



ISSUE 61 April 2017  
**dpu**news

In this issue:

Societies, states and markets:  
contested roles in a changing world

See Focus on, page 2

# Societies, states and markets: contested roles in a changing world

By Michael Walls



There is no denying that we are living through interesting times. The success of the Brexit campaign and the election of Donald Trump in the US represent the first big Anglophone successes in a rising tide of nationalist populism that includes Putin's Russian and Erdogan's Turkish governments amongst others. Set against terror attacks in Paris, Brussels and now London, it is clear that extremists at either end of the spectrum are feeding off each other in a mutually beneficial celebration of fear and xenophobia, with which they are successfully infecting groups and individuals who, in other times, might be expected to be less susceptible to such arguments.

Perhaps one of the most enduring aspects of these developments is the way in which the nationalism of these trends represents an explicit rejection of the (neo) liberal globalisation project. Many of us thought that the financial crisis of 2008 would mark the watershed moment when we finally saw the liberal consensus give way, but were surprised when the answer to the failure of liberalisation seemed to be even more liberalisation. Further roll-back of the state through austerity programmes targeting public spending seemed to have the support of electorates throughout Europe and beyond. But what appears to have happened is that, even though this initial response to financial crisis won elections, there was simultaneously a deep and growing dissatisfaction with it.

The troubling thing is that that dissatisfaction is finding expression in an angry but inchoate response in which many of the symptoms of the globalisation project are suddenly under attack, but without much coherence as to what might replace the consensus that drove it. It is that incoherence that has led to the bitterness of attacks on immigrants, Muslim communities and even 'Europe': easy targets backed by little of substance beyond an apparent determination to return to some romanticised notion of a nationalistic yesteryear.

Of course, that is deeply worrying, and it is important that we reflect on where it might lead us. And in that there are both risks and opportunities. A part of the anger

that has given rise to the present populism is directed at the growing inequalities that have long worried us at DPU. Never mind, for a moment, the incongruity of accepting billionaire businessmen and members of social elites as if they were worthy representatives of the interests of the exploited masses. The anger that exists also offers some chance for debate on what might be done to improve our deeply unequal societies. At the same time, though, we must assume that any real change in that respect will be met with strong opposition from the very interests that have so successfully manoeuvred themselves into power, apparently in pursuit of exactly that goal.

It seems very clear that the relationships between the actors in the classic tripartite division of society, state and market are in the process of being renegotiated. The focus on the strengthening of national borders and the protection of 'indigeneity' risks achieving precisely the opposite, as it exposes the deep divisions in the societies that are supposedly being 'protected'. The renewed prospect of Scottish independence underlines the point, as do the size of anti-Brexit and anti-Trump protests in London and other UK and US cities: the more extreme versions of neo-nationalism don't enjoy broad support, however passionate and vocal are their supporters. The electoral and political successes they have enjoyed recently rest on the support of diverse and often disconnected groups with a range of frequently mutually exclusive objectives.

The growing divisions in the UK and other wealthy 'western' societies between 'liberal' cities and conservative hinterlands again underlines the growing disparities within countries that threaten to undermine the nationalistic project. The level of antagonism expressed by some in the UK towards the cipher they call 'London' has been a notable feature of the Brexit debate. For many, 'London' represents an array of evils. With some justification, the city is seen as the home of financial and political elites, detached from the day to day realities of life in other areas. But at the same time, it is a city of diverse cultures and lifestyles that is seen as insufficiently 'English'. These narratives come together in headlines

such as '*Corrupt foreigners who launder money through luxury London homes face crackdown*' (Freeman, 2016); a feature which led with a photograph of a Nigerian convicted of money laundering and fraud. But it is also a narrative that ignores the reality of a city that is diverse not just in its huge array of cultures, but in its wealth and power. Poorer London communities voted to remain within the EU in similarly overwhelming proportion to wealthy ones (BBC, 2016), which rather undermines the argument that Brexit represented a victory for the poor working classes over wealthy elites.

These divisions between urban populations and more rural ones have been a focus of attention for DPU for many years, and must remain central in those to come. The nature and viability of the nation-state as a unit of development, and the relationships between its constituent parts and those beyond its borders, are questions of critical importance and the answers are being renegotiated as a new global system starts to take shape.

Perhaps the very nationalism of much of the discourse offers a space for negotiation. The reduced scale of the debate, as it is confined increasingly to the nation-state, could bring disputes over the role of governments in redistribution into a context in which it's possible to proffer genuinely different alternatives with some chance of achieving meaningful change. In other words, it might prove possible at national and city levels to achieve outcomes that have proven impossible at the global level.

But conversely, there can be no question that the tide in terms of rising xenophobia is moving in a very different direction from that anticipated in the DPU vision of "a just world in which men and women are equally able to choose, plan and manage their own lives and communities".

There are important contradictions, though. While the space for debate might be expanding, the increasingly rapid retreat of politicians - led by Trump's US administration (Halper, 2017) - from commitments to climate change mitigation suggest that the argument over whether

the best instruments are market-led or state-directed risk being rendered all but irrelevant as the focus shifts to efforts to save whatever can be rescued in terms of meaningful environmental policy. It's not yet clear how these trends will play out in the UK or elsewhere, but the same self-interested arguments over whether climate change should be taken seriously are present in this country as in the US (for example, Rose, 2017).

A similar thing seems to be happening in our own sector, as overseas development budgets come under increasing scrutiny. The Mail on Sunday have been leading a vitriolic campaign to abandon UK aid commitments, while UKIP have repeatedly called for cuts of between 75% and 80% in UK's overseas aid commitment (UKIP, 2017; UK Government & Parliament, 2016). In the US, Trump's first budget called for cuts of 28% to both US diplomacy and foreign aid. On this subject, some of the contradictions within these movements are evident. For example, while Trump's view is informed by a renewed quest for protectionism, UKIP's stated position is that free trade will "restore dignity and provide a real living to the world's poorest people". Presumably at some point, the existence of such diametrically opposed perspectives within the broadly populist discourse that currently seems united in its hatred of diversity will start to undermine that unity.

While Farage and Trump might be tripping over themselves to find common cause in the fight against the movement of people, there are deep divisions within the populist right, which will surely come to matter more and more as their influence grows. Therein must lie some potential to promote more progressive positions. Meanwhile, however, the challenge for those of us working in the 'development sector' is likely to be to salvage what good we can against the increasingly strong opposition of those who believe that 'British resources should be reserved for Britons'. We're likely to find ourselves allied to many who we previously saw as occupying positions on the other side of the debate. These two trends, on the one hand to salvage what we can, while, on the other, the debate throws

open the space for more genuinely and positively transformative change, will pull in different directions. It is going to be hard at times to work out who we agree with, and what exactly we are arguing for.

DPU's State and Market research cluster is, of course, deeply interested in many of these questions, as the appropriate roles of governments and private sector actors define the cluster's work.

We are delighted to be working with the UCL Global Governance Institute this year to present a series of events that looks at some of these issues (UCL Global Governance Institute, 2017). In June, Prof Jane Guyer, a renowned anthropologist from Johns Hopkins University will join us to talk about monetary systems and regulation in West Africa. Her presentation will be preceded by a day of discussions on informality and regulation involving academics and practitioners from a range of disciplines. Building on Dr Le-Yin Zhang's past work on climate change mitigation, we are also planning a seminar on green bonds and climate financing initiatives that will address the manner in which marketed instruments are being used to try and tackle environmental challenges. Further events will be announced, with the hope that we will be able to cover themes that include informality and policy, knowledge and value in poor urban economies, innovation and entrepreneurship at the base of the pyramid and others.

We hope that our events with the GGI, along with other cluster activities, will help to promote discussion on some of the issues that will confront us in the years ahead. As development and inequality are increasingly concerned with phenomena that are globally distributed, what should the role of cities be, in relation to each other and with respect to the nations in which they are situated? Can private sector initiatives deliver the kinds of environmental advances that we so desperately need? Can they help us to tackle poverty, and can they do both at once? Or is the capitalist system fundamentally unable to solve social and ecological dilemmas? And what roles should states and civil society groups play in promoting, supporting or opposing

such initiatives. Those are questions that demand urgent answers and they will also be critically important in shaping the world in which we will live in decades to come.

## REFERENCES

- BBC, 2016, '**EU referendum: The result in maps and charts**', BBC EU Referendum 24 June <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-36616028> (accessed 22/03/17)
- Freeman, C., 2016, '**Corrupt foreigners who launder money through luxury London homes face crackdown**', Daily Telegraph 11 May <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/11/corrupt-foreigners-who-launder-money-through-luxury-london-homes/> (accessed 22/03/17)
- Halper, E., 2017, '**The Environmental Protection Agency is targeted for some of Trump's most brutal cuts**', Los Angeles Times 16 March <http://www.latimes.com/politics/washington/la-na-essential-washington-updates-a-dramatic-retreat-from-environmental-1489677751-htmlstory.html> (accessed 22/03/17)
- Rose, D., 2017, '**Exposed: How world leaders were duped into investing billions over manipulated global warming data**', Mail on Sunday 5 February <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-4192182/World-leaders-duped-manipulated-global-warming-data.html#ixzz4cExiAKUC> (accessed 22/03/17)
- UCL Global Governance Institute, 2017, website (London: UCL) <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global-governance> (accessed 22/03/17)
- UK Government & Parliament, 2016, '**Stop spending a fixed 0.7 per cent slice of our national wealth on Foreign Aid**', official petition (closed 25 September) <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/125692> (accessed 22/03/17)
- UKIP, 2017, '**UKIP has reaffirmed its commitment to cutting the Foreign Aid budget by £9 billion**', Press release (16 February) [http://www.ukip.org/ukip\\_has\\_reaffirmed\\_its\\_commitment\\_to\\_cutting\\_the\\_foreign\\_aid\\_budget\\_by\\_9\\_billion](http://www.ukip.org/ukip_has_reaffirmed_its_commitment_to_cutting_the_foreign_aid_budget_by_9_billion) (accessed 22/03/17)

## 29 DPU students awarded dissertation fellowships for 2017

After last year's successful experience, this year 29 DPU MSc students have been awarded dissertation fellowships. Coordinated by DPU Careers Tutor **Andrea Rigon**, this scheme offers students the opportunity to conduct dissertation research on a topic relevant to the work of other organisations or research projects. Partners have included Save the Children, Y-Care, Just Space, Islamic Relief, HelpAge and many others. Careers benefits for students included networking, help with developing PhD proposals and winning scholarships, and even some job offers. Students strongly valued the relationship with partners, the negotiation of the research and the idea of doing a dissertation that was useful to an organisation. Some of the fellows share their reflections:

*"I found this fellowship programme very useful, I had a practical case study that I was able to analyse and assess. [The organisation] were very cooperative in providing me access to information".*

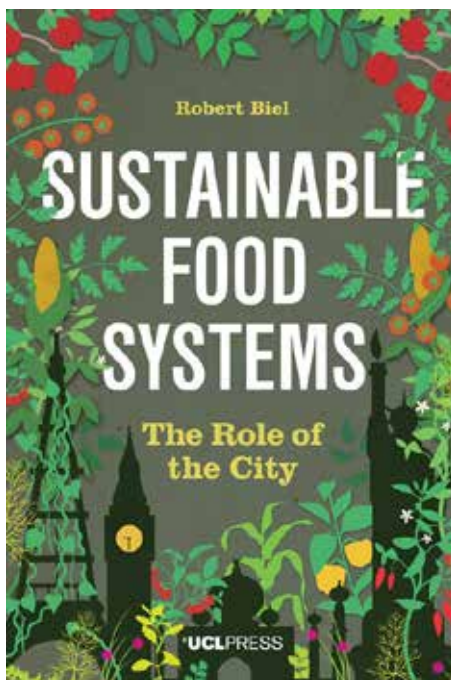
*"I think fellowships are great. To me it was a great experience, going to a new country, a new continent, so different from where I am from".*

*"I really enjoyed knowing that the outcome of the dissertation was not just a personal piece of academia, but would be useful for an external organisation. Since the academic year has finished I have remained in contact with Just Space and have produced an abridged version for them to circulate. It's quite exciting to know that this piece of work is not just for the grade, but for a wider network!"*

## Robert Biel's Sustainable Food Systems – The Role of the City published by UCL Press

The book *Sustainable Food Systems – The Role of the City* develops a long-standing DPU theme around urban/peri-urban agriculture and closing loops, as well as several London-based research projects involving **Robert Biel**, and UCL cross-disciplinary explorations around sustainable futures. It accompanies Biel's MSc module *Food and the City* (developed originally with **Yves Cabannes** and **Zeremariam Fre**), while drawing on his more general Political Ecology research.

Robert told DPU News: "How to sum up the book's theme? First, there's a technical challenge of inventing a sustainable farming approach; then there's the politics: class/national/indigenous struggles



against exploitation, notably by global food systems. How are the two related? True, they coincide, in the food sovereignty and agroecology nexus. But my hunch was, there's something deeper, perhaps a clue for resolving our alienation from nature. This

.....  
*Below: Community workshop to map water supply facilities in low-income areas of Dar es Salaam. Photo by Pascale Hofmann*

took me on a journey: how self-organisation applies to nature and society equally; how exploitative socio-agrarian systems work the land too much; how indigenous thought converges with Marxist dialectics; how farmer-based research can help defend academic science from the attacks of obscurantism. I wanted to initiate a big debate!"

The UCL Press E-book is available at: <http://bit.ly/2gxE7J2>.

## Mapping water supply facilities in low income areas of Dar es Salaam

Building upon her research on trajectories of urban water poverty, **Pascale Hofmann** was awarded a UCL Public Engagement Beacon Bursary to generate local knowledge about informal settlements that can be used to increase the negotiating power of low-income residents for better water services. She collaborated with the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI), a Tanzanian NGO, and the Tanzanian Federation of the Urban Poor (TFUP) to identify and map collectively used water supply facilities in a select number of informal settlements. This involved several mapping workshops where TFUP members and local leaders were trained in a methodology that allows the collection of qualitative and quantitative information that is spatially referenced and builds upon existing data collection processes by TFUP. CCI and TFUP subsequently adopted the methodol-



ogy in another project that looked at water supply and sanitation in informal settlements in relation to the newly established Sustainable Development Goals.

### Speech ExtrAction: Witness, testimony, evidence and voices in response to the mining industry

This seminar on the impacts of mining brought together academics from the US and the UK working on environmental sciences and human rights along with activists and community leaders from Europe, Brazil, Colombia and Indonesia. The event proposed a necessary dialogue between activists and academics to discuss the use of alternative evidence on the social and environmental impacts of extractive industries. Namely, the use of evidence from tribunals, witness accounts, and inhabitants' experiences could foreground the humanities' perspective on mining impacts, towards the co-creation of innovative responses to these global justice challenges. The event was linked to the four principals of the Bartlett Faculty Strategy: equity, autonomy, sustainability, and integrity and to the new UCL Grand Challenge of Justice and Equality. The intention was to help strengthen the work of a new research network in UCL with academic researchers and public engagement partners – the London Mining Network – looking at the ecological, economic, cultural, health, psychological, social, and spatial effects of mining on individuals and communities. This is in the context not only of the physical sites of the mines themselves, but also the constellation of spaces – real, representational and imagined – associated with them.

The seminar took place on 20th-21st October 2016 at UCL and was partly funded by a grant from UCL's Global Engagement Fund and was organised by **Diana Salazar** from DPU and Professor Jane Rendell from the School of Architecture, with facilitation from **Liza Griffin** and **Etienne von Bertrab**.

### International Network for Transport and Accessibility in Low Income Communities

The DPU is part of a network funded by the UK Research Councils' UK Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). The proposal for the network was led by the University of Leeds, working alongside three other UK partner institutions: UCL (DPU and Bartlett School of Planning), University of Oxford, University of Manchester and Durham University. The International

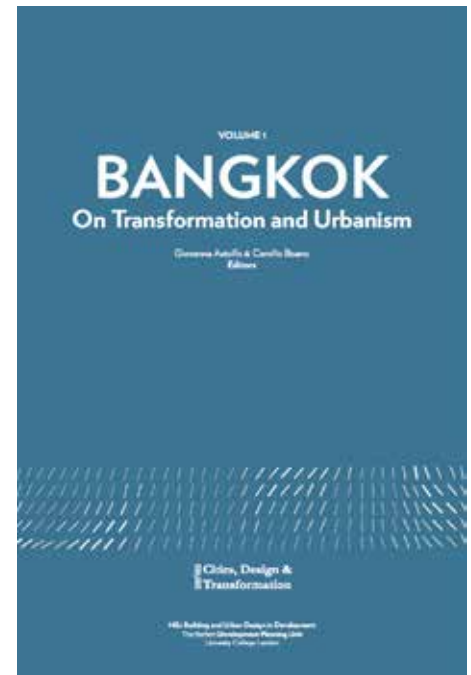
Network for Transport and Accessibility in Low Income Communities (INTALINC) aims to build capacity for interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaborations between academics, policymakers, project funders and practitioners in the design and delivery of socially inclusive transport systems in cities of the network's four partnering countries based in the Global South: Cape Coast, Ghana; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Lagos, Nigeria and Kampala, Uganda. The network will draw academic and policy attention to the crucial role transport can play in helping to address better personal mobility, reducing inequalities and creating economic growth. It has a specific focus on finding innovative ways to address the mobility needs of the cities' most vulnerable populations. The network addresses three of the GCRF priority areas: i) mobility and development; ii) the dynamics of inequality; and iii) innovations for inclusive growth, all through the lens of transport. The network seeks to co-produce knowledge between UK and internationally-based academics, policymakers and NGOs working within a broad constituency of transport- and development-related fields, which can support the development of more inclusive transport systems within developing cities.

**Julio D. Dávila** and **Daniel Oviedo** are representing the DPU and **Robin Hickman** is representing the Bartlett School of Planning. UCL staff will be working directly with the University of Lagos State in Nigeria, organising a workshop in November 2017.

### Bangkok: On Transformation and Urbanism

*Bangkok: On Transformation and Urbanism*, edited by **Giovanna Astolfo** and **Camillo Boano**, was published in July 2016 as the first volume of the DPU BUDD "Cities, Design and Transformation" book series. The book presents projects and reflections undertaken by staff and students from BUDD between 2010 and 2015. The work largely stems from the action-research fieldwork in Bangkok in partnership with the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) and in collaboration with Urban Development Planning (UDP) MSc programme. The book is both an archive and a manifesto that revolves around the key notions of urbanism and transformation. It allows one to navigate Bangkok's socio-spatial context, juxtaposing the analytical representation of "what is" with the speculative proposals of "what could be". While not claiming to be an all-inclusive account of Bangkok's reality, this book

highlights the continuous process of making and re-making the city, where urban design, as an expanded field of enquiry, plays a crucial role. The second volume of the series is in preparation.



## Refugee Cities project

With the multiple recent violations of the Geneva Convention on refugees, including the US President's bans on refugees and citizens from selected Muslim-majority countries, as well as the recent treaty between the EU, Turkey and Libya for the externalisation of Schengen borders and the closure of the Balkan and Mediterranean routes, questioning data and policy around refugees has become even more critical. The project "Refugee Cities: the Actual Spaces of Migration", awarded a Bartlett Research Materialisation Grant in 2016 and part of the wider UCL network on "Refuge in a Moving World", led by Elena Fiddian-Qasimiyeh, wishes to develop a digital platform that collects, organises and visualises evidence around the so-called 'migration crisis' in Europe. The project puts forward a strong political statement by representing the EU as a constellation of urban territories rather than a conglomerate of nation-states. Opposing anecdotal and populist interpretations of 'facts', the purpose is to dismantle overarching narratives such as the meaning of crisis, the rhetoric of invasion and the cost of migration. Highly investigative in nature, delving into confidential data related to border security, migration management, and humanitarian intervention, the collaboration of three teams based at DPU (**Camillo Boano, Giovanna Astolfo, Ricardo Marten**), Space Syntax (Kayvan Karimi, Falli Palaiologou), and CASA (Ed Manley) aims to depict the current 'European' landscape of hospitality, detention and deterrence. Collection, organisation and disaggregation of abundant as well as very fragmented data constitute the current challenge for the researchers involved in the project.

## Urbanisation Research Nigeria

Urbanisation Research Nigeria (URN) is a four-year UK Department for International Development (DFID)-supported research programme. URN is working to explore urbanisation trends in Nigeria and to create knowledge and evidence to inform future urban development policy and planning. Current URN projects involving DPU include the following.

**Participatory video workshop:** A DPU team consisting of **Alexandre Apsan Frediani, Alexander Macfarlane** and **Sandra Boni** (visiting researcher at DPU from Ingenio, CSIC - UPV), teamed up with Justice & Empowerment Initiatives (JEI), a Lagos-based NGO working to provide community-based paralegal services in



Above: URN Participatory video workshop.  
Photo by Alexander MacFarlane

urban poor communities, to conduct a workshop exploring the impact of the threat of evictions on residents' wellbeing. During the five-day intensive workshop, the DPU team and JEI, represented by Andrew Maki and Megan Chapman, worked with 25 participants from various communities across the city, all of whom were members of the Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlement Federation, a grassroots movement of the urban poor. The workshop used participatory video as an action-learning methodology to consider several questions around how people face the threat of eviction and what role participatory video could play in the urban poor's struggles to secure tenure and avoid forced evictions. The week culminated in a public screening and discussion of the films produced.

### **Pathways out of urban water poverty:**

In collaboration with the University of Lagos and targeted inputs by **Adriana Allen, Pascale Hofmann** led a project that explored the impacts of policy interventions on urban water poverty and their potential to effectively pave sustainable pathways out of it. More specifically, the research developed a more nuanced understanding of urban water poverty in Nigeria, focusing on areas of Lagos where urbanisation is not paired with adequate provision. The findings can help to improve future infrastructure planning and service provision and allow for more effective targeting of potential beneficiaries.

### **Urban infrastructure projects and displacement:**

This research project focuses on the relationship between urban infrastructure projects and displacement in Nigeria. The project kicked off in April 2016 with a workshop in Enugu, Nigeria with **Barbara Lipietz** and **Julian Walker**, and the Nigerian research team, Victor Onyebueke, Victoria Ohaeri, and Oliver Ujah. The team has since developed a national scanning database documenting 370 cases of urban evictions in Nigeria since 2010, gleaned from media, World Bank and NGO reports, and legal databases. The team is analysing this database to reveal patterns in displacement reports. Primary fieldwork related to four displacement cases in Enugu city will be used to more deeply reflect on patterns highlighted by the national scanning database. One of the key findings that has emerged thus far relates to the use of a range of knowledge and information practices to contest the legitimacy of 'public interest' justifications for displacement. This will be the topic of a paper which Julian will present at the Association of American Geographers' annual meeting in April 2017.

### **The role of economic knowledge in the informal economy of Zaria:**

This research has recently concluded and involved a partnership between **Colin Marx** and **Michael Walls** at DPU, and two academics at Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria – Professors Ahmed Adamu and Mohamed Bello Yunusa. They were assisted by ABU researchers, Babagana Abdullahi and Khadija Yakubu. The project ran from January to December 2016 and set

out to answer two questions: How does economic knowledge manifest in the context of the informal economy? And, how does economic knowledge relate to the competitiveness and livelihood outcomes of enterprises? Based on qualitative data, the research showed that economic knowledge manifested in several different ways and that enterprises that collaborated rather than competed tended to present themselves as more profitable. The research report will be out shortly and a number of other publications are currently being completed.

Below: Our urban agenda.

Photo by Alexander MacFarlane



### Political Settlement in Somaliland: a gendered perspective

This 21-month ESRC/DFID-funded research project concluded on 5 April with the launch of a final report at an event in Hargeisa, Somaliland. **Michael Walls** and **Amina-Bahja Ekman** were joined by Marie-Luise Schueller of Progresso and a five-person research team in Somaliland to carry out research on how gender has affected the political settlement in Somaliland. Working largely with qualitative data, the project incorporated a series of workshops, both with the research team, aimed at collaboratively designing research questions, and also with key stakeholders to explore the policy implications of findings. The Somaliland research team included Amina-Milgo Mohamoud Warsame, Suad Ibrahim Abdi, Kinzi Hussein Kowden, Haroon Ahmed Yusuf and Omer Eid Qalonbi, who collected the great majority of data, which was then transcribed, translated and analysed using NVivo. Key findings covered the roles played by clan and religious custom in maintaining the power structures in Somali society, and explored

some of the ways in which those have changed in recent years.

### Gender and informal livelihoods in Freetown

In February 2017, **Andrea Rigon** and **Julian Walker** worked with Braima Koroma and Sudie Sellu from the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), to run a research capacity building workshop on ‘Gender Sensitive Informal Livelihoods Systems Analysis’, as part of the DPU’s ongoing collaboration with SLURC, funded by Comic Relief. The workshop was attended by 32 participants, including residents of the four informal settlement communities in which SLURC is undertaking research, members of the Federation of Urban and Rural Poor – Sierra Leone (FEDURP-SL), as well as representatives of the Freetown city government, government ministries and NGOs working in informal settlements in Freetown.

During the workshop, pilot research was undertaken in two of the four informal settlements where SLURC is active: Moyiba, a hillside community, and Portee/Rokupa, a coastal community, both in the east of the city. The research focused on the key livelihood systems in each community: construction stone quarrying in Moyiba, and fishing in Portee/Rokupa, in order to demonstrate the importance

of these livelihood systems to the wider city economy and to understand their importance for women and men living in informal settlements. This can provide important advocacy data, given the tendency of urban governance interventions to disable, rather than support, informal urban livelihood systems.

The workshop participants engaged enthusiastically with the research, and highlighted several findings. This included the gendered nature of the value chains, with mixed participation overall, but very distinctively ‘male’ and ‘female’ nodes. Another highlight was the importance of stone breaking and fishing as fall-back sources of income for those with few alternatives, as they are based on the use of freely available resources (access to both the stone quarry and fishing rights are open to all) and can be exploited by those with very limited assets. At the same time, the lack of social protection in these livelihood systems was all too clear. The findings of this pilot research will feed into an ongoing research project on gender and informal livelihoods in Freetown.

Below: Fishing livelihoods in Portee/Rokupa community, Freetown. Photo by Julian Walker.



### Reducing Relocation Risks in Urban Areas at the Habitat III Conference and beyond

Resettlement and relocation policies are being implemented in many cities as a response to risks faced by informal settlements, including climate-induced or -exacerbated events such as flooding. However, while relocation and resettlement may reduce a region's future climate-related disaster risk, they can also increase people's poverty and vulnerability.

As part of the two-year Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) funded research project Reducing Relocation Risk in Urban Areas, DPU worked with Makerere University, Uganda (MAK), the Faculty of Latin American Social Sciences (FLACSO) and the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) to deliver a workshop in Quito, bringing together specialists in resettlement and urban risk in advance of the Habitat III Conference in October 2016.

With about 60 attendees from across government, academia and civil society, the workshop took place over two days and aimed to build on the research already undertaken by the project in urban areas across India, Uganda, Peru, Colombia and Mexico. A key objective was to develop a series of policy briefs looking at the social, ecological and economic dimensions of relocation and resettlement risk in urban areas, with particular attention to climate change. Outcomes from the consultation also informed a side event as part of the

.....  
*Below:* Reducing Relocation Risk meeting, Quito.  
Photo by Charlotte Barrow.



Habitat III Conference.

Findings from the project are currently being developed into a book focusing on urban risk related resettlement. Through chapter contributions from the team of researchers, it will aim to reflect widely on the problematic of resettlement and relocation from areas exposed to climate and non-climatic risks, including examining: i) political, economic and institutional contexts in which resettlement takes place; ii) the costs and benefits of resettlement from both the government and individual's perspective; and iii) how resettlement impacts people's well-being and resilience over different time frames. It will also draw on additional case studies from researchers involved in the project.

The project was led by **Cassidy Johnson**, working with external partners MAK, FLACSO and IIHS as well as a DPU team comprised of **Colin Marx**, **Giovanna Astolfo**, and **Charlotte Barrow**.

The policy briefs are available on the project microsite, as are site reports from multiple stages of the research: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/development/reducing-relocation-risk-urban-areas>

### Communicating hazard information in policy and planning

**Cassidy Johnson** and **Julia Wesely** are working with the Department of Statistical Science, Serge Guillas and Simon Day from the UCL Institute of Risk and Disaster Reduction on a nine-month Natural Environment Research Council funded research project, *Tsunami risk for the Western Indian Ocean: steps toward the integration of science into policy and practice*,

along with partners at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements and Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. This exploratory cross-disciplinary research project aims to model the probabilities of a tsunami event occurring on the Western coast of India and to explore how to communicate this information in development planning and disaster risk management at the local, state and national levels in India.

### Risk in Informal Settlements – Community Knowledge and Policy Action

The DPU, led by **Cassidy Johnson** and **Emmanuel Osuteye**, has partnered with the Centre for Community Initiatives Tanzania (CCI) and Ardhi University, Tanzania, to investigate the impacts of environmental risks on people living in informal settlements and how to get policy and community action to address these risks. The research recognises that to promote risk reduction and inclusive and accountable planning, local institutions need to have a better understanding of risks and vulnerabilities to which the population in their jurisdiction are exposed; for example, every-day and small-scale disasters, such as water-borne illnesses.

Two informal settlements in the city of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania have been selected for this study, Msasani and Mtambani, in Vingunguti ward. Researchers are working with community residents, leaders at the sub-ward ('mtaa') level and the Federation of the Urban Poor that are active in both areas. Two scoping studies of the major risks in the settlements were conducted in September 2016 and a series of workshops applying the "Action at the Frontline" methodology to generate data on the local experiences and metrics of risks has been scheduled for mid-April 2017.

The innovative nature of this project is to bring into public discussion what measurements should be used to show the realities of risks faced by low-income people in a way that is practical and straightforward so policy-makers can take action. This project is solely funded by the AXA Research Fund. (For further information, see <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/development/research/risk-in-informal-settlements>.)

### DPU's work on the Urban ARK project

The DPU's research on the ESRC/DFID funded *Urban Africa: Risk Knowledge* (Urban ARK) programme led by **Cassidy Johnson** and **Adriana**



Above: Karonga workshop: Participants in a risk-mapping workshop in Karonga, Malawi. Photo by DPU.

Allen examines governance and planning practices in urbanised African towns and cities and how they promote or reduce urban risk. In the context of Karonga (Malawi), Freetown (Sierra Leone), and Niamey (Niger), the project investigates the contemporary interaction between the structures of urban planning, including organisational forms and bureaucratic mandates, dominant development practices, plan-making procedures and individual stakeholder agency, and how these shape the (re) production of cycles of risk accumulation and reduction. The project also provides fresh insights into how the governance of risk reduction currently works to enhance the capacity to act of those most vulnerable to be trapped in risk accumulation cycles, as well as of state and external agencies to disrupt these traps strategically, inclusively and collectively.

The research findings so far suggest that the failings of the formal planning system and slow, retrospective, and poorly-resourced approaches to Disaster Risk Management (DRM) are critical to the production of risk in small urbanising towns such as the case of Karonga. It also highlights the complexities of customary land practices and their relationship to the planning and governance of risks.

The DPU has facilitated workshops in both Karonga and Freetown (in July 2016 and between February and March 2017) on participatory risk mapping methods, working closely with community residents

and the devolved local government structures of DRM within the cities. One of the targeted outputs of this process is to generate localised and georeferenced data on the hazard profile, vulnerabilities, and capacities to act within the settlements of interest. This data will be synthesized into a virtual analytical tool called ReMapRisk.

The work in Freetown is conducted in partnership with the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), another research initiative of the DPU. In Malawi, it is supported through a partnership with Mzuzu University.

The rest of the DPU team include **Caren Levy**, **Emmanuel Osuteye**, **Barbara Lipietz**, **Rita Lambert** and PhD Candidate **Donald Brown**. (For further information, see [www.urbanark.org](http://www.urbanark.org).)

### The legacy of cLIMA sin Riesgo

For the last two years, the project *cLIMA sin Riesgo* has been developing innovative participatory action-research methodologies to capture how urban 'risk traps'—or risk accumulation cycles—are reproduced in specific parts of Lima and to assess and make visible their impact. The aim of the project has been to build synergies between local collectives of the urban poor and state agencies to more effectively engage in concerted decision-making and financing processes towards a

just, resilient and risk-free city.

Led by Professor **Adriana Allen**, the project arose from the work developed since 2012 under the co-learning platform *Learning Lima*, an initiative by the DPU in collaboration with local partners in Lima, Instituto de Desarrollo Urbano (CENCA), Centro de Investigación, Documentación y Asesoría Poblacional (CIDAP) and Foro Ciudades para la Vida (FCPV). Since its start, the project explored routes for co-designing and co-financing actions to interrupt urban risk traps with resources available to policy makers and citizens alike. To achieve this, the project team undertook participatory georeferenced surveys and mapping in the historic centre and periphery of the city, formed strategic alliances, led multi-actor workshops, a regional workshop in Lima and a bi-regional workshop in Quito during Habitat III. This made possible the formulation of participatory strategies for



Above: Young visitors in the cLIMA sin Riesgo exhibition at Habitat III discovering interactive online story maps. Photo by Teresa Belkow.

action that could interrupt risk traps and reduce their impacts on the health and welfare of vulnerable local groups.

*cLIMA sin Riesgo* has now ended as an action-research project but will leave its legacy in the many spaces of collaboration and mutual learning forged throughout its course. Such spaces include three observatories set up by the project in collaboration with local partners in Lima: one focused on the periphery of the city and hosted by CENCA, another for the historic centre and coordinated by CIDAP, and one covering the Metropolitan area of Lima, hosted by FCPV. The observatories' objective is to continue to support actors on the ground to monitor and assess the consequences of risk accumulation cycles, to enhance the capacity to act of state agencies and ordinary citizens and to forge new collaborations towards risk reduction and prevention beyond the research areas.

With the support of the observatories,

citizens of Lima will be able to record small-scale disasters such as fires, localised floods and mudslides, among others, through *ReMapRisk* Lima, an interactive platform that supports monitoring everyday risks as well as public investments in disaster risk management. The platform was created by *cLIMA sin Riesgo* to make everyday risk visible, promote learning, collaboration and prioritisation of future actions to support those caught in risk traps to receive the strategic support they need through concerted projects and programmes. *ReMapRisk* also allows public enquiries on hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities to act at the household, settlement and district level.

The next steps in effective risk reduction and prevention in Lima are in the hands of its citizens and decision makers. The project team is confident that the local partners as well as the wide range community collectives, experts and public officials who have been part of *cLIMA sin Riesgo's* journey will continue to consolidate and expand the knowledge and strategies co-produced to work towards a just and resilient future beyond risk. To learn more about the project and to download the multiple outputs produced in the form of bilingual videos, newsletters and policy briefs, or to access *ReMapRisk*, please visit [www.climasinriesgo.net](http://www.climasinriesgo.net).

### ESRC project Mapping Urban Energy Landscapes concludes

The ESRC Project Mapping Urban Energy Landscapes (MUEL), led by **Vanessa Castán Broto**, concluded in November 2016, after over three years' research on urbanisation, energy access and inequality. MUEL's central research question was "What are feasible urban development pathways towards low carbon, climate resilient energy systems?" The project's team approached this question from a social justice perspective, seeking to understand the transformative impact of low-carbon transformations.

The overall message emerging from MUEL is that the provision of energy systems must meet citizens' needs as they define them. MUEL emphasized the importance of citizens' experiences of energy access. Urban low carbon transformations can only be understood in relation to specific contexts of urban development. One example is that of Maputo, Mozambique, where the extension of the electricity network has not actually brought universal energy access. Charcoal continues to circulate around the city as the main household cooking fuel. From this



*Above:* Makeshift innovations in gas transport in Bengaluru. Photo by Vanessa Castán Broto

perspective, the project has paid attention to the heterogeneity of systems of energy provision and use in different cities.

One key objective in the project was to generate new empirical knowledge about urban energy landscapes in the Global South. Working with local teams, the project has delivered in-depth empirical data for the analysis of urban energy landscapes in four case studies, each characterised by a different urban development challenge. First, Hong Kong represents the challenges of compact cities made up of high-rise buildings. Bengaluru is a city whose energy demand is configured in relation to sprawling patterns. Maputo presents a generalised lack of services and suppressed demands for energy. Finally, Concepción is a city where national-level ideologies are reflected in urban development patterns.



*Above:* Charcoal-based cooking in Maputo's streets. Photo by Vanessa Castán Broto.

Together they showcase the heterogeneous conditions that shape processes of energy provision and use.

The project concluded with three celebratory events. First, a two-day workshop took place in Windsor in May 2016, to bring together scholars interested in the theoretical relations between energy and space. Second, a postgraduate lab with the Institute of Advanced Studies was held at UCL, on "Critical Perspectives on Urban Infrastructure". Finally, a workshop on "Urbanisation, Energy Access, and International Development" brought together scholars from UCL with policy makers and activists working to influence existing international frameworks for energy access and advance the objective of Sustainable Development Goal 7, "Affordable and Clean Energy".

### Corridors of Freedom in Johannesburg

The DPU, in partnership with the African Centre for Cities (ACC) and the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) is developing a one-year research programme seeking to understand the genealogy and the institutional political economy of the *Corridors of Freedom* (CoF) in Johannesburg. The CoF represent the most advanced version of transit-oriented development (TOD) in South Africa, where TOD has gradually become an instrument for leading spatial transformation in the post-apartheid era. This focus on TOD—and specifically on improved mobility, accessibility and densification—can be connected to the increasing allure of the approach internationally in addressing growing socio-spatial inequalities. It also has strong local and national roots in a city marked by the historically inherited but ongoing spatial divide between housing location and employment opportunities for most citizens. The CoF are already shaping capital expenditure in Johannesburg and are the conduit for intricate institutional and regulatory reconfigurations within the municipality. However, many obstacles are likely to derail the initiative, including the technical difficulties of implementing such a complex urban intervention, its political management and (intended and unintended) externalities such as affordability. The research examines how the globalising discourse and policy toolbox on TOD addresses the power plays that are involved with pursuing spatial interventions in the post-apartheid city. The research project team includes **Barbara Lipietz**, **Daniel Oviedo Hernandez** and **Edgar Pieterse** (African Centre for Cities). The DPU

---

# Connections

---

team prepared a first research trip to Johannesburg between 21st March and 1st April 2017.

## New Year Events at the Indian Institute of Human Settlements

**Caren Levy** participated in a busy week of January events at the Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS), a long-term partner and collaborator of the DPU. The first part of the week, 16th-17th January 2017, was devoted to IIHS's Third PhD Workshop in Bangalore, engaging a selective group of 13 international early and late career PhD scholars in group tutorials and informative sessions with staff from IIHS, DPU and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. These sessions covered a range of issues, from methodology and research design to writing and publication, and included a Masterclass with Caren Levy.

In the second part of the week, 18th-20th January, IIHS ran its first interdisciplinary Annual Research Conference, Urban ARC, entitled 'The City in Transition'. The aim of the conference was "to push the frontiers of urban research originating from the Global South", situating "discussions on transition under a larger framework of knowledge creation from the South." Drawing participants from all over India and beyond, the conference brought together papers exploring and reconceptualising 'the urban in flux', showcasing new research across seven conference themes. In addition, there were two roundtables, one on methodology and another on pedagogy. Participating in two panels of global urban scholars, Caren Levy shared DPU's educational approach more broadly in the opening session and, as a participant in the pedagogy roundtable in the final session, through a presentation on 'Decentring Urban Learning: DPU's Pedagogical Project'.

This intense week in Bangalore with IIHS was engaging and stimulating. It generated much fruitful discussion on a wide range of urban issues in the Global South among an interdisciplinary and international range of scholars who share a common interest in the intersection of theory and practice in addressing current and future global urban transitions.

Caren Levy is Professor of Transformative Urban Planning the DPU. She is a member of the IIHS International Advisory Board, which also held its first meeting of 2017 during this January week. discussions on transition under a larger

**Alexandra Fomenko** (DAP 2015-2016) started an internship at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna in January. She works for the Civil Society Team in the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, assisting the development and operation of projects on migration, countering violent extremism, drugs and UN Convention Against Corruption implementation mechanisms.

**Asami Okahashi** (UED 2014-15) joined the United Nations Development Programme in New York after graduation.

**Chris Alford** (DAP 2010-11) was, until recently, Advocacy Coordinator at Servicios Jurídicos y Sociales (Serjus) Guatemala, but has recently joined Amnesty International as Campaigner on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Americas, based in Lima.

**Dan Daley** (BUDD 2015-2016), along with fellow BUDD classmates, has continued to work with people in London's Royal Docks following an assignment there. The students are now part of the first Neighbourhood Forum in the borough, meaning residents will be able to access funding to co-design a plan that the government must incorporate. Dan is also working full-time as a project manager for the small international charity Clear Village, which reimagines space for community benefit. Dan works with commercial clients, non-profit organisations and social enterprises to develop unique projects that address socio-economic challenges, and to foster social cohesion through commons resource sharing—for example through urban gardens and co-working spaces.

**Edwar Hanna** (BUDD 2015-2016) is working as a project manager at the Communication for Development Network (C4D Network, [www.c4d.org](http://www.c4d.org)), a global social network of individuals and institutions focusing on the power of communication for social change. Edwar is responsible for coordination across the Network, with members in 126 countries. In addition, he is managing several new Network projects, including one focused on capacity development around communications and entrepreneurship for youth in Syria, in partnership with UNICEF, and another that aims to gather case studies about innovative digital communications for HIV/AIDS information and prevention in Sub-Saharan Africa, in partnership with UNAIDS. Edwar is also planning to launch a new thematic group in the network focusing on

the correlation between the C4D and the built environment, and is planning a "C4D and Urban Development" event in London in the autumn.

**Emanuele Fois** (BUDD 2013-2014) has been working since January as construction manager for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Ukraine. He is based in Kiev but travels often to the field, overseeing the tuberculosis rehabilitation projects being implemented in eastern and central regions of the country, mostly in penitentiary and pre-detention centres.

**Felipe Ventura** (BUDD 2015-2016) is working as a regional assessor for three local governments in disaster risk reduction and urban development for the United Nations Development Programme. He is also volunteering with an NGO called *La ciudad verde MX* focused on tactical urbanism in Villahermosa Tabasco, Mexico.

**Hector Becerril** (PhD 2015) and Ana Maria de la Parra (SDP 2014-15) have been awarded one of the six grants of the Climate Resilience Cities in Latin America Initiative to implement a project on climate risks, gender and governance of public polices in Mexico. The Climate Resilience Cities initiative was launched by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) in Ecuador, and aims "to identify and promote innovative solutions for climate compatible development in small and medium sized cities" in the region.

**Jangmi Yun** (DAP 2015-16) has recently commenced a professional volunteer position at the UN Women Ethiopia Country Office as a Regional Liaison Officer/Policy Assistant.

Just after finishing his MSc, **Jorge Adrián Ortiz Moreno** (UDP 2013-2014) re-joined the academic team at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and they published the book *La Ecotecnología en México* (Ecotechnology in Mexico) (available at: <http://ecotec.unam.mx/Ecotec/publicaciones/la-ecotecnologia-en-mexico>). Jorge was then hired by the Municipal Institute of Planning in Morelia. Last year they published the first long term strategic plan for the municipality (available at <http://implanmorelia.org/plan-de-gran-vision/>).

**Josephine Wilka** (DAP 2012-13) is now working as a Coordinator with UNDP Albania.

---

## Connections

---

**Julia Tinkov** (DAP 2013-14) and **Victor Makaranga** (DAP 2014-15) are both now working with Transaid in London, who have projects focused on the provision of safe and sustainable transport in Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia and Madagascar. Julia is Finance and Admin Officer, while Victor is a Project Assistant.

**Lena Phillips** (UDP 2013-2014) is working for the Ontario Trillium Foundation, a provincial government agency in Toronto, where she supports the administration of the province's Local Poverty Reduction Fund. This is a \$50 million fund that supports and evaluates innovative, local, community-driven solutions that measurably improve the lives of those most affected by poverty. Previously, Lena was selected for the International Development Management Fellowship with the Aga Khan Foundation Canada. She was placed in Uganda where she worked as Programme,

Policy and Partnerships Fellow, sourcing out and developing new funding opportunities, programme areas and partnerships—including with the Kampala Capital City Authority.

Four DPU alumni completed the DPU *Young Professional Internship Programme*, which collaborates with ACHR and CAN. **Luisa Miranda** (BUDD 2013-2014) and **David Hoffmann** (UED 2013-2014) were working with the **Philippine Alliance** in Manila, while **Nausica Castanas** (SDP 2011-12) and **Cindy Huang** (UDP 2014-2015) were working with OpenSpace in Bangkok.

**Marieke Holscher** (UED 2015-16) joined the Dutch diplomatic service in January 2017.

**Priyanwada Indeewari** (UDP 2013-2014) is working as a (probationary) lecturer in the Department of Town and Country

Planning, at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, engaged in undergraduate level teaching and studio projects. She also recently completed a training program in *Teaching in Higher Education* and is exploring her way as an academic.

**Rica Garde** (DAP 2007-8), who was Head of Research, Evaluation and Advocacy at UNICEF Uganda, has now been appointed Chief of Social Policy and Economic Analysis at UNICEF in Nepal.

**Saskia Sickinger** (DAP 2015-16) has recently started an internship at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in Geneva.

**Yitang Wang** (UED 2013-14): published a Chinese-language novel entitled *The British Romance* in 2016. It is set in the context of UCL and reflects her learning experience at the DPU.

---

## Staff News

---

We say goodbye to three of the DPU's Graduate Teaching Assistants: **Rafaella Lima** (UDP), **Tamlyn Monson** (SDP) and **Kay Pallaris** (BUDD). We welcome **Timothy Wickson** and **Millimer Morgado** as the new UDP and SDP GTAs respectively. We also welcome **Ignacio Perez Karich** as the new UED GTA and also **Nina Neubauer**, who is providing maternity cover as the ESD GTA. We also say goodbye to **Rossana Poblet** who was a research assistant of the *CLIMA sin Riesgo* project, and **Charlotte Barrow** who was a research assistant on the *Reducing Relocation Risks in Urban Areas* project.

**Naomi Dixon** is providing cover whilst **Anette Preddie** is at the Institute of Education, and **Jack Jackson-Mooney** is serving as Programme Administrator while **Sharon Cooney** is on maternity leave.

We welcome several DPU babies: **Sharon Cooney** welcomed baby Grace, **Diana Salazar** welcomed baby boy Indigo, **Etienne von Bertrab** and ESD alumna **Anna Kydd** had a son, Emiliano, while **Giorgio Talocci** had a baby girl, Olivia. **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** is now on paternity leave, which will be followed by a sabbatical.

**Le-Yin Zhang** has been invited to join the Advisory Board of *The State of African Cities 2017* report. This report is a joint effort by UN-Habitat, the African Development Bank and the Department for



*Right:* Zeremariam Fre, Julio Dávila and Joanna Lumley at PENHA's cultural event. Photo by PENHA.

---

International Development (DFID). It will primarily focus on analyses of the roles that foreign direct investment (FDI) can play in promoting diversification, growth and resilience of African urban economies.

The MSc UED has a new module on the informal economy which is being taught this year by **Gloria Pessina**. The DPU launched its first undergraduate module in January. *Global Inequalities and Urban Development* is offered through the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (BASC) degree programme. It was developed out of a strand of the Global Citizenship Programme (GCP), UCL's free summer school for current students, and is being led by **Stephanie Butcher**.

After many years heading the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), **Zeremariam Fre** stepped down as Director at the African Legacy and Pastoralist Livelihoods cultural evening in December. Zeremariam was joined by **Julio Dávila**, **Patron Joanna Lumley OBE** and **Tekeste Ghebray**, former Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). PENHA have, over the years, hosted a great many DPU students as volunteers.

## SLURC launch resource unit of Sierra Leone urban knowledge

Founded by the DPU in partnership with Njala University, the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) has launched its resource unit. DPU project team members **Giovanna Astolfo** and **Andrea Rigon** attended the event with **Michael Walls**. The unit is an open-access library that aims to collect and make all urban knowledge in



*Above:* Reading up on SLURC activities.  
Photo by Giovanna Astolfo.

Sierra Leone available to those who need it. It includes a wide range of items including academic journals, policy documents, books, dissertations and maps. Communities, government representatives and urban professionals can access the library online (through [www.slurc.org](http://www.slurc.org)) or visit SLURC premises where staff will aid in locating the information needed. The launch took place during the annual International Advisory Board meeting attended by African academic leaders Nancy Odendaal (UCT, Cape Town), Blessing Mberu (APHRC, Nairobi), Ibidun Adelekan (UI, Ibadan) and Alpha Lakoh (NU, Freetown). Posing thought-provoking questions such as “Where do we want SLURC to be in 10 years’ time?”, the three-day meeting focused on the identification of actions to ensure the long-term sustainability of the centre.

## CAN Co-creation Workshop in Yangon

Thanks to a small grant from UCL’s Global Engagement Fund, Giovanna Astolfo participated in the Community Architects Network (CAN) Co-creation workshop in Yangon in November. The objectives of this introductory workshop were to strengthen active partnerships between DPU, CAN, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, and Women for the

World on the one hand, and Yangon Technological University, Association of Myanmar Architects (AMA) and local government on the other, particularly in light of the forthcoming BUDD fieldtrip to Yangon in May. The workshop was open to local architects and urban planners and intended as a platform for mutual learning, working together and sharing experiences on city-wide upgrading. CAN seeks to provide an architectural voice in Asia from outside the mainstream and have been working in Myanmar since 2011. Beyond the mere provision of expertise needed by community groups to design their projects, CAN builds their capacity to do so by disseminating knowledge and technical skills via ideals of ‘information exchange’. Within this process, the ‘learning’ and ‘doing’ dimensions are indivisible. The learning happens in multiple ways and directions, from/to the community, from/to the practice and from/to the practitioners. This creates an opportunity for co-creation aimed at reconciling traditional binaries such as ‘architects and people’, ‘housing and rights’, ‘city and nature’, and so on. Co-creation is a process of re-integrating the people with the city; the city with nature; and knowledge with practice.

## Building collective capacity to disrupt urban risk traps: capacity building workshop in Karonga, Malawi

Emmanuel Osuteye, **Rita Lambert** and PhD candidate **Donald Brown**, as part of the Urban ARK programme, conducted a three-day capacity building workshop in February to enhance the capacity of Neighbourhood Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) Committees in Karonga to monitor and document the processes that drive risk accumulation over time and to appraise the practices deployed and resources mobilised to mitigate, reduce and prevent risk. The objectives of the training were:

- To corroborate the working boundaries of the NDRM committees and identify the boundaries of the neighbourhood or villages within each of them.
- To consolidate and validate the knowledge relating to the hazards and vulnerabilities affecting the settlements within each neighbourhood and to evaluate the capacity to mitigate, reduce and prevent risk.
- To equip participants with skills to map (both manually and through mobile processing applications like Rambler) and monitor systematically the above conditions through the tool ReMapRisk.

## Welcome to cLIMA sin Riesgo and MSc Environment & Sustainable Development interns for 2017

Since 2013, students from the practice module of DPU’s Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) MSc have carried out field work in Lima as part of their training. For the second year in a row, the *cLIMA sin Riesgo* project will support their field work by engaging a group of ten local interns, selected from a strong pool of 40 applications from Peruvian citizens and from international students and young professionals.

The main purpose of the work is to explore the capacities of various actors in Metropolitan Lima – local dwellers, community organisations, local government authorities – to confront everyday environmental risks through innovative interventions structured across five strategic themes. Led by Adriana Allen and Rita Lambert with the support of Julia Wesely, Etienne von Bertrab, Nina Neubauer and Teresa Belkow, the students and interns will work together to evaluate the potential of a number of carefully selected interventions to contribute to transformative change in Lima, which can also result in valuable lessons for other cities.

*Below:* Hands-on in tackling urban risk.  
Photo by Teresa Belkow.



# Networks and Meetings

## Habitat III

In October 2016, a delegation of DPU staff attended the third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development. *Habitat III* represented a meeting of UN member states and key stakeholders to agree on the New Urban Agenda, a non-binding document intended to guide urban policy globally over the next 20 years. However, the conference also represented an opportunity for a diverse range of other actors, from NGO workers to both local and international campaign groups, to come together and further the discussion on sustainable and just urban development. An estimated 30,000 participants were in attendance.

DPU staff engaged in Habitat III in a wide variety of ways, including offering critiques of the process behind the New Urban Agenda; attempting to influence the content of the document; as well as using the opportunity to connect with others on crucial urban issues. Some key DPU events and activities were as follows:

**Le-Yin Zhang** chaired the Habitat III Policy Unit on Urban Economic Development Strategies with the support of **Julio D. Dávila**, the outcome of which was Policy Paper 7 that emphasised the need to support livelihoods and the informal economy as well as corporate business activities. In Quito, Le-Yin and Julio participated in the UN-Habitat policy dialogue on Urban Economic Development Strategies, which discussed the need and potential intervention for productive, sustainable, and inclusive urban economies.

Findings from the collaborative research project *'Reducing Relocation Risk in Urban Areas'*, led by **Cassidy Johnson**, were presented following a two-day workshop during Habitat III. The event, organised with project partners (Indian Institute for Human Settlements, the Latin American Social Science Institute (FLACSO), and Makerere University), discussed how risk is perpetuated and/or new risk created through existing relocation and resettlement initiatives, along with ideas for more effective risk reduction.

A DPU team including **Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, **Barbara Lipietz**, **Rafaella Lima** and **Sawsan Abou Zainedin** partnered with the international civil society network Habitat International Coalition (HIC) to conduct research into how Habitat III preparations in various countries involved civil society groups, as well as to coordinate regional responses to the official regional reporting processes. In Quito, DPU

participated in the HIC general assembly meeting as well as in a side event looking at the New Agenda in light of Human rights and Habitat II commitments. Participants re-emphasised that the New Agenda should be rooted in a human rights approach and that a more rigorous framework is needed to follow up on Habitat II commitments.

A networking event on disrupting urban risk traps chaired by **Adriana Allen** rounded off a three-day public exhibition of the *clIMA sin Riesgo* project, which explores the connection between urban development and the production and re-production of everyday risks in Lima, Peru. The networking event was co-organised with the Urban ARK project and brought several community leaders from the historic centre and periphery of Lima and participants from various cities in Latin American and Sub-Saharan Africa to discuss strategic actions that can contribute to tackle risk accumulation cycles in an effective and inclusive way.

The Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), created through a partnership between DPU and Njala University, held its international launch through a press conference at Habitat III. **Andrea Rigon** and **Alexandre Apsan Frediani** coordinated and supported a delegation including the Mayor of Freetown, the Environment and Social Officer of Freetown City Council and the two SLURC co-directors, **Joseph Macarthy** and **Braima Koroma**. SLURC operates as an urban learning alliance with the aim of generating knowledge that could bring together city actors to achieve just urban development.

DPU director **Julio D. Dávila** presented a multidisciplinary view of urban transport and social development in a lecture delivered at the Escuela Politecnica Nacional.

**Vanesa Castán Broto** presented at an ESRC event on transforming research into practices and policies, looking at the implementation and evaluation of the New Urban Agenda. She also delivered a keynote lecture to the National Network of Ecuadorian Architects in PUCE.

**Le-Yin Zhang** also spoke at the book launch of the *Finance for City Leaders Handbook*, alongside representatives of UN-Habitat and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy as part of a side event on *'The Economics of the Three Pronged Approach to Urbanization: Planned City Extension, Legal Framework, and Municipal Finance'* organised by UN-Habitat, Urban Morphology and Complex Systems Institute.

**Cassidy Johnson**, **Adriana Allen** and **Emmanuel Osuteye** joined the Urban ARK Stakeholder and Annual Team meeting in Ibadan, Nigeria, in January 2017. The event brought together community organisations, local government officials, planning practitioners and academics to debate long-held assumptions about how African cities work and who holds the power and capacity to tackle the build-up of risk accumulation cycles.

Tim Ndezi and Festo Makoba from the Centre for Community Initiatives, Dar es Salaam, visited London between 20 February and 3 March for a series of activities and events co-hosted by the DPU and IIED. This included participation in the IIED Communications Week, on-going work with **Cassidy Johnson** as part of her AXA Metrics for Policy Action in Urban Areas research, development of a joint research proposal with IIED and DPU, and presentations with the MSc in Urban Development Planning.

**Julio D. Dávila** and **Daniel Oviedo Hernandez** participated in the RuedaLab Congress on *'Bicycles in the City in Latin America'* in Bogotá in November 2016. The conference was organised as part of a collaboration with Universidad de los Andes in Colombia and the Inter-American Development Bank in the framework of a joint research project to develop guidelines for inclusive cycling infrastructure planning. Julio was the keynote speaker and Daniel presented on a panel.



*Above left:* Local dwellers from the periphery of Quito and Lima exchanging experiences at the *clIMA sin Riesgo* exhibition. Photo by Adriana Allen.

*Above right:* At the SLURC international launch at Habitat III. Photo by Rafaella Lima.

*Below left:* Attendees at the DPU alumni dinner, held in Quito during Habitat III. Photo by DPU.

*Below right:* The DPU team working with SLURC partners on the work undertaken in Freetown (Sierra Leone). Photo by Adriana Allen.

# PhD Programme

The following students were awarded their PhD degrees in November 2016:

**Martin Sanzana Calvet**, “The greening of neoliberal urbanism in Santiago de Chile: urbanisation by green enclaves and the production of a new socio-nature in Chicureo,” supervised by Vanesa Castán Broto and Liza Griffin.

**Karol Yañez Soria**, “Civil networks as a force to challenge the dominant food system, the case of the network in defence of maize in Mexico,” supervised by Yves Cabannes and Robert Biel.

**Daniel Oviedo Hernandez**, “Mobilities at the edge: splintering urbanism and transport-related social exclusion in Soacha, Colombia, 2000-2013”, supervised by Julio D. Dávila and Colin Marx as well as Dr. Helena Titheridge at the Centre for Transport Studies.

DPU PhD candidate **Donald Brown** has been awarded the Chadwick Trust Travelling Fellowship for his research which seeks to better understand environmental health in smaller African urban centres through an in-depth case study of Karonga Town, Malawi. His study is also part of an international research project called Urban Africa Risk Knowledge (Urban ARK). Each year, UCL awards the Chadwick Trust Travelling Fellowship, in honour of Sir Edwin Chadwick, one of the most influential sanitary reformers in mid-nineteenth century Britain. Given his focus on water and sanitation, Donald was also named the Jeroen Ensink Fellow for 2016-17, in honour of the former Chadwick Trustee and Senior Lecturer in Public Health Engineering at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr. Jeroen Ensink.

**Green Belts in the production of Urban Nature: Case study of Vitoria-Gasteiz.**

**Rebeca Dios** is an Architect specialised in landscape planning, urban planning and the environment, doing her PhD at the Polytechnic University of Madrid in Spain. She joined the DPU in September 2016 as a visiting research student to work under the mentorship of Professor Adriana Allen. Her research entitled ‘Green Belts in the production of Urban Nature: Case study of Vitoria-Gasteiz’, examines the historical evolution of green belt planning both discursively and in practice, and the way in which Green Belts have shaped the relationship between the ‘city’ and ‘nature’. Her main case study in Spain offers a nuanced narrative of the green belt planning process adopted in Vitoria-Gasteiz, capital of Basque Country and named European



Green Capital in 2012. Drawing on her own seven-year engagement in this process, she explores how and why the experience of Vitoria-Gasteiz not only came to embody a notable effort to integrate socio-ecological planning into urban planning in Spain, but also a starting point from where to reframe and re-evaluate the potential of Green Belts today. It is in the face of this challenging current global urban context that Green Belts are becoming popular again. Whether they can be inclusive of environmental and social justice or not is what Rebeca has come to address at the DPU, where she has found an inspiring and enriching academic environment in which to pursue her research from a Political Ecology perspective.

**Peri-urbanisation in Bangalore: Practices and sites of knowledge production and information exchange.**

The future of urbanisation is a peri-urban story. An estimated 45% of the future urban citizenry will settle down in today's peri-urban territories by 2020. In India, the urgency of peri-urbanisation is reflected through massive infrastructure projects, expanding master-plannable areas and roaring real-estate speculation. To understand the current transformations in cities of the global South, scholars argue that urban governance is shifting from the governance of populations to the governance of territories in an attempt to leap-frog into urban futures. **Swetha Rao Dhananka** is currently a post-doc fellow with the DPU and IIHS. During her 18-month fellowship sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation, she is

*Above: Integrating socio-ecological and urban planning, Green Belt of Vitoria-Gasteiz.*  
Photo by Rebeca Dios

examining the informational networks and knowledge production practices and sites at different scales that generate the peri-urban built environment of the city of Bangalore. She has a long-standing engagement with the city and currently works with Professor Adriana Allen, whose research on the peri-urban is extensive. Preliminary results shift the focus from a technocratic towards an ‘everyday’ conception of planning, highlighting the strong imbrication of land transactions and development work with the political ambitions of current and future incumbents. The research also recognises social gatherings such as marriages, private house-warming and religious inauguration ceremonies as vernacular sites of information exchange and planning.

*Below: Developments in peri-urban Bangalore behind the gaze of the public.*  
Photo by Swetha Rao



# Publications

- Allen, A. & Hofmann, P. (2017). **“Relational Trajectories of Urban Water Poverty in Lima and Dar es Salaam”**, in Lacey, A. (Ed.) *Women, Urbanization and Sustainability: Practices of Survival, Adaptation and Resistance*. London: Palgrave: 93-117.
- Allen, A., Hofmann, P., Mukherjee, J. & Walnycki, A. (2017). **“Water trajectories through non-networked infrastructure: insights from peri-urban Dar es Salaam, Cochabamba and Kolkata”**. *Urban Research & Practice* Vol. 10(1): 22-42.
- Allen, A., Koroma, B., Osuteye, E. & Rigon, A. (2017). **“Urban Risk in Freetown Informal Settlements: Making visible the invisible”**, Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) Policy Brief, March 2017.
- Astolfo, G. & Boano, C. (Eds.) (2016). **Bangkok: On Transformation and Urbanism**. Vol. 1 *Cities, Design and Transformation Series*. London: The Bartlett Development Planning Unit.
- Bell, S., Allen, A., Hofmann, P. & Teh, T.H. (Eds.) (2016). **Urban Water Trajectories**. *Future City Series*, Vol. 6. Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Boano, C. (2016). **“Dharavi : where the urban design episteme is falling apart”**, in Bolay, J.C., Chenal, J. & Pedrazzini, Y. *Learning from the Slums for the Development of Emerging Cities*. Cham: Springer International Publishing: 159-172.
- Boano, C. (2016). **“Philosophical thinking as political praxis: Giorgio Agamben and inoperative architecture”**, in Stoppani, T., Ponzio, G. & Themistokleous, G. (Eds.) *This Thing Called Theory*. London: Routledge: 67-77.
- Boano, C. (2017). **The Ethics of a Potential Urbanism: Critical Encounters between Giorgio Agamben and Architecture**. London: Routledge.
- Caprotti, F., Cowley, R., Datta, A., Castán Broto, V., Gao, E., Georgeson, L., Herrick, C., Odendaal, N. & Joss, S. (2017). **“The New Urban Agenda: key opportunities and challenges for policy and practice”**. *Urban Research & Practice*.
- Castán Broto, V. (2016). **“Natural Gas and Climate Finance”**. *Climate Policy*.
- Castán Broto, V. (2017). **“Energy sovereignty and development planning: the case of Maputo, Mozambique”**. *International Development Planning Review*.
- Castán Broto, V. (2017). **“Energy landscapes and urban trajectories towards sustainability”**. *Energy Policy*.
- Castán Broto, V. (2017). **“Urban Governance and the Politics of Climate Change”**. *World Development*.
- Castán Broto, V. & Westman, L. (2016). **“Just Sustainabilities and Local Action: Evidence from 400 Flagship Initiatives”**. *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*.
- Frediani, A. A., Lipietz, B. & Butcher, S. (2016). **“Strategic Upgrading: Lessons from International Critical Practices”** in Cirolia, L., Görgens, T., Van Donk, M., Smit, W. & Drimie, S. (Eds.) *Pursuing a Partnership Based Approach to Incremental Informal Settlement Upgrading in South Africa*. UCT Press.
- Guibrunet, L. & Castán Broto, V. (2016). **“Towards an urban metabolic analysis of the informal city”**, in Archer, K. & Bezdecny, K. (Eds.) *Handbook of Cities and the Environment*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing: 160-180.
- Guibrunet, L., Sanzana Calvet, M. & Castán Broto, V. (2016). **“Flows, system boundaries and the politics of urban metabolism: waste management in Mexico City and Santiago de Chile”**. *Geoforum*.
- Guzman, L. A., Oviedo, D. & Bocarejo, J. P. (2017). **“City profile: The Bogotá Metropolitan Area that never was”**. *Cities*, Vol. 60, Part A: 202-215.
- Guzman, L. A., Oviedo, D. & Rivera, C. (2017). **“Assessing equity in transport accessibility to work and study: The Bogotá region”**. *Journal of Transport Geography*, Vol. 58: 236-246.
- Habitat III Policy Unit 7 (2016). **“Urban Economic Development Strategies”**. *Habitat III Policy Papers*. Nairobi: UN-Habitat.
- Hofmann, P. (2017). **“Multi-layered Trajectories of Water and Sanitation Poverty in Dar es Salaam”**, in Bell, S., Allen, A., Hofmann, P. & Teh, T.H. (Eds.) (2016). *Urban Water Trajectories*. *Future City Series*, Vol. 6. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing: 103-118.
- Kamiya, M. & Zhang, L.Y. (Eds.) (2016). **Finance for City Leaders Handbook**. Nairobi: UN-Habitat.
- Marx, C., Walls, M., Adamu, A., & Yunusa, M. B. (2016). **Economic Knowledge in the Informal Economy of Zaria** (Urbanisation Research Nigeria (URN). London: ICF International.
- Ortegon-Sanchez, A. & Oviedo, D. (2016). **Assessment of the potential for modal shift to non-motorised transport in a developing context: Case of Lima, Peru**. *Research in Transportation Economics*.
- Ortiz, C. & Lipietz, B. (Eds.) (2016). **Grounded Planning: People-centred Urban Development Practices in the Philippines**. The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, Asian Coalition of Housing Rights & Community Architects Network.
- Osuteye, E., Johnson, C. & Brown, D. (2016). **“The data gap: An analysis of data availability on disaster losses in sub-Saharan African Cities”**, *Urban Africa Risk Knowledge*, Working Paper 11: 1-41.
- Oviedo, D. & Titheridge, H. (2016). **“Mobilities of the Periphery: Informality, Access and Social Exclusion in the Urban Fringe in Colombia”**. *Journal of Transport Geography*, Vol. 55: 152-164.
- Patel, K. (2016). **“Sowing the seeds of conflict? Low income housing delivery, community participation, and inclusive citizenship in South Africa”**, *Urban Studies* 53(13): 2738-2757.
- Patel, K. (2016). **“Encountering the state through legal tenure security: perspectives from a low income resettlement scheme in urban India”**, *Land Use Policy*, Vol. 58: 102-113.
- Patel, K. (2016). **“Reciprocity as power, influence and obligation: Evidence from using diaries”**, in Mottiar, S. & Ngcoya, M. (Eds.) *Philanthropy in South Africa: Horizontality, Ubuntu and Social Justice*. Pretoria: Human Sciences Research Council.
- Patel, K. (2016). **“Sowing the seeds of conflict? Low income housing delivery, community participation, and inclusive citizenship in South Africa”**. *Urban Studies*, Vol. 59(13): 2738-2757.
- Sanzana Calvet, M. & Castán Broto, V. (2016). **“Green enclaves, neoliberalism and the constitution of the experimental city in Santiago de Chile”**, in Evans, J., Karvonen, A. & Raven, R. (Eds.) *The Experimental City*. London: Routledge.
- Schuessler, M., Walls, M., Jama, J.M., Rader, A. & Ekman, A-B. (2017). **“Report on 2016 Voter Registration in Somaliland”**, FCO-funded consultancy report, London: Progressio/UCL.
- Talocci, G. & Boano, C. (2017). **“Phnom Penh’s Relocation Sites and the Obliteration of Politics”**, in Brickell, C. and Springler, S. (Eds.) *Handbook of Contemporary Cambodia*. London: Routledge: 245-257.
- Trencher, G., Castán Broto, V., Takagi, T., Sprigings, Z., Nishida, Y. & Yarime, M. (2016). **“Innovative policy practices to advance building energy efficiency and retrofitting: Approaches, impacts and challenges in ten C40 cities”**. *Environmental Science and Policy*, Vol. 66: 353-365.
- Twigg, J., Christie, N., Haworth, J., Osuteye, E. & Skarlatidou, A. (2017). **“Improved Methods for Fire Risk Assessment in Low-Income and Informal Settlements”**. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, Vol. 14: 139.
- Vergara Perucich, F. & Boano, C. (2016). **“Bajo escasez. ¿Media casa basta? Reflexiones sobre el Pritzker de Alejandro Aravena”**. *Revista de Arquitectura*, Vol. 21(31): 37-46.
- Walls, M., Schuessler, M., & Ekman, A-B. (2017). **“Research Report: Political Settlement in Somaliland: A gendered perspective”**, ESRC/DFID funded research, London: UCL/Progressio.

DPUNews is published by the Development Planning Unit, UCL.

The Development Planning Unit is an international centre specialising in academic teaching, practical training, research and consultancy in sustainable urban and regional development policy, planning and management.

Editor: Michael Walls, with Rafaella Lima

Development Planning Unit  
University College London  
34 Tavistock Square  
London WC1H 9EZ  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7679 1111  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7679 1112  
Email: dpu@ucl.ac.uk

[www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu)

*Cover photo:* Portable energy systems for street food vendors in Hong Kong. Photo by Vanesa Castán Broto



Planning for socially just and sustainable development in the global south