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How can research support disability
inclusive urban citizenship?

By Julian Walker & Ignacia Ossul Vermehren

Focus On

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"...the socio-spatial patterns of ableist values are etched across the city in numerous ways, forming a type of architectural apartheid"

(Hamraie 2013: 232).

In this piece we consider how disability can affect women and men's experiences of cities, both as inhabitants of urban physical and social spaces, and as active citizens, shaping cities and their governance. Drawing on AT2030, a major research programme that DPU has been part of, we reflect on the role that research can have in supporting disability inclusive citizenship in cities.

Disability as a political identity

Definitions of disability reveal the underlying politics of how it is recognised as a social identity. While the 'medical model' of disability has treated it as a condition to be managed by health professionals, and as a feature of the person, other definitions, such as the bio-psycho-social model used by the World Health Organisation, and to a greater extent the 'social model', which has been espoused by the disability rights movement, contend that *"disability is the outcome of an oppressive relationship between people with impairments and the rest of society"* (Finkelstein, 1980:

47), highlighting the social and political causes of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, rather than their impairments.

Seeing disability through this social lens highlights its importance as the basis for political identity, as a basis for collective claims for rights, inclusion and citizenship to challenge such discrimination. However, disability is a complex, fragmented and contested identity that does not translate into a clearly bounded, or homogenous, political constituency. On the one hand, disability is a continuum that everyone experiences in some way, meaning that there is no clear and separate category of the disabled vs the non-disabled. On the other hand, experiences of disability are very different for people with different impairments, and the social barriers associated with disability intersect with other identity-based barriers around, for example, gender, sexuality or race, making for very different experiences of the same disability. Despite this, disability activists and scholars agree that using the term 'disability' as an umbrella term is key as it helps promote targeted efforts, advance rights, and challenge stigma towards difference.

However it is defined, disability is not a minority issue. During the course of their lives most people will be affected by disability in some way: either personally (on a temporary or permanent basis), or through people with whom they are in close relationships, including relationships of care. Despite this, the prevalence of disability is often obscured by the way it is defined and measured, and by the fact that high levels of stigma means that many people who face functional difficulties in areas such as mobility or cognition, such as older persons, are hesitant to self-define as 'disabled', and the same may apply to institutions who represent and support groups such as older persons.

Even where people with disabilities do have the opportunity to live in cities, they often remain hostile and inaccessible environments in practice.

Disability and cities

Drawing on a survey of disability in 59 countries, the World Report on Disability (WHO, 2011) found that an average of 14.6% of people in urban areas versus 16.4% in rural areas experience 'significant difficulties' in daily functions. In low-income countries this figure rises to 16.5% in urban areas and 18.6% in rural areas.

This suggests a (marginally) lower prevalence of disability in urban areas. One explanation for this may be that rural areas tend to have bigger populations of older persons (who are more likely to experience functional difficulties). However, during the AT2030 project disabled research participants and activists in Sierra Leone highlighted that an additional explanation for the higher prevalence of disability in rural areas could be the limited possibilities for young disabled people from rural areas to undertake job seeking migration to cities, as many of their peers do. In this light, lower levels of disability in urban areas may be seen as a problem rather than a positive association, if it is a manifestation of the limited opportunities of people with disabilities to migrate to or live in urban areas.

Even where people with disabilities do have the opportunity to live in cities, they often remain hostile and inaccessible environments in practice. Much has been written on the inaccessibility and inappropriate design of urban spaces for people with disabilities (Hamraie, 2013). A key spatial impact on the lived experiences

of people with disabilities in cities relates to the fact that historically, in many contexts, the provision of care for many people with disabilities has been largely in specialist residential institutions, resulting in spatial segregation (Kliwer and Drake, 1998). In response, and in an effort to have more disability inclusive cities, the alternative of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) has increasingly been proposed as a means of meeting the support needs of people with disabilities in mainstream communities and institutions (for example, schools) as part of a wider impetus towards disability inclusive development in cities (Deepak, 2014).

In addition to the physical features of the city, social and economic policies impact the urban experience of people with disabilities. Current dominant policies of financialization of urban real estate and infrastructure has intensified urban inequalities (Fainstein, 2016) which, given the strong association of disability with poverty (Yeo and Moore, 2003), is likely to disproportionately impact the living conditions of people with disabilities and their households. This has been exacerbated by policies to cut financial support and care for people with disabilities, to reduce responsibilities for the state, and this has often been achieved by co-opting and distorting the disability movement's own claims for autonomy and independence to deploy a rhetoric of individual self-sufficiency (Morris, 2011).

Historically, in many contexts, the provision of care for many people with disabilities has been largely in specialist residential institutions, resulting in spatial segregation.

However, while many cities currently fail to deliver suitable living, social and working environments for persons with disabilities, cities can nonetheless be considered a space of opportunity for inclusive development. An immediate advantage is that the density of urban areas means that there are likely to be people with specific shared disabilities and associated needs living in proximity. At the same time health and leisure facilities, and employment opportunities, and other relevant infrastructure and services are often more concentrated and physically accessible in urban areas. For example, in relation to medical disability services and access to assistive technology, major rehabilitation centres are usually located in urban areas.

Efforts to make cities more inclusive for people with disabilities have been promoted through a range of institutional networks, such as the Global Network on Disability Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development (DIAUD). A key thrust of such work has been inclusive design which promotes physical accessibility of urban infrastructure and buildings (i.e. ramps, tactile paving, wheel-chair friendly public bathrooms). However, as Terashima and Clark (2021) argue, research and interventions to make built environments more inclusive rarely extend from *design* to urban *planning*, despite the fact that wider spatial planning also has an impact on people with disabilities. This is because, for example, “(...) *barriers in obtaining employment due to mobility restriction could be reduced if places of work and places of residence are closer in proximity and connected with accessible transportation infrastructure*” (p.127).

In this context the disability rights movement has a key role to play in promoting more inclusive cities, and challenging the effects of ableist city-making, and market-centric social policy, through promoting the representation of disabled people in urban decision-making for structures of governance. The slogan “*Nothing about us, without us*” has been emblematic in the disability rights movement, challenging the practice of non-disabled actors and institutions of

speaking on behalf of disabled people. However, at the same time, it is crucial that disability claims should not be seen as only the role of disability activists, but should also be part of a wider set of social movements challenging urban inequality.

Considering the above, efforts to promote disability inclusive citizenship and cities need to engage with a number of principles.

- Firstly, it is strategically and politically important to link disability inclusive citizenship to other urban equality claims while ensuring that they are not rendered invisible in a wider agenda (for example, that of the urban poor).
- Therefore, secondly, it is crucial that people with disabilities play a central role in defining and acting on inclusive urban citizenship actions.
- Finally, despite this, it should not be assumed that the urban claims of people with disabilities are uniform, or are predicated only on their disabilities (rather than personal beliefs, or other identity based interests around class, gender, or sexuality). It should also be recognised that in the context of pervasive stigma people with disabilities are not necessarily willing, or in a position to, step forward as disability advocates, and this may require first that they encounter others who promote disability as a positive political identity and become part of a supportive collective.

Disability inclusive urban citizenship and research

These principles, and the way that research might support them, is something we have been trying to engage with over the past few years as part of the AT2030 research programme. Led by the Global Disability Innovation Hub and funded by UK Aid, AT2030 is a research programme which aims to test ‘what works’ to improve access to life-changing Assistive Technology (AT) for all. As well as a team from

the DPU (Ignacia Ossul-Vermheren, Julian Walker, Vicki Austin, Sylwia Frankowska Takhari) and UCL more broadly (Cathy Holloway, Giulia Barbareschi, Maria Kett) the project worked with a range of other partners including the disability NGO Leonard Cheshire, the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), the Sierra Leone Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP) and the Indonesian NGOs Kota Kita and Kaki Kota and well members of local OPDs, including disability activist Abs Dumbaya in Freetown.

The AT2030 sub-programme led by the DPU between 2019 and 2022 focused on how AT users in informal settlements in Freetown (Sierra Leone) and Banjarmasin (Indonesia), including disabled and older people, can achieve their aspirations. The team also explored the role that AT plays in their strategies to do so. The project was built around two phases. In the first phase we explored participants' aspirations and their individual and collective strategies to achieve their aspirations. In the second phase, we worked to identify shared aspirations amongst our participants in each city, linking the priorities of disabled and non-disabled residents as a basis for trialling pilot interventions. In Banjarmasin the selected aspiration was 'Inclusive Public Spaces' and the trial intervention was an inclusive planning method to construct two community hubs. In Freetown the selected aspiration was 'Affordable and Accessible Healthcare' and participants trialled a mobile-phone-based health information intervention (led by research partner SHM Foundation), through which Community Health Champions gathered health related queries from community members.

During this work, we aimed to respond to the three principles outlined above in several ways. Firstly, we aimed to link disability advocacy to mainstream community initiatives in three ways: i) Instead of focussing solely on persons with disabilities and the role of OPDs, the project initially worked with four 'mainstream' settlements of the urban poor (Dwozark and Thompson Bay in Freetown, and Kelayan Barat and Pelambuan in Banjarmasin).

The intention was to understand the experiences of disabled people and the need for access to AT in settlements occupied largely by low-income people, but *without* specific provisions for, or visibility of people with disabilities. ii) In line with this, the grassroots partners working on the project (such as FEDURP and Kaki Kota) are engaged more broadly with the claims of low-income communities and the built environment. This created space to build the capacity of grassroots organisation working with low-income communities to work with disabled residents and think about how to mainstream disability into their work. iii) We decided that the balance of core research participants should be a quarter non-disabled participants, a quarter AT users and a half persons with disabilities in order to understand and compare the key aspirations for *both* disabled and non-disabled participants. For example, a shared aspiration between disabled and non-disabled participants in Thompson Bay, Freetown was 'Healthy Living Conditions' making reference to the need to improve WASH facilities (i.e. difficult access to toilets, lack of drinkable water and hygiene of toilets). Although disabled people, particularly those with mobility impairments, raised specific issues around the distance to access water pumps and toilets and difficulties in carrying water on their own, WASH was not a problem linked to disability, but to the conditions of the settlement, and thus all participants could relate to working towards 'Healthy Living Conditions'.

We aimed to ensure a central role for people with disabilities in the research through a number of mechanisms. First, the core research team was made up of a mix of researchers who self-define as disabled and non-disabled. Secondly while we initially focused only on 'mainstream' communities, our team member Vicki Austin encouraged us to work with an additional community through her PhD research on disability and justice. HEPPPO (Help Empower Polio People) in Freetown is a unique case of a community made up entirely of wheelchair users (people affected by polio) and their households, for whom disability is a strong basis for political organisation. Working

The core research team was made up of a mix of researchers who self-define as disabled and non-disabled.

with a community that is organised around disability highlighted how it can be employed as a political identity, and a basis for advocacy and organising. Linking such a community with our other project partners has meant that FEDURP has now included HEPPPO as a member of their federation of low-income communities, and are also building their understanding of disability concerns in the urban agenda.

In terms of the research participants, a key step we took to make sure that disability perspectives were visible was through the selection of participants. Furthermore, we felt it was important that while our disabled participants could be people in community leadership roles, our non-disabled participants should not be community leaders. We did this to respond to the existing exclusion of disabled people from community leadership roles and because disabled people's voices are often lost in existing community fora.

Thirdly, given high levels of stigma and discrimination about disability whereby participants might be hesitant to publicly adopt this identity, there was a need for sensitivity in terms of how we made disability more 'visible' as a focus in our action-research, and to ensure that we did so in ways that challenged, rather than reinforced, stigma.

We set out to do this in several ways. Firstly, we included OPDs as partners who could work with and sensitise participants around disability. In addition, we prioritised

Showing disability in a positive light and creating spaces of solidarity with non-disabled residents had an impact on the perception disabled people had of themselves.

research activities that highlighted disability as a positive identity. For example, we organised a series of events to celebrate ‘International Day of Persons with Disabilities’ in Indonesia. Participants painted a mural in their communities that highlighted inclusivity and celebrated disability. While in Sierra Leone, participants created a textile banner that displayed positive aspirations.

Another important method to celebrate disability was the creation of photo essays that portrayed participants in empowered positions in places they value. The photographs did not focus on disability per se, but on activities that participants enjoyed such as learning, doing sports, or volunteering. Showing disability in a positive light and creating spaces of solidarity with non-disabled residents had an impact on the perception disabled people had of themselves: *“I was ashamed to come in public but now I’m not, because of this group, I feel more confident.”* (Male participant, Freetown, 2019)

In addition, in order to recognise that disability may be only one of the factors that influenced our participants’ aspirations, we experimented with intersectional research methods, balancing methods that foreground disability as an identity with ‘anti-categorical’ methods which follow narratives of identity presented by the participants themselves (see Walker and Ossul Vermehren, 2021 for more details).



Image from a photo essay with one of our research participants in Freetown, showing daily activities that help her achieve her aspirations. Credit: Angus Stewart.

Finally, a central tool used in project activities was the use of ‘personas’ built from our research with disabled participants. These anonymized and fictionalised to allow people’s experiences to be discussed and factored into community planning without putting specific individuals under a public spotlight. These personas of disabled citizens, AT users, and others, helped to foster empathy in planning and other activities, and encouraged people to be exposed to and think about others’ experiences of urban spaces. AT2030 has shown us how decisions made during a research project can

play a role in supporting disability inclusive citizenship in cities. These included decisions about research methods, the selection of participants, and about common agendas and differences between disabled and non-disabled participants. Finally, while stigma continues to be a pervasive issue in the two contexts, the project has highlighted disability as a positive and as a political identity for both participants and organisations of the urban poor.

Personas based on our research with participants, used as an input to inclusive planning in Banjarmasin. Credit: Kota Kita.



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Head On

The DPU had a strong presence at the Eleventh Session of the **World Urban Forum (WUF11)** in Katowice, Poland, 26–30 June 2022. Addressing the theme of Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future, WUF11 provided a forum to discuss the future of cities and provided a discursive space to debate ways that cities can be better prepared to address future pandemics and other shocks. DPU staff participated in several panels and held numerous events at the collaborative Habitat Village exhibition stall hosted by CoHabitat, the DPU, Bartlett, HIC, IIED and UCLG. The exhibition displayed work and successes achieved by the CoHabitat Network in promoting and advocating for community-led housing – a theme at the heart of DPU’s mission. DPU staff in attendance included Michael Walls, Adriana Allen, Emmanuel Osuteye, Barbara Lipietz, Jordana Ramalho, Julian Walker and Julia Wesely. Interventions included the following, amongst others:

- Several events co-hosted by the DPU’s Julia Wesely and Adriana Allen in collaboration with Habitat International Coalition (HIC) reflected on questions of *co-learning for action*. These included the screening and discussion of four short films produced as part of a pedagogic reflection process involving several ‘schools of popular urbanism’ across Latin America, an initiative undertaken under the KNOW Programme.
- The DPU and Bartlett Vice Dean International Barbara Lipietz facilitated a roundtable discussion on the role of universities in producing socially just habitats - and how the latter can be activated and nurtured in collaboration with other urban actors such as social movements, networks of community groups and NGOs.

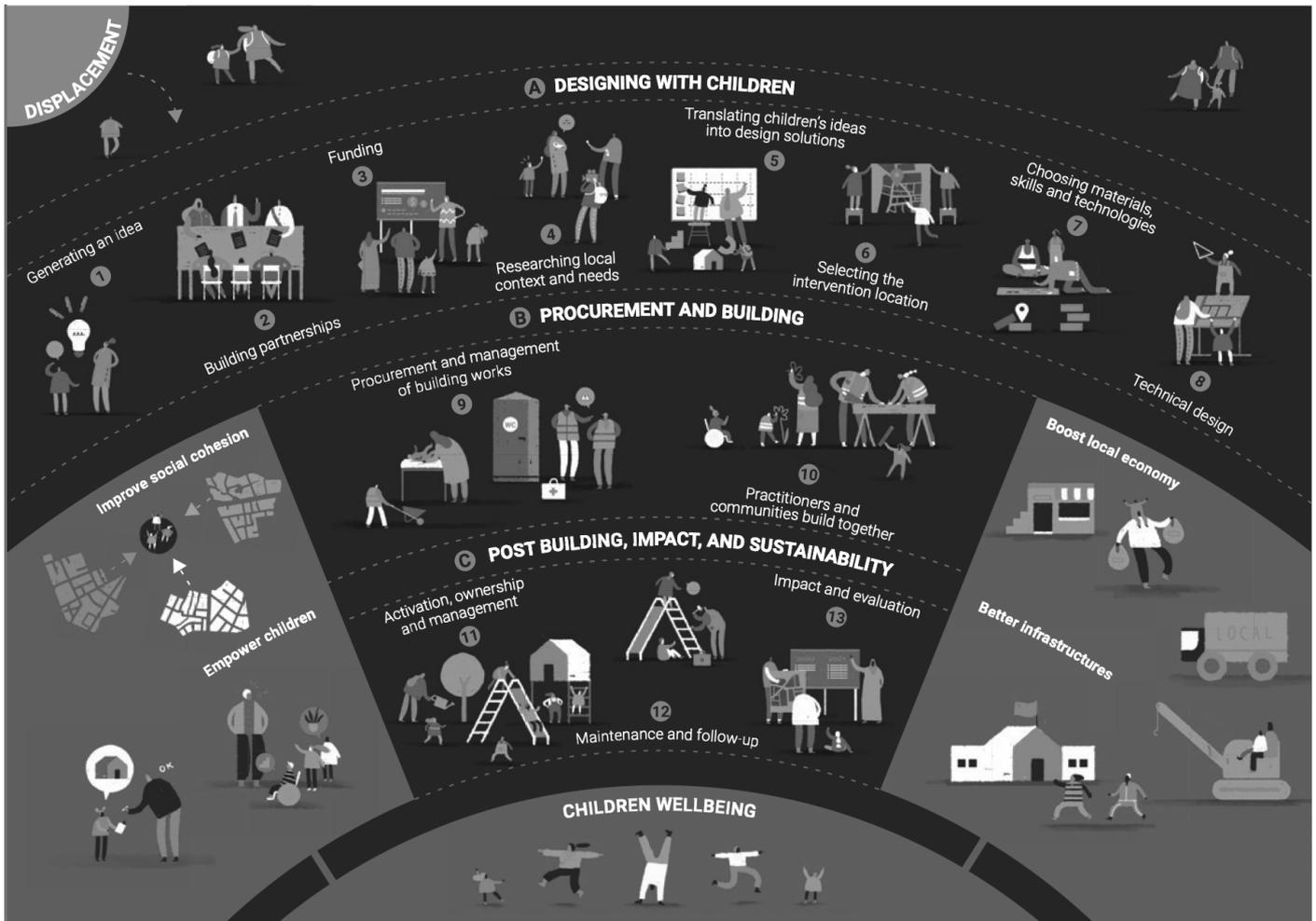


WUF panel on climate change adaptation and resilience in Africa. Credit: Matthew Jordan.

- Emmanuel Osuteye and Michael Walls convened a panel on climate change adaptation and resilience in Africa. They were joined by several development practitioners namely, Kabelo Lethunya (*Housing and Urban Resilience lead, African Union*), Karl-Heinz Gaudry (*GIZ Global initiative on DRM*) and Selene Angelone (*Urban Resilience Programme Specialist, UN Habitat*) to discuss recent shifts in policy and practice aimed at addressing the critical challenge of climate change and building resilience in urban centres in Africa.
- Adriana Allen participated as a panellist at a Special Session hosted by UN-Habitat that focused upon **Accelerating Post Covid-19 Recovery**, Social Inclusion and Urban Inequality Reduction in Communities. You can watch the full discussion [here](#).
- Julian Walker and Vanesha Manuturi, from DPU Partner Yayasan Kota Kita, hosted a film on **Inclusive Neighbourhood Planning. The Case of Banjarmasin**. The film, which comprised part of their AT2030 research programme, addressed disability inclusive neighbourhood planning in Indonesia.

Adriana Allen at the WUF event on **Accelerating Post Covid-19 Recovery, Social Inclusion and Urban Inequality Reduction in Communities**. Credit: Matthew Jordan.





Visualising the key concepts of the DECID handbook. Credit: DECID.

- The handbook on **co-designing built interventions with children affected by displacement (DeCID)** was also launched at WUF. The project led by Andrea Rigon was implemented with CatalyticAction in partnership with UNICEF and UN-Habitat. The handbook is published in Arabic, English and Spanish and is currently being translated into Italian by UNICEF to support refugees and migrants in their participation in codesigned processes. It has a focus on children who make up around half of the refugee population worldwide. The handbook draws upon the participation and input of thousands of children, as well as caregivers, educators, humanitarian NGOs and others. It works on the premise that children are agents and rights-holders, they are powerful co-creators of knowledge and experts in their own lives. The project involved DPU alumni: Joana Dabaj and Riccardo Conti (CatalyticAction founders) and Dyfed Aubrey, UN-Habitat's Inter Regional Advisor.

The DPU hosted the largest ever **Development Studies Association (DSA) Conference** from 6-8 July 2022 on the theme of 'just sustainable futures in an urbanising and mobile world'. Conference organisation also involved collaboration from the Institute for Global Prosperity, the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy, the Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction, and the Centre for Education and International Development, at the Institute of Education. The conference attracted 726 participants, with over 43% participating from the Global South. Participants came from 69 countries with five from African and three from Asian countries. The online methodology limited the conference carbon footprint, whilst facilitating the most diverse DSA conference ever. This more equal participation represented an important shift towards a decolonising agenda. All the pre-conference webinars and conference plenaries are available to watch. The

UCL Organising Committee for the DSA2022 was led by Andrea Rigon, and included Hanna Baumann, Caren Levy and Samantha Ahern. The organisation was supported by the Scientific Committee at UCL and DSA, which included: Joanna Chataway, Michael Walls, Priti Parikh, Sam Hickey, Laura Camfield, Shailaja Fennell, and Taibat Lawanson, with the support of Nomad IT and Laura Roberts. The conference addressed some of the issues likely to become UCL global challenges, including the Climate Crisis, Inequality, and Data-empowered Societies. Here are some of the sessions the DPU was involved in:

- OVERDUE hosted a session on **The Making and Unmaking of Sanitation Taboos in African Cities**. The panel discussion, chaired by Adriana Allen and Pascale Hofmann, was based on OVERDUE presentations on menstrual taboos in Mozambique, the roles of social norms in

regulating gendered sanitation experiences in Mwanza, Tanzania and body- and toilet-related taboos in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Participants discussed the taboos that continue to govern sanitation practices across urban Africa, as well as their gendered impacts.

- **What role for the university in bringing about just and sustainable futures?** This question guided the [third pre-conference webinar](#) to the DSA conference. Chaired by the DPU's Barbara Lipietz in her role as The Bartlett's Vice Dean International, [four panellists](#) shared their experiences in activating the power of universities and knowledge institutions towards more sustainable urban futures. Drawing from the contexts of Brazil, India, Lebanon and South Africa, the speakers identified levers for strengthening the 'public' role of their institutions across education, research, and public engagement.
- Catalina Ortiz along with Beatrice De Carli and Ola Uduku organised a workshop on **Urban design from the Global South/East: Imagining Just Futures**. This explored the significance of critical design in the urban context and interrogated its relevance for development studies and practice. The event facilitated a dialogue around the role of critical urban design ontologies, theories, and praxes in advancing justice in cities.
- Daniel Oviedo participated as panellist on the roundtable discussion on demystifying the grant landscape and as a reviewer for early-career researcher proposals at the **Early-Career Researchers (ECR) Grant Writing workshop** organised by DPU's Andrea Rigon and Phillip Horn from Sheffield University. The workshop provided support for selected ECRs participating at the conference on securing funding for development research and developing their 'dream research proposal'.

The DPU is leading the recently established **UCL Inclusive Mobility (E)Innovations platform (IME)**, a group for research, advisory and policy engagement about mobility innovations and their (un)intended social impacts. IME involves researchers at DPU, Civil Engineering and the UCL Centre for Behaviour change, and focuses on knowledge co-production and dialogue about the role of mobility innovations in fostering or exacerbating social inclusion at the city, neighbourhood, and individual scales. DPU researchers in IME include Daniel Oviedo, Azadeh Mashayekhi, Thaisa Comelli, and PhD candidates Orlando Sabogal-Cardona and Carolina Moore-Sagredo. More information can be found [here](#).

Alexandra Panman was awarded the **Sanjaya Lall Prize** by the Board of Oxford Development Studies for her article '[How effective are informal property rights in cities? Reexamining the relationship between informality and housing quality in Dar es Salaam](#)'. The prize, which honours the memory of the late Professor Sanjaya Lall is awarded annually for the best article published in the journal.

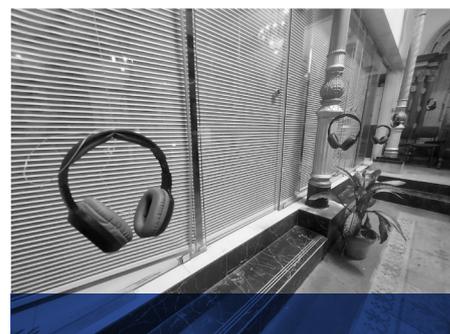
Camillo Boano, along with Jason Von Mending and Ksenia Chmutina – founders and animators of the **Disasters Deconstructed Podcast** – curated season seven of the programme on the topic of 'Re-reading theory as a liberatory practice'. The new season was launched in July 2022 and will continue until October with four collective readings engaging with different topics including the nature and potentials of a liberatory theory of disasters; the anthropocene and social distresses-crisis eras; and the challenges of intersectional and transnational modes of practice. Podcasts and livestreams can be [viewed](#) and [listened to](#).

Catalina Ortiz was invited to participate in the podcast **Latin London - Taller de la Existencia** on the episode '**Diasporic Geographies**'. The interview focused on the question of what creates a diasporic community and the ways in which migrants in global cities look for familiar geographies, and pursue familiar faces, places, music and flavours.

Liza Griffin and George Reville (Open University) were invited to talk about their work on creative practice and environmental change at an online workshop on **Art, Planning and Dialogue** with planners, researchers, and artists. The one-day workshop interrogated working relationships between artists and planners. Participants explored how progressive public spaces could be generated through productive collaborations between artists and planners, and how aesthetic practices might challenge structured ways of thinking towards more transformative planning cultures.

As part of his project **Tracing Urban Sensory Heritage of Kolkata**, Raktim Ray hosted a participatory exhibition in Kolkata. This collaborative project is jointly funded by Centre for Critical Heritage Studies, UCL and Durham University's Geography Department (with Rishika Mukhopadhyay (Durham University), Sayantan Das (Dumdum Motijee College and Nilanjan Das (Hamdasti Artist Collective)). The project curated crowd-sourced everyday urban sounds and urban smells and engaged exhibition participants in an immersive experience. The exhibition was widely covered by various vernacular and [English newspapers](#). Sounds can be accessed through a [soundcloud](#) platform and integrated [google map](#).

Tracing The Urban Sensory Heritage of Kolkata. Credit Raktim Ray.



Research

Haim Yacobi received a **Middle East and North Africa Social Policy Network Grant** for the project Making the Invisible Visible: Slow Violence, Mental Health and Resilience in Gaza. This research project is being undertaken in partnership with Michelle Pace from Roskilde University, and Yasser Abu Jamel and Ziad Abu Mustafa from the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme. It examines how slow violence affects Gaza's young generation in terms of their increasing vulnerability to mental health challenges, and how existing resilience networks could serve as a vehicle for better strategic intervention in mental health.

Andrea Rigon was also awarded a UKRI grant connected to the Middle East and North Africa Social Policy Network. The grant will be used to conduct a **participatory analysis of co-designed public spaces in Beirut post-blast reconstruction**. The project will be implemented in partnership with CatalyticAction. It will involve a participatory learning process with all the actors who have worked on the reconstruction of public spaces in Beirut, as well as a public art installation to engage the public in reflecting on the design and role of public space.

Raktim Ray received a grant as a Principal Investigator for the commissioned project **Archiving Resistance: Artefacts of Transnational Occupation** funded by Imagining Futures through Un/Archived Pasts, University of Exeter. Co-Is include Mukul Patel (Royal Academy of Arts); Manu Luksch (Royal Academy of Arts); Srilata Sircar (Kings College London) and Ufaque Paiker (Ashoka University, India). This collaborative project builds on the existing work of Artefacts of Resistance. It aims to create an innovative digital archive to curate artefacts of various resistance movements. The project will curate an exhibition and artistic performance.

Daniel Oviedo, Julio D. Dávila and PhD candidate Maria José Nieto received funding from CAF, the Development Bank of Latin America, and the TUMI initiative from GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH), for a new research project on the **social and environmental effects of three wheelers (e.g. Tuk-Tuks, rickshaws) as public transport alternatives in Colombia and Costa Rica**. The proposal, developed in partnership with the Global Alliance for Informal Transportation and Universidad del Norte in Colombia, was one of three funded projects selected from 111 applications. The project will enable the acquisition of new equipment and training for research capacity building in Costa Rica, and fund two graduate research assistants in Colombia as a continuation of ongoing funding received through a Global Engagement Fund grant led by Julio D. Dávila.

The DPU OVERDUE project and Genre en Action, together with the NGO partners GEPALEF (Ivory Coast), CFCEM/GA (DRC), SiMIRALENTA (Madagascar) and OGDS (Senegal), won a **UCL Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Fund**. The fund supports knowledge exchange with local communities, institutions and utilities in Saint-Louis, Antananarivo, Abidjan and Bukavu, enabling partners from the OVERDUE team to deepen their reflections on gendered sanitation experiences and to develop and consolidate capacity-building resources.

Catalina Ortiz won the **Imagining Futures Through Un/Archived Pasts Commission Award** from Exeter University to develop the project *'Archivo Vivo [Living archive]: weaving gendered (hi)stories of urban reclamation in Moravia'*. The project aims to reveal the archival significance of embodied knowledge and collective experiences of intergenerational memory transmission using textile practices, audio-visual material, and historic photos. This joint project also involves Natalia Villamizar-Duarte from Newcastle University and partners from the Community Cultural Centre of Moravia and the collective Moravia Resiste.

A joint submission entitled: 'Will I Cause Harm?' was selected as a **winner for the RIBA President's Award** annual theme: education. The submission was prepared by The Bartlett School of Architecture's David Roberts, Jane Rendell and Yael Padan, and the DPU's Emmanuel Osuteye and Ariana Markowitz, and summarises a set of ethics guides which serve as an open-access educational tool for emerging and established built environment practitioners. The guides address how to identify ethical dilemmas that may arise in research and practice, negotiate ethical responsibilities, and rehearse strategies to navigate unpredictable environments with care and creativity.

Alessio Kolioulis received a **UCL Research Culture Award** for his work on nocturnal workers in the UK. With this grant, Alessio organised a series of knowledge exchanges with decisionmakers at the Greater London Authority and several London Boroughs. His co-authored report 'Working Nights. Municipal Strategies for Nocturnal Workers' was presented at the triple launch of publications from Arts Council England, UCL Urban Laboratory and Autonomy think tank in July 2022.

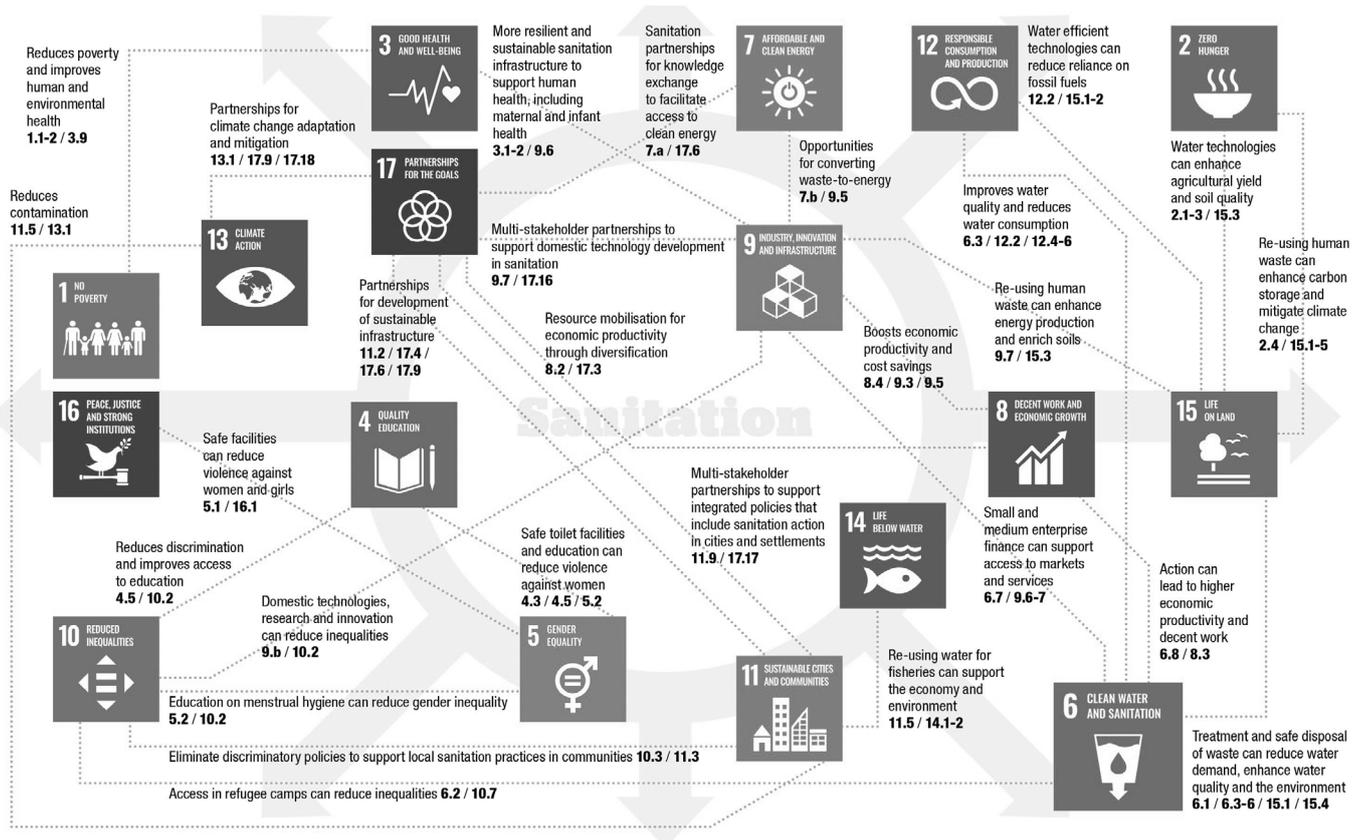
Haim Yacobi received a Middle East and North Africa Social Policy Network Grant for a project that examines how slow violence affects Gaza's young generation in terms of their increasing vulnerability to mental health challenges.

DPU research projects have been selected amongst UCL's Research Excellence Framework 2021 (REF) impact case studies and deemed to be 'internationally excellent' and 'world leading'.

Congratulations to DPU's Michael Walls, Adriana Allen, Emmanuel Osuteye, Cassidy Johnson and Rita Lambert whose research projects were amongst the twelve **Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 impact case studies** submitted by the Bartlett that were deemed to be 'internationally excellent' and 'world leading'. The REF is held every seven years and is used as a benchmark to gauge the relative strength of a research unit. The excellence of research at UCL and its positive real-world impact has improved since 2014, according to the REF 2021 assessment results. UCL is second in the UK for research power by a measure of average research score multiplied by staff numbers submitted. The Bartlett is where the UK's most 'World Leading' and 'Internationally Excellent' built environment research is undertaken. The Bartlett is also number one for Research Power in the built environment.

Taking sanitation as an entry point, and under the leadership of Adriana Allen and Julia Wesely, the action-research project *OVERDUE: Tackling the sanitation taboo across urban Africa* and MSc ESD students and staff have teamed up through a new Learning Alliance to **advance socio-environmental justice across urban Africa**. The first phase of the research (January to April 2022) was co-designed and implemented remotely between the students in London and partners across the seven African cities where OVERDUE is working. In May 2022, students and partners got together at a Practice Engagement in Aylesford, Kent (UK), to deepen their collaboration and develop advocacy plans. Adopting a comparative and feminist political ecology perspective, new advocacy strategies addressed four key overlooked links to advance just sanitation: land and housing tenure security, gendered normalised sanitation work and duties, public toilets use in markets, and closing the loop practices. The advocacy videos produced by the MSc ESD students and partners are available [here](#).

Interlinkages between action in sanitation and the SDGs.
Credit: Diagram adapted from Diep et al., 2020 (available [here](#)).



Since 2018, Pascale Hofmann has been part of a core group of interdisciplinary *UCL academics* to explore **the links between sanitation and the sustainable development goals (SDGs)**.

The global evidence review found that sanitation had synergies with 130 SDG targets and was vital for achieving all 17 SDG Goals. The team has since worked on translating academic knowledge into outputs for policy and practice through a few collaborative projects. This includes a set of policy guidelines co-developed with WaterAid. This research group also received funding from UCL Grand Challenges and the Global Engagement Office for **a joint project with eThekweni Municipality (South Africa) to co-develop a policy toolkit to aid improved SDG monitoring and evaluation**. By focusing on sanitation for all (SDG6), the project supported eThekweni Municipality in becoming a pioneer in the process of localisation and implementation of SDGs and demonstrated the wide-ranging benefits of sanitation supporting current initiatives in the municipality. The team has secured further funding to evaluate a range of sanitation solutions in Durban and the scope for scaling up.



Final Screening of ReFRAMED filmed produced by Inhabitants in Lima with CENCA support. Credit: Katherine Quiroz.

The UCL-Osaka Walking Cities Lab co-led by DPU's Daniel Oviedo, has entered a new partnership with Architects Without Borders (AWB) and Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WASUP) in Mozambique to conduct **the first walkability impact assessment of AWB's programme of open streets in the neighbourhood of Chamanculo C in Maputo**. The project will test new frameworks and methods to incorporate walkability criteria in the impact assessment of neighbourhood upgrading programmes. PhD candidate Maria José Nieto will be DPU's researcher in the project.

In June 2022, Barbara Lipietz and Tim Wickson convened **a week-long workshop on the topic of urban displaceability**. Displaceability is understood here as susceptibility to be distanced from full rights to the city. Funded by UCL's Cities Partnerships Programme (Paris), the dual-city workshop brought together academics, activists and partners from Sri Lanka (Iromi Perera), Israel (Oren Yiftachel), France and Egypt (Agnes Deboulet). The workshop entailed a series of engagements with community groups from London and the Paris region fighting to assert their 'irreplaceability' in the face of displacement pressures from large-scale, state-led urban transformation projects. It created a space to collectively reflect on the drivers, manifestations and resistances to this phenomenon across diverse geographies of displaceability.



Screenshot of one of the online workshops involving UniNorte's MSc students and academics in both universities. Credit: Maria José Nieto Combariza.



Final workshop in April in Athens as part of the hotspot project. Credit: Rita Lambert.

The ongoing collaboration between the DPU and Universidad del Norte (UniNorte) in Barranquilla, Colombia, will now involve three UniNorte Master's students as research assistants. The project, jointly led by Julio D. Dávila, will partially cover the costs of their MSc fees. Through hybrid workshops and with the participation of Daniel Oviedo and DPU PhD student Maria José Nieto, the students have helped develop **a novel methodology to understand everyday mobility injustices of diverse social identities**. Using low-cost sensors and other equipment, the students' work will help generate evidence about exposure to outdoor pollution of transport users in Soledad, a neighbouring municipality of Barranquilla. The students participated in the calibration of the equipment, data collection and analysis. A first phase, jointly funded by UCL's Global Engagement Fund and Universidad del Norte, will be followed by a second phase to be jointly funded by CAF, the Development Bank of Latin America and the TUMI initiative from GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH).

A project team led by Rita Lambert and Ignacia Ossul-Vermehren, in collaboration with the NGOs *Kota Kita* and CENCA, advanced collective narrative construction in two low-income neighbourhoods in Solo, Indonesia and Lima, Perú. With the aim of **developing an ethical and practical framework for working remotely on visual outputs**, the processes included training for facilitators and **webinars led by DPU**. The facilitators conducted participatory sessions in a low-income neighbourhood in their city. Participants – female and male residents from a range of ages – scripted, directed and edited their own documentary and the partners produced two 'making of' films. Another objective was to critically reflect on mundane practices in ways that expose broader social processes of control, power imbalance and symbolic violence, raising awareness of the ethical implications at every stage. ReFRAMED sought to interrogate situated ethics in visual representation with an openness to difference, to cultural and social sensitivities, confronting visual stereotyping and capturing untold stories.

In July 2020, Julian Walker and Ignacia Ossul Vermehren presented a paper at the conference of the Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE) in Lecco, Italy. The paper, based on research for the AT2030 programme addressed **Assistive Technology in urban low-income communities in Sierra Leone and Indonesia**. This paper will be published as part of an open access compendium, and the research presented has been included in the WHO Global Report on Assistive Technology (2022).

Although refugee hotspots give all indications of being permanent, their practices are still firmly lodged in the temporary logic of emergency.

Rita Lambert presented a paper entitled **A state in process: Negotiated state practices in urban development and social movements** on 23 June 2022 for a seminar organised by UCL's Department of Geography. Urbanisation processes based on negotiated arrangements and emergent state practices are ordinary spaces of negotiation that significantly shape urban development and politics in cities around the globe. Through the case of urbanisation processes in Lima, attention was given to the idea of urbanisation through 'corruption' and the way communal, private and government arrangements related to urban development are legitimised over time while generating new modes of state operations and creating highly unequal and heterogeneous cities including extensive developments on precarious hillsides.

The research project **Understanding the impact of the 'hotspot approach' to tackle the refugee crisis on fragile island systems** led by Rita Lambert and funded by the UCL Global Engagement Fund ended in June 2022. Working through a networked approach with practitioners, volunteers, non-profit and community-based organisations on five Greek refugee hotspot islands, the project drew important lessons with wider relevance given that the hotspot approach is becoming a blueprint for governments in other contexts to manage migration as well as to securitize and externalise borders. The project evidenced paradoxes that have long term destructive consequences. Although refugee hotspots give all indications of being permanent, their practices are still firmly lodged in the temporary logic of emergency. Consequently, this clash not only negatively affects asylum seekers' mental health and self-worth, but also the islands' fragile social, economic and ecological systems. The hotspot approach contributes to the destruction of self-constructed spaces for creative expression, learning, psycho-social development of migrants, and also makes local inhabitants more vulnerable. More information can be found [here](#).

Daniel Oviedo, PhD candidate Orlando Sabogal-Cardona and DPU MSc Alumna Natalia Melendez-Fuentes, contributed three chapters to the **Flagship Report on Transport and Social Inclusion of the Inter-American Development Bank**. One chapter explored spatial inequalities, coverage, the quality of public transport and social inclusion in Latin American cities. Another addressed transport affordability, its measurement, definition and ways forward for policy and practice. The third contribution was on shared mobility and its role in reducing social inequalities and exclusion. The report will be launched in a public event in September 2022 and is available online in English. It will later be translated to the bank's main languages (Spanish and Portuguese).

The research project Understanding the impact of the 'hotspot approach' to tackle the refugee crisis on fragile island systems led by Rita Lambert evidenced paradoxes that have long term destructive consequences.

Connections

Staff at the DPU
Graduation
Ceremony July.



The work of DPU alumnus Julian Reingold (**MSc ESD 2019**) has been selected by UNESCO to celebrate the 2022 World Mangrove Day. His photograph was taken during the ESD Programme overseas practice engagement in Freetown (Sierra Leone), and selected as part of 125 posters of selected mangrove insightful images. Congratulations Julian!



Image selected for UNESCO World Mangrove Day 2022. Credit: Julian Reingold.

Md. Shahadat Hossein (**MSc DAP 2004**), who gained his PhD in the USA, has recently become the Director of the Census Wing of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, having previously held the Planning and Development post at the same institution.

Sabelle Adjagboni (**MSc UDP 2021**) has started her new role as a Planning Officer for Haringey Council.

Karim Chedid (**MSc UED 2011**) became Head of the Investment Strategy team for iShares EMEA at BlackRock in 2021. Karim also sits on the board of an NGO in Beirut, Lebanon named Bedayati that works with youth from marginalised backgrounds, working on upskilling initiatives that respond to their aspirations for change with the aim of placing them in decent work.

Roberto Vedova (**MSc UED 2020**) is currently working at Shared Intelligence, a small London-based consultancy.

Chloe Whiting (**MSc UED 2022**) is currently based in London working as an Economic Advisor at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. She is responsible for leading the economic analysis on UK housing supply, planning policy and land infrastructure.

Ritwika Deb (**MSc SDP 2020-21**) has joined UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support as a Programme Analyst. She will be based in Turkey.

Returning to a face-to-face modality after a two year 'COVID' gap, the **DPU Networking Event** on the 7 June 2022 was joyful affair with over 80 people in attendance. It was a great opportunity for staff and students to (re)connect with alumni and learn from their diverse career trajectories. Coming from different sectors, alumni shared advice on how to navigate the job market and were a great inspiration and testament to the value and impact of a DPU education. The event was organised by Rita Lambert with Aishath Green, Dana Sousa-Limbu and Vafa Dianati.

The **DPU networking platform** launched in November 2021, is also proving to be a great resource to reconnect all those that have passed through the DPU over the years and expand the network of development practitioners. Using filters on the world map, the platform allows searching for people by year of graduation, by programme of study and by city. [Click here to sign up!](#)



DPU Networking event. Credit: Rita Lambert.

PhD news

In March 2022, **Marisol Garcia** successfully defended her thesis titled 'The politics of the making of the temporary urban. Narrative of Santiago's contemporary practices'.

In May 2022, **Ariana Markowitz** successfully defended her doctoral thesis, 'Staking out a feminist approach to researching extreme and chronic urban violence in San Salvador'. Since her defence Ariana has been engaged in numerous research activities. In her capacity as a co-convenor of the Women Doing Fieldwork Network, Ariana co-organised a body-mapping workshop in Birmingham exploring the impact of gender-based violence during data collection. Ariana was named a Trustee of the West Green Road/ Seven Sisters Development Trust, a key partner in the long-standing and award-winning Save Latin Village campaign. In June Ariana presented a paper with Ellen Van Damme entitled 'Reflexive metadata in gangland' at the Eurogang Workshop in Neustadt-an-der-Weinstraße, Germany. And she presented a paper with Noelle Brigden from Marquette University entitled 'Stairs to nowhere: Disciplining and excluding bodies using mobility infrastructures,' at Confronting Urban Violence Conference at Queen Mary University in March. And in July Ariana led a workshop on using embodied methods in contexts of violence as part of the Kindness in Research conference at Kings College London.

In May 2022, **Rachel Valbrun** successfully defended her thesis - with no corrections - titled 'Land, disasters, and built-environment professionals: Examining urban design for post-disaster reconstruction in Centre-ville, Port-au-Prince'.

In July 2022, **Andrew Knight** successfully passed his viva, after a strong defence of his thesis interrogating the boundaries of humanitarianism and tourism in Lesvos. Andrew recently co-authored a paper entitled '[Reflecting on Crisis: Ethics of Dis/Engagement in Migration Research](#)'.

Hanadi Samhan participated in a graduate workshop on 'New Urban Regimes – Controversies' led by Oren Yiftachel, 3-6 May 2022. In April 2022 she was invited to present her research on violence and space in Lebanon at the University of Exeter. In May 2022 she participated in a seminar at the University of Milan on 'The story of 'Beirut recovery''. In April and May, Hanadi also managed the BAME forum for racialized and ethnic minorities. She recently published an article in [Society & Space](#), a blog on space and violence at the [UCL Urban Laboratory](#), as well as a chapter on 'Vertical camps: The case of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon' in a book by Collective For Architecture Lebanon titled 'Architecture of the Territory: Constructing the National Narrative' to be published by Kaph Books (November 2022) and designed by Red Dot Award winner [Nathalie Elmir](#). She also participated in the DSA Conference as a discussant.

Khristine (Tin) Alvarez received recognition for a Top Cited Paper (2019-2020) in the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research (IJURR) for [Evicting Slums, 'Building Back Better': Resiliency Revanchism and Disaster Risk Management in Manila](#). She also co-authored a peer-reviewed commentary, '[Danger Zones,](#)' '[Death Zones,](#)' and [Paradoxes of Infrastructural Space-Making in Manila](#), in Journal of Urban Technology's invited special issue, [Splintering Urbanism at 20](#). Tin was selected as a participant in the academic workshop, [Beyond Splintering Urbanism: New Agendas for Infrastructure, Urbanisation and City Futures](#), gathering 30 early career and senior scholars from around the world in Autun, France. Other recent publications include three co-authored pieces on the 2022 Philippine presidential elections and a commissioned analysis in Jacobin ([By Failing to Transform the Philippines, Liberals Paved the Way for the Reactionary Right](#)).

Orlando Sabogal recently co-published a paper on the '[Links between Livability and Land Prices](#)' in Cali, Colombia.

Hands on

DPU Director Michael Walls together with Haim Yacobi **visited the Urban and Regional Planning Unit at An-Najah National University in Nablus**, Palestine. During their visit they learned about the Unit's numerous projects on infrastructure, housing and urban heritage and they discussed the overlaps with some of the work done at the DPU. This visit is a first step in expressing solidarity with Palestinian colleagues, and in building a platform for further academic partnership.

Michael Walls and Haim Yacobi at An-Najah National University in Nablus, Palestine. Credit: Urban and Regional Planning Unit at An-Najah National University.



Emmanuel Osuteye worked with the Bartlett Promise team (Sarah Rolph, Iain Borden and Sara Shafei) to design and deliver **a new dedicated scholarship scheme for applicants from Sub-Saharan Africa** wishing to study for a Bartlett master's programme. This fully funded scholarship is the first of its kind at UCL and has been well received (with over 330 applicants). Four students from Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Kenya have been funded to start in September 2022. The Bartlett Promise scheme is designed to help produce more diverse and inclusive built environment scholarship and education. Emmanuel Osuteye and Sarah Rolph (Bartlett EDI Manager) were shortlisted for the UCL Inclusion Awards 2022 and received 'Special Commendation' at

the ceremony on 13 July 2022 for their work on the Bartlett Promise Scholarships and their contributions to progressing equality, diversity, and inclusion practice within the faculty.

In March-April 2022, the DPU co-led project **Transitions to Sustainable Urban Mobility (T-SUM)** shared findings and outputs with stakeholders and communities in Maputo (Mozambique) and Freetown (Sierra Leone). Project partners at the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre organised a community engagement event at which outputs and tools for advocacy and policy engagement were shared with participating communities across Freetown. In the same month, T-SUM co-investigators Daniel Oviedo from DPU and Clemence Cavoli

Emmanuel Osuteye worked with the Bartlett Promise team to deliver a new dedicated scholarship scheme for applicants from Sub-Saharan Africa, which is designed to help produce more diverse and inclusive built environment education.



Community event in Moyiba, Freetown, Sierra Leone, March 2022. Credit: SLURC, 2022.



Attendees of the T-SUM project findings seminar, Maputo, Mozambique, March 2022. Credit: Oviedo, 2022.

from the UCL Centre for transport Studies attended a series of project seminars and workshops hosted by project partners WAZA, Maputo's Metropolitan transport Authority, and Universidad Eduardo Mondlane.

Liza Griffin acted as expert assessor for the UK's **Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs** 'Infrastructure Scheme Funding Initiative' which is designed to sustainably develop Britain's coastal infrastructure. Liza assessed large grant applications from industry bodies for their ability to contribute to social and cultural sustainability and generate sustainable livelihoods in coastal regions.

In May 2022, Daniel Oviedo participated as an **expert in the area of mobility on the European Roundtable on the Role of Behaviour for Net-Zero**, organised by the UK Government's Science and Innovation Network, the Swedish Climate Council, the Dutch Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, and Behaven.

Daniel Oviedo has joined the **Steering Committee for FORUMM**, the UK's network for policy and advisory on micro-mobility, led by Innovate UK and the Connected Places Catapult. FORUMM is playing an active role in current debates about policy and regulation around micro-mobility across the country. Daniel Oviedo and MSc Alumnus Armando Espitia advised the UK's Department for Transport in its strategy for the future of micro mobility in the UK as part of the Advances in Inclusive Micro Mobility (AIMM) project led by the Connected Places Catapult in partnership with the DPU, WMG at the University of Warwick, and Steer Ltd.

Staff news

David Satterthwaite, who lectured on the Environment and Sustainable Development Programme, has retired from DPU. David has made an enormous contribution to both the DPU and the field of development planning over many years.

El Anoud Majali has left the Health and Urban Development Programme to work in UCL's Central Admissions Team. Anoud was also the DPU News Sub-editor and has been replaced by **Jonas Le Thierry d'Ennequin**, currently a PhD student at the DPU.

Thanks to everyone for all their excellent contributions over the years!

Quratt Faheem has returned from her PhD fieldwork and will resume her role as the Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Health and Urban Development Programme. Welcome back, Quratt.

After **Annette Preddie's** departure, **Jack Harding** has been welcomed as DPU Programme Assistant.

Julian Walker has been promoted to the role of Professor of Inclusive Social Policy.

Daniel Oviedo, Donald Brown and **Liza Griffin** have been promoted to Associate Professor.

The DPU sends warmest congratulations to OVERDUE Research Fellow **Nelly Leblond** and her family, who welcomed baby Mona in April 2022! Congratulations too to **Ibrahim Bangura** at SLURC for the birth of his son!

Networks & meetings

Catalina Ortiz presented the paper 'Living heritage stories: Cultural organizations reimagining the Post-Revolution Medina of Tunis' at the workshop **Cities in the Middle East: the politics of representation and knowledge production in a globalising world** held on Sciences Po, Paris in March.

In April 2022, Adriana Allen participated in the UN High Level Political Meeting (HLM) that took place in New York and focused on assessing **progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA)**. The first five years of NUA implementation have been largely marked by mixed signals. On the one hand, this is marked by the weak engagement of national governments on its follow-up and implementation. On the other hand, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the relevance of the NUA commitments around the right to the city and the rights to adequate housing and basic service provision, and also the importance of public and common goods and the institutions that deliver them. These points were clearly reflected in the Secretary General's report on NUA implementation, which points to the right to adequate housing, access to basic services, to education, health and decent livelihoods as five key axes for NUA implementation, as well as the crucial role that local and regional governments (LRGs) and civil society organisations play to uphold such commitments.

Catalina Ortiz was invited to be Inaugural Keynote Speaker of the **Conference on Urban-Rural Research in Peru and Latin America** held by the URBES-LAB Research Centre held between April 6–8, 2022 with her paper '**Disobedient Urban-Territorial Research: Provocations for thinking about a decolonial agenda**'.

Liza Griffin and DPU alumnus, Kay Pallaris hosted one of the Bartlett's **Inclusive Spaces Seminar Series** on 'Mental Health and Social Justice in the Urban Outdoors' in May.

Catalina Ortiz and Natalia Villamizar-Duarte presented the project 'Counter mapping diaspora and queer communities' living heritage in Sheffield' at the **Critical Heritage and Social Justice Workshop** organised by the Art, Design and Museology Studios at IOE, UCL's Faculty of Education and Society held in May.

In May, Catalina was also invited to speak on 'Critical Urban Pedagogy' at the Race and the Architectural Humanities: How we (can) research, teach and learn **History and Theory Forum** hosted by The Bartlett School of Architecture.

In May 2022, Rita Lambert and Julio D. Dávila organised a half-day workshop entitled **Urban land and social housing in Latin America: Reflections on the role of the private sector**, involving presentations from Rita Lambert, Jorge Fiori, PhD student Isabel Brain, as well as rich theoretical and empirical discussions on topical issues. It also included a presentation from Camilo Santamaría (a DPU Alumnus and experienced urban designer, architect and planner from Colombia). The DPU also hosted Camilo in other engagements, including a talk to MSc BUDD students, where he shared his professional experience on the design of master plans in Colombia, and a

public lecture about the challenges of designing and implementing Parque Tercer Milenio, a very large and controversial urban renewal project in a run-down area in downtown Bogotá.

DPU was delighted to host some 120 postgraduate students from two programmes at the **Fundação Escola de Sociologia e Política de São Paulo (FESPSP)** in Brazil. The two groups of students, respectively studying for Masters degrees in Environmental Sanitation and Public Private Partnerships, were in London over a two-week period in June 2022. Most of those enrolled on these MBA programmes are mid-career professionals who will return to critical responsibilities in Brazil when they have finished. We are delighted to have been able to share some of our experiences and those of colleagues in London. DPU coordinated a range of lectures and visits to locations in London that were of relevance to each programme. This represents the first year in a partnership that we look forward to expanding on in the future. FESPSP was founded in 1933 as a private, non-profit institution committed to the social development of Brazil and to the application of the social sciences as a force for positive transformation. In that respect they share overlapping goals with ours at UCL. We look forward to exploring new facets of this exciting collaboration in the future and are already working on plans for the 2023 programme; a year in which FESPSP celebrate their 90th anniversary.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the relevance of the NUA commitments around the right to the city and the rights to adequate housing and basic service provision, and also the importance of public and common goods and the institutions that deliver them.

Andrea Rigon and Barbara Lipietz attended the **European Urban Research Association 2022** conference hosted by Polytechnic of Milan in June 2022. Their contributions focussed on the public engagement role of universities in urban fragile contexts. Andrea presented his reflections on different experiences in Brazil, Sierra Leone and the UK, and the political economy of public engagement at UCL. Barbara addressed questions emerging from her role as Vice-Dean International. Participants of sessions are working on creating a network and an edited book.

On 10 June 2022, Catalina Ortiz organised and chaired an event on **Stories of Spatial Violence in Asian Cities**. This marked the closure of the Yangon Stories project. The event documented evictions, human rights violations, and other territorial erasures. On 21 June 2022, Natalia Villamizar-Duarte presented the paper 'Exploring the Links between Liveability and Land Prices: Health Determinants and Inequalities in Cali, Colombia' co-authored with Daniel Oviedo and DPU PhD candidates Orlando Sabogal-Cardona and Alexandria Chong at the **International Conference for Transport and Health** hosted by

Guest speaker Vanesa Castan-Broto addressed her work as a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on cities, settlements, and key Infrastructure.

the University of Cardiff. The paper is one of the outputs of a Lincoln Institute-funded project led by DPU.

Liza Griffin presented a paper in June entitled 'Relational Wellbeing during a pandemic' at the **Centre for Urban Research on Austerity Annual Conference** which this year focused upon on the Post-Pandemic City.

In July 2022, Daniel Oviedo and PhD candidate Carolina Moore-Sagredo participated in the workshop **E-scooters and social exclusion: experiences from Newcastle** organised by Natalia Villamizar-Duarte from Newcastle University in the context of an ongoing collaboration for comparative research between London and Newcastle. The workshop involved representatives from local authorities and private e-scooter operators as well as academics from various disciplines.

On 18 July 2022, Thaisa Comelli presented findings from the research project **Are e-scooters contributing to transport-related social inclusion? Insights from London's Micro Mobility pilots** at the IGI-IGU conference in Paris. The paper is the first output of the research funded by the UCL Collaborative Social Sciences Domain involving DPU's Daniel Oviedo, Azadeh Mashayekhi and Thaisa Comelli.

Liza Griffin presented two papers at this year's **Royal Geographical Society Institute of British Geographers Annual Conference** in August. One was entitled 'Co-Creating a Healthy Parks Framework' with Gemma Moore and Ruth Hynes and the other, presented with Kay Pallaris, was called 'Thriving Greenspaces for Wellbeing'.

Haim Yacobi organised an **Early Career Workshop on Infrastructure, Inequality and the Neo-Apartheid City**, together with Moriel Ram (Newcastle University) and Charlotte Lemanski (Cambridge University) in collaboration with the UCL Institute of Advanced Studies and with the support of the Urban Studies Foundation. The workshop hosted 20 participants from France, Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey, and critically explored an emerging global urban regime - the neo-apartheid city.

The latest **(Post)Pandemic Planning in the South(s)** event called 'Our Home is on Fire' was hosted by the Environmental Justice, Urbanisation and Resilience (EJUR) research cluster and examined the climate emergency. Guest speaker Vanesa Castan-Broto addressed her work as a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on cities, settlements, and key Infrastructure. Vanesa's talk was followed by responses from DPU's Cassidy Johnson, Andrea Rigon and Liza Griffin.

Liza Griffin and Hannah Sender organised an event for the **Institute of Global Prosperity / DPU seminar series** on Mental Health and the City. Speakers Nikolas Rose and Layla McCay explored some of the complex relationships between place, poverty, and health and discussed the possibility of designing urban places for 'good' mental health. Liza and Hannah followed the talks with reflections which drew from their own research.

Haim Yacobi was invited to present his work on **Urban Syndemics and Health Justice** at the Department of Sociology, Humboldt University, Berlin.

Publications

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Cover Photo: A research participant for the AT2030 project and a member of FEDURP holding a textile banner celebrating inclusive mobility in Thompson Bay, Freetown.
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