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Urban Transformations: The New Urban Agenda - Challenges, opportunities and DPU contributions to a new framework for a sustainable future

By Barbara Lipietz



The last sixteen months have seen the consolidation of a global framework for our common future, under the aegis of various members of the United Nations family. Agreement on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 set the tone with their ambition of “transforming our world” and “leaving no one behind”, laying out the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Close on its heels came the Conference of Parties (COP21) that, through the Paris Agreement, sought to develop a new international climate accord, with an indicative commitment towards the reduction of global warming emissions and climate change. Earlier the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015) focused specifically on global action to reduce disaster risk and build resilient futures to meet the Agenda for Sustainable Development. The World

Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 sought to reconcile growing humanitarian needs with commitments to the SDGs. Meanwhile, the Third Financing for Development Conference (Addis Ababa, July 2015) aimed to activate the funding commitments and mechanisms to support the global framework in the making.

As 2016 draws to a close, the latest cog in this evolving global framework is set to be finalised in Quito, Ecuador. In October, the global community will be congregating for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - or Habitat III - aiming to sign off on a ‘New Urban Agenda’ (NUA). Twenty years after its predecessor Habitat II, it is hoped this latest conference will enshrine the new global development and climate agendas into a set of formal international commitments, thus focusing attention on the steps necessary

for implementation of those pledges. In particular, there is an expectation that the NUA will articulate the positive role urbanisation can play within a sustainable development framework. This, in a context where the urban population is set to double by 2050, fuelled in part by conflict- and climate change-induced migration; where poverty remains a persistent concern and socio-economic and spatial inequality is on the rise; where climate change has become a key framing reference and issues of safety and security have been propelled onto the agenda, prompting calls for a recognition of ‘the right to life’.

Cover Image: Freetown, Sierra Leone.
Photo by Michael Walls

Below: The Session of Inhabitants at Africities VII.
Photo by Barbara Lipietz.





Above: Hargeisa, Somaliland. Photo by Michael Walls.

As the pace of negotiations quickens and the minutiae of the NUA are scrutinised and debated by a multitude of stakeholders, it is worth revisiting DPU's inputs into the emerging framing document. The DPU's participation in the Habitat III process has taken on four different incarnations, which reflect the multiplicity of entry points and processes hoping to set the tone for a transformative agenda. These inputs also provide an indication of the range of work currently on going in the DPU.

First has been the DPU's co-ordination (with the Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements) of Habitat III's Policy Paper No.7 on the economy. Chaired by **Le-Yin Zhang** and supported by **Prof Julio D. Davilã**, the complex task involved the steering of 20 'Experts' from diverse regional settings, heralding wide-ranging theoretical standpoints and positions on the urban economy best able to support the implementation of the SDGs. Experts included representatives from WIEGO, Action Aid and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, spanning interests in, and concerns with, productivity and climate compatible economic development

across the formal and informal economy continuum, incorporating class and gender dimensions.

The Policy Unit's final draft, with its focus on promoting livelihoods, the creation of productive jobs and supporting the informal economy displays a clear coherence, carried into policy recommendations. Such coherence is in itself a feat, given the diversity of viewpoints represented across the Experts table. However, reflection from the DPU team involved in the process highlighted how the goal of producing a strong, consistent message on the economy and its centrality to the NUA overshadowed the potential to explore alternative avenues, such as the economy's role in mitigating climate change and responding to decarbonisation and other resource constraint imperatives. Similarly, more specific references to rights and intersectional social identities in a putatively inclusive economy were eschewed, with the directive that such concerns were to be addressed in other Policy Papers. This last point raises important procedural as well as conceptual questions regarding the drafting of the NUA and the possibilities opened up – or indeed closed down – in the

process; a point we return to below.

A second direct DPU input, developed in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), pertained to the inclusion of food and nutrition needs into the NUA. In this instance, **Prof Yves Cabannes** participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Integrating Food into Urban Planning. The collaborative FAO-DPU proposal sought to impress upon the NUA a systems approach to food, considering the food chain from seed to table (production, agro-processing, transport, storage, marketing, consumption, waste), combined with an urban metabolism perspective connecting food to the rest of the urban system, specifically through the food-water-energy nexus. The proposal, including planning instruments such as food asset mapping, was integrated into the NUA Zero draft and the commitment to promoting "... *the integration of food and nutrition needs of urban residents, particularly the urban poor...*" has been retained in the Agenda's latest (Surabaya) version.



Above: Modern housing developments in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Photo by DPU.

A third DPU contribution to shaping conversations around the Agenda has been the drafting of Chapter 5 of UN-Habitat's World Cities Report 2016 on sustainable development (UN Habitat, 2016). **Vanesa Castàn Broto** led this input in partnership with Linda Westman and supported by **Liza Griffin** and Elizabeth Rapoport. Two 'City Leaders' meetings (in Toronto, September 2014 and at the UN in New York in July 2015) helped cement city Mayors' interest and to gain inputs from them. The chapter is notable for anchoring the NUA's faith in urbanisation's transformative potential within the notion of *just sustainabilities* – a concept that emphasises the interdependence of justice and equity in the process of environmental planning and management towards sustainable cities (Agyeman, 2003, 2013; Rydin, 2013). The chapter highlights four pillars of just sustainability policies: *improving people's quality of life and wellbeing; ensuring justice and equity in terms of recognition, process,*

procedure and outcome; meeting the needs of both present and future generations; and recognising ecosystem limits and the need to live within such limits (UN-Habitat, 2016: 86).

The chapter sets a positive tone, emphasising innovations by community groups, local governments and businesses in actualising just sustainability principles across cities and territories. Such actions successfully weave in equitable responses to public services, environmental risks (from pollution to climate change effects), minimising the negative impacts of urbanisation on biodiversity and ecosystems, and responding to the call for decarbonisation and resource-use rationalisation. However challenges remain, including in the realm of financing and supportive multi-actor governance systems for just sustainability transitions. Recognising the fundamental 'solidarity of environmental and socioeconomic governance of urban and rural areas', the chapter is ultimately a call to acknowledge just sustainability as a human rights approach to cities and human settlements that beckons democratic and participatory

management, unlocking in the process the creative potential of multiple "mediators of change" (ibid: 99).

The above call resonates strongly with DPU's twofold final inputs into the NUA: a critical engagement with national and regional reports towards Habitat III, developed in cooperation with Habitat International Coalition (HIC). This work sought to interrogate these key mechanisms feeding into the NUA - from the vantage point of Habitat II's (admittedly diluted) rights-based commitments, and civil society-led struggles for the right to the city. In the first instance, a DPU team comprising **Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, **Barbara Lipietz** and **Rafaella Simas Lima** (with inputs from **Caren Levy**, **Prof Adriana Allen** and **Vanesa Castàn Broto**) reviewed eight country reports, made public in February 2015 and available through HIC and DPU networks (Frediani et al., 2015). The objective was to interrogate the process and content of these national reports to help identify potential entry points for civil society engagement around the NUA.

On the process side, findings highlighted UN-Habitat's scant official guidance in the

formulation of national reports, especially on multi-stakeholder participation. From a civil society perspective, and with the exception of Brazil, this has translated into disappointing levels of participation, often limited to consultation, while in many cases outright exclusion of key stakeholders was a feature. On the content side, the national reports reviewed did provide relatively broad coverage of challenges facing their respective urban areas, along with encompassing visions to be included in the NUA. Some of these referenced (directly or indirectly) right to the city aspirations or included other nods to rights-inspired (or Habitat II) pledges. However, our review also highlighted frequent incoherence between stated challenges or, indeed, between challenges and aspirations, the latter often presented in the form of a check-list. In turn, and problematically, this reflected weak normative reporting on Habitat II's commitments and implementation – a point repeatedly challenged by HIC since 2013 and picked up by Michael Cohen (2016) and others.

Building on the above findings, the

DPU's additional collaboration with HIC sought to explore what a civil society response to regional reporting would resemble. The rationale behind this was that the official Regional reports, compiled by the five UN Regional Economic and Social Commissions with UN-Habitat (in collaboration with the Habitat III Secretariat) and bringing together national reports at the regional scale, would be unlikely to capture the concerns and vision of civil society groups, including those engaged with rights-based agendas. Accordingly, the DPU, steered by an advisory committee of civil society networks, grass-roots movements and academics spanning the African continent, helped coordinate an Africa Regional Dossier (Frediani et al., 2016). This dossier highlights key issues that, from a civil society perspective, require either greater visibility or else general reframing in the NUA. Beyond a reliance on selected interviews, the Dossier built on two pan-African civil society gatherings organised in Johannesburg in November/December 2015: the Global Platform on the Right

to the City's regional meeting and the Session of Inhabitants coordinated by the International Alliance of Inhabitants at Africities VII.

Unsurprisingly, civil society concerns collected in the preliminary Africa Region Dossier, have reflected dominant issues raised within the NUA, including concerns with Africa's infrastructure gap, the lack of economic opportunity (especially for youth), security, urban conflict, and climate change; along with a recognition of the diversity of human settlements along the urban-rural continuum. Most significantly however, the dossier highlighted a critical fault-line in current development processes that promote urbanisation, infrastructure development and economic growth over and above the right of citizens to 'stay put' - let alone, their right to adequate shelter and livelihoods opportunities. Evictions, and concerns around land grabbing featured at the top of civil

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*Below: Street traders in Dharavi, Mumbai, India.
Photo by Gynna Millan.*



society's preoccupations, across the urban, peri-urban and rural human settlement continuum and across the continent. In turn, this focus and the broader protection of rights and entitlements of cities and human settlements' most vulnerable citizens represents, arguably, a key alternative frame for prioritising emerging development priorities across the NUA.

Finally – and intimately related – the Dossier pointed to the on-going deficit, at the continental scale, in democratic governance mechanisms able to identify such policy priorities for the NUA. Despite decentralisation processes (often occasioned under the impulse of Habitat II), social movements and community members' access to decision-making spaces have remained limited, under-capacitated and, too often, severely constrained – especially for women and youth, who represent significant social actors in poorer African communities. In the context of on-going formal commitments to participatory processes – including within the NUA – such persistent discrepancies are sobering. Moreover as the Dossier emphasises, they represent an immense wasted opportunity in terms of channelling localised, bottom-up and sustainable responses to Africa's (unevenly) swelling and diverse human settlements.

DPU's multi-layered inputs into the NUA, spanning institutional, 'blue-sky' and 'struggle-based' advocacy, thus speaks to the variety of entry points and processes hoping to set the tone for a transformative urban agenda. Twenty years after Habitat II's Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and 40 years after the first Habitat Agenda was launched in Vancouver in 1976, will the 'New Urban Agenda' agreed in Quito deliver on the radical promise of change inherent in its name? Will it confirm the emerging global governance framework and offer transformative guidance to the diverse actors involved in the making of human settlements? In particular, will it be endorsed by local governments and those local populations whose needs are currently not met – both stakeholders who have the most at stake in the successful implementation of the NUA? As this DPU News goes to press, two versions of the Zero Draft and, in late July, the Surabaya Draft mentioned above, have been made available for public comment; and whilst final negotiations may still throw up surprises, it is reasonable now to make preliminary remarks.

In terms of format, the Draft NUA represents a substantially condensed document compared to its predecessor, with

the latest running over 22 pages and 165 paragraphs. It remains nonetheless rather unwieldy, given its stated ambition to serve as an action-oriented document. Content-wise, the latest draft is to be commended for referencing strong, progressive, concepts, enshrined in the rights-based principles of the United Nations Charter. These include, amongst others, the (reiterated) commitments to sustainable development, climate change mitigation and risk reduction through "*sustainable, people-centred, age and gender responsive and integrated approaches to urban and territorial development*" (HABITAT III, 2016a: 3); integration of food and nutrition into planning, including a systems and urban metabolism perspective; a call for productivity, along with recognition and support for the informal sector, and the social and solidarity economy. "*Arbitrary forced evictions*" are mentioned three times in the latest draft, and explicit recognition of the "*social and ecological function of land*" and the prevention of land speculation feature in the document's opening pages. Meanwhile, local tax systems are buttressed and land value capture mechanisms appear (re)valorised; idem with the multiple forms of human settlements across the urban-rural continuum, instead of an earlier primary focus on cities. Reference to participatory governance and processes feature throughout, often ensconced with notions of belonging, recognition and empowerment, especially of more vulnerable groups. Even the right to the city, finds its place in the NUA:

"We anchor our vision in the concept of cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities, towns, and villages, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements, as a common good that essentially contributes to prosperity and quality of life. Cities for all is also recognised as the Right to the City in some countries, based on a people-centred vision of cities as places that strive to guarantee a decent and full life for all inhabitants." (HABITAT III, 2016a: 2).

The above sentence, drawn from the opening vision, provides a particularly artfully crafted example of the inevitable compromises between signatory nation states at the heart of the NUA. In some instances though, the compromise is rather less promising, as in the commitment only

to "*progressively achieve the full realisation of the right to adequate housing*" (ibid: 2) – a nod to Habitat I's progressive thrust and its subsequent refutation by certain member states, including the United States. In fact, a critical reading of the NUA points to the multiple levels of contradictions running through the document – between key commitments, and between these and implementation proposals. For instance the recognition of the social value of land sits uncomfortably with the call for 'competitive' urban economies and for housing and public spaces to act as drivers of economic growth, or indeed with the limited challenge to the financialisation of land and housing markets. Ultimately, the NUA lacks clear guidance as to how the inevitable contradictions thrown up by complex development processes are to be addressed in practice. The Africa Dossier calls for a clear prioritisation and protection of rights and entitlements of human settlements' most vulnerable citizens, along with a commitment to the distributive goals of sustainable development; the *Just Sustainability* paradigm equally propelled equity as the cornerstone of sustainable development. A bolder and more incisive NUA would provide just such a firm and transformative 'line in the sand' to safeguard just and sustainable urban futures.

The Surabaya Draft also makes commendable and oft-reiterated core commitments to "*sustainable and inclusive urban economies*" and to human settlements in which all people "*are able to enjoy equal rights and opportunities*", "[*leav[ing] no one behind ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including the eradication of extreme poverty, [and] by ensuring equal rights and opportunities*". It further commits to achieving environmental sustainability and "*building urban resilience, reducing disaster risks, and mitigating and adapting to climate change*" (ibid: 3).

Yet, here as well, there is little in the way of articulating the connections between the NUA's key principles, raising concerns that one of the three pillars of sustainable development will trump the others in practice. This lacuna is disappointing given the established corpus of reflexion and policy formulation on sustainable development. The Surabaya Draft as it stands represents a missed opportunity to further articulate a strong message about the generative interdependence of the three components of (just) sustainable development; namely the complex inter-relations between social, environmental and

economic justice. More pointedly still, the current draft beckons a stronger focus in the final iteration on the varied, localised ways in which multiple stakeholders can be supported in acting upon such interconnections.

The lack of a concerted resolution on the key development paradigm underpinning the NUA reflects to some extent the silo nature of the Agenda's preparations. As the DPU's experience in the Economic Policy Unit exemplifies, inputs into the NUA have undoubtedly been inclusively organised in terms of geographic representation and in terms of vantage points onto key focus areas. But they have also tended to be sectorally organised – with little encouragement of integrated thinking. Yet, transformative discourse and practice requires thought across boundaries and from trans-disciplinary perspectives. On that front, there is much to ponder about the ways in which official conversations around the formulation of the NUA have promoted the perpetuation of silo thinking at the expense of strategic approaches able to catalyse synergies across development concerns and actors – resulting in better use of scarce resources.

There is more to say too about the ways in which some of the official NUA processes have (un)wittingly facilitated the engagement of some actors above others. The time-frames for responses on draft policy papers, the visa and resource requirements associated with attendance at regional or thematic meetings, have been particularly challenging for many poorly-resourced civil society organisations – despite some notable efforts to provide updates on the various NUA strands in an open and transparent fashion. Problematic also has been the lack of clear guidance for encouraging recalcitrant nation states to involve diverse civil society groups in the formulation of national reports. These should have been the spaces of choice for much needed conversations (and potential recalibrations) around just and sustainable development trajectories; indeed the space to catalyse reflections on localised resolutions to the inevitable contradictions and interdependencies in the development of just sustainabilities.

Notwithstanding these gaps, the NUA drafting process and the prospect of Habitat III have undeniably promoted discussion involving a wide range of actors and at multiple scales – well beyond the various invited avenues for engagement. Indeed the closed nature of some national

reporting processes have, for example in Chile, catalysed the development of alternative, civil-society-led reporting processes. Meanwhile, civil society groups, local government networks, and other actors have seized the opportunity to construct or extend alternative platforms of engagement. The initiation of regional dossiers is one example, but others include attempts to create networks of progressive municipalities (with for instance a focus on migrants, TIPPs, or the commons). Such networks are fertile grounds for the sharing of aspirations and alternative paradigms towards sustainable economies, social and solidarity trajectories of development, such as: the right to the city, the commons, urban agriculture or, again, revisiting rural-urban linkages or the notion of risk. They are also key platforms in the search for and consolidation of alliances between social movements, universities, progressive local government and economic actors. This indirect generative dimension of the Habitat III process is perhaps its greatest achievement to date – and is unlikely to come to a halt in Quito.

For more information on DPU's critical engagement with national and regional reports towards Habitat III, developed with HIC (Habitat International Coalition) see <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/habitat-III>.

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MSc Urban Economic Development Students in Kumasi, Ghana

This year's MSc Urban Economic Development (UED) fieldtrip was to Kumasi, Ghana's second largest city after Accra and capital of the Ashanti region. Our partner organisation was KNUST University, which has a well-established Urban Planning department led by Prof. Daniel Inkoom, Director of the Planning School. UED staff and students, with **Nina Neubauer** and PhD student **Nikhilish Sinha**, set off enthusiastically to West Africa.

The UED group spent two nights in Accra, hosted by ArciAfrika who arranged a wonderful visit through the colourful streets of Jamestown and its informal beach-settlement of fishermen and women. The former Mayor of Accra treated the students to an oral cultural and economic history of Jamestown. The next morning, the students were in Kumasi where they hit the road running. Four groups immersed themselves in an unfamiliar urban context facilitated by KNUST students and staff. The mission was humble albeit immensely challenging; to contribute insights to local conversations around four themes: *housing development; the planned inland port; industrial development; and the social enterprise sector.*

Ten days and numerous interviews and site-visits later each group presented their findings to faculty members and other guests at KNUST. Students responded well to questions and received excellent feedback from esteemed academics, who found many aspects of the research to be insightful. Back in London students created large posters capturing the essence of their research, which they presented to visitors during a half-day session at the DPU.

Seeing the City Anew: Designing for Refugee Integration: BUDDcamp

The Design Workshop, **BUDDcamp**, unfolded in a three-day progressive design exercise in which students are exposed to the challenges of a specific location, serving as a real-life platform to test theoretical notions throughout the course. This provides MSc Building and Urban Design for Development (BUDD) students with the opportunity to further develop on-the-ground skills before the overseas fieldtrip. This year's **BUDDcamp**, explored the work of the **SPRAR** programme, led by the Local Democracy Agency **Zavidovici** in Brescia, Italy. **SPRAR** works with refugees, assisting them to achieve progressive autonomy, as they integrate and adapt to a

new city. Students explored how the city's design and urban planning processes can hinder or facilitate integration. Students presented their findings in Brescia. For many students the trip was a personal journey towards understanding their role as an urban practitioner in designing for social-spatial justice.

DPU Launches New Module on Transport Equity and Urban Mobility

In January 2016, the DPU successfully launched a new module in its MSc Urban Development Planning (UDP) programme entitled, *Transport Equity and Urban Mobility*. The module, run by **Caren Levy** and **Daniel Oviedo**, focuses on the relationships between social identity, transport and planning in the context of urban development in the global South. The objective of the module is to introduce students to the structural drivers of inequality related to spatial and social mobilities in cities of the global South, examining the relationships between formal and informal urban and transport development, and exploring the implications for a more socially just and integrated urban transport planning.

The module combines lectures, seminar discussions, student presentations, and

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Below: 'Motocarros' in Barranquilla, Colombia.
Photo by Diana Cantillo.

group work, exploring the different ways in which equity in transport has been understood in practice. For example, students are confronted directly with standard transport modelling tools through the use of transport and land-use modelling package **TRANUS**®, creating more critical perspectives on the advantages and limitations of mainstream planning for a more socially just urban transport. In its first year, the module drew 30 students from across the DPU, the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment and University College London.

New summerLab 2016 Series

The DPU **summerLab** team has the pleasure to announce the activation of new workshops in Beirut and Palermo (5-10 September 2016), and Barcelona and London (19-24 September 2016). We are excited to begin working in two new destinations while giving continuity to the work made in the previous years in Beirut and London.

Drawing on the progressive action-research ethos of the DPU, **summerLab** aims to provoke, stimulate, and reconsider the role of designers and practitioners in promoting spatial justice. The workshops offer a testing ground for designing investigative spatial strategies embedded in the socio-political agendas of cities'



contested spaces. The initiative is being led and coordinated by **Camillo Boano** and **Giorgio Talocci** and shaped along with **Camila Cociña**, **Kay Pallaris** and **Catalina Ortiz** at the DPU.

We look forward to working with our local partners, and thank them for their efforts and enthusiasm: **Dalia Chabarek** (UDP 2011-12) and Académie Libanaise des Beaux Arts in Beirut; *urban-ita* and Push in Palermo; the Master of International Cooperation Sustainable Emergency Architecture at the School of Architecture (UIC) and Zaida Muxi Martinez (Director of Urbanism, Housing and Public Space, Municipality of Santa Coloma de Gramenet) in Barcelona; and Stephen Kenny at The Baring Trust in London.

Dissertation Fellowships Added to Expanding Range of DPU Partnerships with NGOs

DPU is constantly expanding partnerships with NGOs. We have recently established a number of dissertation fellowships that offer DPU MSc students the opportunity to write their dissertation on a research area relevant to the work of an NGO. So far, twelve students have taken this competitive opportunity to work with NGOs, including Save the Children, HelpAge and Islamic Relief.

We have long enjoyed extensive strategic research partnerships with NGOs, and local civil society organisations play key roles as partners on each of our MSc fieldtrips. The MSc Development Administration and Planning programme, for example, worked with a number of organisations in Kampala, Uganda in 2016, with student teams attached to each and assigned with the task of developing an understanding of the operational and philosophical approach of their assigned partner. The organisations involved in that exercise included CIDI (Community Integrated Development Initiatives), SSA:UHSNET (Shelter and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda Human Settlements Network), ACTogether, CALM Africa, CDRN (Community Development Resource Network), Living Earth Uganda, KALACODA (Kasubi Local Community Development Association), and ACODEV (Action for Community Development).

The module, *NGOs and Social Transformations* (part of the MSc in Social Development Practice), explicitly offers NGO practitioners a space to collectively reflect on key contemporary challenges, such as power in partnerships between international and local NGOs, the impact

of NGO communications, the role of Northern development NGOs in the context of increased capacity of Southern actors. Invited speakers in the module included the CEO of BRAC UK, the Head of Programmes for Y-Care International, and the founder of Citizens UK, amongst many others.

DPU Junior Professionals Programme

As part of a long-standing partnership between the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), the Community Architects Network (CAN), and the DPU, the *Junior Professionals/DPU Alumni* programme aims to offer experience and on-the-job-training for junior development practitioners throughout Southeast Asia. The latest call for Junior Professionals in March 2016 represented the third wave in this partnership.

The primary purpose of the initiative is to support the development and use of methodologies and tools in community-driven processes of urban transformation. The Junior Professionals will work with CAN members, community organisations and members of ACHR in different spheres of city-wide upgrading strategies that involve mapping, planning, design, management, and communication.

On-the-ground experiences from the first wave of Junior Professionals can be found on <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/news/dpu-achr-internships-essays-2014>.

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Below: DPU Junior Professionals map-making with communities in Bangkok, Thailand. Photo by Cindy Huang.



DPU Lectures and Dialogues in Development

In 2016 DPU has continued to welcome esteemed speakers from around the world as it continues its public lecture series. Dialogues in Development events are often interactive, bringing together multiple speakers or panel discussions for debate around a theme. We also invite noted academic and non-academic speakers from around the world to present their work in lecture form.

In February 2016, DPU hosted a screening and discussion of Markus Lenz's film, *Ruina*, at an event entitled, *Ruina: The Story of Torre David in Caracas: The Challenges of Self-Building Communities Appropriating Urban Vacant Properties*. A discussion was led by DPU's **Liza Griffin**, **Catalina Ortiz** and **Alexandre Apsan Frediani**.

In March 2016, we welcomed Yasar Adnan Adanalı from TU Darmstadt and at Koç University in Istanbul for a lecture entitled, *Designing and Building Hope Together: Tenants Rights to Housing in Turkey through Collective Action and Resistance*. In the same month, DPU also welcomed architect Jorge Perez from Colombia for a lecture entitled *Medellin: An urban citizen project. Urban transformation through a collective process*, and Professor Harini Nagendra from Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India, for a lecture entitled, *Nature in the City: Bengaluru in the Past, Present, and Future*. Also in March, DPU hosted architect, activist, teacher, social researcher, and writer, Arif Hasan, for a lecture entitled, *The Role of Knowledge Production in Urban Change: Reflections from Karachi*.

In June 2016, DPU hosted a discussion entitled, *Space, Politics and Imperfect Citizenship: A debate on migration policy and forms of life at the edge of Europe*. The debate was part of the on-going research on borders and camps supported by the DPU's *Urban Transformations and Diversity, Social Complexity and Planned Intervention* research clusters in partnership with the University of Cambridge. The event brought together Nando Sigona from the Institute for Research into Superdiversity, University of Birmingham, Irit Katz from the Centre for Urban Conflicts Research, University of Cambridge, and Dan Ellis (CamCRG), with DPU's **Giovanna Astolfo** and DPU PhD candidate, **Ricardo Marten**, for a discussion chaired by **Camillo Boano**.

From ‘New International Economic Order’ to ‘Cities for All’: The Role of the Economy

By Le-Yin Zhang

To help frame the New Urban Agenda (NUA – See Head on in this issue), the Habitat III Secretariat appointed 200 Experts worldwide and organised them into ten Policy Units (PUs). DPU co-led PU 7 (Urban Economic Development Strategies) with the Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements. Represented by **Prof Julio D. Dávila** and myself, DPU organised both expert meetings in London and co-ordinated the preparation of two written submissions (Policy Paper Framework and the final Policy Paper). I also presented the Policy Paper to leaders of the Habitat III Secretariat (including Dr Joan Clos) and members of the Bureau of Preparatory Committee at a special session at the European Habitat in Prague and then to the representatives of the UN member nation states and stakeholders in New York at the Habitat III Open-ended Informal Consultative Meetings (25th-29th April 2016) and moderated the panel discussion around the Policy Paper. Moreover, I contributed to the five-person panel entitled *Overview of the main key recommendations and information on the development of the zero draft* on Day One of the five-day UN meetings.

The key messages of our Policy Paper are three-fold. First, **Productive employment, job creation** and the **enhancement of livelihoods** represent key challenges in urban economic development. This is because globally there are a lot more people who are poor than

those who are unemployed. Moreover, urban residents around the world all need productive and decent work to build strong livelihoods and personal wellbeing. Second, given the sheer diversity of urban economies, a two-pronged approach is needed. On the one hand, cities need to address underlying conditions that support inclusive economic development. On the other hand, **cities must proactively facilitate inclusive economic development** by working with all stakeholders in the economy. Thirdly, the strengthening of urban economies requires **better urban governance** and the **willingness to invest** in different types of capital. It is gratifying to note that the Zero Draft and its revisions have fully absorbed these messages.

Given the focus of the PU7 on the urban economy, it is useful to reflect on the role of the economy in the different Agendas. This can be done by analysing the key objective of each Habitat conference, the theoretical lens adopted and how the economy is expected to make a contribution, as shown in the following table. Evidently, while all three Agendas aim to improve the quality of life in human settlements, the Vancouver Declaration pinned much hope on establishing a ‘New International Economic Order’, whereas the Istanbul Declaration started the discourse around the three pillars of sustainable development and actions at national and local levels. The NUA is explicitly building on the Istanbul



Above: DPU’s Le-Yin Zhang hands over the Policy Unit 7 Paper to Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat and Maryse Gautier, Co-chair of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the Habitat III conference at a Special Session of the European Habitat in Prague.

Declaration by placing emphasis on operationalising sustainable development.

The attention to the urban economy has increased over the consecutive agendas. While none of the 24 ‘guidelines for action’ actually touches upon the economy in the Vancouver Declaration, the Surabaya Draft spells out in significant details what needs to be done in the economic sphere. On the other hand, echoing the Vancouver Declaration’s call for prioritising **“qualitative dimensions to economic development”**, the Surabaya Draft speaks of **“leveraging urbanisation for structural transformation”**. This more integrated and grounded approach to human settlements should produce more sustainable outcomes.

| Urban Agenda | Key objective | Vision/Theoretical lens | Role of the economy |
|--|---|---|--|
| Vancouver Declaration (1976) | Improved quality of life in human settlements | ‘New International Economic Order’ | Inequitable economic growth is a key problem Priorities: 1) a just and equitable economic order; 2) the promotion of the qualitative dimensions to economic development |
| Istanbul Declaration (1996) | Adequate shelter for all Sustainable human settlements (SHSs) | Sustainable development: economic growth, social development and environmental protection | Cities and towns are ‘engines of growth’ The vision of SHSs includes equal opportunities for productive and freely chosen employment/livelihood and the eradication of poverty |
| New Urban Agenda (Surabaya Draft, 28 July 2016) | Operationalising sustainable development in an integrated and coordinated way | ‘Cities for all’: 1) leave no one behind; 2) sustainable and inclusive urban economies; 3) environmental sustainability. | Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth: leveraging urbanisation for structural transformation, high productivity, value added activities and resource efficiency; harnessing local economies; recognising the contribution of the informal economy and supporting its formalisation. |

Peering Into DPU's Future

By Prof Julio D. Dávila, DPU Director



Running any entity, including a whole nation, involves making educated guesses as to what may lie ahead, and trying to plan accordingly. But it is not easy to predict the future, as former UK Prime Minister David Cameron rather shockingly found out earlier this summer. Cameron was confident that he could persuade voters to endorse Britain's membership of the European Union (EU) and yet on 23 June 2016 a small majority voted to leave. Even taking into account the misleading promises of some 'Leave' campaigners, the UK referendum uncovered a much more polarised nation than leading politicians and commentators believed possible: fragmented across education, age, and geographical location. Like many of the countries in which the DPU has been working for decades, where globalisation has benefitted a relatively small minority often at the expense of the majority, the vote in the UK highlights the negative impacts of economic restructuring and the global economic crisis.

After what promises to be a painful and messy process involving large amounts of government resources, Britain will leave the EU at some point in the next two to three years. Insofar as a non-negligible share of research funds originate in the EU, research-intensive universities like UCL will feel the effects. Alternative funding will need to be found mainly from domestic sources (presumably money currently going to the EU). Some undergraduate programmes may see a drop in EU student numbers as their funding is eventually reduced or cut.

It is too early to judge what precisely this will mean for the DPU, but I believe we are in a strong position to weather these changes. As any issue of DPUNews or a glance at our website will reveal, DPU staff are involved in a considerable range of research, teaching and public engagement activities. Much of our research actively involves local partners in countries as diverse as Somaliland, Mozambique, Malawi, Nigeria, Peru, Colombia, Chile, Bangladesh, India, Thailand, to name but a few. The *Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre* (with Comic Relief funding) launched last year promises to be a resounding success, already leading

to spin-off training, research and teaching activities that should eventually help reduce urban poverty in a country until recently devastated by civil war and disease.

We have ambitious plans for expanding our networks and to consolidate research in areas such as urban risk, disasters, economic development, urban health, housing and urban mobilities, and new research on areas such as refugees, energy, and heritage and reconstruction. As mentioned by Barbara Lipietz and Le-Yin Zhang in this issue of DPUNews, we have actively contributed to help shape global processes like those leading to Habitat III in Quito in October 2016.

We have healthy partnership and internship programmes with colleagues across the world, often involving current or former students. The internship programme with the Asian Coalition of Housing Rights is in its third year, and has contributed to both strengthening community-led processes in cities in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Cambodia, as well as providing dynamic learning environments for early career urban practitioners. Through the *summerLab* we run a series of successful short-term training courses, spanning four cities in three continents. We are proud of DPU's strength in bringing together theory and practice in research and teaching, a feature embodied in our applied research portfolio and the MSc overseas fieldtrips. This year's list of fieldtrip locations was as exciting as ever, with staff and students spending up to three weeks in Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, Peru, Cambodia and Brazil.

After years of expansion, and conscious of what is now known in the university jargon as 'the student experience', we have sought to stabilise student numbers across our six MSc programmes (at about 200 new students every year). The MPhil/PhD programme continues to attract around eight to ten new top students annually. To take advantage of UCL's world-class expertise in both public health and in cities, in the near future we aim to launch a new MSc in Urban Health in conjunction with UCL's Institute of Global Health.

The DPU is part of one of the most highly respected universities in the world,

and the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, where we sit, is the best-ranked UK faculty of its kind thanks to its world-class research. UCL has started an ambitious ten-year £1.2 billion capital investment plan to build, enlarge or modernise buildings in the Bloomsbury campus, and to develop a new campus at UCL East, at the heart of the Olympic Park in East London. Due to open in 2020, Phase I of UCL East will house only new multi-disciplinary research and teaching, with a community engagement programme in one of London's most socially deprived areas. The DPU will have a presence in the 'Global Future Cities Co-Labs', the details of which are still being worked out with colleagues from across UCL.

These are all ambitious plans at times of some uncertainty. But then, uncertainty is inevitably an over-arching variable in any forecasting exercise. Thanks to the hugely talented academic and professional service colleagues with whom I have the privilege to work, the DPU will for many years continue to successfully deliver on its vision to support those people who are generally excluded from decision-making by poverty or their social and cultural identity, to play a full and rewarding role in their own development.

Transport Investments and Well-being: An Analysis of Transmetro and Urban Policies in Barranquilla, Colombia

The DPU is leading an 18-month research project funded by the Boston-based Lincoln Institute of Land Policy on the links between transport investment, poverty and land-use in Barranquilla's metropolitan area. Cities in Latin America and a large portion of the global South have resorted to the widespread use of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as a solution for restructuring urban public transport following successful experiences in cities like Bogotá in Colombia, and Curitiba in Brazil. However, one of the real challenges in making such initiatives work in medium-sized cities is integrating urban public transport development with land-use planning in an efficient and inclusive manner that can deliver on improvements in accessibility, affordability and well-being.

The project is led by **Prof Julio D. Dávila**, with **Daniel Oviedo** from the DPU and Prof Nick Tyler from UCL-CEGE, and includes local partners: Prof Victor Cantillo and Dr Julian Arellana from Universidad del Norte, Laura Cepeda and Stefannia Garcia at Fundesarrollo (a local think tank), and two DPU MSc alumni, **Roberto Angulo**, an expert on poverty and social mobility, and **Diana Cantillo** from the investment promotion agency ProBarranquilla.

The project builds on DPU's emerging research and teaching agenda on urban transport and social equity, and seeks to examine the effect of recent transport investments, more specifically a BRT System launched in 2010, and current urban development policies on: changes in land use, mobility of low-income users,

Below: Transmetro buses at an interchange station in Barranquilla. Photo by Diana Cantillo.



and spatial segregation in the Metropolitan Area of Barranquilla (AMBAQ), Colombia. AMBAQ comprises five municipalities and a population of over two million. The research draws from primary and secondary data, and case studies in low-income areas with and without access to the BRT. Project outputs will be presented at an international event organised by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and a local colloquium involving academics, community representatives, local and national government and practitioners in the transport and local investors.

Guidelines for Equitable Planning of Cycling Infrastructure for Latin-American Cities

In January 2016, in partnership with Universidad de los Andes in Colombia, cycling advocacy NGO Bicivilizate, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the DPU started the development of a research project entitled, Guidelines for equitable and inclusive pro-cycling policies in Latin America. The project is part of the IDB's Comprehensive strategy for the use of the bicycle in Latin American cities. Led by **Daniel Oviedo**, the DPU team involves **Prof Julio D. Dávila**, **Caren Levy** and **Verónica Saud**, working closely with **Claudio Olivares** from Bicivilizate.

The project develops a conceptual framework to incorporate the concepts of **accessibility**, **social equity** and **inclusion** in pro-cycling policies in Latin American cities. The research builds on both theoretical and empirical evidence from Latin America and successful experiences elsewhere for identifying policies that can address the multi-dimensional nature of access and social inclusion. The guidelines also includes a set of measurable indicators for monitoring and evaluation from an equity



Above: Bicycle-sharing system Itau in Santiago, Chile. Photo by Verónica Saud.

perspective, strengthening current agendas and practices in the region in relation to development of cycling infrastructure and promotion of its use as a viable transport alternative. They will be launched at a regional event organised by the IDB with other donor organisations, international and local NGOs and national and local governments from Latin America in November 2016.

Capacities and Investments in the Management of Settlements and Urban Risk

The understanding of the conditions of risk in urban contexts has significantly changed in the past decades. Shifting from a focus on the evaluation of hazards and impacts to analyses of vulnerabilities and capacities, towards today's discourse on urban risks and resilient cities. However, we are still facing severe challenges to conceptually, methodologically and empirically capture the vicious cycles that re-produce everyday risks and that result in the accumulation of episodic disasters.

Within the action-research project, *cLima sin Riesgo*, we use the concept of 'risk traps', which we understand as the result of re-produced cycles of everyday risks and repeating small-scale disasters that have a strong spatial component and affect poor inhabitants in a disproportionate way. These risk traps further weaken risk mitigation attempts and investments by the state and the public sector. The dynamics of risk traps have two main effects regarding the risk-development relation. First, the progressive decrease in the quality of life and well-being of residents, whose attention to risks is temporary and limited due to their precarious conditions. Second, the generation of high vulnerability to hazards which might result in disasters

The latest phase of the project has been



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Left: Living in the periphery of Lima, Peru. Photo by Fish Yu.

dedicated to evaluate the investments and efforts devoted by ordinary citizens and state agencies in Lima to mitigate and reduce risks in the centre and periphery of the city. The findings reveal that such investments and efforts are substantial but paradoxically do not disrupt risk traps, but rather re-enforce their configuration in many instances.

The evaluation of governmental policies shows that there are several programmes to enhance Disasters Risk Management (DRM), yet these have not yet been sufficiently adapted to address local problems. Furthermore, despite the magnitude of DRM programmes and budgets results of their implementation reveal that tackling everyday risks has not been high on the agenda of local governments of the metropolitan area, who between 2012 and 2015, spent only 3.43% of the 12 relevant budget programmes.

To learn more about the way in which capacities and investments are addressing urban risk traps in Lima, please visit www.cLIMAsinRiesgo.net or contact Prof Adriana Allen at a.allen@ucl.ac.uk

Urban Infrastructure Projects and Displacement in Nigeria

The infrastructure backlog in Nigerian cities presents an enormous impediment to efforts to improve the wellbeing of the country's urban residents. However, the land requirements associated with efforts to deliver such infrastructure, in already densely occupied cities, has led to significant threats of displacement. Furthermore, in a pattern that is by no means unique to Nigeria, displacement as a consequence of infrastructure development is a cost that is most frequently borne by poor city dwellers. At times the need for infrastructure may even be used as a pretext to displace low-income communities in the interests of property development and the release of urban land value to urban elites.

In Nigeria, the scale of displacement for infrastructure development is such that this topic is high on the agenda, both in the

popular media and as a subject of academic enquiry. In 2007 the UN HABITAT Advisory Group on Forced Evictions reported that 2,334,433 people had been evicted from their homes in Nigeria between 1995 and 2005 and in recent years on-going mass displacements of urban populations have been widely reported in Nigerian media, notably in Lagos (Badia East), the Federal Capital territory of Abuja, and recently in Kaduna.

In this context, **Barbara Lipietz** and **Julian Walker** of the DPU are working with Dr Victor Onyebueke (University of Nigeria Nsukka), Dr Oliver Ujah, and Victoria Ohaeri (from the NGO Spaces for Change and Youth Development) on a research project which aims to understand how engagement between civil society groups and planners can protect the interests of the urban poor in the context of infrastructure development in Nigerian cities. This research is part of the UK DFID funded *Urban Research Nigeria (URN)* programme, coordinated by ICF International, which the DPU has been part of since 2013.

The research was launched during an initial workshop with Nigerian partners in April 2016. It will work at two scales: a national level scanning of infrastructure-related displacement drawing on both secondary sources of information, and interviews with government, civil society

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Right: Urban displacement in Nigeria. Photo by Julian Walker.



and private actors, and; and a City-profile of infrastructure related displacement in the South Eastern Nigerian city of Enugu, which will be used to interrogate some of the patterns and themes emerging from the national scanning through primary research and more in-depth displacement case studies.

Humanitarian Urbanism

DPU has partnered with the Centre for Urban Sustainability and Resilience (CUSR) at UCL for a two year IIED-DFID funded project entitled, *Urban Crises Learning Partnership (UCLP)*. Led by **Camillo Boano** and CUSR's John Twigg, the project consortium also brings together Habitat for Humanity GB (HFHGB), Oxfam, and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

Combining international operational humanitarian agencies with world-class research institutes with complementary areas of expertise, the project aims to collect learnings and challenge existing approaches to produce innovative, evidence-based thinking on urban crises grounded in practical realities.

The primary objectives are to improve the way stakeholders in urban crises engage with each other to form new partnerships and make better decisions, and to improve mitigation of disasters, preparedness and response by developing, testing and disseminating new approaches to the formation of these relationships and systems.

Learning activities will analyse who engages in urban contexts pre, during and post-crises and how. The project will also will reflect on how decision-making processes and formal and informal factors that impact on disaster management/preparedness/resilience systems will be explored. The project will be developed in Haiti and in Bangladesh.

Gender, Climate Change and Urbanisation Videos

Barbara Lipietz and **Caren Levy** have embarked on a research project with Genre en Action examining the links between gender, climate change and urbanisation. Indeed, whilst debates on climate change have clearly evolved over the years, the gendered and urban components of that debate have only recently appeared as two significant domains of exploration.

What does bringing the three areas of focus together offer to our understandings of urbanisation, to the politics of climate change or indeed to gender equality? How does this triangular relation help refine or boost current calls for a reorientation of climate change activism beyond resilience and towards climate justice? What are the consequences of revisiting this link for strategic and just interventions in the context of the urban Anthropocene?

The DPU and Genre en Action have produced a short film on these issues, comparing the ways in which policy-makers and academics perceive these cross-cutting themes, available here: <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/gende-climate-change-and-urbanisation-revisiting-the-links>.

Calais and Border Camps

In April 2016, as part of a preliminary research led by **Camillo Boano** and supported by the DPU's *Urban Transformation and Social Diversity* research cluster, **Giovanna Astolfo** and PhD student **Ricardo Marten** visited Calais and Dunkirk to better understand dynamics of refugee camps in Europe and meet activists and NGOs currently engaged in humanitarian response.

The Jungle in Calais is one of the most 'mediatised' camps in northern Europe. At the heart of it, there is a new government-sponsored container camp hosting nearly 700 refugees. Its sanitised white aesthetic stands in stark contrast to the slum-like informality of the surrounding group of densely packed shelters. A few kilometres from Calais, at Grand-Synthe, Dunkirk, *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) has recently built a camp that currently hosts around 1500 refugees in rows of identical wooden shelters.

The three camps reflect a problem that transcends specific camp design or typological debates. This is a humanitarian crisis at the core, about people in movement following chaotic patterns and transforming the spatial axes out of elemental urgencies.

Findings from the visit that informed



Above: Construction of new shelters at 'The Jungle', Calais. Photo by Giovanna Astolfo.

an initial research agenda were discussed in a DPU *Dialogue in Development* event entitled, *Space, politics and imperfect citizenship. A debate on migration policy and forms of life at the edge of Europe* at DPU on 7th June.

Integrating Food into Urban Planning

Urban food security and nutrition are receiving a growing attention world-wide, however the issue of food and urban planning is insufficiently covered by the existing literature. How food is produced, processed, distributed and recovered, and how local food systems complement rural agriculture are issues that relate closely to urban planning, which can be either an opportunity to better feed cities or an obstacle to making food systems work sustainably. Urban planners and local and regional authorities, who have been traditionally less engaged in food related issues, are now asked to take a central and active part in mainstreaming food into urban planning. Some cities and regions have made huge progress over recent years on the integration of food into urban planning. However, their practices have not been made visible to a wide audience, and the reflections on their limits and successes deserve greater attention.

In order to address these complex issues, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the DPU have agreed to collaborate on the development of a book, *Integrating Food into Urban Planning*. The overall objective of the book, led by **Prof Yves Cabannes**, is to develop an approach to mainstreaming food systems, into urban planning, informed by evidence from more than 20 city-based experiences from across the global North and South.

The intention of this book is precisely to bring to the fore not only experiences but some of the key issues that need to be addressed and a set of food planning tools that have been designed, experimented

and adopted to local realities. As a result, the book will be both a conceptual contribution but also applied and useful for 'doers', primarily town planners, decision makers and actors involved at local and regional levels.

Transport, Poverty and Well-being in Urban Nigeria

In March 2016, the DPU produced the draft research report of the project *Transport, poverty and well-being in urban Nigeria*, as part of the *Urbanization Research Nigeria (URN)* programme (2013-17). *URN* involves a consortium co-ordinated by ICF International and funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID).

By focusing on the different dimensions of well-being, the project seeks to provide a more rounded view of transport in the life of urban dwellers in informal neighbourhoods in Abuja, Kaduna and Ibadan, three of Nigeria's largest cities, which leads transport planning down new avenues of knowledge and methodologies in the pursuit of more socially just cities. The project also reflects on what are essential mobilities and to explore the contribution of transport to achieve a quality of life that recognises the diverse identities of all urban citizens.

Led by **Prof Julio D. Dávila**, the DPU team also includes **Caren Levy** and **Daniel Oviedo**. The project involved extensive quantitative data collected in collaboration with local consulting firm STO Associates. Project outputs have been showcased locally, as well as at international forums such as the meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) and the World Conference of Transport Research (WCTR). In addition, insights from the case of Abuja will be published as part of a book entitled *(Im)mobilities in the City: Creating Knowledge for Planning Cities in the Global South*, edited by Prof Karen Lucas and Dr Tanu Priya Uteng and published by Routledge in late 2016.



Above: Abuja, Nigeria. Photo by Daniel Oviedo

Connections

Urban Knowledge Network Asia Continues as We Say Goodbye to Marie Curie Actions

In March 2016, after four years, funding from the *Marie Curie Actions International Research Staff Exchange Scheme* of the European Union came to end. This funding had established and supported the *Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA)* – an inclusive network of over 100 scholars from 13 institutions in Europe, Asia and the USA, who are committed to collaborative research to nurture knowledge on Asian towns and cities.



Above: Urban Knowledge Network Asia Research Fellows at DPU.

European Union funds totalling €248,000 supported secondments for 18 DPU staff and PhD candidates to universities in India and China, and allowed the DPU to host 24 scholars from India and China between 2012 and 2016. In February, the DPU hosted a very well attended *UKNA* Roundtable on the theme, *The Prospects and Challenges of the SDGs in Asian Cities*, which showcased just some of the amazing research the *UKNA* has supported over the years.

The DPU, with the International Institute for Asian Studies (Netherlands) and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville (France), is currently seeking European Union funding to grow the network, expand its support for secondments between network partners and fund research projects on the pertinent theme of *Cities Across Borders*. Irrespective of the outcome of our efforts to secure funding, the *UKNA* (and the DPU) will continue to encourage and support knowledge on Asian cities. For more information about the *UKNA* please contact **Kamna Patel** who coordinates the DPU's membership to the network.

Jenna Helal (BUDD 2014-15) is currently an intern for the UN Habitat III programme, providing monitoring and evaluation programme support and contributing to the drafting of the progress report singling out indicators of success and evaluating the outcomes in the four areas of the Habitat III process (engagement and outreach, knowledge, policy, operations).

Since 2015, **Andrew Wade** (BUDD 2008-09) has been a Fellow with *Project Drawdown* (<http://www.drawdown.org>). The project will produce a book, a database, a basis for curricula and a digital platform that delineates a path to carbon neutrality using technologies that exist today. It will articulate the potential impacts of such technologies over the next thirty years. In September 2016, Andrew will be an MDes Real Estate and the Built Environment student at Harvard.

Aminata Bundu (ESD 2014-2015) has been working as the Director of the Biodiversity and Renewable Energy Learning Centre in Freetown, Sierra Leone, which she helped to launch in June 2014 while working for Environmental Foundation for Africa (see <http://www.efasl.org>). The Learning Centre has begun collaborating with DPU initiative *Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC)* in Freetown. Aminata can be contacted at aminata.bundu.14@ucl.ac.uk.

Livio Zellweger (ESD 2014-15) is now working at as the EU International Relations Advisor at Environment Agency. His role includes advising internal and external customers across the Environment Agency and within central Government and ensuring that high quality responses to Parliamentary questions, visit proposals and briefings are provided to senior Government officials and Ministers on local and national issues.

Quentin Marchais (ESD 2013-14) is working as a researcher at ClientEarth, a non-profit environmental law organisation, founded in 2008, which was awarded the Law Society's LSA Award for Excellence in Environmental Responsibility in 2013.

Amy Leaman (BUDD 2010-11) is the co-founder of the digital agency called cStreet Campaigns (<http://www.cstreet.ca>) in Toronto. cStreet Campaigns build and run progressive campaigns for politicians, non-profits and movements around the world working with United Nations Foundation

in the US to develop brand, a website and some digital programming for youth and young professionals (genun.unausa.org).

José di Girolamo (BUDD 2010-11) is currently Partner and Co-founder of llll Arquitectura Diseño Urbano, developing and designing building and urban projects (mostly housing and masterplanning) in Chile (see www.llll.cl) and Lecturer of Magister en Proyecto Urbano (MSc Urban Project) at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Sepideh Hajisoltani (BUDD 2010-11), now a planner with the Aberdeen's City Council, is working in collaboration with **Josue Robles Carballo** (BUDD 2010-11) – now at USF's School of Architecture and Community Design – to facilitate the first Community Regeneration Workshop between the two institutions. The workshop over the summer of 2016 will explore the socio-spatial potential of four different areas of Aberdeen's City center. All proposed strategies will build upon historic, existing and potential enterprises while closely examining current economic and political streams within the community.

For the last four years, **Pooja Varma** (BUDD 2008-09) has been working in New Delhi, India, as Senior Officer under the Corporate Social Responsibility wing of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited, managing and implementing projects in poor urban and rural communities that enhance livelihoods and improve access to health, sanitation and education services. Her focus is on women and children's social inclusion.

Riccardo Conti, Joana Dabaj and Laura Antona (all BUDD 2013-14) have founded CatalyticAction, a not-for-profit design studio that aims to catalyse positive change in society, through participatory exercises, sustainable practices, and local partnerships.

Andrea Cubides (BUDD 2012-13) is back in Colombia after 5 years in London working in her home city, Ibagué, at Gestora Urbana, a decentralised company from the Mayor's Office of Ibagué that promotes and develops public space. Andrea and her team are working to build quality cultural/recreational/educational facilities towards much needed community and individual development of at least three generations of Ibaguerenos.

Belen Desmaison (BUDD 2014-15) is an architect and urban designer currently working in Lima, Peru. She is the coordinator of *Ocupa tu Calle* (ocupatucalle.org) an initiative promoted by the citizen-led urban observatory *Lima Como Vamos* and funded by *Fundación Avina/UN-Habitat*. The initiative aims to potentiate under-used public spaces in Lima through low-cost interventions working collaboratively with universities and public and private institutions in the design, implementation, monitoring, and maintenance of small-scale urban projects.

Anna Soave (BUDD 1999-2000) is currently working for UN-Habitat's Iraq Programme, based in the Kurdish capital Erbil. Anna is leading a capacity-building programme aimed at enhancing the capacity of staff of the Ministry of Municipalities so that they can effectively perform their planning duties and respond to this region's priority needs in basic infrastructure, essential services and housing. Anna has also been conducting research on emerging land tenure issues of IDPs.

Ian Langdown (ESD 2014-2015) has recently started work as a Research Officer at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London, based in the Water Policy Programme. The main project he is currently working on is named *SWIFT*. This project is part of DFID's *WASH Results* Programme and has the aim to bring safe water or sanitation, and hygiene promotion activities to almost 850,000 people in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya.

Ben Leclair (BUDD 2008-09) recently completed his doctoral dissertation at the Department of Architecture of ETH Zurich, co-supervised by Marc Angélil (ETH) and Camillo Boano (DPU). The dissertation addresses the formation of Baltimore ghetto conceptualised as an extraordinary type space that has controlled, exploited and encased a specific ethnic group since the 1930s. Ben is now Curatorial Researcher at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal.

Melissa Garcia Lamarca (BUDD, 2007-08) has completed her PhD in Geography at the University of Manchester, where she researched housing financialisation, the biopolitics of mortgage debt and processes of political subjectivation in the Barcelona metropolitan region. In September she is starting a four-year postdoc assessing the social and racial impact of new green amenities in distressed neighbourhoods across Europe, the US and Canada.

Kinan Bahnassi (DAP 2013-14) has been appointed by the ILO as Chief Technical Advisor for Labour Market Governance in Arab States. Kinan is based in Dubai, UAE.

Ereeny Yacoub (ESD 2012-2013) is now Partner and Managing Director of Wadi Environmental Science Centre (WESC). WESC is addressing a pressing need in Egypt where educational reform is a must. WESC aspires to redefine the relationship between students and their natural surroundings through outdoor, hands-on, inquiry-based and collaborative teaching methodologies (www.wesc-eg.com).

PhD Programme

In February 2016, **Rosalina Babourkova-Horner** was awarded her PhD for her thesis entitled, "Network ghettos: powering illegality and the politics of difference in Bulgaria's Romani neighbourhoods." Rosalina was supervised by Prof. Adriana Allen and Alexandre Apsan Frediani.

And in June 2016, **Pavlos Troulis** was awarded his PhD for his thesis entitled, "Power relations and fairtrade in cocoa and cotton value chains in the UK, Ghana and India." Pavlos was supervised by Michael Walls and Jorge Fiori.

Our congratulations to them both!

Staff News

We are pleased to announce that **Caren Levy** has been promoted to the position of Professor of Transformative Urban Planning, with effect from October 2016. Our congratulations to Caren!

The DPU welcomes **Alexander Macfarlane** as the DPU's new Media and Communications Officer. Alex replaces **Matthew Wood-Hill** in the role. We also welcome **Emmanuel Osuteye** as Research Associate for the *Climate and Development Knowledge Network*, and **Margarethe Thesiera** as Principal Teaching Fellow on the MSc Urban Economic Development (UED) programme. And finally we welcome **Kay Palaris** as the new MSc Building and Urban Design for Development (BUDD) Graduate Teaching Assistant. In the same period we have said goodbye to **Sohel Ahmed**, Research Associate on the *Urban Zoonosis* research project. We wish Sohel the best in the future.

Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre

The DPU, in partnership with Njala University, established the *Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC)* in Freetown. The Centre is conducting research and capacity building with the objectives of improving the wellbeing of urban residents, particularly in informal settlements. *SLURC* also aims at becoming a hub for urban professionals and knowledge by establishing a comprehensive resource centre. *SLURC*'s research develops around four thematic areas identified through a participatory scoping process: *urban health; urban livelihoods and city economy; land and housing; urban vulnerability; and resilience activities*.

In January 2016, *SLURC* was formally launched at the meeting of the international advisory board which involved Njala University Deputy vice-Chancellor, Prof. Alpha Lakoh, and DPU's **Michael Walls**, as well as three African experts: Prof. Jo Beall, Director of British Council, Ibadun Adelekan, University of Ibadan, and Dr Nancy Odendaal, University of Cape Town.

In March, the DPU hosted the full team from Sierra Leone for two weeks of workshops and high profile meetings aimed at exchanging knowledge and building strategic relationships. *SLURC* activities involve a growing number of DPU staff in research, teaching and training activities. The Centre is co-directed by Joseph Macarthy and Braima Koroma, both Lecturers at Njala University, and led by **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** and **Andrea Rigon** from the DPU, with support from **Giovanna Astolfo**. The Centre's core costs are funded by Comic Relief for an initial period of three years.

Managing Everyday Risks in Freetown: Enhancing Capacities to Act Beyond Emergency Crises

The first week-long training programme organised and hosted by the *Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC)* in Freetown took place in July 2016. The focus of the training was on research methods for urban development under the theme: co-learning the city through the lens of risk.

Participants for the event were drawn from various backgrounds and disciplines and comprised academics, researchers, government officials, NGOs, development practitioners and members of the Federation of the Urban Poor from two of the settlements where *SLURC* is conducting in-depth research: Dwozark on the hillsides and Cockle Bay on the coast.

The training was facilitated by **Prof**

Adriana Allen, Andrea Rigon, Emmanuel Osuteye, and Joseph Macarthy and Braima Koroma from Njala University, Sierra Leone.

The sessions examined the concept of *co-learning for action processes*, and featured interactive group work with participants discussing substantive issues of urban risk and vulnerability in the city, as well as fieldwork in which a risk profile of each settlement was developed in collaboration with local dwellers. A brief documenting the outcomes of the collaborative work produced will be published in September 2016.

For more information please visit: <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/sierra-leone-urban-research-centre>.

Participatory Workshops with the Latin American Diaspora in Elephant and Castle, London

A key challenge for London today is how to reflect and retain cultural diversity through regeneration strategies, particularly ethnic minorities. The Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre and its surrounding area have been a cultural hub for Latin Americans in London for decades. Today, the area is facing a massive transformation as part of the Elephant and Castle Town Centre Regeneration Plan, bringing increasing uncertainties to the retailer community.

In this context in March 2016, continuing DPU's engagement with local initiatives, **Catalina Ortiz** and **Camila Cocina** held a workshop in coordination with the NGO, Latin Elephant, and representatives of Southwark Council. The workshop brought together members of the Latin American community of traders and business owners in the Elephant and Castle area, in order to identify their main needs and demands.

Strategic Partnership with the Humanitarian Affairs Team of Save the Children

The partnership between DPU and the Humanitarian Affairs Team of Save the Children (STC) will start with a jointly designed year-long research project exploring the relationships between *the urban, displacement and humanitarian action*, in the current context of unprecedented forced displacement processes. The project will draw upon the complementary expertise of the DPU on *the urban* and STC on *humanitarian action*. For the project, DPU has created a joint position



Top: Launching the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) in Freetown.

Middle: Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Bottom: Doing Research in Zaria, Nigeria.

All photos by Michael Walls

of Research Associate and Humanitarian Adviser, which will be co-managed by the two organisations. This partnership offers an opportunity to influence and contribute to the practice of one of the largest humanitarian actors and develop new relevant knowledge. The partnership also aims at creating opportunities for DPU students in terms of dissertation fellowships and placements.

Urbanisation Research Nigeria

Since its independence in 1960 Nigeria has been struggling to industrialise and diversify its economy away from low-productivity agricultural employment and dependence on Oil & Gas export revenues. It has

adopted numerous government strategies from import substitution to market liberalisation; yet despite being one of the fastest growing economies in the world, the country continues to be highly dependent on oil reserves and imports of food and consumer goods from abroad, with persistently high rates of poverty and rising unemployment.

Conventional wisdom points to poor governance, with little in the way of recommendations. According to new DFID-funded research from **Naji P. Makarem** and his research team, the organised private sector (OPS) has the opportunity to leverage its clout and political influence for engaging in and improving urban governance. To do so however, it must strengthen its urban organisational capacity and shift its political attention beyond pure-efficiency to broader conceptions of functional urban agglomerations, such as affordable and well-serviced housing, public transport, education and vocational training, firm-level support especially for smaller firms, targeted R&D, public space and cultural amenities. These are features of functional cities in which people and firms can prosper. A failure to do so risks locking Nigeria into a 'low-productivity trap', long after it has overcome its chronic 'efficiency-crisis'.

DPU Involvement In Habitat III

As Habitat III draws closer, DPU is involved in several processes that are setting the agenda and framing the upcoming debates. In April 2016, **Le-Yin Zhang** was invited to participate and present at the Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings ahead of Habitat III at the United Nations Head Quarters in New York.

Along with **Prof Julio D. Dávila**, Le-Yin was invited to join a four-person panel session, "*Overview of the main key recommendations and information on the development of the zero draft*" on Day One, considered a key event in the 5-day meeting. Le Yin was joined on the panel by Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO; Rüdiger Ahrend, OECD; Abel Walendom, Secretary General, Ministry of Land Management, Urbanism and Habitat, Chad; and Nelson Saule Jr., Pólis Institute, Brazil.

On Day Three Le-Yin also presented Policy Paper 7 on behalf of Policy Unit 7, which was well-received. Le-Yin noted the prominence of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP) in the proceedings. GAP was established in 2015 as a deliberative platform for NGOs and which participated fully and actively in the meetings.

Housing in Johannesburg and São Paulo: Johannesburg, March 2016

Between 21st and 25th March, **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** and **Barbara Lipietz** were part of a networking visit to Johannesburg that explored the potential for comparative research on the topic of *Housing practices in vacant buildings of inner city areas of São Paulo and Johannesburg*. This visit builds on the *Insurgent Regeneration* research initiative (<http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/insurgent-regeneration>) and took place in partnership with the School of Architecture, University of Sheffield; the Faculty of Engineering, Universidade Federal do ABC, São Paulo; and the Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies (CUBES), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Exchange on For a Shared Urbanism and workshop on Advocacy Planning for the Production of Alternative Urbanism Paris, April 2016

On 1 April, **Barbara Lipietz** was invited to act as respondent and facilitator at a one-day workshop exploring *The production of alternative urbanism: Advocacy planning and collaborative approaches*. Organised by the Réseau Centre SUD and

the LAVUE research group of the CNRS (Centre national de la recherche scientifique), the workshop brought together practitioners, academics and community groups working in Cairo, Istanbul, London and Paris. The following day, Barbara participated in a one-day exchange organised to follow up on the September 2015 event, *For a Shared Urbanism (Pour un urbanisme partagé)*, which established a network of practitioners and academics to support community responses to regeneration across France. At the September event, Barbara had presented the experience of the London-based Just Space Network. Just Space coordinator, Richard Lee, was able to attend the follow-up exchange in April.

The Nexus Network: Sussex, May 2016

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Nexus Network brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars and practitioners to develop a holistic understanding of how the linkages between food, energy, water and the environment shape cities and urban life. A key contribution of the nexus approach is the emphasis on the connections between systems that are often approached separately.

The DPU approach to the urban nexus builds on integrated approaches to sustainability and socio-environmental justice, which manifest the interconnections between social, environmental and technological issues. During a workshop organised by the Nexus Network in Sussex on 12 and 13 May 2016, two DPU academic members shared their research, reflecting on the unearthing of hidden connections at the heart of the city.

Vanessa Castán Broto presented her research on Urban Energy Landscapes. She examined different cities around the world (Hong Kong, Bangalore and Maputo) to explain how urban energy systems are shaped by the spatial and historical configurations of the built environment.

Drawing on *CLIMA sin Riesgo*, an action-research project funded by the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), **Prof Adriana Allen** reflected on how ordinary citizens living in conditions of marginalisation in Lima individually and collectively carve material and political spaces to cope, challenge and, at points, transform the risk accumulation cycles or 'urban risk traps' that translate locally into the exacerbation of everyday risks and



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Left: Exploring Housing practices in vacant buildings of inner city areas in Johannesburg. (L-R) Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon (Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology of University of Witwatersrand), Francisco Comarú (UFABC), Barbara Lipietz (DPU), Benedito Barbosa (Central dos Movimentos Populares, CMP), Ricardo Moretti (UFABC), Alexandre Apsan Frediani (DPU), and Beatrice De Carli (University of Sheffield). Photo by Alexandre Apsan Frediani.

episodic disasters threatening human life and wellbeing, as well as undermining the man-made and ecological infrastructure that supports vital urban nexuses.

Development Studies Association: Urbanisation and Development

The Development Studies Association (DSA) *Urbanisation and Development* study group has organised two major events in the last 12 months. The first was a workshop entitled *Back to the Urban Future* workshop, held at University of Sheffield, in January 2016, and organised by Tom Goodfellow (Sheffield) and Melanie Lombard (Manchester). The event brought together early career researchers working on the themes of jobs and economies, services and shelter, and shocks and resilience, with more established academics and practitioners - **Prof David Satterthwaite** (DPU-IIED), Sue Parnell (ACC), and Carole Rakodi (Birmingham) - to consider the implications of the new urban agenda, the urban Sustainable Development Goal and Habitat III within the historical context of urban development studies. It attracted an international audience and was live streamed in support of wider participation. The second event was a one-day workshop entitled, *Interrogating the New Urban Agenda*, held at IDS, Sussex in July 2016, and organised by **Prof Adriana Allen**, **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** and **Anna Walnycki** (IIED). The workshop brought together key discussants David Dodman (IIED), Gordon McGranahan (IIED), and **Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, among others, to interrogate the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda. Discussions identified gaps in the Zero Draft and looked at re-framing

certain issues, structured around a series of provocations and questions relating to the Zero Draft's commitment to transformative change, its formulation of the New Urban Agenda, and potential additions to the Zero Draft.

Global Urbanisms, Regional Specificities (UCL Urban Lab): UCL Institute of Advanced Studies

On 16-17th May 2016, UCL Urban Lab and the Institute of Advanced Studies held a symposium on *Global Urbanisms, Regional Specificities*. The event aimed to contribute to on-going debates on the limits of universalist theorisations of the urban while at the same time seeking to engage with the globalisation of urban processes. Speakers included Prof Jenny Robinson and Tariq Jazeel (Geography, UCL), Debby Potts (Geography, KCL), Colin McFarlane (Geography, Durham), Maliq Simone, Miguel Kanai (Geography, Sheffield) and Professors Fulong Wu and Mike Raco (Bartlett School of Planning, UCL), among many others. Contributions from DPU staff included a paper presented by **Catalina Ortiz: *Medellin in motion: Governmental technologies of city-model making***, with closing remarks from **Prof Adriana Allen**.

Book Launch - Sustainable Food Systems: The role of the city: DPU, June 2016

On 16th June 2016, DPU's *Environmental Justice and Urban Resilience* research cluster hosted a seminar by **Robert Biel** to launch his latest book entitled *Sustainable Food Systems: The role of the city*. The seminar was followed by a lively networking event.

Interrogating the New Urban Agenda: DSA Urbanisation and Development Study Group Workshop, July 2016

On 4th July, the DPU along with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), hosted a Development Studies Association (DSA) *Urbanisation and Development Group* workshop at IDS in Brighton. It was an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to discuss the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda, the final version of which will be agreed by UN member states at Habitat III in Quito in October. The event was marked by a lively and insightful discussion that led to the development of a brief entitled *Transforming a 'New Urban Agenda' into a just urban agenda* produced by Dr Anna Walnycki (IIED), **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** and **Prof Adriana Allen**.

The brief was widely disseminated at the Third Preparatory Committee Meeting for Habitat III at Surabaya and be accessed at: https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/habitat-III/outputs/17366IIED_DSA_meeting_BRF.PDF

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