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socially just cities?

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Environmental Justice and Resilience in the Urban Global South: An Emerging Research Agenda

By Deena Khalil, Adriana Allen, Liza Griffin, Cassidy Johnson



When the concept of ‘resilience’ emerged in the 1970s, it was used primarily to refer to the ability of an ecosystem to resist shock. Today, the concept has evolved and encompasses both a wider range of applications and a broader understanding of what resilience implies, and is now brought to bear on ecosystems, cities, communities and states, among other scales.

Scholarship on urban resilience initially focused on the environmental impacts of climate change, but today has expanded to take in the multi-dimensionality of urban life, including infrastructure, emergency response systems, healthcare, rule of law, and social inequalities.

This interest in inequality has stemmed from the idea that ‘social capital’ is one of the key elements that strengthen a society’s ability to manage shocks. Social capital enables societies to react quickly and rationally to hazards, avoid descending into chaos, reorganise in creative ways, adapt, and improve. This begs the questions, what happens when injustices are prevalent in society? Does this weaken a city’s resilience? And is there a deeper and more complex relationship between injustice and resilience?

However, remarkably few studies have explored the (in)justices and power relationships produced by efforts to

Above: Multiple cityscapes in one city: Salvador da Bahia (Alex Frediani)

realise resilience in cities. An urban focus provides an interesting point of departure, as cities (particularly in the Global South) can shed light on the tensions between environmental justice and resilience, through the multiple causes and manifestations of socio-ecological processes. In the Global South, multiple cityscapes exist in different quarters of one urban space, forcing us to acknowledge multiple environmental (in)justices within the same city, and how this relates to the resilience of the city as a whole.

Since its emergence, the term has spread across disciplines, and taken on many different and complex meanings. In psychology the study of resilience has been at the individual level and has involved identifying protective factors that increase an individual’s ability to face adversity without undergoing significant changes. This notion that lasting changes are to be avoided is consistent with the understanding of resilience in the engineering field where structures are seen to be resilient if they can face shocks (e.g. an earthquake) without incurring any significant or lasting

changes. However, this ‘resistance to change’ perspective is considered inadequate today.

Recent scholarship on resilience have shown how systems are in constant flux, arguing that the focus should be on their adaptability and transformability. This implies a distinction between robustness and resilience, where the former implies abilities to withstand shocks over the short-term, and the latter encompasses the former but also looks at abilities to adapt to and learn from shocks over the long-term. The perspective of the complex adaptive system is the most prominent within the community, institutional and urban strands of the resilience literature.

Most of the urban resilience literature encompasses not only the notion of the ability of a system to absorb shocks, but also its ability to learn and adapt while continuing to maintain its core functions. It also implies a degree of self-organisation within a system – the ability to mobilise and reorganise in innovative ways that can absorb changes and maintain functionality. This is in line with much of the scholarship on governance and institutional resilience. Much of this literature uses case-studies to explore the institutional capacities to manage resilience, highlighting that factors such as trust, institutional polycentricity, social contracts and accountability increase the ability of governance structures to mobilise and self-organise in innovative ways, thus increasing their capacities for resilience.

Finally, work on urban hazards and disaster risk reduction emphasises the different components that make up the city, such as communities, the built environment, and governance systems. For instance, urban hazards research considers both natural and man-made disasters, thus including climate-related disasters, economic shocks, and even terrorism. Some research reaches the household level, trying to identify characteristics that contribute to the resilience of communities, with a growing body of literature that focuses on the urban poor in the Global South.

Many scholars have argued that resilient cities are more just cities. This view stems from the idea that hazards tend to affect the poor more than the rich, and that the

poor tend to be disproportionately more vulnerable to disasters than the wealthy. If a disaster impacts an entire community, it usually affects its members in uneven ways, as individuals have unequal abilities to cope with impacts of disasters. Poor and marginalised communities not only face greater threats, but also suffer greater impacts to their livelihoods, in addition to coping with the daily risks of living and working in hazardous areas. As Pelling (2012:4) argues, *'power makes certain social groups within the city, and collectively, certain cities, more disaster-prone than others'*.

The literature that touches upon this relationship has looked mostly at the uneven social distribution of exposure to environmental risks, exploring this in isolation from the environmental justice literature. Walker et al (2006), for example, have reviewed the environmental justice literature that discusses the social distribution of exposure to flood risks. This also goes down to the household level, as the poor are not only forced to live in hazardous areas, but also in precarious housing structures, and have lower economic capacities to deal with the impacts of disasters. What is important to



Above: Hazardous living conditions of the urban poor: Rio de Janeiro (Juan Camilo Maya)

note here is that this literature looks into a particular understanding of environmental justice, which is the uneven distribution of environmental 'bads'. It also highlights a specific relationship whereby an increase in resilience enhances the distributive justice of environmental bads by reducing the poor's disproportionate exposure to hazards.

However, it is vital to emphasise that resilience does not *a priori* have this effect, and might even have an inverse effect. Could it be the case that a city's resilience-enhancing measures have embedded within them the same injustices already taking place in the city? What if the process of increasing the resilience of the city as a whole happens at the expense of the rights of certain



Above: The unjust distribution of environmental 'bads': poor sanitation and pollution in low income areas of Nakuru, Kenya. (Julian Walker)

groups (Griffin, 2012)? Schilderman and Lyons (2011) argue that resilience measures can sometimes be used as an excuse by the powerful to relocate poor communities to allegedly safer locations. This leaves several other interstices unexamined. What of the relationship between distributive justice of environmental goods and urban resilience? If urban resilience focuses on the degree to which cities are able to reorganise in creative ways and adapt to shocks, do pervasive inequalities in access to environmental services have an effect on this ability?

Ainuddin and Routray (2012) discuss poverty as one of the factors that increases community vulnerability and decreases resilience, from an economic livelihoods perspective, as well as a social capital perspective. A related point of intersection is the distributive justice of urban resilience, i.e. how resilience itself is distributed in unjust ways. Romero-Lankao and Dodman (2011:117) argue, for instance, that climate change adaptation in Latin American cities often, *'takes a back seat to efforts by municipal authorities to attract external investment'*, and thus is rarely driven by a pro-poor agenda that tries to tackle the underlying determinants of vulnerability.

Moving away from the distributive dimension of justice and focusing on participative aspects leads us to examine the process of how resilience is achieved in cities. Twigg (2007) includes accountability and community participation in his framework on components of resilience, and includes, *'support for community vision'*, as one of the characteristics of an enabling environment for resilience.

Thus an emerging perspective seems to suggest that distributional and procedural justice might enhance resilience. But what

of cases where resilience measures require sacrifices to be made by some communities? For example, Brown et al (2012) discuss the implementation of climate change resilience plans in several Asian cities. One of the tensions that emerged from this implementation is that most city planners prioritised immediate problems over long-term potential climate change hazards. It was only by integrating the needs/rights of more vulnerable members of society into the resilience plans that the city planners were convinced that both can be done simultaneously. What of cases where the interests of certain members of society must be harmed for the sake of improving the resilience of the community as a whole? In such cases, should justice take priority over resilience or vice versa? Such moral conflicts are areas that deserve further exploration.

Research on resilience so far has not only brought to light the crucial role of understanding the multiple processes that factor into how a city responds to shocks, but also the multiple actors involved, including urban populations, planners, bureaucrats, policy-makers, engineers, and scientists. Trying to incorporate these various actors and the processes they engage in into a single framework, on an equal footing, has been perhaps one of the greatest contributions of resilience research. Today, however, it may be this apolitical orientation that needs most to be reworked, particularly in contexts of the Global South. While there have been many efforts to integrate the role of power and politics into the uneven governance of resilience, this relationship could still benefit from further development and conceptual depth.

Drawing on the work of Nancy Fraser, Allen and Frediani (2013) argue for the need to go beyond the conceptualisation of environmental justice as a distributional or procedural affair to capture the

multiple ways in which misrecognition and maldistribution co-produce each other, not only affecting the ability of those typically marginalised to respond and prevent risks, but also to overcome structural exclusionary paths whether in relation to water, food or land. Furthermore, in this moment of neoliberalism, we are starting to see the re-conceptualisation of uneven geographies as a form of spatial injustice (Allen, 2011). This understanding has significant implications for how academic scholarship should engage with the governance of natural hazards and other risks. Recognising the unevenness of this governance has both positive and normative inferences, both of which could benefit from an environmental justice perspective.

But it is not only the resilience literature that can benefit from a justice approach. The justice research itself has faced *'significant methodological difficulties ... in establishing the nature and extent of impacts, or cause effect relationships between environmental features and people,'* (Walker et al, 2006:24). These are all gaps that can be effectively filled by an understanding of resilience processes and outcomes.

While opening up new pathways for analysis and intervention, a research agenda that integrates urban resilience with environmental justice also raises many challenges. Interrogating the relationship between environmental justice and resilience can highlight the different discourses and practices and their potential for change.

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Above: Social capital as a resource in urban communities: Teamwork in Mathare, Nairobi (Alex Frediani)

Right: Hazardous living conditions of the urban poor in Dhaka, Bangladesh (Huraera Jabeen)



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Transformative Planning for Just Water and Sanitation Landscapes. Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) and Social Development Practice (SDP) Fieldtrips

2013 Lima, Peru

The 2013 Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) fieldtrip gave 35 students the opportunity to engage with transformative planning in Lima. Our aim was to explore water (in)justice across the water-scarce Metropolitan region.

Geographical and climatic conditions make Lima a water-scarce city. Located in a desert, in a relatively narrow strip between the Pacific Ocean and coastal hills, the city's aquifers are unable to recharge adequately. However, water injustice in Lima is the result of both natural conditions, and social, economic and political processes, with

comprehensive picture of Lima's current challenges with regards to water, risk and urban development. The process of mapping played a central role in the research, allowing the students to visualise water both as a source of conflict and as an entry point to trigger transformative change.

Along the coastline of the city, developers claim to reconnect the city with the sea. However many have neglected environmental concerns such as wastewater treatment and the long-term impacts for Lima's citizens.

In downtown Lima, low-income and indigenous tenants are threatened with eviction on a daily basis as a result of increased land values and gentrification, and cutting off access to water, and other illegal practices, are used to force people from high-risk, decaying buildings (*quintas*).

In the outskirts of the city, urbanisation

The marginalisation of many *Limeños* and *Limeñas* from mainstream development discourses in Lima is both the cause and the consequence of water scarcity, reflecting unsustainable, and in some cases, unplanned urbanisation. In the words of Ioris (2012:93), "*Conditions of water scarcity go beyond the physical insufficiency of resources to vividly contain the long-term inadequacy of social institutions.*"

By Mónica Bernal Llanos (ESD 2012-2013). The complete written and audiovisual reports on the five case studies can be found at: <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/programmes/postgraduate/msc-environment-sustainable-development/in-practice/o-f>

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Kisumu, Kenya

The informal settlements of Kisumu, Kenya, were the location of the MSc Social Development Practice (SDP) overseas fieldwork in 2013. Located on the shores of Lake Victoria, Kisumu is characterised by a planned central district surrounded by densely populated informal settlements, comprising a city where, by 2007, 87% of residents lacked access to mains water, while 39% had no access to improved sanitation.

The students' brief was to evaluate the well-being impacts and scalability of *People's Plans into Practice (PPP)*; a project initiated in Kisumu in 2008 by Practical Action (PA), with partner NGOs, Shelter Forum and KUAP. *PPP* aims to build the capacity of slum-dwellers to engage in local planning processes, whilst also generating institutional learning around the practice of participatory planning, by establishing Neighbourhood Planning Associations (NPAs) and supporting NPAs to carry out strategic ward action plans and social audits. *PPP* addresses both the chronic lack of basic service provision in slum areas and the growing popular demand and political commitment in Kenya to citizen involvement in public decision-making. New spaces for residents to participate in development planning are opening up, and these include *LASDAP* - a participatory process tied to a devolved fund intended to finance pro-poor service delivery at Local Authority level.

Despite these welcome moves towards a more bottom-up approach to



failures in urban planning and sprawling growth in a limited space affecting access to housing and services for its population of nearly nine million.

These processes produce and reproduce water injustices, at the same time as making them invisible. It was striking that most of the residents we spoke with disregard the fact that Lima is located in a desert, and many of them were more concerned with issues such as land entitlement and housing than water and sanitation.

The fieldwork focused on five case studies across the city, which provided a

Above: Homes on the coastal hills around Lima
(Rita Lambert)

of the coastal hills has been taken up by processes which are informal, though not illegal, as they are certified by the municipality. Access to services such as water are expected after land title is secured, but the risks of inhabiting these steep slopes are great not only for the low-income inhabitants, but also for the hillside watersheds which secure water for the whole of Lima.



Left: Participatory research during the SDP Kisumu fieldtrip (Moe Saw)

development planning, students found that a technocratic bias continues to hamper efforts to deliver more equitable access to water and sanitation for poor slum dwellers. The *LASDAP* framework confines participation primarily to the identification of problems and excludes residents from key decisions concerning project design, creating a risk that implemented projects will be inappropriate to the needs and lived-realities of different groups of residents. While PA's *PPP* model offers much more extensive participatory opportunities, some evidence (for example, where an eco-toilet was implemented despite strong community resistance to composting) suggested that *PPP* could also benefit from a greater focus on community involvement at the design stage.

Both models require that participatory forums should reflect the diversity of residents' aspirations, and *PPP* has made significant efforts to ensure numerical representation of different groups. However the challenge now is to build on the presence of disadvantaged groups in decision-making forums, to more actively ensuring the representation of their interests. If *LASDAP* and *PPP* are to deliver a more just landscape of urban services, they will need to recognise the way in which power also operates within and through planning processes to perpetuate social disadvantage.

By **Sara Brayford** (SDP 2012-2013).

The complete SDP fieldtrip report can be found at: <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/programmes/postgraduate/msc-social-development-practice/in-practice/overseas-fieldwork>

ESD Directorship

Having led the MSc Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) for 16 years, **Adriana Allen** has handed over the Directorship to **Liza Griffin** and **Vanessa Castán Broto**. Adriana established ESD in 1997 in response to the growing and urgent challenges of environmental sustainability faced by cities and urban areas in the Global South. Her continuous commitment,



Left:
Dr Adriana Allen

creativity and ambition have led to the development of an internationally renowned programme that attracts an increasing number of high-calibre participants from all over the world. Adriana has maintained the relevance of the course curriculum in relation to growing inequalities in fast urbanising contexts and emerging urban practices with different potentials for transformative change, with particular emphasis on the theoretical and practical relationships between environmental sustainability and justice in the context of city regions. Adriana will maintain a central role in teaching on the programme and continue to inspire and gain the admiration of students and colleagues.

DPU/ACHR Junior Professionals Programme: a First Round Rich with Learning

The first year of the *DPU/ACHR Junior Professionals Programme* was successfully brought to an end during a workshop in Bangkok on 25th-26th July 2013. At this learning-exchange event, DPU alumni **Francesco Pasta**, **Ariel Shepherd**, **Johanna Brugman**, **Zahra Kassam** and **Barbara Dovarch** recalled their experiences of working with communities in the contrasting contexts of teeming metropolises - Metro Manila, Philippines and Jakarta, Indonesia - the seaside city of Kep, Cambodia, and the peri-urban setting of Vinh, Vietnam.

This exceptional opportunity was made possible thanks to the long-standing relationship between the DPU, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) and the Community Architects Network (CAN), and their shared commitment to the empowering potential of on-the-ground learning.

During their six-month internships, the DPU alumni contributed to a variety of community-driven processes aimed at informal settlement upgrading and planning. These included mapping, surveying, facilitating design workshops, and exploring alternative microfinance schemes as well as sustainable rehousing/rehabilitation strategies for communities threatened by eviction.

This rich, challenging and rewarding experience will be disseminated in a booklet, in which the alumni share reflections on the ways that the internship has influenced their thinking and evolving practice. Some of the participants are already building on the experience and networks developed during the internship programme and are engaged in challenging design research in Bangkok, as well as community empowerment projects in Cambodia and Kenya.

The DPU, ACHR and CAN are currently looking at ways to extend this exciting opportunity to future DPU alumni.

Dialogues in Development and DPU Lecture Series

DPU is now running two series of events that involve invited guest speakers: **DPU Lectures** and **DPU Dialogues in Development**, which include a discussion or panel response to the presentation.

DPU Dialogues in Development

The 2013 series has covered a wide range of issues related to urban development, environmental sustainability and

human well-being. In March, Vanessa Watson, Professor of City Planning at the University of Cape Town, made a presentation on *Future African Cities: the New Post-Colonialism*, which explored the contradictions between ‘smart’ and ‘eco-city’ approaches and the reality of African cities where millions of people still live in slums. Roberto Monte-Mór and Heloisa Costa from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) led a discussion entitled, *A Transdisciplinary Methodological Approach to Metropolitan Planning in Belo Horizonte, Brazil*, presenting innovative aspects of planning used in the new Metro Plan for Belo Horizonte, developed by UFMG, with particular reference to land and water related policies and the establishment of sustainable development indicators.

In June, Cheong Koon Hean, architect, planner and CEO of the Housing and Development Board in Singapore spoke on *Planning and Policy Innovations for Sustainable Development*, sharing innovative policy and planning solutions that have been critical for Singapore’s sustainable and orderly growth. Finally, in October 2013, in line with World Habitat Day’s theme, *Urban Mobility*, Professor Julio D. Davila gave a presentation on *Urban Mobility and Poverty: Lessons from Medellin and Soacha, Colombia*, presenting the successful case of Medellin as it redresses long-standing social and spatial imbalances, with a particular focus on the impact of two new cable car lines connecting marginal neighbourhoods with the rest of the city. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion with Caren Levy and Camillo Boano.

DPU Lectures

In May, Felipe Targa, former Deputy Minister of Transport for Colombia, gave a talk on *Bus Rapid Transit Systems: Moving Towards Sustainable Cities*, outlining innovative approaches to coordinate land-use and transport planning, and align them with climate change mitigation strategies. Later in May, internationally renowned architect, Simón Vélez presented his vision of bamboo as an essential building material entitled, *Bamboo Architecture: From a Symbol of Poverty to a Symbol of Sustainability*. In October, Dr Soumyadip Chattopadhyay from Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal spoke on *Contesting Inclusiveness: Policies, Politics and Processes of Participatory Urban Governance in Indian Cities*, using a variety of case studies to examine the inclusion of citizens and other actors, the

structure of incentives and accountability and service delivery outcomes in Indian Cities. In November, S’bu Zikode, founder and former President of the Abahlali base Mjondolo, the largest social movement in South Africa, presented a film entitled, *Dear Mandela*, and discussed the post-apartheid legacy for South African shack dwellers, with a large population still living in overcrowded shacks despite the Constitutional promise of a house for all.

dpu summerLab 2013 Overview

In 2013, the dpu summerLab series brought more than 60 participants to the streets of Medellin, Santiago, Rome and London. The initiative, now in its third year, was well attended, thanks in part to a grant from Santander bank allowing ten current UCL students to take part in Medellin and Santiago. Drawing on the progressive action-research and practice-based ethos of the DPU, the summerLabs were developed in collaboration with local partners in the host cities: the Masters in *Urban and Regional Studies* at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Medellin), the Masters in *Urban Projects* at the Universidad Catolica de Chile, the Municipality of Providencia and Ciudad Emergente (Santiago), Stalker and Laboratorio Arti Civiche at Roma 3 University (Rome) and Alberto Duman School of Arts and Design Middlesex (London).

The summerLabs dealt with diverse

issues. Medellin has seen major upgrading in the form of large, socially-targeted infrastructure, specifically the arrival of two cable car lines, and the summerLab participants worked in Comuna 8, critically examining the potential impact of a third line. In London, participants examined the some of the outcomes of the 2012 Olympics, particularly exploring the themes of ‘legacy’ and ‘localisation’ in Hackney, and tensions between the profit-driven appropriation of rapid development, and grassroots initiatives seeking sustainable identity and the promotion of the area’s interests. The cases of Santiago and Rome were examined through a more microscopic approach, looking at neighborhood regeneration and networks of occupied spaces.

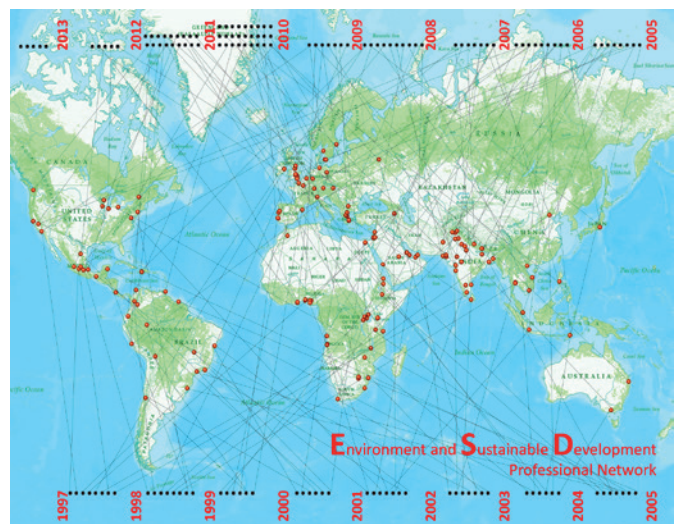
The different Labs continue to test a new relation with the everyday, challenging its contingencies, codes, and language, and exploring a renewed dialectical discourse with the urban. The 2014 series will be full of surprises. Stay tuned.

ESD+15 Professional Network

Since the launch of the MSc Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) interactive alumni network, the platform has connected over 100 professionals with expertise in 154 urban centres. If you are an ESD alumnus you can join the network by registering your details at <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/news/esd15>.

Above: dpu summerLabs, Rome: Occupation City (Caroline Newton)

Right: ESD+15 Professional Network (Rita Lambert)



Thinking Across Boundaries

The exciting project, *Thinking Across Boundaries: Planning Dilemmas in the Urban Global South*, was launched in 2013 by the DPU with support from the UCL Grand Challenges. Recognising that the notion of the 'urban Global South' is a term facing increasing scepticism, the project reflects on this theme in both DPU and current development planning practice by exploring the following questions: are we running the risk of aborting a powerful concept before its capacity to re-oxygenate planning debates has been fully explored? If we agree with Ananya Roy that planning is both the 'face of power and order', and 'social struggle' in urbanisation processes, what possibilities does the notion of the 'urban Global South' open for thinking about and acting upon cities?

The project comprises two activities. The first was to explore these questions in a panel discussion on 30th August 2013 at the Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference in London. With additional support from a Rockefeller grant, the project brought together an international panel of urban scholars to discuss and share ideas relating to the continued usefulness of the notion of the 'urban Global South', the specificity of urban planning practices in this context, and the related theoretical implications. The panel members were **Adriana Allen** (DPU), **Edesio Fernandes** (Brazilian lawyer on urban law, land and urban informality, and DPU Associate), **Aromar Revi** (Director, IIHS) and Professor **Mark Swilling** (Institute of Sustainability, Stellenbosch University, South Africa). The panel was chaired by **Caren Levy** (DPU).

The second activity is a film that brings together the views of UCL academics and selected international actors on this debate. A first short version was produced for the panel discussion in the RGS-IBG conference and a longer version of the film is currently being completed by the project's Research Assistant and film producer, **Camila Cociña**, and the project team, **Adriana Allen**, **Caren Levy**, **Barbara Lipietz** and **Colin Marx**. The themes of the project will be taken into a conference in July 2014, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the DPU.

See http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/news/Thinking_across_boundaries_RGS_for_the_background_and_short_film_produced_by_this_project.

Future Proofing Indian Cities

Over the last year **Adriana Allen**, **Vanesa Castán-Broto** and **Caren Levy**, and more recently **Cassidy Johnson** and **Jayaraj Sundaresan**, worked in partnership with Atkins and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to develop a new integrated approach to urban development, *Future Proofing Cities (FPC)*, focused on supporting cities in the Global South to respond to the risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change and resource scarcities while building their capacity to act (for more information see dpunews issue 55). The 'Future Proofing' approach has gained traction with a range of cities and agencies including the World Bank, Rockefeller Foundation, Cities Alliance, and ICLEI. DFID is also keen to use the approach to inform the deployment of climate finance to cities in South Asia.

Building upon this approach, the DPU has been working since March 2013 with Atkins, the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) and DHAN Foundation on a new research project on *Future Proofing Indian Cities*. Supported by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), this one year action-research project involves working closely with city and local stakeholders to apply the 'Future Proofing' approach to two cities in India: Bangalore and Madurai. The objective of the project is to support future proofing development strategies in these two urban regions by further investigating the spatial manifestation of risks and vulnerabilities and the scope for strategic collaborative action that can support grounded and long-lasting interventions.

For more information contact **Adriana Allen** (a.allen@ucl.ac.uk).

DPU in the UCL Global Health Initiative

A number of DPU staff members, along with others from the Bartlett faculty, have recently taken part in a series of recorded interviews for the UCL Global Health Initiative. The interviews, with Professor **Anthony Costello**, Director of the UCL Institute of Global Health, showcase current UCL research on the most pressing issues facing Africa and can be viewed on Youtube. They include **Professor Julio D. Davila** on *Urban Planning in Africa: Managing the Urban/Rural Boundary*, **Michael Walls** on *Refining Democracy in Somalia*, and **Barbara Lipietz** on *The Challenges of Urban Planning*.

Mapping Beyond the Palimpsest

Mapping Beyond the Palimpsest is a research project that brings together three departments within UCL, with **Adriana Allen** and **Rita Lambert** from the DPU, **Andrew Hudson-Smith** from the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA), and **Ben Campkin**, from The Bartlett School of Architecture/UCL Urban Laboratory. It is funded by an award of £50,000 through the Bartlett Research Materialisation Grant 2013, and designed and undertaken with CENCA, CIDAP and Foro Ciudades Para la Vida, a network of 57 organisations from 20 Peruvian cities, from local government, academics and civil society groups, as well as local communities from two contested settlements in Lima, Perú. Building on existing DPU research platforms, *The Heuristics of Mapping Urban Environmental Change* (<http://www.bartlett>).

Below: Mapping Beyond the Palimpsest: case study settlement in Lima, Peru (Rita Lambert)



ucl.ac.uk/dpu/mapping-environmental-change) and *Water Justice in Latin American Cities*, CASA's methodological innovations in spatial analysis, and the Urban Laboratory's *Picturing Place* methodology, this research seeks to develop innovative and critical strategies for the reading, writing and audiencing of maps. It adopts a participatory action-learning approach, enabling local community mappers to explore innovative pathways for reframing hegemonic cartographies and develop the writing of more inclusive representations. It interrogates the role that such representations can play in contesting exclusionary socio-environmental processes and opening up spaces for collectively negotiated outcomes between marginalised citizens, planners and policy makers, ultimately contributing to the planning of more democratic and sustainable cities.

The research will apply innovative methods and rapid prototyping, such as 3D mapping, augmented reality, and 3D printing, to develop a digital archive in Jose Carlos Mariátegui and Barrios Altos, the two study sites in Lima. The outputs will act as a repository for research on the urban Global South and an archive of knowledge accessible to those with interest in urbanisation, sustainability and justice. At the policy level, it will encourage better planning practices, representing wider citizens' perspectives, ideals and aspirations. Moreover it will stimulate public debate and awareness and be a showcase for cross faculty and cross global collaboration.

For more information visit <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/mapping-environmental-change> or email: **Adriana Allen** (a.allen@ucl.ac.uk) or **Rita Lambert** (rita.lambert@ucl.ac.uk).

Democracy and Statehood in Somalia

Over the past year, **Michael Walls** has been researching the political situation in Puntland, where scheduled elections in July 2013 were cancelled at the last minute. He visited both Garoowe in Puntland, and Mogadishu, interviewing key actors from different clan, political and civil society groups, in an effort to gain an understanding of the context in which local council elections were first planned and then called off.

Puntland is important in the Somali context because, with Somaliland sticking fast to their commitment to seeking full, internationally-recognised independence, Puntland is the most stable and politically consolidated of the remaining federal Somali states. With Somali-wide elections planned for 2016, key pointers as to their viability and the processes that might prove successful are available in Puntland. The cancellation of the vote on the day before it was due provides some indication of the challenges ahead throughout Somalia. Michael's research is intended to feed into a number of future publications, with travel and expenses covered by Rift Valley Institute and International Crisis Group.

Below: Garoowe, Puntland, Somalia
(Michael Walls)



Connections

News from former DPU students and friends

Bethany Waters (BUDD 2011-12) is working for the architecture firm, Perez, in New York as part of their *Build it Back* programme, helping low-income residents rebuild and get back into their homes after they were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

Julia Oertli (SDP 2012-13) writes to say that she has just started working at BOND for International Development (the UK membership body for NGOs working in international development) as a Membership and Communications Assistant.

Ahmed Tayia (DAP 2012-13) writes to say that he is joining the Egyptian Embassy in Kampala starting from the 1st November. He says, 'I think it's time for all of us to work for changing our relationship ship with the Nile Basin countries from conflict to cooperation.'

Kayo Takahashi (DAP 2010-11) is now working as Development Advisor at the Japanese Embassy in Ethiopia.

Jenny Sakayo Eddis (DAP 2011-12) **Meije Gernez** (ESD 2011-12) and **Christopher Yap** (DAP 2011-12) have all been working with Zeremariam Fre and the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA) in different ways.

Hiroshi Kuwata (DAP 2006-07) is now working in Iraq with the Japanese bilateral agency JICA after volunteering for two years with the NGO PENHA in Sudan and the UK.

Fanny Frick (ESD 2011-12) has started her doctoral studies at the Department of Geography at Humboldt University in Berlin. Her doctoral research, which builds on the ESD 2012 fieldtrip to Ghana, is on climate change and flood risk in Accra.

Mariangela Veronesi, (ESD 2011-12) is currently working at the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF), based in the UK. Mariangela has recently returned from this year's *Peer Exchange Programme* in Uruguay, which takes place between the two World Habitat Award winners. After leaving the DPU, and before assuming this position, she was part of a research team on a project called *Bugs for Life*, which explored edible insects in the context of food insecurity in North Benin.



Low-carbon Pathways: To Where and for Whom?

In the wake of the *Fifth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report*, debates on the threats of climate change are once again a rising tide. As the two degree target becomes increasingly elusive, the media offer dystopic visions of future climate disaster. Meanwhile, nations, particularly in the Global South, struggle to integrate emission targets into local policy agendas. The case of China is illustrative: in 2005, the rapidly industrialising giant became the world's largest CO₂ emitter, yet its total energy consumption, over sixty per cent coal-based, has been projected to double in the decade up to 2020 (IEA 2007). My research focuses on two questions which deconstruct the dynamics created through the policy measures adopted in response to this challenge.

Firstly, where are China's low-carbon pathways headed? As almost seventy per cent of the country's energy is consumed by the industrial sector, the primary policy strategy is to raise industrial energy efficiency, mainly of large state-owned factories and inefficient coal plants. Similarly, the second largest energy-consuming sector, construction, is subject to continuously raised energy conservation standards. Massive investments are directed towards the expansion of nuclear and hydropower-based electricity. However, in contrast with most developed nations, the civil sector

Above: The air above Beijing on a polluted day
(Veronika Skarlund)

accounts for a limited share of energy use and has been comparatively side-lined in policy agendas. Energy conservation through improved efficiency has been a guiding principle in engineering low-carbon pathways.

Secondly, who benefits from low-carbon development in China? Within the country's political system, local leaders are evaluated through a performance system that primarily rewards (socio-) economic development. Local economic growth, in turn, depends primarily on industrial activities, land development and construction investments. Local governments are generally discouraged from limiting these pillars of growth, and so in order to meet energy targets, often support the expansion of 'clean' high-technology companies and 'green' real-estate development. This constitutes a win-win pathway for enterprises and local governments, legitimised through reduced emissions and technical upgrading. As policy often fails to incorporate interests of local residents, alternative sustainability strategies may remain invisible. As long as emission reduction strategies continue to be shaped by the current economic growth paradigm, China will probably depend on innovative firms and the profits of environmental-

friendly technologies to pave the way to a low-carbon future.

By **Linda Westman** (DPU PhD candidate)

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PhDs Awarded

Marina Chang was awarded Doctor of Philosophy in Development Planning on 28th August 2013 for her thesis, *Growing a Commons Food Regime: Theory and Practice*. Marina was a recipient of a UCL Studentship, Foodpaths, and was supervised by Robert Biel.

David Silva was awarded Doctor of Philosophy in Urban & Regional Development on 28th July 2013 for his thesis, *Citizenship Consciousness and Social Housing: The Case of Chile*. David was supervised by Ronaldo Ramirez and Patrick Wakely.

Other PhD News

Pascale Hofmann (DPU Lecturer) has been awarded a studentship funded by the EPSRC to undertake an Engineering Doctorate (EngD) at UCL's Doctoral Research Centre on Urban Sustainability and Resilience. Pascale started her doctorate in 2012 and continues to work part-time as a lecturer at the DPU. Her research on *The Trajectories of Urban Water Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa*, is carried out in partnership with WaterAid and BPD (Building Partnerships for Development in Water and Sanitation).

Rita Lambert (DPU Teaching Fellow) has begun her doctoral research on *Interrogating Mapping as a Critical Spatial Practice for Place-making in the Urban Global South*, having been awarded a DTC/ESRC Urban Studies studentship to study MPhil/PhD Development Planning.

Stephanie Butcher (former DPU Graduate Teaching Assistant) has begun her doctoral research on *Appropriate Technologies For Human Well-Being: Assessing Impacts of Urban Service Interventions in Informal Settlements*, having been awarded a PhD studentship in the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre linked to the Centre for Urban Sustainability and Resilience.

Addressing Climate Change in Maputo: a Community Perspective

In Maputo, the greatest risk resulting from climate change is the increased frequency of extreme weather events, particularly flooding and sea level rise - a key concern for local communities who have experienced major flooding events in recent years. Communities describe drainage faults, associated with uncontrolled waste disposal, as the main factor influencing vulnerability to climate change.

Led by **Vanessa Castan-Broto**, the *Public-Private-People Partnership for Climate Compatible Development (4PCCD)* project aims to develop multi-stakeholder partnerships that can lead effective action to address these challenges in Maputo. *4PCCD* is a partnership between the Environment Fund of Mozambique (FUNAB), University College London, Reading University, and the University of York, funded by the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) through its Research Innovation Fund.

The *4PCCD* team devised a participatory planning methodology that was implemented in the neighbourhood of Chamanculo C in collaboration with the Maputo Municipality and an NGO, AVSI. The process also established a Climate Planning Committee (CPC) of five community members elected by local residents, to write a Local Action Plan for Climate Compatible Development and take steps towards its implementation. Community representatives have now started negotiations with government institutions and the private sector to implement their proposals for drainage improvement, waste recycling and environmental education. The project demonstrated both the capacity of local citizens to intervene in local planning and their engagement with climate change issues in their neighbourhood.

In June 2013, Vanessa attended a two-day learning workshop organised by CDKN and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) in Bonn, Germany, where *4PCCD* was one of ten projects selected for discussion and evaluation.

4PCCD has now been recognised as one of the 17 Lighthouse Activities 2013 under the Momentum for Change initiative of the United Nations. The 17 Lighthouse activities were showcased at special events during the UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw, Poland (11th-22nd November).

For more information contact **Vanessa Castan-Broto** (v.castanbroto@ucl.ac.uk).

DPU-IIHS Partnership

July 2013 saw the final set of activities in the programme, *DPU Partnership in the Development of an Integrated Curriculum for the Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS)*, supported by a Rockefeller Grant (2009-2013). MIT has a related Partnership with IIHS over a similar period and the three organisations have been co-operating on curriculum development for the design of the structure and content of courses focused on urban practitioners.

The first event, *Proposed IIHS PhD in Urban Practice*, was held on the IIHS Bangalore City Campus on 8th July. It was attended by **Caren Levy**, **Adriana Allen**, **Cassidy Johnson** and **Kamna Patel**, along with academics from MIT, the African Centre for Cities (University of Cape Town), Columbia University, Federal University of the ABC Region (Sao Paulo), Harvard University, University of North Carolina and a range of Indian partners, and focused on approaches to running practice-focused doctoral programmes, the role of a prospective IIHS PhD programme, and its relation to IIHS's practice-based focus and research.

The second event, held from 9th-11th July, was a three-day Doctoral Workshop entitled, *Comparative Urban and Regional Research*. Along with the DPU and IIHS teams, scholars from Columbia University, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Jawaharlal Nehru University, MIT, Indian Institute for Urban Affairs, Tata Institute for Social Sciences, University of Cape Town and the University of North Carolina participated, with 20 Indian and international doctoral students (including **Soo Jin Kim** from DPU) and post doctoral staff. The workshop was an interesting and stimulating experience for Faculty and students alike.

The DPU and IIHS are involved in a number of new joint activities, including the exchange project, *Urban Knowledge Network Asia (UKNA)* (funded by the EU), the action-research project, Future Proofing Cities Indian Cities (with Atkins and funded by CDKN Sustainability Fund), and the DPU's *Thinking Across Boundaries* project (funded by the UCL Grand Challenges).

Urban Change and Infrastructure in Nigeria

The DPU is excited to be starting work on a four-year UK Department for International Development (DFID) funded urban research programme focused on current urban process and realities in Nigeria. This

programme, *Urban Infrastructure Research and Evaluation Manager* (UIREM), is linked to DFID's NIAF (Nigerian Infrastructure Advisory Facility). It is led by the consultancy firm ICF GHK, and the DPU will be a core consortium partner, along with the Nigerian Foundation for Development and Environmental Initiatives (FDI). We are currently in the inception phase and, on the basis of discussions with the various research partners in Nigeria, will begin work on the research from mid-2014. The research will be built around four themes: *Urban Change Processes; Urban Economic Growth, Infrastructure and Livelihoods; Well-being of Urban Citizens, and; Urban Planning, Management and Governance*. **Julian Walker** and DPU Associate **Michael Mattingly** are leading the DPU's involvement in the inception phase, with guidance from **Professor Julio D. Davila** in his position on the UIREM Expert Advisory Panel. The project is also working with a number of DPU alumni, including **Nikolaos Papachristodoulou** (SDP 2009-10) who is the UIREM Research Manager for ICF GHK, **Rubbina Karruna** (UED 2007-09), who is the DFID Programme Officer for the project, and **Julia Hansen** (BUDD 2012-13) who is working on the background research scoping.

Collaboration with the African Centre for Cities

In July 2013, **Caren Levy** and **Alex Frediani** made their annual visit to the University of Cape Town (UCT) to teach the module on *Community Development*, part of the MPhil *Urban Infrastructure and Management*, which is run under the auspices of UCT's African Centre for Cities (ACC). The module, co-ordinated with Mercy Brown-Luthango of the ACC, seeks to integrate theory and participatory planning practice relating to infrastructure in fast urbanising contexts. This year the practice-based project focused on the relationship between sanitation improvement and security, in collaboration with a local NGO, Social Justice Coalition. This module continues to provide a stimulating forum for discussion and exploration of innovative community-led planning practices, based on the varied experiences of staff and learners alike.

Participatory Planning of Urban Services for the Poor in Kenya

In August and September 2013, **Julian Walker**, **Alex Frediani** and **Stephanie Butcher**, with support from DPU alumnus **Sara Brayford** (SDP 2012-13) conducted the final



Above: Protected water spring built by the PPP project in Kisumu (Julian Walker)

evaluation for *Practical Action's People's Plans into Practice (PPP)* project which was implemented with Shelter Forum and the Kisumu Urban Apostolate Mission (KUAP) and funded by Comic Relief. The field component of the evaluation was conducted by Julian Walker and Kenyan co-evaluator Dr Mike Majale, and involved meetings, site visits and groups discussions in the two project cities of Kisumu and Kitale, in the west of Kenya. This evaluation builds upon on-going

institutional collaboration between the DPU and Practical Action, which has involved shared reflection on the relationship between technology, well-being and social diversity, and includes a doctoral research project by Stephanie Butcher, as well as student research into the *PPP* project as part of the 2013 MSc Social Development Practice field trip, which the evaluation team were able to draw on as a resource (see Head on in this issue).

New Urban Studies Centre at Njala University, Freetown, Sierra Leone

In July 2013 **Alex Frediani**, with the support of Comic Relief, worked with Joseph MacCarthy of Njala University in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on a proposal to set up an Urban Studies Centre. The objective is to carry out research that follows up on Comic Relief-funded projects whilst collecting and systematising information about informal settlements in Freetown. Interviews with local government, communities and NGOs showed that there is strong local support for the centre and a perceived lack of

understanding of urban conditions and processes. Njala is keen to set up short courses to build local capacities, and the DPU is looking at ways to be involved.

DPU and ASF-UK Workshop on Participatory Design in Quito, Ecuador

In August 2013, **Alex Frediani** ran an international workshop in Quito, Ecuador. *Change by Design: Building Communities through Participatory Design* was the fourth workshop to be held in partnership with Architecture Sans Frontieres - UK since 2009. The event was held in collaboration with a community psychology research group from Universidad Politecnica Salesiana. Many of the participants had substantial experience with community-led design and the workshop proved a productive place to continue developing participatory design methodologies. It was particularly interesting to see how the *Buen Vivir* (well-being) discourse is influencing the improvement of low-income neighbourhoods, and reflect on how it might continue to do so in the future.

Staff News

Obituary: Michael Whitbread (1944-2013)

A graduate of UCL's Department of Economics, Michael Whitbread had 40 years' experience working on public policy issues. His career spanned the UK civil service, the World Bank, private consultancy firms as well as higher education. From 2008 until his untimely death on 4th August 2013, he worked as a College Teaching Fellow at the Bartlett Development Planning Unit jointly running a module entitled Urban Development and Economics (within DPU's MSc Urban Economic Development). He was a popular tutor and was much respected by students and colleagues alike. He will be sorely missed.

We are pleased to announce that DPU Director **Julio D. Davila** has been promoted to UCL Professor of Urban Policy and International Development.

Welcome to **Dr Naji Makarem** who is joining the DPU as Lecturer in Political Economy of Development. Having recently graduated with a PhD in Urban and Regional Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles, Naji's area of specialisation is urban and regional economic development. He is particularly interested in industrial development and institutions; how people within and across communities think and relate to each other, and their impact on high-end entrepreneurship, innovation and policy. Naji will be working on the Practice Module on the MSc Urban Economic Development

programme (UED) and teach on the MSc Development Administration and Planning (DAP) and PhD programmes. He is keen to develop a new research agenda on the role of institutional contexts in urban economic development processes in the Global South.

Welcome to **Jennifer Cirne** who has joined the DPU as Teaching Fellow on the MSc Building and Urban Design in Development programme (BUDD). A practicing architect, Jennifer graduated from the BUDD programme in 2011. She brings considerable international experience to the role, having worked for a number of NGOs, community organisations and research programmes worldwide in the design of housing for older people, education and community projects; as a designer, facilitator and client advisor. She also has experience in urban design, master planning and general needs housing. Jennifer has worked with Crisis UK and was a trustee for Architecture for Humanity, London, where she was involved in both London-based and international projects. She is now a module tutor for the *Urban Interventions Studio* with Camillo Boano and Caroline Newton. Within her architectural praxis she is exploring the growing opportunities for community-led housing provision in the UK, a mechanism supported by the government's localism policies.

After five years at the DPU, **William Hunter** has left his position as College Teaching Fellow on the MSc Building and Urban Design in Development programme (BUDD). A 2010 BUDD alumnus, William was involved in the Practice Module and

the *Design Studio* as well as in many other DPU activities including *City Methodologies* and various Grand Challenges Small Grants. He was also instrumental in developing and leading the *dpusummerLab* initiative. William wrote expansively on design and urbanism; his last book with Camillo Boano and Caroline Newton, *Contested Urbanisms in Dharavi: Writings and Projects for the Resilient City*, will surely accompany him in this next stage of his career.

Romola Sanyal has left the DPU to take up a new post as Lecturer in Urban Geography at the London School of Economics. **Gynna Millan-Franco**, who was the first DPU Media and Communications officer, **Stephanie Butcher**, the Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) for the MSc in Social Development Practice, and **Emily Kelling**, GTA for the MSc in Building and Urban Design in Development (BUDD) have all left their posts at the DPU to take up PhDs and we look forward to greeting them as Doctors in the not too distant future. Stephanie's role as GTA has been taken over by Laura Hirst (SDP 2011-13) and Anna Schulenburg has returned from maternity leave to continue her role as GTA for BUDD.

Oscar Clarke has left the DPU after working as the Unit Administrator and PA to the Director for five years. As an invaluable member of staff, it was with sadness that we saw him leave, and we are slightly envious as he goes travelling around the world! **Jolanta Skorecka** and **Sara McCallum** have also left the DPU admin team to take on new posts in UCL, and we welcome **Sophia Daoudi**, who will be joining the team.

Networks and Meetings

Workshop: Resilience and Environmental Justice in the Urban Global South

The DPU research cluster on Environmental Justice, Urbanisation and Resilience (EJUR), currently gathers over 20 members of the DPU academic staff and doctoral students. Seeking to consolidate common areas of intellectual and practice-led enquiry, the cluster held a two-day workshop (12th-13th September 2013) to interrogate the relationship between *Environmental Justice and Resilience in the Urban Global South*.

Increasingly, attempts to make cities more resilient to environmental risks are interwoven with existing power structures and their associated injustices. This begs the question: when injustices are prevalent in a city, do they have an impact on its resilience? We might also ask if attempts to govern for greater resilience in southern cities can actually undermine the conditions of justice. The answer to these complex questions may only become evident when one steps away from the city as a unit of analysis, taking into account the governance of urban resilience and justice, and the institutional, everyday and co-produced attempts to regulate it. In turn, this line of enquiry might provide the building blocks upon which urban resilience can be critically understood and then reconstructed in more just ways.

Focusing on the interstices between environmental justice and resilience this workshop explored the ways in which such tensions play out, as well their potential for transformative change. The workshop was organised and convened by **Adriana Allen**, **Liza Griffin** and **Cassidy Johnson**, with the invaluable assistance of **Deena Khalil** (DPU Research student). Professors Sue Parnell (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town), Mark Swilling (Sustainability Institute, Stellenbosch University) and Mark Pelling (Department of Geography, King's College London) joined the group as discussants throughout four sessions in which contributors and participants explored the central question addressed by the workshop through the lens of their own research. The presentations triggered an exciting debate and the group is now working towards a collective publication.

DPU Knowledge Co-Production Workshop

EJUR's workshop in September triggered interest to further discuss the meaning of and approaches to Knowledge Co-production with Eve Annecke and Mark

Right: EJUR Workshop
Sue Parnell, Adriana
Allen and Liza Griffin
(Caren Levy)



Swilling from the Sustainability Institute (SI), Stellenbosch University, South Africa, a dialogue that took place on 1st October 2013 at the DPU.

DPU staff and doctoral students shared their views and experiences around the challenge of embracing transdisciplinary research 'with' and not just 'for' those who are meant to benefit from the knowledge generated. **Caren Levy** and others shared that a constant reflection on the positionality of researchers and practitioners is part of DPU's ethos, reflected in the unit's research, consultancy and teaching; something also manifested in MSc programmes' action-research projects implemented through practices modules.

Eve and Mark shared the experience of SI, an international living and learning centre, where staff and students have the benefit of 'being in', rather than 'going there'. Perhaps the most compelling evidence of this is Lynedoch EcoVillage (the first ecologically designed socially mixed intentional community in South Africa), which now hosts teaching and learning from pre-school to doctoral studies.

Some key insights from the discussion were the importance of going beyond 'stakeholder involvement' or even 'embeddedness' and into 'entanglement', if knowledge co-production is a real ambition, a choice that calls researchers to engage with constant reframing. Eve also reminded us of the importance of working with children and youth, as *'the most important thing to do towards building sustainable futures'*.

Untamed Urbanisms

In March 2013, **Adriana Allen**, Mark Swilling and Andrea Lampis were invited by the International Social Science Council (ISSC) to mentor a group of 27 talented researchers from all over the world under the first ISSC World Social Science Fellows

Programme on Sustainable Urbanization. The rich synergy within the group led to a collective publication entitled, *Untamed Urbanisms*, to be published by Routledge and edited by Adriana, Mark and Andrea. In October, Adriana joined the team in a writing up workshop in Montreal organised as a preliminary activity of the ISSC General Assembly Meeting ISSC's General Assembly.

DPU Staff Networking, Talks and Appointments

Professor Julio D. Davila was in Dublin for the joint AESOP-ACSP conference (the bi-annual meeting of European and US planners) with **Cassidy Johnson**. Julio presented a paper on *Mass-Transit Agencies as De Facto Regional Planners: Reflections on the Colombian Case* and a paper on DPU's involvement with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, and participated in a discussion on *International Planning Education*, organised by Joseli Macedo from University of Florida and Gabriella Carolini from MIT, and was the discussant at a session on planning in Latin America.

In July 2013, Julio was also in Havana, Cuba, as part of a joint project between DPU, UCL Institute of the Americas (IoA), UCL Dept. of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, the Cuban Ministry of Transport, and the Havana Provincial Government, to support the Cuban Government in their search for a low-carbon transition in public transport in Havana, funded by UCL Grand Challenges and the UK Foreign Office.

Also in July, Julio and **Michael Mattingly**, were invited by the Ecuadorian government to participate in a three-day workshop to discuss the proposed master plan for the new city of Yachay, 'The City of Knowledge', a flagship project of the Correa government.

In July, **Professor Yves Cabannes** attended the *Urban Knowledge Network Asia Round Table*, at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. The first day was dedicated to presentations by members of the network, with debates around issues such as the legitimacy of street trading, shrinking public spaces in Hanoi and Singapore, and resistance to evictions in low-income neighborhoods in Jakarta and Taipei City. One of the presentations on Jakarta was co-delivered by **Ariel Shepherd** (BUDD 2011-2012), one of the DPU/ACHR Junior Professionals (see Head on in this issue).

In August 2013, **Liza Griffin** attended the RGS annual conference in London where she convened three sessions on, **Governing Resilient Communities: What's at Stake?** During the summer, Liza also gave a Departmental seminar on resilience at the Political and International Studies School at the University of East Anglia, and attended a three-day workshop on Urban Crisis and Austerity at De Montfort University, Leicester, where she presented a paper on resilience in a session on Urban Governance with Peter Brand (Medellin) and Alan Gilbert (UCL) among others. Liza was also a section chair along with David Chandler (Westminster) at this year's European International Relations conference held in Warsaw, running sessions on the ethical and political implications of resilience policies.

Vanessa Castan-Broto attended the Eawag and ETH Conference on *Sustainability Transitions* held in Zurich, where she was a panelist at a plenary discussion on proposals for engaging with geographical aspects of transitions, emerging from Jim Murphy of Clark University's recent work on renewable energy in Tanzania.

Since 1997, **Adriana Allen** has been a founding academic member of the MSc **Metropolitan Environmental Management** run by the Faculty of Architecture, Urbanism and Design of the University of Buenos Aires under the direction of Carlos Lebrero and coordination of Silvana Capuccio. In 2013, as in previous years, Adriana offered a module on *Urban Sustainability and Political Ecology* attended by 24 participants from Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Ecuador, and a public lecture attended by senior Faculty members and staff from local governments and service utilities.

Michael Walls organised a series of meetings for a health education delegation



Left: The audience at one of the sessions of the Hargeysa International Book Fair, Somaliland in August 2013 (Michael Walls)

from Puntland, Somalia, in September 2013. The group included individuals representing several of the main Puntland universities and health training facilities, as well as the head of the well-regarded Galkayo Medical Centre, and met with a number of prominent UK stakeholders, including UCL's Pro-Provost for Africa and Director of the Institute for Global Health, Professor Anthony Costello. The visit builds on Michael's work as a member of the board of the Somali Health Initiative, SHIFAT.

In August 2013, Michael was involved in the *Hargeysa International Book Fair*, which was established some six years ago and is now one of the biggest cultural festivals in eastern Africa. Michael is the Chair of one of the organisers, Kayd Somali Arts and Culture.

In September 2013, **Alex Frediani** participated in the Annual Conference of the Human Development and Capability Association held in Managua, Nicaragua. Alex ran a pre-conference workshop with NGO practitioners to reflect on *The Contribution of the Capability Approach to the Practice of Development Projects* and coordinated a panel discussion during the conference on the same topic, in collaboration with Sandra Boni (Polytechnic University of Valencia), Mario Bigerri (University of Florence), Des Gasper (Institute of Social Science at The Hague) and Mirtha Muniz (Ministry of Economics, Peru). The experience will inform the upcoming special issue of the *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities* on *Approaching Development Projects from a Capability Perspective*, coordinated by Alex, Sandra Boni and Des Gaspar with contributions from **Julian Walker**.

In July 2013 **Barbara Lipietz** attended the Metropolis Annual Conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa on the theme, *Caring Cities*. Amongst a diverse series

of political and technical presentations attempting to develop the theme, the South African Cities Network attempted to define what a *Caring City* might be by building on the concept of Ubuntu (the explanatory clip is available at <http://www.sacities.net/caringcities>). Barbara was invited to speak at the session on *Engaged Citizens*, alongside Rose Molokwane (SDI South Africa), Michael Müller (Mayor of Berlin) and Marina Klemensiewicz (Secretary of Habitat and Inclusion, City of Buenos Aires).

In August 2013, **Camillo Boano** was invited by the Chilean *Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo* (MINVU) to participate in an International Seminar on *Heritage and the Challenges of Urban Transformations*. During the work in Santiago Camillo was able to meet DPU alumni and friends including **Viviana Fernandez** (MSc Housing in Development 1992-93), **Ernesto Lopez** (MPhil/PhD 2005-09), **Jose Di Girolamo** (BUDD 2010-11) and Professor Margarita Green (School of Architecture, Catholic University of Chile).

In October 2013, **William Hunter** and **Camillo Boano** held a seminar and presentation on Learning from Beirut: An Urban Design Research Methodology Exchange, with Professor Matthew Carmona and Dr. Kayvan Karimi, funded by a Bartlett Grand Challenges Small Grant. It was based on the urban design research analysis conducted in Beirut in March 2013 in collaboration with the American University of Beirut and with the help of DPU alumni including: **Dalia Chabarek** (UDP 2011-12); **Sandra Rishtani** (UDP 2008-09), and; **Mona Khechen** (BUDD 1999-2000).

Zeremariam Fre has been appointed to the Board of Editors for *African Review of Economics and Finance* (AREF), of the Rhodes University, South Africa.

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DPU CELEBRATING

60
YEARS
1954 • 2014

In 2014 the DPU will celebrate 60 years of education, training, research, consultancy and knowledge sharing in urban and regional development policy and planning in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. DPU's focus on urban development and planning in what is now often referred to as 'the Global South' was unique in the UK and abroad

both at the time of its establishment in 1954, and when it moved to UCL from the Architectural Association in 1971. In a world predicted to be 75% urban by 2050, we continue to feel the urgency of our historical commitment to contributing to social and environmental justice through building the capacity of current and future institutions and generations of practitioners addressing urban, regional and national development. Firmly rooted in our academic obligation to challenge orthodox development agendas, we have chosen our 60th anniversary year to reflect on our engagement with the urban Global South by looking both back and forward.

The year will provide an opportunity to review the DPU's contribution to planning education and to a range of important international development debates and practices. We will also critically reflect on the continued usefulness of framing future DPU practices in the context of the notion of the 'urban Global South'. At this point in our history, as global and local forces acting on urban processes are reconstituted in the 21st century, this critical engagement is more urgent than ever. Thus, one of the questions that will guide us is: in the light of both regressive and transformative urban practices in the name of 'development' by governments, civil society and the private sector, what does the notion of the 'urban Global South' open up for thinking about and acting upon cities?

There are many ways in which you can participate in our 60th anniversary celebrations, both in person and virtually, and we invite your involvement both in London and from afar. The following activities and events are planned for the year.

DPU60 Conference:

Thinking Across Boundaries: Re-Imagining Planning in the Urban Global South, 3-4 July 2014, London

This conference will bring together up to 200 DPU current and past staff, students and a range of speakers drawn from academia, practice and community organisations, to deliberate on critical issues at the core of DPU's work. For more information and to register for the programme, please check the DPU website in January 2014.

DPU60 'Dialogues in Development'

Throughout 2014 there will be a series of 'Dialogues' between DPU staff and selected international academics and practitioners. The *DPU Dialogues in Development* series was set up to foster debate and exchange among scholars, practitioners and community organisers, all of whom represent overlapping groups in our 'community of practice'. Please check the DPU website for details.

DPU60 Looking Back, Looking Forward

This project is a series of interviews with past and present DPU staff, reflecting on their careers and contributions to planning education and development in the Global South. In the current stage of the project, filmed interviews with the cohort of DPU staff who retired around the turn of the new millennium will be made available on the DPU website in May 2014, as part of this ongoing initiative.

Sixty Years of Urban Development: Notes on the Development Planning Unit

Building on the Notes produced by Emeritus Professor Patrick Wakely for DPU's 50th anniversary, Caren Levy is overseeing the updating and preparation of a new DPU60 edition with the help of Christopher Yap and the DPU Communications team. This document will be distributed at the World Urban Forum in Medellin (4th – 11th April 2014), where DPU plans to hold a celebratory event.

DPU60 Reflections Working Paper Series

Working with DPU-Associates, the DPU will produce a DPU60 Reflections Working Paper Series with papers by DPU-Associates covering a range of topics that have been and continue to be central to the DPU's education, research and consultancy preoccupations.

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Planning for socially just
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in the global south