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In this issue:

Mobility in Medellín: Urban
Transformation through Imagination,
Collaboration, and Strategic
Intervention

See Focus on, page 2

Focus on

Going up in Medellín:

What Can We Learn from the City's Aerial Cable-car Lines?

By Julio D. Dávila



Urbanisation and globalisation have brought a number of challenges. The world's population and productive activities are increasingly concentrated in cities. At the same time, disparities in income continue to rise around the world, especially in emerging economies where wealth is concentrated among ever-smaller groups. Add to this the challenges of climate change, and the need to sustainably plan and manage urban spaces (which are today larger, more diverse and more fragmented than ever before) becomes of paramount importance.

A small but growing number of cities in the Global South have successfully taken up the challenge of planning and managing urban spaces under principles of equity and sustainability. Medellín, Colombia's second largest city, has emerged as an example of a set of urban interventions seeking to redress deep and long-standing social and spatial imbalances. It has done so through the use of imagination, audacity, and systematic, collaborative work with communities, whilst strengthening its municipal revenue base and maintaining public ownership of key assets.

A two-year research project coordinated by the DPU with funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Department for International Development (DFID), set out to critically examine the experience of Medellín in seeking to reduce poverty and integrate large marginalised areas, marked by years of severe poverty and violence, into the urban fabric. It focused particularly on the impact of two aerial cable-car lines connecting high-density hilly neighbourhoods with the rest of the city, and an associated urban upgrading programme. It also sought to contrast Medellín's successful experience with that of Soacha, a municipality adjacent to Bogotá, Colombia's capital city, where an aerial cable-car line has been proposed. The contrast between a well-resourced, well-managed municipality like Medellín and a homogeneously poor and institutionally weak municipality like Soacha offers valuable lessons to other cities in Latin America and elsewhere.

At the core of the research lie theoretical notions of mobility, poverty and the role that local governments increasingly play in countries with a growing urban share of the national population. A preoccupation

with the movement of people within and between cities was for a long time the almost exclusive preserve of transport engineers, for whom efficiency, measured in terms of numbers of journeys within a given period and cost, tended to be paramount. This has more recently been broadened to include a growing preoccupation with environmental issues such as energy inputs and global emissions.

The more recently coined notion of 'mobility' (especially in its plural form) provides a broader sociological insight into this process, by considering the human and social factors that make travel possible. So,

for example, there is growing evidence of how a lack of mobility is both a result and an aggravating factor of social disadvantage. The use of most modes of urban transport requires not only monetary expenditure but also a set of social and cognitive conditions that not all travellers necessarily fulfil. A complex rapid transit system with multiple

Below: Medellín's first Metrocable line, suspended above Comunas 1 and 2 (Julio Dávila)

Opposite page: Line K aerial cable-car helps save users time by connecting the steep terrain to the city (Julio Dávila)





lines demands a minimum level of literacy to read signs and interpret complex maps. High levels of insecurity, or transport services that run largely at peak times and lack integrated fares allowing multiple stops, act as deterrents for potential users who need to use the system at odd hours of the day to carry out multiple tasks. Similarly, restrictions in force in most mass-transit systems deter users who have to transport bulky parcels for a living.

Decisions around transport infrastructure lie at the core of what most local governments do in cities around the world. Whether it is in the construction of a new road, the design of a new mass-transit system (for which national government support is likely to be needed), or everyday maintenance or policing of a system, local governments have to invest financial and human resources to facilitate the movement of goods and people. Such decisions often benefit some groups over others, by for example contributing to land price rises in wealthier neighbourhoods or providing fast access to individual cars to suburban locations. Although often framed in technical language, they are essentially political decisions. They have the potential to help guide future urban growth but equally crucially they can be powerful tools for a more equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth or, alternatively, for further marginalising already marginal populations and individuals. In a context in which globalisation is contributing to an entrenchment of urban inequalities and social fragmentation, local government decisions around the planning

of infrastructure, including transport, can help compensate for these trends.

In the early 1990s Medellín became internationally notorious as a result of the violence between rival gangs seeking to control a booming export market of illegal drugs (mainly cocaine) to the US and Europe. A high homicide rate resulted partly from the high levels of unemployment brought about by economic liberalisation that hit the city's textile and garment producers badly, and the readiness of unemployed youth in poor neighbourhoods to take up paid jobs with the drug gangs. Some of the poorest areas in this city of 3.5 million inhabitants fell under the control of local gangs and became inaccessible even for the local police. Gradually the city's political class, intellectuals, community groups and activists reached a consensus on the need to find solutions to the city's intractable social problems. In 2004, an almost providential alignment of interests between the mayor and the state-owned Metro Company resulted in the launch of a first aerial cable-car line.

This was the first time that conventional ski lift technology was used to connect some of the poorest neighbourhoods (where daily lives were marked by violence) with the city's mass-transit overground train. The cable-cars provided a fast, low-emission mode of transport in steeply sloping terrain broken by deep smaller valleys carved by the numerous streams running down the hillside to the Medellín River. The first line, built at a cost of under US\$30 million, was followed in 2008 by a second line in a different part of the city. Both are designed

to accommodate up to 30,000 trips per day, though by mid-2012 only the first one was running at full capacity (with demand outstripping supply, as shown by long queues forming at peak times). A third line was opened in 2010 to connect the end of the first line with a natural park some 800 metres above the river valley. Medellín's success immediately caught the attention of other municipal governments in cities with similar topographies and comparable levels of poverty. Within a few years, Caracas (Venezuela) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) had opened similar lines, and many more are planned in other Latin American cities.

Apart from documenting the institutional genesis and technical features of the cable-car lines, DPU's research project sought to examine the extent to which this innovative transport system and a set of urban interventions that followed could be associated with improvements in well-being and inclusion for the population living in the poor communities. The research has shown examples of innovation and political boldness at different scales. We found that the city's investment in a comprehensive programme of upgrading of the areas served by the cable-car lines (involving social housing, increased public space, new libraries and schools, and economic support to local residents in the form of training and employment in public works) has had an even wider impact on residents' quality of life than the highly visible and attractive new form of public transport. One key feature is



Above: At present only one route of mini-buses serves Ciudadela Sucre in Soacha's Comuna 4 district (Julio Dávila)

that the new public facilities are designed by top architects using high-quality materials, a deliberate reversal of the conventional approach of providing low-quality services for the poor.

Using principles of participatory budgeting whereby local residents collectively decide the use of public investment, the city authorities have sought to change an entrenched culture of patron-client politics that resulted in small-scale public works and opportunities for political middlemen to cream off commissions. In some cases, instead of building a new sports court, for example, the local community

decided to fund scholarships for young residents to enrol in university. At the base of this lies a major shift in local politics, one that recognises the deeply entrenched and growing social inequalities amongst the city's population, and actively strives for a more socially just city. And all of this, coupled with much improved security, has resulted in significant numbers of outside visitors, including international tourists, to what was formerly a no-go area, with visible effects on local residents' own sense of self-esteem and inclusion into the city's life.

Medellín, the most populated and richest of nine municipalities in the metropolitan area, offers a fascinating institutional history from which many local governments around the world could learn. Crucial to the above interventions is a strong and stable revenue base. This has been strengthened by widening the tax base, but mainly by empowering the powerful municipally-



Left: A view of Soacha's city centre from the hills where a new aerial cable-car is planned (Julio Dávila)

Above left: Medellín's informal settlements with Parque España Public Library atop the hill (Julio Dávila)

Above right: Medellín's second aerial cable-car rises above rapidly expanding new informal and formal settlements (Julio Dávila)



owned utilities company (Empresas Públicas de Medellín, EPM) to continue growing and ploughing back its annual surplus into the city's coffers. In the two fiscal years 2010-2011, EPM injected close to US\$880 million in surplus into the municipality, much of which was used to finance projects to benefit low-income communities.

This case offers a stark contrast to the second case study documented in the research. With a population of 450,000, Soacha is a largely low-income and poorly run municipality adjacent to Bogotá, Colombia's capital city. This area is disproportionately comprised of recent immigrants, (refugees from Colombia's long-level 40-year old internal armed conflict) and levels of unemployment and informality among local residents are high. Local government institutions are very weak and political instability is a major problem, with elected mayors often losing their mantle of office halfway through their terms. As the vast majority of the population is poor, the city's tax base is weak and largely inadequate for the needs of its population. In this context, and inspired by Medellín's

success, in 2009 Colombian President Uribe proposed to build an aerial cable-car as a means of linking two low-income hilly neighbourhoods with a main arterial road to which Bogotá's Bus Rapid Transit System (Transmilenio) is due to be extended.

The research drew on results from the Medellín case to examine the conditions under which such a proposal might be viable and benefit the local population. The somewhat dismaying conclusion was that Soacha lacks the capacity to administer such a project, and only the intervention of powerful institutions such as the government of Bogotá or even the country would offer any chance of success. The analysis reinforces the message that, to succeed, a new aerial cable-car line would have to be complemented with a broader set of urban upgrading interventions of the kind seen in Medellín. Although both the Colombian government and Bogotá's authorities have shown great interest in the results of the research, the team have stressed that they should not overlook this crucial lesson.

An international workshop held in Medellín in December 2011 helped

disseminate and validate the results by bringing together 180 participants from a dozen countries, including members of the local communities, national and local government representatives from Colombia and other countries, students, professionals, and academics.

Apart from the DPU (with **Caren Levy** and **Julio D Dávila** as investigators and **Diana Daste** as research assistant), the research team comprised researchers from UCL's Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering Department, the Departments of Urban and Regional Planning and Civil Engineering at Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Medellín campus), and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá.

A major output of the research is a book published in English and Spanish (Dávila, 2013) that documents in some depth both case studies, complemented with cases elsewhere in Latin America including Caracas and Rio de Janeiro, and cities where similar systems are planned like La Paz (Bolivia) and Cali (Colombia). Both versions of the book and some of the project outputs can be downloaded for free from the project website (www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/metrocables).

Dávila, Julio D. (editor), 2013, **Urban Mobility and Poverty: Lessons from Medellín and Soacha, Colombia**, DPU-UCL and Universidad Nacional de Colombia. ISBN 978-0-9574823-2-6 (paperback), ISBN 978-0-9574823-3-3 (pdf)



Reading the Cracks: Post-Field Trip Reflections Concerning Urban Transformation in Bangkok

We touched down in the capital with our bags laden with an array of participatory mapping, interviewing and assessment tools, and our minds trained on encompassing (read, ambitious) definitions of and strategies for socio-spatial transformation. The Urban Development Planning (UDP) and Building and Urban Design in Development (BUDD) students arrived on a mission to understand *Baan Mankong* (Secure Housing) as a source of urban transformation, and we began our journey clutching text-book definitions distanced from reality. Indeed, on reflection, for the programme to measure up to our original definitions, it would almost have needed to be a conveyor-belt for empowered communities well versed in Foucault, Young, Harvey and Lefebvre, fired along the path towards a *Right to the City*.

It was not that our initial ideas were wrong, nor had we constructed them as absolute markers against which to measure Baan Mankong. However, from day one there was no avoiding the fact that faced with a living, breathing urban reality, our desk-based definitions and pre-field strategies were developing cracks. Still, cracks (to quote Leonard Cohen) are 'how

the light gets in' and in realising our mistakes we came to better understand the process. Theory, we came to understand, considered in abstraction from reality can only ever go so far. Baan Mankong was not a fixed entity waiting patiently to be dissected, analysed, sized-up and weighed-in; it was a flexible, moving target that touched down differently depending on its context. Transformation, correspondingly, was a sliding continuum, a process, not a state of being. And as with all people-centred programmes, the people involved and powers at play adapt, accept, reject and revolt against norms and structures, introducing subjectivity and, to paraphrase Foucault (1979), 'breathing life into history'.

On the ground, our learning process advanced through various channels. Given our area of investigation, our experience quickly meandered away from formal academic and professional arenas, trespassing into the city's more informal passages. This developed through our experience of the built environment, our interactions with people, and our diverse cultural explorations. Indeed our most interesting programmatic insights were gleaned through conversations snatched during taxi rides with our student interpreters, or by gesticulating wildly with non-English speaking community residents.

Above: Private Residential Complex towering over the Lung-Talad-Kao-Wat-Pra-Ya-Krai neighbourhood in Bang Kho Laem district (Camila Cocina)

Below: DPU Students with Suan Plu community members (Camila Cocina)



There is a language to field research, and it is not always a spoken one.

Working with communities from across Bangkok and Pattaya, we experienced a broad cross-section of Baan Mankong projects at varying stages of development, making it difficult to draw general conclusions on the questions of scale and collective action. Some communities had designed inclusive housing models with a provision for subsidising low-income/unemployed members and renters; others had divided around questions of cost. Some existed as relatively self-contained projects; others engaged with other Baan Mankong

communities across the city, sharing knowledge and savings. Some were aware of their role within broader urban dynamics; others were less engaged. Some faced challenges of relocation; others faced those associated with in-situ upgrading.

Overall the model for delivery in the hands of the people themselves is premised on a belief that 'small scattered savings and loan groups that are supported to learn from each other... are likely to link to other groups and form networks as they become more mature' (Boonyabancha, 2001). Secure housing therefore provides a springboard from which it is possible to reach larger city-wide scales, and approach wider development questions such as health, welfare and education. Whether this is achieved, and at what speed, largely depends on those people at the centre of this process, and on their individual and collective capacity to act and learn. City Development Funds could be the key to reaching scale but they remain relatively embryonic.

While former CODI Director Somsook Boonyabancha (2012) undersells the programme saying 'it's not perfect, it's okay', her awareness of imperfections is refreshing. During our time in Bangkok, we witnessed the workings of a remarkable low-income housing programme. As a work in progress, it was not transforming everything equally, nor free from the challenges of exclusion. Yet it delivered real world benefits to thousands of Thai people. The journey towards urban socio-spatial justice will be as long as it is challenging, with an uncertain end. At least, with the support of the networks facilitated by Baan Mankong, Thailand's people will not walk it alone.

By Camila Cocina and Francesco Pasta, BUDD 2011-12 with Emily Kelling and Tim Wickson, UDP 2011-12

Boonyabancha, S. (2001) **Savings and loans; drawing lessons from some experiences in Asia.** *Environment & Urbanization*, 13(2), pp.9-21.

Boonyabancha, S. (2012) **'Co-production of housing at scale: Collaborative people-centred partnerships for slum upgrading in Bangkok, Thailand'** Workshop. Bangkok: Thailand.

Foucault, M. (2000). **Useless to Revolt?** in M. Foucault, J.D. Fabuion (editor). *Power: Essential Works of Foucault 1954-1984: Volume 3* (pp. 449-453). London: Penguin Books. (Original Work Published in *Le Monde*, May 1979).

DPU summerLab Returns to Rome and Zurich

This late summer marked a second successful run of the DPU summerLab series led by **William Hunter** and **Giorgio Talocci** and coordinated by **Camillo Boano**. Our first lab, titled *Liminal Contours*, ran from August 6 -11, 2012 in Zurich. The workshop, held in collaboration with the ETH Zurich, combined a series of lecture talks, city walks/site visits, and design exercises to address contextual city trends while comparing two opposing demographic entities, set against one another in a current urban periphery (shipping container clusters for creative start-ups and the relocation of prostitutes into a Dutch-style, legalised prostitution zone). Through a critically interpretive analysis of the situation, the group identified measures that could take the form of alternative tactics to increase their unspoken potential as new urban generators.

In a similar fashion, the series found itself in Rome for a second *Occupation City* workshop, again working with Francesco Careri of Stalker/Roma Tre University. Paying particular attention to the occupation of a former military base at Porto Fluviale, the investigation sought out ways in which the residents could achieve a greater sense of acceptance in the area, while promoting a degree of public awareness through the 'opening' of their inner courtyard as a 'shared' space for the city. Various

interventions and strategies were presented at a public event held at the occupation.

Dialogues in Development

The Dialogues in Development public events series got off to a dynamic start in 2012 with a short screening of the film *Dear Mandela* accompanied by a talk from Mzonke Poni (Chairperson of Abahlali base Mjondolo, and previously a leader of the Western Cape Anti-Eviction Campaign) reflecting on the history and gains of the Abahlali Base Mjondolo (people of the shacks) in Durban, as part of one the Western Cape's most significant pro-poor movements in the post-Apartheid period. This was followed by an intriguing discussion in June 2012 between **Giorgio Talocci**, DPH Phd candidate and and Francesco Careri of the renowned urban collective Stalker. This event, titled *On Walking and Cooking* presented two recent experiences undertaken by Careri's Laboratorio Arti Civiche in Brazil that questioned alternative ways of interacting with informal communities and the growing interest of mainstream design in the realm of informality.

In October, 2012 **Professor Yves Cabannes** delivered the talk *People Don't Wait for Plans to Change Cities* which critically engaged the World Habitat Day

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Below: DPU summerLab workshop participants exploring at an urban farm in Zurich (Giorgio Talocci)



2012 theme *Changing Cities, Building Opportunities* and its new campaign *I am a city changer*, sparking a debate on the role development planners can play in people-led practices and the implications for the international Habitat Agenda.

Later in October, 2012 **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** led a series of talks with guests Dr. Des Gasper of the Erasmus University of Rotterdam and Dr. Alejandra Boni of TU Valencia exploring how Amartya Sen's capability approach has been used to evaluate the work impact of the NGO Practical Action.

In November 2012 the DPU welcomed Robert McGaffin (town planner/economist from University of Cape Town), Lauren Royston (development planner/writer), Stephen Berrisford (lawyer/town planner from University of Cape Town) and Dr. Mark Napier (Director of Urban Land Markets Programme South Africa) for a dialogue entitled *State, Market, or People? Three Perspectives on Improving Land Access in Southern Africa*. The discussion engaged issues of how tenure options, the role of the state, and property markets can remain in tension with aims of promoting the 'right to the city'.

The DPU welcomed back Somsook Boonyabancha, director of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, for a talk co-sponsored by IIED in November 2012 where she offered a reflection on what there is to learn from ACHR's ACCA initiative in order to develop more effective interventions in support of the urban poor. The final event of the year was Disasters in Bangladesh: Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change held in December 2012. Led by **Cassidy Johnson** and DPU Commonwealth Fellow, **Dr. Afroza Parvin**, along with guests Terry Cannon (University of Sussex) and Dr. Manoj Roy (University of Manchester), the presentations shed light on climate change impacts, discussing how the dynamic process of adaptation is taking place in Bangladesh at household and community levels in both rural and urban contexts.

DPU's Urban Transformations Cluster

Rapid urbanization is placing cities of the Global South at the core of the developmental agenda for the twenty-first century, presenting both challenges and opportunities for thinking and acting out socially just urban futures. These challenges and the differentiated processes of urban transformation stem from and compound broader structural developments including cities' economic restructuring in the face of globalization, pressing global environmental crises, and the restructuring of governance relations. They articulate with local histories, cultures and social relations, to produce highly diverse, locally-specific patterns of urban development and change.

In this context, what can design and planning contribute to collective initiatives that seek to bring about social and spatial justice in cities of the Global South? The overall project of this cluster is to explore these complex urban processes and to explicitly increase the room of manoeuvre for a variety of city actors in harnessing transformative change, focusing on the following themes:

- **Local governance and democracy** focuses on innovative forms of governance that seek to address the increasing democratic deficit in a neo-liberal era. It does so by exploring the 'governance of change' in cities of the Global South.
- **Social mobilization, resistance and collective action** builds on the DPU's rich tradition of researching, supporting and disseminating community responses to fast-changing urban contexts. It explores the production of knowledge and learning across communities and spaces and their relationship to expertise in the built environment.
- **Design and planning** for the just city continues DPU's critique of conventional design and planning by confronting current practices with different conceptions of the just city and grounding them in a deeper understanding of the formal/informal continuum. Exploring implications for practice, this theme proposes alternative design and planning methodologies to address transformative change in cities of the Global South.

The following presents some of the DPU's current research projects that constitute a broad ambition for urban transformations.



Above: Maps from the *Heuristics of Mapping/Dialogues on the Move* exhibit (Rita Lambert)

The Heuristics of Mapping Urban Environmental Change: Global Dialogues

Mapping is not only a tool to investigate and capture place-making practices but is itself a means to produce spaces and social relations. Can mapping as a political tool be used as a means to contest and re-shape the unjust distribution of resources and opportunities in cities? How can mapping be appropriated by ordinary citizens in their place-making practices? What are the lessons and practical applications that can be drawn from its use in various disciplines?

The Heuristics of Mapping Urban Environmental Change is a platform initiated in February 2012, coordinated by **Adriana Allen, Alexandre Apsan Frediani** and **Rita Lambert**, in partnership with the Politecnico di Milano, Megawra (Built Environment Collective), and with the support of UCL Environment Institute and Grand Challenge of Sustainable Cities.

Through a process involving an international network of researchers, activists, and organisations, the platform aims to comprehend how place-making practices by ordinary citizens reinforce, resist or transform the production or reproduction of injustices in cities, while examining the lessons and practical applications that can be drawn from various disciplines.

The first phase of the project, *Dialogues on the Move* brought together a wide range of academics and practitioners from all over the world, including Milan, Cairo, São Paulo, Buenos Aires and London. The latest event took place at UCL on November 20-21, 2012 and was accompanied by a public exhibition of a fantastic range of posters contributed by mappers from all over the world. See more about the London seminar in this issue's Networking and Events section.

As the platform evolves, we are embarking on a series of Action-Learning Alliances in which the agency of mapping

and maps is explored through hands-on experiences. The first of these alliances will support a number of grassroots organisations in Bogota in mapping resistance and the popular re-appropriation of the south hills of the city, in collaboration with Foundation Erigaie and Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios sobre Desarrollo (CIDER), University of Los Andes (Colombia).

To find more about the platform or to join it, please visit: <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/portlets/dpu/mapping-environmental-change>

Future Proofing Cities: Risks and Responses to Inclusive Urban Growth in Developing Countries

A major new report published by Atkins in partnership with UCL's Development Planning Unit and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) assesses the environmental risks to cities across the developing world, and how they can act to future proof themselves. The central message of this report is that the earlier cities in developing countries take steps to future proof their urban development, the better.

Future Proofing cities is about utilising

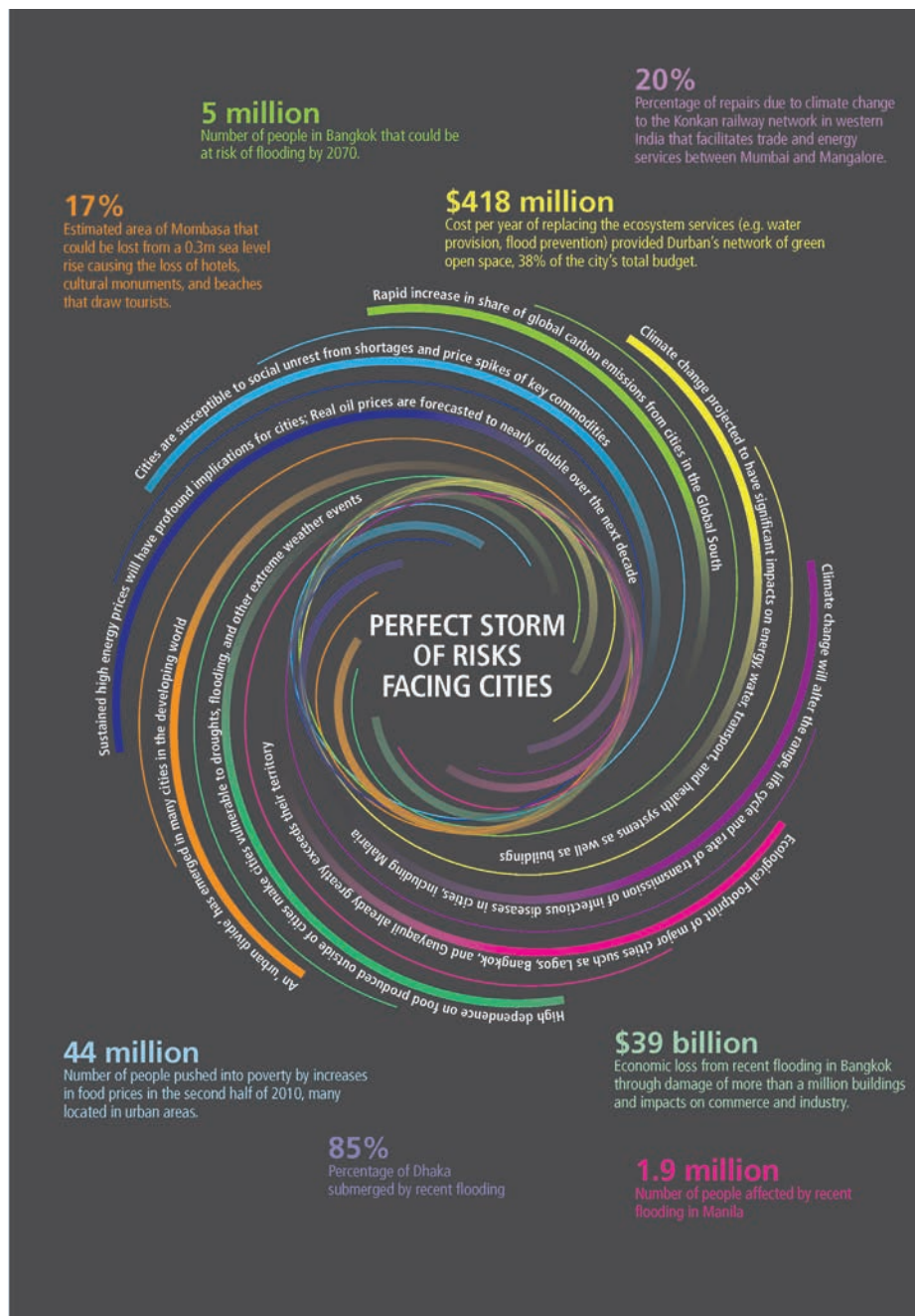
and developing capabilities to respond to the risks associated with climate change, resource scarcity, and damage to ecosystems, in a way that catalyses inclusive urban development. Given existing infrastructure gaps and the rate at which cities in the developing world are growing, there is also an important window of opportunity for cities to grow in ways which minimise the future economic impact associated with different environmental risks, before they are locked into a particular urban form. Empowering cities to overcome challenges in relation to urban governance, planning, finance, and delivery systems are of particular importance.

Currently there are a number of gaps in our knowledge which make it more difficult for cities in the developing world to act on the environmental risks relevant to them (i.e. few integrated risk assessments). Most policy guidance is also inadequately tailored to specific challenges facing cities with different characteristics, for example greening a city, without considering the contextual relevance and capacity to respond to risks. Additional attention is also needed to identify which solutions can generate social and economic benefits alongside environmental ones.

To help close these gaps, the research partners have built on their collective work in urban areas and the environment to explore how cities in the developing world might better assess, in a holistic way, relevant environmental risks and the combinations of policies likely to be most effective in promoting inclusive urban development.

The work centres on an integrated assessment of the risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities of 129 cities across 20 countries in Asia and Africa, and the development of five urban typologies to group these cities based on the most significant environmental risks they face. To our knowledge it is the first time that typologies have been developed for a significant sample of cities in developing countries, while adopting a holistic approach. A list of over 100 policy options are presented with an overview of which ones are likely to be most relevant to different city types, how these policies might be integrated, the extent to which they deliver wider social and economic benefits, and how challenging they are to implement given their governance, planning, finance, and delivery requirements.

This project was led by Atkins with the participation of **Vanessa Castan-Broto**, **Adriana Allen**, **Caren Levy** and **Linda Westman**, who were responsible for providing strategic guidance throughout the development of the project's analytical



Above: Perfect Storm of Risks from the Atkins Future Proofing Cities Report (Atkins)

framework, and for the production of five in-depth case studies that provided a nuanced exploration for future proofing urban development in Bangkok, Maputo, Bangalore, Karachi and Nairobi.

To find out more about the DPU's involvement in this project contact Adriana Allen at a.allen@ucl.ac.uk.

Whose Olympics?

The arrival of the 30th Olympiad to London in 2012 provided a fascinating opportunity to observe and understand very immediate transformations of the urban landscape. The project *Whose Olympics? Transformations in Urban Open Spaces and the Legacy of London in 2012*, funded by a small grant from UCL's Grand Challenge of Sustainable Cities, has been using video to capture images and interviews of the city and its people before, during, and in the



Above: Scene from Olympics protest at Leyton Marsh (Gynna Millan)

immediate aftermath of the Games. The research was co-ordinated by **Gynna Millan** and **Matthew Wood-Hill** from the DPU in collaboration with Michael Stewart and Steph Patten from UCL Anthropology, and a team 20 students from across UCL. The goal was to populate a video archive of short films, momentary footage, landscapes, and first-hand experiences online at www.whoseolympics.org with the eventual aim of assembling these clips into a narrative that will form the basis of a short documentary film, to be produced next year. The documentary will also feature comments from academics within UCL on the transformation and manipulation of open space, and the immediate legacy of the Games both spatially and in the memories of Londoners.

Early on the research indicated two distinct occurrences. The first was the takeover of park land and open space for temporary structures, such as Olympic venues (such as Greenwich Park), training facilities (Leyton Marsh), or for other 'enabling' facilities (such as a police

headquarters on Wanstead Flats). When interviewed about these constructions, participants expressed concerns about their permanence, their compliance with legal and planning requirements, and the worrying precedent for the takeover of common and public land without consultation.

As part of a vision to expand the Olympics beyond the reach of the Olympic Park, various other parks and open spaces became fulcrums of activity over the summer. However this was seen in the form of walled-in fan parks in Victoria Park, Hyde Park, and Trafalgar Square. Ordinarily public areas were therefore enclosed and to a degree became private spaces for the duration of the Games, potentially making the Games less accessible.

As the research draws to a close, more revealing output will follow on the initial perceptions of the Olympic legacy on London's open spaces.

Community Participation in London and Johannesburg

Barbara Lipietz has been awarded a Bartlett Grand Challenges Small Grant for the project *Community Participation in City-wide Planning: Comparing London and Johannesburg* in collaboration with Mike Raco (the Bartlett) and Jenny Robinson (Geography). Michael Edwards (Bartlett) and Sue Parnell (UCT) will equally contribute to the comparative research. The project seeks to tease out the processes that shape the space for community voices to contribute meaningfully to long term strategic planning for sustainable urban development. It will consider how democratic modes of governance inform long-term strategic planning and city visioning in two different contexts, London and Johannesburg, through a systematic comparison of two recent publications: the Revised London Plan (2011) and Johannesburg's Growth and Development Strategy 2040 (2011). The project will additionally explore the transformative potential of networked forms of community engagement, through an exploration of Just Space's and Planact's responses to city-wide strategic planning, in London and Johannesburg respectively.

Learning from Beirut

Camillo Boano and **William Hunter** were awarded a Bartlett Grand Challenges Small Grant for the research project Learning from Beirut: An Urban Design Research Methodology Exchange in collaboration with Matthew Carmona (Bartlett Planning) and Kayvan Karimi (Space

Syntax Group). Given its so-called post-traumatic urbanism and inherent conflicting development, Beirut offers a unique and copious laboratory for investigation.

The research team plans to focus on the current state of informal settlements, impacts of conflict and trends of urban transformation affecting the city centre's architectural heritage and socio-cultural identity. By promoting novel tactics of interdisciplinary exchange, they expect to uncover complementary elements that can perhaps lead to a methodological approach that supersedes narrow thinking.

Quality of Life Indicators as a City Planning Tool

Maria Inês Pedrosa Nahas joined the DPU as Honorary Academic Researcher to develop the post-doctorate research project *Quality of Life Indicators as Metropolitan Planning Tools in the Context of Sustainable Human Development* with supervision from **Professor Yves Cabannes**. The research's main goals are to draw a model for an urban quality of life indicators system for metropolitan areas as a key element in assessing the sustainability of human development, and to apply it to the Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Region as a pilot project that could be expanded to a global level.

Maria Inês is a Professor at the Catholic University in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, who previously worked as a researcher coordinating multidisciplinary teams to develop quality of life indicators for urban planning for governments at both local and national levels. As a consultant she has worked for UN-HABITAT, UNDP and UNESCO. From the 1990's onwards she has been coordinating the development of indices as tools for the Belo Horizonte municipality planning. In 2012 she coordinated the international seminar *Urban Indicators for Municipal Planning: Trends and Challenges* in Belo Horizonte.

At the DPU her work is focused on sustainability and environmental justice as paradigms to examine the metropolis, and analysis which establishes the relationships between consolidated methodologies such as UGI (Urban Governance Index) and the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals). She has written the paper: *IQVU - Urban Life Quality Index: Methodology and Applications* and coordinated a journal publication on *Urban Indicators for Municipal Planning: Trends and Challenges* with papers from the seminar held in Belo Horizonte in 2011. The journal will be launched in December 2012, and includes a contribution from Yves Cabannes.

PHD Programme

Brazilian Housing Governance and Municipal Policy [Trans]formation[s]: Between Continuity and Change, the Experience of Rio de Janeiro

The research of PhD candidate **Hector Becerril Miranda**, which looks at housing governance and policy in Brazil, resonates with a number of the themes explored by the DPU's Urban Transformations cluster.

Without doubt, housing is at the heart of cities' transformations, and is one of the major urban issues across the globe. From London to Shanghai, the USA to Zimbabwe, shelter problems are affecting an important share of the world's population. In the Global South in particular, housing deficits (quantitative and qualitative) have become an unavoidable and urgent problem. Innovative housing policies have emerged with the aim of addressing this critical issue. In some cases, different levels of government have tended to re-structure their own responsibilities. In others, the public sector has tended to work more and more with other actors including civil society, private actors, and the third sector.



Above: PAC Complexo do Alemão, Rio de Janeiro (Hector Becerril)

A good example of this phenomenon is in Brazil where housing governance has changed considerably. At the end of the 1980s municipal governments took charge of housing policy, financing, management and decision-making; and a larger constellation of actors emerged. With more than 5000 municipalities across

Brazil these changes have produced a great diversity of local experiences. In addition, in recent years the Federal Government has critically modified the politic-administrative landscape with new legislation and massive investment. In spite of these changes the housing deficit remains high and a crucial challenge for Brazilian cities, calling for a comprehensive understanding of governance transformations and dynamics of policy change over the last two decades.

Hector's PhD research aims to shed light on the evolution of housing governance and municipal policy in Brazil. It focuses on Rio de Janeiro's municipal housing policy, using the political sociology of public policy instruments developed by Le Gales and Lascoumes as an analytical framework. From this perspective, he has explored the housing policy 'instrumentation' over the last 20 years primarily using Municipal Council archives and interviews. Together with other sources such as policy documents and press articles, he carried out a complex data triangulation that allowed him to trace emerging housing policy and development, and to follow policy instruments and controversies. This work generates reflection on changes in housing governance, and the poor results of housing policy.

Other PhD News

Piyapong (Chan) Boossabong had her book *Growing Cities, Growing Life: Theories and Practices on Developing Urban Agriculture* published by the Thai City Farm programme in Bangkok where she is also a consultant. Parallel to this she presented a paper, *Collaborative Governance on Urban Food Agenda during Floods in Bangkok, Thailand in late-2011* at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2012 organised at the University of Edinburgh under the panel *Governance of Urban Environmental Risk in the Global South*. She also presented a paper *Rethinking Governing the Commons Under Crisis: How Could We Go Further than Ostromians?* in the Critical Governance Conference: From Critique to Transformation? - Critical Governance Studies in and beyond the Crisis, organised at University of Warwick during 10-12 December 2012.

Nikhilesh Sinha presented a paper at the Annual European Regional Science Association International (ERSA) Congress which was held in Bratislava August 21-25, 2012. The paper was entered for the ESPAINOS Young Regional Scientists Award, and was presented at a special refereed session jointly organised by the Urban Economics Association (see publications section). He also co-authored a report on opportunities for private sector

engagement in the affordable housing sector in India which has garnered attention in the local edition of the financial times: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/9fb2ee08-e7aa-11e1-868600144feab49a.html#axzz2C1cS32c8>

Vincent Sandoval presented papers at conferences in Cairo on the *Reterritorialisation of Cities: Bilbao Case Study* (December 2012) and Paris on *Disaster Risk Discourses: The Case of Santiago de Chile* (July 2012)- see publications section. He was also named runner-up in the UCL Research Images as Art / Art Images as Research 2011/12 competition.

Musleh Hassan attended the 32nd International Geographical Conference in Cologne, Germany from 26th – 30th August 2012 where he presented a paper based on his PhD research titled *Politics of (Im)mobility—The Case of Rickshaw Ban in Bangladesh*.

Raphaëlle Bisiaux attended the Royal Geographical Society Annual International Conference, July 3-5th 2012, Edinburgh as a part of the session *Do 'Good Lives' Have to Cost the Earth?* where she presented a talk and paper entitled *The Material Component of 'the Good Life': A Myth? Advocating for an Eudaimonist Approach to Well-being and Happiness Based on Human Actions and Achievements*.

Bianca Maria Nardella presented her paper *Orienting the Knowledge of International Urban Conservation in the Light of the Arab Revolutions*, at the *Cities to be tamed?* conference held at the Politecnico di Milano, Italy from November 15-17, 2012.

DPU PhD Thesis Awarded First Prize in Latin America

Dr. Ernesto López, Assistant Professor in the University of Chile and PhD in Urban Planning from the DPU was awarded first prize in the FONAVIP-REDALYC PhD Thesis Competition. This award focuses on postgraduate academic outputs on housing and urban issues in Latin America.

Dr. Lopez's thesis, entitled *Urban Entrepreneurialism and Creative Destruction: A Case-study of the Urban Renewal Strategy in the Peri-centre of Santiago de Chile, 1990-2005*, was developed from 2005-2009 under the supervision of **Julio D. Dávila**. The jury praised the thesis as an ambitious and original piece of research with clear research questions and strong knowledge on the various processes shaping housing and urban change in Chile and on the wider economic processes shaping different parts of the city of Santiago.

http://www.redalyc.org/media/portales/organismo/estudios_territoriales/noticias/ResultadosPremio2012.html

From Water Poverty to Water Justice in Bogotá, Colombia



In July 2012 **Adriana Allen** participated as a guest professor in the Summer School entitled *Water Governance and the Challenge of the Human Right to Water*. Organised by Professor Andres Hernandez Quiñones at Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios sobre Desarrollo (CIDER), Universidad de Los Andes and the Municipal Government of Bogotá, the Summer School was attended by a wide range of professionals actively involved in shaping the future development of Bogotá on the principles of water justice. This topic was also debated during a public lecture given by Adriana entitled *From Water Poverty to Water Justice*. To access the debate please visit: http://debatesobrepobrezas.uniandes.edu.co/Historial_Expertos/189_Expertos_Agua_04102012.asp?id=189. The platform is an initiative of CIDER which aims to generate an active debate over different dimensions of poverty/ies among ordinary citizens, experts and the media. To join the debate visit: <http://debatesobrepobrezas.uniandes.edu.co/index.html>

Connections

News from former DPU students and friends

Claudia Schneider (UDP 2001-2002) has left Skat (Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development) in St. Gallen and is now working with the SDC (Swiss Development Cooperation) in the regional office of UNISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) in Cairo.

Christine Oram (SDP 2010-2011) has been promoted to head of Fundraising at Global Witness and writes to say that a lot of what she learnt at the DPU helps her in her work with campaigners in the organization.

Gabriela Grajales (UED 2000-2001) has been working at the UN Habitat country office in Mexico, where she was the main author for the *State of Mexican Cities 2011* report. This is a part of the State of cities of Latin America and the Caribbean reporting process initiated by MINURVI (intergovernmental cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean countries on Sustainable Development of Human Settlements).

Carlos Bustamante (PhD 1997-2003) is working at the National University of Mexico (UNAM). His current research is focused on the informal economy of Mexico, particularly on the street vendors in Mexico City.

Amna Ansari (DAP 2011-2012) won a Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, and Cambridge Commonwealth Trust (CCT) jointly funded full scholarship for her PhD in Development Studies at the University of Cambridge starting in Autumn 2012. Her research will build on her DPU MSc dissertation topic on *Revisiting the Links between Education Equality and Inclusive Citizenship - Proposals for Educational Reform in Pakistan*.

Kerry Melville (ESD 1998-1999) shares: "For the past 13 years I've been working in community led sustainable regeneration in post conflict Belfast. I moved out to Dubai a few months ago... working for a start-up construction firm that has secured contracts to build housing units and schools in Togo, Liberia, Ghana and Ivory Coast. My role is to set up training and employment packages with local companies and NGOs in Lome, Monrovia, Grumesa and Abidjan." Kerry can be reached at kerry@dvantagecorp.com

Efe Egborge (ESD 2009-2010) is working as an Associate HSE Advisor at Subsea 7, an offshore engineering, construction and services contractor to the offshore energy industry worldwide. This summer Efe was involved in the organisation of a raising awareness event on Water, Waste, Climate Change and Energy.

Fong Yee Chan (ESD 2010-2011) recently accepted a full time job with UN Principles for Responsible Investment and will be working as an implementation support manager. The role involves managing private equity and small funds and supporting these investors to incorporate environmental, social and governance considerations into their investment models.

Hannah Sternberg (ESD 2010-11) has published her dissertation *Rural Electrification - Towards an Application of Coproduction and its Potentials for the Case of India in the International Journal of Regulation and Governance*. She has worked as a consultant for the German Development Cooperation and ENERPOL, focusing on the Indo-German Energy Forum - a bilateral cooperation between the Indian and German governments to enhance energy security through the distribution of renewable energies and the enhancement of energy efficiency.

Fanny Frick (ESD 2011-2012) has received a job offer from Humboldt University in Berlin. She will mainly work on the acquisition of funding for research in climate change and sustainable development, with a focus on adaptation to climate change in urbanising coastal areas.

Networks and Meetings

DPU at World Urban Forum 2012, Naples

DPU staff ran three sessions at the World Urban Forum 6 (WUF) in Naples, Italy in September. **Yves Cabannes** ran a session *Community Land Trusts: Permanent Affordability for Long-Term Community Benefit* in collaboration with the Building and Social Housing Foundation. **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** ran the training event *How to Do: Participatory Design of the Built Environment with Architecture Sans Frontiers-UK*. It attracted over 100 participants from slum dwellers, CBOs, NGOs to academics, the private sector, managers of large scale development projects and government officials. This session demonstrated how participatory design can be of value in urban development - building more responsive products and more resilient communities. **Cassidy Johnson** organized a session in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on *The Challenges of Urban Planning for a Disaster Resilient Future*. The session was a first effort to bring together a number of organizations working on the topic and engaging directly with planning organisations, marking the beginning of a larger collaborative project with UNISDR. The WUF was also a great opportunity to hold a DPU dinner with alumni and prospective students who travelled for the event from all corners of the globe.



Above: Discussion panel chaired by Cassidy Johnson at the 2012 WUF Naples (Camillo Boano)

DPU at Cities Methodologies 2012

The DPU was highly represented at the UCL Cities Methodologies Exhibition in July. As part of their Urban Metabolism research project **Vanessa Castán-Broto**, **Adriana Allen** and **Gynna Millan** exhibited a short film they had produced with funding

from the UCL Environment Institute which was meant to articulate diverse and provocative views on the subject, thus promoting interdisciplinary dialogue. Featuring a host of UCL academics, the film asks the questions: how is the concept of urban metabolism understood within different disciplines? Can this concept foster new ideas and concepts of the urban? What is its potential to develop practical applications? To view the film, visit: <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/portlets/dpu/urban-metabolism>. At the event **William Hunter**, along with a group of Building and Urban Design in Development students (2011-12), curated the exhibit *Dharavi, Contested Urbanism: Mega-projects, Critical Alternative Strategies, and Studio Design Pedagogy* which highlighted work produced in the BUDD studio module since a field trip to Mumbai in May 2009. Through interlinking visual project outputs and design methodology,



Above: Dharavi, Contested Urbanism dialogue at Cities Methodologies exhibit with DPU Alumni. From left: Camillo Boano, William Hunter and Anna Schulenburg (Gynna Millan)

this retrospective of student work and research sought to display a critical working process of studio teaching and a rethinking of urban research and practice. A public dialogue event chaired by **William, Camillo Boano**, and **Anna Schulenburg** along with various BUDD alumni allowed for reflections and discussions on the Dharavi project throughout the last few years. In addition to these faculty-led exhibits, **Azzurra Muzzonigro**, current visiting PhD researcher and BUDD alumni (2010-11) showed her video installation *Dwell the Threshold*, a project based on her MSc dissertation.

International Conference on Urban Change in Iran

On November 8-9, the DPU hosted and chaired the international conference of

Urban Change in Iran at UCL. Attended by over 120 delegates, the event attracted support from Iranian and non-Iranian built environment students, academics and professionals as well as special attention from UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova, who commended UCL on undertaking this initiative. The conference was opened by **Professor Alan Penn**, Dean of the Bartlett followed by a welcome message from **Professor Yves Cabannes** and **Fatemeh (Farnaz) Arefian** (DPU PhD candidate), the driving force behind the conference. Addressing the socio-cultural drivers of urban transformation along with the impacts of exposure to natural hazards and the way in which they are



Above: Urban Change in Iran conference poster (Farnaz Arefian)

dealt with, the conference highlighted the importance of context-based urbanism. Discussions revolved around the degree to which urban changes have converged or diverged, based on urban localities within the larger network of cities and nations – providing the necessary context within which urban changes in Iran can be situated and understood, and in turn opening the opportunity to put Iranian urban transformation in perspective alongside other regional cities such as Istanbul and Cairo. Participants also visited parallel mapping exhibitions presenting historical Persia and new urban design projects in Iran.

Meta-narratives of Philippine Urbanism

Led by **William Hunter, Camillo Boano** and **Caroline Newton**, in September 2012 the DPU's MSc Building and Urban Design in Development (BUDD) launched a 'live' case study project, *Meta-narratives of Philippine Urbanism* stemming from a field research visit to the Philippines. The project formed the basis of the BUDD studio module and was developed in close collaboration with the Philippines Alliance network (Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines, Technical Assistance Movement for People and the Environment, and Philippine Action for Community-led Shelter Initiatives). Although the primary studio investigation was run remotely from London, the original design briefs were developed by the Alliance network and communities in Manila, Iloilo, and Davao. The agenda is to develop a holistic contextual analysis of urbanism in the Philippines, eventually leading to the formation and speculation on critical tactics and strategies that address a multitude of urban challenges facing the Alliance and the communities that they represent. This studio project was built on the premise of re-thinking design in development processes, not only for our students, but also for constituents that can benefit from new perspectives.

DPU at the ASAUK

Barbara Lipietz, Colin Marx, Le-Yin Zhang and **Michael Walls** attended the Africa Studies Association UK conference in Leeds. There were some 135 panels in the conference, including around 400 presentations over two and a half days. The DPU participants each presented papers on topics relating to informality in African cities. Le-Yin focused on urban cooperatives in Ethiopia while Barbara spoke about municipal responses to informality in the Johannesburg CBD. Colin used a range of sources, including feminist thinking on the value of work, to provide a contrast with the views of authors such as Collier and de Soto on formalisation. Michael talked about Economic Knowledge as an entry point to understanding informality, with reference to a research proposal that he is leading, looking at the subject in Somali cities. The presentations were made within two panels which the DPU team chaired, and were joined by a South African PhD student who talked about upgrading slum settlements in the Eastern Cape.

(Re)constructing the City

As part of the RIBA-funded project on urbanism and humanitarian response, titled *(Re)constructing the City: Integrating Urban Design into Humanitarian Recovery* jointly organized by **Dr. Camillo Boano**, Kate Crawford and Allison Killing there was a Twitter event with the MIT Community

Lab on November 15th, 2012, based around two short introductory films developed during a recent visit to Haiti. The first video illustrates some of the broad questions behind the project, while the second video asks the question: *What is Urban Design?* The videos can be found at <https://vimeo.com/52373307> and <https://vimeo.com/52373306> (the password to view the account is: **haiti2012**). In addition to this there was a one day workshop held in November 2012 hosted by CENDEP at Oxford Brookes University consisting of discussions and exercises to explore the different ways urban and humanitarian practitioners think and work.

6th World Water Forum

Last March, **Adriana Allen** and **Étienne von Bertrab** of the DPU attended the 6th World Water Forum (WWF) in Marseille, France, and its 'counterpart' the Alternative Forum (FAME). It was the first WWF to take place with the backdrop of the UN recognised human right to safe water and sanitation. Adriana participated as a discussant in a series of regional meetings of the Americas that focused on how to advance the agenda for universalisation that the UN resolution had put 'back on the table'. Étienne collaborated with the Mexican organisation Un Salto de Vida in the presentation of the case of water injustice in the Santiago River basin. A brief article titled Water and Sanitation Justice for All? One Right, Two Fora posted on the DPU blog, reflects on the series of deficits to be overcome if we are to make water poverty history, and on the nature and dynamics of the two fora

The advancement of 'water justice' is



Above: Étienne von Bertrab and Adriana Allen with ESD alumnus Diana Siller at the WWF

an increasing preoccupation of the DPU, manifested within the Environmental Justice, Urbanisation and Resilience (EJUR) cluster, and in the coming ESD fieldwork that will focus on water justice in Lima, Peru. It was also a good opportunity to reconnect with DPU Alumni.

DPU Staff Networking, Talks and Appointments

In addition to taking on the DPU directorship, **Julio Dávila** has had a busy year. He gave a seminar at the University of

Edinburgh on *Medellín's Social Urbanism: Symbolism or Transformation?* and at the Technical University of Eindhoven (The Netherlands) on *Medellín's Metrocables: Mobility, Control and Social Integration*. He also gave a keynote speech at the 9th Latin American Congress of Industrial Engineers at the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia. And was a panel responder at the UCL Institute of Global Health's lecture by Saskia Sassen on *Beyond Social Exclusion: Emerging Logics of Expulsion*. On a related topic, following the launch of the UCL-Lancet report on health and cities of which he is a co-author (<http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/healthy-cities>), Julio was interviewed by the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-18248075>) and BBC Mundo http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/noticias/2012/05/120530_ciudades_mas_saludables_yv.shtml. Julio was also invited as a member of the Advisory Group for the MSc in Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design, a programme funded by the German Ministries of Higher Education and International Development, managed by DAAD and run jointly by Stuttgart University and Ain Shams University.

Below: Julio Dávila (left) on responder panel at Saskia Sassen's lecture



Michael Whitbread has been appointed as a Trustee of the Arup UK Pension Fund, with a scope of £1 billion. Michael was one of the three Principals of the specialist Economics and Planning group in the '80s at Arup, one of the world's leading engineering consultancies.



Caren Levy's Legacy as DPU Director

On 6th September 2012 **Caren Levy** passed an Olympic torch to me in front of the DPU, as part of a charity fund raising initiative. This symbolic gesture marked a celebration of London's Olympic success, and, more importantly for us, a change of the DPU's leadership. I feel very proud to walk in the footsteps of previous DPU directors Otto Koenigsberger, Colin Rosser (see obituary), Nigel Harris, Patrick Wakely, Babar Mumtaz and of course Caren.

In the seven years of Caren's directorship, the DPU experienced the fastest expansion in its 60-year history, as student numbers grew from 98 to 190, the number and value of research projects grew significantly, and our research was re-organised into four 'clusters'. She appointed ten new lecturers following the retirement within five years of seven staff members who worked under Otto to create the DPU that we know today. She worked tirelessly to raise DPU's profile in UCL and elsewhere, thus spearheading a number of very stimulating and far-reaching research and academic collaborations.

I greatly admire Caren's analytical skills, sensitivity and capacity to inspire staff and students alike. Her work is marked by passion, humanity and a strong commitment to principles of social justice. Thanks to her legacy the DPU is stronger than ever to take on the challenges of education and research at the core of our mission.

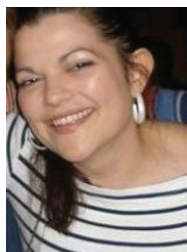
Julio D Dávila, DPU Director

Romola Sanyal joins the DPU from the Newcastle University where she was Lecturer in Global Urbanism in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape. Prior to this, she was a research associate at the Open University and the inaugural Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Chao Centre for Asian Studies, Rice University. She completed her PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, in Architecture, focusing on urbanization of refugee camps in the Middle East and South Asia, and how such spaces and processes change the way we think about the politics of poverty and

citizenship. She analysed the spatial practices of squatting and building informal housing under adverse circumstances of political violence, state repression and economic marginalization. Romola's research interests include architecture, urban theory, and urban planning including studies of informality and citizenship. Her co-edited book *Urbanizing Citizenship: Contested Spaces in Indian Cities* (Sage) was published in December 2011. At the DPU, she teaches on the Development in Practice module and the Research Methods module for PhD students.

Kamna Patel joins the DPU from the University of Birmingham where she was tutoring on a range of MSc/MA modules in development studies via distance learning. Prior to this she completed her doctoral research, also at the University of Birmingham, exploring the social consequences of upgrading informal settlements in Durban, South Africa, and the effects of changes to tenure security on the identity and social relationships of the urban poor. Her research interests include issues around urban land tenure, the complexities of life in informal settlements, and approaches to planning and implementing development interventions. At the DPU Kamna teaches on the Development in Practice module which is part of the MSc Development Administration and Planning.

Caroline Newton is an architect, urban planner, and political scientist, and completed her PhD in social geography at the K.U. Leuven (Belgium). Her work and research focuses on the socio-spatial dimensions of design and critical spatial practices in Europe and the Global South. Her interests are centred on the interrelation between societal processes and the built environment and she has written on informal dwelling and participatory upgrading, the challenge of design and planning in post colonial environments and also on the methodological and pedagogical challenges of a 'designerly way of knowledge production'. Caroline is a lecturer for the MSc Building and Urban Design in Development and is a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Housing and the Built Environment.



Liza Griffin joined the DPU as Lecturer in Environment and Sustainable Development. She completed her PhD in geography at the Open University in 2007 after which she joined the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of

Westminster. Having worked as a research fellow on a programme of research entitled Governance and Sustainability she became a Senior Lecturer in 2009. Liza has also taught geography and planning at Oxford Brookes, Oxford University, Birmingham City University and Birkbeck. She has written widely on fisheries politics and is particularly interested in debates about power and space in relation to the governance of 'wicked problems'. She is currently involved in a project exploring the resilience of communities in relation to flooding.



Rita Lambert returns to the DPU, having completed the MSc in Environment and Sustainable Development at the DPU with distinction in 2011. She studied in Edinburgh and London before graduating from

the Architectural Association, where she later taught for 4 years in the Diploma in Architecture. Rita has worked as an architect for 8 years for several leading international firms in New York and in the UK. During that period she also acted as a consultant for a number of non-profit organisations on the planning of development projects in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. Her particular interest lies in mapping as a tool to expand the room for manoeuvre towards environmentally just urbanisation. She will be primarily engaged in the ESD practice module and currently coordinates the research platform entitled 'The Heuristics of Mapping Urban Environmental Change'.

Steve Ridge has joined DPU as the new Research Administrator. He has extensive administration experience gained from several London universities and teaching experience at Imperial and UCL. He also has a PhD in the History of Medicine from UCL.

Matthew Brown has left the DPU. Currently on secondment at SSEES he will soon take up a post at the UCL Institute of Child Health. He was a great addition to the admin team and we wish him all the best in his new role.

We welcome new Graduate Teaching Assistants, **Stephanie Butcher** for Social Development Practice, **Di Jiang** for Urban Economic Development, and **Emily Kelling** for Building and Urban Design in Development serving currently as maternity cover for Anna Schulenburg. **Alicia Yon** has officially assumed the role of GTA for the Urban Development Planning course.

The DPU baby boom continues!

Congratulations to **Vanesa Castan Broto** and her partner Bas on the arrival of baby Julia, born on September 24, 2012 and to **Anna Schulenburg** and her partner Azhar on the birth of their son Alexander on December 26, 2012.

Congratulations to **Oscar Clarke** and his wife Daniela who were married on September 22, 2012.

Ronaldo Ramirez Receives Prestigious Award from Universidad de Chile

Professor Ronaldo Ramirez who retired from the DPU in 1999 has been awarded the 2012 Edwin Haramoto Nishikimoto Professorship by the Housing Institute of the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Universidad de Chile, in memory of the important work on housing of the Institute's late founder. The Professorship provides an annual award to an academic or a practising professional who has continued Professor Haramoto's legacy. To celebrate Ronaldo's career, his work and his active encouragement of learning and research in the field of housing, the award was presented to Ronaldo in Santiago de Chile on October 30, 2012 where he delivered a public lecture attended by distinguished guests and some former DPU students.



Obituary:

Colin Rosser, Former DPU Director

By Nigel Harris

The son of a South Wales mining family, Colin won a scholarship to read anthropology at Cambridge after his Second World War military service as a Gurkha captain in India (beginning his life-long involvement with the Himalayas). He then undertook doctoral research in the remote Kulu valley of the western Himalayas (now part of the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh). He and his wife, Tessa, trekked over the 12,000 feet pass into the valley and lived under canvas for two years while he compiled a dictionary for the unknown language and analysed the culture.

On a fellowship at Swansea University College, he wrote (with Chris Harris) *Family and Social Change* (1965) and carried out research on the Newars of the Kathmandu valley.

However, academic life could not hold him for long and he transformed himself into consultant in Social Planning to a major Ford Foundation project, the Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organisation (1961-67), drawing up the then-remarkably innovative Calcutta: Basic Development Plan (1965). It was a formative experience, starting both his interest in urbanization in developing countries, urban poverty and housing, but also in the real practice of urban planning.

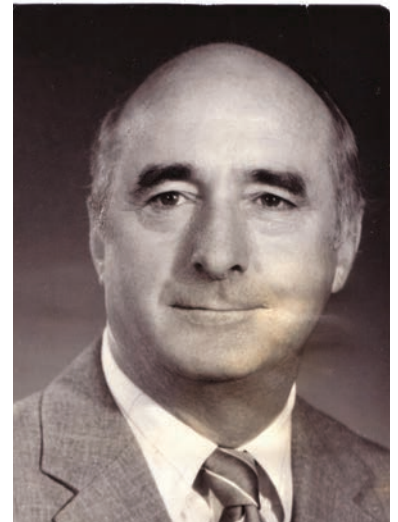
At the Development Planning Unit (director from 1976) he brought these preoccupations to bear, seeking to bring together practitioners and academics. He recruited consultants to the staff, used them as contributing part-time teachers, and encouraged the existing staff to undertake consultancies. The staff as a whole came together to draw up the Greater Amman development plan, to work in Juba (Sudan), in Madras and many other locations; he also (with Otto Koenigsberger) led a mission to India for the British aid ministry to draw up a plan for aid to India's cities.

But again, like any good anthropologist, Colin wanted, as soon as possible, to get back to 'the field'. He did it by winning the DPU a major World Bank contract to set up master's degrees in highway engineering and transport planning in the Institute of Technology, Bandung in Indonesia. In one stroke, he not only found a way back to working in a developing country, but salvaged the then-precarious funding of the DPU. He himself went to Bandung to lead the project and was there to welcome the grand visit of the Provost of UCL to ITB.

In 1984, he moved yet again, back to the Himalayas and possibly his greatest challenge, the creation of an international centre for the Himalayan-Hindu Kush region, located in Kathmandu. ICIMOD (the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) brought together the whole range of expertise on the social, economic and physical development of the mountain region. It was also a diplomatic nightmare, involving all governments with a stake in the region, from India and Pakistan, Russia and China, to Afghanistan, Bhutan and Outer Mongolia. Establishing the Centre on a firm footing took the rest of his working life.

However, when he retired to the Malvern Hills on the Welsh border, he retained his immense energy and enthusiasm, throwing himself into a project to advise the British aid ministry on their support to the city of Cuttack in Orissa (one of India's poorest states). He carried out the first social survey of all the slums in the city, tramping the length and breadth of the place, leading to the publication of *Jobs for the Poor* (Research Press, Delhi, 1996).

Colin died at the age of 86, and is survived by his wife, Tessa, and two sons, Jonathan and Vivian.



ESD+15 Update

Calling all ESD alumni

As part of the initiatives to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the MSc Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) we have launched an interactive platform for all ESD alumni. Have you ever wondered where your ESD classmates are now? Are you interested in connecting with other ESD alumni around the world?

If so, please register your details at <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/news/esd15> and start networking! You can search the map to find people by the year of graduation or by their cities of professional expertise.

Over the coming months the ESD team will work on an outline to produce a collective publication on theory and practice in the ESD field that draws from the different experiences of ESD alumni. This is another exciting initiative for you to get involved, so please get in touch. For more information on the network and the book please contact **Pascale Hofmann** p.hofmann@ucl.ac.uk

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Planning for socially just
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in the global south