



# UCL



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# dpu news

In this issue:

What kind of knowledge production for transformative development planning?

See Focus on, page 2

CELEBRATING  
**60**  
YEARS  
1954-2014



**dpu**  
Development  
Planning Unit

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## Focus on

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# What kind of knowledge production for transformative development planning?

For 60 years the DPU has been at the forefront of development planning research, both through contributions to theory about spaces for development planning, and through developing practical interventions in specific locales. A shared goal of advancing social justice and inclusive development in the global South has led the DPU to develop a diverse research programme, and during the last 60 years a key challenge for this programme has been how to respond to a shifting development planning agenda.

We are now going through a shift in thinking, in which development planning concerns and urbanisation are increasingly re-evaluated in terms of their potential to advance progressive international development agendas. A key preoccupation, within and beyond the DPU, is responding to the post-2015 development agenda and the extent to which the (re)formulation of Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation will contribute to improving the lives of people in the global South. Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, will be held in 2016. This will be the first event on the road of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim of Habitat III is to reimagine the urban agenda in a way that tackles unresolved issues while dealing with new challenges such as climate change.

What any new (or recycled!) urban agenda must recognise is the empirical evidence of the role that everyday actions and everyday citizens play in making and imagining cities.

One can see an excessive preoccupation with the development of 'agendas' led by higher levels of decision-making and international negotiations. However, spaces of development, particularly urban spaces, emerge from multiple daily interactions between individuals going about their daily lives and the environments (built or not) that surround them. Policy is important in so far as it interacts with other strategies of making and living the city. Development planning is not only about drafting and implementing policies and decisions, but also the multiplicity of ways in which change and transformations can be activated.

From this perspective, much of the research that we do within the DPU engages with a critique of uniform ways of thinking about development planning, and the need for forms of governance from below. A commitment to 'trans-disciplinary' research is patent in DPU's work, starting from the diverse pool of disciplines that we use in our own research.

Dealing with different disciplinary perspectives, from sociology and economics, to planning, design, architecture and engineering, is a strategy to deal with multi-dimensional, complex problems that development planning attempts to address.

Whether we are thinking of drafting area maps or designing development projects, development planning problems relate to multi-scalar processes in which many institutions intervene simultaneously, from the conventions that organise social life, to the formalised political processes that create state power and other forms of authority. Such problems require understanding of multiple aspects from socio-ecological interactions to the possibilities of drawing democratic forms of governance within a given political and spatial system. These are all dynamic processes that make outcomes unpredictable. Most development planning problems are also related to encounters between different visions about what kind of future is desirable and, thus, conflict between different parties is often unavoidable, and may generate division, or, on the other hand, new forms of negotiated collaboration.

Philosophers Jerome Ravetz and Silvio Functowicz wrote in the early 1990s about the kind of 'science' that could inform decisions to deal with complex problems in which there was uncertainty about the outcomes, and very high stakes for all parties involved. These are common characteristics of development planning, which necessitate interventions that require an extended 'peer review' community, that is, they require incorporating multiple stakeholders into the process of knowledge evaluation

### DPU Research Clusters:

The DPU has four Research Clusters, each with sub-clusters which reflect the development of different strands of their work. The Clusters operate as hubs for interdisciplinary discussion and thinking between different staff members and research students. They also offer platforms for the development of collaborative research ideas, methodologies and activities, which contribute towards our broader research strategy.

#### **Environmental Justice, Urbanisation and Resilience**

<https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/research/research-clusters/ejur-cluster>

#### **Urban Transformations**

<https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/research/research-clusters/urban-transformation>

#### **Diversity, Social Complexity and Planned Intervention**

<https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/research/research-clusters/diversity>

#### **State and Market: Governance and Policy for Development**

<https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/research/research-clusters/state-market>



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*Above: Active engagement:* The final exercise of the Oficina Marconi action learning workshop in Sao Paulo, Brazil. See page 14 of this dpunews (Alexandre Apsan Frediani).

*Below: Revealing relations:* Kamna Patel's research in Ahmedabad questions the state's exercises of power in the field of tenure security, and the competing ways in which citizenship is performed. See page 9 of this dpunews (Kamna Patel).



and, even further, into the process of knowledge generation. This is consistent with a transdisciplinary approach that questions traditional disciplines as the only sources of legitimate knowledge to support development planning decisions.

Transdisciplinary approaches at the DPU reflect a commitment to the involvement of citizens, and particularly disadvantaged citizens, in development planning decisions. This relates to a normative dimension, an optimistic and non-cynical view of a just world in which women and men are equally able to choose, plan and manage their own lives and communities, and to influence local, national and global development in ways that are economically, socially, and

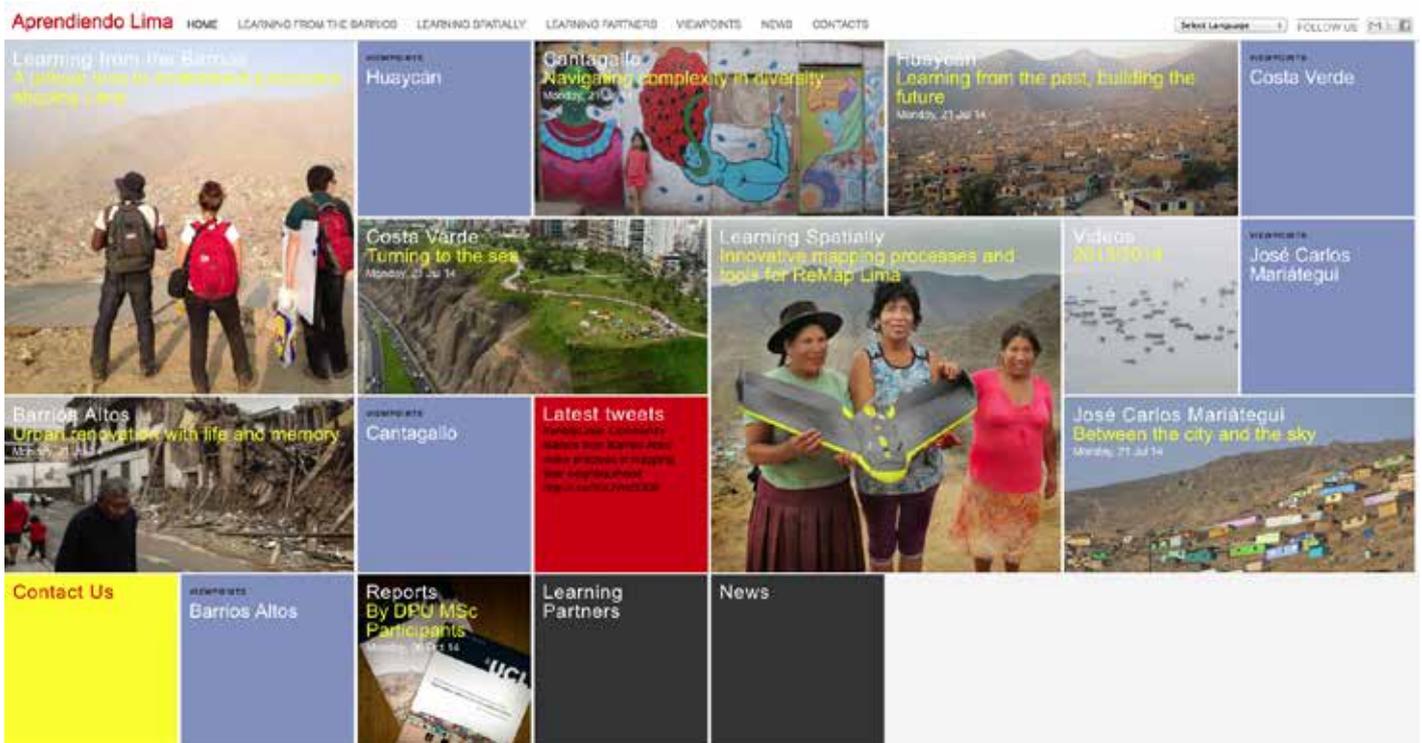
environmentally sustainable.

The DPU is not alone within the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, where there is an increasing recognition for the need for multi-perspectival approaches to research, that is, not just approaches that bring disciplines together, but also approaches that recognise the different fundamental epistemological assumptions embedded in each disciplinary orientation. For development planning research, and spatial design, the central questions are how knowledge is produced, and what knowledge counts? At the DPU, this relates to a belief that the situated and context-based knowledge that citizens hold is central for developing and evaluating knowledge in

development planning decisions. Citizens themselves are capable of engaging with multiple forms of knowledge to create future visions and take decisions that improve their daily lives.

This is articulated differently in relation to the subject matter under discussion. At the DPU we use Clusters as spaces for dialogue that enable multi-perspective and transdisciplinary research (see diagram on opposite page).

We relate Clusters closely to our teaching practices because research can only be understood as a process of active learning. Whilst there is a rich diversity of approaches to research in development planning at the DPU, varying across disciplines and scales,



we are able to collectively identify five features, coherent with transdisciplinarity, which are recurrent across our research, explored below.

The DPU's commitment to practice is often related to research that is **active**, that is, engaged in an on-going balancing act between withdrawal and engagement, cultivating a collective imagination sensitive to the potential of transformative action. Questioning predefined agendas, DPU's research and learning attempts to outline a practice-based agenda that is critical and inclusive, whilst negotiating complex, unstable and often conflictive development processes and practices. This entails engaging both with activist/insurgent approaches to research and with methods for institutional development that seek out the construction of a periodic consensus between government, business and civil society actors.

Our research is also **relational**. This is a complex term which may mean slightly different things in different contexts, but in a general formulation, thinking about research as relational helps acknowledging that conceptual categories and situated realities through which we make sense of the world are predicated on relative positions in existing discourses, material processes and socially constructed identities, meanings, spaces and ecologies. This approach highlights power relations at the

heart of development and planning, making visible both constraints to transformative change as well as new spaces of possibilities.

The DPU as an institution has a strong emphasis on the need to reflect on development planning as a **collective** enterprise. In terms of our research approach, research that is collective implies that knowledge production is understood as a common endeavour pursued by networks of individuals, community organisations, NGOs, as well as public, private, and academic institutions that share a progressive axiology. This is an approach that starts by questioning the role of the expert and how discourses of expertise are constituted in particular contexts.

A key feature of DPU research has been to design initiatives with local partners in a way that research questions are **embedded** in local concerns and contestations aimed at challenging exclusionary processes and constructing more just futures. Research is embedded if learning and knowledge production are seen as processes inherently related to the practices and lived experiences of people in specific settings and locations. This means recognising development planning as a situated practice, building on critical engagements with material and discursive processes that work towards transformative alternatives.

Finally, following the need to question the epistemological paradigms that

influence development planning practices, we emphasise research that is **reflexive**, acknowledging that our research is influenced by internalised world views. This leads to an inherent questioning of theoretical and methodological frames, with a view to developing new understandings and creatively producing renewed possibilities of thinking and action.

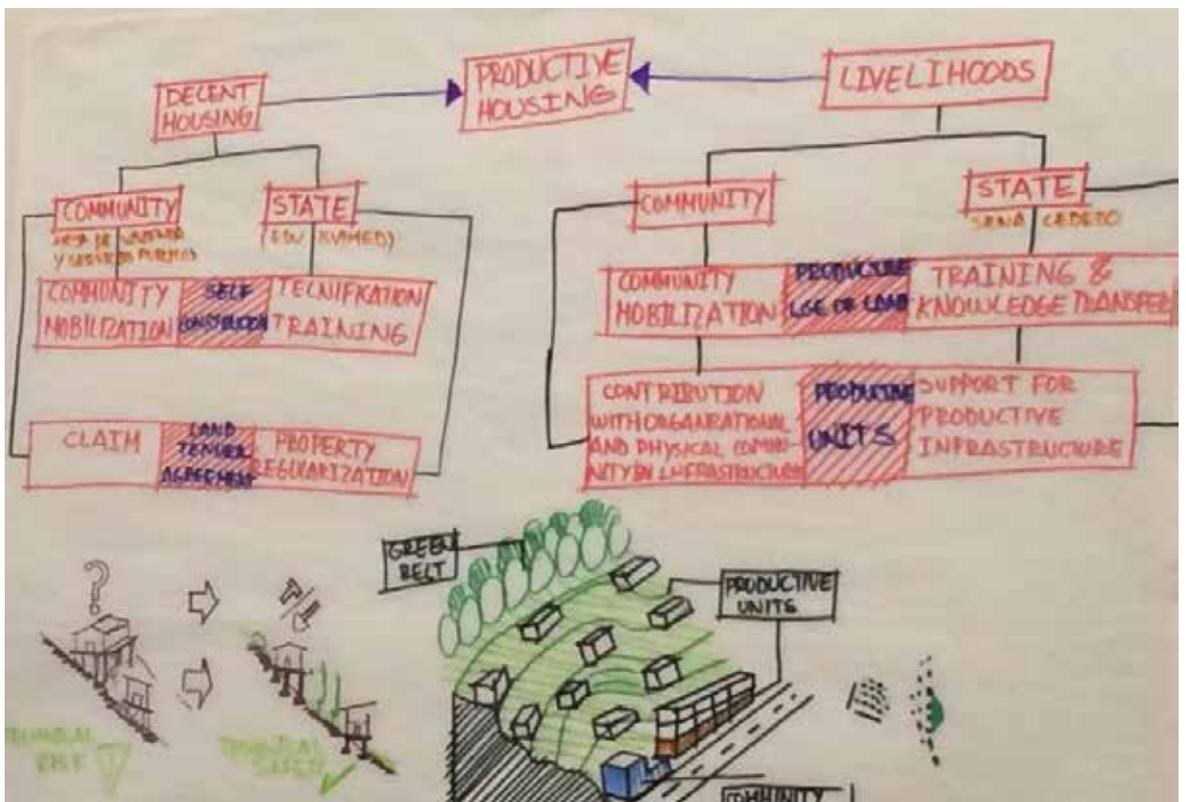
This is an understanding of development planning research that it is shared beyond the DPU. Rather than making our research unique or providing a template for DPU's research, we believe that these principles emphasise the need for an open approach to knowledge generation which emphasises the possibilities for progressive change. In this way, the DPU's evolving approach, and the body of work that has been generated over 60 years, are testimony to our relevance in development planning research.

*This piece emerges from a series of collective discussions at the DPU about our approach to knowledge co-production, and has been pulled together by DPU's Director of Research, Vanesa Castán Broto.*

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*Opposite page:* **Collective learning.** The Learning Lima project promotes collaborative action-learning between partner organisations and local communities in Lima, the DPU, and other departments in UCL. See page 13 of this dpunews (Rita Lambert).

*This page right:* **Embedded research:** The Mapping Urban Energy Landscapes project engages with the specificities of Maputo as an urban space, and reveals its unique urban cultures of energy. See page 8 of this dpunews (Kevin Adams).

*Below:* **Reflexive encounters:** DPU's summerLabs create the space for reflection on the role of the practitioner in urban design, and the interrogation of spatial discourses. See page 6 of this dpunews (Giorgio Talocci).





Left: Public housing in San Lorenzo (Alexandre Apsan Frediani).

Below: Camillo Boano, Dalia Chabarek and the group in Beirut

## Global Identity through Human Development (ID) Summer School

In June 2014 **Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, DPU's former Media Coordinator, **Gynna Millan Franco**, and five students from the MSc Social Development Practice (SDP) took part in a two-week summer school on Human Development and Participatory Research Video in the Spanish town of Castellon. Funded by the *Lifelong Learning Programme* of the European Union, the school brought together students and staff from seven European universities to explore wellbeing issues in the neighbourhood of San Lorenzo.

While San Lorenzo has been the target of many social projects it remains a place of marginalisation and a site of conflict between 'gypsy' and 'non-gypsy' residents. Recently the neighbourhood has been site of many novel initiatives, led by teams of local social workers and Universitat Jaume I, which has been working on issues of gender, youth empowerment, and social inclusion. As a result of these engagements, a structure of representation has been created to facilitate coordination among different initiatives and improve the dialogue between local residents and government actors, termed, *La Taula*.

However, the situation has recently become particularly complex, as the current Spanish economic crisis means that local residents face an uncertain economic environment, while the government is under pressure to reduce costs leading to cuts to social projects as well as the potential threat to the social housing stock.

In this context, the summer school partnered with *La Taula* with the aim of

exploring the wellbeing of local residents and producing videos that fed-into their activities and dialogue with wider governmental authorities. The videos reveal local aspirations and potentials for change, aimed at giving visibility to positive local practices, fostering dialogue between different social groups in San Lorenzo, and contributing to efforts address stigma associated with the neighbourhood.

For more information, see the project website: [http://globcons.uji.es/projects/global\\_id/](http://globcons.uji.es/projects/global_id/)

And to see teaser videos produced by the team visit: <http://youtu.be/X2pXqaaQ-oA>; <http://youtu.be/nOXqluWyJIU>.

## DPUsummerLab 2014

The *DPUsummerLab 2014* series that took place in Medellín (Colombia), Beirut (Lebanon) and London (UK) was a fruitful experience for participants, staff and partners. The programme, coordinated by **Camillo Boano**, **Caroline Newton**, and **Giorgio Talocci**, received an extremely high number of applications, with more than 60 participants engaging in urban research and design research initiatives across the three cities.

In Medellín seven international participants joined a group of students from the Masters in Urban and Regional Studies programme (MEUR) at Universidad Nacional de Colombia, to work on the topic of *Everyday Infrastructures*. In a Communa on the slopes of the city, *summerLab* explored the notion of social urbanism, discursive practices, the aesthetic regimes of government and grassroots organisations, and how infrastructures related to conceptions of community, livelihoods and accessibility.

In Beirut, 35 participants joined the *Patchwork City* workshop, organised in collaboration with the Design Department, Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts/University of Balamand and Public Interest Design Levant. The



study area, El Khoder neighbourhood, was divided along sectarian and political boundaries during the war. Working with residents and local stakeholders, *summerLab* explored design research, tactical interventions, and systems mapping, exposing the participants to the complexities of community narratives, and measuring their presence, interactivity, interdependence and independence within the neighborhood.

In London's *Localising Legacies* workshop, in collaboration with Alberto Duman from the School of Art, Middlesex University, 15 participants explored Newham's so-called 'Arc of Opportunity' from Stratford to the Royal Docks, and its emergent, informal and grassroots counterparts. The workshop questioned possible future inclusive scenarios for the transformation of this area of East London.

Each workshop was a unique opportunity to engage in dynamic exploration of contemporary urban issues, actively discover new design agencies and reclaim the socio-political project of architecture and planning. We look forward to launching this year's pamphlet in January 2015, and to engaging in the *DPU summerLab* 2015 series. Stay tuned!

### Teaching at the African Centre for Cities on Community Development

In July 2014, **Caren Levy** and **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** made their annual trip to the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the

University of Cape Town (UCT) to teach a module on *Community Development* as part of UCT's MPhil in Urban Infrastructure Design and Management. The module is coordinated with Mercy Brown-Luthango from the ACC and this year it also partnered with the NGO Development Action Group (DAG) to undertake a field trip project in Khayelitsha. The part-time students, mostly practitioners from different parts of South Africa, engaged in a short research project entitled, *Strategic Upgrading: Infrastructure and Social Justice in the City*, which aimed at contributing to the community profiling initiative led by DAG as part of their *Re-imagining Khayelitsha* Programme. The course brings a DPU perspective to planning by using Strategic Action Planning and the Capability Approach to orient students' critical engagement with community development processes.

### Dialogues in Development

Throughout its 60th Anniversary Year, the DPU continues its programmes of public lectures and events, *Dialogues in Development* and *DPU Lectures*, engaging with the latest research on urban development in the global South.

In June, as part of the Anniversary programme, **David Satterthwaite** hosted an event entitled, '*Avoid, Bury or Improve? What to do with the MDGs post 2015*', with discussant, Claire Melamed, from the Overseas Development Institute

(ODI). In October the DPU welcomed back former DPU Director, **Professor Pat Wakely**, and former DPU lecturer, **Professor Ronaldo Ramirez** to join **Jorge Fiori** and **Ruth McLeod** for a well-attended panel discussion, chaired by **Caren Levy**, entitled, '*Back to the Future: 60 years of Housing Policy*.'

### DPU Lectures and Seminars

In May the DPU welcomed Fiona Xue Fei for a Lecture entitled, *Healing Space Research in High-density Built Environments for Health Promotion*, exploring the relationship between ecological systems, health and wellbeing in design and construction practice.

In June Visiting Researcher Gautam Bhan from the Indian Institute of Human Settlements delivered a Lecture entitled, *The Impoverishment of Poverty: Notes on Urban Citizenship and Inequality in Contemporary Delhi*. Later in June, PhD candidate **Alix Valenti**, presented some of the emerging findings from her research fieldwork at an event entitled, *Exploring the Construction of Citizenship in Post-conflict Urban Dili, Timor Leste*.

In July Visiting Researcher Kavita Wankhade from the Indian Institute of Human Settlements, held a seminar entitled, *Urban Sanitation in India: A Glass Half-Full?* with the DPU's Environmental Justice, Urbanisation and Resilience Research Cluster.



Left: Resident in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, where the DAG field project was held (Alexandre Apsan Frediani)

## Urban Zoonoses

The DPU continues its engagement with urban zoonosis research. Funded by the UK Department For International Development (DFID), through the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the *Urban Zoonosis* project is being conducted by the DPU with *Muungano wa Wanavijiji*, a federation of Kenyan slum-dwellers' associations, and Muungano Support Trust (MuST), a local NGO, in three informal settlements of Nairobi (Mathere, Kibera and Mukuru).

The main output of the project will be detailed maps of food systems within the settlements, including the locations of food vendors and livestock food production in relation to other land-uses and infrastructure services, patterns of food use by consumers, and environmental hazards (for example, open sewage, waste dumpsites, roaming animals, and flooding).

In 2014, DPU Research Associate, **Sohel Ahmed** took part in a field trip to Nairobi, Kenya, to conduct participatory community-led mapping, and was able to document how the location of street vendors contributes to access to food for local residents/consumers, but can also result in food safety problems because of the exposure and proximity to environmental hazards.

Sohel and members of Muungano Support Trust have now co-authored a policy paper describing the methodology and tools that has been used, emerging policy pointers, and the initial reflection expressed by the communities involved. This study is already having an impact, having led to MuST coordination between the County Government, the Federation and a Youth Group in Mathere, to trial new solid waste collection effort, as well as to the formation of food vendors association (FVA) in new settlements. The team is set to discuss this briefing paper along with other project findings in a Parliamentary Committee in Kenya soon.

For more information download the Briefing Paper from <http://pubs.iied.org/17218IIED.html>; and read the blogposts by IIED-DPU, <http://www.iied.org/air-citizen-scientists-map-food-dangers-nairobi>; and MuST, <http://muunganosupporttrust.wordpress.com/2014/04/14/food-safety-in-nairobi-informal-settlements/>.

## Breaking Cycles of Risk Accumulation in Urban Sub-Saharan Africa

From 2015, a team from the DPU, comprising **Professor Adriana Allen**, **Cassidy Johnson** and **Don Brown** will

be embarking upon a three-year multi-disciplinary research and capacity building project to investigate the relationship between urbanisation and risk in sub-Saharan Africa. Led by King's College London, this project will involve a variety of institutions based in the United Kingdom, Africa and elsewhere, with the aim of developing an evidence base to inform risk reduction measures. To do so, the project will focus on six urban centres of different sizes, locations and hazard contexts: Dakar (Senegal), Ibadan (Nigeria), Karonga (Malawi), Mombasa (Kenya), Nairobi (Kenya) and Niamey (Niger).

The DPU will be leading the core work programme (one of six) dedicated to better understanding how urban planning and governance systems are shaping the (re)production of risk accumulation and reduction in two urban centres (to be determined). In an effort to foster strategic action planning and learning processes in these centres, this work will involve the introduction of urban resource hubs to engage local stakeholders in addressing risk as part of future urban development and infrastructure investments.

## Mapping Urban Energy Landscapes in Maputo, Mozambique

In July 2014, **Vanesa Castán Broto**, **Diana Salazar** and Kevin Adams travelled to Maputo, Mozambique, to conduct fieldwork as part of the ESRC *Future Research Leaders* Project, *Mapping Urban Energy Landscapes (MUEL)*. The objective of *MUEL* is to develop evidence about the urban cultures of energy, that is, the collective

assumptions that underpin energy use and its management in a given setting and which relate to the spatial fragmentation of energy services in any given city.

During two intensive weeks, the team tried to make sense of the multiplicity of social relations that permeate the use of energy in Maputo. They found a highly heterogeneous energy landscape, in which the use of energy in one part of the city is unconceivable in another. They used walking as the principal mode of investigation, trying to make sense of the city's heterogeneity through 'ambulatory encounters'.

The highlight of the trip was the participatory mapping workshop held in Chamanculo C, a neighbourhood in which Vanesa has been doing research since 2011. The workshop employed both conceptual mapping and neighbourhood walking as methodologies to develop collective understandings of energy.

## WatJust – Translocal Learning for Water Justice: Peri-urban Pathways in India, Tanzania and Bolivia

*WatJust* is a translocal learning alliance initiated in September 2014, with the support of the International Social Sciences Council (ISSC), through their *Transformations to Sustainability* Programme and the ESRC. Led by **Professor Adriana Allen** in collaboration with **Pascale Hofmann** and partners in Kolkata (India), Cochabamba (Bolivia) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), the project explores the potential

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*Below: Energy Mapping workshop in Maputo*  
(Kevin Adams)



of alternative water supply arrangements for and by the peri-urban poor in these three urban regions. The purpose of the alliance is to map such alternative arrangements and to explore their distributive impact, as well as their capacity to transform some of the deep socio-environmental injustices that plague the peri-urban.

Partners in this network include Jenia Mukherjee and Professor Asish Gosh (Institute of Development Studies Kolkata), Professor Rocio Bustamante (Centro Agua at Universidad Mayor de San Simón), Gustavo Heredia (Aguatuya), Professor Wilbard Kombe (Institute of Human Settlements Studies at Ardhi University) and Tim Ndezi (Tanzanian Centre for Community Initiatives, CCI). More information about the project will soon be available on the DPU website.

### An Urban Perspective on the Sustainable Development Goals

**Caren Levy, David Satterthwaite and Colin Marx** have contributed urban expertise to an interdisciplinary, multi-institution research project on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), *Thinking beyond Sectors for*

*Sustainable Development*, led by London International Development Centre (LIDC), coordinated by **Christopher Yap**, and supported by UCL Grand Challenges. The project focuses on developing a cross sectoral perspective on the SDGs and on the governance challenges of this for national governments when they start to consider the implementation of the SDGs. Upcoming outputs include a group paper reflecting the approach to the topic and a paper focusing on the urban SDG and its governance challenges as it intersects with a range of key sectors.

### Indefensible Space: Sanitation and Gender Based Violence in Mumbai, India

The DPU is conducting research into sanitation and gender based violence in Mumbai, funded by UCL Grand Challenges. Led by **Caren Levy** and David Osrin (UCL Institute for Global Health-Institute for Child Health), with **Caroline Newton** and **Laura Hirst**, this project will involve a partnership with Mumbai-based NGO, SNEHA. The project is just getting underway, but in 2015 outputs will include

a film that will be presented at the Dharavi Biennale in February and an international colloquium in March, hosted at UCL.

### Examining Urban Citizenship and State-led Housing Interventions in Ahmedabad, India

In March-April 2014 **Kamna Patel** visited the city of Ahmedabad, the commercial capital of Gujarat state in north-western India, to conduct a pilot study on state-led interventions in low income housing in the city. Kamna was kindly hosted by CEPT University through the *Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA)*, which funded the study; this network of over 100 researchers is the largest academic international network on Asian cities. The *UKNA* is funded by Marie Curie Actions and is administered by the European Union.

Under the auspices of the *Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)* (2005-2014), the national government in partnership with state and municipal governments, has driven an

.....  
*Below: Relocation housing in Ahmedabad*  
(Kamna Patel)



agenda to substantially change the way 65 selected 'mission' cities look and the ways its citizens live; Ahmedabad is one such city.

Under the *JNNURM*, Ahmedabad has seen substantial investment in its infrastructure. However, as part of this process, thousands of informal settlements have been cleared by the municipality, some relocated en masse to public housing on the city's periphery.

To state actors, the conference of *de jure* tenure rights as part of the relocation package represents a substantial improvement to citizens' lives; in principle, it denotes a progressive shift in the relationship between citizen and state, where the state articulates its commitment to uphold, in law, the rights of citizens. Fieldwork reveals a more complicated narrative where security of tenure in practice is conferred through daily deals and negotiations between residents in public housing and local state representatives.

The muddled distinction between *de jure* and *de facto* tenure security, in the context of mass relocation, raises interesting questions over the aims and objectives of the state's exercises of power in the field of tenure security and the subsequent performance of citizenship. These findings lay the empirical and theoretical groundwork for further study to commence later this year.

### **UrbaKnow - Blurred Borders: Urbanisation, Knowledge-Policy and Cross-disciplinary Interaction for Sustainable Cities**

Led by CIENS (Oslo Centre for Interdisciplinary Environmental and Social Research), *UrbaKnow* seeks to examine how different knowledge traditions influence and interact in planning and policy-making for sustainable cities. Focusing on Oslo, London and Chennai, the project will examine how urban sustainability problems and planning solutions are assembled, exploring how and why certain forms or sources of knowledge become hegemonic and others excluded and with what consequences.

The project team includes Vibeke Nenseth and Beate Elvebakk, TØI, **Desmond McNeill** University of Oslo (SUM) and former member of the DPU academic staff; and Ragnhild Skogheim, NIBR, in cooperation with **Professor Adriana Allen, Adrian Atkinson** (Prof. TU

Berlin and DPU Associate), and Göran Sundquist, TIK/UiO and Haakon Thaulow NIVA/CIENS. Adriana and Adrian joined the CIENS team in Oslo in September 2014 for the project kick-off workshop. During this occasion Adriana was invited to speak on *International Urbanism? Learning, Knowledge and Transformative Action in the Search for Environmentally Just Cities* at the CIENS Breakfast Seminar Series.

### **Visiting Researchers at the DPU**

**Dr Gautam Bahn** visited the DPU from the Indian Institute for Housing Studies (IIHS) from May to July 2014. Gautam researches and writes on the politics of urban poverty and inequality in Indian cities, previously by looking at evictions and resettlement in Delhi and, in more recent work, through tracing the urban welfare state in India. As part of the Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA), he is thinking through frameworks of urban inequality in cities of the global south. Gautam's presentation at the 7th Session of DPU's 60th Anniversary conference, *Gender, Intersectionality and Socially Just Futures* can be heard at <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/dpu60/podcasts>.

**Associate Professor Zhituan Deng** visited the DPU from the Institute of Urban and Demographic Studies in the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. Zhituan's main research interests lie in industrial upgrading and urban development and he has led projects including, *The Re-design of Urban Functions and Re-organization of Urban Space Forced by Innovation-Driven Development Model* in 2013, and *Global Production Networks, Change of Network Power and the Innovation and Development of Traditional Industries Cluster in China* in 2011.

**Dr Neha Sami**, Senior Researcher at the Indian Institute of Human Settlements, conducted research at the DPU on the topic of land use and economic development in India's urban corridors.

**Dr Nat Marom** visited the DPU with his current research project, *Urban Strategy and Inequality in Global South Cities*, under the framework of the European Commission's Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship. Nat is a Post Doctoral Researcher the Institute of Urban and Regional Development at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Center for Urban and Regional Studies at the Technion, Israel.

**Kavita Wankhade** visited the DPU from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements to conduct independent research from April – July 2014 as part of the EU-funded *Urban Knowledge Network Asia* project. Kavita's research, *Layering Governance: Planning for Climate Change in India* addresses both DPU's interest in *Urban Transformations* and UKNA's theme *The Future of Cities*.

In 2014 the DPU welcomed Visiting Researcher, **Carlos Bustamante Lemus**, from the Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Carlos is a former PhD student at the DPU and returned to conduct a comparative study on London street markets and vendors with those of Mexico City. Carlos found that in both the metropolitan areas of Mexico City and London there has been a long tradition of retail markets of basic consumption goods in public open spaces. Today Mexico City's street market activities have trespassed beyond their original boundaries and regulations, with many of them operating outside of the regulatory system in the so-called informal sector of the economy. In contrast, in London, street markets and their regulatory systems are continuously updated. Nevertheless, the increase of retail traders in both cities represents a challenge for local authorities in both cities, including competition between street markets and neighbouring shops, conflicts between markets and other uses of space (e.g. residential purposes or transport corridors), and debate around whether or not street markets alleviate the current problems of unemployment and gradual deterioration of income levels.

The aim of Carlos's research is to generate evidence to help Mexico City's local authorities understand that promoting urban planning with regulatory and institutional frameworks focused on social justice, equality, safety and functional public spaces for all citizens, would provide a better environment for entrepreneurs, investment and formal employment, building foundations for prosperity and the well-being of its inhabitants.

# Connections



*Left:* Ten-year reunion: Christopher Jasko, George Whalley, Alix Valenti, Audrey Lovering, and Rasha AbouElazm (all UDP 2003-04) with past and present DPU staff.

**Salma Nims** (ESD 1997-98; PhD 2004) was appointed Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW) in June 2014. JNCW was established in 1992 and its mandate, as elaborated in 1996, is to fulfil Jordan's commitment to the Beijing platform.

**Ding Liu** (DAP 2009-10) has been working for the past four years in the Transportation Division of Chongqing Development and Reform Commissions in Chongqing, China.

**Mayra Ruiz** (PhD 2009) completed her PhD under Caren Levy and Professor Julio D Dávila's supervision some 5 years ago. She writes to say that she is very happy to welcome her daughter Daniela, born on June 10th, to the family.

**Laura Heykoop** (ESD 2012-13) is working as a Roving Shelter Coordinator within Save the Children UK's Humanitarian Technical Unit. She has been deployed to DRC, Iraq, Haiti and South Sudan so far

this year. After leaving DPU, and before taking this position, Laura worked as a consultant for the Norwegian Refugee Council, drawing lessons from their urban programmes in Baghdad.

**Stuart Wells** (UED 2013-14) has started work as a Research Consultant with Regeneris, a London-based economic development consultancy, where he joins **Jennifer Carvajal** (UED 2011-12).

**Francesco Mellino** (UED 2013-14) has started work as an Intern with Economics Division of the Greater London Authority.

**George Azariah-Moreno** (UDP 2002-04) is working as an Adviser and Researcher in the International Relations Department of Venezuela's National Electoral Council, and as liaison to the UNASUR Electoral Council. George focuses on the evolution of international electoral observation, processes of enfranchisement and the democratic inclusion of indigenous and ethnic minorities, as well as the relationship

between formal representative democracy, direct democracy and cities, from a perspective of 'substantive citizenship'.

**Santa Pedone** (ESD 2011-12) writes to say: "In the last two years I have worked for different organisations working on neighbourhood forums, which commissioned me with some GIS maps and leaflet interactive maps. I am very grateful that the ESD course introduced me to mapping because I developed these skills and now I am very good at it. Recently, I also started to work for Just Space Network as a co-ordinator of a group of UCL students working with community groups on BAME community assets."

**Surabhi Karambelkar** (ESD 2012-2013) was invited to present a paper entitled Seeking Environmental Justice in the Grey Spaces of the Cities at the 2014 Annual International Conference of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) in August 2014. This conference attracted researchers and practitioners from the diverse sub-disciplines of geography to engage in debates and conversations on the theme, *Geographies of Co-production*. Surabhi is currently working with ERM in India, and she plans to pursue higher studies in Environmental Policy and Planning.



## Stairways to Paradise

May 2013 by **Teresa Belkow** (ESD 2010-11) in Huaycan, Lima, Peru.

This photo was selected as the winner of an international contest promoted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Europe, part of a project entitled, *Dialogue of Cultures*. The project is an attempt to illustrate the many facets of dialogue as well as the diversity of opinion interpretation and understanding of the photographers in respect to the presented subject. The prize was presented by the Austrian Ambassador in Peru. The winning photo was taken during field research by the MSc in Environment and Sustainable Development in Huaycan, an independently governed community in Lima, Peru. In it, two students take a moment to contemplate the environmental and social problems in this community, which has sprawled into risky territories due to migration and on to places like the hills in the background. This process created the need for stairs, giving the valleys their characteristic appearance, with stairs lying like ribbons over the hills which the neighbours ironically call "stairways to paradise".

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# PhD Programme

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## Visible Anthropology Award

In recognition of her innovative doctoral research, PhD candidate **Tatiana Ome** has been awarded an academic prize by *Visible Anthropology (Antropología Visible)*, an initiative coordinated by the University of Los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. The objective of this award is to make visible groundbreaking contributions made by junior and senior anthropologists and archaeologists that advance the boundaries of the disciplines through transformative ethnographic and archaeological work.

Tatiana received this distinction for her exploration of *Eco-barrios* (ecological neighbourhoods) as a grassroots strategy to counteract evictions. Concentrating on three informal settlements, known as *El Triángulo*, in the eastern hills of Bogotá, she studied how far the eco-barrios paradigm could help transform a cycle of increasing urban risk brought on by urbanisation.

The award recognises in particular the work she undertook through a participatory mapping process, with the support and participation of her supervisor **Professor Adriana Allen**, with **Alex Frediani** and **Rita Lambert** in November 2012. Instigated by local dwellers, this experience was designed to map their dwellings and risk-mitigation practices in the Bogotá hills.

To learn more about the Bogota mapping workshop, please visit: <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/mapping-environmental-change/dialogues-on-the-move/bogota>. Tatiana's work has been documented in an e-book together with other outstanding initiatives in the field. The book can be accessed at: <http://ebook.antropologiavisible.com/#pagina/3>

## Award for PhD Research on Indigenous Resistance to Resource Exploitation in Chile

DPU PhD candidate **Cristian Olmos** has been awarded a prize by the Faculty of Architecture of the Istanbul Technical University, Turkey, for his paper, *Re-assessing Vernacular Architecture: Theories and Practices, Traditions, Identities and Globalization*, presented at the *7th International Seminar on Vernacular Settlements (ISVS-7)*. The paper comes out of his research on the use of ancestral techniques of construction as a way of understanding the tension in the production and conceptualisation of territory among indigenous communities in the Atacama Desert, Chile, in the context of the neo-liberal exploitation of resources through mining.

## PhDs Awarded

Congratulations to **Julia Tomei**, **Elizabeth Rapoport**, **Hector Berrecil Miranda**, **Dafeng Xu** and **Soo Jin Kim** on the successful completion of their doctoral degrees!

Julia Tomei's doctoral work offers an insightful investigation of how global processes and local contexts have influenced the development of biofuels in Guatemala. Julia's PhD was based in the UCL Energy Institute and co-supervised by Professor Paul Ekins, DPU's Professor Adriana Allen, and Rocio Diaz-Chavez at Imperial College London.

Elizabeth Rapoport's research was based at the UCL Centre for Environmental and Geomatic Engineering's Centre for Urban Sustainability and Resilience, supervised by Professor Adriana Allen and Yvonne Rydin. Her EngD thesis examines how and why ideas and practices on sustainable urbanism planning ideas travel internationally and are mobilised by international consultants.

Soo Jin Kim's research focused on the case of Metro Manila. Under the supervision of Camillo Boano and Professor Adriana Allen her thesis examines the various pathways through which community-based risk reduction are negotiated within wider urban politics.

Hector Berrecil Miranda successfully passed his PhD viva in September 2014. Hector's thesis was entitled, *Slum Upgrading Role for Housing Policy and Governance [Transformation]s. From Favela-Bairro to Morar Carioca, Investigating the Case of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*.

Dafeng Xu also passed his PhD viva in September 2014, Dafeng's thesis was entitled, *Financial Statism as an Alternative Interventionist Approach in Developing International Financial Centres (IFCs): The Case of Shanghai since the 1990s*.

## UCL Grand Challenges Research Student Summer School

In June 2014, DPU research students and staff (**Professor Adriana Allen**, **Liza Griffin**, and **Colin Marx**) participated in a summer school on cross-disciplinary research coordinated by Professor Yvonne Rydin and James Paskins, from UCL Grand Challenges. The sessions explored the wide range of disciplines that inform current research at the DPU (from epidemiology and ecology to geography, planning, and political sciences) and how we seek transdisciplinary engagements that transcend discipline-based forms of knowledge production across the urban global South.



Above: Prof Julio D Davila presents the MPhil/PhD 60th Anniversary Scholarship to Monica Bernal Llanos

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## DPU60 Scholarship

The recipient of this year's MPhil/PhD 60th Anniversary Scholarship is **Monica Bernal Llanos**, (ESD 2012-13), to be supervised by Cassidy Johnson and Professor Julio D Dávila. Monica's research topic is *Linking Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation through their Mainstreaming into Development Planning in Colombia*.

## Adapting Humanitarian Response to an Increasingly Urban World

Recent decades have seen a rapid increase in the number of people who live in urban areas and who are vulnerable to disasters, climate change, and conflict and violence. However, international humanitarian actors (who have been largely accustomed to working in rural areas) have yet to become operationally effective in urban settings.

Against this backdrop, a team of researchers from the DPU led by **Cassidy Johnson** with support from **Donald Brown** (UDP 2011-12) and **Maggie Stephenson** (BUDD 1996-97), was commissioned by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to undertake a literature review on humanitarian response in urban areas. The main aim of this review was to better understand how response activities can be adapted to an increasingly urban world.

In September, the team hosted a workshop at the DPU to present and discuss the preliminary findings of the literature review with a range of humanitarian and urban development practitioners and academics. The findings centred on four major themes: **Diverse Communities; Infrastructure Systems; Markets; and Governance**. One of the key messages echoed by many participants was the need not just for new tools, but for new approaches that are adapted to the specific challenges as well as opportunities

that each of these themes present for urban response.

The review will be published in the New Year. For an audio recording of the workshop presentation, please visit the ALNAP (Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance) website: <http://www.urban-response.org/resource/12885>.

## Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre

The DPU has been awarded a grant by Comic Relief and the UK Department for International Development (DFID), to work with Njala University in Sierra Leone, to set up an urban research centre in Freetown: the **Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC)**. The project builds on a feasibility study of existing information and knowledge on Freetown informal settlements, supported by Comic Relief in 2013, which DPU's **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** contributed to, and is part of a broader city initiative that Comic Relief is funding in four African cities (Cape Town, Freetown, Kampala and Lusaka).

The project will work to build the capacity of the centre and its wider research networks (including residents of informal settlements and their organisations) as a research and data dissemination hub, with a view to ensuring its sustainability beyond the frame of the project. The proposal was developed by DPU's **Andrea Rigon**

and DPU alumnus **Joseph Macarthy** (UDP 2001-02) from Njala University's Institute of Geography and Development Studies, with support from **Caren Levy** and **Julian Walker**, who joined Andrea for the assessment meeting with Comic Relief, as well as Alexandre Apsan Frediani, and **Michael Walls** who will be on the project steering committee.

The project will run over 36 months and is due to start in 2015. While the current Ebola outbreak presents challenges for this project, at the same time it reemphasises the importance of developing the knowledge needed for actions to improve living conditions in informal settlements, which are particularly vulnerable to these health crises.

## Learning Lima: Collaborative Action-Learning through Mapping

**Learning Lima** (<http://www.learninglima.net>) is an action-learning platform set up in September 2014 as a collaborative undertaking between DPU (**Professor Adriana Allen** and **Rita Lambert**) and a number of partner organisations and local communities in Lima, Peru. The aim is to understand how environmental injustices are produced and how they can be addressed by exploring scenarios and strategies embedded in the wider socio-political, economic and ecological processes



Left: Informal settlement in Freetown, Sierra Leone (Alexandre Apsan Frediani)

that shape this urban region.

The website presents outputs produced since 2012 by students on the MSc Environment and Sustainable Development programme (ESD) along with innovative mapping processes and methods developed under the research project *ReMapLima*, led by Adriana and Rita in collaboration with UCL's Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA) and UCL Urban Laboratory.

The platform focuses on five barrios (neighbourhoods): Barrios Altos, Cantagallo, Costa Verde, José Carlos Mariátegui, and Huaycán. Each case study provides a unique lens through which we can learn about the wider processes of change shaping metropolitan Lima. By exploring power relations, the challenges citizens face, and the strategies they are adopting at the barrio level, we can gain insight into the wider drivers and dynamics of urban change at play in metropolitan Lima. However, the barrio is not a microcosm of the city. The ways in which citizens interact with state and private actors, the barriers they face in accessing secure housing, services and infrastructure, and their agency, must be re-examined and reinterpreted at every scale, from the household to the city-level. By exploring social-environmental justice at the barrio-level, we can identify scalable strategies and imagine scenarios for more equitable and sustainable urban development for the wider city.

*Learning Lima* ([www.LearningLima.net](http://www.LearningLima.net)) has been developed as a bilingual and interactive site. Explore it, contribute to it, and let others know!

### Gender and Humanitarian Assistance

In 2014, **Julian Walker** and **Laura Hirst**, of the DPU's *Gender Policy and Planning Programme*, began working with the Danish Refugees Council (DRC) on a three year collaboration to work on bringing a gender perspective to their humanitarian assistance work with conflict affected households in Abkhazia and Georgia Proper. Julian and Laura started work in March with a visit to DRC's project office and sites in Abkhazia and Georgia, during which they held a three day workshop to explore entry points for working on gender in the DRC programme, and to develop, and trial, pilot qualitative monitoring tools for the three main sectors in which the DRC teams work: shelter, livelihoods and community mobilisation for the delivery of infrastructure projects.

### Oficina Marconi: Workshop on Insurgent Urbanisation in Inner São Paulo

In August 2014, **Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, together with Beatrice De Carli (School of Architecture, University of Sheffield) and Francisco Comaru and Ricardo Moretti (Universidade Federal do ABC) coordinated a workshop on the practices of occupation of vacant buildings in inner city São Paulo. The participants of the workshop were students from the postgraduate programme on Planning and Territorial Management at the Universidade Federal do ABC.

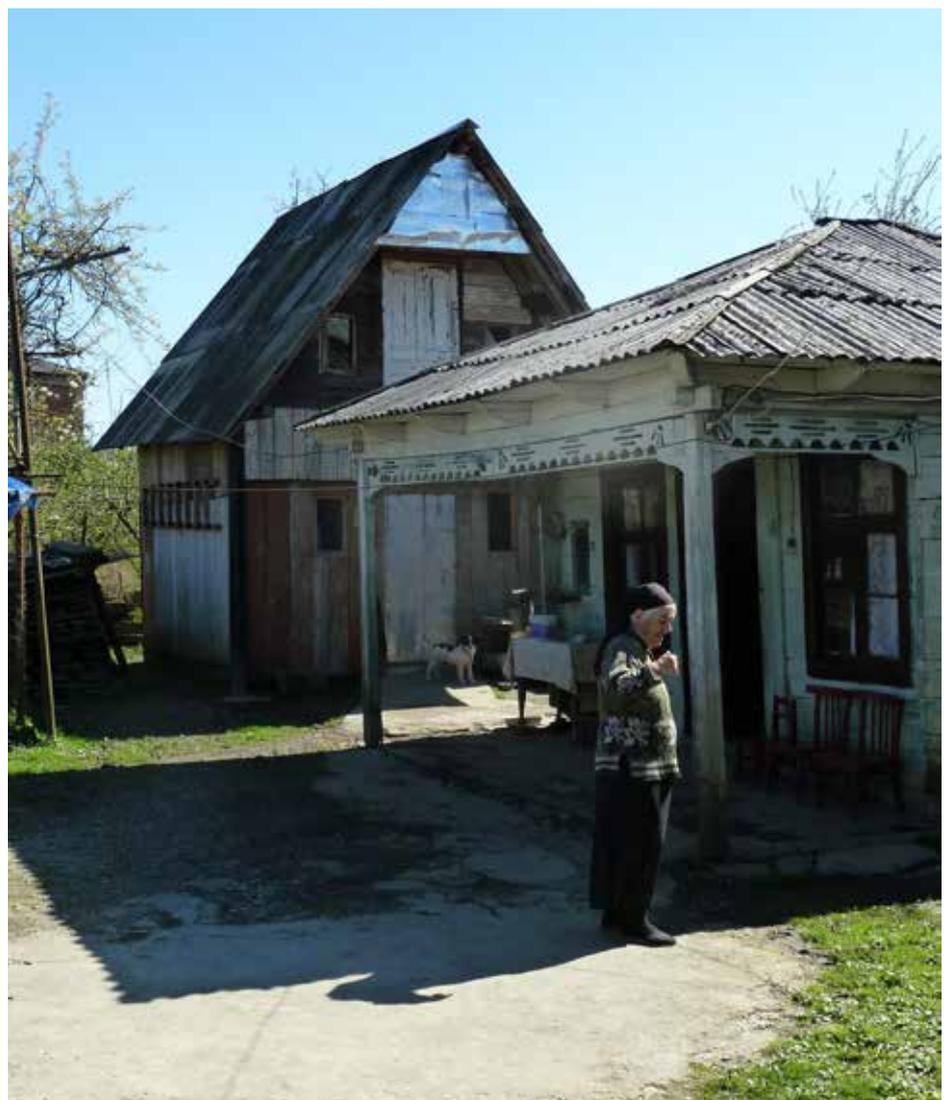
The workshop was conducted with the social movement, MMPT (*Movimento de Moradia Para Todos*), and *Occupation Marconi*, through a series of participatory mapping activities focused on exploring occupations as insurgent citizenship practice. This action learning initiative reflected on mapping as a form of spatial investigation

and intervention as well as a mechanism that can facilitate dialogue on the ways in which the built environment is perceived, described and appropriated. The outputs from the workshop aim to contribute to the on-going struggles of social movements in resisting evictions and advocating for social housing in the inner city area of São Paulo.

For more information please visit <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/insurgent-regeneration>.

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*Below: Dilapidated housing of conflict affected residents in Gali, Abkhazia (Julian Walker)*



# Networks and Meetings



## DPU 60th Anniversary Conference: Thinking Across Boundaries

In July 2014, the DPU hosted its 60th anniversary conference, the highlight of the ongoing anniversary programme: *Thinking across Boundaries: Reimagining Planning in the Urban Global South*. The conference brought together over 250 academics, policy-makers, urban planners, development practitioners, current and former DPU staff, and students, for three days of discussion and debate.

The event brought together speakers from around the world, amongst them the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Joan Clos. Session themes included: *The future of urban development planning; Approaches to urban inequality and informality in cities of the global South; Participation and contested practices in urban design and planning; Re-imagining socio-environmental trajectories of change; Forging new relationships in governance and planning; Urban Development and development assistance; Gender, intersectionality and socially just futures*, and; *Positioning planning learning in an urbanising world*.

To listen to audio recordings of the conference sessions please visit <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/dpu60/podcasts>. For a summary of some of the discussions at the conference please see a summary written by Caren Levy: <http://thisbigcity.net/reimagining-planning-in-the-urban-global-south/>

The conference also saw the launch of a number of other related outputs:

In the build-up to the conference the DPU launched a series of three videos, entitled, *Thinking Across Boundaries*, exploring planning dilemmas in the urban global South. For more information please visit <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/dpu60/tab>;

The *DPU Reflections Working Paper Series*, featuring papers produced by former DPU staff on topics including housing, gender and urban development. For more information visit <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/dpu60/reflections>;

A booklet entitled, *Sixty Years of Urban Development: A Short History of the Development Planning Unit*, which charts the trajectory of the DPU against the

*Above:* Jane Weru (Akiba Mashinani Trust Executive Director) and Camillo Boano prepare for a session at DPU 60 (Matthew Wood-Hill)

international urban development discourse and events of the past six decades, available at <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/dpu60/short-history-60-years/>;

And, finally, a series of videos entitled, *Looking Back, Looking Forward*, in which former DPU members of staff reflect on the research and practice that has characterised DPU's work. Keep a look out for the videos, which will be available online shortly.

## DPU at the World Urban Forum 7, Medellín

The DPU was present *en masse* at the Seventh World Urban Forum (WUF). The gathering, convened by UN-Habitat, seeks to bring together policy-makers, urban planners, civil society organisations, the private sector, and academics to discuss, debate and share knowledge on emerging issues in urban development planning and practice. This year's WUF marked an

## Meetings and Networks

important milestone en route to Habitat III. Hosted in Medellín, Colombia, its central theme was, *Urban Equity in Development – Cities for Life*.

DPU's presence at WUF reflected in part the long-standing engagement with urban development, planning and design interventions in the city. **Professor Julio D Dávila** and **Caren Levy** and their Medellín colleagues launched the edited book, *Urban Mobility and Poverty: Lessons from Medellín and Soacha, Colombia*, whilst **Caroline Newton** and **Camilo Boano** organised a two days workshop and seminar with Universidad Nacional de Colombia (UNAL) on, *Designing the Un-designable: Urban Design, Informality and Critical Architectural Pedagogies*, with a specific focus on design interventions in Medellín.

Other members of staff were involved in a number of networking events, roundtable and debates including, *Gender,*

*Asset Building and Just Cities* (Caren Levy), *Participatory Design and Planning for Equitable Cities* (Alexandre Apsan Frediani), *New Formal Housing Policies: Building Just Cities* (Jorge Fiori), *Researchers Network Meeting: Strengthening Research, Education and Communication for Life, Equity and Land Rights* (Professor Julio D Dávila); *Mega Event Legacy Planning and Implementation* (Professor Adriana Allen); *Towards Innovative and Socially Just Urban Planning for Disaster Resilience* (Barbara Lipietz).

The DPU sponsored networking event on *Just Urban Futures: Dialogues between Resilience and Environmental Justice* brought together Caren, Adriana, **Liza Griffin** and Barbara along with colleagues from Colombia, Peru, Bangladesh and Malawi. The event drew an impressive crowd eager to unpack the increasingly dominant notion of *resilience*. WUF 7 for the DPU was about sharing ideas,

taking the pulse of contemporary discourses and practices of urban development planning and design. It was also a wonderful occasion for seeing old friends, colleagues and alumni again. In that vein, the DPU booth and Alumni dinner were wonderful successes, bringing together alumni from between the 1974 and 2013 cohorts, including the first man to register for the gender module back in the early 1980s!

### Gender in Policy and Planning: Mainstreamed? Manipulated? Or Sidelined?

In this 60th anniversary year, the DPU is also celebrating 30 years of the *Gender Policy and Planning Programme (GPPP)*. In March 2014, to mark this occasion along with International Women's Day 2014, the DPU, with the Bloomsbury Gender Network (BGN), hosted a colloquium to take stock of gender mainstreaming



Left: DPU staff in Medellín during the World Urban Forum





*Left:* Caren Levy and Jasmine Gideon at the BGN Colloquium

in international development. Speakers included **Caren Levy**, Rosalind Eyben (Honorary Professorial Fellow, School of Global Studies, University of Sussex), **Caroline Moser** (former DPU staff and Emeritus Professor, University of Manchester) Elaine Unterhalter and Charlotte Nussey (IOE), Marta Pietrobelli (SOAS), Jasmine Gideon (Birkbeck) and Jen Marshall (Head of Profession Social Development, DFID).

For more information please visit <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/events/gender-in-policy-and-planning>.

In February 2014 **Professor Julio D Dávila** spoke to an assembled group of UK Department for International Development (DFID) Infrastructure Advisors at a seminar on *Cities and Climate Change*. In March, Julio spoke about *Prospects for Colombia's Peace Process*, at a fund-raising event organised by the UK charity Children of the Andes in London.

May saw a hectic travel schedule for Julio. He was a keynote speaker at an international conference on *The Inclusive City*, organised by the Fletcher School, Tufts University in Boston, USA, was invited to speak to a group of students at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland, and was a discussant on a panel on *Urban Public Transportation, Governance and Democracy* at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) annual conference in Chicago.

In October Julio gave a lecture at Mexico's National Autonomous University, Morelia campus, on *Rapid Urbanisation and New Zoonotic Diseases: The Challenge of Inter-disciplinary Research*. UNAM is the largest and one of the most

prestigious universities in Latin America; the Morelia Campus is relatively new, with a rapidly growing student body. The following day he presented a paper at a conference on *Urban Processes: Social inequalities, poverty and territorial imbalances*, also organised by UNAM. Also in October, Julio gave a lecture entitled *Is there an End to Municipal Innovation in Colombia?* at the Colombia at Oxford Conference, University of Oxford.

Over the past few months Julio has also had a few media appearances: During the UN-Habitat's World Urban Forum (WUF) in Medellín in April 2014, he participated in a one-hour televised debate on WUF and lessons to and from Medellín in urban development; this was broadcast live by Canal UNE, a national Colombian channel, on 7 April. On 6 June, he was interviewed for Hunan TV, a national TV channel in China, on lessons from the UK's history of industrialisation and urban development to China and other developing countries. Finally, his research on Medellín was cited by *The Economist* magazine in an article entitled, *Medellin's Comeback: The Trouble with Miracles*, 7 June 2014.

In November 2014, **Professor Adriana Allen** delivered a presentation entitled, *Everyday Infrastructural Planning in the Urban Global South: Urbanisation without or beyond Large Infrastructure?* at the Urban Geography Research Group (UGRG) Annual Conference, held at the UCL Bartlett School of Planning, with a focus on *Critical Geographies of Urban Infrastructures*.

In September, Adriana attended the *UrbaKnow* conference in Oslo on the theme, *Urbanisation Knowledge-Policy and Cross-Disciplinary Interaction for Sustainable Cities*. In November Adriana delivered a keynote speech at the London Climate Forum held at Imperial College London.

In June 2014 **Vanesa Castán Broto** spoke at the plenary session of the *Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) Forum on Cities and Sub-nationals* at the Bonn Climate Change Conference. ADP is a subsidiary body of the UNFCCC, Vanesa's intervention at the Forum was key to emphasise the need for a context-based approach to climate change interventions; one that recognises the realities that citizens face and the best ways to improve their lives.

In July Vanesa gave a keynote lecture on participatory urban planning for

climate change at the preparatory meeting for the social preCOP, which took place in Margarita Island. Over 150 social movements and organisations met in an encounter organised by the Venezuelan government to draw a declaration that this country will present in the international climate change negotiations. In September she co-organised a research workshop on *Sustainability Transitions*, at the Dutch Research Institute for Transitions in Rotterdam (DRIFT), the Netherlands with members of DRIFT and Lund University. In October Vanesa was involved in a meeting to kick-start the writing of the *World Cities Report 2015*, which is an important milestone in the lead up to the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016.

In August **Michael Walls** launched his new book, *A Somali Nation-State: History, Culture and Somaliland's Political Transition*, at the Storymoja Festival in Nairobi. Michael also appeared as an invited speaker at the Hargeysa Book Fair in Somaliland, and launched his book at the Somali Week Festival in London.

**Julian Walker** attended the EnGendering Cities conference in Rome organised by *genderSTE* (Gender, Science, Technology and Environment), a network of experts and policy makers funded by the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). He presented a paper written with DPU EngD candidate **Stephanie Butcher** on, *Gender and Spatial Planning Tools: Insights from Neighbourhood Planning Processes in Kisumu, Kenya*.

In May, **Camillo Boano** visited Jerusalem and the West Bank for a seminar with Betzalel Design University, where he gave a talk on *Sites of Possibilities in Jerusalem: the Profanations of Urban Design*. He visited Campus in Camps, a participatory initiative in Bethlehem, where he gave a talk entitled *The Emancipatory Potential of not-to-do*.

In August **Caren Levy** attended a meeting of the *Urban SDG Network* at Royal Holloway College, hosted by David Simon, who is currently on secondment as Director at MISTRA Urban Futures. The urban SDG Network, launched in September 2013 by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) with the support of UN-Habitat, United Cities Local Government (UCLG), Cities Alliance, ICLEI, Metropolis, and Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions, was set up to campaign for an Urban Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). Caren was invited to reflect on gender in



*Left:* Naji Makarem, MSc SDP Alumnus Nikos Papachristodoulou, Robin Bloch, Andrea Rigon, and MSc UED Alumnus Afia Afenah at the 3rd conference on urban and regional planning in Lagos.

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the new urban SDG and on the intersection between the gender and urban SDGs.

In July **Caroline Newton** attended the AESOP Planning Conference in Utrecht, participating in two tracks; on ethics and planning, and on education.

**Barbara Lipietz** represented the DPU at a number of events this summer. In May she presented a paper with Martine Drozd at a conference on *The Right to the City in an Era of Austerity* at the Université Paris-Sorbonne and also at the City Futures III conference, sponsored by the European Urban Research Association (EURA) and the Urban Affairs Association (UAA). In September Barbara was an invited keynote speaker at the UN-Habitat workshop on *Urban Planning and Resilient Cities*, in Sri Lanka, where she presented a paper,

*Towards 'Just Resilience': What Role for Urban Development Planning?* She was also an invited discussant on the *Future City Visions* workshop, part of the *Liveable Cities* project.

Barbara was also appointed as a member of the *Urban Planning Advisory Group* for the SRSG (UN Special Representative of the Secretary General) of UNISDR and, in that capacity sat on the 2nd Steering Committee of the *Making Cities Resilient* campaign, which focused on how to prepare for the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March 2015.

In October 2014, **Naji Makarem** and **Andrea Rigon**, attended the 3rd conference on urban and regional planning in Nigeria, *The Urban Agenda for Africa: Realities*,

*Challenges, Potentials*, held at the University of Lagos. During this event they presented findings from their research within the DFID-funded initiative *Urbanisation Research Nigeria (URN)*, which will involve several DPU staff over the next three years. Naji presented his analysis of the spatial distribution of Nigeria's industries and the change in the industrial composition of National GDP since 1990, while Andrea presented his work on the well-being and citizenship of urban Nigerians.

In October **Rita Lambert** participated in the International Forum held at the Congress of the Republic in Lima, Peru, entitled *Territorial Planning and the Challenges of the 21st Century Cities-Climate Change, Water Justice and Social Inclusion*. Rita presented the research undertaken in two neighbourhoods in Lima under the project *Mapping beyond the Palimpsest* which seeks to develop innovative participatory mapping processes and tools to enhance the spatial analysis of informal urbanisation.

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## Staff News

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We are pleased to announce a number of staff promotions. **Adriana Allen** has been promoted to Professor of Development Planning and Urban Sustainability, while **Cassidy Johnson** and **Vanesa Castán Broto** are both promoted to Senior Lecturers.

Our congratulations to them all! Congratulations to **Andrea Rigon** who has been appointed as a full time Lecturer in the Social Development Practice programme. And welcome to **John Cosgrove** who has been appointed as the new PhD/Research Programme Administrator. John comes to us from the Centre for Sustainable Heritage, and he replaces Steve Ridge who has left

the DPU to take up a new post at Imperial College London.

Welcome also to **Giovanna Astolfo** who has been recently appointed as a Teaching Fellow on the MSc Building and Urban Design in Development (BUDD) programme. Giovanna, a BUDD alumnus, has a background in architecture and urban design and holds a PhD from the School of Architecture in Venice. Her research focused on the nexus between density, proximity, re-use of vacant land and sustainable development of medium sized cities in Southern Europe. And welcome to **Giulia Carabelli** and who will replace **Anna**

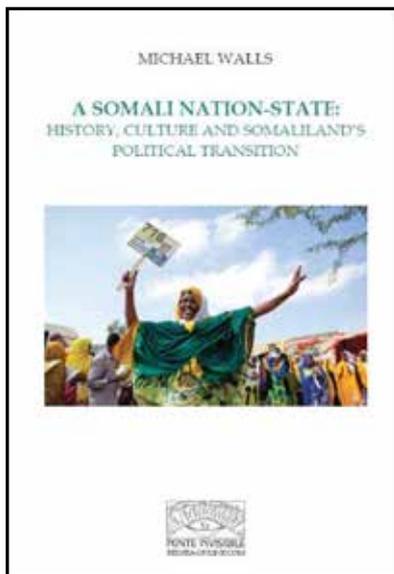
**Schulenburg** as the Graduate Teaching Assistant for BUDD.

**Sophia Daoudi** left her role as Programme Assistant for the DPU in September and we are truly sorry to see her go, but pleased to announce that she has accepted a place to do a PhD at the University of Stirling in Scotland. Welcome to **Michael Casey-Gillman** who replaces Sophia. Michael comes to us with several years experience of working in student administration in American universities.

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- Boano, C., and Talocci, G. (2014). **Fences and Profanations: Questioning the Sacredness of Urban Design.** *Journal of Urban Design* Vol. 19(5), pp: 700-721.
- Boano, C., (2014). **Notes Around Design Politics: Design Dissensus and the Poises of Scarcity.** *Planum* Vol. 29(2), pp: 13-28.
- Boano, C., and Talocci, G. (2014). **The (In) operative Power: Architecture and the Reclaim of Social Relevance.** *STUDIO magazine* (6).
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- Boano, C., and Leclair-Paquet, B. (2014). **Potential, Freedom and Space: Reflections on Agamben's Potentialities in the West Bank.** *Space and Polity*, pp: 1-22.
- Boano, C., and Talocci, G. (2014). **The politics of Play in Urban Design: Agamben's Profanation as a Recalibrating Approach to Urban Design Research.** *Bitacora Urbano Territorial*, Vol. 24 (1).
- Boano, C., Wade, A., & Lamarca, M. G. (2014). **Deconstructing and Recalibrating Urban Design in the Global South** in Carmona, M. (Ed.) *Explorations in Urban Design: An Urban Design Research Primer*. London: Ashgate, pp: 25-34.
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- Bulkeley, H., Castán Broto, V., & Maassen, AC. (2014). **Urban Energy Systems and the Governing of Climate Change.** *Urban Studies: an international journal for research in urban studies*.
- Bulkeley, H., Castán Broto, V., & Edwards, G. (2014). **An Urban Politics of Climate Change: Experimentation and the Governing of Socio-Technical Transitions.** London: Routledge.
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# Publications



## **A Somali Nation-State: History, Culture and Somaliland's Political Transition**

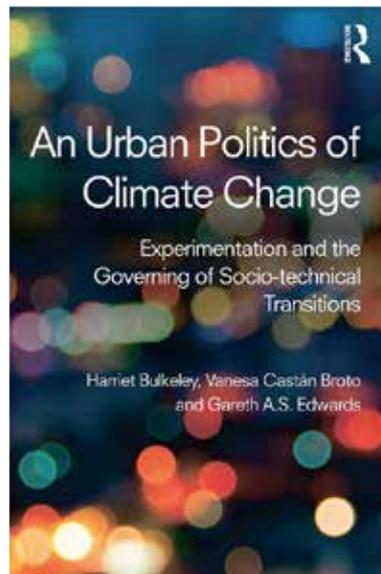
In this new publication, Michael Walls offers a strong rebuttable to the narrative of conflict and state failure that is typically attached to Somali politics. He presents a thoroughly researched account of the historical and cultural contexts that have supported Somaliland's contemporary transition from patriarchal, discursive politics to a remarkably stable representative system. In an area renowned for state failure and conflict, Somaliland's example is instructive both locally and regionally. While success remains fragile with a number of serious challenges ahead, the achievement is nevertheless impressive.

**DPU Book Launch**  
(with panel discussion and refreshments):

17.30 Thursday 27th November.  
GO1 Central House,  
14 Upper Woburn Place,  
London WC1H 0NN

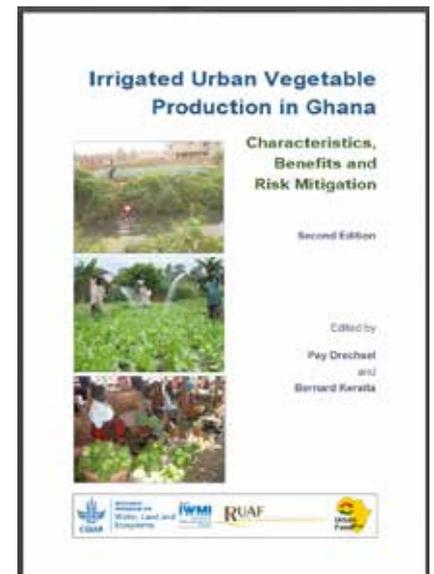
**African Research Institute talk on new Counterpoints publication on Somaliland:**

17:30 Thursday 4th December.  
55 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL  
Registrations to:  
[info@africaresearchinstitute.org](mailto:info@africaresearchinstitute.org)



## **An Urban Politics of Climate Change**

This new book co-authored by Vanesa Castán Broto provides a new theoretical and empirical understanding of the politics of climate change in cities. It provides an account of urban responses to climate change that moves beyond the boundary of municipal institutions to critically examine the governing of climate change in the city as a matter of both public and private authority, and to engage with the ways in which this is bound up with the politics and practices of urban infrastructure, presenting eight case studies of climate change experimentation in cities which explore the implications of climate change experimentation for environmental justice.



## **Who is Feeding African Cities?**

DPU MSc Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) staff and students contributed to a new book on irrigated urban vegetable production in Ghana, edited by Pay Dreschel and Bernard Keraita from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). The chapter by Adriana Allen, Alexandre Apsan Frediani and Matthew Wood-Hill, which draws on outcomes of the MSc ESD fieldwork between 2008 and 2012 in Accra, examines how current trends emerging in the interface between the increasing commodification of land and customary and statutory land tenure systems are shaping the actual possibilities for urban agriculture in Accra. To access a free copy of the book online visit: [http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Books/PDF/irrigated\\_urban\\_vegetable\\_production\\_in\\_ghana.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Books/PDF/irrigated_urban_vegetable_production_in_ghana.pdf)

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Planning for socially just and sustainable development in the global south