being of slum dwellers therefore requires more than the provision of better housing and infrastructure. It also requires an understanding of, and response to, the complexity of the needs and aspirations of slum dwellers and of the ways in which structural processes limit the opportunities of different groups of women and men, girls and boys to improve their well-being. If urban development interventions are to address the causes of disparities, the notion of inequality needs to be perceived not merely as unfair distribution of utilities, but also as the agency people have to use improvements in housing and infrastructure to enhance their well-being.

Understanding the processes which contribute to or undermine the quality of life of the poor is a complex task. A critical issue in understanding well-being, according to models such as Amartya Sen’s capability approach², is that people should be central in identifying their *own* valued dimensions of well-being. Therefore urban poverty



Above left: Games were used to involve children in the research. (Julian Walker)

Above right: Alexandre Apsan Frediani and Julian Walker

initiatives need to be based on an understanding of what people want from development, and how their aspirations link to their own distinctive identities. But, given the complex and multiple nature of people’s identities, and the problems that are often faced in discussing and understanding people’s aspirations, this is not such a straightforward task. In the interest of pragmatism, development organisations tend to simplify reality, lumping people together into ‘target groups’, for example, ‘people with disabilities’, meaning that an understanding of the specificities of what they want, and why, is often limited.

In August 2010, **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** and **Julian Walker** of the DPU worked with **Jean Francois Trani** of the Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre on a research initiative which attempted to grapple with some of these issues. The research, which was

funded by the UCL Bridging the Gaps scheme, was conducted with the Leonard Cheshire International ‘Asha’ Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Project, in Mumbai. This CBR project, based from the Cheshire Home in the district of Andheri East in Mumbai, is designed to support children with disabilities in their own homes and communities, rather than in specialist homes and centres. The CBR project works through, amongst other things, supporting access to mainstream schools, access to health services, and access to forms of transport that promote the mobility of children with disabilities.

The research was intended, in part, to understand the extent to which the well-being of the children with whom the Asha project works is determined by their disabilities, or by factors relating to other aspects of their social identities (such as their class, gender, ethnicity, caste,

Right: The ASHA Project offices (Julian Walker)

Below: Research activities with children included a drawing exercise



religion, or age). It was hoped that these findings would help the Asha project team to consider whether their interventions, in addition to addressing the challenges stemming from the children's impairments, and social responses to their disabilities, also needed to take account of other barriers faced by children in achieving well-being in relation to, for example, accessing mainstream schools.

The qualitative research tools developed, and used, during the research were designed to respond to the particular methodological challenges related to understanding the well-being of children with disabilities. This required unpacking their values and aspirations in the context of the practice of parents, carers and project staff who act as gatekeepers or speak on behalf of children. We worked closely with the Mumbai Cheshire Home staff, applying a series of qualitative methodologies which aimed at communicating directly with children, as much as possible, to understand how they

see themselves and to identify the issues that influence their ability to pursue their aspirations. The methodologies developed included transect walks in the slums targeted by the ASHA programme, shadowing of CBR workers during their daily community visits, semi-structured interviews, research activities facilitated by a game with picture cards, drawing exercises, and a photo-elicitation exercise.

Our initial findings suggest that, in addition to factors related to their disabilities, other aspects of the identities of the children with whom the Asha project works are also important in relation to their well-being. For example, children we worked with during the research consistently talked about social engagement with people from outside their immediate households as something which is important for them: play, friendships and care from neighbours and engagement with other community members. The research found that specific disabilities were important in

determining the scope for this kind of social engagement, but critically it was also clear that other aspects of children's identity also had an important impact on the freedom that they had to socialise.

Children and sociability

For example, three of the children involved in the research, two sisters and a brother from one family, shared the same impairment (all three are deaf), but its impact on their scope to build social relationships outside their own household was strikingly different. Like many of the children involved in the research, all three identified socialising as very important to them. During the drawing and photo elicitation exercises, the oldest of these three, a girl of 16, produced many images related to the importance of her new ability to communicate and socialise as a result of the project, through which she has learnt sign language, and become involved in more activities outside her own home.

However, while her deafness had affected her scope to socialise, other aspects of her identity also place constraints on her which are not shared by her younger brother, who is 6, and is often outside the house, playing with other boys and visiting shops. His 16 year old sister, on the other hand, has less opportunity to socialise in this way, and most of her social interaction happens during the structured activities that she undertakes, during her classes at the Cheshire home in the morning, and at the tailoring school that she goes to during the afternoon. Unlike her brother, she does not socialise informally in the neighbourhood, as the family live in a flat above a recycling yard, in a non-residential area, and so her parents do not consider it safe for her or her sisters to be outside (including a third sister who does not have a hearing impairment). She also has less time for socialising than her brother and her younger sisters, as she attends sign language classes, tailoring school and is also responsible for most of the housework and cooking. It therefore appears that many of the limitations to her ability to socialise and play relate to her gender as well as age. In the cases of many other children with whom we worked during the research, other aspects of identity also had an impact on their ability to socialise – for example, children from recent migrant





Left: Some of the better consolidated informal housing in Andheri East. (Julian Walker)

households, or from linguistic minorities.

Dealing with some of these factors that affect the children, other than those directly related to their impairments, poses particular challenges to the CBR project. It requires creative thinking, as the limited numbers and resources of the team mean that they have to spend the majority of their time addressing basic issues that are critical for all children with disabilities to access their legal rights. In practice most of the team's time is spent helping children with school enrolment, and to negotiate the complex bureaucracy around disability certification and health insurance, which, requiring access to ration cards, is nearly impossible for those households in rented accommodation (with the result that children with disabilities from the poorest households, or immigrant households, are the least able to access state support mechanisms for disability).

The research also found that some of the development processes currently affecting slum dwellers in the informal settlements of Andheri East are likely to impact on the well-being of children with disabilities in different ways. Of particular concern for the issues of children's freedom to socialise, discussed above, is the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme (SRS). Andheri East, where the Asha project is working, is a district of Mumbai which is going through an intense process of change. Since the construction of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) in the

1960s, Andheri started a rapid process of growth. Today Andheri is the most populous district in Mumbai with more than 4 million inhabitants. Due to its relative proximity to the city centre and the opening of the new metro in 2011, the desirability of Andheri for residential purposes has increased considerably in recent years, affecting land prices and intensifying the process of construction of residential areas for the upper income market.

In Andheri, the SRS involves private developers negotiating control over the tenure rights to plots in informal settlements from informal home owners who were included in the census and so have some recognised tenure rights to their plots. In exchange for the tenure rights, the developers offer an apartment in newly constructed high rise buildings to be established on the existing low rise informal settlement sites. The advantages of this scheme, as discussed by the women and men, girls and boys involved in the research, are that the new apartments have a higher market value than the original slum housing, and also that they have their own indoor toilet facilities. This is a rarity in slums, where public toilets are used which is problematic for many children with disabilities.

However, it appears that the move to new build apartment blocks has disadvantages for many girls and boys with disabilities and their households, including issues for mobility where households are

placed on higher floors (as many lifts only operate during certain times of the day).

In addition, households in the apartment blocks live far more insular lives, with consequences for the erosion of social networks and relationships with neighbours, which is a particularly valuable resource for many children with disabilities. Another cause for concern is the fact that the SRS only covers households with tenure, which begs the question of the impact on children from households who live in rental accommodation, and who are more likely to be from poorer, recent migrant households. Thus the impact of the SRS process on the social lives of children with disabilities appears to be influenced not only by their disability, but also by other aspects of their social identities, such as their household income or occupation, and whether or not they come from established or recent immigrant households.

This research reinforces the fact that working to support the well-being of slum dwellers needs to be based on an understanding of the complexity of their needs and aspirations. The case of the girls and boys with whom the ASHA project works shows that assuming that residents all want the same thing from slum improvement projects, and that they will all be able to benefit in the same way, is problematic. The challenge therefore is to generate interventions that endorse complexity in a manner that deepens the understanding of the relationship between housing and poverty, tackling the causes of inequality while at the same time allowing space for responses that address immediate needs. This is not ground breaking news, but still seems to be a lesson which is all too easily forgotten, and one which we need to remember if we are to make progress in achieving the MDG target 11 in a way which really improves the well-being of the diverse and most deprived women and men, girls and boys living in slums.

1 McGregor, J.A., (2006), '**Research Well-Being: From Concepts to Methodology**', WeD Working Paper 20, ESRC Research Group on Well-Being in Developing Countries, p.2

2 Sen, Amartya, (1993), '**Capability and Well-being.**' In M. Nussbaum & A.K. Sen (Eds), '**The Quality of Life**' Oxford: Clarendon

Urban Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

The DPU's on-going research on urban agriculture and food sovereignty has included a number of initiatives over the last year. Firstly, research into *"Pro-poor legal and institutional aspects of urban and peri-urban agriculture"*, coordinated by **Yves Cabannes**, was financed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). This focuses on the shrinking food security of cities and the urban poor and the contribution that Urban and Peri Urban Agriculture is making to this food crisis. The consolidation and scaling-up of urban agriculture initiatives requires changes in the existing legal and institutional frameworks at local, national and international levels. One particular area of analysis is the means to empower the poor, primarily as producers. The research looked at national and international policy and institutional frameworks and enabling environments on urban agriculture, and selected practical examples to highlight innovative experiences from cities such as Beijing, Kampala, Accra, Belo Horizonte, Havana, Rosario and Vancouver, and from countries such as Brazil and Cuba. FAO's interest in urban agriculture innovations, in the context of fuel price rises and climate change, is opening a new door in supporting cities to play a role in feeding their inhabitants. DPU alumni from 2009/2010 contributed to the production city profile case studies, and Karol Yañez, a DPU PhD student working on food sovereignty, assisted Yves Cabannes. The final report will be published as a book by the FAO in 2011.

The DPU has also been involved in a research and exchange programme on *"Peri-urban agriculture in Lisbon and London: generating social inclusion and urban biodiversity"* financed by the Treaty of Windsor Anglo-Portuguese Joint Research Program. This addresses two underlying questions: To what extent does urban agriculture contribute to the social inclusion of migrants? and; Does urban agriculture practised by migrant population and migrant descendants contribute to the expansion of biodiversity in cities? A comparative analysis of current urban agriculture practices in London and Lisbon was carried out in allotments, gardens and spaces far from the centre of each one of these capital cities. In both cases,



Above: Irrigated urban agriculture in Inner Accra, Ghana (Pascale Hofmann)

a high proportion of migrant population is involved in two different frameworks: regulated in London and non-regulated in Lisbon. This project was developed jointly by teams from the DPU (PhD Student Karol Yanez, Paola Guzman, Rita Valencia, MSc Development Administration and Planning 2006-7, and PhD Student Marina Chang) and the Faculty of Architecture of Lisbon Technical University (FAUTL) (Silvia Jorge, Jorge Cancela and Juliana Torquato), under the coordination of **Yves Cabannes** and **Robert Biel** for DPU and Isabel Raposo for Lisbon. Isabel and Yves prepared a paper to be published in 2011, titled *"Peri-urban agriculture, social inclusion of migrant population and right to the city: practices in Lisbon and London"*.

A third program on the topic, financed through the UCL Grand Challenges Fund, looks at *"How to achieve food security in London through urban agriculture"*. Marina Chang (DPU PhD student) conducted the research, under the coordination of **Robert Biel** and **Yves Cabannes** from the DPU (see page 14 of this DPU News for details).

Finally a programme on *credit and financing practices for urban and peri urban agriculture* was funded by ETC/RUAF, the Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture and Food Security. Over the last three years, RUAF conducted a large research program with 17 partner cities: in Asia (Beijing, Shanghai, Gampaha and Magadi), the Arab region (Amman and Sanaa), Africa (Ibadan, Bobo Dioulasso, Bulawayo, Cape Town, Freetown, Ndola, Accra, Porto Novo) and Latin America (Lima, Bogota and Belo Horizonte). The work explored current practices of institutions that finance urban agriculture or other informal productive

activities (like micro-enterprise development) and the existing opportunities, difficulties and bottlenecks for financing small scale urban and peri-urban agriculture they encounter. The research also looked into the needs and demands for finance from urban poor engaged in urban agriculture, agro-processing or marketing. The DPU component of the research, conducted by **Yves Cabannes**, draws lessons from the locally based research and formulates recommendations to facilitate small-scale urban agriculture producers', processors' and vendors' access to finance.

Small Towns Water & Sanitation Delivery: Taking a Wider View

From March 2010, **Adriana Allen** acted as member of an Expert Advisory Panel for a research project jointly conducted by WaterAid and Building Partnerships in Water and Sanitation, which synthesises a wealth of discussions, interviews, observations, analysis and "out-of-the box" thought around the factors that influence water and sanitation service delivery in small towns. The project was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and covered Bangladesh, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. The final project report was produced by Ken Caplan and Erik Harvey and can be accessed at: www.wateraid.org/documents/plugin_documents/small_towns_synthesis_reportfinaleng.pdf. French and Portuguese versions of the report will soon be available on the WaterAid website.



The Ilisu Dam: Negotiating the Future of Hasankeyf and the Tigris River Valley

Windsor Workshop, November 2010, Cumberland Lodge

The building of the Ilisu Dam on the lower Tigris River in South-eastern Turkey has been an ongoing prospect for almost 60 years. This dam, which would create a power capacity of 1,200 MW and is expected to produce 3,800 GWh of power per year, is part of a long-term plan to develop the poor, mainly Kurdish-populated South-east region of Turkey. The state plans that the dam, which is part of the South-east Anatolia Development Project, will create up to 10,000 jobs, irrigate farmlands and attract tourists. However, many local and international groups are against the dam project because it will flood the Tigris Valley causing the eviction and involuntary resettlement of 185 settlements, with 55,000-65,000 people, and will submerge many cultural heritage sites in the region, including the ancient town of Hasankeyf, located in Batman Province along the banks of the Tigris River. The town of Hasankeyf and its surrounding limestone cliffs are

home to thousands of human-made caves (troglodyte dwellings), hundreds of medieval monuments and a unique canyon ecosystem. It may be one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited settlements, having been inhabited by about 20 different civilizations, including Assyrians, Persians, Romans, Byzantines, Abbasids. In recent years, the Ilisu Dam project has stalled several times due to financing constraints of international funders and problems around meeting international standards for assessing and reducing environmental and social impacts of the project. Today, in 2011, work on the construction of the dam has started, with finance from Turkish banks, in parallel with the construction of the replacement settlement for Hasankeyf, on the opposite bank of the Tigris above the proposed flood line.

In November 2010, the three-day residential, 'Windsor Workshop' held at Cumberland Lodge for DPU MSc students was based on a simulation exercise of the situation of Ilisu Dam Project, where students took on the role of different actors and formulated strategies to contribute to the negotiation process within the framework of the recently-formed Regional

Above: View of Hasankeyf (Cassidy Johnson)

Development Authorities.

The preparation of the case study was based on the outputs of a workshop organised by DPU, the University of Stuttgart and Nature Association of Turkey (Doga Dernigi) called 'Alternative Futures for Hasankeyf', which was held 5-12 October 2010 in Hasankeyf and sought to initiate a strategic planning process for the development of the village. The workshop was led by the DPU's **Cassidy Johnson**, Anette Gangler (Stuttgart University) and Yasar Adanalı (DPU Alumni 2005-6, Social Development Practice). Recent MSc graduates from the DPU, Krista Canellakis (MSc Building and Urban Design for Development 2009-2010), Benjamin Leclair Paquet (MSc Building and Urban Design for Development 2008-9), Katarina Soltesova (MSc Urban Development Planning 2008-2009) and Nick Wolff (MSc Building and Urban Design for Development 2009-10) took part in the workshops in Hasankeyf and Windsor, including assisting in preparing the case study materials for the Windsor workshop.

Identifying Sources of Vulnerability for Urban Girls and Boys in Arusha, Tanzania

Social Development Practice Field-trip 2010

The field trip to Tanzania was probably the most exciting experience of the Master's, which gave us the possibility to travel to a wonderful place and work as social development practitioners. The SDP students were to undertake a consultancy, on the request of the Department of Community Development Gender and Children of the Arusha Municipal Council. The brief was to identify sources of vulnerability for boys and girls (12 – 15) living in urban wards in Arusha, and to critically review the approaches taken by the Municipality to address their problems. The teams were also asked to produce a report which should map this situation and offer recommendations to improve the identification of 'Most Vulnerable Children' (MVCs) to enhance the effectiveness of policies aimed at reducing their number.

We worked with local partners from Community Development Training Institute (CDTI) Tengeru, a tertiary education college in Arusha. Our team was very happy to work with our local partners, Kochecha and Arcado, who were valuable members and amazing country hosts, and who enhanced our work and experience in Arusha. As a group we blended, in an intense environment, sharing our lives for two weeks. Respect, patience and leadership were key traits for good group work.

Developing the consultancy was as exciting as it was challenging, and sometimes sad. The stakeholders that we worked with included boys and girls, parents, guardians, teachers, civil servants, NGOs, and CBOs. We had to design different tools for every group, understanding how a "one size fits all" approach is not applicable for social research. After gathering information we

began to understand a complex reality. The incidence of AIDS, the prevalence of poverty, the lack of legal instruments, and weak institutional relationships between different actors working on child poverty were some of the many constraints preventing children from living a life they value and achieving their dreams. We discussed the findings in a general meeting with project stakeholders, where interesting discussions emerged from key institutions that showed interest in going deeper into some of the findings. One of the key outcomes identified during this workshop was the need for stronger institutional coordination between the municipal departments responsible for the welfare of vulnerable children and the many NGOs working in the urban wards where we had conducted the research.

One frustration that some of my colleagues expressed was that, while the field trip was an excellent learning experience, they felt our work was not able to impact on the lives of the children. However, in my view, like any development practitioners, we faced difficult realities as facilitators of change. These are long processes requiring socially sensitive approaches that understand difference, respect diversity and build on local knowledge to contribute to development as defined by local people. Therefore, as well as providing a rich source of knowledge about the role of the development practitioner, it was also an opportunity to identify and support process of positive change, even if the outcomes of this process were not immediately visible.

Diana Daste, MSc Social Development Practices 2009-2010



Right: A Ward Office in Arusha in one of the communities that the SPD students worked with (Julian Walker)

Justice in the Green

Mapping Local Perspectives in the Appropriation of Hackney Marshes and Surrounding Green Spaces in the light of the Olympics Legacy Process

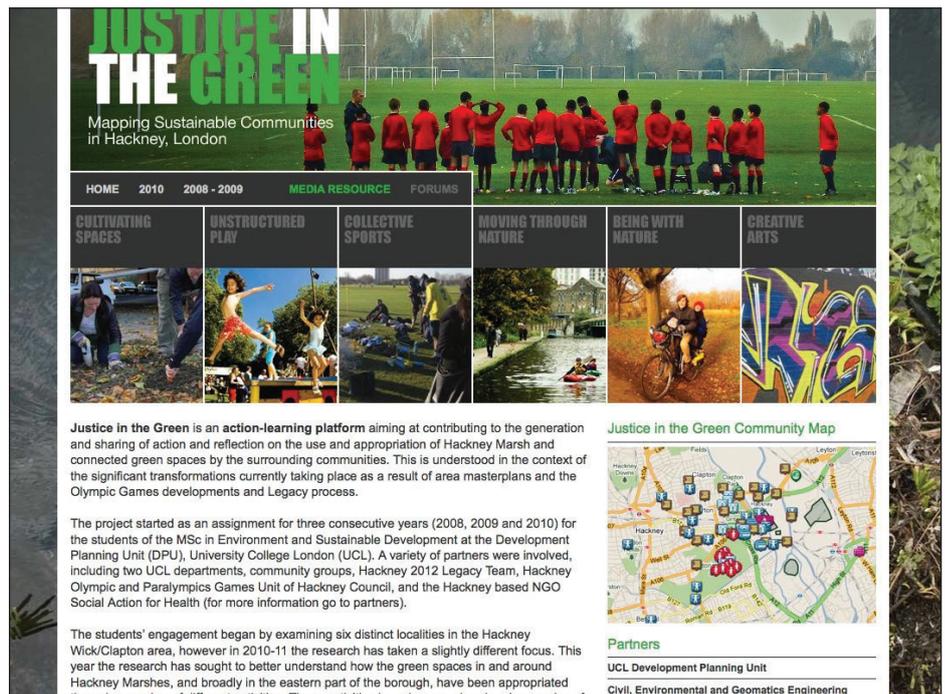
Justice in the Green is an action research-oriented initiative, which is part of the DPU's MSc in Environment and Sustainable Development. It was coordinated this year by **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** and **Pascale Hofmann** and supported by **Matthew Wood-Hill** in association with UCL Civil, Environmental and Geomatics Engineering Department. With funding from UCL's Bridging the Gaps programme MSc students, UCL staff, alumni and community members have been involved in investigating and mapping different experiences in open green spaces in and around Hackney Marshes to understand their potential contribution to the enhancement of environmental justice in the area. The project uses the concept of street science, with an emphasis on combining community knowledge with professional techniques in order to develop better solutions for the community.

Under the supervision of UCL staff, students have applied a range of participatory research techniques to gather data on the ground. The project provided training to staff and students on the use of mapping and audio-visual techniques and emphasised the application of those tools as an effective way to engage and collaborate with local community groups and members of the public. The students presented their findings to community representatives in January 2011, drawing substantially on the maps and audio-visual material collected throughout their research, and produced a number of audio-visual reports. These fed into the creation of a web-based interactive map of the area including community testimonies and other forms of evidence collected on the ground. To assure effective sharing of the work, a dissemination and network event took place in Hackney and the work also features on the Justice in the Green website, which was produced as part of last year's project. It is hoped that the interactive map and the website will continue to be used and appropriated by community members after the completion of this research.

www.justiceinthegreen.org.uk

Launch of BUDDlab Publication Series

In November 2010 the DPU issued the first volume of a new publication series investigating the work of the MSc Building & Urban Design in Development (BUDD) course. The series, 'BUDDlab', is a unique



channel of expression on theoretical discourses and practical exercises in spatialised development practice.

Volume one focuses on the Wales Workshop, a core component of the BUDD practice module, which facilitates a reflective process of design and making. The workshop unfolds over three days at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Wales, led by Maurice Mitchell in an environment that nurtures team building and exploration with locally available, natural materials. The experience of establishing goals and working with limited time and resources allows BUDD students to negotiate their room for manoeuvre, in a situation with strong parallels to practical development fieldwork.

The publication relates the story of the Wales Workshop from the perspectives of several alumni. These brief articles recount the experiences and lessons learned from team-based building exercises, returning to the notion of the reflective practitioner (a concept that is nurtured throughout the BUDD course). As a process rather than product-oriented workshop, the experience at CAT approaches the obstacles, constraints and limits as learning tools. By actively reflecting upon such boundaries, students are able to articulate revised strategies for building and making that demonstrate real-time progress.

In 2011, the workshop shifted scale into a three-day exercise of urban analysis and spatial intervention in Brescia, Italy, in which, students devised socially-rooted spatial strategies in two selected sites of the

Above: Homepage of www.justiceinthegreen.org.uk

city (see students in the City of Euphemia, below). Reflections on this experience will be collected in a forthcoming issue of BUDDlab, which will be available for download from the DPU website. BUDDlab Vol1 is available online at: www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/courses/masters/msc_building/buddlab_1/BUDDlab_Volume1.pdf

Students in the 'City of Euphemia'

The MSc Building & Urban Design in Development (BUDD) course initiated an intensive three-day design charrette in Brescia, Italy from 11-14 March 2011, as a part of the course's practice module. Provoked by a critical and creative reading of the 'City of Euphemia' from Italo Calvino's seminal text *Invisible Cities*, students explored possible catalytic urban interventions that highlight, mobilise and ultimately transform existing social activity and reconsider the notion of 'openness' and 'ambivalence' in two specific sites in Brescia. The city's history as both the hub of Italian weapons manufacturing and the subsequent emergence of the Non-violence Movement offered a rich subtext in which to trace the narrative of society's interactions with space.

Through various self-organised urban mapping techniques, supplemented with field interviews with the local and migrant population, students distilled primary research information into guides for design

capitalisation. This method served as a quick introduction to development fieldwork, testing possible strategies for the upcoming international field trip to Bangkok. The exercise concluded with presentations of socially-rooted spatial strategies to local partners from the Local Embassy for Democracy on the final



Above: BUDD Students Jose di Girolamo and Magda Assanowicz in Brescia (Noor Al Ghafari)

morning, resulting in new glimpses into the potential for design to act as a catalyst for transformation within the specific context of Brescia.

Post-Disaster Interdisciplinary Scenario Seminar (ISS)

In June 2010 a multi-disciplinary group of around 40 students from the Development Planning Unit, the MSc in Earthquake Engineering with Disaster Management and the Bartlett School of Planning took part in a Post-disaster Scenario Seminar.

The seminar, funded by the Executive Sub-Committee on Innovations in Learning, Teaching and Assessment (ESCILTA), a University College London (UCL) Academic Committee grant, was an interdisciplinary one in which students in mixed teams were challenged to develop a recovery plan for the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake (Pakistan) based on data sourced 2 months after the event.

Organized by **Camillo Boano** (DPU), Tiziana Rossetto and John Twigg (CEGE), the seminar was part of a collaborative inter-departmental effort uniting common interests in Disasters, Recovery, Vulnerabilities and Resilience. Benjamin Leclair-Paquet (DPU Alumnus and resident in Decolonizing Architecture) and Helen Bottomley (Student in Earth Sciences) assisted staff in the preparation and facilitation of the seminar. Ms. Maggie

Stephenson, Mr. Habib Mughal and Mr. Sheik Ashan Ahmed, all of UN-Habitat Pakistan, helped the organizers to prepare and develop the scenario presented to the participants. On the day of the seminar, UN staff and Maira Zahur (an NGO activist) attended remotely via skype connection, interacting with participants in the different phases by providing input, answering questions and commenting on the recovery plans developed by the students.

During the development of the scenario, participants were given valuable input from various experts in order to strengthen their preparation in the sequential steps of the exercise. Invaluable contributions were made by Victoria Batchelor (Arup International Development) and Babar Mumtaz (Independent Consultant and DPU Associate), who also provided additional input with closing feedback and reflective comments. The scenario articulated the chain of consequences resulting from the earthquake in the specific setting of Pakistan. It was designed to provoke a careful examination of all the assumptions on which interventions are based, including the impact on long-term actions, the potential disruption of resettlement, the vulnerabilities of the built environment and rural-urban nexus. Such complexity was useful both for testing students' abilities to respond effectively to practical problems and also as a reflective tool to elaborate conceptual insights on disaster theories and debates.

The exercise strengthened collaborative relationships with departments in UCL and provided students with a unique learning experience that will hone skills of communication, teamwork, and holistic thinking on disaster and disaster recovery, complementing the curricular in-class training experience. A new seminar is planned in the third term in 2011.

Dialogues in Development

DPU continues its discussions series on cutting edge development issues. 'Dialogues in Development' sessions in 2010 and 2011 have covered a range of issues related to urban development, sustainable resource use, and human well-being.

In June 2010 Mihir Shah (Member, Indian Planning Commission) gave a talk on "Institutional Challenges of the Twelfth Indian 5 Year Plan (2012-2017): The Example of Planning Water for the Future". In July 2010, Jutta Gutberlet, (Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Canada) discussed 'Inclusive resource recovery from waste or incineration technology: Challenges and

experiences from Brazil'. In September 2010 Neela Mukherjee (Field Researcher and Practitioner on community perspectives and sustainable development) discussed "Conflict, Security and Poverty Reduction Measuring Human Security in West Bengal, India". On World Habitat Day, in October 2010, Michael Safier (DPU Associate) posed the question "Can we have the Better Cities we want? Reflecting on the realities of City Life in the 21st century" and Peter Williams, of ARCHIVE (Architecture for Health In Vulnerable Environments) made a presentation on "Building Global Health - Better Habitat, Better Health". In January 2011, Sabina Alkire (Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative) presented her work on the 'Multidimensional Poverty Index: The Implications for Policy and Planning of the New MPI, released in the 2010 Human Development Report'. Also in January 2011, Maggie Stephenson (UN HABITAT, Pakistan) talked on "Longitudinal Reflections on Disaster Recovery in Pakistan, 2005-2010". In March 2011, DPU's Yves Cabannes and Cassidy Johnson, and Malavika Vartak (Amnesty International) ran a session on "How people face evictions: lessons from community resistances in nine cities".

dpu dialogues in development

Longitudinal reflections on disaster recovery, experiences in Pakistan (2005-2010)
A development practitioner in disastrous situation

Maggie Stephenson
UN-HABITAT Pakistan: Development and post disaster / post conflict recovery programmes.

Combining her experience as practitioner in the field working with NGOs, UN agencies and Governments in addition to her sensibility and background as Architect and Urban Designer. Maggie will present her most recent long experience in Pakistan to reflect on disasters and recovery intervention in the field of built environment from the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake to 2010 massive floods. She will offer the audience a stimuli for debating the role of architecture, urban design and planning, the role of technical assistance, the critical institutional frameworks built in such contested environments as well as the role of production of knowledge and practice.

Wednesday 26th
January 2011
17:45 to 19:00
Room 105,
DPU Building

All welcome to attend

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Finally in March 2011, Professor Thandika Mkandawire (Chair in African Development at the London School of Economics) discussed "Transformative social policy and poverty" looking at the ideas and debates that fed into the UNRISD's latest flagship report: "Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics".

Networks and Meetings

Glass Half Empty: Urban Water Poverty in 2010

Urban water poverty has its roots not in water scarcity, but in social inequity. Every day, 180,000 people are added to the world's urban population. One-sixth of the world's population lives in slums or squatter settlements, most without access to adequate water and sanitation, and at risk of being evicted. The urban poor often spend up to 25 percent of their income on water.

To mark the mid-point of the international decade of 'Water for Life' and the last five years of the Millennium Development Goals, the UCL Grand Challenge of Sustainable Cities held a public panel discussion and an expert symposium from May and June 2010 on the topic of urban water poverty. These two events were organised by **Adriana Allen** and Sarah Bell (UCL Civil, Geomatic & Environmental Engineering). For more information please visit: www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainable-cities/water/water-poverty.pdf

As an outcome of the above events, a special issue of the International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development (www.tandf.co.uk/journals/IJUSD) will be published in the summer, edited by **Adriana Allen** and Sarah Bell. Papers address urban water poverty issues from disciplines such as development studies, hydrology, engineering, sociology and urban geography, and include case studies from Mexico, Bangladesh, Colombia and India among other countries. The collection represents a diversity of approaches and the need for rigorous evidence to support policy making, as well as critical engagement to ensure the needs of the urban poor are met when decisions are made about urban water management.

Danube Macro-regional Development Strategy Workshop

In November 2010, five graduates of the MSc Building & Urban Design in Development course participated in an international urban development workshop hosted by Studio Metropolitana in Budapest. After creating a cooperative platform for knowledge exchange and discussion, 'DunaLog – Danube Urban Dialogue', Studio Metropolitana gathered participants from universities in Budapest, Istanbul, Bucharest, Delft and London for a four-



day, intensive and collaborative workshop. Architects, urban designers, planners, economists and geographers debated methods of reconceptualising the role of the Danube river both within Budapest and on the larger regional scale, leveraging the river as a spine of cohesive development, crossing national boundaries.



After the first day, four structuring concepts emerged to drive the proposals and define working groups – 'Attractors', 'High Street', 'Danube Grande' and 'Design' – all of which were facilitated by PhD candidate Sasha Zanko of the Berlage Institute. Within this guiding framework, groups prepared strategies addressing issues of transport, housing, infrastructure, marketing, and the greater symbolic importance of the Danube and its relationship to the city.

The strategy and design proposals that emerged from the workshop will be utilised by Studio Metropolitana and Roevelvd Sikkis Architects to move the EU funded development strategy forward with new proposals. DPU graduates played a significant role, with Ders Csaba (MSc Urban Development Planning, 2008-2009) as the project manager for establishing the workshop and structure plan, and BUDD

alumni from 2008-10, Krista Canellakis, Marisol García González, Benjamin Leclair-Paquet, Gynna Millan, and Andrew Wade, working with each group.

Partners in Practica

'*Re-Imagining the World-Class City*' was the title of the first Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) Practica ran from the 3rd to the 9th of January 2011 in Bengaluru (Bangalore). With the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, DPU has worked closely with IIHS in the development of the curriculum for this new and visionary higher education institution. **Caren Levy** attended the event as part of the Practica Team, accompanied by **Vanesa Castan Broto**, who shared her previous research on housing and climate change in Bengaluru. In addition to IIHS staff, the team brought together other partners from Ove Arup, Columbia University and MIT. Some 60 undergraduates, postgraduates and young professionals gathered to explore the current and future implications of globalising Indian cities and regions, to re-imagine the notion of the 'world-class city' and to engage with alternative visions and debates about more inclusive development in India that is transformative in character and meets the demands of a sustainable urbanism in the next decade.



Opposite page, top: Informal water vendor in the Greater Cairo Region, Egypt

Opposite page, middle: Gynna Millan (MSc BUDD '09) shares feedback on the design proposals

Opposite page, below: Participants at the IIHS Practica

DPU Staff Networking

A number of DPU staff actively contributed to the **2050 Vision: UK-Brazil Urban Network** research network, led by Dr Ramin Keivani with funding from the Future of Cities Programme based at the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD). For more details visit: www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/oisd/urbanpolicy/network/index.html

Yves Cabannes participated in the World Social Forum in Dakar, Senegal, in February 2011 which included the World Assembly of Inhabitants. Yves coordinated the session on housing and land cooperatives, and participated in the panel on 'Evictions, and how to face them'. He was also involved in the 'Exchange program of African experiences of Participatory Budgeting' organized by Enda Ecopop, and the global session on participatory budgeting, organized by the Forum of Local Authorities (FAL).

In November 2010, **Yves Cabannes** was invited to the World Congress of Cities and Local Governments and delivered presentations on '*Local currencies as an alternative to the crisis*' and on '*Current answers from communities and Local Governments to the economic crisis*' as well as training on Participatory Budgeting for municipal officers and community leaders from Itzapalapa, one of the poorest municipalities of Mexico City.

Julio Davila presented some initial findings from the DPU research on '*Local Governance, Urban Mobility and Poverty*

Reduction. Lessons from Medellin, Colombia' at two conferences: '*Informality: Re-Viewing Latin American Cities*' at the Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge (February 2011) and '*Services en Réseau dans les Villes en Développement*' (SeRVeD) Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires, Sociétés Paris, (December 2010).

Camillo Boano participated in the panel on '*Preparing for a more disaster-resilient future*' at the UCL Disaster Institute, as part of the '*Thinking Development in Haiti Week*', in November 2010, presenting a paper on '*The challenge of translating resilience*'. Camillo also participated at the Oxford Brookes University '*Improving learning and practice in the humanitarian shelter sector Conference*' in September 2010, held at the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP). He presented a paper on '*Architecture at risk: Are Lefebvre and Foucault useful in practice?*'

Cassidy Johnson organized a review panel meeting on '*Regulatory Framework in Planning and Building for Disaster Risk Reduction*' at the DPU in September 2010. This was a peer review meeting for the 2011 Global Assessment report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR11).

Cassidy Johnson gave the keynote presentation at the British Red Cross launch of the 2010 World Disasters Report at Overseas Development Institute in October 2010. The 2010 issue of The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' **World Disasters Report** was on '*Urban Risk*.' **David Satterthwaite** was

editor in the early stages of the report and the chapter on 'urban trends' was written by Cassidy Johnson, and looked at the relationship between urban growth and the impacts of disaster events in urban areas.

Camillo Boano will be part of the jury for the International Competition '*Kay e Sante nan Ayiti*', organized by ARCHIVE INSTITUTE. This competition focuses on health and housing and will lead to the construction of five housing units in St. Marc, Haiti (a coastal town approximately 100 km north of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince). What makes this project unique is its focus on health throughout the entire process, from design, and construction through to habitation.

Academic Exchanges

In 2010-2011 **Yves Cabannes** has delivered guest lectures at various universities on his main areas of research: Participatory Budgeting and its contribution to Participatory Democracy (University of Rosario, Universidad de los Lagos, for the Cameroon, National Network of Inhabitants, the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, and the UNED, University for Distance Learning, Madrid); the revitalization of low income neighborhoods without evictions (FAUTL, Technical University of Lisbon, Faculty of Architecture), and; land rights and evictions (EPFL, Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne) and a more recent one on the contribution that local and regional currencies can make to local development (Coimbra University).

DPU Blog

The DPU Blog was created in February 2010, but it has really taken off since November 2010 with consistent posting of articles exploring development planning issues. This is reflected in the significant number of visitors (just over 6,000 visits in March 2011 since first going live). The blog has been managed by **Gynna Millan** (MSc Building and Urban Design for Development Alumni and DPU web design consultant) and used for a variety of purposes. We have disseminated information about upcoming events and discussions taking place at the DPU, such as the Haiti Panel organized by **Cassidy Johnson** on March 03, 2010. The blog has also been used as a space to share

some reflections related to current activities carried out by DPU staff, such as the DPU/ASF-UK workshop in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil (by **Alexandre Apsan Frediani**) and Metrocable research in Colombia (by **Diana Daste**). DPU bloggers (composed of DPU Alumni and staff) have also examined specific issues related to their involvement in the field of development, such as the new model for future energy management Smart Grids (by Tina Ziegler), the impacts of mega events on housing rights in Brazil (by Julia Azevedo Moretti), and reports from the 361 Degrees conference on Design & Informal Cities in Bombay (by Pooja Varma and Laura Colloridi). Furthermore, the blog has been

used to share provocative reflections from DPU staff, such as the post by **Camillo Boano** on Borders and Frontiers in Jerusalem and **Matthew Wood-Hill's** post questioning the links between the Fifa World Cup and Development.

The blog is an open channel of communication among DPU students, Alumni and Staff so it values inputs of the DPU community at large, welcoming contributions. If you have a short article that you would like to submit for publication, write to dev.plan.unit@googlemail.com.

Check it out and join the on-going discussions at: <http://developmentplanningunit.wordpress.com>

Training and Advisory Services

Working Group on Regeneration in Istanbul

Following the three-year DPU engagement of MSc field trips in Istanbul, Turkey (2007, 2008 and 2010), in February 2011, DPU hosted a workshop in London for the 'Istanbul Regeneration Work Group', a delegation of 25 influential public and private sector professionals interested in improving practices of regeneration in Istanbul. This focussed on regeneration in London, looking at the legal and policy frameworks for planning, housing and land management, multi-stakeholder planning, participatory processes and social impacts of regeneration. Lecturers included, Gerard Burgess (Greater London Authority), **Yves Cabannes** (DPU) Scott Adams (Urban Design Skills) and visits to Borough of Southwark, Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Greenwich, CH2MHill, and Greenwich Peninsula, Lend Lease Europe. **Cassidy Johnson**, Nick Wolff (DPU alumnus 2010) and Michael Edwards (Bartlett School of Planning) convened the workshop.

Somaliland International Election Observation

On June 26 2010, Somaliland held the second presidential election since their self-declared independence in 1991. DPU's **Michael Walls**, was one of a team of three coordinating the UK-assisted International Election Observation mission for the poll. The coordinating team were based in Hargeisa for a month, observing much of the campaign as well as the election itself and the declaration of results. While there were problems in some areas (most notably a brief conflict near Kala Baydh in Sool region) the election ran remarkably smoothly, especially considering the bitter political wrangling that preceded it. Ultimately, the opposition candidate was declared the victor, and the transition of power from the defeated incumbent proceeded within the time allotted. This, in itself, is a remarkable achievement.

DPU and ASF-UK workshop on participatory design in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil

In early 2011 **Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, with a team from Architecture Sans Frontieres UK, coordinated a two week

workshop in Salvador, Brazil in partnership with the urban social movement MSTB (Movimento dos Sem Teto da Bahia). There were 18 international participants of different nationalities, ages and backgrounds working with Paraiso, an organized land occupation group composed of 80 households. The workshop aimed both to expose participants to participatory design and planning tools, and to generate design guidelines for Paraiso to support the process of housing consolidation on the occupied site. Workshop outputs included a tool-kit with the methodologies used in a video and written format, a report of the work done, and posters illustrating main findings with principles and guidelines for consolidation.

The workshop was well timed as a means of advocating for participation in the process of elaborating social housing schemes. Recently the nationwide housing programme "Minha Casa Minha Vida" (funded by the federal government) commissioned construction companies to build housing without any opportunity for participation of social movements or local communities. As a reaction, the workshop had great support from all actors involved: MSTB as means to raise their advocacy, local practitioners for getting access to new approaches and methodologies, and the state government of Bahia to generate opportunities for more socially sensitive housing solutions.

In this spirit, the coordinators of the workshop ran an additional 2-day workshop in the occupation site of Escada (where the workshop in 2009 took place), involving the community, representatives from the secretary of urban development of the state government (SEDUR) and the contractors that are developing the housing project for the site.

Gender Equality and Decent Work

From November 2010 to February 2011 **Julian Walker**, working with DPU Associates Nadia Taher and Claudy Vouhe, undertook an evaluation of the International Labour Office (ILO) Government of Norway Funded 'BASIC Project on Gender Equality in the World of Work in Brazil, Angola, South Africa, India and China'. The project aims to promote the work of the ILO and its constituents in placing gender equality 'at the heart of decent work' in

the five project countries. The evaluation involved missions to the ILO headquarters in Geneva, the international training centre in Turin and two country missions to Brazil and India.

One of the key contributions of the BASIC project, highlighted by the evaluation, has been supporting the standard setting process for proposed new international labour standards on decent work for domestic workers, which, if adopted and subsequently ratified, would have a significant impact on gender equality, as this field of employment is typically dominated by women workers, vulnerable to exploitation and working with very low levels of labour protection. The work that the project has done to support the rights of domestic workers in Brazil, China and India (research, mobilisation, awareness raising and policy development) is likely to have an important impact when the proposed convention is discussed at the 2011 International Labour Convention in June 2011.

Health and Women's Empowerment in Kyrgyzstan

In June 2010, **Julian Walker** led a gender analysis of the Kyrgyz, Swiss, Swedish Health Project (KSSHP). The KSSHP is a national rural health promotion programme which has been progressively established across Kyrgyzstan since 2001, run by the Swiss Red Cross, with the support of the Swiss Development Cooperation and the Swedish International Development Agency.



Above: Village Health Committee members at a focus group for the KSSHP evaluation (Julian Walker)

Connections

News from former DPU students and friends

The project has been implemented through the creation of and support to Village Health Committees (VHCs) across the remoter areas of the country. Julian's gender analysis built on his previous work with the project in 2003 and was intended to feed into the wider evaluation of the KSSHP, by examining the extent to which the project had been able to empower women and promote gender equality.

One of the interesting findings of the analysis related to the complex relationship between women's participation in the Health Committees, and their empowerment. On the one hand, the project relies very heavily on the unpaid work of women volunteers, who are the vast majority of VHC members, placing still more demands on their time, and, furthermore, these demands relate to health care, which is already seen as a stereotypically female domain in which men do not customarily participate. On the other hand, the VHCs act as a springboard for women to move into other areas of public life and local politics, which is critical, given the limited participation of women in local politics in the Kyrgyz Republic.

A challenge for the programme, therefore, is to address the trade off between continuing to support the VHCs as a space for women's political empowerment, and pushing for men to take a greater role in health promotion activities – and specifically, how to promote men's involvement without undermining women's leadership and solidarity in the VHCs.

Cities, Climate Change and Development

Harriet Bulkeley and **Vanesa Castán Broto** prepared a memorandum on "*Cities, climate change and development*" as written evidence for the Environmental Audit Committee inquiry on "The impact of UK overseas aid on environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation". The memorandum reports results from an ESRC project on "Urban Transitions: global cities, climate change and the transformation of socio-technical systems" in which Vanesa worked as a post-doctoral researcher until joining the DPU in January 2011.

After successfully passing his PhD examination in October 2009, **Ernesto Lopez** is now back in his post as lecturer at the University of Chile where he has been appointed Academic Director of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning. The Faculty has 2,500 students and comprises the Schools of Architecture, Urban Planning, Geography and Design. He is in charge of accreditation, programme restructuring and international relations, promoting academic exchanges between the Faculty and overseas institutions.

After a stint as an HIV Data Gathering Intern Project Officer with Help Age International, **Sandy Picken** (MSc Social Development Practice 2008-10) has now taken up a permanent project officer position there which focuses on monitoring, evaluation and learning. She recently returned from a trip to Kenya to meet her new colleagues. It's good to know that she thinks the work done in the SDP Practice Module will come in very useful. She says that 'participatory M&E is definitely the way to go.'

Travis Woodward (MSc Environment and Sustainable Development 2008-9) is working as a research analyst for Bloomberg New Energy Finance in Tokyo. New Energy Finance is a company based in London, and was acquired by Bloomberg in December 2009. He is working on project finance and venture capital opportunities in renewables and carbon markets as well as energy policy.

Dinara Shurshenova (MSc Development Administration and Planning DAP 2006-7) is working in Astana, Kazakhstan, for the North Caspian Operating Company.

Frida Khan (MSc Development Administration and Planning 2005-6) is working for the International Labour Organisation, in the Pakistan office, heading a national project on Promoting Gender Equality and Decent Employment, funded by CIDA. It is a five year project, which builds well on her previous experience at the National Vocational and Technical Education Commission and she is pleased that it gives her many opportunities to apply her DPU learning.

Paola Palestini (MSc Development Administration and Planning 2009-10) is working for UNICEF in Togo, as a consultant to provide support in the development of donor proposal and reports in the policy and partnership department.

Joe Penny (MSc Social Development Practice 2009-2010) took an internship over the summer with a community development consultancy, Micah Gold Associates, and now has a permanent job there as a Policy & Projects Officer.

Jin-ho Chung (MSc Environment and Sustainable Development 2007-8), has joined the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Small Grant Programme in Ethiopia as a UNDP assistant to climate change implementation and plans to return to UCL to conduct a PhD on this subject in the near future.

Nathalie Mahieu (MSc Social Development Practice 2009-10) is working at Plan UK and is responsible for finding suitable projects for corporate partners to invest in and then manage the identified projects.

Melissa Johnson (MSc Social Development Practice 2008-9) is back in Jamaica and working as a consultant on a youth employability project for marginalised communities. She says that 'most nights I wonder what I got myself into. It's a very big project being undertaken by a company with 1.5 consultants. I think when the resources did not even allow for a proper scope of work to be done that should have been a sign for me to run in the opposite direction'. However, it's good to know that she is 'applying all the skills that she learnt on the course to first cope, then manage, and hopefully thrive'.. Melissa's experience as a member of a HELO (Higher Education London Outreach) award winning team for their work with the Natural Harvest Cafe social enterprise based in East Ham hospital should also provide some useful input. www.ucl.ac.uk/advances/business/support/helo/firstfruit

In the last year the DPU has had three completed PhDs. **Paivi Inkeri Auramaa** completed her PhD on *'The Production of Infrastructure in Partnership with Communities: Does Participation make Owners?'*. **Michael Walls** completed his PhD on *'The Emergence of a Somali State: Building Peace from Civil War in Somaliland'*. **Hong Yao Zeng** also completed a PhD on *'The Impact of Fiscal Decentralization and Market Transition on Local Public Finance in China: Fiscal Inadequacy and Unmet Social Security Needs'*.



Above: The new DPU PhD group

The DPU has also had a big influx of new PhD students. Current MPhil/PhD student interests include: Housing Policies; Agri-environmental Policy; Urban Violence Prevention; Disaster Risk Reduction; Urban Heritage Conservation; Urban Eco-Neighborhoods; Gender, Housing and Planning; Social Entrepreneurship; Post-Conflict Reconstruction, and; Urban Eco-neighbourhoods.

In the last year the DPU PhD Programme has also hosted a visiting PhD student, **Emilie Pinard**, who spent the last quarter of 2010 at the DPU as part of her doctoral studies at Quebec University. Her research explores issues related to housing and female household headship in the periphery of Dakar (Senegal). In addition **J rome Chenal** has joined the DPU as a post doctoral academic affiliate from the Laboratory of Urban Sociology (Lasur) of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (Ecole Polytechnique F d rale of Lausanne, EPFL). His work, financed by the Swiss

National Foundation for Research, focuses on the links between spatial transformations and social mutations, at the crossroads of architecture and lifestyles, urban planning and street-level practices in Dakar and Bangalore. He will be at the DPU until November 2012.

'Food Junctions' Project wins UCL Annual Public Engagement Award Ceremony

In 2010, the Food Junctions project brought over 150 UCL students and staff from 27 departments together to deliver 60 events in the King's Cross area, tackling subjects as diverse as skip gardening and the consumption of pets. The event was led by DPU PhD student Marina Chang. Marina's work on Food Junctions was recognised through her winning a UCL Annual Public Engagement Award, presented by UCL Vice Provost Michael Worton.

Marina's PhD research, which underpins the project, addresses food crisis, food regimes and food movements, focusing on the case of London. She thinks the DPU occupies a strategic position in terms of South-North knowledge exchange and experience sharing, and that her work can challenge the convention that Global South follows the footsteps of the North. In the field of progressive and radical food movements, Global South presents much inspiration and innovation to the North to reflect upon.

Marina's supervisor, **Robert Biel** says, "Food Junctions was a remarkable success in exploring a qualitatively new approach to engagement between a university and its local community, while her success in winning the competition for funding of the on-going project, Foodpaths: the King's Cross Movement (www.foodpaths.org.uk), offers the opportunity to take this groundbreaking work to the next level. Internally to UCL, too, Marina has made major contributions to networking with a view to developing a UCL-wide response to critical food security challenges. Rarely I think can a first-year research student have contributed in this way to the internal and external development of the University."

For more details on the project, see www.food-junctions.org.uk

Congratulations to, **Yukiko Fujimoto** and **Frankie Liew** on the birth of their beautiful baby boy Takahiro, who was born on 8th January. **David Howie-Neaum** will be covering Yukiko's role as DPU Financial Manager until the end of 2011.



Welcome to **Colin Marx** who has joined the DPU as Lecturer and Researcher in Land Planning and Management. A town planner and geographer by training, Colin's current research interests relate to different aspects of urban development in the global south: the role of informal land markets in urban development; the relationship between formal and informal land use management practices; the role of property rights in relation to city development; rethinking the urban economies of poor people; questioning the relationship between urban poverty and economic growth, and the mobilisation of power through transnational activist networks. He has nearly 20 years of experience in urban development in South Africa, including managing one of South Africa's largest urban advocacy NGOs in the post-apartheid period.



Welcome to **Vanessa Castan Broto** who has joined the DPU as Lecturer in Urban Development Planning and Global Citizenship. Vanessa has a background in engineering and environmental sociology. Her research focuses on how technology and environmental knowledge mediate



the relationship between society and the environment and the impact of these processes in urban and regional planning. Recently she was involved in post-doctoral research at Durham University which examined the processes of social and technological innovation within the city in response to climate change. Her Engineering Doctorate at the University of Surrey analysed environmental and social justice issues associated with urban planning and the coal industry in Bosnia and Herzegovina, focusing on the processes of governance of environmental pollution risks in a peri-urban context and the role of science in environmental disputes.

Welcome to **Mathew Kurian** who has joined the DPU as Lecturer in Environmental and Development Planning in the Global South. He has 12 years of policy advocacy and training experience in the field of environment planning and management. After defending his PhD in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands, Mathew served as a Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist at the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) of the World Bank, in which capacity he led projects on source sustainability of rural water supply schemes and climate change adaptation strategies in secondary towns

of South Asia. In his most recent position as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Management and Institutions at UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Delft, The Netherlands, Mathew was responsible for establishing an E-learning course on water and sanitation services. His teaching and research interests include institutions and development, governance of common pool resources and results based financing strategies of multilateral development agencies.

Welcome to **Catherine Tchitembo**, the new Research Administrator for the DPU who started in January 2011 and comes to us from her previous post at the Bartlett School of Graduate Studies. Catherine supports DPU's general research activities and the PhD programme. On the research side, she provides support to the DPU research clusters, edits the research sections of the website, and will help to co-ordinate the DPU's submission for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) assessment that takes place in the UK in 2013. As PhD Programme Assistant, she assists the PhD Director, manages applications, and assists with MPhil/PhD seminars and enquiries.

Welcome also to new DPU teaching fellows, **Barbara Lipietz** (teaching on Social

Development Practice module SD2), and **William Hunter** (on Building and Urban Design for Development module BU3).

There have been a number of changes across the DPU's team of Post Graduate Teaching Assistants (PGTAs) over the last year. **Rosa Babourkova** has returned from her maternity leave to her post as PGTA for Urban Economic Development. **Sin Yee Koh**, who was covering this post is continuing with her PhD at the London School of Economics. **Monika Jankauskaite** has left her post as PGTA for Social Development Practice, to join her husband Oscar Cuervo (ESD Alumnus 2007-8) in Colombia, where she plans to find work as a social development practitioner, and **Alicia Yon** has taken over her role. **Rita Valencia** has moved home to Mexico and her role as PGTA for Environment and Sustainable Development has been taken over by Matthew Wood-Hill. **Isis Nuñez** has started a PhD at Westminster University. Her role as PGTA for Urban Development Planning has been taken on by **Alix Valenti** (who is also working on a PhD at the DPU under the supervision of Camillo Boano), and **Andrew Wade** is now working as PGTA for Building and Urban Design for Development.

Eleni Kyrou: A tribute by Caren Levy

We were sad to say au revoir to **Eleni Kyrou** in August 2010 as she left academia for a return to development practice at the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg. A DPU Alumnus in the 1990s, Eleni joined the DPU staff in November 2004. Always driven by a fascination for development practice and its relationship to theory, Eleni took this interest into the MSc Urban Development Planning which she co-directed with me. She really enjoyed teaching and helped to develop the new module on Practice in Urban Development Planning into an exciting and challenging learning arena, both in the UK and over the years, in selected cities abroad. She also managed the course and engaged with a growing cohort of local and international

students about the importance of urban development planning education in the future of development in the 21st century. Eleni applied her professional experience as a practitioner to her roles as DPU's Director of Training and Advisory Services and to numerous consultancy assignments, including her contribution to a recent study of urbanization in Mozambique. She started DPU's first urban film series, selecting interesting and provocative films to complement students' learning experience. We miss Eleni's passionate engagement with DPU life and wish her all the best in her new job. We look forward to welcoming her back to the Unit in the future to reflect on this new engagement with development practice.



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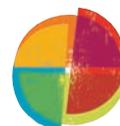
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