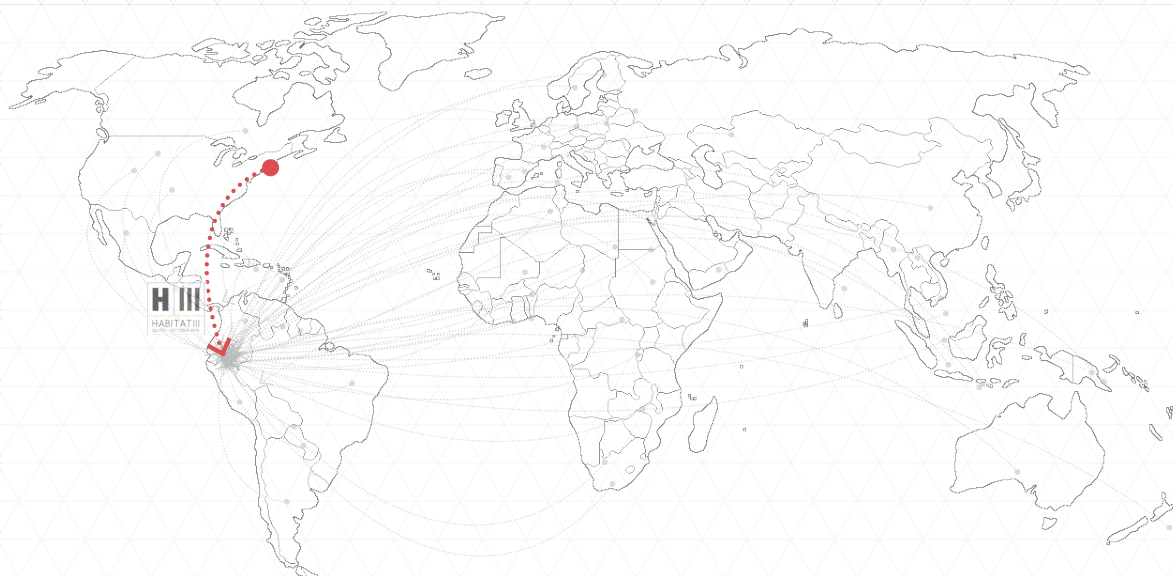




TOWARDS A NEW URBAN PRACTICE

**Contributions of the Global Urban Futures Project to
Rethinking Urban and Climate Policy**

FEBRUARY 2015 - DECEMBER 2016



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I. INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE GUF

As the world continues to urbanize, there is a growing global recognition that the solutions to **climate change, rising inequality, and uneven economic growth** must occur in cities. These problems are becoming more critical every day, yet there appear to be weak or misdirected responses by governments, international organizations, and thought leaders.

The Global Urban Futures Project (GUF), a learning network of scholars and activists within the New School, was created to discuss and research the drivers of these growing concerns, and to contribute to the conversation about urban policy. The GUF encourages an approach to urban issues that considers the economy, the environment, and society jointly, not separately – and fosters ambitious new ideas and solutions.



On Trial: A Tribunal on Failed Governance held on February 27, 2015

The GUF was inaugurated with a rather unusual event. On February 27, 2015, we organized a **Global Tribunal** to focus attention on the failure of governance in addressing inequality, climate change, and jobless growth, as well as the lack of institutional accountability that these challenges represent. Sixteen organizations partnered in this seven-hour event, which attracted more than 200 participants.

During the tribunal, a Prosecutor presented the state of affairs and an indictment against the global governance system. The Defense, played by New School faculty and graduate

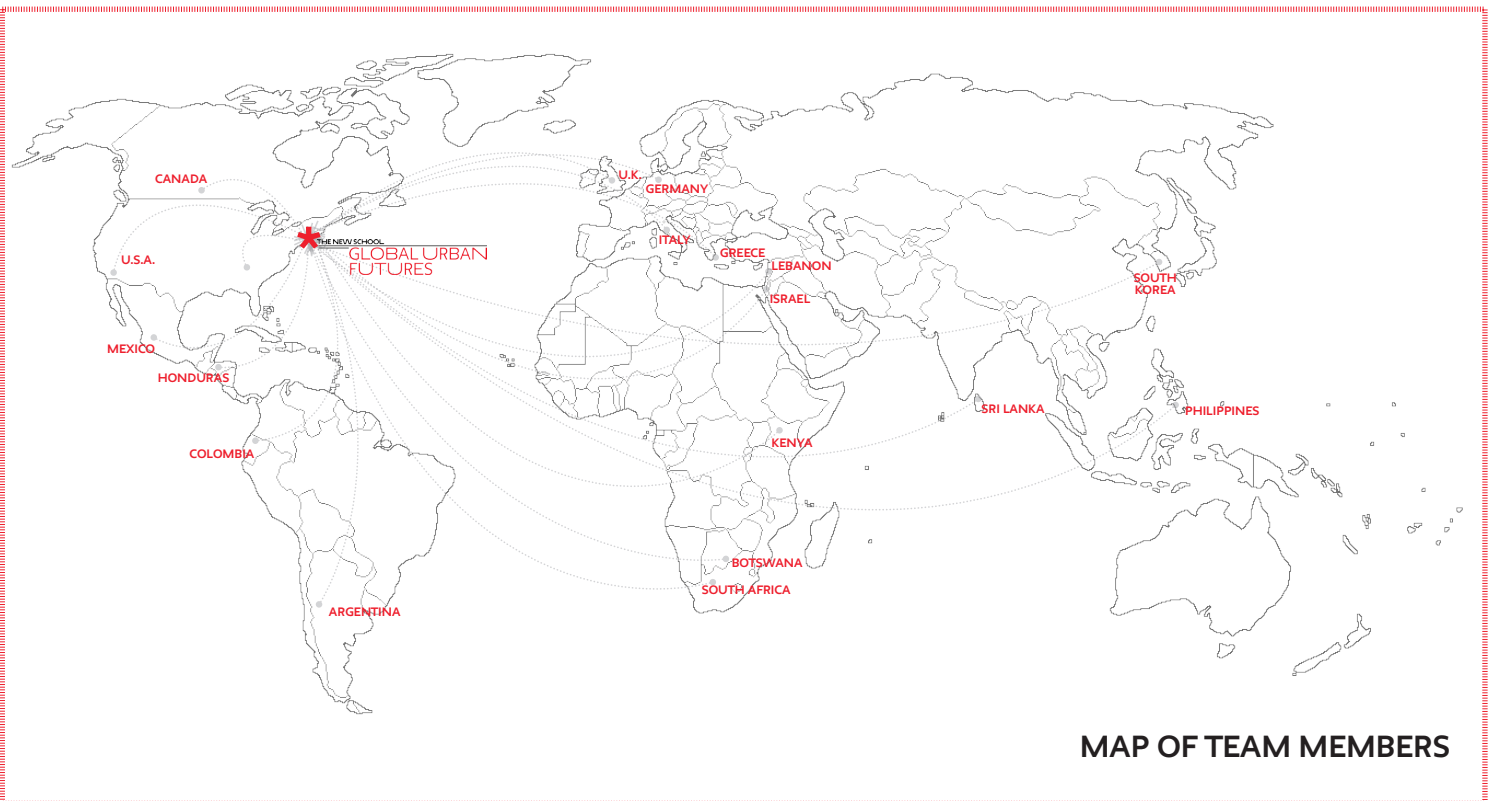
students, represented international, national, and local actors, and countered by highlighting instances in which institutions and governments have indeed contributed to meaningful and sustainable change. A diverse Panel of Experts commented on the cases presented, and a Panel of Judges interrogated witnesses from both sides, and gave closing remarks. The trial ended with the presentation of a model verdict, presented by the chief judge.

Some components of the model verdict include:

- The relationship between the local, the national, and the global must change. The local level cannot do it all themselves, but all levels of government are critical to achieve meaningful change.
- The city is hardly present in the agenda of national governments.
- The poor remain invisible. Prejudice and institutional discrimination and racism have eroded the resiliency of many communities.
- Climate change is one of the greatest threats to humanity. Communities of color and low-income communities are often the most vulnerable and hardest hit by its effects, and simultaneously are the most marginalized from related decision-making processes.
- The root of the problem is unregulated capital accumulation.
- Political parties are key in the process towards change.
- Inequality is embedded in the framework of urban management.
- Climate change should be treated as a social justice issue.
- Social capital is a common resource that deserves protection.

In the months following the *Tribunal*, the GUF largely focused on the impact of global governance frameworks and agreements, namely the COP21 and the resulting Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, and Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda. The GUF actively participated in these conferences, raising questions about the impact of global agreements and convenings, and pushing for the involvement and inclusion of civil society in the process. One of the results of this engagement was the invention of the *Habitat Commitment Project*, which quantitatively and qualitatively assessed the fulfillment of commitments made by governments at the 1996 Habitat II conference.

Aside from its contributions to research and public debate, one of the biggest achievements of the GUF was the creation of a very strong and committed interdisciplinary team of faculty members and graduate students from the Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy, and the Parsons School of Design. The composition of the GUF team is particularly exciting. More than half of the team is female, originating from 17 countries: Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, India, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Philippines, Serbia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and the United States. This great diversity of nationalities and disciplines adds to a multiplicity of perspectives, experiences, and approaches to today's urban challenges.



The effectiveness of the GUF was demonstrated by the role of the New School in the process of mobilization of civil society for Habitat III and Climate Justice related discussions. The New School became the site of the two largest convenings of NGOs in the US: The General Assembly of Partners (GAP) and the Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC), both in October 2015, which together brought about 450 people to the university to discuss critical urban challenges and alternative practices when addressing justice and fairness, urban infrastructure, women's empowerment, resiliency, and ways for cities to address climate change.

During its two years of existence, GUF has formed partnerships with both local and international civil society organizations. Just to mention a few, locally, we joined with the Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, Ironbound Community Coalition, UPROSE, and

the Center for Earth Ethics, and internationally, we have worked with the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, the Habitat International Coalition, Action Aid India, and many more. Through the involvement of government representatives (from South Africa, Germany, Indonesia, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Italy, Brazil, Ethiopia, and Senegal), political actors, and development agencies (UN-Habitat, GIZ, CAF, and the World Bank) we expanded conversations to a larger audience, with the intent to make all voices heard and encourage a conversation between government and civil society.

This report highlights seminars and events that were held as part of GUF. It also presents summaries of publications and major research initiated by faculty and participating students. If you are interested in learning more about us, visit our website www.globalurbanfutures.org or follow us on social media - @GUFPMilano!

www.globalurbanfutures.org 
[Global Urban Futures](#) 
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Sheela Patel, Founder of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC), during the Tribunal on Failed Governance.



Eduardo Rojas of the University of Pennsylvania during the Tribunal on Failed Governance

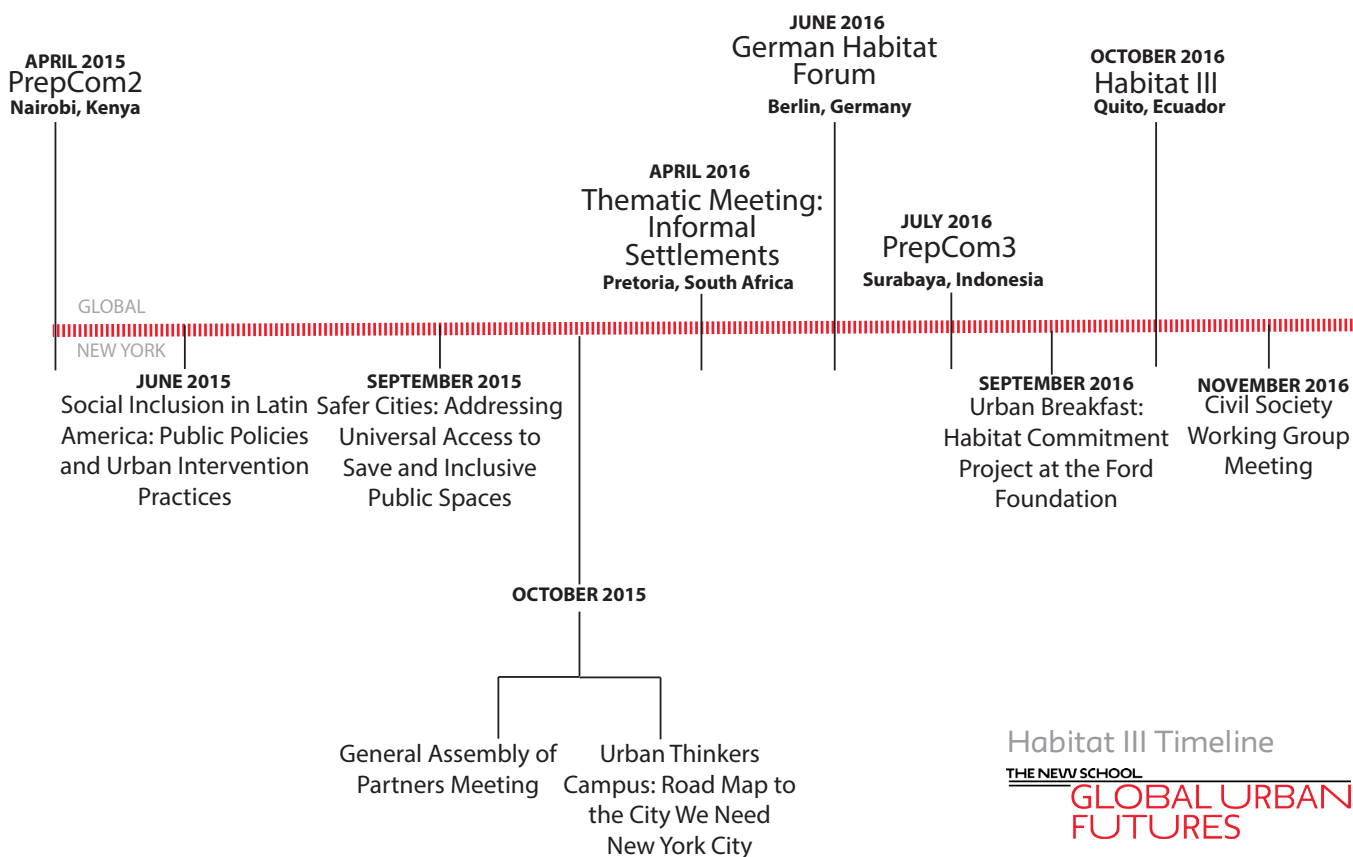
II. GUF AND HABITAT III

The GUF was actively involved in the preparatory process leading up to the United Nations Third Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which took place in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016. According to the UN General Assembly, the conference was expected to address the challenges facing “human settlements” in all countries, with the mandate to produce a “New Urban Agenda,” a 30-page document that is supposed to guide nation states in the formulation of policies and programs for the development of sustainable human settlements. With the Habitat conferences only occurring every twenty years, the preparatory process started around the same time as the GUF was created, in the fall of 2014.

As part of the preparatory process for Habitat III, GUF representatives participated in

preparatory, regional, and thematic meetings, and organized thematically related events at the New School campus in New York City, as mentioned above.

Aside from raising awareness about Habitat III, the GUF was actively involved in creating critical content related to the NUA. GUF team members functioned as policy experts to assist UN-Habitat in developing policy recommendations for the Habitat III conference and its final outcome document. In addition, the GUF developed a research project that tracks urban developments and the fulfillment of urban goals since the last Habitat conference in 1996. This research project, titled the “Habitat Commitment Project,” successfully raised awareness of the importance to monitor global commitments in order to hold governments accountable for their actions, and inactions.



I. HABITAT III CONFERENCE PREPCOM 2 | NAIROBI, KENYA

The second Habitat III preparatory committee meeting (PrepCom) took place in April 2015, and was attended by Michael Cohen, Professor of International Affairs, and Lena Simet and Vanessa Leon, Milano PhD students. The delegation organized an official side event titled *Global Governance Failures and Opportunities in Addressing Climate Change, Rising Inequalities, and Jobless Growth*, which featured the streaming of a 30-minute excerpt of the Global Tribunal organized by the GUF on February 27, 2015. The streaming was followed by a discussion with the audience on issues raised in the film and the proposed model verdict. This well-attended side event featured speakers from the New School, Slum Dwellers International, the Habitat International Coalition, the African Center for Cities, and the Polis Institute, and partnered with sixteen organizations in the production of the film.

This PrepCom was an essential milestone for the GUF as it directed the research that followed for the next 1.5 years. Throughout various events and discussions, we noticed a serious lack of critical assessment of what happened between Habitat II and Habitat III. This came as a surprise, because without a critical analysis of the past, member states are likely to repeat mistakes in the future. Moreover, how do we know what a constructive and effective New Urban Agenda should look like, if the impacts and flaws of the original Habitat Agenda remain unknown?

After PrepCom 2, the GUF set out to fill this knowledge gap with a quantitative global analysis of what happened since Habitat II, and more importantly, to identify how countries performed comparatively. This undertaking was not meant to be comprehensive nor complete, yet intended to shed light on issues that seem to have been neglected for political reasons. It was complemented by a qualitative study of six countries in Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico.

II. THEMATIC MEETING IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA



Habitat III Thematic Meeting on Informal Settlements in Pretoria, South Africa.

The Habitat III Thematic Meeting on Informal Settlements was held on April 7th and 8th, 2016 in Pretoria, South Africa, and was attended by Maria Carrizosa, a Milano PhD student and fellow of the GUF. Maria participated in the General Assembly of Partners meetings, giving input to the meeting's outcome document. In particular, she guarded against the triumphant tone used when mentioning the accomplishments of target 7.D of the MDGs, which states, achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. Experts have argued that the goals were unmet not only due to population growth, but also because the target was not properly designed. The final version of the Pretoria Declaration changed this tone, and describes this goal as “unfinished business.”¹

After intense discussions, the document was signed by all member states, and agreed on the definition of “informal settlements” as the one put forward by the Habitat III Issue Paper on Informal Settlements. The issue paper acknowledges that “informal settlements can be a form of real estate speculation for all income levels of urban residents, “affluent and poor”. It is also noteworthy that the final draft removed all mentions of the right to the city, calling instead for the right to an adequate standard of living. Other notions, like the continuum of land rights and the People-Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPPs) were included.

III. HABITAT COMMITMENT CONFERENCE SURABAYA, INDONESIA

The third and last preparatory committee meeting of Habitat III was of special importance, as member states were to negotiate the final draft of the New Urban Agenda. There was expansive media coverage on the conference from New York City based Citiscope to the local regional newspaper The Jakarta Post. It featured more than 4,000 people and a large representation of researchers and activists from the Asia and the Southeast Asian region.

Simultaneously, discontent among civil society organizations about Habitat III preparations had solidified since the second preparatory committee in Nairobi. The frustrations related to the structure and substance of the Habitat debate, including the lack of assessment of the progress made by national and local governments to fulfill commitments made at Habitat II in 1996, and little substantive discussion of the urban future.

To address these concerns, the GUF organized a conference, Fulfilling Habitat Commitments: Assessing the Past - Constructing a Platform

for Action, the day prior to the PrepCom. The event was hosted by the Mayor of Surabaya, Tri Rismahirini, and co-organized by Kota Kita, Action Aid India, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, and the Habitat International Coalition. Partner institutions included the Polis Institute, the Ford Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the Alliance of International Inhabitants, UCL, the Asia Democratic Network, the Korea Human Rights Foundation, the Huairou Commission, UCLG Asia Pacific, the Communitas Coalition, the Urban Poor Consortium, INFID Jakarta, the Institute of Technology Surabaya, the Bandung Institute of Technology, URDI Jakarta, Kampong Halaman, and the Indonesian Network on Urbanism.

Some 150 activists, researchers, civil society leaders, public authorities, and academics from across different regions came together to discuss achievements of the Habitat II Agenda and to identify major obstacles to full achievement of Habitat II commitments. By analyzing both quantitatively and qualitatively what has been achieved since Habitat II (and what has not), the conference raised the question of accountability and policy impact of Habitat II, with the objective to provide important input to the framing of commitments to be undertaken in the New Urban Agenda.



Participants and discussants at Hotel Santika Gubeng, Surabaya, Indonesia.

¹ Cohen, Michael (2015), "The City is Missing in the Millennium Development Goals" in: Fukuda-Parr and Yamin (eds), *The MDGs, Capabilities and Human Rights the Power of Numbers to Shape Agendas*, Routledge, New York.

In order to address the question of how new commitments can be achieved, city and national government representatives from Germany, South Africa, Indonesia, and Ethiopia provided case studies of actions that have proven successful, and those that had counterintuitive effects.

The conference consisted of assessments from different regions and themes, allowing for comparisons across countries and topics. Assessments included a presentation of the Habitat Commitment Index (HCI), qualitative studies assessing policy and institutional commitments in six Latin American countries, presented by the Observatory on Latin America

(OLA), parallel country reports of Indonesia and India, a review of achievements and setbacks in achieving greater gender equality by the Huairou Commission, and an analysis of what happened in terms of the Right to the City over the past 20 years.

While the Habitat Commitment Conference was a success for research and activism, the official PrepCom III disappointed in many aspects. Member states were unable to find a consensus on the commitments made in the final draft of the New Urban Agenda, commitments overall were watered down, and critical content and implementation strategies were discussed only by non-state actors, without the inclusion of civil society organizations.



Lena Simet and Bart Orr presented the findings of the Habitat Commitment Index during the Conference held on July 24, 2016.



(L-R) Bart Orr, Joseph Schechla, Michael Cohen, Shivani Chauhry, Lena Simet, Ana Marie Argilagos, Nelson Saule, Jr., Ahmad Rifai and John Taylor



Audience members participating in the panel discussion.



(L-R) Nelson Saule, Jr., David Dodman, Rosa Molokane, Ana Marie Argilagos, Chandan Kumar, and John Taylor

IV. HABITAT III RELATED EVENTS AT THE NEW SCHOOL | NEW YORK CITY, USA

The GUF organized a series of events, seminars, and talks related to the Habitat III process and urban issues more broadly, with the intention to inform students about ongoing global discussions, but also to establish a platform for dialogue among academics, activists, and politicians in the New York area.

Events ranged from policy discussions on inclusive and safe city development with mayors and other elected officials to student presentations and a meeting of civil society organizations involved in the Habitat III process. On this basis, the following events were organized:

Habitat III Urban Breakfast at the Ford Foundation

SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

Together with the Observatory on Latin America, the GUF was invited to launch the Habitat Commitment Project (HCP) at the Ford Foundation, as part of the Habitat III Urban Breakfast series. The opening statement from Tim Marshall, Provost of The New School, stressed the project's uniqueness in bringing together theory and practice to create knowledge, and its ability to influence the discussion of our urban future. Lena Simet presented the Habitat Commitment Index, the quantitative piece of the HCP; Maria Carrizosa presented the qualitative piece of the study on urban developments in six Latin American countries. Details of the HCP can be found in section IV of this report.



Panel discussion after the presentation of the Habitat Commitment Project at the Ford Foundation on September 18, 2016.



Maria Carrizosa presenting the Qualitative Studies on Latin America



Provost Tim Marshall introducing the Habitat Commitment Project



Ford Foundation Urban Breakfast Audience

Urban Thinkers Campus: Roadmap to the City We Need

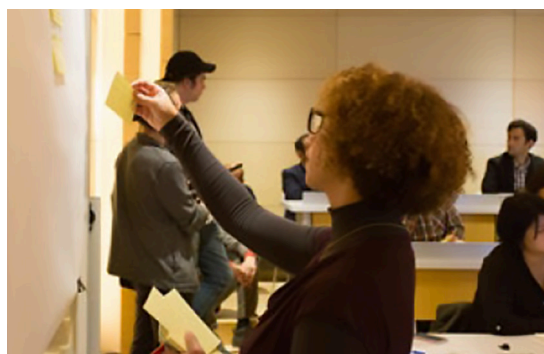
OCTOBER 24, 2015

The Urban Thinkers Campus is a special initiative of the World Urban Campaign and UN-Habitat, meant to emulate and build consensus between partners engaged in addressing urbanization challenges and proposing solutions for urban futures. Twenty-nine Urban Thinker Campuses were held in over a dozen countries on five continents, and the New York City edition was one of the two held in the U.S.

Co-hosted by The Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS) and The New School, the New York City Urban Thinkers Campus: Road Map to the City We Need took place on Saturday, October 24th, 2015. It consisted of a combination of plenary presentations, discussions and Urban Labs. Other partner organizations included The Sherwood Institute, The Huairou Commission, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, The Ford Foundation, The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, The International Accountability Project, the UN Major Group for Children and Youth, The Nature of Cities, and the J Max Bond Center on Design for a Just City. Media partners included Next City and Citiscope.

The Urban Labs each produced several recommendations, and certain thematic concerns appeared in each session. Participants emphasized that bottom-up, community-based organizing and engagement is critical for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. To achieve this, linkages and communication need to be strengthened between local citizens, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and local, state and international governmental bodies.

Implementation of the New Urban Agenda was a prime concern, with participants noting the ease of describing what work needs to be done, but the critical obstacles implementing change requires. Participants defined the need for innovative financial tools to implement the New Urban Agenda and concluded that a framework for assessment must be created to ensure proper implementation.



Participants during the Urban Thinkers Campus held at The New School on 24th October 2015

Inequality and the Sustainable Development Goals

SPRING 2016

Eduardo López-Moreno, the Director of Research and Capacity Development at UN Habitat Nairobi, presented on the highly unequal income and consumption patterns in cities in the developing world that point to institutional and structural failures, as well as to broader economic problems such as imbalanced labour markets or a lack of pro-poor policies. He concluded that eradicating hunger will require multiple interventions, and not only those related to food availability. The use of safe water, improved sanitation, and durable housing materials, combined with the provision of sufficient living areas to ease overcrowding, will improve the chances of better health outcomes and life conditions for slum dwellers.

Productivity and the Urban Economy

DECEMBER 2015

The event featured Michael Cohen of the Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy at The New School as he presented on the growing urban economic challenges facing both developing and industrialized countries. He argued that cities are engines of growth for most national economies and emphasized the need for studies of the economic structure of cities in order to identify priority sectors for development. He named employment, productivity, and urban finance as foundational components of the urban economy.

GAP Meeting

OCTOBER 2, 2015

The General Assembly of Partners (GAP) is a key umbrella of stakeholder groups for the Habitat III Process. It is made up of 16 constituent groups and is formally recognized by the Habitat III Rules of Procedure and the New Urban Agenda. The meeting led to the issuance of the New York Declaration, constituting a series of multi-stakeholder partnership commitments in support of sustainable urbanization and requests to member states to create an environment to realize the partnerships.

Building the Foundation for Productive Cities: Three-Pronged Approach to Urbanization

OCTOBER 23, 2015

The event featured Marco Kamiya, the Unit Leader on Urban Economy and City Finance at UN Habitat Nairobi, as he promoted the Three-Pronged Approach as a strategy to urbanization. This approach concludes that well-planned cities have higher urban productivity in the long run, that finances are key for both successfully implementing plans and for creating an urban ecosystem with steady and resilient value creation patterns, and that a legal framework is essential to link finance and planning.

Safer Cities: Addressing Universal Access to Safe and Inclusive Public Spaces

SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

The focus of the event was to discuss the Post 2015 Development Summit and plans for the Safer City Campaign in the lead up to Habitat III. Mayors from Dakar, Johannesburg, and Palermo shared safer city strategies. The event was co-organized with UN-Habitat, New America, Next City, and the Huairou Commission; about 95 people attended the event.

Social Inclusion in Latin America: Public Policies and Urban Intervention Best Practices

JUNE 10, 2015

The event featured four distinguished Mayors from Latin America (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Panama) to discuss policies and practices in urban interventions that have contributed to greater social inclusion in their cities. The event was co-organized with CAF, the Centre for Liveable Cities, MAS NYC, the World Cities Summit, and the Observatory on Latin America at The New School. Approximately 110 people attended the event.

V. THE HABITAT III CONFERENCE I QUITO, ECUADOR

OCTOBER 2016

The four-day long conference was attended by more than 30,000 people from about 140 countries, and resulted in the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, which is supposed to guide sustainable urban development for cities around the globe.

In order to reach a broad audience, the GUF's outreach strategy at Habitat III was threefold;

First, we held the side event, "Prácticas Urbanas Inclusivas más allá de Habitat III" [Inclusive Urban Practices Beyond Habitat III], in the official part of the conference, which featured key findings of the Habitat Commitment Project. After introductory remarks by Michael Cohen, Lena Simet presented the Habitat Commitment Index (HCI), which highlighted that country performances since Habitat II have been stagnant, at best. A panel discussion moderated by Ana Marie Argilagos, Senior Advisor on Equitable Development at the Ford Foundation, followed the presentation. The panel featured authors of the qualitative studies conducted in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico, and served as the launch of the book *Habitat en Deuda*, which discusses the qualitative country assessments in the light of regional and global dynamics.

Margarita Gutman concluded the session by launching two upcoming GUF research projects: the HCI 2.0 and an applied urban research project on Urban Practice. The HCI 2.0 will track the performance of cities in meeting urban goals, the Urban Practice project seeks to develop knowledge around city level practices in order to better identify the obstacles to social inclusion in cities. With over 250 attendees, the side event achieved its objective of starting a conversation among Habitat III participants about the way that countries have fulfilled the commitments of the Urban Agenda adopted during Habitat II in Istanbul.

Second, the GUF increased its visibility via a large delegation and a strong presence in the exhibition area of the conference. Most of GUF's current team members, meaning six

faculty members and fifteen graduate students, participated at the Habitat III conference and presented their research in the New School's exhibition booth. We held a total of 42 urban talks and presentations in the New School booth, which attracted a significant number of visitors, some of whom expressed strong interest in collaborating with the GUF in future research initiatives.

Third, the GUF organized a reception at the campus of the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO Ecuador) in Quito. More than 120 guests attended the reception, creating a platform for future collaboration.

Finally, GUF students and faculty presented and participated in a parallel conference to the official conference, titled "Habitat 3 Alternativa," which was held at the FLACSO university with the purpose to critically reflect on the future of cities, current trends of marginalization, the right to the city, and democracy in cities. Leading progressive academics and scholars throughout the region organized this conference, which resulted in the "Manifiesto de Quito." Some 5,000 persons attended this event.





TNS Students and Staff installing the urban timeline at the TNS Booth



(L-R) Ana Marie Argilagos, Michael Cohen, Lena Simet and Margarita Gutman, during the Side Event at the official Habitat III Conference



An audience of over 200 people gathered for the Inclusive Urban Practices beyond Habitat III Side Event.



TNS faculty and students together with the authors of qualitative studies.



TNS Delegation of students and faculty represented over 15 nationalities.



Apart from serving as the TNS information hub, the booth transformed to a lecture space.



Caroline Moser presenting her work with Patricia Claves and Cathy McIlwaine.



Forty-two presentations were done inside the booth.

VI. HABITAT III RELATED RESEARCH

Given the economic growth of the past two decades, how well had countries used their resources to meet the commitments of the Habitat II agenda? To answer this question, the Global Urban Futures Project embarked on a year-long project to develop the Habitat Commitment Project (HCP), which included developing an experimental method for evaluating country performance relative to their income based on predictive models using 20 years of historical data.

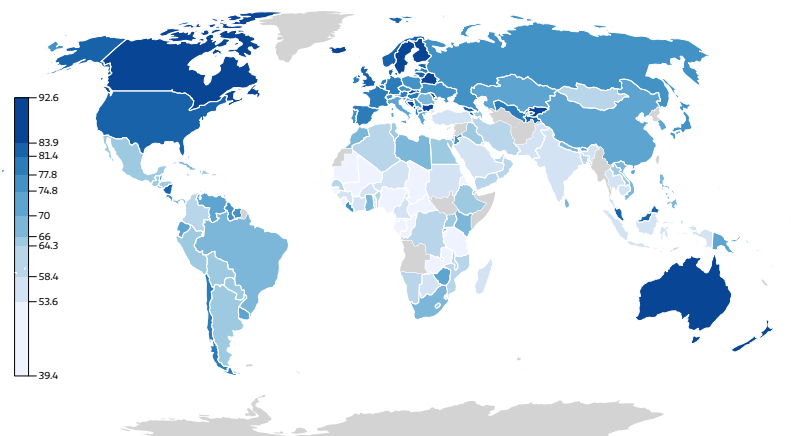
> What is the HCP?

The Habitat Commitment Project measures progress on the fulfillment of commitments made at Habitat II conference, from when they were made in 1996 to the present, through two complementary sections: 1) The Habitat Commitment Index (HCI) and 2) A qualitative assessment of six Latin American countries.

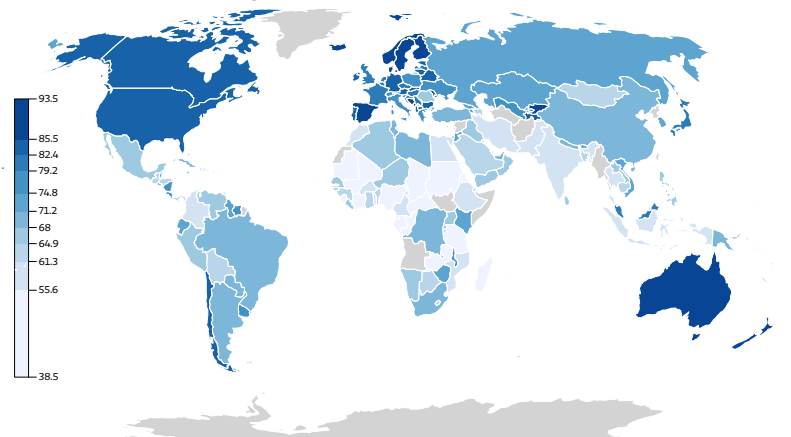
The HCI is a composite score of the performance of 15 indicators at the country level that are essential to urban well-being, weighted by per capita GDP, that seeks to quantitatively measure the fulfillment of commitments made by countries in the Habitat Agenda adopted at the Habitat II conference in 1996. The HCI takes into account all available historical data over the past 25 years to predict, at any income level, the maximum level of achievement a country may be expected to meet using a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 indicating not necessarily 100% fulfillment of an indicator, but 100% of the predicted maximum potential for a given level of GDP per capita.

As part of the qualitative assessment, seven urban planning experts in Latin America prepared a qualitative assessment on the performance of six Latin American national governments with respect to the Habitat II commitments. These experts, through a critical perspective of the urban processes in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico, traced the impact of such commitments on each country's national urban policies in the period between Habitat II and Habitat III.

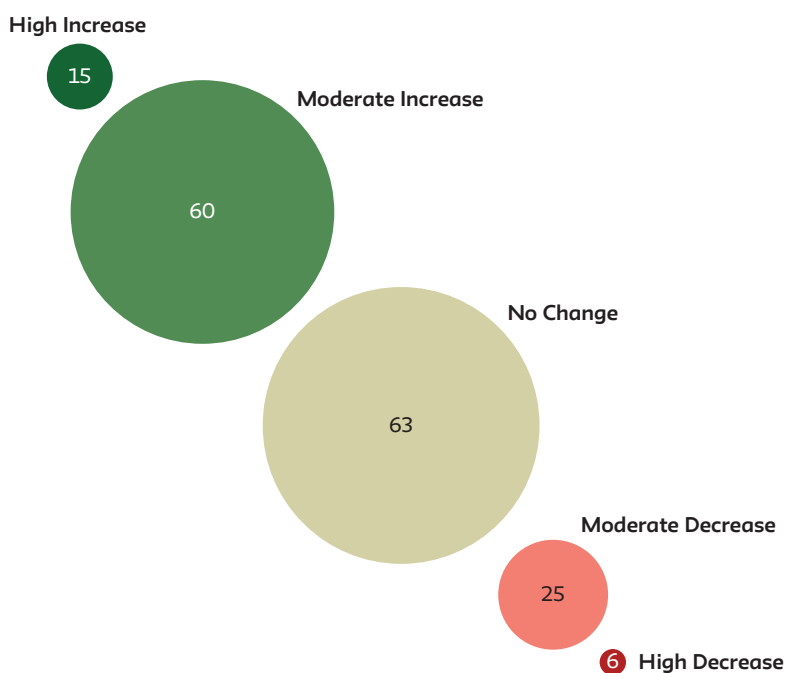
Map 1. HCI at time of Habitat II

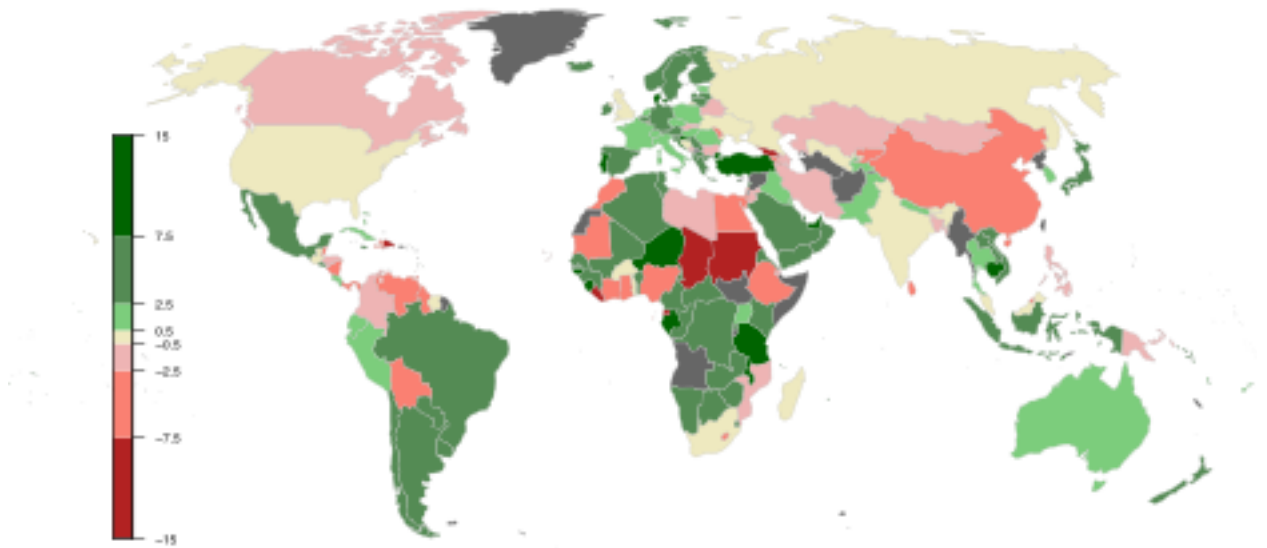


Map 2. HCI at time of Habitat III



Total Country HCI & Change Distribution





A map of the overall findings from the Habitat Commitment Index.

> Major Findings of the HCI

The HCI indicates that at the time of Habitat II, the world was performing at approximately 70% of what could have been possible given the level of resources available. In the period between Habitat II and the present, there has been considerable economic growth, driven largely by the Asian economies. During this period of economic growth as well as increasing challenges to cities, how well have governments kept the commitments made at Habitat II in Istanbul? Overall, there has been extremely little progress, with the average HCI score increasing only 1.49 points, from a global weighted average of 69.68 in 1996 to a current average score of 71.17.

As the world prepares to implement a new set of commitments that was adopted in the NUA, it is imperative that the shortcomings since Istanbul will not be repeated after Quito. The HCI has demonstrated that despite the Habitat Agenda's 241 paragraphs containing over 600 recommendations, there has been little meaningful change in urban conditions over the last 20 years.

Among the six commitment dimensions that the HCI analyzed, greatest improvement was found in the Gender dimension. The average Gender score increased by 8.62 points between Habitat II and the present, rising to a global average of 76.82. This rise was due in part to a phenomenal increase in the Female Tertiary

School Enrollment indicator, which rose by 22.13 points—by far the largest positive change among all the indicators.

Minimal progress was made in the Infrastructure dimension (+1.78), while Poverty (+5.69) and Sustainability (+3.63) improved modestly.

Only two dimensions saw declines in average HCI scores—Employment and Institutional Capacity. While the decline in the Employment dimension was negligible (-0.56), Institutional Capacity had the most extreme change among the dimensions, with the global average score falling by 11.26 points, from 74.8 in 1996 to 63.5, and accounting in large part for the overall lack of HCI progress, since the decline was large enough to offset gains made across the other categories.

> Major Finding of the Qualitative Studies

Similar to the HCI, the qualitative study evaluated the performance of the Habitat II Agenda, in order to strengthen the accountability and policy impact of the Habitat III Outcome Document. The assessment focused exclusively on six Latin America countries namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico, whose total population represents almost 70% of the region.

GUF and OLA commissioned highly recognized Latin American experts to draft documents that assess the progress of each of their countries during the last two decades with regards to the Habitat Agenda: Eduardo Reese and Andrea Catenazzi from Argentina, Edesio Fernandes from Brazil, Jorge Torres from Colombia, Alfredo Rodríguez and Paula Rodríguez from Chile, Fernando Carrión and Alexandra Velasco from Ecuador, and Alicia Ziccardi from Mexico. Instead of reproducing the official national reports, we invited the authors to produce texts halfway between a critical report and an essay, in the interest of bringing a more profound, textured, and non-bureaucratic perspective.

The authors, GUF and OLA researchers, and officials from the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) discussed the final drafts of the six papers at a workshop in Buenos Aires on July 4th, 2016. The main findings were presented at a public conference in Buenos Aires, on July 5th, 2016, with an audience of more than 200 people.

These papers, both individually and collectively, represent an important contribution to the urban studies literature, both in Latin America and globally, and were published as a book (Cohen M., Carrizosa M., and Gutman M., eds, (2016), *Hábitat en Deuda: veinte años de políticas urbanas en América Latina*, Editorial

Café de las Ciudades, Buenos Aires. The book was launched at The New School's Side Event at Habitat III, where the authors participated in a panel discussion. It was also presented at the Habitat Alternativo, and at The New School's booth in Quito, as well as the Habitat III Follow-up Conference in Bogota, on October 21st, 2016.

The concluding chapter of the book includes a transversal reading of the main findings across the six country's studies, a detailed reflection on the HCI in Latin America, and a prospective look at the importance of critical assessment in determining what the new urban practice for the New Urban Agenda should attain. Appendix two highlights the summary of the transversal findings.



Front cover of *Hábitat en Deuda: Veinte años de políticas urbanas en América Latina*



Michael Cohen, shares the stage with Congresswoman Marisa Glave from Perú as part of the panel: *Habitat III and Beyond: New Challenges – New Answers?* in the "Habitat III Follow-up Conference" at Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Bogota, October 21st, 2016



Book presentation of *Hábitat en Deuda: Veinte años de políticas urbanas en América Latina* at the Habitat 3 Alternativo, on October 20th, 2016, FLACSO, Quito.

III. THE HABITAT TIMELINE

A major missing topic in the UN's discourse today is an expanded view of its own history and evolution that raises questions about both the New Urban Agenda and the allied Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, learning from the experience of the past UN Habitat conferences, and fueled by input from meetings and events preparing for Habitat III, GUF created a visual database tool addressing this gap. The research team consisted of William R. Morrish, Urbanist and Professor of Urban Ecologies, with Masters students in Design and Urban Ecologies: Rehanna Azimi, Shibani Jadhay, Walter Petrichyn, and Alexandra Venner.

The timeline visualizes and spatializes the interactive flow of people, ideas and formal propositions that shape the NUA. It is both historical and projected, starting in 1900 and continuing to the UN's 100th anniversary in 2045. In addition, it highlights radical shifts and disruptions in thinking and practice, such as the shift from "human settlement" underpinning Habitat I to "sustainable development" for Habitat II and on. The flow of ideas, projects, agendas, and goals generated by the UN, institutions, city projects, and activist demands are plotted alongside five currents of urban activity: urban information, urban habitation, urban development, urban infrastructure and urban form.

The product is not a comprehensive historical survey, but rather an open platform that illustrates relationships and patterns that have been active in the making of today's urban agenda. It serves as a spatial representation, framing new ways to see the lessons learned from real world experiences, and allows us to foresee how to situate decision-making processes that affect everyday life and make better decisions for our global urban futures. It is a resource and tool to untangle the multiple political, social, economic and environmental layers of an urban setting, uncover their connections across disciplines and themes, and highlight missed opportunities.

This research was presented at two conferences in addition to Habitat III, including the Urban Thinkers Campus on October 24, 2015. Portions of our research were used to critique the United States Draft Country Report to UN Habitat. The second conference, "Shaping SMART Cities, what are they today? And what should they be?", was on May 31, 2016, and brought together industry members in big data analysis, foundation representatives, and civil society groups to discuss critical questions surrounding human-centered SMART city policies.

We have also been contacted by the online journal CITISCOPE to write a 1500-word commentary on our research, which is in preparation and will be published in mid-December 2016. Future articles to expand on the themes outlined in this first article are currently being discussed.

Additionally, we are working with a group in Ghent, Belgium, called the Internet of Things/ Wise City Council, to integrate this work into their effort to create communities online to produce information centered on humans, as a counterbalance to the products of big data companies that are overtaking public services, planning, and governance. We are also inviting new faculty, professionals, and others into this research work group, and integrating this initiative into new graduate urban programs in both Parsons and Milano. There are several other academic institutions (US and abroad) interested in sharing with us and integrating what we are doing with their research to deepen both the theory and practice of urban ecology. Appendix 1 highlights lessons revealed by the tool and how we might need to act with regards to the New Urban Agenda and other global urban future questions.

ARE WE REPLACING PEOPLE?

1912-1949 Republic of China 1917 Russian Revolution 1929 Market Crash Global Depression 1944 World Bank and IMF Created

WWI Ottoman, Habsburg, Russian, German Empires DISSOLVE

CONFLICT

1947-57 Resettlement of refugees in India and Pakistan, 14 MILLION PEOPLE DISPLACED

1947-1992 Cold War, Truman Doctrine 1947 Partition of British India Empire

WWII DISPLACES 60 MILLION PEOPLE ATOMIC BOMB

1950-53 Korean War 1-5 Million displaced 1955-76 2nd Indochina War, American Vietnam

1982 People's Republic approves new Constitution: socialism with Chinese Characteristics

1989 Berlin Wall Falls & Tiananmen Square Massacre 1991 First Gulf War 1994 NAFTA

REAGAN ERA

THATCHERISM

NATION BUILDING AGENDA

HUMAN SETTLEMENT AGENDA

GLOBALIZATION AGENDA

WORLD URBAN FORM

WORLD POPULATION → 1.6 BILLION

2.5 BILLION

4.0 BILLION

CIRCLE, TRIANGLE, OPEN

UN HABITAT

The UN-Habitat logos used to mark the three Habitat forums reveal a changing agenda. The original Habitat I graphic was designed to appear as if hand been hand drawn by people, composed of a circle (The Earth), a triangle (Intersection) and a human body with outstretched arms (Openness). UN-Habitat adopted this logo as their official logo. Habitat II wrapped this logo with the host city's name: Istanbul. Habitat III is radically different. The hand drawn circle, triangle and human is displaced by a machine like lines forming a rectangle subdivided into parcels foregrounding a black binary "H" and "I" code like emblem.

THINK. Are we displacing people and planet experience for code, algorithms and Big Data?

1900

1920

1945

1976

LEAGUE OF NATIONS FOUNDED

La Société des Nations, an intergovernmental organization founded as a result of the Paris Peace Conference that ended the WWI

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDED

UN Charter signed, San Francisco, CA

1950 UNESCO Race Question in Response to WWII III

HABITAT FORUM

1954 First UN International Symposium on Housing & Community Planning, Delos, Greece

UN-HABITAT I

1976 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, Canada

The Vancouver Action Plan: Settlement Policies & Strategies, Settlement Planning, Shelter, Infrastructure & Services, Land, Public Participation

1976 Bill of Rights 1978 UN-Habitat Established

POVERTY PARTICIPATION

1990 International Local Environment

1990 UN World City Local Governments



FUNDS OF KNOWLEDGE

URBAN INFORMATION

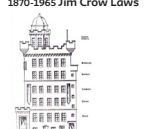
Our city thrives upon, need not for and generate from different sources and flows of urban information. The examples to the right represent a fast moving list of new tools for gathering and processing urban mediums of dissemination, numerous entrenched disciplinary/sector turfs and power interests linked by a common interest. Each seeks control over the intangible sensors, data pools, regulating models and mentorship over the transformation of data into information and information stored and secured as funds of knowledge.

THINK. What funds have we acquired, forgotten or is no longer applicable? Who does it serve and how is it accessed and updated?

CIVIC SURVEY

1867-2007 Sanborn Maps; Fire insurance maps of cities, modeled after first version 13th Century London: Phoenix Assurance Company maps for London.

1870-1965 Jim Crow Laws



1915 Cities in Evolution Patrick Geddes, An Introduction to the Town Planning Movement and to the Study of Cities

1920 Chicago School of Sociology, "Human Ecology"

1923 Harvard Opens First Graduate Program in City Planning within Landscape Architecture

1923 Regional Planning Association, New York, Mumford, MacKaye, Wright, Stein, Bauer, et al

1929 Harvard establishes first independent 3-year graduate city planning program with funds from Rockefeller Fdn.

1935 Rockefeller Foundation Founded

EKISTICS, KNOWLEDGE CIRCULATION

1947-1956 University of Chicago Education & Research in Planning 1947 Levittown, NY begins construction 1948 Partition India/Pakistan 1951 Stanford Industrial Park (renamed SRI, Stanford Research Park, inaugurated Silicon Valley, model for university-firm technology transfer 1955 Ekistics Journal 1959 Joint Center for Urban Studies MIT/Harvard 1962 The Gutenberg Galaxy Marshall McLuhan 1962-1974 Delos Symposium Ekistics/Davides and Tjeltvelt 1963 WICKED PROBLEMS Design Methods Group (DMG), University of California, Berkeley, Rittel, Alexander et al 1965 GLOBAL VILLAGE 1968-1972 Whole Earth Catalog, Steward Brand et al 1969 ESRI-Environmental Systems Research Institute Founded 1970 Future Shock, Alvin Toffler, a revolution from an industrial society to a "super-industrial society", accelerated rate of technological and social change left people disconnected and suffering from "shattering stress and disorientation" - future shocked: 1970-73 SYNCO or Project CyberSyn (Cybernetics/Synergy) President Allende, Chile, constructing a distributed decision support system to aid in the management of the national economy 1974 Lincoln Land Institute of Land Policy



GIS, URBANISM, MAPPING PROCESSES

URBAN EXHIBITIONS

1976 Habitat Bill of Rights 1976 The International Design Competition for the Urban Environment, Manila, Philippines 1977 POST-IT Introduced 1980 Third Wave, Alvin Toffler Internet etc... Shock, Ted Turner launches Cable News Network, CNN, first 24-hour "global multi-platform network" Spreading Founded 1987 ANT Actor-Network Theory Bruno Latour Science in Action 1988 COSMO 1990 Information Highway or Infobahn 1991 US High Performance Computing Act 1994 WWW

COMPETITION

1990 International Local Environment

1990 UN World City Local Governments

1997 Our Common Future "Brundtland Report" - "Sustainable Development"

1997 Our Common Future "Brundtland Report" - "Sustainable Development"

1997 Our Common Future "Brundtland Report" - "Sustainable Development"

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PEOPLE & PLANET 4 CODE ?

1997 Transfer of Sovereignty over Hong Kong, United Kingdom to China
2003-2011 Second Gulf War V 2004 Indonesian Tsunami 2005 Hurricane Katrina
2006 Syrian drought 2008 Mumbai Attack 2008 Oceans World Street "We are 99%"

World Trade Center, Post 9/11 Era

2011 250 Million Chinese Floating Population
2011 Egyptian Revolution, Tahrir Square, Cairo
2013 Takism Square, Istanbul

1999 PINK TIDE LATIN AMERICAN MOVEMENT, POPULAR LEFTIST IDEOLOGY

POST ARAB SPRING ERA

2014 157.8 Million PEOPLE DISPLACED by climate change since 2008
2016 Turkish Coup
2016 Zika Virus Outbreak Latin America
2016 BREXIT UK VOTES TO LEAVE EU
2016 42,500 PEOPLE/DAY BECOME REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS OR INTERNALLY DISPLACED

2025, 70% of China's population, 900 million people, live in cities

CLIMATE REFUGEE

New York? Sea level will be 3-5 feet higher

MASS FORCED DISPLACEMENT

2030 -120 MILLION DISPLACED BY SEA RISE (IF THERE WAS NO WAR)

2025 5 billion city dwellers (2/3 in poor countries)

URBAN AGENDA

6.0 BILLION

1996 UN-HABITAT II

2002 Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (IMF/WHO) 2002-2006 Earth Institute, J.Sachs, Special Advisor to UN MDG 2014 Michael Bloomberg special envoy to UN on Cities and Climate Change

1996 UN Conference on Environment & Development, "The City Summit", Istanbul Principle Founded on Human Settlements

2002 WUF I Nairobi 2004 WUF II Barcelona 2006 WUF III Nanjing 2008 WUF IV Nanjing 2010 WUF V Rio de Janeiro 2012 WUF VI Naples 2014 WUF VII Medellin

MDG'S

SDG's

NEW URBAN AGENDA

7.0 BILLION

2016 UN-HABITAT III

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Quito

H III

HABITAT III
QUITO - OCTOBER 2016

2036 UN-HABITAT IV

17 SDG's Fulfilled for the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

H IV

?

United Nations @ 100 Years Old

2045

ALL HANDS ON DECK

UN HABITAT

Our cities face a complicated equation of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and its 170 indicators to be carried out through the application of 137 New Urban Agenda items to become a SMART CITY for the few. Given that cities face a turbulent future of climate change, migration, widening inequality and jobless growth, it would seem that the making of an INCLUSIVE CITY, which increases the creative potential of the many hands of a city's population, is a resilience tactic for the future.

ACT. How can cities get "all hands on deck" to address an urban future that has no analog and operates in an envelope of regularity outside historic patterns and predictive models?

INTERNET, RISK, NO ANALOG CITY

1998 GOOGLE Founded 1999 Cities Alliance UN-Habitat and World Bank 2002 Dashboard of Sustainability Jochen Jesinghaus and Peter Hardt 2003 The New Civic Art, Duany, Plater-Zyberk 2004 Facebook 2003-10 World Changing website 2005 YouTube 2007 Meeting of the Minds 2007 African Centre for Cities, Cape Town, Knowledge networks 2006 Twitter 2006 An Inconvenient Truth, A Global Warning, Arizona Film, Academy Award, Nobel Prize 2009 Change by Design, Tim Brown 2009 Clinton Climate Initiative 2011 IBM Watson 2013 IBM Watson A Smarter Planet 2014 ESRI-ArcGIS manage 43% World's GIS software 2011 IDEO Org. 502c3 2015 Prime Minister Modi of India launches multi-purpose and multi-modal platform PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation), integrating and interactive platform—addressing common man's grievances, monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Government

1999 Cities Alliance UN-Habitat and World Bank MDG #2 Achieve Universal Primary Education MDG #3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

TED

38% 40% 56%

MASSIVE CHANGE

28% 20% 4%

Google

YouTube

Facebook

SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals

DASHBOARDS, ANALYTICS, SENSORS

JUST BIG DATA

COMMON BRIDGES

URBAN INFORMATION

Our city's funds of knowledge are quickly becoming separated by private algorithms, costly Big Data servers and logistic experts. As the Belgium urban digital activist, Rob Van Kranenburgh, warns, "The way this 'Internet of things' interlinks the real world with the virtual has the potential to transform our cities more than the introduction of the railway. But while the railway opened up cities, bringing in new things like soap and foreign goods, the coming 'ubiquitous' threatens to restrict our cities. To make them more closed, not open."

ACT. How can cities build and maintain common bridges between these funds of knowledge to reveal the full potential of shared urban information for all?

INFORMAL VS ENCLAVE

ROGUE URBANISM

UN-HABITAT II Principle: partnerships among countries and among all actors within countries from public, private, voluntary and community-based organizations, the cooperative sectors, NGOs Principal: Sustainable Development 1997 Metro-politics, A Regional Agenda for Community and Stability, Myron Orfield MVRDV Sustainable Urbanism Outlook 2000 LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Rating System launched 2000 Hannover Principles Design for Sustainability, McDonough 2000 Hannover Expo 2003-4 New Songdo, Korea 2005 G4 London, UK founded 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics 2009 Burj Khalifa, Tallest Structure in the World, Dubai, UAE 2010 Urban Modelling, Algorithms, Calibrations, Predictions Batty 2013 The New Science of Cities, Batty 2014 PM Modi, India '100 Smart Cities Mission' and the 'Atal Mission for Rejuvenation of Urban Transformation' (AMRUT) for the up-gradation of 500 existing cities, \$150 Billion MDG #8, Global Partnership for development

SDG 1 End Poverty SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Development SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

INCENTIVIZED ERA

SMART GROWTH

"SEZ ZONES"

INDEPENDENT ERA

TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

LOGISTICS CITY

RESILIENCE ERA

EXTRASTATECRAFT

MISSING MIDDLE

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The urbanist and sociologist AbdouMalqou Simone offers an alternative strategy to the "ideal city" center and periphery SMART CITY project. His city yet to come exists in the missing middle of our city, which are the spaces where untapped social and ecological capital intersect to invest in what is possible for people to do with each other. These spaces deepen our capacity to operate together. This "between" can be sites of action points of resilience, connection, and anchorage. Here the project is not a skyline but the bricks and mortar for productive and inclusive societies

ACT. How much societal redundancy in the "between" city is required to sustain the capacity to adapt in a flexible way to unpredictable change?

CONNECTIVITY

UN-HABITAT II Principal: to safeguard the interests of present and future generations in human settlements MDG #7, Ensure Environmental Sustainability 2002 PANARCHY, Understanding Transformation in Human and Natural Systems, Gunderson and Holling, Ed. 2006 CISCO The Human Network 2006 Globalstar Corp launches 24 satellites for global mobile voice and data services 120 countries 2007 Ecology Without Nature, Tim Morton 2010 4G Smartphone, streaming data 2013 Space Junk and Satellites, 500,000+ pieces, 1000 operational satellites 2013 100 Resilient Cities Program Rockefeller

GREEN

SUSTAINING FLOWS, SPLINTERED SYSTEMS

CLOUDS

INESCAPABLE ECOLOGIES

INTERNET OF THINGS

ANALYTICS

MESO INFRASTRUCTURE

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

Our cities share a common set of urban infrastructure technological, logistic and operational issues such as access to clean water, safe food, affordable transportation and clean and affordable power. Yet, each city's existing assembled infrastructure is embedded in its own historic, geographic and cultural context and perceived from multiple interpersonal perspectives. Big Data and prosperity indexes are driving innovative algorithm and logistical systems to service demand, while ignoring the invested wealth of a city's "second nature" to top into, to enrich and to diversify local interconnected economies and ecologies.

ACT. How can our city's "second nature" or assembled infrastructure be adapted and operated as a set of intermediary meso-level infrastructure acting as a gateway between global flows and local sheds?

REBEL CITY

META CITY

SMART CITY

CITY YET TO COME

MANY FORMALITIES

URBAN FORM

The power of digital computing has opened up unknown urban form territory. These tools push static urban form models into the realm of the active verbs of "urbanizing and forming". We have the capacity to engage the three interests into value and action performance, in the "ecotone" or productive space between quantitative and qualitative bundles. Yet, as Adam Greenfield writes, SMART CITY logistics coding and Big Data analytics flattens the rich contours and robust ecotone which urban form thrives upon when part of the planetary urban collective network.

ACT. How does our city flatten digital tools to perform with people's many urban formalities?

N/S MEGA CITIES

POLITICS OF ENCOUNTER

UN-HABITAT II Principal: partnerships among countries and among all actors within countries from public, private, voluntary and community-based organizations, the cooperative sectors, NGOs Principal: Sustainable Development 1997 Metro-politics, A Regional Agenda for Community and Stability, Myron Orfield MVRDV Sustainable Urbanism Outlook 2000 LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Rating System launched 2000 Hannover Principles Design for Sustainability, McDonough 2000 Hannover Expo 2003-4 New Songdo, Korea 2005 G4 London, UK founded 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics 2009 Burj Khalifa, Tallest Structure in the World, Dubai, UAE 2010 Urban Modelling, Algorithms, Calibrations, Predictions Batty 2013 The New Science of Cities, Batty 2014 PM Modi, India '100 Smart Cities Mission' and the 'Atal Mission for Rejuvenation of Urban Transformation' (AMRUT) for the up-gradation of 500 existing cities, \$150 Billion MDG #8, Global Partnership for development

SDG 1 End Poverty SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Development SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

REBEL CITY

META CITY

SMART CITY

CITY YET TO COME

MANY FORMALITIES

URBAN FORM

The power of digital computing has opened up unknown urban form territory. These tools push static urban form models into the realm of the active verbs of "urbanizing and forming". We have the capacity to engage the three interests into value and action performance, in the "ecotone" or productive space between quantitative and qualitative bundles. Yet, as Adam Greenfield writes, SMART CITY logistics coding and Big Data analytics flattens the rich contours and robust ecotone which urban form thrives upon when part of the planetary urban collective network.

ACT. How does our city flatten digital tools to perform with people's many urban formalities?

MILANO

PARSONS

This material was co-constructed by the following team:
William R. Morrish, Urbanist and Professor of Urban Ecologies Parsons The New School for Design, New York
with Rehana Azim, M.S. Design and Urban Ecologies, Shibani Jadhav M.S. Design and Urban Ecologies, Walter Petrichyn, M.S. Design and Urban Ecologies, and Alexandra Verner, M.S. Design and Urban Ecologies

IV. GUF AND THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to humanity. Communities of color and low-income communities are often the most vulnerable and hardest hit by its effects, and simultaneously are the most marginalized from related decision-making processes. The impacts of climate change are likely to further exacerbate existing conditions of inequality, poverty, disenfranchisement, urbanization, and displacement. Poor governance structures, the dominance of fossil fuel industries in global politics and economic systems fuel climate change and inequality around the world.

In our collaborative efforts to address climate change, we look to cities as laboratories for innovation, mobilization, and social change. Most of the world's population will be inhabiting urban spaces vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, further stressing both social and ecological systems. Our focus is intersectional and interdisciplinary, and actively engages in research, advocacy, and practice rooted in social justice frameworks. Following are some brief descriptions of what we have accomplished.

I. GUF at the COP21

The GUF was actively engaged prior to, during, and after the 21st Annual Conference of the Parties (COP21) held in Paris from November 30th to December 11, 2015. COP21 brought together more than 50,000 participants including 25,000 official delegates from government, intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, Non-Government Organizations, and civil society to discuss ways to combat climate change effectively and boost the transition towards resilient, de-carbonized economies.

Professor Ana Baptista along with several graduate students from the Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management program attended the conference. The GUF organized a panel discussion titled Justice After COP21, which focused on the role of civil society in

addressing climate justice issues, and efforts necessary after COP21 to ensure just and sustainable outcomes for the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. The panel featured delegates from the "It Takes Roots", and Tim Marshall, the New School Provost.

We further contributed to a student-curated gallery exhibit, You Are Here, at the Parsons Paris campus, in response to the COP21 UN Climate Conference. In addition, together with the Sustainable Cities Club and the Change Forum we held a mock UN Climate Conference at Parsons Paris, supported by the Tishman Environment and Design Center. Students played the part of delegates representing specific nations and groups of nations as they engaged in their own negotiations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainable development, using the interactive C-ROADS simulation to see in real-time how their decisions would impact the global climate system.



Ana Baptista and participant at COP21



Parsons and Milano representatives at COP21

II. CLIMATE JUSTICE

GUF's commitments to addressing the problem of climate justice are reflected in our research, events, and workshops.

Climate Justice Report

The climate justice report was a collaborative research project between the GUF and the Climate Justice Alliance (CJA), led by Professor Ana Baptista, doctoral student José Tulio Gálvez Contreras, and graduate student Milagros De Hoz. The CJA is composed of local environmental justice organizations from across the country, with the goal to improve grassroots efforts. Existing work by communities engaged in the transition away from fossil fuels towards alternative economic and environmental policies provided a rich framework to explore options for locally grounded action to address climate change and other global challenges. The collaboration resulted in a report that featured the work of eight communities and key insights into the possibilities for locally grounded, globally relevant approaches to the twin crises of climate change and inequality.

Alternative Road to Paris

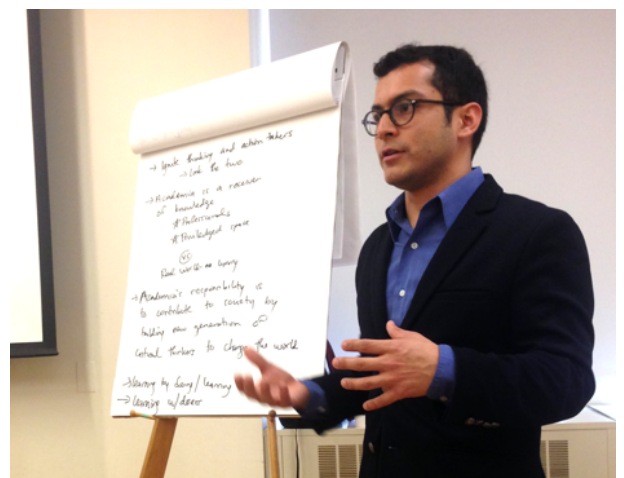
The GUF and the Tishman Environment and Design Center held a panel discussion, The Alternative Road to Paris: Examining the UN Climate Summit, on 16th November 2016, featuring COP21 and its implications for the future. The panel, moderated by Parsons Executive Dean Joel Towers, included Honduras Ambassador to the UN, New School faculty, and representatives from the Ironbound Community Corporation and the Center for Earth Ethics. The focus of the discussion was expectations for the climate negotiations and the prospects beyond COP21. After the panel, graduate students presented their analysis of climate vulnerabilities in cities across the world, and proposed solutions for the specific challenges faced in each city, discussing the significance of these impacts in relation to global climate talks.

Interdisciplinary Workshop: Urban Policy Implication of International Conferences

The GUF hosted an interdisciplinary urban policy workshop on May 3, 2016, to discuss the policy implications of international efforts such as the SDGs, COP21, and Habitat III. It was developed and facilitated by Crista Carter and José Gálvez Contreras. After introductory presentations by Dean Michelle DePass, Professor Michael Cohen, and Professor William Morrish, attendees were asked to discuss the following three questions:

- I. How do international conferences translate to actions and policies in cities?
- II. What role does governance and civil society play in framing these conferences?
- III. How can academia contribute to the discussion and help link global to local action?

Throughout the workshop, participants developed recommendations for actions that could be taken to improve the outcomes of these international conferences and agreements. The 30 participants shared many ideas, developed new relationships, and identified innovative ways on how to collaborate moving forward. Together the group identified several ways to engage as academics and activists to make these processes more inclusive and their goals more tangible.



José Gálvez Contreras going through the rubrics of the workshop with participants.

V. RESEARCH PAPERS & PUBLICATIONS

Since its inception in January 2015, GUF has contributed research papers and publications. Similar to the events hosted by GUF, the research papers and publications are a product of the intersectional work of faculty and students in thinking about the relationship between a diverse range of topics including climate change, housing, sanitation, urban development, and many more. The following provides an overview of GUF publications. To access the publications please visit:

<http://www.globalurbanfutures.org/resources>

ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS:

I. An Agenda for Habitat III: Urban Perestroika

Published: December 2015, in Environment and Urbanization. Sage.

Authors: Robert Buckley & Lena Simet

Abstract:

In order to develop a constructive new urban agenda (NUA), the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) must move beyond sterile proclamations, and acknowledge what we have learned since previous Habitat meetings - that urban policy significantly influences economic growth. A new urban agenda that takes new research and understandings into account could be like investments in health in terms of the high rate of return. More than that, changes in urban regulations and in the way subsidies are targeted could allow most of the desired gains to be realized without additional resources. An NUA, in other words, could be like perestroika for cities. Indeed, it could support a "restructuring" that is both more manageable and more fundamental than other, more popular, growth strategies. By examining a number of case studies, the paper demonstrates that a central message of Habitat III should be that better urban policy is much more than just a claim on public resources, it can be an important way to achieve inclusive growth.

II. Below the Digital Radar: Indifference, Bias and a Quiet Emergence in Media Coverage of Government Urban Plans in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Region (2000-2013)

Published: 2014

Authors: James Foley and Margarita Gutman

Abstract:

This study is of the coverage of government urban plans in selected media between 2000-2013 in the Buenos Aires metropolitan region. Why is this study about the coverage of urban plans relevant? Success depends in part of being present in a public conversation. Dissemination in the media permits the presence of the plans in a public discourse, allowing the creation of knowledge, the expression of opinions and then social participation. This reach to a wider audience can help to support the ideas and actions of the government's plans. We also review this public conversation to study and understand if and how issues of the public good, civil and social rights, conflict and vulnerability are present in the coverage of the urban plans and municipalities in the selected media.

This type of research which has not been done before in Buenos Aires gives quantifiable analysis which helps one to understand about different issues: the role of selected media in portraying plans, regional planning and sectorial urban issues; representations in these selected media of the different geographical and administrative components of the MRBA, this is to say, what is being portrayed in the media of urban planning happening in the municipalities from the publication's perspective?

III. Climate Justice in Action: Communities Working Towards Just Transitions

Published: January 2016

Authors: Ana Baptista, Jose Galvez Contreras, Milagros de Hoz

Abstract:

The report is the result of a collaboration with the Climate Justice Alliance and features the work of their Our Power pilot communities. It is done in direct response to those who may dismiss the power and potential of grassroots activism and action — work that is often poorly funded, rarely written about, and not widely known. These burgeoning efforts are a work-in-progress, evolving, and in many cases, charting new territory. Highlighting these efforts will inspire others and help nurture a trans-national movement for climate justice. The report includes brief case overviews describing each of the pilot organizations and their work on climate justice related issues. The lessons, best practices, and resources summarized in the report are compiled from a variety of primary and secondary sources including interviews as well as literature from the field. The key highlights of the report reflect the breadth and depth of resources found in communities engaged in the daily struggles of improving their material and social conditions on the ground.

IV. From Habitat II to Pachamama: A Growing Agenda and Diminishing Expectations for Habitat III

Published: December 2015, in *Environment and Urbanization*. Sage.

Author: Michael Cohen

Abstract:

Preparation for the upcoming United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito in October 2016 have included a wide range of meetings and work on a negotiated outcomes document entitled “The New Urban Agenda”. This is intended to present a global consensus on the significance and challenges of human settlements, as well as a Global Plan of Action. What can reasonably be expected from these

activities? Will a meaningful and substantively appropriate “new urban agenda” emerge from the discussions? If so, what is the likelihood that it can actually be implemented? Or is all this activity and expense a waste of time and human energy? This article examines the results of the Habitat I and Habitat II conferences, the weakness of the associated monitoring and evaluation, and the changing dynamics of human settlements since 1996. It provides a forward-looking assessment of both the likely results of Habitat III and the issues to be faced subsequently.

V. Habitat Commitment Project Booklet

First edition: July 28, 2016 (English only)

Second edition: October 18, 2016 (English & Spanish)

The motivation for writing the HCP booklet came from a belief that the commitments of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) should reflect knowledge about the level of fulfillment of commitments made by governments at the 1996 Habitat II Conference. This led GUF & OLA to undertake different forms of assessment of the fulfillment of Habitat II Commitments. GUF created the Habitat Commitment Index, which established predicted performance levels by income for six categories: Infrastructure, Employment, Poverty, Sustainability, Gender and Institutional Capacity. The OLA commissioned urban scholars and practitioners to do qualitative assessments in six Latin American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico. The findings of the two forms of assessment, quantitative and qualitative, are complementary and demonstrate that the commitments made in 1996 have not been significantly fulfilled.

Four major findings stand out from the assessments:

- National economic growth does not automatically result in improved urban conditions.
- There is no relationship between inequality levels and economic growth.

- Policy reform and institutional development both prove to be fragile in many countries.
- Data and evidence of the impacts of national policies on cities are difficult to find. There are severe limitations on the availability of urban data at the national level.

The qualitative reports have been published in full length in the book “Habitat en Deuda”, see publication XIII.

VI. Habitat for Housing in South Africa

Published: September 2015

Author: Laura Wainer

Abstract:

This paper provides an overview of South Africa’s housing policy, which has been the main urban policy at national, state and local levels. It analyzes the influence of the HABITAT II processes, and some insights about how this broader framework has been assimilated at local levels. Specifically, it studies housing policy’s performance through the lens of inequality, jobless growth and climate change variables. Empirical evidence of Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town will stress the mismatch between narratives and actions, in order to discuss about the effectiveness of normative frameworks towards HABITAT III (2016). The paper suggests that what happens in these cities has much wider relevance. Indeed, these problems assume national significance given the proportionate size of the population and their share on macroeconomic processes.

VII. SDGs and Urban Sanitation in Sub Saharan Africa: “Mathiness” in Measurement?

Published: October 2016

Authors: Robert Buckley & Achilles Kallergis

Abstract:

Most urban residents in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to improved sanitation. More importantly, according to the measurement

made for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), over the past 25 years average conditions have improved slightly from a very low level. This almost complete lack of improvement occurred during a period when regional real per capita income increased by almost forty percent. As a result, given this apparent absence of response to income growth, it is not surprising that access to urban sanitation in the region has been among the worst performing MDGs, and more importantly, its proposed successor in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) does not accurately reveal whether progress is being made. Even more problematically, the current measure frames the goal in ways that direct resources away from investments with high benefit-cost ratios to approaches that fail cost-benefit tests. The current SDG measure exhorts rather than measures. That is, it is posed in terms of the political motivation for the goal rather than the costs of achieving greater accuracy. Consequently, as Paul Romer says of such approaches: it will continue to “create incentives for participants to exaggerate disagreements...” rather than seek “a broadly shared consensus.”

VIII. Urban Economic Challenges and The New Urban Agenda

Published: October 2015, UN Habitat

Authors: Michael Cohen and Martha Jaimes

Abstract:

This paper focuses on the growing urban economic challenges facing both developing and industrialized countries. Cities are clearly the engines of growth for most national economies. The paper identifies the dynamic conditions of urban economies and suggests areas deserving policy attention and increased research. It focuses on three foundational components of the urban economy: employment, productivity, and urban finance and emphasizes the need for studies of the economic structure of cities in order to identify priority sectors for development. It also highlights the trade-offs that exist between employment and productivity and the need to develop a broader definition of urban productivity which is multi-scalar and

which relates to sustainability. This broader perspective suggests that the productivity of the urban economy might be considered as a public good in terms of its essential attributes that will ultimately determine the sustainability of specific urban areas. This contrasts sharply to the narrower notion of maximizing the competitiveness of firms and cities as a strategy for urban economic development. The paper further suggests the need for a broader analytic and multi-level perspective on these issues that includes the macro-economy, the city, the neighborhood, the firm and the household. Part I frames the challenges, while Part II proposes components of an analytic framework for the urban economy. Part III suggests a policy agenda for the urban economy. Part IV identifies questions for further research and some possible work program activities that might be undertaken by UN Habitat.

IX. Urbanization in Motion: Forces of Displacement Crisis and the City

Published: 2016

Author: Nadine Rachid

Abstract:

The following proposal takes a critical look at the crisis narrative typically associated with forced displacement: situations that involve large scale and abrupt displacement are considered moments of crisis and consequently, tend to fall entirely under humanitarian aid mandates. However, the process of Urbanization in Motion, where people seek cities for refuge, is challenging the go-to mechanisms of humanitarian aid.

Urbanization in Motion removes these “moments of crisis” from the controlled spaces of humanitarian aid, such as temporary camps and rural areas, and places them in dynamic urban settings, thus, changing the context around humanitarian aid approaches. With that, Urbanization in Motion blurs the lines between humanitarian needs and urban challenges and involves, directly and indirectly, new agencies, institutions, communities and actors. Despite this change in context, the approaches implemented by government agencies and aid

organizations in urban settings tend to remain structured around the crisis lens: temporary, reactive and dependent on traditional crisis management mechanisms, which in most cases focus on individual needs rather than investing in building communities.

The aim of this project is to introduce a new lens through which aid organizations and government agencies view and approach the urban challenges that accompany the process of Urbanization in Motion. This lens, specific to the urban context, does not aim to provide “solutions” for “problems,” rather, it reframes the narrative around these urban challenges in order to open up opportunities that go beyond traditional crisis management approaches, but rather explore possibilities for collaborations and partnerships among organizations, agencies and non-traditional actors involved in this complex process. Ultimately, this urban lens aims to shift the discourse around Urbanization in Motion from being limited to the crisis lens to become an urban narrative: dynamic, flexible and resilient. It is to be rooted in rebuilding communities and supporting existing and emerging social entities in the city as a whole.

SPANISH PUBLICATIONS:

X. Anticipar no es plantificar: Derivas de los instrumentos de anticipación disciplinar en la Region Metropolitana de Buenos Aires (1990-2014)

Published: 2015

Authors: Margarita Gutman and Laura Wainer

Abstract:

Esta investigación analiza comparativamente dos tipos de anticipaciones de futuros metropolitanos en la Region Metropolitana de Buenos Aires. Estudia los planes, proyectos, ideas y políticas urbanas propuestas desde el campo disciplinar por las instituciones de gobierno y elaboradas por funcionarios y/o profesionales urbanistas; y las compara con las anticipaciones producidas desde el ámbito extra-disciplinar por periodistas y prensa local, grupos de la comunidad, organizaciones sociales, y público en general.

XI. Exploraciones Virtuales en el area Metropolitana de Buenos Aires: Anticipaciones extradisciplinarias en el ciberespacio producidas por conflictos territoriales en Avellaneda, Lanus y Lomas de Zamora (2000-2015)

Published: 2016

Authors: Margarita Gutman, Javier Nespiras, Ximena Puppo

Abstract:

Esta ponencia se propone analizar el apartado correspondiente al diagnóstico del Plan Estratégico Urbano Territorial para el Municipio de Lanús, teniendo en cuenta su rol en la planificación y haciendo énfasis en el abordaje del hábitat vulnerable. El estudio de este caso se enmarca en una de las líneas de investigación del Proyecto UBACyT interdisciplinario “Tensiones, proyectos e intervenciones para el desarrollo con inclusión socio-espacial en la Cuenca Matanza-Riachuelo”, cuyo objetivo general consiste en conocer el modo en que los territorios que son objeto de políticas de urbanización se configuran como campo de disputa entre los actores involucrados.

XII. Convive: Vivienda y Habitat en Latinoamerica?

Published: 2016

Authors: Maria Carrizosa and Lucas Serna

Abstract:

Convive is a laboratory of academic research at the service of local government, where new generations of architects come together and are sensitized about social, physical, and economic conditions of diverse and complex territories. For 10 years, Convive in collaboration with architecture faculty from across Latin America, local administrators, and national and international organizations has developed courses around habitats and housing, generating knowledge and consciousness on sustainability.

XIII. Habitat en Deuda

Published: October 18, 2016

Authors: Cohen M., Carrizosa M., and Gutman M., eds,

Abstract:

GUF and OLA commissioned highly recognized Latin American experts to draft documents that would assess the progress each of their countries had during the last two decades with regards to the Habitat Agenda: Eduardo Reese and Andrea Catenazzi from Argentina, Edesio Fernandes from Brazil, Jorge Torres from Colombia, Alfredo Rodríguez and Paula Rodríguez from Chile, Fernando Carrión and Alexandra Velasco from Ecuador, and Alicia Ziccardi from Mexico.

These texts, both individually and collectively, represent an important contribution to the urban studies literature, both in Latin America and globally. The book was launched at The New School's Side Event in Habitat III, where the authors participated in a panel discussion. It was also presented at the Habitat Alternativo, and at The New School's booth in Quito, as well as the Habitat III Follow-up Conference in Bogota, on October 21st, 2016.

VI. THE GUF'S URBAN ECONOMIC SEMINAR SERIES

FALL 2015 – SPRING 2016

The Global Urban Futures Project launched the Urban Economics Seminar in the Fall 2015 semester as a place for an open discussion on the economic role of cities. The seminar series seeks to highlight the importance of the Urban Economy as an area of study.

The seminar series revolves around five main categories:

1. Production and employment
2. Productivity and competitiveness
3. Informal sector
4. Finance and public investment
5. Housing, land and infrastructure

Between October 2015 and December 2016, a total of 22 seminars have been held. During the Fall semester of 2015, seven academic papers were presented by speakers from institutions including; UN-Habitat Nairobi, NYU Stern Urbanization Project, and Wharton University of Pennsylvania.

During the Spring 2016 semester a total of nine sessions have been held, with presentations by academics coming from institutions such as The World Bank, Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, Columbia University, the Centre of Urban and Regional Studies (CEUR-CONICET), and NSSR from The New School.

During Spring 2016 we also began a new series of sessions called Urban Talks as an open space for discussion on topics related to Urban Policy, research, and on the ground projects with communities. As part of the Urban Talks we held three sessions in the Spring and two in the Fall of 2016, with presentations on topics such as gender and just cities, a strategy for mapping and preventing sexual harassment in public spaces in Kibera, Nairobi, community finance and housing rights in Asia, a sustainable and livable cities initiative, and a discussion on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Appendix three highlights the sessions of the urban series.

THE URBAN ECONOMICS SEMINAR SERIES IN NUMBERS



Aniruddha Dasgupta's "Livable cities for all"



Somsook Bonyabancha presenting at the Urban Economic Seminar

VII. PRESS COVERAGE

The GUF and its Habitat Commitment Project received increasing attention in the lead up to Habitat III. News about the project was not limited to North America, but reached news outlets in Asia and Latin America. This shows the growing reach and influence of the group during the Habitat III process. The below highlights most of the articles that feature the work of the GUF listed from the most recent.

i. Inter Press Service

Gobiernos y movimientos sociales en desacuerdo sobre futuro urbano

OCTOBER 21, 2016

<https://goo.gl/diO3iL>

ii. El Espectador

Habitat III y la deuda de los países con el desarrollo urbano

OCTOBER 18, 2016

<https://goo.gl/Ap9vN7>

iii. Journal of the American Planning Association
A Midterm Report: Will Habitat III Make

A Difference to the World's Urban Development?

Eugenie L. Birch

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

<https://goo.gl/iLzzCG>

iv. NYC Philanthropy Article

Global Urban Futures Project Announces Habitat Commitment Index

SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

<https://goo.gl/L0sftd>

v. Center for NYC Affairs

Commit - and also Verify: Putting Reality Checks into the World's "New Urban Agenda"

SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

<https://goo.gl/E1ICTE>

vi. Habitat III and the Draft New Urban Agenda:
The Contentious Clause

AUGUST 22, 2016

<https://goo.gl/7IL3sd>

vii. Indian Express

Habitat Commitment Index: India Fares Worse than Pakistan

AUGUST 22, 2016

<https://goo.gl/vHp6bv>

viii. India lacking in Implementation of 1996

UN agendas on urban development: Report

AUGUST 22, 2016

<https://goo.gl/yloXMI>

ix. Jakarta Post Questioning the New Urban Agenda

JULY 29, 2016

<https://goo.gl/qRYnCO>

x. Citiscope

Countries only made marginal progress on urban commitments since 1996, index finds

JULY 26, 2016

<https://goo.gl/Gs0uc8>

xi. Habitat International Coalition

Surabaya Summary. Fulfilling Habitat Commitments: Assessing the Past - Constructing a Platform for Action

JULY 24, 2016

<https://goo.gl/qJup7a>

xii. Citiscope

Who are Habitat III major players?

<https://goo.gl/EliMca>

xiii. US announces regional meetings to build on Habitat III report

OCTOBER 30, 2015

<https://goo.gl/v2l9Rq>

APPENDIX ONE

DEVELOPMENT OF THE HABITAT TIMELINE

The following summary highlights lessons revealed by the tool, about how we should think about what we are learning to reveal what is missing. And given this information, what we might need to act with regards to the New Urban Agenda and other global urban future questions.

1. UN Habitat

The UN Habitat conference have changed drastically, with the original hand drawn graphic of a circle, triangle, and human body now displaced by machine-like lines forming a code-like emblem foregrounding the letter “H” and numeral “III”. In an era of big data, this raises the question of whether we are displacing people and experience for code, algorithms. Our cities face a complicated equation of 17 SDGs and its 170 indicators to be carried out through the application of 137 New Urban Agenda items, on their way to becoming smart cities for the few. Given that cities face a turbulent future of climate change, widening inequity, jobless growth, and migration, we are facing an urban future with no analog, which operates outside historic patterns and predictive models. It would seem that the making of an inclusive city, which increases the creative potential of the many hands of a city’s population, is a resilience tactic for the future.

2. Urban Information

The way in which information is generated, processed, disseminated, and controlled is changing rapidly and dramatically. This raises the question of what the new sources of information are, what sources have been forgotten, and which are no longer applicable in the modern world? Alongside the changes are numerous entrenched power interests fighting for control over its intake, ownership, and use, which raises additional questions of who the information serves, how it is accessed, and how it is updated. Our pools of knowledge are quickly becoming separated by private algorithms, costly big data servers and logistic experts. Rob Van Kranenberg, Belgian urban digital activist, warns, “The way this ‘internet of things’ interlinks the real world with the virtual has the potential to transform our cities more dramatically than even the introduction of the railway. But while the railway opened up cities, bringing in new things like soap and foreign goods, the coming ‘ubicom’ threatens to restrict our cities. To make them more closed, not open.” Now we must act to build and maintain common bridges between these funds of knowledge to reveal the full potential of shared urban information for all.

3. Urban Habitation

UN-Habitat began in the aftermath of the climate turmoil, global war, human migration and national realignment. What followed is a history of divided urban inhabitation — north and south, green and brown, informal and formal, marginal and gentrified. Now, urban habitation has become a struggle for the right to occupy a city with freedom, social justice and adequate provisions. This raises the question of how cities might change the terms of urban habitation to value all of its inhabitants as equally critical assets. The dominant parts of a city are occupied by people cohabitating through everyday living in a turbulent world, their urban lives defined by the precarious nature of sustaining connections to the many critical entities living and existing alongside them. While the word “connection” appears many times in the New Urban Agenda, sustaining connections is not guaranteed – it requires constant hands-on maintenance and management. In an unsettled climate and urbanized planet, cities need to consider how all of their urban inhabitants can be empowered to be critical assets and actors for sustaining the dominant parts of the city.

4. Urban Development

New skyscrapers, “highline public parks”, and SMART city systems represent the 1% regime projecting their “the ideal city” as plans for urban development. However, one set of plans is never fully realized before another is proposed. Further, these plans often operate separate of emotion, public inclusion, and consideration of what would be an ideal city for others. This causes many to be displaced, and creates an atmosphere of slow violence against a future that is controlled by the 1%. This raises the question to cities, of what shortsighted “ideal city” projections they might have. The urbanist and sociologist AbdouMaliqu Simone offers an alternative. His city yet to come focuses not on a skyline, but the bricks and mortar for productive and inclusive societies, by developing and shaping spaces with untapped social and ecological capital into active points of reference, connection, and anchorage. By fostering these connections and investing in more possibilities for people in these spaces to engage with each other, we create societal redundancies that can help sustain a city’s ability to adapt and react to unpredictable change.

5. Urban Infrastructure

A city's everyday existence is dependent upon what the urban historian, William Cronon, called its second nature — the set of social and technological systems built on top of the entangled ecology of natural and economic forces surrounding it. City's that are hit by intensified storm surges and rolling systems failures disrupt this second nature and reveal that we can no longer use the standard approach to urban infrastructure as utilitarian systems. This approach remains elusive as it operates as a collection of benevolent monopolies or independent enclaves, outside of a city's collective public realm. This raises the question to each city, of how its second nature is assembled. All cities share a common set of issues, such as access to clean water, safe food, affordable transportation, and clean and affordable power. Big data and prosperity indexes are driving innovative algorithmic and logistical systems to service a city's demands, yet they ignore the invested wealth of a city's second nature. As the infrastructure of a city is embedded in its own historic, geographic, and cultural context, this second nature can be used to enrich and diversify local economies and ecologies. After understanding the makeup of a city's second nature, the question should be asked about how it can be adapted, to operate as an intermediary gateway between the global supplies of resources and local needs within the city.

6. Urban Form

There are many ways we try to diagram a city's urban form, and identify what constitutes good urban form: there are those who study it through the patterns of human and ecological systems, others who draw from stories and experience, and yet others who use spreadsheets, logistics chains, and relational spiders. All contribute to the facts of a city's urban form, but they are rarely combined in practice nor equally valued. This raises the question of what different diagrams exist of a city's urban form, and what the different interpretations reveal. We have the capacity to engage all of these ways of understanding, and the power of digital computing has given us new tools that transform static models of urban form into active and dynamic things. Yet, as Adam Greenfield writes, smart city methods and big data analytics simplify reality and flatten out the rich contours and robust interactions that urban form thrives on. Cities must take steps to restore these elements to the digital tools they use.

II APPENDIX TWO

A SUMMARY OF THE TRANSVERSAL FINDINGS FROM THE QUALITATIVE STUDY

The transversal findings from the qualitative study have been summarized in eight key points²:

I. HOUSING POLICY UNDERMINES URBAN POLICY



- Not only has housing policy replaced urban policy, it has acted against urban policy objectives (densification, sustainability, curbing intra-urban inequality, and efficiency in public expenditures).
- There is a massive “houses without people” phenomenon. Newly constructed public housing gets abandoned, including one million in Chile, five million in Mexico, and 5.5 million in Brazil. There has been no learning from Pruitt-Igoe.
- The lesson being learned by governments is that housing policy should not inform urban policy, but vice versa. When housing takes over urban policy, it betrays its purpose, and fails to be instrumental for social policy and serve as a tool against poverty (Torres).

II. THE POWER OF PRIVATE DEVELOPERS

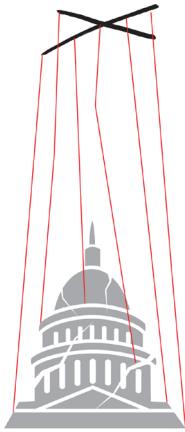


- The leading housing policy model, credit + savings + subsidy, has shrunk the state leaving the market to dictate urbanization trends — indirectly, not only the market, but also subsidies, have set urbanization patterns.
- As the state channels subsidies to the demand, it also subsidizes supply. We must stop calling them “subsidies to the demand”, when the real winners are the developers.

III. FRAGILITY AND SHORT-LIVED NATURE OF ACHIEVEMENTS



- A shared conclusion across countries is that success in policy reform is fragile, slow, short lived, and weak.
- The broad joint efforts of “Habitat Argentina” towards just habitat faces an adverse deregulatory environment.
- Correa’s 10 year-long Citizen Revolution begins to fracture with the economic downturn.
- In Colombia, the subsidies to the demand model strangled mechanisms that enabled community organizations to manage subsidies.
- In short, rights prove hard to win and easy to lose.

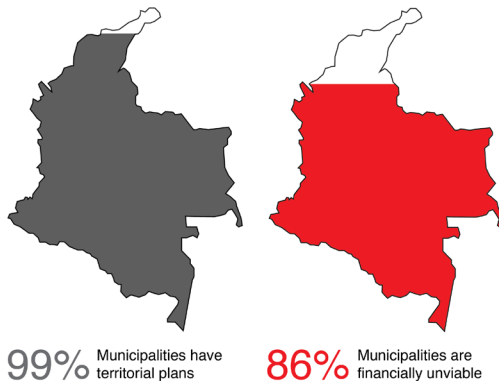


IV. LEGAL STRUCTURES BUT LITTLE IMPLEMENTATION

▪ Brazil and Colombia, which are role models for constitutional reform with “right to housing”, “social and ecological function of land”, and compulsory “territorial planning,” are experiencing difficulties keeping up with urban reforms deemed successful.

- In Brazil, the Cities Ministry is at risk because it was turned into a “clientelistic office” by the Worker's Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores).
- In Mexico, despite participation being made mandatory, it has narrow scope and poor quality in practice.

V. ARTIFICIAL DECENTRALIZATION



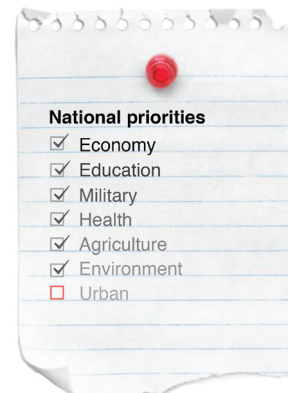
- Decentralization is more nominal than real: it doesn't assure fiscal autonomy, local democracy, nor effective implementation of social policies.
- In Brazil, most municipalities prefer to depend on national transfers instead of raising local revenue.
- Metropolitanization frameworks remain elusive.

VI. CONTINUING INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION



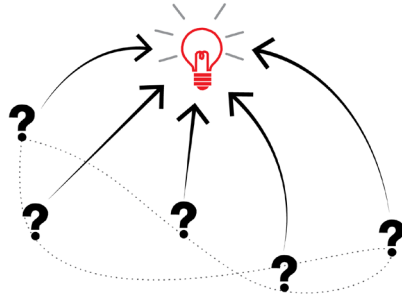
- Despite progress, Latin America remains the world's most unequal.
- Inequality is so stark that traditional indicators fail to describe it.
- Intra-urban inequality, is not a priority in itself, but in its effects in security, health, and productivity.

VII. WEAKNESS OF THE HABITAT II AGENDA



- Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico were significantly impacted by Habitat II, while Argentina, Chile, and Ecuador were not.
- Urban institutions are weak, subordinate to other sectors, and incapable of commanding housing policy and establishing a dialogue with economic policy in equal terms.
- Habitat II agreed upon the what, but the *how* remains unclear.

VIII. A NEED FOR A NEW INCLUSIVE URBAN PRACTICE



- There is clear realization that problems are interdependent, so solutions should also be interdependent. But in this context, what kind of urban practice is needed?
- Current practices reproduce sector isolation, and hinder inter-governmental collaboration.
- Urban planners often become inadvertent hostages of the same exclusionary markets they hope to prevent.

APPENDIX THREE

THE URBAN ECONOMICS SEMINAR SERIES

FALL 2015

"Building the foundation for productive cities: three pronged approach to urbanization"

Speaker: Marco Kamiya

Institution: UN - Habitat

Marco Kamiya is a Unit Leader of the Urban Economy and City Finance at UN HABITAT headquarters Nairobi.

Abstract:

UN-HABITAT is promoting the Three Pronged Approach (3PA) as a strategy for good urbanization. good urban planning, efficient financial and legal framework. Resting upon quantitative evidence, this study aims to discuss that: i. Well-planned cities have higher urban productivity in the long run, ii. Financial are key for a successful implementation of plans and for creating an urban ecosystem with steady and resilient value creation patterns, iii. Legal framework is essential to link finance and planning.

The study present evidence that each element of the 3PA is a necessary condition for good urbanization, though there are more elements and context local governments need to integrated the three elements to achieve sustainable urbanization.

"Where is the money? Strengthening the role of municipal finance in urban development"

Speaker: Marco Kamiya

Abstract:

Municipal finance is the base for healthy and sustainable local governments. Most of the small and medium municipalities in developing countries have permanent deficits and very few have access to external financing or are ready to design Public Private Partnerships. This policy paper is one of the inputs for HABITAT III and provides elements to discuss sources of

financing and governance for municipalities to provide local governments with a more stable flow of endogenous and exogenous revenues. Policies and instruments are discussed.

"Urbanization and Structural Change in Africa: An Empirical Analysis"

Speaker: Gulelat Kebede

Institution: UN - Habitat

Gulelat Kebede is a Director of UN-Habitat Urban Economy Branch and lecturer at The New School.

Abstract:

We propose a discussion on productivity and growth in the Sub-Saharan African context. Most African cities do not conform to a standard model of urbanization since rapid growth has been accompanied by increasing poverty and inequality, while the expected job growth has not occurred. This paper discusses elements of productivity and structural change in African cities and the impact on urbanization.

"Managing Urban Expansion: From Global Monitoring to Stakes on the Ground"

Speaker: Shlomo Angel

Institution: New York University (NYU)

Shlomo Angel is an Adjunct professor at NYU and senior research scholar at the NYU Stern Urbanization Project, where he leads the Urban Expansion Program

Abstract:

This presentation reports on current progress in estimating the dimensions and attributes of global urban expansion. Monitoring global urban expansion is undertaken by a partnership between the NYU Urban Expansion Program, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Results are expected

in time for Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, now scheduled for October 2016. The monitoring effort focuses on a global stratified sample of 200 cities, selected from a universe of 4,245 cities that had 100,000 people or more in 2010. It consists of a four-phase research project. Phase I focuses on the mapping and measurement of global urban expansion in the sample of cities, 1990 - 2014, using Landsat satellite imagery; Phase II on the mapping and measurement of urban layouts in the sample, 2014-2015, using high-resolution satellite imagery; Phase III on a land and housing survey focused on the regulatory regimes and on land and housing affordability using city-based researchers in the global sample of cities; and Phase IV, to be completed later, on the mapping and estimation of urban extent in the entire universe of cities to 2045.

"Urbanization and Urban Policies: Navigating between two extremes"

Speaker: Gilles Duranton

Institution: Wharton University of Pennsylvania
Gilles Duranton is a Professor of Real Estate. Dean's Chair in Real Estate Professor; Chair, Real Estate Department; Co-editor of the Journal of Urban Economics; Fellow, Centre for Economic Policy Research; Fellow, Spatial Economics Research Centre; Fellow, Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis; Member of the Urban Economics Association; Faculty Fellow, Penn Institute for Urban Research.

Abstract:

This presentation examines the effects of urbanization on development and growth. It begins with a labor market perspective and emphasizes the importance of agglomeration economies, both static and dynamic. It then argues that more productive jobs in cities do not exist in a void and underscores the importance of job and firm dynamics. In turn, these dynamics are shaped by the broader characteristics of urban systems. A number of conclusions are drawn. First, agglomeration effects are quantitatively important and pervasive. Second, the productive advantage

of large cities is constantly eroded and must be sustained by new job creation and innovation. Third, this process of creative destruction in cities, which is fundamental for aggregate growth, is determined in part by the characteristics of urban systems and broader institutional features. We highlight important differences between developing countries and more advanced economies. A major challenge for developing countries is to reinforce the role of their urban systems as drivers of economic growth.

"Jobless Growth in India"

Speaker: Sheba Tejani

Institution: Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy - The New School
Sheba Tejani is a PhD in Economics from NSSR and Assistant Professor of International Affairs and Milano School for Public Engagement.

Abstract:

"This presentation investigates the relationship between output growth and employment growth in India for the period 1978–2010 at the aggregate and sectoral levels. Using a Kaldorian framework of endogenous productivity growth, we find that Kaldor–Verdoorn effects in the economy have become more predominant over time, especially in the post-reform (1994–2010) period. Our estimated Kaldor–Verdoorn coefficients, measured as the employment elasticity of output growth, for both formal sector and total employment have dropped dramatically over time, suggesting that India has leapfrogged into a high-productivity regime without the broad-based expansion of labour-intensive production that has been characteristic of fast-growing economies in East Asia. We examine some explanations for why these Kaldor–Verdoorn effects have become pronounced over time and are not convinced that wage pressure has been one of the reasons. A shift in the composition of demand towards higher-productivity sectors, however, does appear to be an important part of the explanation. We also find mixed evidence that forces of international competition have

generated pressures to adopt more capital-intensive techniques of production.

"Productivity and the Urban Economy"

Speaker: Michael Cohen

Institution: Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy - The New School
Michael Cohen is a Professor of International Affairs at Milano School of International Affairs at The New School

Abstract:

This presentation focuses on the growing urban economic challenges facing both developing and industrialized countries. Cities are clearly the engines of growth for most national economies. The paper identifies the dynamic conditions of urban economies and suggests areas deserving policy attention and increased research. It focuses on three foundational components of the urban economy: employment, productivity, and urban finance and emphasizes the need for studies of the economic structure of cities in order to identify priority sectors for development. It also highlights the tradeoffs which exist between employment and productivity and the need to develop a broader definition of urban productivity which is multi-scalar and which relates to sustainability. This broader perspective suggests that the productivity of the urban economy might be considered as a public good in terms of its essential attributes which will ultimately determine the sustainability of specific urban areas. This contrasts sharply to the narrower notion of maximizing the competitiveness of firms and cities as a strategy for urban economic development. The paper further suggests the need for a broader analytic and multi-level perspective on these issues which includes the macro-economy, the city, the neighborhood, the firm, and the household. Part I frames the challenges, while Part II proposes components of an analytic framework for the urban economy. Part III suggests a policy agenda for the urban economy. Part IV identifies questions for further research and some possible work program activities which might be undertaken by UN Habitat.

SPRING 2016

"Recent Advances in Urban Data"

Speaker: Victor Vergara

Institution: Metro Lab - World Bank

Victor Vergara is a Manager, at the Metro Lab, The World Bank. A Mexican architect and urban economist, has worked at the World Bank on urban issues in developing countries for almost 20 years.

Abstract:

The presentation focuses on MetroLab's use of urban economic data for innovative approaches to urban management and development. The World Bank's MetroLab provides a platform for cities across the globe to share knowledge, facilitate capacity building and peer learning, foster networks of practitioners, and help one another through a virtual network as well as a series of "Living Laboratories" — thematic meetings hosted by one of the participating cities. Participating cities include Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, Guadalajara, Panama, Cairo, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Accra, Dar es Salaam, Kigali, Mumbai, Karachi, Kathmandu, Colombo, Barcelona, New York, and Seoul.

"Taxation in Pakistan"

Speaker: Fahd Ali

Institution: New School for Social Research - The New School

Fahd Ali's research on taxation in Pakistan demonstrates the importance of political settlements in determining who pays what kinds of taxes in Pakistan.

Abstract:

Pakistan's tax collection (as a share of GDP) is quite poor despite several efforts to reform it in the past. At 9% it is the lowest in the region and one of worst among economies of its size. This dissertation argues that the societies where it is successful effective taxation is an outcome of a political settlement between the state and the various factions of the elite. A stable political settlement creates the space in which necessary economic and legal institutions can be created to collect taxes effectively. In a multi-ethnic federal state like Pakistan the

state has to arrive at a political settlement that is acceptable to all major ethnic factions of the capitalist and the landed bourgeoisie. I argue that one way to explain Pakistan's poor tax collection is the absence of such a political settlement that is both favourable to the state and acceptable to various ethnic and political elite.

"Large-Scale Urban Projects and their relationship with their cities: the cases of Puerto Madero (Buenos Aires) and Puerto Norte (Rosario) in Argentina"

Speaker: Daniel Kozak

Institution: Centre of Urban and Regional Studies (CEUR-CONICET)

Daniel Kozak, Architect (University of Buenos Aires) graduated with Diploma of Honor and CPAU Medal (summa cum laude), and PhD in Built Environment (Oxford Brookes University). CONICET Researcher at the Center for Urban and Regional Studies, FADU Professor of Urban Theory at the University of Buenos Aires, Affiliate Associate Professor at Washington University in St. Louis, and Guest Professor at Torcuato Di Tella University. Currently, he is a Visiting Scholar at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), Columbia University.

Abstract:

Large-Scale Urban Projects (LSUP) are one of the favorite instruments of contemporary urban planning. They are generally the result of the refurbishment of former industrial sites, or areas that for different reasons have lost their main historical uses and have become relegated. LSUP are both precious occasions for local governments that often transform troubled areas into bright new centralities, and also extraordinary opportunities for the multiplication of capital. Consequently, they are a preferred destination for private investment, and particularly real estate foreign direct investment. A common critique in contemporary urban studies points to the relationship established between LSUP and the cities that host them: the imputation of LSUP as cases of urban fragmentation. However, despite this being a usual observation, there are few studies that engage in a thorough examination and take it

as a central problématique. In this presentation we will discuss this question using two LSUP in Argentina, Puerto Madero and Puerto Norte, as case studies.

"Sustainable Development Goals"

Speaker: Eduardo López-Moreno

Institution: UN-HABITAT

Eduardo López Moreno is the Director of Research and Capacity Development at UNHABITAT, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. He has over 25 years of academic and professional experience in housing and urban development policies, institutional analysis, global monitoring, and equity and urban poverty issues. His qualifications include a Ph.D. in urban geography from the University of Paris III-Sorbonne in France and a master degree in urban sociology in the same University. He also has a BA in Architecture from the University of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Abstract:

Highly unequal income or consumption patterns in cities in the developing world point to institutional and structural failures, as well as to broader economic problems such as imbalanced labour markets or a lack of pro-poor policies. The more unequal the distribution of income or consumption in urban areas, the higher the risk that economic disparities will result in social and political tension. Eradicating hunger will require multiple interventions, and not only those related to food availability. Use of safe water, improved sanitation and durable housing materials, combined with provision of sufficient living areas to ease overcrowding, will improve the chances of better health outcomes and life conditions for slum dwellers. What will be the guiding principles to accomplish these improved life conditions?

"New Frontiers in Municipal Finance"

Speaker: Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic

Institution: The World Bank

Ms. Farvacque-Vitkovic has more than 25 years of World Bank experience in many regions of the world and has worked in almost 30 countries. As a Lead Urban Development Specialist, she has led the

preparation and implementation of a large number of urban development and municipal management projects around the world and has been the recipient of numerous awards for excellence. She has a keen interest in translating lessons from experience and cutting-edge know-how into practical knowledge products and is currently leading the development and worldwide delivery of an e-learning curriculum on land management, urban planning and municipal finances.

Abstract:

Through a discussion based on her book “Municipal Finances, A Handbook for Local Governments”, Ms. Farvacque-Vitkovic will present the main issues concerning municipal finance. From Detroit to Lahore, most cities around the world are facing financing challenges. Bankruptcy, budget deficits, unmaintained infrastructure, declining quality of services and increasing urban poverty are unfortunately too common headlines. At the same time, the world is becoming more complex and municipal officials are not only dealing with the day to day business which comes with running a city but, they also have to increasingly address issues of social inclusion, local economic development, job creation, crime and violence, climate change, floods, natural and man-made disasters as well as an increasing number of urban dwellers. Against this backdrop, there is both a sense of urgency and a huge opportunity for change.

"Revisiting the housing gap and current solutions: A new framework with evidence from Kenya and India"

Speaker: Sumila Gulyani

Institution: The World Bank

Dr. Gulyani received her Ph.D. in Economic Development and Urban Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is author of the book “Innovating with Infrastructure” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2001) which was awarded the Barclay Jones Prize. Her publications include academic articles on water (2001a, 2005), electricity (1999, 2001b), transport (2001c), and slum upgrading (forthcoming 2007) in journals such as World Development, Urban Studies, and Environment and Planning.

Abstract:

Our understanding of settlement conditions

and the nature of poverty across urban slums is limited. While slum residents in cities share the challenge of monetary poverty, their experiences diverge significantly relative to employment levels, education, and living conditions. Nairobi’s relatively well-educated and employed residents suffer from poorer living conditions—as measured by access to infrastructure and urban services, housing quality and crime—than residents of other cities, who report much lower levels of educational attainment and paid employment. The presentation focuses on research findings that challenge conventional development theory—particularly notions that education and jobs will translate into lower poverty and improved living conditions.

"Making Land Fly: Land Quota Markets in Chinese Urbanization"

Speaker: Yuan Xiao

Institution: Columbia University

Yuan Xiao is an assistant professor of Urban Planning at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. For 2014-2015, she was a postdoctoral research scholar at the Center for Global Legal Transformation of Columbia Law School, where she researched property rights changes in the context of rapid urbanization. In 2015, she also taught at New York University’s Wagner School of Public Service.

Abstract:

In this paper I investigate China’s land quota markets, a recent land policy innovation that virtually transfers urbanization permission from the countryside to cities. Local governments have created new land quotas by demolishing sparsely located farmhouses, and resettling peasants into high-density apartments. These quotas are then sold in new land quota markets to real estate developers. I find that China’s land quota markets alter the traditional calculus of location and land use theory: the rural hinterlands have suddenly become valuable to urban land markets. These dramatic changes are the result of reconstructing property rights in land. The quotas traded on the market are a right to convert land use from rural to urban, separate from development rights to invest in specific properties. These institutional

changes were initiated by recalibration of intergovernmental relationships: the Central Government delegates more autonomy to local governments and the municipality centralizes control over land by subordinating district and county governments. The implications of the new land quota markets are profound and many. They further draw land resources away from rural areas to urban areas, and reinforce the imbalances between big and small cities. The impact on peasants is rather mixed, and depends on the locations of the resettled peasants.

URBAN TALKS - SPRING 2016

"Gender, Assets, and Just Cities"

Speaker: Caroline Moser

Institution: University of Manchester, UK

Caroline Moser is a British anthropologist who has worked on urban and gender issues in developing countries for many years. She worked at the Development Planning Unit in London, the London School of Economics, The World Bank, and founded the Global Urban Research Center at the University of Manchester. She is presenting her recently published work which was supported by the Ford Foundation

This event was a book launch at Ford Foundation.

"Empowering young women for community transformation in Kibera, Nairobi"

Speaker: Jane Anyongo

Institution: PolyCom

Jane Anyongo is the director of PolyCom. PolyCom Development Project presented their model of using crowd data sourcing to map sexual harassment in public spaces within Kibera, Nairobi

Abstract:

Polycom was started in response to the sexual violence and exploitation faced by young girls in Kibera informal settlement in Nairobi. There was a particular case when a 39 year old man had a sexual relationship with an 11 year old girl that spurred the organisation's founder, Jane Anyongo, into action. She wanted to help girls to understand that they need to take care of

their bodies until they are ready. She started by educating girls to understand themselves and make informed decisions concerning their lives, particularly their bodies. The organization was later registered as Polycom Development Project (PDP).

"Community Finance: The Key to City-wide Community Driven Upgrading for Inclusive and Sustainable City development"

Speaker: Somsook Bonyabancha

Institution: Asian Coalition on Housing Rights, Bangkok, Thailand

Founder and secretary general of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights. Somsook was director of the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI) in Thailand from 2003 to 2009 and prior to that director of the Urban Community Development Office. She began working on housing and land issues through supporting land-sharing schemes in Bangkok in the early 1980s.

Abstract:

The Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) is a network of community organisations in Asia working on issues related to urban poverty, slums and slum upgrading. It supports local organisations through professional exchanges and grants/loans from a fund called ACCA (Asian Coalition for Community Action). It has close ties with the Slum Dwellers International movement.

"Working together to empower America's legacy cities"

Speaker: Nicholas Hamilton

Institution: Columbia University

Nicholas Hamilton directs the urban policy work of The American Assembly at Columbia University where he leads the Legacy Cities Partnership, a national coalition working to revitalize America's legacy cities. His work focuses on economic development, governance, and civic engagement. Mr. Hamilton's architectural and urban design work for the firm Davis Brody Bond included the master planning and design of US diplomatic facilities abroad as well as laboratory and teaching facilities for Columbia and Princeton Universities.

Abstract:

The talk will focus on the concept of legacy cities, older industrial cities across the US that have lost a substantial share of jobs and population. He will describe some of the spatial and economic characteristics common in the legacy cities context and will also share some of the strategies being deployed to improve conditions and outcomes in legacy cities. He will also discuss examples of both place-based policies and planning, as well as some issue-based approaches that bridge across local geographies, such as the work of the Legacy Cities Partnership, WE Global Network, and Preservation Rightsizing Network.

URBAN TALKS - FALL 2016

"Livable cities for all"

Speaker: Aniruddha Dasgupta

Institution: WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities
Aniruddha Dasgupta is the Global Director of WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, WRI's program that galvanizes action to help cities grow more sustainably and improve quality of life in developing countries around the world. Ani guides WRI Sustainable Cities in developing environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable solutions to improve people's quality of life in developing cities. Ani leads the program's team of global experts in sustainable transport, urban development and building efficiency, as well as its engagement across low-carbon energy, governance, water risk, and associated areas as well as serves as a member of WRI's global management team, helping to shape the institute's overall strategy and growth..

Abstract:

The Sustainable and Livable Cities Initiative is a series of projects of the Center that address climate, energy, transport and water issues in China, India and Brazil. The Initiative projects created better access to transit for the disabled in Brazil, made bus operators in India better-equipped to manage efficient and sustainable bus systems and introduced best practices on increasing water supply and improving air quality with decision-makers in China. Cities worldwide are also able to calculate their carbon dioxide emissions consistently.

This pioneering Initiative tackled challenges and opportunities in cities, disseminated solutions to policy-makers and showed that making cities more sustainable improves life for the people who live in them. Now more than ever, cities are central to sustainable development, climate change and economic growth, with city dwellers' needs and solutions taking center stage.

"Local Authorities Acting Globally for Sustainable Development: The Situation and Perspective Post Habitat III"

Speaker: Ulrich Graute

Dr Ulrich Graute is a former senior adviser for UN DESA in New York. Today, he works as an independent expert in international cooperation and development. He has also worked for the United Nations Secretariat, UN-Habitat, the European Union, the Governing Mayor of Berlin and the Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development and the Environment, the Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development, Cities Alliance, GIZ, and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Ulrich is fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of the United Kingdom and the international Regional Studies Association.

Abstract:

Local authorities acting globally for sustainable development, Regional Studies. Member states adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 and aimed to adopt a New Urban Agenda during Habitat III in 2016. Related intergovernmental processes aim for a substantial benefit to impact sustainable development at the local level. Despite the high relevance of both processes for local development, local authorities and other Major Groups of stakeholders will only act as observers. This paper analyses why the United Nations acknowledges the relevance of cities while not changing the observer status. The presentation focuses on the paper's claim that the approach may have a negative impact on the realization of objectives. It is suggested to strengthen further the voice of local authorities to increase the problem-solving capacity of multilevel governance of the SDG implementation.

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