



**SMUS  
CONFERENCE  
2024**

# ABSTRACTS BOOKLET

4<sup>th</sup> International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods  
for Urban Sustainability" (SMUS Conference) and  
4<sup>th</sup> RC33 Regional Conference – Asia: Thailand

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> 2024**



**exceed**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



Hosted by the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University  
and organized by the Global Center for Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS),  
the Research Committee on Logic and Methodology in Sociology (RC33) of the International Sociology Association (ISA)  
in cooperation with the Research Network "Quantitative Methods" (RN21) of the European Sociology Association (ESA)



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# Abstracts Booklet

The Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS or SMUS) together with the Research Committee on Logic and Methodology in Sociology (RC33) of the International Sociology Association (ISA), the Research Network Quantitative Methods (RN21) of the European Sociology Association (ESA), and the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University will organize **the 4<sup>th</sup> International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (“SMUS Conference”)**, which will simultaneously be the 4<sup>th</sup> RC33 Regional Conference Asia: Thailand, and take place on site at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand).

**Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, to Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**



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## Welcoming Remarks



**Jakkrit Sangkhamanee, PhD**

Associate Professor

Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and participants from around the world,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 4<sup>th</sup> International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability, or SMUS Conference 2024, here at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

We are honored to host this prestigious event in collaboration with the Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability, the Research Committee on Logic and Methodology in Sociology of the International Sociology Association, and the Research Network Quantitative Methods of the European Sociology Association.

This ten-day event, taking place from July 23 July to Auguts 1, brings together an incredible diversity of scholars and practitioners from across the social and spatial sciences. Looking at our registration data, we are thrilled to welcome over 300 participants from more than 40 countries spanning 6 continents. The interdisciplinary nature of this gathering is truly remarkable, with representatives from fields including sociology, anthropology, geography, urban planning, architecture, political science, psychology, and many more.

Our participants range from distinguished professors and researchers to emerging scholars and PhD students. We have attendees from major universities and research institutions across Asia, Europe, Africa, North and South America, and Oceania. This global representation highlights the universal importance of the themes we will be exploring over the coming days.

The conference program is packed with exciting sessions that showcase cutting-edge research and methodological innovations in spatial analysis and urban sustainability. We



have three thought-provoking keynote addresses from world-renowned experts - Professor Michael Herzfeld, Professor AbdouMaliq Simone, and our Chula Professor Niramon Serisakul.

In addition to the main conference days from July 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, we are offering advanced methodological training courses and PhD workshops to support capacity building, especially for early career researchers. The social program and ethnographic excursions will provide opportunities to experience Bangkok's rich cultural heritage and urban landscape firsthand.

A special note of thanks to our main sponsor The German Academic Exchange Service or DAAD who has provided travel grants to enable participation from SMUS members and scholars from all over the world. This support has been crucial in ensuring diverse representation at this global dialogue on methods.

I am particularly excited about the potential for cross-pollination of ideas across disciplines and geographies that this conference enables. The complex challenges of urban sustainability require innovative, interdisciplinary approaches. By bringing together experts in quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods from around the world, we hope to catalyze new collaborations and methodological breakthroughs.

I encourage all of you to engage actively in the sessions, to share your expertise, and to be open to new perspectives. The connections you make and the ideas you exchange here have the potential to shape the future of urban research and policy.

On behalf of SMUS Thailand, Chulalongkorn University and the Faculty of Political Science, I wish you all a productive and enjoyable conference. Thank you for being here, and welcome once again to Bangkok!



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# Conference Agenda

## SMUS Thailand Conference 2024: Event schedule

With PhD day, Advanced Method Course, and SMUS General assembly

Day 1: 23 July 2024		
Time	Program	Location
11.00 AM – 04.00 PM	<b>PhD day (workshop)</b> by Prof. Dr. Gabriela Christmann, Professor of Sociology, Technische Universität Berlin	Room 515, 5th floor, Kasem Utthayanin Building, Faculty of Political Science

  

Day 2: 24 July 2024		
Time	Program	Location
09.00 AM – 04.00 PM	Method Course	5th floor, Kasem Utthayanin Building, Faculty of Political Science
	<b>Grounded Theory &amp; Situational Analysis</b> by Prof. Dr. Jörg Strübing (University of Tübingen, Germany)	Room 507
	<b>Research Design</b> by Prof. Dr. Claire Wagner (University of Pretoria, South Africa)	Room 508
	<b>Ethnography of Urban Material Circulation</b> by Prof. Dr. Atsuro Morita (Osaka University, Japan)	Room 509
	<b>Game:Space:Match – Games as tools for teaching, research and design in architecture and urban planning</b> by Prof. Dr. Marta Brković Dodig (FMK, Singidunum University, Serbia, and EPFL / EMPA, Switzerland)	Room 510



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Day 3: 25 July 2024		
Time	Program	Location
09.00 AM – 04.00 PM	Method Course	5th floor, Kasem Utthayanin Building, Faculty of Political Science
	<b>Grounded Theory &amp; Situational Analysis</b> by Prof. Dr. Jörg Strübing (University of Tübingen, Germany)	Room 507
	<b>Videography and the Analysis of Interaction</b> by Dr. René Tuma (Technische Universität Berlin, Germany)	Room 514
	<b>Vital Spaces: Wellbeing, mental health and the City</b> by Prof. Dr. Steven Brown	Room 515
	<b>Game:Space:Match – Games as tools for teaching, research and design in architecture and urban planning</b> by Prof. Dr. Marta Brković Dodig (FMK, Singidunum University, Serbia, and EPFL / EMPA, Switzerland)	Room 510
	Mobile workshop	Room 508
04.00 – 06.00 PM	SMUS General Assembly	Alumni Meeting Room, 12th Floor, Kasem Utthayanin Building, Faculty of Political Science
06.00 – 08.00 PM	SMUS Partner Meet & Greet Dinner	



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## Main Conference Day

Day 4: 26 July 2024						
Time	Program					
07.30 – 08.00 AM	<b>Registration: Plenary hall, 13th Floor</b>					
08.00 – 08.30 AM	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> by Associate Professor Dr. Pakorn Siriprakob, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science, Chula					
	<b>Welcome Address</b> by Mr. Sherif Azab-Els, Senior Desk Officer exceed, DAAD					
	<b>Introductory Address</b> By Prof. Dr. Nina Baur and Prof. Dr. Ing. Angela Million, SMUS Directors					
08.30 – 09.30 AM	<b>Keynote Session 1 “Spatial Cleansing: Erasing and Constructing Future Pasts”</b> By Prof. Dr. Michael Herzfeld					
09.30 – 10.00 AM	<b>Break</b>					
10.00 AM -05.00 PM	<b>Parallel session: 5th Floor and 6th Floor</b>					
	5th Floor			6th Floor		
Time	Room 507	Room 508	Room 509	Room 607	Room 608	Room 609
10.00 – 10.30 AM	<b>A1E1</b> <b>From Decolonizing Methodology to Knowledge Cultures</b> [Gulnara Mendikulova „Pao Nowodworski and Angelika Pofert]	<b>B4</b> <b>Who and How Should we Include in Methodological Tools? Towards the Integration of Stakeholders and Different</b>	<b>C4I2 (1)</b> <b>Mapping the Socio-Spatial Transformation of Public Space &amp; Urban Assemblage: Interrogating Transdisciplinary Methodological</b>	<b>D3</b> <b>Language and Social Research</b> [Gabriel Faimau, Nina Baur, Silke Steets, Hubert Knoblauch and Daddy Dibinga Kalamba]	<b>G2</b> <b>Strategies of Data Collection, Storage and Access in Psychology and Related Discipline</b> [Manish Kumar Asthana]	<b>H2</b> <b>Urban Mobility Studies: Methodological Enquiry from Social Science and Human-Centric Approaches</b> [Gaurav Raheja and Anita Sarmah]
10.30 – 11.00 AM						



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Day 4: 26 July 2024						
11.00 – 11.30 AM		Approaches for Spatial Knowledge Construction [Sirima Thongsawang]	Approaches to Researching the City Environments [Shamin Golrokh, Maryam Saedi, Anthony Mavuto Gunde, and Victor Chikaipa]			
11.30 AM – 12.00 PM						
12.00-1.00 PM	Lunch: 13th Floor and 12th Floor					
01.00- 01.30 PM	A3E2 Decolonizing Social Science Methodology and the Global South – Methods from, by and/or for the Global South & How International is Interpretive Social Research? [Idongesit Eshiet and Michaela Pfadenhauer]	B3 Social Inequality in Field Work – Handling Researchers’ Positionality in Research [Nina Baur, Gabriel Faimau, Lucas Cé Sangalli, Séverine Marguin, and Daddy Dibinga Kalamba]		D5 Diverse Geographies, (Dis)similar Empirics: Exploring Climate Risks and Resilience in Urban Deltas Using ‘Comparative Urbanism’ Approach [Jenia Mukherjee and Wiwandari]	G1 Methodological Challenges in Spatial Method: A Quantitative Approach [Pratik Kumar Singh]	H3 Comparative Study about ‘Leaving’ and ‘Living’: Housing and Young People in Asia [Mihye Cho]
01.30- 02.00 PM						
02.00- 02.30 PM						
02.30- 03.00 PM						
03.00-03.30 PM	Break					



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Day 4: 26 July 2024						
03.30-04.00 PM	<b>K2</b> <b>Feminist Participatory Methods for Gender-Inclusive Urban Planning and Design</b> [Megha Tyagi and Inês Martina Lersch]	<b>B1</b> <b>Key Ethical Principles in Protecting Research Subjects: Accommodating Research Ethics from Global South</b> [Ndwana Keaobaka Tsimanyane, Lynne CK Mosomane and Mrunali Harshadrai Damania]	<b>Action 5</b> <b>Contagious Strategies for Wicked Urban Problems</b> [Ilana Boltvinik Riesenfeld, Katleen De Flander, and Rodrigo Viñas Miranda]	<b>D4</b> <b>Comparative Urbanism and Qualitative Social Research</b> [Agatha Nthenge and Johannes Becker]	<b>M2</b> <b>Methods in Food Studies Research</b> [Fraya Frehse, Jakob Engel, Alexander Kohrs and Linda Hering]	
04.00-04.30 PM						
04.30-05.00 PM						
05.00-07.00 PM	<b>SMUS Conference Dinner: Green lawn near the Faculty of Political Science</b>					

Day 5: 27 July 2024						
Time	Program					
08.00 – 08.30 AM	<b>Registration: Plenary hall, 13th Floor</b>					
08.30 – 09.30 AM	<b>Keynote Session 2 “How Black Life Matters for How We Understand Urban Life”</b> By Prof. Dr. AbdouMalik Simone					
09.30 – 10.00 AM	<b>Break</b>					
10.00 AM -05.00 PM	<b>Parallel session: 5th Floor and 6th Floor</b>					
	<b>5th Floor</b>			<b>6th Floor</b>		
Time	Room 507	Room 508	Room 509	Room 607	Room 608	Room 609



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Day 5: 27 July 2024						
10.00 – 10.30 AM	<b>A5E4H1</b> <b>Decolonizing Urban and Migration Research: Methods, Positionality, and Knowledge Production</b> [Steve Tonah, Elettra Griesi, and Esteban Perez Gnavi]	<b>B2</b> <b>B2 In the Field – Experiences in Conducting Research in the Global South</b> [Wolfgang Aschauer and Thomas Herdin]	<b>C3</b> <b>Cities and Communities: Unpacking the Contested Urban in South Asia</b> [Muhammad Ala Uddin]	<b>L2</b> <b>Methodological Challenges, Overlaps, and Misunderstandings between Planning and the Social Sciences Mixed / Methods Use in Conservation Outcomes and Local Governance Assessment in Sustainable Forest Management</b> [Ariane Sept and Jacques du Toit]	<b>F3G6</b> <b>Mapping, Social Mapping, Participatory Methods, Spatial Research, Planning &amp; Data-Driven Smart Community Design</b> [Mitchell de Sousa, Keng Hua Chong, Aubrey Toldi, and Andrea Schae]	<b>I1I2</b> <b>Decoding the City: Entanglements of the Material and Affective &amp; Urban Assemblage: Interrogating Transdisciplinary Methodological Approaches to Researching the City Environments</b> [Aditya Mohanty, Anthony Mavuto Gunde, Victor Chikaipa, and Christian Smigiel]
10.30 – 11.00 AM						
11.00 – 11.30 AM						
11.30 AM – 12.00 PM						
12.00-01.00 PM	<b>Lunch: 13th Floor and 12th Floor</b>					
01.00 – 01.30 PM	<b>A6L6</b> <b>Teaching Spatial Methods and Urban Sustainability in Different Contexts &amp; Decolonising the Canon for</b>	<b>Action 4</b> <b>Spatial Methods Go Global and Transdisciplinary: SMUS Action 4- Outcome Showcase</b> [Fraya Frehse]	<b>J1J5</b> <b>Design Methods for Accessibility and Social Inclusion &amp; Well-Being in Socio-Spatial Contexts – Participatory Research Methods</b>	<b>M3</b> <b>Methods in Deviance Research</b> [Khumo Mothwari]	<b>G4G5</b> <b>Digital Transformations and Datafication in the Cities: challenges for data collection, data analysis, and data governance</b>	
01.30 – 02.00 PM						





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Day 5: 27 July 2024						
02.00 – 02.30 PM	<b>Methods Training</b> [Kenneth Malefane Maine, Estelle Kouokam, Idongesit Eshiet, Ariane Sept and Gerald Beck]		<b>and Tools</b> [Angela Million, Marta Brkovic Dodig, and Gaurav Raheja]		[Gabriel Faimau, Langtone Maunganidze, and Dennis Zuev]	
02.30 – 03.00 PM						
03.00 – 03.30 PM	Break					
03.30 – 04.00 PM	<b>K4</b> <b>Implementing Gender Sensitive Research Methods</b> [Salma Mekkes]	<b>K1</b> <b>Engendering Urban Governance and Planning in the Global South: Methodological Issues and Challenges</b> [Varsha Prasad and Binitha V Thamp]	<b>L5</b> <b>Sustainability and Resilience of Cities</b> [Robert Cowley]	<b>M4</b> <b>Methods for Studying Religions and Religious/Sacred Spaces</b> [Gabriel Faimau, Ludovic Lado, Hubert Knoblauch and Silke Steet]	<b>E5</b> <b>Ethnography as Spatial-Temporal Method for Research on Urban Public Space</b> [Fraya Frehse and Mariano Perelman]	
04.00 – 04.30 PM						
04.30 – 05.00 PM						



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Day 6: 28 July 2024						
Time	Program					
08.00 – 08.30 AM	Registration: Plenary hall, 13th Floor					
08.30 – 09.30 AM	Keynote Session 3 “Spatial Methods for Cities in an Uncertain Future” By Prof. Dr. Niramon Serisakul					
09.30 – 10.00 AM	Break					
10.00 AM – 05.00 PM	Parallel session: 5th Floor and 6th Floor					
	5th Floor			6th Floor		
Time	Room 507	Room 508	Room 509	Room 607	Room 608	Room 609
10.00 – 10.30 AM	<b>J2J3J4</b> Spatial Methods in Healthcare Research & Dialogues between Health, Urbanity, and the Environment: Applying Mixed Methods Approach and Findings [Cornelia Thierbach, Faith Ndungi, , Ulrike Fettke, Susanne Ferschl, Leilanie Fletcher, and Sarah Matenge,]	<b>K3</b> Between Precarity and Formality: Interrogating the Gendered Spaces of Informality in the Global South [Wiwandari Handayani and Edlyne Anugwom]	<b>C1</b> Methodologies for the Investigation of Spatial Transformation Processes [Hafeeza Hosein Shah and Gabriela Christmann]	<b>L3</b> Historical and Contextual Uses of Planning and their Methods [Lê Anh Đức, Nguyễn Thị Bích Ngọc and Ingmar Ehler]	<b>G7</b> Understanding Influencers of Fast Urbanization using Non-survey Data [Elias Peter Mwakilama]	<b>I3</b> Experimenting with Methods for Entangled Areas and Critical Zones [Jakkrit Sangkhamanee and Casper Bruun Jensen]
10.30 – 11.00 AM						
11.00 – 11.30 AM						
11.30 AM – 12.00 PM						
12.00-1.00 PM	Lunch: 13th Floor and 12th Floor					
01.00- 02.00 PM	Closing Ceremony: Plenary hall, 13th Floor					



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## Ethnographic Excursions

(Tentative) \*\*\* All programs are subject to change

Day 7: 29 July 2024 [Cultural Heritage, Multiculturalism, and Urban Transformation]		
Time	Program	Note
08.30 – 09.00 AM	Meet at the lobby of the Mandarin Hotel, and travel by van to Hua Chang Pier. From there, we will continue the journey by boat to Pom Mahakan Fort.	
09.00 – 10.00 AM	Visit Pom Mahakan Fort and talk with Prof. Michael on the eviction of the Pom Mahakan Community and the challenges of preserving cultural heritage and communities in the face of urban development pressures in Bangkok.	
10.00 – 11.30 AM	Visit Ratchanandara Temple, Wat Thepthidaram, and the temple of the Golden Mount Bangkok	ticket fee for the temple of the Golden Mount 100 bath
11.30 AM – 12.00 PM	Have lunch at Methavalai Sorndaeng restaurant near the Democracy Monument	The estimated cost for lunch is around 250-500 baht per person, depending on what you order.
12.00 – 1.00 PM	Visit Brahmin Shrines, Giant Swing, and Wat Suthat Thepwararam	ticket fee for Wat Suthat Thepwararam 100 bath
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Visit Wat Ratchabophit sathitmahasimaram ratchaworawihan and Wat Ratchapradit Sathit Maha Simaram	
02.00 – 03.00 PM	Pass the Royal Palace, Ancient Artillery Museum, and visit Ratchaworadit Pier to see the ships and Exhibition of the Grand Royal Barge Procession	In case you're interested in the Grand Royal Barge Procession, there will be shows at 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM on July 29th.
03.00 – 04.00 PM	Visit Wat Phra Chetuphon Wimon Mangkhalaram Rajwaramahawihan	ticket fee for Wat Phra Chetuphon Wimon Mangkhalaram Rajwaramahawihan 300 bath
From 04.00 PM onwards	Free time	



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Day 8: 30 July 2024 [Urban gentrification, Humans and Nonhumans]		
Time	Program	Note
08.15	Meet at the lobby of Mandarin Hotel Samyan	
08.30 – 09.00 AM	Visit the Ari neighborhood by Taking the MRT and then BTS, from Sam Yan Station to Ari Station.	
09.00 AM – 12.00 PM	Meet with representatives from the Ari Ecowalk group and Explore Ari Ecowalk	
12.00 – 01.00 PM	Have lunch at a local restaurant at Ari Station Market.	The estimated cost for lunch is around 150-350 baht per person, depending the restaurant you choose.
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Take the BTS Skytrain from Ari Station to Saphan Taksin Station	
02.00 – 03.00 PM	Visit the TCDC (Thailand Creative & Design Center) in the Grand Postal Building	
03.00 – 05.00 PM	Explore the Charoen Krung neighborhood and Chinatown	We will visit the following places; Bangkokian Museum, Talat Noi Street Art, Talat Noi Community Museum, Wat Traimit-Golden Buddha, and Chinatown (Yaowarat)
05.00 PM onward	Return to Mandarin hotel by taking the MRT from Wat Mangkon station to Sam Yan Station or continue to explore Yaowarat by yourself	Yaowarat is one of the areas in Bangkok that has interesting food.

Day 9: 31 July 2024 [Bangkok's Green Spaces]		
Time	Program	Note
09.00 – 09.30 AM	Meet at the lobby of Mandarin Hotel	
09.30 – 10.30 AM	Visit Hua Lamphong Temple Pocket Park	
10.30 – 11.00 AM	Take the MRT from Sam Yan Station to Silom Station. Walk to Lumpini Park	
11.00 AM -12.00 PM	Explore Lumpini Park	
12.00 – 01.00 PM	Take the MRT from Silom Station to Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre Station and have a Lunch at a National Convention Centre	You freely to choose the restaurant at Sirikit National Convention Centre and we will



Day 9: 31 July 2024 [Bangkok's Green Spaces]		
		regroup at 01.00 PM near the entrance of Benjakitti Park.
01.00 – 02.30 PM	Visit Benjakitti Park.	
02.30 – 04.00 PM	Take the BTS Skytrain from Asok Station to Chong Nonsi Station and visit Chong Nonsi Canal Park	

Day 10: 1 August 2024 [Urban Canal and Riparian Communities]		
Time	Program	Note
08.30 AM	Depart with the chartered bus to Tha Chang Pier.	Meet at the lobby of Mandarin Hotel Samyan
09.00 AM	Arrive at Tha Chang Pier and Begin the boat journey along the Chao Phraya River	
10.00 – 10.30 AM	Enter Klong Bangkok Noi and explore the canal	
10.30 – 11.00 AM	Visit Wat Suwannaram Temple	
11.00 AM – 12.00 PM	Continue the boat ride along Klong Bangkok Noi, stopping at Baan Silapin (Artist House).	
12.00 – 01.00 PM	lunch at a local restaurant	
01.00 – 02.00 PM	Return to the Chao Phraya River and visit Wat Kalayanamit	
02.00 – 03.00 PM	Continue the boat journey along the Chao Phraya River, passing by other notable temples and historic sites, such as Wat Arun and the Royal Barges National Museum.	
03.00 – 04.00 PM	Enter Klong Mon and explore the canal	
04.00 – 05.00 PM	Return to the Chao Phraya River and conclude the boat journey	
05.00 PM	Disembark at Tha Chang Pier and board the chartered bus back to the Mandarin Hotel Samyan.	





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# *A1 & E1 From Decolonizing Methodology to Knowledge Cultures*

**Session Organizer(s):** *Gulnara Mendikulova, Pao Nowodworski, and Angelika Pofert*

## **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** Decolonizing Methodology of Social Science: From Post-Colonial Theory to Decolonial Knowledge & Knowledge Cultures and Qualitative Methods

**Author(s):** *Angelika Pofert and Gulnara Mendikulova*

**Abstract:** -

## **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper:** Lifeworld 'Campus' in between Knowledge Cultures. A German-Pakistani Teaching Research Project

**Author(s):** *Pao Nowodworski and Syeda Aisha Furrukh*

**Abstract:**

Based on a DAAD-funded project on international cooperation in digital research spaces, the proposal at hand focuses on methodological challenges of implementing a common research design in two more or less divergent knowledge cultures. More precisely, the idea was to conduct lifeworld analyses on the student's campus lives in and Pakistan, aiming at an empirical international comparison of daily routines and actions of orientation. On the one hand, this resulted in performing 'classic' locally embedded ethnography at two geographically and culturally divergent fields. On the other hand – due to former COVID-19 restrictions –, the international comparison on the lifeworld campus took place via hybrid teaching and learning classes (e.g. video chat).

As a methodological 'outcome', and without planning it specifically, the project's research design transformed into a multi-sited ethnography, whereas the digital communication between both student cultures turned out to be a valuable in-between-site. Through this 'third space', different knowledge cultures 'met' each other within an interpretive approach. Thus, the online-based meetings became an opportunity of reflecting on the own familiar epistemologies of sociological knowledge production, while at the same time emerging into a new perspective on the supposedly familiar and strange culture of 'own' and 'other'.

## **Presentation 3**



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## Title of Paper: Knowledge About 'the Past': Processes of Legitimation in the Production of and Access to the Past Among African Descendants in Brazilian "Quilombos"

*Author(s): Lucas Cé Sangalli*

### Abstract:

A central aspect of 'Western' modern scientific practice ('epistemic culture') regarding interpretive qualitative research is making an analytical distinction between the past, the present, and the future. Based on fieldwork conducted for the project "Individual and collective memories of slavery and the slave trade in Ghana and Brazil" (<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/650363.html>), I will discuss the challenges faced during participant observation and interviews due to different interpretations of time among people of African descent living in "quilombo" communities in Brazil. This discussion will be based on analyses of interviews and participant observation where individuals claimed to be possessed by African ancestors who manifested themselves through them.

I will demonstrate how different interpretations of time—such as circular and spiral time in contrast to chronological empirical time—are intertwined with power dynamics that shape:

- a) the legitimacy of knowledge based on specific forms of accessing the past within different groupings, and
- b) the social construction of individuals in different communities as legitimate producers of knowledge about the past.

I will conclude the presentation with a discussion of the methodological implications of different interpretations of time in the process of generating everyday knowledge ('knowledge cultures') about 'the past'.

### Presentation 4

## Title of Paper: Indigenous Methods and Multiplicity of Truths

*Author(s): Tania Sen*

### Abstract:

Research has always been concerned with rationality and seeking the truth. In ethnography, respondents are understood to be truth bearers as the field is understood through their eyes. When indigenous communities do not have any written historical account about their culture, it is difficult to trace the past. A lack of a singular narrative among respondents can further question the truth and rationality of methods, like oral tradition. It is relevant to realize that truth can be multiple and historically specific.

Since the panel will discuss the relevance of knowledge culture and qualitative methods, addressing such practical issues while employing qualitative methods will further the discussion. This paper will discuss the historicity of cultural practices and challenge the





traditional understanding of rational truth. It argues that everyday knowledge may not always coincide with scientific knowledge, and yet, as researchers, we need to value both equally. In attempts to decolonize methodology beyond a conflict between boundaries or space, it is argued that methodology should be historical and specific to each society.

## Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: A Critical and Historical Exploration of Sites of Memory of Blantyre City in Malawi

*Author(s): Mwayi Lusaka*

#### Abstract:

Blantyre today is a thriving commercial community and urban center in Malawi, following the ideals and dreams set by the Scottish Missionaries inspired by David Livingstone, from whom the city owes its name. While this well-documented history exists, there is little research on how the city has preserved and promoted its sites of memory, which define and give character and identity to the city. This paper investigates the politics of memory in Blantyre with regard to the preservation and expansion of the city.

The colonial memory of the city seems to eclipse other alternatives of remembering and inscribing memory. This work argues that while the colonial memory is dominant, there is a need to promote indigenous memories to provide a dynamic and diverse reflection of the city's long history and sociality. Ultimately, this work foregrounds inclusive and decolonial methodologies in re-inscribing the memory and heritage of the city, which has a long history and various players who shaped its ontology.



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## *A3 & E2 Decolonizing Social Science Methodology and the Global South – Methods from, by and/or for the Global South & How International is Interpretive Social Research?*

**Session Organizer: Idongesit Eshiet and Michaela Pfadenhauer**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Reimagining the Decolonial Knowledge in the Ethnographic Context**

**Author(s):** Amiya Kumar Das

#### **Abstract:**

Despite calls for the decolonization of research and knowledge, social science research in many developing countries remains heavily influenced by colonial ethnographic methods to maintain perceived rigour. It is crucial to understand how colonial knowledge continues to overshadow many social researchers in developing countries who rely on Western methods to analyze their own issues and problems. This paper raises questions about the encounter between researchers and participants during fieldwork and examines how power dynamics create unequal knowledge between ethnographers and their subjects. The paper concludes with a discussion on reflexivity and its role in interrogating the concept of decolonial knowledge.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: Conceptualizing and Measuring Tribalism in Black Africa: An Example of Contextualizing Applied Social Psychology Research**

**Author(s):** NJENGOUE NGAMALEU HENRI RODRIGUE

#### **Abstract:**

Fundamental research in social psychology establishes laws and mechanisms of social behavior using experimental approaches, measurement tools, and advanced statistics to highlight universal mechanisms that characterize social behavior. Applied social psychology uses these general statements to address current problems in Western societies. However, literature on this contextualization shows little interest in African realities. The challenge for Africa is less about decolonizing psychosocial research and more about contextualizing it.



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This paper illustrates this through the poorly documented social phenomenon of tribalism in Cameroon, proposing conceptual and operational definitions inspired by existing literature. The paper discusses the adaptation and development of measurement tools, the potential biases in using attitude scales in poorly educated populations, and the importance of qualitative research. It also highlights the need for collaboration with other social sciences and a pragmatic research policy to contextualize studies effectively.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Decolonization of Methodologies for Security Research in Africa through Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Three Selected Regions in Nigeria

*Author(s): Ferdinand O. Ottoh*

#### Abstract:

Security research in Africa has long been dominated by Western social science scholarship and methodologies, leading to the extinction of indigenous methodologies. Western methods have failed to address Africa's complex security challenges, partly due to a lack of understanding of the local context. This paper focuses on Nigeria, a country facing various security threats such as the Niger-Delta crisis, Boko Haram insurgency, ethnic agitation, banditry, kidnapping, and farmers/herders conflicts. These challenges have defied all kinetic approaches and Western methodologies. The paper argues for a change in methodological approaches, advocating for the adoption of indigenous knowledge systems in conducting security research in Africa. It emphasizes the need for African scholars to decolonize their intellectual mindsets and adapt their research methods to the predominantly illiterate and rural nature of African populations.

### Presentation 4

#### Title of Paper: The Antidote to Methodological Nationalism: Democratic Principles and Economic Prosperity

*Author(s): Keshav Soni and Sivasankar V.*

#### Abstract:

Nationalism, a potent sentiment towards one's nation, has historically been harnessed by leaders to safeguard their people and assets during economic distress. This connection between economic adversity and nationalism has led to discussions on methodological nationalism. Contemporary analysis of India's circumstances shows that methodological nationalism remains prevalent, largely unaffected by global dynamics. This paper explores the existence of methodological nationalism in India, linking it to historical and political events during economic downturns and identifying key factors driving its resurgence. It asserts that



majoritarianism and methodological nationalism are intertwined in India. The paper posits that combining democratic principles and economic prosperity is the most viable antidote to methodological nationalism, drawing insights from India's experience.



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# *A5 & E4 & H1 Decolonizing Urban and Migration Research: Methods, Positionality, and Knowledge Production*

**Session Organizer: Steve Tonah, Elettra Griesi, and Esteban Perez Gnavi**

## **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Urban Ethnography – Practical Experiences, Lessons and Challenges of the Research Method & The Decolonization of Spatial Ethnography: Perspectives and Limits**

**Author(s): Steve Tonah**

### **Abstract:**

Focused on multi-sited urban ethnography, this paper investigates how urban spaces are studied across different sites. It examines the methods used to understand social processes in urban contexts and how researchers can navigate and interpret the production of space by various actors within these environments.

## **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: The white researcher, the Global South and power imbalances: An attempt to decolonize spatial ethnography (Dakar, Senegal)**

**Author(s): Elettra Griesi**

### **Abstract:**

Doing ethnography in the Global South challenges researchers to engage with and reflect on power relations and knowledge systems, and to develop an approach that does justice to good research. In recent years, it has become increasingly clear that (urban) ethnography does not sufficiently involve indigenous or local communities in research processes, nor does it equitably include local knowledge systems, nor does it adequately address the needs and concerns of communities. This reveals a power imbalance and the need to critically and reflexively examine and, if necessary, adapt one's own research methods.

Based on own research activities in the field of cultural geography in Dakar (Senegal), the proposed paper firstly shows where processes of co-production of knowledge can be located



in the ethnographic research process, and which research methods and approaches best respond to co-production of knowledge (also referred to as participatory research).

The PhD project is based on 8 months of ethnographic qualitative fieldwork. Participatory research was carried out in order to avoid a distinction between researcher and researched, which could challenge the separation between those who produce knowledge and those who may either benefit from or be harmed by this knowledge; to promote greater equity (a prerequisite for CPK), justice and transparency towards the research partners; to contribute to and gain a deeper understanding of the problems hindering the development of the community under consideration; and finally to rely on more inclusive methods.

The paper shows and discusses at which stages of the ethnographic research process one can speak of co-production of knowledge and how this can be actively pursued. I ask whether the approaches used can lead to a decolonization of knowledge in the Global South, and what preconditions need to be met for this to happen.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: The Production of Urban Border Spaces

*Author(s): Annett Bochmann*

#### Abstract:

In this paper, we will provide insights into an ongoing ethnographic research project that is analyzing the production of urban spaces through the border. Our research is informed by Latour's understanding of "assembling the social" (2005) emphasizing the associations between human and non-human elements (Farías/Bender 2011, 2009). Specifically, we ask how the production of urbanity is related to border infrastructures and how the socio-materiality linked to the border shape urban life. We address the methodological problem of how to study ethnographically the socio-materiality of urban spaces. Our general line of argument is that through the detailed study of local socio-materialities we do not only understand local dynamics but also how they are related to global contexts. Based on ethnographic field work since 2011 in an Asian border town we present three observations related to the economy, urban mobility, and the museum. We follow and trace back objects (the boat, the product, and the registration card) that can be found at relevant urban materialities (the museum, the market, mobile checkpoints) and are linked to border infrastructures. The overall aim is to assemble these different elements (object, materiality, infrastructure) and to ask how they contribute to the power relations in town.

### Presentation 4

#### Title of Paper: The Vietnamese diaspora in Thailand: From Historical and Multi-sited Approaches

*Author(s): Trần Văn Quyến and Trần Hoài*



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## Abstract:

Research on the Vietnamese diaspora in Thailand primarily focuses on documenting the historical migration patterns and socio-economic experiences of Vietnamese individuals residing in Thailand over the previous seventy years. The newly uncovered historical documents provide evidence suggesting that the Vietnamese population established settlements in Thailand throughout the period spanning from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. Conversely, the study centers its attention on the Vietnamese diaspora residing in Thailand, which primarily emphasizes various aspects such as economic activities, daily life practices, cultural heritage preservation, and the process of adaptation within the Thai community. Our study posited that the interactions between the Vietnamese diaspora in Thailand and their compatriots in their country of origin remain strong. These connections encompass various activities, including the establishment of enterprises, the formation of commercial networks, the establishment of religious facilities, and the organization of community bonding activities, especially in urban areas of Thai. Hence, we put up the utilization of historical and multi-sited approaches to examine the phenomenon of Vietnamese immigration in Thailand. Our research aligns with the principles outlined in session H1, titled "Re-Thinking Methods for Migration Research." From our research, we propose a combination of historical and multi-sited research methods to explore the behind-the-scenes dynamics of this particular community in urban Thailand.

## Presentation 5

**Title of Paper: Social Mobility in the Context of Digital Economy Development: A Case Study of Migrant Workers in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**

*Author(s): Lê Thị Mai, Phan Tấn Khương and Nguyễn Thị Thu Trang*

## Abstract:

We are living and working in the era of digital transformation. Using digital technology to organize and manage production activities has opened up opportunities and challenges related to employment, income, social status of workers, inequality, etc. These aspects are closely tied to the phenomenon of social mobility among individuals and social groups, including migrant workers. The practice mentioned above raises the research question: How has the current development of the digital economy affected the employment, income, and social status of migrant workers in Ho Chi Minh City? To answer this question, we conducted a study titled "Social Mobility in the Context of Digital Economy Development: A Case Study of Migrant Workers in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam." The study addresses several issues, including: 1) determining the information to collect and how to access research participants/information providers, 2) ensuring the reliability and validity of research data, 3) addressing ethical issues, and 4) employing a theoretical perspective to analyze the findings. This study utilized a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods. These issues fall within the scope of session 35: (Re-)Thinking Methods for Migration Research, as they pertain to the methodological aspect





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## ***A6 & L6 Decolonial and sustainable epistemological, teaching, and research approaches across disciplines and contexts for social transformation.***

**Session Organizers: Kenneth Malefane Maine, Estelle Kouokam, Idongesit Eshiet, Ariane Sept and Gerald Beck**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Controversy Mapping – a Teaching Approach to Better Understand Sustainability- and Space-Related Conflicts**

**Author(s): Ariane Sept, Gerald Beck, and Diego Compagna**

#### **Abstract:**

Based on Actor-Network Theory Bruno Latour developed the mapping of controversies as a teaching approach to investigate contemporary socio-technical debates – initially, mainly within research communities - without going too much into the theory (Venturini 2010). Meanwhile the approach has been adopted and further developed in several universities all over the world and is not limited to socio-technical or scientific controversies. University teachers and their students used the techniques of social cartography to investigate controversies also in fields such as architecture (Yaneva 2011, 2016) or climate change adaptation (Venturini et al. 2015). To make these diverse experiences fruitful, a field guide is now also available (Venturini/Munk 2022). From the perspective of socio-spatial research the mapping controversies approach is closely connected to current debates on hybrid mapping (Baxter et al. 2021). However, while the first one is mainly seen as a teaching tool also applicable to research the latter is developing as empirical research methodology at the interface of spatial design and the social sciences. In our contribution we connect the two debates and present examples from our teaching experiences related to sustainability and space discussing the potentials and limits of the mapping controversies approach to better understand sustainability- and space-related conflicts.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: Decolonizing Higher Education in the Global South: Issues, Challenges and Prospects**

**Author(s): Idongesit Eshiet**





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### Abstract:

The privileging of the West in global higher education knowledge production has become an issue of concern in recent decades. Scholars have come to the realization that there are various alternative ways of knowing, apart from western science perspective. This realization has propelled the calls for the decolonization of higher education, both from the Global South and North. Scholars argue that the Global South needs epistemologies and pedagogies that are relevant to solving their practical local problems, which western epistemologies have not sufficiently addressed over the years. However, decolonizing higher education in the Global South comes with a lot of issues and challenges. This study examines some of the issues and challenges involved in decolonizing higher education in the Global South with a focus on the Nigerian context. Using a qualitative method, comprising of key informant and in-depth interviews, the study seeks to unravel the issues and challenges involved in decolonizing higher education in Nigeria, with a view to proffering solutions. Challenges such as how to undo the long years of patterning the academy, curriculum, pedagogy, canon and syllabi after euro-centric fashion; and dependent on the Global North for research equipment, laboratories, funding, high impact publishing outlets, etc. will be investigated. Similarly, Nigeria is a plural state, characterised by multi-ethnic and lingual groupings, with diverse indigenous knowledge systems, however, her official language remains the language of her former colonial master. This raises the challenge of - whose language and knowledge system would be the basis of alternative pedagogies and epistemologies? Respondents of the study will be drawn from the faculty and students' population of some selected universities in Nigeria. Key informant and in-depth interview guides will be used to gather the data. The data will be analysed using Nvivo based on predetermined themes derived from the objectives of the study. It is expected that findings of the study will unravel some of the issues, challenges and solutions to decolonizing higher education in Nigeria (and by implication the Global South), such as undoing the many years of Eurocentric orientation of the academy, curriculum, pedagogy, canon and syllabi and developing alternative pedagogies and epistemologies rooted in indigenous knowledge systems that are focused on addressing practical local problems, such as diseases and healthcare; hunger and food production; housing needs; maternal health; good governance; etc.

### Presentation 3

## Title of Paper: Decolonizing Methodology of Historical Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Author(s): *Gulnara Mendikulova*

### Abstract:

Kazakhstan was a colony of the Russian Empire and Union republic of the USSR. Without a question, the colonial era had an impact on how people thought. This has an impact on or has an impact on research methods. The powerful historical school of the Soviet Union was succeeded by the historical science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. We all know that ideology and Communist party dominance had a negative impact because everything was seen



through the lens of CPSU decisions. Therefore, the post-colonial reliance that affects or does not effect (individual scholars') ability to undertake research must be changed. For instance, the Republic of Kazakhstan's higher education system places a great priority on Kazakhstani history. World history is studied in Kazakhstan's schools and historical departments of all colleges and universities. The history of Kazakhstan is seen as an important and essential component of global history. We might try to debate and address these issues during the conference session: How can decolonizing methodology help historians in Kazakhstan engage with and become more visible in the global research community? What concrete steps can we take to develop our research connections and independent points of view in addition?

#### **Presentation 4**

**Title of Paper: Beyond Claude Ake's Deconstruction of Social Science Knowledge as Imperialism: Exploring Pathways to New African Development Praxis**

*Author(s): Bernard Nwosu*

#### **Abstract:**

Beyond Claude Ake's Deconstruction of Social Science Knowledge as Imperialism: Exploring Pathways to new African Development praxis



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## *B1 Key Ethical Principles in Protecting Research Subjects: Accommodating Research Ethics from Global South*

**Session Organizer: Ndwana Keaobaka Tsimanyane, Lynne CK Mosomane and Mrunali Harshadrai Damania**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Key Ethical Principles in Protecting Research Subjects: Accommodating Research Ethics from Global South. An Introduction to the Session**

**Author(s): Lynne C.K. Mosomane, Ndwana K. Tsimanyane, and Mrunali Harshadrai Damania**

#### **Abstract:**

At the core of humankind is the quest to seek solutions to issues surrounding humanity. Research is thus used to understand real-life situations, study effective treatments, investigate behaviors, a way of improving lives, and a way of advancing human existence. Also, at the coalface of advancing humanity, is the nexus between, ethics, human rights, legality, and research development. This led to, research ethics being at the forefront of social research and human research, notwithstanding the ethical considerations in animal research. Accommodating research ethics played a major role in the field of research since 1900 when certain disciplines emerged. The curiosity of testing so many things on humans and animals were conducted without sensitivity to the subjects that were used. This led to research professionals conducting research without obtaining permission from the participants nor being concerned about the negative impact as outcome results. However, the first establishment of the code in 1948 emphasized the individual's choice of absolute participation and the rule out of harm to participants. This paves the way to the roots of sound ethical considerations across all disciplines. The declaration of 1946 helped to govern international research globally and put emphasis on rules for research and focused on clinical care. Therefore, there can be ethical concerns at every step of the research process (Bickman and Rog, 2009). The consensus by researchers is the need to protect research participants at all costs (Creswell and Creswell, 2018). Even if a research idea is valuable to humanity, it does not justify violating the human rights or dignity of the study subjects. Bhandari (2022) outlines research ethics as a set of ideologies that guide research designs and practices. Bhandari further suggests that scientists and researchers must always adhere to the outlined set code of conduct before collecting data from people. Scholars unanimously indicate that adhering to research ethics protects research subjects from permanent or excessive harm either inadvertent or not, increases research validity and credibility, and helps in maintaining



academic validity and credibility. Research ethics moreover ensures that participation in studies is voluntary, informed, and safe for research subjects (Bhandari, 2022). Thus, defying research ethics will also lower the credibility of the research which would then make it hard for others to trust the data if the ethical research methods are morally questionable. Literature shows that, although researchers have the obligation to protect the research subjects, participants equally have an important role to play in the relationship between the researcher and the research subject. This is where one's rights become the others' obligation. With such, the National Research Act was passed in 1974 to protect human subjects from human harm. If all these are accommodated in research ethics it would help to promote sound methods that are used to protect the anonymity and confidentiality of the participants, and all human rights will be protected, (Austad, 2009). Session papers can therefore address some but not limited to the following ethical issues: (1) Cultural sensitivity in research ethics. (2) Ethics privacy and confidentiality. (3) Ethics and Professional responsibility. (4) Elements of informed consent. (5) Managing dual relationships in research ethics. (6) Ethical consideration in the representation of cultures in research. (7) Gender /Racial sensitivity and research ethics. (8) Ethical dilemmas in human research. (9) Morality Vs Ethics in human research. (10) Researchers' obligation in Research. (11) Participants' rights in Research. (12) Research protocol in the research design. (13) Ethical considerations in conducting research on sexual assault victims. (14) Research Ethics Committees and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs). (15) Data management in research. (16) Plagiarism. (17) Spirituality ethics and society. (18) Ethics and spirituality. (19) Ethical hacker. (20) Ethics Vs Obligation to Sponsors and Funders. (21) Conflict of Interest. (22) Cross-National Research and Ethical Issues. (23) Publication Ethics. (24) Scientific Misconduct (25) Research with Minors; (27) Risk of Invention; (28) Ethics of Emerging Technologies.

## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (SUD) STUDIES

*Author(s): Ndwana K. Tsimanyane and Lynne C.K. Mosomane*

#### Abstract:

Substance Use Disorders is a major concern around the globe as it poses a serious threat to a normal living and renders the world an unsafe place to dwell in. The problem often leads to conflict between friends, family breakdown, violence, gangs, and drug trafficking. Previous studies confirmed that violence, bullying, vandalism, truancy, deviant behaviour, declining grades, absenteeism from school, dropping out of school are problems associated with substance use disorders. In addition, many individuals who are addicted to drugs resort to criminal activities to finance their addiction. This leads to an increase in theft, burglary, and violent crimes. At macro level, substance abuse is classified as a major contributing factor to poverty, unemployment, dysfunctional community life, political instability, and escalation of chronic diseases. Given the sensitive nature of this problem, scholarly studies on substance use disorders often focus on general surveys with very limited attempt to unpack the



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complexity of the problem. This paper aims at exploring methodological challenges of research around the unsafety of substance use disorders in people's dwelling environment. In addition, the paper seeks to establish various research designs and formulative research methods that can assist researchers in investigating substance use disorders in different socio-cultural contexts.

### Presentation 3

## Title of Paper: Social Science Research and Open-ended artificial software: Uncertain Ethics and Ambivalence using ChatGPT in Academia

*Author(s): Suraj Kumar Tanty and Tanya Goyal*

### Abstract:

The social science research sector and its structure may undergo a radical shift thanks to sophisticated technology like the Chat GPT language model. Professors have conflicting sentiments about ChatGPT's amazing capacity to carry out complicated tasks in the realm of research because this development in AI appears to revolutionize current academia praxis. The review study offers some possible advantages of ChatGPT in boosting research work by synthesizing recent existing literature. The promotion of individualized learning, formative evaluation procedures, and other advantages are just a few of ChatGPT's advantages. The paper also identifies certain fundamental flaws in the ChatGPT, including incorrect information generation, bias, privacy concerns, etc., which can produce whole research paper on a variety of social issues. Thus, the main objective of this work is to trace the ethical impact of such open-source software on social science research in academia, as well as it will include a full analysis of the pertinent use of the software in this sector while trying to stimulate future research and discussion on this crucial domain. If anything, the consequences for academia may encourage professors to reconsider their courses and offer problems that are difficult for AI to solve.



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## *B2 In the Field – Experiences in Conducting Research in the Global South*

**Session Organizer: Wolfgang Aschauer and Thomas Herdin**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Unveiling Educational Disparities: Navigating Challenges in Conducting Fieldwork in Rural India**

**Author(s): Utkarsh Kamal**

#### **Abstract:**

The paper provides an in-depth exploration of the complexities and challenges inherent in conducting fieldwork in rural India, with a specific focus on the theme of educational inequality and meritocracy. This paper seeks to elucidate the intricacies of the research process undertaken by the author, encompassing a comprehensive exploration of research methodology, access challenges, and the multifarious layers underlying educational disparities. Securing access to the field was a pivotal challenge. Multistage sampling facilitated the selection of schools and students, with public schools displaying a greater willingness to grant access compared to private counterparts. The rigorous permissions process for private schools, involving scrutiny of questionnaire content and clarification on data confidentiality, reflects the sensitive nature of certain topics. Such inquiries also shed light on the prevailing caution and the need to allay concerns of misuse. The research culminated in a comprehensive questionnaire spanning demographic and educational sections. Engaging with students in a manner that fosters comfort and trust proved essential in mitigating initial skepticism. In public schools, there was a common misperception of the researcher as a government agent gathering scholarship data, highlighting the need for clarifications.





## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: Microfinance and Poverty Alleviation: The Contribution of SILC, a Savings-led Microfinance Programme in Semonkong Maseru, Lesotho

Author(s): Mamotsiba Makara, Gabriel Faimau, and France Maphosa

#### Abstract:

Microfinance has become a popular topic in development discourse, yet its effectiveness as a poverty reduction tool continues to be questioned. The rural populations in Lesotho face poverty due to, among other reasons, lack of access to microloans which are necessary for financing start-up businesses and alleviating poverty. Using qualitative data collected from face-to-face and telephonic in-depth interviews, this article sheds light on the underexplored phenomenon of community-led microfinance programme referred to as Savings and Internal Lending in Communities (SILC) and analyses its contribution to the livelihoods of those living in rural areas of Lesotho. We critically examine its contribution to the socio-economic status of its members and review how it fosters business opportunities among its members. The study found that SILC has been effective in increasing household income, thereby empowering and reducing poverty amongst its members. This success is underpinned by strong community ownership, trust between members and low interest rates paid. Provision of small loans has further facilitated the establishment of small businesses and acquiring of assets necessary to curb poverty. We argue that unlike the traditional micro-credit based financing, the savings-led microfinancing reaches the very poor rural populations because of low start-up costs and training support received from humanitarian organizations. However, despite filling a huge livelihood gap, some members of the SILC group struggle to repay loans due to unsuccessful business endeavors. This study recommends that government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should provide support by honing the marketing skills of members to help them promote their businesses and make more profits. We envisage that the findings of this study will stimulate policy dialogue in Lesotho and promote advocacy for rural financial inclusion. This paper refers to session 8 because the authors wish to share their experiences and challenges in conducting the research in a rural hard-to-reach setting during the era of COVID-19 pandemic. These specifically include issues of usage of blended data collection methods being face-to-face and telephone interviews, issues of cultural equivalence and data interpretation.



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### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Translation, Misrepresentation and Power Play

*Author(s): Nonoyo Mokwakwa and Gabriel Faimau*

#### Abstract:

For Batswana and other Bantu people in Sub-Saharan Africa, the concept of Botho/Ubuntu permeates every aspect of life including policy making, governance and social research. Botho/Ubuntu is a concept of acceptable relational living, which is measured by one's relationship to family, community, the environment and can be understood to be African ethics. When explored further, the concept of Botho touches on power relations especially its emphases on obedience and respect for authority. This can be also problematic in certain contexts that includes social research, where evidence should be used for accountability and direction in decision making by those usually without a voice in society. Lack of representation can reinforce unequal power relationships, specifically by rendering people invisible, which can undermine their agency and exacerbate inequalities and lack of social cohesion. This paper seeks to explore the role of African ethics in influencing how social research is undertaken to build social cohesion. Central to this paper is positioning of research relationships among the participants and how those positions are used to benefit all involved.

### Presentation 4

#### Title of Paper: Experiencing the Field: Slum as Physical Space Shaping and Producing Conflict in Mental Space

*Author(s): Shadab Anis*

#### Abstract:

The central question of my PhD is to investigate how marginalization plays out in the everyday experiences of people and children living in slums and how this affects children's educational opportunities. To investigate the underlying socio-economic and educational status of children, the mix method approach was applied in this study in Patna, Bihar. Entering slums to study the educational status of children living in slums is more challenging because you have to encounter the lived experience of utter poverty, destitution and struggles was quite the disturbing experience I ever had. After an extended involvement in the field, I believe it is vital to share some of my field experiences, learnings and moments. Approaching the field for any type of research is extremely difficult, and once completed, it provides enormous relief as well as a plethora of questions and contradictions. The difficulty is not simply with the never-ending questions in one mind on how to approach the fields and subjects. What lens should be used to investigate, observe, and interpret the field? Regardless of how hard someone tries to be inclusive in the field in order to make the subject comfortable and approachable. In front of the people on whom this study is based, you always find yourself as someone who is different. The change from summer to winter is such a phenomena that having a bag with a water bottle, neat and clean comfortable clothes and





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footwear makes you feel out of place considering the fact that many children are deprived of their basic necessities . You can easily be recognized as an outsider. Approaching the field with such privileges creates serious inner conflicts and contradictions because of a variety of reasons. To understand and investigate such disparities, a lot of energy is required to visit the field again and again after consoling my field that my research will do some good to my subjects and I have returned from the slums which is zone of exclusion and marginalization with a lot of experiences, memories, learnings and motivation. This paper also attempts to answer the methodological problems of how to define the boundaries and borders of the field with the question is there a boundary in the field and if yes how to consider what is the borders and boundaries?

## Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: Immersion in a Bureaucratic Field: Critical Reflections on Fieldwork Practices

*Author(s): Mridusmita Dutta*

#### Abstract:

This paper is a reflective account of conducting ethnographic research in local governance institutions responsible to govern the devastation caused by the annual floods in Dhemaji, Assam, India. By focusing on two linear aspects of the research process—immersion and access to bureaucratic fields—I analyze the methods and stages of immersion that are used to gain access to a tightly controlled, secret and veiled world of bureaucracy. Following a gradual immersion of the researcher in this field, the second section investigates the “techniques” that are employed to have “access” to this field. A third section explores the ethnographer's positionality, highlighting the deep reflexivity and unstable ethics of bureaucracy ethnography. The paper is therefore a reflection on unforeseen challenges and surprises in the field that corresponds to the second session themed Researchers' Positionality and Research Ethics.

## Presentation 6

### Title of Paper: Applying an "Indigenous Culture-Based Approach" to Explore Vietnamese Participants' Lives: Challenges, Methods, and Insights

*Author(s): Nguyễn Hồng Ngọc*

#### Abstract:

Cross-cultural research often grapples with the complexities of applying standardized methods across diverse contexts. This study seeks to bridge this gap by proposing an



"Indigenous Culture-Based Approach", aiming to deepen the researcher-participant connection and shed light on intricate insights within the cultural fabric of Vietnam.

**1. Challenges of Taking Interview Methods for Granted:** The historical foundation of interviews as a research tool finds its roots in the United States, establishing a culture of "the interview society" (Atkinson & Silverman, 1997). This practice's widespread acceptance is rooted in the belief in its credibility and reliability (Atkinson & Silverman, 1997). In the present day, interviews are widely employed, often taken for granted, and seen as the go-to method for gleaning information from individuals, groups, and organizations across society's diverse facets (Gubrium, 2012). However, Fontana & Frey (2005) critique the inherent limitations of interviews, particularly their potential to disregard crucial contextual, societal, and interpersonal nuances. To address these limitations, interpretative interactionists and postmodernists are incorporating innovative elements into interviews, aiming to foster transformational experiences for participants (Denzin, 2001). Narrative inquirers, meanwhile, strive to immerse themselves in individuals' time-space experiences, nurturing empathy and deeper understanding (Clandinin, 2018). While Fontana & Frey (2005) emphasize the importance of treating participants as individuals, the absence of a universal methodology underscores the necessity for researchers to critically assess and adapt their methods based on their unique research contexts (Rand, 2011).

**2. Research Objectives:** This study primarily aims to unravel the intricate responses of Vietnamese individuals when participating in research endeavors. Additionally, the study seeks to propose culturally sensitive methodologies that effectively capture the essence of Vietnam's experiences, identities, and beliefs.

**3. Methodological Approach:** This research employs reflection of author's research conducted over three years, delving into the identities of Japanese language teachers in Vietnam from the perspectives of both teachers and students. The researcher also engaged directly with Vietnamese voices, gaining insights from individuals who had participated in previous research projects. A meticulous analysis of fieldnotes, interviews, narratives, and social media discussions was conducted. These insights were then interpreted through the lens of indigenous Vietnamese theories.

**4. Navigating Experiences and Challenges in the Vietnamese Context:** Throughout the fieldwork in Vietnam, the researcher encountered various challenges and gained unique insights. Participants often shared their experiences from micro-perspectives, leading to the necessity of providing comprehensive explanations and support. Teachers, for instance, occasionally attributed their behavior to external factors such as school leaders, students, and family members. A poignant example is teachers' desire to prioritize education, which is at times compromised by the need for examination-oriented teaching to support their families financially. The complexities of individual lives are not isolated occurrences, but rather reflections of the broader societal shifts from traditional moral values to the dominance of market-oriented economies, where financial considerations loom large. A profound understanding of these macro societal transformations, as highlighted by Andrew (2006), is crucial for comprehending their influence on individual lives. Participants often sought explanations and support from researchers to address their challenges, sometimes expressing a desire for collaborative problem-solving. This resonates with the historical



precedent set by Vietnamese researchers who actively engaged with common people, such as Trần Nguyễn Đán's ideology. The communal heritage of "Làng," or village culture, is intrinsic to the Vietnamese identity, resulting in a reluctance among participants to assume the role of sole representatives for their communities. This phenomenon is exemplified by their use of collective pronouns such as "we" instead of "I" or "me" during interviews. This is understandable because the concept of "individuality" did not exist in Vietnam. Simultaneously, participants grappled with concerns about objectivity, leading them to withhold certain opinions during official interviews. Distinctive responses emerged when participants engaged with both outsiders and insiders, evidenced by the hesitancy of students to provide candid feedback to teachers while discreetly sharing observations amongst themselves. This highlights the cultural reverence for educators, often leading to polite but potentially less candid responses during formal interviews. Interestingly, participants responded differently to external and internal stakeholders. Students exhibited reluctance to provide candid feedback to teachers, preferring to share their thoughts amongst themselves. This divergence is a testament to the cultural reverence for educators. Language barriers further underscored the importance of precise terminology, with certain words like "identity" and "racism" remaining inaccessible to some participants (Nguyễn et al., 2023).

**5. Navigating Additional Challenges in the Vietnamese Context:** In a culture that values warmth and affection, such as Vietnam's (Trần, 1996), participants may wholeheartedly participate in surveys to assist researchers. Moreover, the deeply-rooted respect for lifelong communities and relationships may lead participants to share data more for maintaining these relationships than for building rapport with researchers (Gourou, 2015). This is particularly evident when researchers, after collecting data, depart without contributing positively to the community they have engaged with.

**6. Proposing Data Access, Analysis, and Resolution in Contemporary Vietnam:** To effectively address these challenges, an "Indigenous Culture-Based Approach" is proposed. This approach necessitates a comprehensive understanding of relevant multidisciplinary theories encompassing Vietnam's extensive history, including Cao Xuân Huy's *Chủ toàn methods* (Cao, 1995). Employing a macro-level perspective, researchers can distinguish the narrated and the experienced (Rosenthal, 2010), unravel micro-level intricacies that shape participants' lives. The collection of longitudinal data, coupled with historical contextualization, reveals unique patterns of societal transformation. Comparative analyses across cultures offer richer insights into Vietnam's socio-cultural landscape. Furthermore, data collection from potential participants (H. N. Nguyễn, 2022), from diverse perspectives, contexts, and both direct and indirect sources enhance data triangulation, yielding comprehensive insights. In conclusion, the "Indigenous Culture-Based Approach" proves to be a promising method to effectively immerse into the lives of Vietnamese participants and extract profound insights. By considering cultural nuances, refining methodologies, and fostering collaborative relationships, researchers can successfully surmount challenges and uncover intricate insights unique to Vietnam's sociocultural milieu. Additionally, the approach's comparative lens amplifies the study's contributions, offering broader implications for cross-cultural understanding and enriching the discourse on human experiences across diverse societies.



## Presentation 7

### Title of Paper: Reflections on Fieldwork and Implications for Psychological Research with Sensitive Individuals in India

*Author(s): Sharmili Mitra and Manish Kumar Asthana*

#### Abstract:

Conducting research in field-setting is an immersive approach to learning about people from the people themselves. It involves in-depth observation and interaction of the researcher with the research participants to understand the investigated phenomenon's experiences, nuances and complexities. This paper upholds the various challenges faced by researchers during fieldwork in India. India has a diverse social structure, religious beliefs, communities, cultures, traditions, and languages. Therefore, conducting fieldwork on vulnerable populations in conflict areas, tribal communities, various castes, etc., is challenging and requires a scrutiny of the prevalent systemic and structural aspects. The participants are usually suspicious of the researcher's intention, and gaining their trust is a significant challenge. They are less responsive and unwilling to share information if the researcher is perceived as an "outsider", i.e. if the researcher belongs to a different gender, religion, community, caste, culture or speaks a foreign language. The researcher-participant boundary becomes blurred, and the participants intrude into the personal space of the researcher. The participants often question their credibility or show hostility towards the researcher. Hence, facing societal challenges in the community and failure to gather sufficient information from the field also impacts the mental health of the researchers.



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## *B3 Social Inequality in Field Work – Handling Researchers' Positionality in Research*

**Session Organizer: Nina Baur, Gabriel Faimau, Lucas Cé Sangalli, Séverine Marguin, and Daddy Dibinga Kalamba**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Autoethnographic Positioning Analysis as a Strategy for Studying Social In/equalities in Field and Fieldwork**

**Author(s): Tobias Boll**

#### **Abstract:**

This paper introduces "autoethnographic positioning analysis" as a methodological strategy for empirically reconstructing positionality in ethnographic fieldwork. It conceives positionality as a situational, interactional accomplishment of situated processes of "un/doing difference(s)" (West & Fenstermaker 1995; Hirschauer 2014) and as a product of relations between researchers and the field. In order to understand these processes, the paper suggests to apply positioning analysis as introduced by van Langenhove and Harré (1999) to autoethnographic field notes. This allows to empirically reconstruct the self- and other-positionings which render participants "un/equal" in given situations and endow them with a field-specific positionality. In/quality is examined both in the sense of un/equal distributions of resources and power, and in the sense of situationally constructed differences with regard to membership in social groups or cultural categories. The paper will draw on data from an ongoing research project on sex education and sexual assistance programs for people with disabilities in and Austria to illustrate how the proposed strategy can help illuminate how the line between "insiders" and "outsiders" is a (by-)product of both researched and research practices. Intersectional linkages of categorizations of disability and gender, as well as relations between situational and trans-situational positionality are given special focus.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: Gender and Appearance Matters: Researcher-Respondent Interactions in Psychological Research**

**Author(s): Tanya Goyal and Suraj Kumar Tanty**

#### **Abstract:**

This study explores the impact of the researcher's characteristics, specifically related to gender and its appearance, on the behaviour of respondents in psychological research



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studies. The study examines how these characteristics may shape and influence the validity and reliability of such research findings. It also considers the ethical implications of these dynamics on the fieldwork and provides insights for researchers to ensure that their work is conducted in a responsible manner. Through a qualitative approach to content analysis i.e., review of the 50 most cited existing psychological literature and an analysis of its case studies from 2015 to 2020, this paper highlights the importance of considering the role of the researcher in shaping research outcomes and provides practical guidance for researchers to navigate these complex dynamics.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Navigating through the Field: Experiences as a Female Researcher

*Author(s): Raveena Esther Ravichandran*

#### Abstract:

The paper addresses the methodological problem arising out of gender identity and associated inequities that hinder the full participation of a female researcher while conducting a qualitative study in Goubert Market, the oldest marketplace in Puducherry, a former French colony in Southern India. The qualitative study, through an ethnographic approach, aimed to understand the meanings attached to interactions by varied actors like vendors, shopkeepers and municipality officials in the market. As the experiences are subjective in nature, and every researcher experiences the field differently, this paper highlights my experience while navigating the field as a female researcher. How a researcher constructs a field and how one is constructed by the field is significant (Palriwala, 2005). That being the case, one's gender plays an integral role in how one is perceived in the field, and the journey of a female researcher is not as smooth. Understanding such experiences is significant as female researchers continue to be an object of the male gaze and encounter barriers like verbal threats, which I experienced during this study. Therefore, one has to creatively invent ways to navigate around the field.

### Presentation 4

#### Title of Paper: Being a Women Researcher with European Passport in the Global South

*Author(s): Joanna Katharina Kiefer*

#### Abstract:

In fieldwork, as researchers we enter social networks and become part of the field and its local dynamics. These local dynamics also have an impact on how the research field receives





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us, and this can lead to shifts that affect the research process. The proposed paper focuses on the inequality categories of gender and positioning in the global system.

Using the example of two research projects conducting fieldwork in Chile and Cuba, we would like to address a problem that is well known but rarely mentioned in qualitative research: In order to gain access to the field, we need the willingness of the people to accept us, to conduct interviews with us or to provide us with contacts – but what if the subjects of the research field start to communicate that they have an interest that goes beyond the professional and friendly relationship, namely an interest in a (romantic) love relationship? And what if this happens against a background of unequal power relations? How can we deal with the resulting problematic situations? And are certain local fields of research particularly susceptible because of local interaction structures? What impact do these power relations have on our findings and eventual writing?

The paper proposed here aims to highlight these methodological problems arising from the two categories of inequality, gender and positioning in the Global South or North, using concrete examples from research in Latin America, and then to discuss what ethical, practical and methodological approach might be appropriate.

## Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: Crises in Fieldwork: Inequality, Identity and Islam in South India

*Author(s): Saidalavi P.C.*

#### Abstract:

With increasing regularity, researchers now often belong to the same community as their interlocutors. This presents a host of complexities, regarding issues of determining the insider/outsider relationships, accessibility and positionality. This becomes even more problematic in situations where social relationships are always already conceived through inequality and social difference. This paper reflects on my own fieldwork among Muslims fishers on the south-west coast of India where my belonging to a dominant, inland community presented a host of problems. My own inability to overcome the social bias elicited a range of responses from my interlocutors, ranging from outright dismissal, verbal confrontation, to invitation to understanding of bias and rapprochement. I suggest that the concept of crises helps us understand the double-edged nature of the positionality of the researcher which always wavers between difficulties and opportunities.





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## *B4 Who and How Should we Include in Methodological Tools? Towards the Integration of Stakeholders and Different Approaches for Spatial Knowledge Construction*

**Session Organizer: Sirima Thongsawang**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Who and How Should we Include in Methodological Tools? Towards the Integration of Stakeholders and Different Approaches for Spatial Knowledge Construction**

**Author(s): Sirima Thongsawang**

#### **Abstract:**

Investigating Space while Sensing Space as "Research Tourist": Multimodal Autoethnographic Mappings as Complementary Resource to Explore Non-Human Actors and Stakeholders within Constructions of Space

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: Investigating Space while Sensing Space as "Research Tourist": Multimodal Autoethnographic Mappings as Complementary Resource to Explore Non-Human Actors and Stakeholders within Constructions of Space**

**Author(s): Jae-Young E. Lee**

#### **Abstract:**

Following the social, practical and material turn in spatial sciences, this paper refers to the theory of the construction of spaces (Christmann, Knoblauch and Löw, 2022) as point of departure to empirically explore spatial transformations. Understanding the production of space as multi-vector process of ideation and consolidation, its modus operandi is multi-modal and multi-contextual. To methodologically grasp this process, it is hence crucial to integrate data from multiple and more-than-human spatial actors and stakeholders into the collection process. The presented paper draws out how the researcher's own spatial perception and embodied practice during field access was operationalized and triangulated



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with the spatial constructions of local residents to ultimately investigate the role of non-human actors in spatial production. Initially born as a coping mechanism, the creation of a multi-modal autoethnographic joint spatial display (Marguin, Pelger and Stollmann, 2021) proved vital to visualize the researcher's spatial unknowings when confronted with the spatial constructions given by the research participants. The paper argues that this multi-modal triangulation therefore bares latent material dynamics and embodied spatial knowledges. Moreover, by interweaving autoethnographic, visual and embodied qualitative methodologies, interdisciplinary practices of positionality are incorporated in the process of data collection, allowing for decolonial and intersectional knowledge production.

### Presentation 3

## Title of Paper: Unveiling Participation: Investigating Stakeholder Representation in Participatory Design for Public Spaces

*Author(s): Atheeva Reji Kumar and Lakshmi Srinivasan*

#### Abstract:

Participatory research methods are progressively employed in public space design, garnering acclaim as a superior approach to designer-centric autonomy. However, mainstream literature in spatial design and architecture, rarely critiques these methodologies from the perspective of inclusive and diverse representation within the participatory process. The paper argues that, to create an inclusive process, mechanisms of exclusion and the interconnected ways in which they can affect a stakeholder's access to participation need to be examined. Through field research, it identifies and decodes the impact of these mechanisms, not just in terms of 'who participates' but also 'how they participate' and 'the outcomes of participation'. This paper delves into the following questions: What are the factors that affect representation of diverse stakeholders in participatory processes? How does the process of facilitation including facilitator bias, language, power hierarchies etc. affect representation? How can these understandings improve inclusivity in participatory design? In the research process, understandings were generated from the analysis of eight frameworks created by designers for engagements about public transit spaces in Bengaluru. Additionally, interviews (with facilitators and stakeholders) and on-field observations were conducted. Based on the resultant understandings, the paper presents a holistic toolkit for inclusive participatory design that acknowledges the heterogeneity of stakeholder perspectives and identities.



## Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: Mapping in/formality and in/visibility in Lagos, Nigeria

Author(s): *Francesca Ceola*

#### Abstract:

Referring to the project “Architectures of Asylum II: Circulation of Governance Approaches, Planning Knowledge, Design Practices, and Materialities” they work for, the authors discuss the mapping methodology they uses in the study of Internally Displaced People's (IDPs) “informal” settlements in the Lagos State area and refugees' spaces of emplacement in metropolitan Amman area (Jordan). Designed as an iterative process, the mapping methodology aims at recovering data in multiple phases that feed into each other. Procedurally, that looks like: the settlement's inhabitants are invited to map their settlement; through thematic analysis of their mappings, the authors retrace and map out the emergent elements – relevant to the research questions; the researchers' maps serve as ground and trigger for the second round of residents' participation and discussion of the issues arisen. The question of “whom is mapping what for whom” lies at the heart of the provocation of such mapping experiment – where the scientific aspirations of “knowledge production” and “data gathering” are questioned, hybridised, and democratised within the purpose of challenging mapping as a tool and medium. The proposition is to reconsider mapping methodologies as moments of productive collision between heterogeneous actors and elements, that offer a platform for the advancement of citizenship and visibility claims from otherwise invisibilised places – in Amman and Lagos as much as elsewhere



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## *C1 Methodologies for the Investigation of Spatial Transformation Processes*

**Session Organizer: Hafeeza Hosein Shah and Gabriela Christmann**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Social Sustainability in Urban Neighbourhoods. Investigating Spatial Transformation Processes in Berlin-Moabit and Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg by an Ethnographic Discourse Analysis**

**Author(s): Gabriela Christmann**

### **Abstract:**

The talk will focus on the question of how spatial transformation processes, or more concretely: the social reconstruction of socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods for more social sustainability, which takes place over time, can be studied methodologically. The methodological problem is how to study socio-spatial micro-processes over time. Starting from a micro perspective, it is argued that it is new forms of communicative action by local actors that play a decisive role in spatial transformation processes. The article begins with theoretical considerations on the communicative reconstruction of spaces. It then outlines the research question of a project that used the example of "urban pioneers" to investigate bottom-up initiatives to achieve a better quality of life in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. First, the main characteristics of the selected neighbourhoods in Berlin-Moabit and Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg () as well as the characteristics of the urban actors studied are outlined. Then the methodological approach of the study is described, which we have called ethnographic discourse analysis. It explains how (focused) ethnography and the (sociological of knowledge) approach to discourse were combined and how the methods were applied. The paper concludes with a discussion of the extent to which the methodological approach proves suitable for investigating spatial transformation processes on a "microscopic level".



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## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: A methodological approach to understand the socio spatial transformation of urban commons in Bengaluru

*Author(s): Rachna Mehra*

#### Abstract:

The discourse on space which gained popularity in multi disciplinary domains is at present cutting across those boundaries to create an interdisciplinary dialogue rooted in spatial practices. The paradigm used to configure urban sociality can be drawn from Lefebvre's 'conceptual triad' to understanding semiotics of space 'metonymically as ("spaces of language"), introspectively ("spaces of the self"), socio-politically ("spaces of agitation) (Million, Haid et al 2022:2) or a 'refiguration of society (including spaces) as part of deep mediatization' (Hepp in Christmann et al 2022) This paper will bring together discourse analysis and visual media archive to look at the the city as a palimpsest of various activities. It will focus on the intertwined nature between the sacred and secular in the city of Bengaluru in South India where the Karaga festival creates an unconventional dialogue between rituals and civic bodies connecting the semi urban to the cosmopolitan parts of a city through the celebration of this centuries old eponymous jatre (procession). The jatre covers sites three tanks namely Dharmambudi, Kempambudi and Sampangi which are either extinct or have suffered the onslaught of urbanization. The first tank has been converted into a main bus stand, the second tank bed contains a stadium and the third receives sewage from the city apart from housing colonies' (Srinivas 1999:36). How these urban commons were expropriated to the produce the contemporary built form will be explored.

## Presentation 3

### Title of Paper: This is not quite what we imagined, or was it?" – Spatial transformation in the inner city of Lisbon

*Author(s): Madalena Corte-Real*

#### Abstract:

This paper intends to present an analysis of the evolution of a territory in the inner city of Lisbon that has undergone major transformations in particular in the context of the financial crisis in which the municipality sought to promote the city, with a strong focus on tourism. In view of social vulnerabilities and the deterioration of public space and buildings, as well as vacant flats, a multi-targeted programme was implemented that consisted of interventions started in 2011 regarding essentially the requalification of public space and improvement of infrastructures and the support of social and cultural initiatives which relied on numerous partners mainly non-profit organizations. Today the territory is marked by a delimitation of sub-territories and dynamics and after a decade the intention is to look at the evolution of this territory and at these central actors (how they perceive themselves and the municipality in the



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process), by visiting the area, analysing the image that is projected and looking at socio-demographic data also in the dynamic of the wider context of the historical part of the city (evolution of population growth and diversity, public-civic partnerships, real estate, tourism, impact of the pandemic).

#### Presentation 4

##### Title of Paper: Spatial processes in Singapore's neighbourhoods

*Author(s): Kong Chong HO*

##### Abstract:

Many neighbourhood effects studies infer the strength of neighbourly relations by the effects on the neighbourhood such as reduction of crime (Aiyer, Zimmerman, Morel-Samuels, and Reischl 2015), multiculturalism and integration (Chin, 2022) and successful neighbourhood projects (Ho, 2019). However, there is a need to look beneath the neighbourhood as a unit and focus on processes occurring within the neighbourhood, in order to better understand how local relationships, physical design and government policies construct and transform the neighbourhood. There is a need, as Darcy and Gwyther, 2011: 264) argues, to understand the local processes of knowledge production within the lived experiences of the residents of the neighbourhood in order to create a better understanding of neighbourhood effects. The focus of our paper is to build from these insights and to pair the survey method with walking interviews with the objective to provide a more composite picture of spatial practices and relationships in Singapore's high rise, high density, diverse neighbourhood. We do so by choosing a newly built neighbourhood and studying its evolution through the survey data measuring use of public amenities, patterns of neighbourly relations combined with walking interviews which reveal everyday neighbourhood spatial routines, encounters and avoidances.

#### Presentation 5

##### Title of Paper: understanding socio-spatial transformation of contested public spaces

*Author(s): Maryam Saedi*

##### Abstract:

In recent years, "public space" has been the focus of numerous scholarly investigations that view it as an inherently contested entity imbued with power relations and negotiate disciplinary boundaries to understand various aspects of its configuration. Public space is a product of historical conflicts between different forces. However, few studies have attempted to historically understand space as a social construct and explain its socio-spatial dynamics



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over time, and most studies have defined space as a physical container and examined the transformation of physical form of space. This study defines public space as a product of social conflict and power-resistance relations and explores the theoretical-methodological perspective that allows us to study (re)figuration of space and (re)definition of publicness in a long-term duration due to various drivers and forces.

## Presentation 6

**Title of Paper:** Characterising the lives and living experiences of welfare recipients and their households – The case of the public assistance grant of Trinidad and Tobago

**Author(s):** Hafeeza Hosein Shah and Godfrey St Bernard

### Abstract:

Internationally, cash transfers as social welfare interventions have become popular since the 1990s as a preferred mode of disbursing state funding in order to improve the lives of the poor and redistribute the wealth of states so that equity, social justice, and fairness can prevail. Globally, there is limited research on client's perspectives on cash transfers. In Trinidad and Tobago, the Public Assistance Grant (PAG) has prevailed as an Unconditional Cash Transfer for over 70 years. This study interrogates the perceptions of welfare recipients, focusing upon their quality of life, self-reliance, human capabilities, and service delivery experiences based on their encounters with the PAG. Drawing upon a mixed method design, data were collected using a survey instrument and focus group interviews. In accordance with social justice framework, phenomenological insights permitted a pluralistic thrust towards determining and understanding lived realities of recipients and their households, in the context of being beneficiaries of the PAG. By learning about the characteristics of recipients and their households and through their experiential insights, our results are valuable in guiding policy processes to positively impact poverty alleviation and reduction in the context of a welfare intervention that has persisted for 70 years.





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## *C3 Cities and Communities: Unpacking the Contested Urban in South Asia*

**Session Organizer: Muhammad Ala Uddin**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Exploring human perception of nonhuman elements in the port city of Chittagong, Bangladesh**

**Author(s): Muhammad Ala Uddin**

#### **Abstract:**

This paper examines human perception of nonhuman elements in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Chittagong's rapid urbanization and industrial development have added infrastructure, technology, and environmental features. Urban planning, sustainable development, and city residents' well-being depend on understanding how humans interact with these nonhuman elements. The study used in-depth interviews and participant observations to uncover these interrelated aspects. It focused on urban infrastructure, technological advancements, green spaces, and natural resources. Human perceptions of nonhuman elements in Chittagong were complex and influenced by many factors. The city's development relied on roads, bridges, and buildings. Participants complained about poor maintenance, overcrowding, and limited accessibility. Technology improved communication, connectivity, and efficiency. However, over-reliance on technology, loss of traditional values, and the digital divide among different groups were major concerns. Inadequate maintenance of parks, gardens, and public recreational areas, pollution, encroachment, and limited accessibility prevented full enjoyment. The study also stressed the role of natural resources, particularly the Karnaphuli River, in shaping nonhuman perceptions and city landscapes. The study helps explain human-environment interactions in rapidly developing cities like Chittagong and others. It suggests sustainable urban planning strategies that balance development with environmental preservation, improve infrastructure maintenance and accessibility, bridge digital divide, and promote sustainable natural resource management.



## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: Land Imaginaries of Eri Poramboke lands: Evolution, Trajectories and Contestations in North Chennai

*Author(s): Sowmya K*

#### Abstract:

This paper examines urban lands, especially Poramboke lands, with particular reference to Eri Poramboke lands in North Chennai, India. "Poramboke" in colloquial Tamil is a slur meant to devalue a person or place. The derogatory usage of Poramboke most likely originated from its changing connotations from common lands into wastelands. The kind of Poramboke land depends on the purpose of its use. The land near the Eris (tanks built for irrigation), water catchment areas, and the Eri itself when dry (during the non-monsoon seasons) are called Eri Poramboke lands. Eri Poramboke lands are crucial buffers against flooding. The historical significance of the Eris and Eri Poramboke lands has been forgotten due to the colonial encounter. This work documents the trajectories of land imaginaries of Eri Poramboke lands through oral history narratives collected in the field from Eris in North Chennai. The paper uses the 'land imaginaries' lens to understand views and aspirations on land use across differing social classes. The co-creation of the imaginaries and materiality of Eri Poramboke lands is understood through contestations, as evident in the field narratives and legal judgements.

## Presentation 3

### Title of Paper: Working Backwards: Mixed-Methods Approaches and the Challenge of a Fragmentary Migration Archive

*Author(s): Radheshyam Thiyagarajan and Nazia Akhtar*

#### Abstract:

Given the challenge of fragmentary or scattered archives, how can we construct a historical and socio-cultural profile of urban micro-minorities that are acutely affected by the "global flows" (Arjun Appadurai 1990) of people, commodities, and capital? Secunderabad, once a town in princely Hyderabad state in colonial South Asia, was shaped critically by the arrival of migrant communities from different parts of the subcontinent. One such group was that of educated, professional, Tamil-speaking migrants from Madras Presidency. Testament to this migration today are multiple localities with a dominance of Tamil-speaking people, cultural events, and related institutions and associations. Using this community as a case study, this paper demonstrates that the biggest challenge in studying the history of a micro-minority is their marginal presence in archives. We find that the keepers of such history are individuals and communities. Hence, we examine private archives, oral histories, and community records in conjunction and contestation with literary texts and official sources, such as census data, civil lists, and gazettes. This paper offers an account of how we addressed methodological



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challenges by building community networks, and adopting and adapting a mixed-methods, interdisciplinary approach to creatively trace migration, settlement, linguistic, and socio-cultural patterns. Our findings suggest that such approaches have positive implications for city and urban studies and research methods in this area.

#### Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: Urban Centres as Foci of multiple Authority: Reconstruction of Political Dynamics in Panjab between 700 CE and 1400 CE

*Author(s): Ashish Rawat*

#### Abstract:

The origins and development of the city were chiefly influenced by the growing complexity of social organization. With its specialized industries, markets, administrative infrastructure, temples, and educational institutions, it constituted a new type of settlement and served a variety of purposes in the areas of economics, religion, education, culture, and administration. These types of urban centers were always present in the North-Western region of South Asia, which consists of present-day India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The amorphous region of North-West India with different topographies is the ground of many cross-cultural interactions with many entangled histories. Throughout history, cross-cultural interactions have affected human experiences across the boundary lines of societies and cultural regions through three processes: mass migrations, campaigns of imperial expansion, and long-distance trade. The result of these interactions is not just the migration of populations but also the exchange of traditions, political, economic, and social structures, technologies, and ideas. In the eighth century, with the advent of Arabs in this region, the cities underwent a substantial change.

Muhammad bin Qasim and the next governors in line until the ninth century faced difficulty in administering the newly acquired cities. Thus, new cities were built for Muslims, like Manshura in Sindh. Important cities like Multan, which held importance as a frontier zone between the Muslims and the people of Hind, were important to hold and had to be administered accordingly, as the famous Sun Temple of Multan was an important source of revenue as well as a means of protection against the 'infidels' (Gurjar-Pratihars). With the coming of Qaramatias in the tenth century in Multan, the temple had to face the wrath of a newly acquired political structure that traced its legitimacy to Egypt. With the coming of Mahmud of Ghazni in the eleventh century, he brought a newly acquired Persian culture to the newly acquired areas. This marks the development of Lahore. Although Lahore was an important city under the Hindu Shahis, it was under the Ghaznavids that Lahore came to be known as Little Ghazni. With the incoming of Mohammad Ghori, new political elements like bandagan and iqtadars (muqtis) played an important role in the development of urban centers. Thus, from the thirteenth century onwards, many new urban centers were built, like Hissar Feroza, and old ones were developed, like Multan and Delhi. In all these developments, cities were the foci of not just political but also spiritual authority. The changing dynamics



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## Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: Community based urban residential self-segregation: case study of a middle-class Delhi suburb

*Author(s): Priyasha Kaul*

#### Abstract:

This paper presents an in-depth analysis of the phenomenon of community based residential spatial formations in an urban middle class Delhi suburb.

Classical urban sociology highlights the role of urbanscapes in fragmenting traditional sectarian identities, the city as the cesspool of individualization. In this study, however, I argue how in the urban metropolitan city of Delhi, communitarian identity of caste, religion and region plays a crucial role in residential spatial self-segregation. Using primary data from the urban middle class suburb of Dwarka in Delhi city, I interrogate why the upwardly mobile professional middle class is choosing to live in residential societies formed on the basis of caste, religion and/or regional identity? What are the possible reasons behind such a consolidation of communal spatial arrangements in cosmopolitan Delhi? And its larger implications for inclusion/exclusion in terms of identity politics in the city.

The data for this study will be gathered through semi- structured face to face interviews with three key stakeholders: members of the resident welfare associations living in these housing societies as public stakeholders, property dealers who broker selling/renting apartments in these residential housing societies in the area as market stakeholders, and senior representatives of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) as governmental stakeholders.

## Presentation 6

### Title of Paper: Urban Dispossession: Demolitions, Urban Governance, and the Question of Justice Amidst Eroding Rule of Law in Indian Cities

*Author(s): Akansha Singh and Shreya Yadav*

#### Abstract:

In the rapidly evolving urban landscapes of South Asian cities, the multifaceted issues of demolition of homes along with livelihood displacement, justice, and the right to the city converge, demanding a comprehensive and transdisciplinary approach to effective policy, planning, and governance. The phenomenon of demolitions, usually followed by some pertinent event such as riots and often carried out by official authorities, has resulted in the forced displacement of marginalized communities, exacerbating the already existing disparities and challenging the principles of freedom and equity. The adverse impacts on livelihoods, social cohesion, and access to basic services underscore the urgency of addressing the question of justice within these contexts. This paper delves into the



complexities of these challenges, focusing on a specific community in various cities of India that has been disproportionately targeted by these processes.

One methodological problem that arises is the scarcity of holistic frameworks capable of addressing the diverse dimensions of these issues. Traditional disciplinary boundaries often hinder a complete understanding of the socio-economic, legal, psychological, and spatial aspects at play. Thus, the paper proposes a transdisciplinary framework involving primary and secondary data and encourages collaboration between urban planners, legal experts, sociologists, and community representatives. This collaborative approach seeks to bridge the gaps in knowledge and create a comprehensive understanding of the experiences, rights, and challenges of the targeted community.



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# *C4 & I2 Mapping the Socio-Spatial Transformation of Public Space & Urban Assemblage: Interrogating Transdisciplinary Methodological Approaches to Researching the City Environments*

**Session Organizer(s):** *Shamin Golrokh, Maryam Saedi, Anthony Mavuto Gunde and Victor Chikaipa*

## **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** Mapping the Socio-Spatial Transformation of Public Space & Urban Assemblage: Interrogating Transdisciplinary Methodological Approaches to Researching the City Environments

**Author(s):** *Shamin Golrokh, Maryam Saedi, Anthony Mavuto Gunde, and Victor Chikaipa*

### **Abstract:**

Cities as places are defined by the physical (i.e. urban form) and philosophical (i.e. imagination and representation) relationships between people and place. Exploring the transformation of urban places tends to describe and understand the continuous, complex and contested processes and dynamics manifesting in cities, as well as how these dynamics alter urban functions, local needs and interactions between cities and their surroundings.

Considering the city as a palimpsest suggests an image or text that has been erased many times over time and something new has been imprinted on it. The palimpsest piles up different layers of life. New meanings appear over and over again on previous meanings, distorting or erasing them, cutting and adding to them. Trouk (2011) describes the concept of palimpsest and accumulation in relation to the city, with the concept of 'urban palimpsest'. In such an interpretation, when we look at the changes in the public arena of the city, as an arena of conflict between different social groups, we are facing a complex palimpsest in which, over time, different groups have each tried to engrave their meanings on its previous layers; Meanings that sometimes conflict with each other. On the other hand, exploring the changes of place over time connects with the notion of 'history' and how we approach studying the history of urban places. This session, considering the public space as a social construct, is inspired by Foucault's view of history. Emphasizing the methodological contribution, this session aims to spark new conversations across the field of public space studies. With this intention, the session mainly addresses a methodological problem. Papers are invited to contribute to general issues of socio-spatial research methodologies, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. Papers are invited on topics related, but not limited, to: genealogy and archeology of place; material and non-material traces of urban





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changes in public spaces; power, resistance and the politics public space; narratives, memory, and counter-histories; cartography and memory mapping.

## Presentation 2

**Title of Paper: The memory of the city as a mobile social organization;  
The narrative of the residents of Ilam regarding their relation to the city  
during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-88)**

*Author(s): Shamin Golrokh and Sima Ferdosian*

### Abstract:

This research aimed to understand how a generation of a society that experienced war as an urban trauma recalls and recounts the situation. We tried to describe how people describe their relationship with a city-in-war through their narratives. Therefore, the concepts of trauma, memory, and remembering/forgetting are key in this research. Many Iranian cities have been in a traumatic war situation during the eight years of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). Such a situation has been more severe in the cities that were located near the border areas of Iran and Iraq, so the city and its residents experienced the war situation daily, were a part of it, and were in a position to choose to stay or leave the city. Through in-depth interviews, this research has analyzed the narratives and memories of seven citizens of the city of Ilam who have experienced the war situation in the city and are still living there.

One could address the interrelationship between place and memory in the context of Place of Memory studies. According to Pier Nora, memory is usually attached to places that are concrete and physical or to immaterial places such as festivals and rituals. Therefore, the place of memory includes geographical places, historical monuments and buildings, historical figures, and people. Reconnecting with a place can bring back memories. Trauma, of which war is one of its forms, creates conditions in which people experience different memories when faced with them. Trauma is often seen as an emotional shock that significantly harms a person over a long period and can have long-term effects such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and even physical symptoms. Experiencing traumatic events often disrupts our common perceptions about life and profoundly affects our view of the world. Such experiences create feelings such as fear, panic, and a sense of alarm that remain beyond the experience of a traumatic event and are even transmitted from one generation to the next. One of the conditions that cause trauma is the experience of war, but on the other hand, forced leaving a place can also threaten a person's mental health by distorting the emotional connection with his living environment.

Memory and trauma both refer to the absence of something. Both are characterized by impermanence, transience, and structures of repetition. But turning memory into trauma unnecessarily limits our understanding of memory, defining it exclusively in terms of pain, suffering, and loss. Some psychologists believe that people provide different interpretations of the same situation or event based on their different conditions, insights, and values. According to their wishes, people pay more attention to the desired parts of the memory, highlight them, and push the rest to the sidelines. That is, a person can choose between remembering and forgetting a memory. Sometimes he even expresses it differently by manipulating the details of the memory. The politics of memory claims that the people of each age reconstruct memory to serve their contemporary purposes. Today, we consider memory as a way to represent and belong more to the present. After all, the act of remembering always takes place in the present, while its referent is past and therefore absent. Inevitably, every act of memory brings





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aspects of betrayal, forgetfulness, and absence. Considering the traumatic events of the war, the need for the politics of memory and forgetting is better revealed. It is as if forgetting in the context of traumatic memories such as trauma is a gift that can be used.

Despite being located near the border and the critical conditions of numerous bombings, Iram city was never deserted during the war, and the residents of this city created another temporary city by setting up tents in the surrounding nature. As a city in the border region and because of its strategic position in supporting the war zone, this issue has been supported by war policymakers. In dangerous situations and when the possibility of bombardment of the city was announced, people took refuge in the surrounding nature and had temporary accommodation there. The shelter, which was very important as a kind of space during the war, took on different faces during the years of this war and played a role in people's lives in different ways; in the form of basements, temporary trenches, permanent underground trenches, and gradually on the side of the roads or under the trees and on the slopes of the mountains. In this way, the mountains, which were once the dwellings of the nomadic tribes on this land, have become their safe places and shelters during the insecurity of the cities.

This article conducted in-depth interviews with 7 people who, during the war, were between the ages of 15 and 35, married, and had children. All the interviewees lived in the city of Iram during the war and they are still living there. Through thematic analysis, the study interpreted the narratives of these people from their lived experience in the spaces formed during the war, their story of urban life, and the connection of their individuality with the collective memories of that era. The themes formulated in this research describe the features highlighted in people's memories of the city's traumatic situation. The main theme obtained indicates people's escape to create a new city in the safe and familiar nature of the surroundings, with the support of strong social ties, which the collective memory of Koch has guided systematically. The results of the conducted study showed that most of the residents who lived in the temporary accommodation recognized it as a new city formed based on the social bonds of the main - escaped - city of Iram. In other words, social organization was the main force that reproduced the city-in-war.

### Presentation 3

## Title of Paper: Urban Assemblage: Interrogating Transdisciplinary Methodological Approaches to Researching the City Environments

*Author(s): Anthony Mavuto Gunde and Victor Chikaipa*

### Abstract:

Over the years, there has been a growing interest in thinking about how cities are positioned, assembled and even imagined. There are multiple criteria for how cities ought to be envisioned, structured and inhabited. These criteria are all evaluative and normative; they form the benchmarks against which cities are compared and judged. They construct powerful mental maps of the world of cities that, themselves, influence policy-making and city-making (McCann, Roy and Ward, 2013: 581). An assemblage is a fundamentally relational concept which sees a given phenomenon as composed of heterogeneous entities which can be seen as human and non-human, organic and inorganic, technical and natural (Anderson and McFarlane 2011: 126). Assemblage is a concept used to describe the practices of actors who assemble policies by engaging with various policy networks and communities, stretched across the globe, to learn, teach, and share knowledge about best practice models (McCann et al. (2013: 583). Assemblage looks at the processes and practices through which urban life



is produced; by foregrounding how the socio-materiality of cities shapes urban lives and inequalities; and by inspiring new critical urban imaginaries (Swanton, 2011). In urban studies, the assemblage can be perceived as a way of thinking to provide a theoretical lens for understanding the complexity of the city problems by emphasising the relations between sociality and spatiality at different scales (Kamalipour and Peimani, 2015). For Swanton (2011), contemporary urbanisation demands radically different ontological and methodological foundations. As highlighted in the foregoing, we welcome contributions from all disciplines dealing with urban spaces since the issue intends to propose an interdisciplinary dialogue about the methodological dilemmas in researching the assemblage of the city environments, that is, its meaning and also its processes of construction, interpretation, transformation and translation. The non-exhaustive list of themes for this includes: (1.) Urbanisation in the wake of epidemics; (2.) Environmental/ecological systems and the city; (3.) Urbanisation, Poverty and the marginalised; (4.) Re-assembling the city and migration; (5.) The complexities of land ownership; (6.) The city and decolonisation; (7.) Digital and futuristic cities; (8.) Digital heritage and smart cities; (9.) Natural disasters and urban assemblages; (10.) Contesting historical Statues and Monuments; (11.) Semiotics, Politics and Cultural Heritage in urban spaces; (12.) Designing Methods for the Semiotics of Cultural Memory in Urban Spaces; (13.) Cultural memory in urban spaces; (14.) Urban 'history' preservation and vandalism; (15.) Media discursive representation of urban heritage (16.) Media practices, social actors and urban conflict.

#### Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: City as Canvas: How Creative Public Arts Transform Forgotten Urban Spaces in Hanoi, Vietnam

*Author(s): Nguyen The Son and Tran Hoai*

#### Abstract:

In recent decades, the process of urbanization in Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam, has degraded and neglected numerous metropolitan areas, corners, and associated neighborhoods, rendering them squalid, contaminated, and disregarded. In response, a group of artists undertook public art initiatives aimed at revitalizing selected marginalized urban areas thus to evoke a renewed sense of pride and belonging among the local leaders and inhabitants toward their respective living environments. By thoroughly examining the involvements and experiences of different individuals involved in public art projects in Hanoi, this study proposes a methodological approach that is more pertinent in investigating the transformative effects of public art on neglected urban areas. Instead of solely examining public art activities via the lenses of top-down or bottom-up approaches, it is crucial to consider the concept of "cultural engagements," as proposed by Michael Herzfeld, to analyze the interactions and dynamics among many actors involved in the process, including their discussions, negotiations, rearrangements, interpretations, and overall experiences within the revitalized areas. Our research findings are pertinent to session C4 (Mapping the Socio-Spatial Transformation of Public Space). This study examines the capacity of public art



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initiatives to reframe neglected urban spaces both in terms of their physical transformation and philosophical implications. Moreover, we perceive and argue public art sites as palimpsests that contain layers of values and significance uncovered by the involvement of community members with the public artworks.

## Presentation 5

**Title of Paper: Storytelling and narratives of city-making and the politics of inclusivity: Rethinking and repositioning the complexities of urban lives in Windhoek, Namibia**

*Author(s): Nelson Mlambo*

### Abstract:

Keenly aware of the indisputable reality of people as homo narrans (storytelling humans), this proposed talk contends that narratives, stories and cultural productions provide multiplex insights on how urbanites live, shape and get shaped by cities. As stories of and about people, their socio-cultural and politico-economic encounters and mundane experiences, change narratives image the city and allow us unique angles to understand life in its multifacetedness. The methodological problem addressed relates to the quest for novel modes of representation that can lay bare the everyday practices of inclusion and exclusion as overtures for exposing and addressing power imbalances, register voice and voicelessness, and amplify what it means to inhabit the city spaces. This will be done through a close analysis of selected literary texts set in Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia, which is a complex urban environment marked by postcolonial inequalities that need multidisciplinary approaches in the quest for sustainable solutions. This links to the session as it helps to foreground how the socio-materiality of cities shapes urban lives and inequalities and thereby helps to inspire new critical urban imaginaries. The general line of argument is that narratives help to expose, explore and think through urban social and spatial contexts and that through context specific (global South) and the plurality of stories and narratives, we can 'live' in such spatial imaginaries and thereby think of targeted strategies of urban sustainability.



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## *D3 Language and Social Research*

**Session Organizer(s):** *Hubert Knoblauch, Gabriel Faimau, Nina Baur, Silke Steets and Daddy Dibinga Kalamba*

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** *Language and Social Research. An Introduction*

**Author(s):** *Nina Baur, Hubert Knoblauch, Gabriel Faimau and Silke Steets*

#### **Abstract:**

*Language and Social Research. An Introduction*

Nina Baur, Hubert Knoblauch, Gabriel Faimau and Silke Steets

Language is a key social institution of any society, reflecting cultural practices deeply embedded in local contexts. Global diversity of cultures reflects on the diversity of languages – while on a world scale, “only” 23 languages are widely spoken, more than 7,000 living languages exist. These languages do not only differ in their words, but also in typical narrative structures, ways to build an argument, connotations, networks of meanings and the systems of thought they represent, which is why it is difficult to translate between languages. This is true already for languages within one language group such as the Indo-European languages (which include e.g. English, German, Spanish, Portuguese, French or Russian but also Persian, Hindi, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Gujarati, Marathi, Panjabi or Urdu). For example, the German word “Wissen” is not the same as the English word “knowledge” which is the closest translation in English. This has vast consequences because the English-language “Marx-Weber-Debate” does not make any sense in the German original – the whole point of debate only arises because some subtleties of meaning in Weber’s reference to and reflection about Marx are lost in translation. The same is true for Weber’s epistemological work. Vice versa, Norbert Elias (who was a German native speaker) wrote his whole epistemological work on sociology of knowledge in English and always claimed that the subtle but important finer points could not be properly translated to German. If this poses already a problem for relatively similar languages such as English and German which belong to the same language group, the challenge is much larger for translating from and to Indo-European languages to other language groups which represent completely different systems of thought, such as Sino-Tibetan (e.g. Mandarin, Cantonese or Wu), Tai-Kadai (e.g. Thai), Austroasiatic (such as Javanese, Indonesian, Tagalog or Vietnamese), Dravidian (e.g. Kannada, Tamil, Telugu), Afro-Asiatic (such as Arabic, Amharic or Amharic), Niger-Congo (e.g. Swahili), Creole (e.g. Nigerian Pidgin) or Turkic languages (e.g. Turkish).



Accordingly, since the early 20th century, sociology of language, sociology of science, sociology of knowledge, historical research, survey methodology and qualitative research have been aware and continuously stressed how important language is for research and have been developing recommendations of how to handle language issues in social research and academic communication but have also identified many dilemmas and open questions.

In recent years, these issues have become more pressing, not only because there is an increasing demand for cross-cultural research but also because English has been increasingly become a language for international science communication (with an increasing number of authors writing only in English) but also because many (especially qualitative) researchers increasingly do data collection in English only.

However, using English as lingua franca is not as self-evident as it might appear to many scholars on first sight, as only 17% of the world population can speak English (1.5 billion speakers). The other 6.5 billion humans speak other languages, and among the languages which at least 100 million persons know how to speak are languages such diverse as Mandarin (1.1 billion speakers or 15 % of the world population), Hindi (600 Mio. speakers or 8% of the world population), Spanish (550 Mio. speakers or 7% of the world population), French, Arabic and Bengali (with each about 270 Mio. speakers or 4% of the world population), Russian and Portuguese (with each about 260 Mio. speakers or 3% of the world population), Urdu (230 Mio. speakers or 3% of the world population), Indonesian (200 Mio. speakers or 3 % of the world population), German (160 Mio. speakers or 3 % of the world population), Japanese (125 Mio. speakers or 3 % of the world population) and Nigerian pidgin (120 Mio. speakers or 3 % of the world population).

The predominance of English becomes even more questionable, if one looks at the number and percentage of native speakers. It is not English but Mandarin which has the most native speakers (about 929 – 935 Mio. native speakers or 12 % of the world population), followed by Spanish (about 390 – 475 Mio. native speakers or 6 % of the world population) – English being only third with about 365 – 373 Mio. native speakers or 5 % of the world population).

Furthermore, limiting oneself to English (or any other single language) in academic communication or social research, creates enormous regional imbalances and blind spots, as most languages are typically spoken in specific world regions: English is mostly spoken in the North America, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia-Oceania, India and the Southern parts of Sub-Sahara Afrika. In other world regions, other languages are more common. The speakers of European languages mostly reflect European history as well as colonial history. For example, Spanish and Portuguese are mostly spoken in Latin America as well Portugal, Spain, Angola and Mozambique. French is mostly spoken in France and former French colonies such as Algeria, Canada, Congo and Morocco. German is spoken in Central European countries such as Germany, Austria, Switzerland, but also in former German colonies such as Namibia. Russian is mostly spoken in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union. This reflects only a small part of the world's countries and world population – and other world regions, other languages are typically spoken. For example, in China, mostly Mandarin, Cantonese and Wu are spoken. In Japan, Japanese is spoken. Indonesian is mostly spoken in Indonesia. Arabic is mostly spoken in the Arab countries as





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well as in North-Sahara Africa. In Nigeria, Nigerian pidgin is common. Bengali is spoken in Bangladesh and India, Urdu is spoken in Pakistan and India.

Even within a country, the number of languages can vary enormously. For example, while English is widely spoken among the Indian upper and middle classes, there are 179 other Indian languages, 544 dialects and 22 official languages. Within India, these languages are regionally unevenly distributed: 78% of Indian population speak other Indo-European languages (such as Hindi, Bengali and Urdu), 20% of Indian speak Dravidian languages (e.g. Kannada, Tamil, Telugu).

Finally, language has been increasingly become a source of distinction and tool of power for reaffirming and reproducing social inequality. In most countries of the world, typically only young educated urban upper and upper-middle class men are proficient in English, while elderly uneducated rural lower-class women typically cannot speak English at all. In many countries, this is reinforced by higher education being conducted solely in English, with the result that educated adult residents of country might have to go to language school – not to learn English but to properly learn their mother tongue.

Based on these observations, the session will explore the relations between language and social research as well as implications resulting from this. Both papers focussing on specific languages and general reflections about language and social research are equally welcome. Papers in this session should address one of the following issues and preferably suggest possible solutions for the issues addressed, including how academic training will have to change in order to do so:

- What kind of knowledge do we produce if we increasingly collect data in English? Which cultures and which social groups are socially excluded? What kind of blind spots do we create in doing so?
- When is collecting data in a specific language a “must”, and how does data collection change, if one collects data in this language (e.g. in interviewing techniques)?
- If the researchers themselves are not knowledgeable enough for collecting data in a specific language and do not have the time to learn this in the time of the research project, but data collection in that language is necessary for the project being successful, how should one go about this? E.g., should research instruments be translated and data collected by native speakers of that language or should one build joint research teams to conduct the research? How should one go about this?
- In cross-cultural comparisons, if data are collected in different languages, how should data be translated, and how can cross-cultural data analysis be conducted?
- How to proceed, if concepts in different languages are really incommensurable?
- How should the effect of language in social research be presented in academic writing? What happens if English increasingly becomes the language of academic communication? What bodies of literature written in other languages (e.g. German, French, Sanskrit, Mandarin) get lost? How does this disadvantage scholars whose native tongue is a different tongue than English? On the other hand, if everyone sticks to their own language and acknowledging the fact there is a limit to the number of languages one can learn, how can we communicate cross-culturally?



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## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: (Im)possibilities of Translation and Mediation of Temporal Concepts. Future Time in German and Mandarin

*Author(s): Sercan Sever*

#### Abstract:

What is translated, when we translate: a cognitive concept, a world perception or just a formal aspect, all indicated by the translated words? The evaluation of any translation in social research and outside depends very much on the answer to this question. But the answer is ambiguous. However, the answer does not depend on the degree of consciousness while translating, but moreover on the language-theoretical position, the epistemological starting point. Language comparison and theory can help, if methodological difficulties indicated by translation come up. Describing and comparing temporal concepts in two typologically diverging grammars (German and Mandarin), this presentation first wants to show how different temporal concepts in different grammars are, second why appropriate translation for this reason is hardly possible. Based on this comparison, third, mediation instead of translation of temporal concepts will be suggested to reflect and handle incommensurability in cross-lingual research settings. Mediational approaches can uncover blind spots of translational approaches in terms of language in social research. Showing this with the example of temporal concepts is significant, since time is a core concept of human thought and action in modern research.

## Presentation 3

### Title of Paper: "Whose Research"? Promoting Linguistic Inclusion and Fostering Communication in Urban Research Studies

*Author(s): Victor Chikaipa*

#### Abstract:

This paper grapples with the intricate question of how different studies can address linguistic challenges in research emanating from the cosmopolitan multilingual and multicultural nature of urban environments. It delves into the importance of adopting an appropriate language(s) to enhance communication and promote the collection of reliable data in the research process. It looks into strategies to overcome the language barriers or gaps in urban research studies while acknowledging the trend towards the use of the English language, which results in numerous challenges in communicating with the majority of participants lacking proficiency in such language. As such, the study presents a comprehensive overview of efforts and challenges associated with the use of translations and transcription of different languages in





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urban development research initiated by international agencies. The study reveals that regardless of improving translation quality, increasing the number of translators and interpreters, and providing language training services to research assistants, linguistic barriers in the research process can be overcome by preparing communities to understand objectives and take full ownership of such research activities to freely access and contribute information. In addition, researchers should also reflect on improving current research practices to foster linguistic inclusivity and greater respect for local cultures.

#### Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: Interlinguistic Sensitivity in Qualitative Research: Attentiveness to (Foreign)Language Encounters as a Contribution to Epistemic Quality and Justice in Academic Knowledge Production

*Author(s): Cornelia Bading, Kerstin Kazzazi and Jeannine Wintzer*

#### Abstract:

Researchers are in manifold ways subject to and part of multilingual-intercultural encounters. These interactions further complicate Fremdverstehen, the process of understanding „the Other“, which is essential to innumerable qualitative inquiries. It therefore becomes crucial to explore empowering ways for handling the multilingual-intercultural in order to support researchers to explicitly attend to it within specific epistemological and methodological conditions. Considering the broad spectrum of qualitative research, we do not seek to propose a one-fits-all solution, but rather aim to discuss the potentials and limits of what we call Interlinguistic Sensitivity: a competence that enables researchers to cope with challenges and use chances of the multilingual-intercultural in academic knowledge production. With this goal in mind, we examine the role that Interlinguistic Sensitivity may play in strengthening epistemic quality and justice with regard to two aspects: Firstly, we explore its use for reflecting upon the impact of (foreign)language encounters by means of quality criteria in qualitative inquiries. Secondly, we discuss why being attentive to these encounters is vital for understanding and responding to the language(s)-related inequalities shaping academic knowledge production.



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## *D4 Comparative Urbanism and Qualitative Social Research*

**Session Organizer(s): Agatha Nthenge and Johannes Becker**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** Intra-urban comparison as tactic for researching place-specific waterscape changes in Kibera and Eastleigh, Nairobi (Kenya)

**Author(s):** Moritz Kasper, Elizabeth Wamuchiru, and Sophie Schramm

#### **Abstract:**

Emerging from debates in postcolonial urban studies, comparative tactics have (re)gained prominence, aiming at the production of urban theory beyond traditional centers, often through North/South or West/East juxtapositions. Moreover, some scholars argue for intra-urban comparisons as well, recognizing cities as multiple. Rather than 'oversimplifying the conditions and coherence of cities,' intra-urban comparisons help to reveal, for example, 'radical differences in both access to and experience of infrastructure within a city' (McFarlane et al., 2017). Following such an approach, in 2021/22 we explored changes in the governance and everyday experiences of pandemic waterscapes and water infrastructure in Kibera and Eastleigh, Nairobi. Focusing on these two areas, which share struggles but are also distinctly different, allowed 'the cases to speak to each other' (Brill, 2021). While we also worked with quantitative household surveys, our qualitative data (interviews and observations) in particular allowed us to productively challenge established notions and concepts of southern cities and their infrastructures, such as: fragmentation, heterogeneity, and traditional dichotomies of formal/informal, rich/poor, etc. Approaching Covid-19 and its place-specific implications as an 'infrastructural event' (Carse, 2017) further streamlined our comparative study, from which we not only draw empirical and analytical results, but we also derive recommendations for future comparative urban studies more broadly.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper:** Core-periphery Urban Relations: A Comparative Study of the cities in North Kerala

**Author(s):** Roshna P.P



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### Abstract:

The core-periphery analysis focuses on political and economic dynamics structured by spatial or territorial dimensions into core and peripheral differences. Implicit in this are several notions; that core-periphery location is important for understanding politics and social systems, that dynamics between core and periphery are crucial to understanding social and political change. I argue that not all cores or peripheries will follow similar developmental patterns, moreover no historical inevitability determines that peripheries will always be peripheries. I build my arguments through the dissimilar cases from a core city and a peripheral city in North Kerala.



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## *D5 Diverse Geographies, (Dis)similar Empirics: Exploring Climate Risks and Resilience in Urban Deltas Using 'Comparative Urbanism' Approach*

**Session Organizer(s): Jenia Mukherjee and Wiwandari Handayan**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Strategies to mitigate social vulnerability of coastal communities to sea level rise – A case of Kochi city region**

**Author(s): Meril Maria Mathew and Jain K George**

#### **Abstract:**

Climate change refers to any changes in climatic condition over a period of time (usually 30 years) whether or not because of natural variability or because of human activities that increases the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the global atmosphere. Coastal areas are highly vulnerable to climate change, especially to sea level rise and its related extreme events. Coastal environments occupy one of the most dynamic interfaces on earth, on the boundary among land and sea, and they support some of the most diverse and productive habitats. Extensive research has been carried out in the past two decades on impacts of climate change with a major focus on the coastal zone. Two main factors contributing to sea level rise are thermal expansion of sea water due to ocean warming and water mass input from land ice melt and land water reservoirs. As per the annual report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2021, sea levels are expected to rise up to 2 meters by the end of the century. Rising sea levels threaten increasing coastal populations, critical infrastructure, and valuable assets that lie within coastal floodplains. The rate of sea level rise is accelerating, and high-tide flooding is now 300% to more than 900% more frequent than it was 50 years ago. This study aims to assess the social vulnerability of coastal communities within the Kochi city region and propose strategies to reduce their vulnerability to relative sea level rise. The study identifies various parameters affecting coastal social vulnerability, followed by a socio-economic survey and housing study of three selected coastal settlements to assess the risks affecting their impoverishment. Data collected from the survey was analyzed to assess the vulnerabilities using the eight impoverishment risks of the IRR model and the climate change resettlement capacity frameworks. Strategies such as ecosystem-based adaptation and social interventions have been formulated to counteract and reduce the vulnerability of the communities to sea level rise induced migration. The study concludes by formulating guidelines and strategies to reduce the risks of impoverishment in the study area towards sea level rise.

### **Presentation 2**



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## Title of Paper: Flood planning practices in the Semarang City: A preliminary institutional analysis

*Author(s): Intan Hapsari Surya Putri and Imam Buchori*

### Abstract:

Due to increasing flood risks, urban planners are called to promote and enhance urban flood resilience. Resilience measures must be implemented in an integrated way at all levels of government. This study aims to explain the complexity of implementing spatial strategies to enhance urban flood resilience in Semarang City. The research is informed by the Institutional Analysis and Development and Cross-Scale Interaction framework, which relates contextual variables, discourses, and institutions to policy outcomes. This framework is used to explain the outcomes of decision-making on flood risk management policies in urban areas. This lack of coordination explains why floodplain occupancy continues, thus hampering the shift towards a risk-based approach in flood risk management.

### Presentation 3

## Title of Paper: Urbanization and Suburbanization of a Coastal City: A Case Study of the City of Pattaya

*Author(s): Sutee Anantsuksomsri, Suwadee T. Hansasooksin, and Nij Tontisirin*

### Abstract:

Pattaya City, Chonburi Province, is one of the major tourist destinations in the eastern region of Thailand. Once a peaceful fisherman village, the city was designated as a vacation town for American military in the early B.E. 2500. Since then, the city has become an international tourist destination and consequently expanded rapidly. To cope with such expansion, the city of Pattaya was transformed from local administration to a special administrative area, under the Pattaya City Administration Act. The city, however, continued to grow beyond the city's administrative boundaries. Thus, understanding its urbanization and suburbanization process will shed light on appropriate strategies for urban management and administration. This study aims to examine the process of urban growth of the city of Pattaya as well as predict future growth, using a Cellular-Automata Markov model. The results show that urban growth in Pattaya tends to expand toward other coastal cities in Chonburi Province, suggesting that collaboration of urban management and administration among these cities should be formally established.



## Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: Sustainable Infrastructure Approach Based on Knowledge Co-Production to Improve Disaster Resilience on the North Coast of Central Java

*Author(s): Retno Dewi, Wiwandari Handayani, and Iwan Rudiarto*

#### Abstract:

Technology-based approaches, represented by physical development (gray infrastructure) are frequently used for disaster risk mitigation and reduction. Nevertheless, relying solely on this approach cannot meet future challenges as the intensity and frequency of climate hazards are gradually increasing. Strategies aimed at both mitigating and adapting to climate change need to integrate gray infrastructure with environmental and ecosystem (commonly referred to as green and blue infrastructure). Semarang and Pekalongan are two cities on the north coast of Central Java which are nearly sinking, due to a combination of land subsidence and sea level rise linked to the consequences of climate change. In response to this issue, the integration of gray, green, and blue infrastructure aims to effectively counteract climate hazards, particularly flooding, within these urban areas. However, the process requires involvement of various stakeholders, including government, communities, private sectors, and others. Knowledge co-production is needed to create a sustainable infrastructure concept. This study aims to investigate a sustainable infrastructure approach based on knowledge co-production to increase disaster resilience on the north coast of Central Java. The methods used are mixed, combining quantitative and qualitative data. The results are expected to guide the implementation of sustainable blue-green infrastructure in vulnerable areas.



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## *E5 Ethnography as Spatial-Temporal Method for Research on Urban Public Space*

**Session Organizer(s):** *Fraya Frehse and Mariano Perelman*

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** Ethnography as Spatial-Temporal Method for Research on Urban Public Space. An Introduction

**Author(s):** *Fraya Frehse and Mariano Perelman*

#### **Abstract:**

One whole century has gone by since Bronislaw Malinowski's Argonauts of the Western Pacific firstly publicized ethnography as the distinguishing research method of the anthropological discipline. In the meantime, this essentially interactive and qualitative way of approaching peoples, groups, institutions, and individuals for the sake of a kind of knowledge strictly forged from within the researcher's search for a 'real dialogue with the other' – as Eduardo Viveiros de Castro summarized in an interview in 1999 – underwent uncountable disciplinary applications and interdisciplinary developments. Especially in the wake of the so-called linguistic turn in the social sciences amidst the spread of globalization, there emerged methodological trends spatially as diverse as multi-sited ethnography – coined by George Marcus in 1995 – and the autoethnography proposed by Carolyn Ellis and Arthur P. Bochner in 2000. The approaches imply ethnographic dialogues in spaces ranging from multiple geographic sites to the researcher's subjective conscience. This spatial versatility clearly supports the assessment that ethnography is a research method especially sensitive to both the social and relational dimension of space—hence, a spatial method. Therefore, ethnography is also a temporal method. Conceived as a social product/construct (depending on the theoretical stance), space and time are sets of relations between living beings and material/symbolic goods: what varies is the logic underpinning these relations—respectively simultaneity or sequence. Hence, due to its sensitiveness to relational space ethnography also allows us to understand the multiple temporalities comprised in social processes and in space as such. The ethnographic gaze discloses the way in which spatialized practices are also practices that bear multiple temporalities. Based on the assessment that the empirical and theoretical gains arising from critical reflections on the sociospatial and sociotemporal dimension of ethnography remain conceptually underexplored both in the social and spatial sciences, this session addresses the methodological relevance of space and time for ethnographic research particularly on the social dimension of urban public space – i.e, for research about the social production and/or reproduction of urban public space. At least in theoretical terms, public space is characterized by an unavoidable anonymity. This is the other side of the coin of urban public space as a sociological abstraction that comprises the





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whole range of empirically given places such as streets, squares, parks, etc., which stand out in cities due precisely to their broad range of social accessibility – whether in legal, physical-material, or informational terms. Precisely this twofold trait poses a set of challenges to ethnography as method. Since its historical inception in 20-century anthropology, ethnography has been strongly dependent on the possibility of overcoming anonymity via face-to-face interaction. Against this backdrop, the session addresses the methodological contributions that space and time may offer to ethnographic research in/on urban public spaces. We expect papers that contribute empirically or theoretically to ethnography as spatial-temporal method for understanding the multiple (inter)actions, practices and processes by means of which urban public space is brought about.

## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: Interrogating Splintering Urbanism in the Postcolonial Smart City of Patna

*Author(s): Shubham Shekhar and Aditya Mohanty*

**Abstract:** Cities in recent years have evolved into ‘splintered’ (Marvin and Graham 2001) urban spaces that exhibit sharp disparities between different zones. However, one needs to consider the differences and nuances of each sector as well, rather than merely assume that they follow the same logic and direction (Zerah, 2008). It is under this pretext, that the paper investigates the interconnections between residential dwellings and poverty in second-tier Indian smart cities like Patna. The scarcity of affordable land and housing for migrant workers, has resulted in the proliferation of precarious settlements. Based on Graham and Marvin's theory, this paper deploys a ‘multi-sited ethnography’ to examine the key underpinnings of slums in Patna and how it both furthers and builds on the existing ‘splintered’ spaces of the city. Lack of clarity in slum redevelopment policies, apathy from both governmental and corporate entities, and the critical role played by local community leaders, are the three tracks that are traced to show how the fragility of legal housing infrastructure contributes to a recurrent informalization of urban slums in postcolonial urban spaces. In other words, such a sensitive relational ethnography of urban spaces shows how spatialized practices bear multiple temporalities and vice versa.



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### Presentation 3

## Title of Paper: Keja\_Homes: Socio-spatial transformation beyond modernization in Kenya

*Author(s): Jochen Kibel and Makau Kitata*

### Abstract:

Presenting results from a SMUS cooperation between the Department of Sociology of Planning and Architecture at TU Berlin and the Department of Literature at the University of Nairobi we will show how housing conditions and subjectivation processes of urban middle-class dwellers in Nairobi/Kenya are transforming. The emphasis on socio-spatial transformations of houses and public spaces illustrates that Eurocentric ideas of urbanisation, individualization, or modernization do not apply here. Instead of a linear succession, these concepts must be considered rather as an entanglement between customary law, state law, and symbolic and economic preconditions. It is exactly the tensions between these different requirements from which specific home-making strategies of Nairobi's urban middle class are evolving. If one leaves the well-trodden paths of development-linear theories of modernization and describes a social change from the housing conditions and the individual spatial relations of subjects, the establishment of traditional ways of living in the city is linked to a multitude of economic and spatial resources. Thus, with economic advancement, customary ways of living and dwelling do not become obsolete but enabled. In short: customary ways must be spatially possible which tunes Western narratives of modernization upside down. By looking at the socio-spatial transformation of urban areas in Nairobi that stem from former railway worker homes that were erected by the British colonial power we further show how middle-class housing can only be understood in its relation to lower-class neighbourhoods. With this contribution, we, therefore, show: (1.) that spatial analysis of parts of the Kenyan middle class opens up a perspective that can counter the temporal implications and the terminological shortenings of Eurocentric concepts. (2.) We will contribute to a spatial analysis of social inequalities from a relational perspective by highlighting the relations between different socio-economic strata in home-making. (3.) By drawing on ethnographic notes, interviews with dwellers, aerial photography and the expression of socio-spatial transformations in popular culture we also want to contribute to a methodological discussion of applying a multitude of empirical data in order to further develop urban spatial methodology.



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## *F3 & G6 Mapping, Social Mapping, Participatory Methods, Spatial Research, Planning & Data-Driven Smart Community Design*

**Session Organizer(s): Mitchell de Sousa, Keng Hua Chong, Aubrey Toldi, and Andrea Schae**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Inclusive Development of fringe areas in Tier II Metro city: A step towards Inclusive Region.**

**Author(s): Poorva and Subhrajit Banerjee**

#### **Abstract:**

The approach of Urbanization is spontaneous and increasing at a enormous scale in India and It is now the most populated country in the World. Considering present scenario 56% of the World's Population i.e 4.4 billion inhabitants are living in the Urban Areas, which is expected to increase to 68% by 2050. Projections show that the Rural to Urban Migration and increasing urbanization along with the growing World's population will approximately add 2.5 Billion people to Urban Areas by 2050, out of which 90% increase will be resultant in Africa and Asia. The population of Urban areas of India is expected to increase from 282 million to 590 million in upcoming 20 years. Due to space crunch, Increasing land rates and saturation in Urban Areas, people are moving towards fringe areas. Hence the fringes (peri urban areas) are changing Dynamically and constant changes are observed in the spatial pattern. Almost 80% of the Global GDP is generated in Urban Areas. Urbanization can lead to Inclusive growth through by enhancing productivity and innovation. As the Urban areas are saturated, the potential for economic development of the Urban fringes can be utilised via policy introduction related to inclusive development, which will enhance the sustainability at the global level. Due to Rapid population growth and need for better quality of life, Indian Cities are expanding beyond the demarcated boundaries. Due to which fringe Areas are experiencing issues such as low levels of mobility, degraded landscape, poor environmental quality, crisis in land control and rise in informal settlements. The Spatial structure of Urban Areas is connected via transport, facilitating passenger and freight movements. Integration of Landuse and transport is leads to Sustainable Urban Development. Urban Development requires constant planning and management rather than spontaneous development. The Sustainable Development Goal 11 aims at making Settlements and cities Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Transportation and Mobility are considered central to sustainable and inclusive development. Inclusive development will in turn achieve better integration of the economy while respecting the environment, improving social equity, health, resilience of



cities, urban-rural linkages and productivity of Rural areas. It can act as indispensable elements for unlocking the country's growth and equity potential. The challenge of planning the future sustainable and inclusive development of fringe areas is principally to overcome the separation of Urban and Rural planning and functions to achieve multifunctionality. There is a constant need for an integrated approach for addressing the issues of environmental protection, the provision of ecosystem services and creation of green infrastructure, alongside local economic development, enhancement of quality of life. The stimulation of sustainability and inclusiveness in Urban fringes contribute to inclusive cities as a whole. Fringe Areas are not just extended forms of Urban Areas but are a distinctive spatial category in their own way, having own characteristic features and eventually deserve specific attention and distinctive policy approaches. There is a constant requirement for Research, Policy and Action in fringe areas. There is a need for planning strategy Intervention at fringe level that can lead to inclusive development at Regional, local as well as fringe level. The technical paper will justify and suggest Analytical methods for inclusive development of fringes which will eventually lead to Inclusive regions.

## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: Examining the Experiences of Environment Planners (EnPs) in the Preparation and Development of Comprehensive Land Use Plans Through Phenomenological Research

*Author(s): Marjorie Cartojano and Rey Cartojano*

#### Abstract:

This paper examines the experiences of licensed environment planners (EnPs) while preparing and finalizing the comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs) of their respective cities, municipalities and/or provinces. Specifically it looks into the learnings, professional collaborations, difficulties and constraints encountered by EnPs in balancing economic development with environment protection, forestland and ancestral land conservation with food security, development growth zones optimization with urban sprawl restraint. Land use plans must support the local government's vision for economic development but not at the expense of land degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss. In 2020, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development was created with the mandate of ensuring all local government units nationwide efficiently and sustainably utilize their land resources. The department provided technical support and capacity building programs nationwide in support of this mandate. They also recently launched the Land Use and Zoning Information System (LUZIS), a web-based mapping system that provides vital information on land use plan formulation and implementation across the country. The system also enables data archiving, monitoring and modeling. The department targets the complete updating of CLUPs all over the country and to make these plans transparent and widely accessible to all local and international users. In the Philippines, professional environment planners head most of the planning, economic, environment, housing and other key offices of the local governments units and national agencies. There are also EnPs in private practice who actively participate



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as civil society organization representatives. The environment planners play a crucial role in the planning, development and management of the national and regional development programs of the country. The phenomenological research methodology aims to capture the lived experiences of the EnP participants in the planning process.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Algorithmic Urban Planning in Asian Smart Cities: Navigating Social Fabric and Democratic Values

*Author(s): Keshav Soni and Sivasankar V*

#### Abstract:

Algorithms serve as essential tools to address technical challenges, offering clear instructions for problem-solving. However, their definition varies across disciplines. In contemporary times, algorithmic solutions are often deemed the remedy for diverse problems. Yet, within the ambit of South Asian smart city projects, algorithms frequently overlook the intrinsic value of life and space to local populations. Amid the quest for streamlined urban living, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and deep learning are increasingly applied to decipher the complexities of historic cityscapes. While the outcomes of artificial intelligence in urban planning are noteworthy, they concurrently undermine the significance of social spaces, social capital, and civil liberties. This paper scrutinizes the interplay between urban planning, algorithmic influence, and their impact on urban sustainability, community social fabric and quality of life in South Asian smart cities. Unintended consequences, such as societal divisions, diminished civil liberties, privacy concerns, and intricate interpersonal dynamics, emerge from algorithmic interventions. While cautioning against their potential to erode democratic values and urban sustainability, the study underscores the growing role of algorithms as a central force in urban development in a landscape where algorithms steer urban transformation, careful consideration of their societal consequences and environmental sustainability is imperative.

### Presentation 4

#### Title of Paper: Operating typologies of community generated ephemeral built interventions and their contribution in ensuring visual appropriateness of market streets in Colombo

*Author(s): Narmada Jayasinghe and Janaka Wijesundara*

#### Abstract:

Certainly, built substances are the basis of the physical assembly of a city and they result in urban spaces with incomparable values and features. In south Asian contemporary cities, we can experience two main layers of physical built interventions, which compose visual culture





of city. Them including Colombo comprises both permanence and impermanence which can be observed with an uneven spread. Noticeably central city portions are occupied with typical permanent built structures forming the solid city core while the spread of ephemeral and more impermanent built interventions is limited within certain portions of the same city. Further, Das (2014) states that Ephemeral structures have been around since mankind first existed. It's undoubtedly inquisitive to see the urban volumes vividly composed with ephemeral built interventions still operate socially, physically and economically as more agile precincts within contemporary cities. And its apparent that these subsidiary urban volumes operating with ephemeral built interventions largely contribute in featuring the contemporary visual culture of south Asian cities including Colombo. Most of them are self-organized public spaces operated by general public & urban inhabitants and are not top-bottom masterplan interventions by the government. Ephemeral built interventions generated by people act as the main implementer of these spaces. Out of all utilities, the subsidiary volumes in Colombo which operate with ephemeral built interventions mostly accommodate commercial facilities by tendency. Similarly, it's obvious that the market streets operating with ephemeral built interventions carve the visual culture of the city, resulting a contained memory in people. Considering the relation in-between the operational strength of urban spaces and its built interventions, the key aim of this study is to determine the role of ephemeral built interventions in ensuring visual appropriateness of market streets in Colombo. Accordingly, its relevance is higher to identify the operating typologies of ephemeral built interventions and study their contribution in visual appropriateness. Visual appropriateness is significant in the places which are most likely to be visited by people from a wider range and variety of backgrounds. (Bentley I. 2005) Accordingly, Visual appropriateness is crucial in resulting an expressive visual culture in a city while, it strongly affects the interpretations that people put on the places as having with meanings. In cities, when these meanings support the legibility, variety and robustness, the place regards the quality which is identified through visual appropriateness. As Bentley (1985) states, the Legibility, Robustness and Variety are identified as the parameters which generate visual appropriateness in cities. This presentation deals with the research question on what are the available operating typologies of community generated ephemeral-built interventions and to what extent they contribute for ensuring the visual appropriateness of market streets in Colombo. This paper presentation is structured under following subtopics; Introduction, Literature Reference, Research Question, Research Design and Methodology, Case study, Findings and Analysis, Conclusion. The research methodology mostly involves with onsite observations, and user questioner surveys and it is reinforced with systematic observations, photographic studies, and maps to identify the operating typologies of ephemeral built interventions. Analysis of the identified typologies are based on Bentley (1985)'s supposition on generators of visual appropriateness in terms of three criteria; legibility, Variety and Robustness. Variety: Variety of visual experience implies places with varied forms, uses and meanings. The purpose of promoting variety is to increase choices. The detailed appearance of a built intervention must help in a wide variety of uses to co-exist within a space, ensuring the visual appropriateness. Legibility: Legibility is the quality which makes a place graspable for people. In practice, the degree of choice offered by a place depends partly on how legible it is: how easily people can understand its layout and what's offered there. Legibility can be supported in terms of form and mass of the built intervention and successful legibility ensure visual appropriateness in cities. Robustness: Places which



can be used for many different purposes offer their users choicer than the places designed with a fixed use are robust. Desouza and Xie (2021) define robustness as a property that allows a system to maintain its functions against perturbations in an environment. Potential of the built intervention to perform in different built configurations support the visual appropriateness. The final analysis and the conclusion are based on the analysis of collected data from the case study and the theories built through the literature review to emphasize the hypothesis. Statistical package for social science (SPSS) version 22 acts as the statistical data analyzing method. Thotalanga Street market which is located in East edge of Colombo City in Sri Lanka, is selected considering its well-established functionality, noticeable availability of ephemeral built interventions, sophisticated consumer attraction and the threat on operating the market in the future due to Urban Development Authority (UDA) relocation proposals. As a trend for eras, community generated ephemeral-built interventions act as the foremost implementer of market functions along the street compared with permanent built mass. Vending activities operating with ephemeral built interventions either side of street are considered for the study. Through onsite systematic observations and mapping, the Identified typologies of ephemeral built interventions are, Mobile interventions, Extension interventions, cluster interventions and Infill interventions. Each typology's involvement in making the visual experience more vivid along the market street is obvious. Due to the fleeting nature, each typology of ephemeral built interventions seems prolific in terms of diversity. And at the same time, due to the higher flexibility of built configuration, all the four typologies of ephemeral built interventions cater a variety of users, allowing different usages massing a variety of built forms which boost the visual experience along the street. Even though these ephemeral built interventions are erected by people from the surrounding communities, multiplicity resulted through material usage is another significance. Ephemeral built interventions implemented as mobile stalls along Thotalanga market street which are not mounted in a fixed location are featured substances of its visual experience which fortify the identity of the street. Functioning location of the mobile interventions differ on numerous causes including the type of selling good, time of the day, type of target consumers and availability of space. Infill interventions typically operate as ephemeral built interventions which momentarily fill the voids in between solid permanent built structures along the street. Ephemeral built interventions implemented as extensions spreading out of existing permanent buildings act as a layer of easily retractable additions which enable vending activities during functioning times of the street market. Clusters of ephemeral built interventions which occupy spacious, residual land plots along the street add more densified nodes to the visual experience of user. The frequency tables provide a summery of analyzed data gathered through questionnaire survey to study the user' perception on the contribution of community generated ephemeral interventions in ensuring visual appropriateness of Thotalanga market street. Hence the four typologies are assessed on their engrossment in visual appropriateness in terms of variety, legibility and robustness. Graphs of above four frequency tables clearly highlight the agreed and strongly agreed responses by a majority of regular users for each typology in terms of variety, legibility and robustness they experience and perceive. Consequently, legibility is the strongly agreed quality in each mobile, extension and infill interventions by users. And, 80% of users who responded strongly agree on robustness and 76% strongly agree on variety of ephemeral built interventions implemented as clusters in residual lands along Thotalanga market street. Built environment is one of the main components which generate the urban realm apart from





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people in cities. But when urban built environment encompasses successful visual appropriateness, collaboration of people with built environment is more sustainable and efficacious. Even though the permanence was celebrated in cities since historic eras, emphatically ephemeral built interventions play a major role within contemporary built urbanity. Subsequently, in contemporary Asian cities, the built environment generated and operated by its inhabitants in a bottom-up approach endure the appropriateness of urban visual experience. According to the outcome of the study it's precisely clear that, ephemeral built interventions sturdily contribute in ensuring visual appropriateness of urban spaces and this scenario is much celebrated in market streets in Colombo. And also, the study initiates that due to enhanced variety, legibility and robustness, these significant city portions operating with ephemeral built mass are successful and rich in visual appropriateness even they are not well-planned urban interventions. Currently, the visual experience in contemporary cities is highly threatened and cities are becoming illegible due to unplanned built masses and insensitive developments. Being an exploration of operating typologies of ephemerality interventions among permanent built mass, this study would form a preliminary step to obtain sustainable visual experiences in contemporary Asian cities in future.

## Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: Incorporation of qualitative data on social acceleration into a data-driven design

*Author(s): Mihye Cho*

#### Abstract:

This paper contemplates the importance of 'social acceleration' in improving quality of life in a highly developed city and how qualitative data can be incorporated into a data-driven urban design. Specifically, it examines the interview content collected in the 'New Urban Kampung (NUK)' research project. The NUK project was an offshoot of the Singapore government's plan to make the city-state a 'Smart Nation', which was launched in 2014. The Housing Development Board has planned to collect the data on population, work, leisure, and urban infrastructures to create a design platform. The Board, together with the private sectors consisting of university-affiliated research centers and corporate R&D organizations, has conducted the NUK project to use ICT (Information Communication Technology) for the design of public housing. The author participated in the NUK project between 2017 and 2019. Therefore, this paper aims to discuss important implications that were induced during the study rather than examining the feasibility of specific policies. Specifically, the author focuses on the experiences of 'accelerating time' gathered from public housing residents and the discussion of incorporating qualitative data into smart community design methods.



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## Presentation 6

### Title of Paper: Counter-Public Problematization of Police Necropolitics

*Author(s): Mina Godarzani-Bakhtiari*

#### Abstract:

While we are currently experiencing the militarization of police forces in cities, the civil society is problematizing the police as a necropolitical institution. Analyses of Forensic Architecture, focusing on state violence, play a special role in the public debate. Using cases of investigations in the global south, this paper examines how the actor creates a counter-public perspective of the state violence through critical mappings. Analyzing video artefacts from Forensic Architecture, I will show that Forensic Architecture creates a counter public account of state violence through the negotiation between political positioning and positivist evidence creation. While the victim's perspective forms the political framework of the investigation, evidence is produced in a highly positivist manner. In this process, they appropriate the state instruments of surveillance and apply them onto the state institutions themselves. Citizen video and CCTV footage are crucial here. Using visual and spatial methods, they verify the data and carry out detailed analyses. Finally, information extracted from the data is related within an integrating analytical framework. In doing so, the actor establishes a new method of objectification through space, which I refer to as spatial objectivity. The study is thus a paradigmatic example of the way in which political criticism of urban (racist) necropolitics is exercised in late modernity through critical mapping.



# G1 Methodological Challenges in Spatial Method: A Quantitative Approach

**Session Organizer(s): Pratik Kumar Singh**

## Presentation 1

**Title of Paper: Methodological Challenges in Spatial Method. A Quantitative Approach. An Introduction**

*Author(s): Pratik Kumar Singh*

### **Abstract:**

The evolution of quantitative spatial approaches has resulted in a significant advancement. It enhanced the understanding of the factors that influence the geographical distribution of socioeconomic activity. The significant growth in the availability and access of geographical data has encouraged land use modelling in academics. It explicitly addresses the theoretical and methodological problems involved in building spatial models. Improvements have come from a variety of disciplines, most notably the development and use of spatial theory and methodologies from regional science, geography, urban economics, and, more significantly, theoretical as well as applied econometrics. In comparison to previous theoretical studies, these models relate empirically meaningfully with observable data, allowing quantification of important theoretical concepts and specificity in analysing the counterfactual impacts of policy measures in specific circumstances. These models also provided methodological as well as substantive broad insights. A list of components that may be applied to 1. Include a range of agglomeration and congestion phenomena in a unified geographical framework is included in the methodological insights. 2. They comprise the requirements for the existence and uniqueness of equilibrium inside the framework. 3. The scenario under which these models can also be turned to separate physical and economic geography's contributions. 4. Methods for conducting counterfactuals to evaluate comparative statics in response to changes in the model's parameters. The actual relevance of market access, the intensity of agglomeration and dispersion pressures within cities, and the significance of dynamic factors driving the evolution of the geographical distribution of economic activity through time are among the substantive discoveries. This quantitative spatial modelling literature has already accomplished a great deal. Yet, there are numerous places where more research is required. 1. Most of the research has remained focused on the manufacture and exchange of products, although much economic activity now is focused on services, whether tradable or not. 2. The majority of the literature's key frameworks are static and conceptual from the influence of spatial frictions on the development of the distribution pattern of economic activity and growth. 3. Despite multiple notable studies on the sorting of diverse people and enterprises



across geographic area, there is still room for more research. 4. The economic study of business and worker network geography remains unexplored. We hope significant improvement in all of these areas in the next decades. There is a need for research to establish theories that can better explain and unify different findings in the literature of spatial technique, as well as to define how and when spatial patterns ought to be significant for welfare analysis in certain circumstances. This contains theory that reconciles classical welfare theory with the spatial theory that drives most of the work on spatial Econometrics. In short, almost three decades of research in this field has yielded a consensus that "space matters," but how it matters (particularly) as well as the most effective approaches to describe spatial dimensions remain unsolved problems in the literature. The aim of the session will be to discuss the econometric challenges of spatial quantitative data, as well as to highlight spatial models and methods, with a particular focus on models of land markets, which will cover various disciplines such as regional science, geography, urban economics, and applied econometrics. The event will also cover the data and modelling problems of modelling the underlying spatial methods and mechanisms which address the that give rise to land use patterns, as well as the complexities of modelling land use as a linked economic-ecological system.

## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: The Impact of population dynamics on territorial governance in China.

*Author(s): Pierre F. Landry, Xiaoyu ZHANG and Austin J. Bliss*

#### Abstract:

Chinese reforms after the 1970s have resulted in the largest and one of the most rapid wave of migration from rural to urban areas in human history. This process occurred when the authorities deployed and strictly enforced the "one child policy" while emphasizing the concurrent development of urban areas as well as the creation of entirely new cities. The combined effect of these three policies have severely undermined the viability and governance capacity of rural villages and led to drastic reconfigurations of territorial administration. Using a complete dataset of over 71,000 villages and land use in Shandong (one of China's largest provinces) over two decades, we demonstrate how the combination of remote-sensing and administrative data help model how demographic pressures have affected the survival of villages, and/or the odds of their eventual transformation into administratively 'urban' communities. We discuss the implications of our findings for the quality of territorial governance in China.



### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Housing Land Suitability Analysis of Malappuram District, Kerala

*Author(s): Dimple Maria, Anisha Lalu, Meril Maria Mathew, Aquiline Moses, Karthik S Kumar, Bismina Akbar, Akshaya P, Priyanjali Prabhakaran and Lakshmi S R*

#### Abstract:

Housing is an integral element of urban planning. There is much evidence that housing is shaping cities worldwide, regrettably, in many cases, by producing fragmentation and inequalities. According to the 2011 Census of India, the Malappuram district in Kerala, India, with a total population of 1.7 million and ranking as the fourth-largest urban agglomeration in Kerala, would be required to provide more housing to accommodate its growing populace. This study seeks to understand the procedures involved in identifying appropriate places to develop housing projects in the district. In order to determine the housing requirement on a three-decade horizon, the approach entailed projecting the current population and housing demand. Utilizing Multicriteria Decision Method and Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP), a land suitability analysis was conducted. Geographic data mapped chosen criteria, facilities, and future developments through GIS Software. Buffer maps, reflecting standards and preferences, were generated. The buffer distances that were used for site identification in various case studies and standards like URDPFI were compared to obtain the distance to be provided for buffer map preparation. Overlaying maps revealed six sites. Each underwent analysis, assigning weightage to chosen parameters via the fixed index method. Four optimal sites were then streamlined for housing development.

### Presentation 4

#### Title of Paper: Rethinking of Multidimensional Poverty Measurement: A Field Based Empirical Study in East India using Mixed Method

*Author(s): Bapan Biswas*

#### Abstract:

The primary Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) set by the United Nations (UN) is to eliminate poverty in all its forms by 2030. Traditionally, poverty has been measured worldwide based on monetary value. However, in the last decade, the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) has gained popularity by introducing the multidimensional poverty index (MPI), which considers three dimensions: health, education, and standard of living, with a total of ten sub-indicators. Many countries, including India, have adopted this approach. In India, the NITY Aayog has further developed the MPI framework by adding two more indicators: antenatal care and bank account. However, there are concerns about whether this methodological framework is appropriate for different geographical locations, especially when not considering consumption or income poverty. Geographical and climatic



challenges can affect the accessibility of the three chosen dimensions (health, education, and standard of living) across regions and the country. While the price of goods may not change with geographical variation within a country, people's purchasing power can differ, impacting their ability to meet daily consumption requirements. Although monetary value has its shortcomings and doesn't fully define well-being, it should not be replaced entirely. Nevertheless, the selection of indicators for poverty measurement is questionable in different geographical locations, communities, sectors, and social classes. As an example, according to the OPHI methodology, owning two bicycles would not be considered as deprivation in the asset indicator, while a household with one bicycle and one motorbike would be classified as deprived. However, the value of these assets is not comparable, and the motorbike incurs higher maintenance costs than the bicycle. Additionally, some indicators might not be relevant for different contexts. For instance, in rural areas where wood is freely accessible, most people use it as cooking fuel, while urban dwellers need to spend on modern fuel regardless of their economic class. Considering numerous objections to the indicators used, it becomes crucial to rethink the measurement of poverty and make it more holistic. A field-based empirical study conducted in East India has taken a different approach by adopting four dimensions: health, education, standard of living, and monthly per-capita expenditure. The selection of indicators within each dimension has been modified and justified through a mixed-method approach, questioning their practical implications in different geographical regions. This new approach aims to offer a more comprehensive understanding of poverty and its varying impacts on communities.





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## *G2 Strategies of Data Collection, Storage and Access in Psychology and Related Discipline*

**Session Organizer(s): Manish Kumar Asthana**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Strategies of Data Collection, Storage and Access in Psychology and Related Discipline**

**Author(s): Manish Kumar Asthana**

#### **Abstract:**

Empirical work in psychology and related disciplines involves three essential steps, i.e., data collection, storage and access. The traditional method of data collection focuses on a qualitative or quantitative methodology. The data collection methods are mostly observation (direct or indirect), self-report assessment, physiological, imaging, etc. Data collected using the quantitative methodology in psychology is mainly behaviour frequencies, error, decision making, reaction time, etc. Psychologists have been concerned about the optimized data collection methodology, sampling and source of the data. It is noteworthy that validity and reliability are also significant concerns for psychologists cross-culturally. Hence, it has been discussed and proposed to keep the experimental protocol similar along with the necessary resources. A well-documented observation may ease the researcher in interpretation, replication, and collaboration. Hence, the researcher must store data systematically. This way, the stored data can have plenty of usages. The researcher can form a repository which may serve as a secondary data set. This stored data can be used beyond borders and may benefit collaboration. It may also be used for policymakers, entrepreneurs, engineers, etc. In psychology, not to mention, standardized tools and techniques have been of prime importance. In the modern world, where the advancement of technology is shaping society tremendously, it is indirectly moderating the strategies of data collection, storage and access in psychology. Today, researchers may collect data without fieldwork, and any amount of data can be stored and accessed from any part of the world at any time. No more traditional practice has been followed in psychology for data collection, storage and access. The world of digitization has augmented the stages of data collection, repositories and access. In recent decades psychologists have seen many transformations in their empirical work. Today they prefer mixed-method techniques to enhance the analytic power of the data. The simple reason for such implementation is that human behaviour is complex. Hence, it may require multiple processes to understand the mechanism of human behaviour. Despite such understanding, little attempt has been made to adapt the mixed-method approach. This session welcomes papers on modern data collection, storage and access strategies in psychology or related disciplines. It addresses the researchers from various fields interested





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in the strategy of data collection, storage, and access. Reports on cross-cultural data collection, storage, and access beyond borders are also welcomed. In addition, the implementation of various methods in data collection, storage and access will also be given attention.

## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: Modern Issues in Data Collection and its Accessibility in Psychology and Allied Sciences

*Author(s): Adarsh K. Verma, Aysha Thasleema, and Usha Chivukula*

#### Abstract:

Data is a key ingredient for any research across disciplines. In psychology and allied sciences, where human participants are involved, the same set of participants can produce slightly or entirely different data, even when the same research question is being addressed. The present work revolves around addressing the methodological factors (such as research design) that give rise to such differences, in what instances it is useful, and where it can be detrimental to the research process. Additionally, the issues of making human participants' data openly accessible are also highlighted, which occurs despite continuing efforts from the research community, publishers, and funding agencies. Data generation, such as fMRI data, often involves huge resources such as time and monetary costs. However, the resulting datasets which are made publicly available sometimes lack important details that abstain other researchers from its further use, apart from verifying the authors' findings. Highlighting such crucial aspects of the research process and possible resolutions will facilitate future researchers in making optimal decisions while considering different parameters of data management. The present work well addresses the main theme of the current session that concentrates on data collection, storage, and accessibility.

## Presentation 3

### Title of Paper: Viet Nam past ideology processes and present chaos society – meeting the challenges of process methodology using brain science and evolution theories

*Author(s): Nguyễn Thị Bích Ngọc, Nguyễn Thị Nhung and Ingmar Ehler*

#### Abstract:

Past ideology processes has been always an important topic in Viet Nam social sciences as Viet Nam is among the economies of East Asia Culture Region who have been reacting to the West dominance with "self-pride" and "shame" of being colonized (Thu Giang, 1957). Long durée methodology has been heavily applied in analyzing past ideology processes of



Viet Nam. There are three streams of past ideology processes research in Vietnam, as follows:

- 1000 years of three-philosophy/teaching co-explanation phenomenon [tam giáo đồng nguyên]: three philosophies mean Zen Buddhism, flexibly adjusted (Xu, 2018) Laozi [老子] promoting “doing nothing” [無為], and Kongzi [孔子] promoting constructing values

仁義禮 智信 /ren yi li zhi xin (thinking of other humans/ benevolence and righteousness; showing ceremonial respect to remind ourselves of what we owe others; intelligence; building trust-reputation in communities and generations). All three philosophies are often analyzed in a relation with the water-rice semi-autonomy village mechanism [Làng/廊] (see Nguyễn Tài Thư, 1984; Trần Đình Hượu, 2001). Among three philosophies, Kongzi [孔子] ideology is often analyzed with long durée perspective, explaining why after the peak of Zen Buddhism branch - Thiền Phái Trúc Lâm [竹林禪派] in Trần Dynasty, Kongzi ideology gradually achieved the dominant role and was deeply integrated into the merit-based philosophy exam system of Viet Nam (Quang Đạm, 1999; Trần Trọng Kim, 1930). Làng ideology itself is a separate ideology process research theme that attracts long durée perspective. Authors in this theme often use data from topographical features and economic behaviors to explain why certain community like Làng and its psychology was formed and persisted (Đặng Phong, 1970; Nguyễn Hồng Phong, 1957; Phan Đại Doãn, 1992). b) The East-West interaction: this phenomenon was first coined by the essays in 1920s, such as those by Phạm Quỳnh written in 1922-1932 (Phạm Quỳnh, 2007) on the commit suicide of young people in Petit Lac (now Sword Lake) who were reading both Eastern and Western philosophies. It then escalated into the two pen wars: first, the articles on Nam Phong and Thanh Nghị journals in 1940s and second, a long listed of published books in 1960s (see Cao Xuân Huy, 1995; Dương Thiệu Tống, 1995; Kim Định, 1974; Thu Giang, 1957) (Nguyễn Thị Bích Ngọc (Artena) et al. 2022). c) Recent 50 years accommodating Marxism via centrally planned economy and market economy after 1986 Đổi mới (see Bùi Quang Dũng, 2007; Houtart & Lemercinier, 1984; Lương Hồng Quang et al., 2011; Nguyễn Đức Truyền, 1990, 1994; Trịnh Duy Luân, 1994, 2017; Tương Lai, 1997, 2008; Wells-Dang, 2006): Many focus on the methodology, such as generation approach or comparison approach identifying the position [thân phận], face [diện mạo], personality [nhân cách] before and after the collapse of Làng mechanism (Phan Ngọc, 2015) to identify the turning points of way of life and measuring the social changes in Viet Nam.

While process methodology has the values of providing more data - mostly the lists of events around the space-time when certain social phenomena are questioned to have happen, it has the following challenges in the case of Viet Nam:

a) It is hard to assume that ideologies which have lasted long (in this case about 1000 years) would continue influencing today society. It depends on the ideologies themselves, for example:

- Làng ideology contains the value “one should respect community benefits more than individual preferences”. This has clear influence on Viet Nam’s today society, evidenced by the reaction to COVID-19 period.



- Kongzi ideology prioritizing self-respect and self-pride used to be reflected via the participation of academic people in Cần Vương movement where academic people chose to fight to death to be fulfill the role of academic people in society (Lê Quang Thái, 1992), and the academic people's sacrifice of personal properties to build schools and enterprises to improve common people's knowledge and negotiation power with French colonial government in Đồng Kinh Nghĩa Thục movement. Kongzi ideology used to be also the tool for academic people to handle Western influence with confidence when the theory of moral business (Lương Văn Can, 1926) prioritizing Trust-Reputation-Humanity in Profit Stabilization (not Maximization) was introduced. However, today, it is hardly reflected in today Viet Nam handling multinational cooperation (MNCs) dominance, technology transfer failure in foreign direct investment, real estate market bubble, and other global issues like climate change. Regarding data, long durée methodology reveals both Làng mechanism and Kongzi ideology lasted at least 1000 years. It also reveals that both were supported by public land fund policy at village level and the East-Asian style absolute monarchy with government high-ranking officials recruited from merit – based philosophy exam system before French colonization. This give hints to analyses as these supportive elements are no longer available today. Làng mechanism was systematic which met villagers' material and spiritual needs, was a common praised made by both Vietnamese and French researchers (see Gourou, 1936; Ory, 1894). However, it is hard to conclude this mechanism is strong itself. Long durée could reveal that the mechanism could no longer provide financial support to vulnerable groups and increase village public land fund when the French colonial government protected French imported products into Viet Nam and turned "free" land into rubber plantations (Nguyễn Công Bình, 1959). This gives evidences to the analyses on the actual weaknesses of Làng mechanism: it cannot handle macro-economic problems in an open market. It seemed to be strong when central government provided it with public land fund to match population increase and to pay for public welfare like education, medical care and welfare within the village. Then, it helps separate the impact of so-called convention and what were actually the effects of certain socio-economic-administrative structures. However, long durée methodology gives little help in explaining why certain ideology/ ideology fragments remain in today society, not others (Challenge a).

b) Long durée methodology reveals the important role of Kongzi spirit in 20th century which gave birth to a bright era of social science theories and methodologies and health care science in Viet Nam. Anyway, these achievements were still about loving learning and morality - familiar concepts in Kongzi ideology. However, long durée cannot explain the relationship of this sprit with the ability to handle complex issues like microplastic pollution, waste management or climate change. In practical policy design, it is not sure if a renaissance of ancient philosophies would help Viet Nam society cope with climate change (Problem b).

c) The presence of multiple ideologies in one space-time does not necessarily turn into entanglement of them. The three philosophies in 1000 years could have been parallel, arguing with one another, which were frequently reflected in the torn between: (1) giving up power and social responsibility to live a frugal and simple life in a far-away forest, and (2)



being responsible by working hard to protect common people, in ideologies of Nguyễn Bình Khiêm (1491-1585), Nguyễn Công Trứ (1778 – 1858). Today, the remainders or renaissance of three ancient philosophy, fragments of Làng ideology, Marxism, market economy may bring in a chaos of values which leads to hesitation and confusion instead of entanglement. (Challenge c)

Here the authors of this paper bring in the explanation from brain and evolution science to solve the above challenges:

- Challenge a: Kongzi and other ancient philosophies are sophisticated which cannot easily turned into any specific behaviors (this is also where sociology theories on habitus, practice and convention need to be reconsidered) to past from generation to generation via simple imitation just like infants imitate their parents to search for "organizational template" (Wexler, 2006). It was 1000 years of efforts of the merit-based exam system and Làng mechanism's financial support via the village public land fund which was bringing the education service of teaching philosophies to every village with affordable costs and high quality. This maintained the values built on those philosophies in daily life of Vietnamese in the past.
- Challenge b: Social problems are of different level of complexity. Humans have not evolved to react to problems of modern societies like information asymetry or climate change. Even if ancient philosophies successfully regain their position now, bringing ancient spirits, it is not sure that society can form any new practice to solve climate change. This is explained by evolutionary psychology on our cognitive mechanisms. They were formed before the Pleistocene but modern environments have been too recent (Foley, 1995; Sloan Wilson, 1994); so, humans are merely the "stone agers in the fast lane" (Eaton et al., 1988) as cited in (Freese et al., 2003).
- Challenge c: Chaos of values can be explained by the brain ability when coping with multiple (fragments) of ideologies: The human brain is a complex and dynamic organ, and chaos in the brain can refer to a state of disorganization or dysfunction. Beside common factors can lead to chaotic brain activity, such as stress, trauma, neurological disorders, or substance abuse, chaotic information can impact the brain and decision-making as Information overload , Decision Paralysis, Reduced Cognitive Performance, Emotional Impact, Biases & Heuristics, and Difficulty in Prioritization . Going deeper into these concepts could explain why in certain space-times, humans seemed to be "structured" in iron cages, why in other times, they were more free to discuss philosophies, arguing about if they should live in certain ways. Last century, brain science was not developed so sociology often had theories that were even more advanced than brain sciences like habitus and practice. But this century, brain science has more evidences about: what type of behaviors humans can imitate to form practices; in what humans can coordinate; what type of knowledge cannot be passed from generation to generation easily; what types of behaviors humans accept easily if there is a "structure" of organization/ regulation/ like Làng but fade easily without that condition; how brain acts differently with intention and behavior. It's time to improve sociology theories. The challenges of long durée methodology itself are actually from the poverty of theories explaining societies. Today, to explain more complex social changes or non-changes like the inability of human to act fast toward environmental



problems, sociology will have to collaborate with many other disciplines, depending on the social problems it looks at. Only after that, it can improve its methodology. In another word, the research practice today should change to problem research, rather than limiting theories and methods within specific disciplines (Abou, 1997).

#### Presentation 4

##### Title of Paper: Need for Uniform Data Report in Statistical Reportings

*Author(s): Tripureshwari Paul and Manish Kumar Asthana*

##### Abstract:

Behavioural sciences require primary data in order to understand a phenomenon. Scientific fields such as cognitive and experimental psychology that involve data recording in controlled settings often produce discrepancies in data when duplicated. This stems from different methodological differences or due to general challenges faced in laboratories such as proper storage of data and transparency as the theme suggests. As factors such as genetics, sex, environment and culture are at play and studied in the West. However, these factors should be considered in the global south as well. Hence, we propose a method of reporting data and results in a uniform code for better understanding, broader usage of the results and reducing statistical reporting inconsistencies. Devising a uniform code for data storage and reporting would help future researchers using the fear learning paradigm in addressing the issues of cross-cultural validation, low ecological validity and experimenter effects. We would also recommend data archiving at the institutional level for the long run.

In conclusion, our argument would highlight the importance of saving data in a uniform manner that is acceptable across cultures for easy understanding and use of archives at different levels for security of the same.

#### Presentation 5

##### Title of Paper: Does Cross-Cultural Validation of Face Databases Hold Any Relevance?

*Author(s): Kaneez Fatima and Manish Kumar Asthana*

##### Abstract:

Social science research includes several methods to investigate the subject matter within the various social science disciplines. One of the issues with social science research is the cross-cultural validation of the research instruments used. In social sciences, there have always been challenges in using scales or databases developed in different cultures due to the lack of validation of such scales and databases across cultures. Hence, cross-cultural validation challenges research in various social science research disciplines. A few facial emotion databases are available in the Indian context. These databases are mainly developed for



developing algorithms for face recognition and allied research, and therefore, these databases are not validated by participants and judgement on the emotion is not based on an inter-rater agreement concerning the expression; this makes it difficult to use such databases for any research using facial emotion stimuli in social sciences. The talk will highlight the need for cross-cultural validation of face databases. And the inclusion of various parameters that affect the perception of emotions in such databases, like valence, arousal, and intensity, as measures of the database.





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## *G4 & G5 Digital Transformations and Datafication in the Cities: challenges for data collection, data analysis, and data governance*

**Session Organizer(s): Gabriel Faimau, Langtone Maunganidze, and Dennis Zuev**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Methodological Challenges in Studying Data Governance: the case of Digital Silk Road**

**Author(s): Dennis Zuev**

#### **Abstract:**

One of the crucial contemporary challenges for social sciences is the emergence of Big Data practices and infrastructures (Couldry 2020). Scholars have addressed the phenomenon of big data (Borgman 2016, Boyd&Crawford 2012), underlining the spatial nature of data manufacturing and emerging data divides (Andrejevic2014, Dalton et al. 2016). Recent studies have emphasized "data justice" (Sourbati&Behrendt 2020) as a significant issue to be addressed in data-driven government and policy-making, suggesting that we need studies that demystify the transnational process of data manufacturing as secretive, non-transparent and intimidating. The modest goal of the presentation is to reflect on some methodological challenges of conducting research on emerging relations in data governance between transnational corporate entities and local authorities, customers and citizens. Drawing on the critical data studies (Kushner 2013, Pasquale 2015, Seaver 2013), media theory (Couldry&Mejias 2019, Kitchin 2018) and borrowing from studies of organizations in digital economy (Bialski2020, Takhteev 2016) the presentations aims at presenting new power asymmetries emerging in a new regime of data extraction. The concept of "digital entrapment" is introduced to examine mechanisms through which local governance becomes technologically locked-in and dependent on the supply of tech solutions by Chinese companies. Digital entrapments are legal and technological assemblages/practices contributing to frictions between data capturing companies and hosts (lower-income countries). The starting assumption is that digital entrapments can be studied via analysis of the nexus of algorithmic solutions and technical standards imposed in the host country.





## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: Digital Transformation and Information Technology in India: An Emergence

*Author(s): Ishani Vajpai and Jayashri Vajpai*

#### Abstract:

India is a major player as well as one of the fastest growing digital economies through supply and demand of digitally enabling and digitally enabled products in the current times, as per the European Commission (Srivastava, 2023). It provides over 25% of the engineers of the world (Jadon, 2021). Few years back, India was known for being a service provider and one of the biggest producers of software. Eventually, due to rise in internet service providers, and decrease in cost of internet services, along with sharp economical changes after demonetization in 2016, and finally COVID-19 pandemic with its social distancing, lockdowns, remote working, India became the biggest consumer of software and services. India's digital evolution has accelerated in the recent times and IT has become a significant factor as well as harbinger of sustainability, long-term growth, and development of the country. Digitalization, along with digital depth, provides an impetus to accelerate India towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under Agenda 2030, through rapid diffusion into local mass, which is the need of the hour. IT sector, including its services, and products, have the power to achieve overall growth, through innovative business models for development, technical adaptation, business strategy alignment and management systems. Moreover, it also supports in enhancing operational ecosystem, organizational structure, organizational good practices, customer engagement, and participation in multistakeholder initiatives, within the expected timeframe. Businesses and industries are automating repetitive processes through Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Cloud Computing, other digital tools and methods to radically improve the performance, productivity, and reach of enterprises resulting in fast digital transformation in order to run smoothly. As part of the Digital Revolution, the IT sector, including ITeS (IT-enabled-Services) and GCC (Global Capability Centers), play significant roles in providing core digital products like software, hardware, web, telecommunications, and other support services. The sector holds a large percentage in terms of human, economic, technological, and infrastructural resources both at local and global levels. As per Periodic Labour Force Survey, there are around 4.9 million employees in the core digital technologies. 59.8% of employees are working in the programming and coding related jobs, which is the highest percentage of employment in digital sectors (Srivastava, 2023). It has been mentioned that for Indian economy to remain progressive and sustainable, the nation has to become a \$687 billion IT powerhouse by 2027. The goal is to be a \$1 trillion digital economy by 2030. These goals can be achieved by being a strong participant in digital revolution through digitalization and digital transformation (Mitra, 2023). To keep pace with and fuel India's digital transformation, continuous research, and development of new IT products and services, as well as the production of innovative solutions, are required. The ultimate agenda of digitalization and digital transformation is to make an organization data-driven in terms of planning, decision making, execution, processing, deployment, management, and maintenance. These fundamental steps should



be based on insights received on the basis of data, rather than solely based on human intuition (Chamorro-Premuzic, 2021). IT projects can be directly applied to attain economic, social, and environmental developments by leveraging existing, widely used technologies, and incorporating newer, improved technological solutions like AI, ML, IOT, and Industry 4.0. It can be used to spread awareness as it can rapidly disseminate information into local masses and integrate globally (Jayaprakash & Pillai, 2018). IT can help generate holistic computational business models and hybrid tools that can aid in optimized decision support systems by leveraging massive data, analytics, and contextual management. They can be used in economizing resources and reducing the costs of services. The policies and institutions established by the government can be fully utilized only through the support of the IT sector. It has been studied that organizations with high digital depth have 1.8 times more growth than the ones that are still falling behind in adapting digital methods (Forth et al., 2021). I have been studying the publically available case studies, content, and document analysis of the IT sector to understand the major IT firms' business policies, visions, missions, and agendas. I have incorporated the concepts of 'netnography' in order to get a deeper understanding of the role of the IT industry in digitalization and digital transformation in the Indian economy. I have covered more than 50 organizations, including Multinational and Transnational Organizations, and startups, with their genesis in India and Global North. I have included employees and employers from the core IT and ITeS organizations with various backgrounds like software development, data analysis, sales and marketing, project management, Android/iOS development, technical consultancy, design, and other core IT roles. The decision to incorporate Netnography was taken during the COVID-19 lockdown period. This is ethnographic research conducted within and upon the new tempero-spatial cultural coordinates mediated by contemporary networked communications, such as the Internet and the variety of devices and forms that people have started to use extensively and comfortably (Kozinets, 2015). Since the COVID-19 pandemic had restricted movement across borders and had led to prohibitions in interactions, I was gathering information through interviews carried out telephonically or via the Internet so that I could get information from people, whom I could not meet in person. Similar to ethnography, this approach is also based on the acquaintances I share with people, mutual trust, and belief. The idea is also to build thick interaction with the researched (Falzon, 2009). The interviews were in English and Hindi, per the respondents' preferences. I carried out netnography in two ways: 1. Telephone Interview – This is a convenient and inexpensive method of interviewing. They can produce data that are as good as face-to-face interviews. 2. Online Interview – Usage of the Internet for interviewing is as good as telephone interviews. Moreover, facilities like video calls help in developing a better rapport with the interviewees. In fact, I believe it is as good as the face-to-face interview method as it helps to see the body language and other non-verbal modes of communication of the interviewees. I have used this method as extensively as possible, depending on the convenience and comfort of my respondents. The aim of this study is to figure out the role IT has served as backbone of digitalization and digital transformation in India. It also tries to study how IT has been leveraged by the digital evolution, on one end, and has become the axle of wheel for the digital revolution, on the other hand. This research also explains how COVID-19 has forced a rapid adaptation of digital technologies including research methods and methodologies, in conducting qualitative researches in the IT setup, which is one of the most prominent examples of a 'network society' (Castells & Cardoso,



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2005) in the current times. I have also shared my experiences and challenges in carrying out this style of research, which is unique in this area. It can contribute in paving a path to a new view point for exploring the impact of digitalization on society, at large.

### Presentation 3

**Title of Paper: Broken hearts, bothered relationships and seeking suggestions: A qualitative analysis of women confessions on the Facebook page in India**

*Author(s): Suresh Jungari*

#### **Abstract:**

Contemporary social science researchers are increasingly using digital data to examine varied, complex social phenomena. Range of robust methodologies used to explain complex digital data into clear interpretations. Social media is a data source that provides an excellent opportunity to explore data. The study aimed to explore girls' and women's issues related to love, breakups, marriages and using Facebook as a platform for suggestions seeking, and sheds light on the reasons for using Facebook pages as a problem-sharing venue. I examine how the qualitative methods approach could be an appropriate method to examine Facebook data and challenges using facebook data. I have selected the group named 'Womansera' with confession posts. I randomly selected the confessions from the last six months using rigorous inclusion criteria. In total, 22 posts satisfied the inclusion criteria. Thematic analysis approach applied. Five themes that emerged are i) Conflicts, communication and understanding, ii) Love, lust and breakup, iii) Caste and religion, iv) Suggestion seeking, v) Family role in relationships. Results show understanding both partners is essential for growing relationships. The study argues that social media like Facebook offers data on complex social problems. I argue that robust methods can be employed to examine social media data to document the complex social problems.

### Presentation 4

**Title of Paper: Longue Durée – Digitalized: Reflections on Data Shocks, the Fiction of Newness and Biases of Contemporary Digital Research**

*Author(s): Jasmin Siri*

#### **Abstract:**

The proposed talk discusses the value of the concept of "longue durée" for empirical digital research, that is characterized by an overwhelming flood of data and the apparent 'newness' of what happens in digital data. However, with regard to this prima facie presumption of



newness, sociological skepticism seems appropriate: both from a sociological and a media-theoretical perspective. Based on data on digital publics (19 qualitative case studies, compiled with grounded theory methodology) and quantitative secondary data on global media and political development, the relevance of the dimension of time concerning the attitude of researchers towards their data, for their hypothesis formation and/or theoretical conceptual work is emphasized in a first step. Then, the concept of 'longue durée' will be discussed as a reflexive tool to work on the 'bias of newness' in digital research. The lecture ends with a plea for time-sensitive mixed-methods approaches that add a contrastive perspective to the dimension of time. This is essential in order to productively process the 'data shock' of digital social research.



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4<sup>th</sup> International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS Conference)  
and the 4<sup>th</sup> RC33 Regional Conference "Asia: Thailand" Hosted by Chulalongkorn University

## *G7 Understanding Influencers of Fast Urbanization using Non-survey Data*

**Session Organizer(s): Elias Peter Mwakilama**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Understanding Influencers of Fast Urbanization using Non-survey Data**

**Author(s): Elias Peter Mwakilama**

#### **Abstract:**

The rate of urbanization and the spatial distribution of people is at times influenced by hidden human agenda that may not be easily revealed survey or experimental data that is expensive (time and resources) to collect. However, non-survey data has been successfully employed to estimate the degree of causal-effect (impact) of interventions (programs) on certain outcomes. Thus, non-survey data can also be employed in urbanization research to generate evidence-based policy and decisions, upon understanding key influencers of urbanization. In support of the "Bangkok as a Method" 2024 SMUS Conference theme, a session is being proposed to bring together studies that employ non-experimental methods, grounded on the quantitative methods, to describe causes of certain spatial distribution of patterns in both the Global North and the Global South. Mainly, the session would invite research papers or articles that employ impact-evaluation (IE) approach to determine/describe influencers of spatial urbanization on the basis of non-survey or administrative data. Non-survey data includes, Geo-coded data; Crime data; Public service data; Utility (water and electricity) data; Social-media data; Traffic data; Road network data; Indigenous data; Satellite images; Cellphone data; Internet data; City rates data etc.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: The Local Party-State in Action: How Administrative Reclassification and Party Recruitment Condition the Governance of Land in China.**

**Author(s): Zheng Zhang, Pierre F. Landry, and Austin Bliss**



### Abstract:

Prevailing theories explain urbanization through socio-economic changes while leaving its political causes out of the picture. This paper seeks to reveal both the short-term and long-term roles of the party-state in China's massive and rapid urban transformation. Acknowledging the effect of geographical and demographic features, we posit that the scale of local CCP members, political cycles, and administrative divisions further condition urban expansion. Gathering the data collected from a unique set of sources including CCP archives and satellite imageries, we construct a novel time-series cross-section database of a nationally representative sample covering political, institutional, and demographic variables as well as fine-grained land-use outcomes. Our estimation confirms that a larger corps of local CCP members was more effective in controlling the resistance to land-takings and accelerated urban development in the long run; such influence piles up as the CCP persistently deepens its penetration into society. Recently appointed cadres also engaged in land-taking projects early in their terms to signal their competence. Institutionally, administrative divisions including both county-level cities and urban districts with relatively more urban populations exhibited greater urbanization over time. Our findings unveil the profound but mostly overlooked impact that CCP loyalists and cadres have had on China's urban process.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Evaluation of Spatial Configuration of Built Environment to Achieve Thermal Comfort A Digitization and Transactive Spatial Planning Approach

Author(s): Sudharsanamurthy P.

### Abstract:

Degree of urbanization from 2011 to 2021 is increased from 31.28 to 35.9%, approximately third of the total population of India, lives in an urban area. This steady increase shows the level of urbanization by almost 4% in the last decade [1], infers the shift of people movement from rural to urban area is increased and makes a living in the cities. In the recent decades, the rate of increase in urban transition has associated with population growth across parts of Asia [2]. Based on the world bank report, India will reach the similar urban population of China of 18% and 16%. India is expected to add 404 million urban dwellers followed by China 292 million and Nigeria 212 million [3]. "Cities are increasingly expanding their boundaries and population, and from the climatological point of view, human history is defined as the history of urbanization", (Santamouris,2001). During the last two hundred years, the global population has increased only six times, while the urban population has grown 128 times (Schell Jason,1993). This phenomenal shift in the human population towards urban centers, has affected the urban environmental quality and standard of life. It is evident from the World Urbanization Prospects, the 2009 revision report, there will be a significant increase in the urban population, and it is projected that by 2050, 69% of the world's population will live in





cities. Hence, improving the quality of urban environment becomes a major concern. Survey indicates the level of urban centres in the Mega-cities of India, represented the emergence of focus on southern located cities like Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad, which attains the positive growth trend over the decades. Rapid urbanization has brought many significant changes to mankind, society and the environment it lives in. Urban growth, resulting in the increase of buildings has led to the transformation of the natural landscape to impervious urban land. The result of this change can affect the local weather and climate. Urban areas act as climate modifiers. Climate elements, such as solar radiation, air temperature, humidity and wind are affected by urban fabric (Landsberg 1981). The growth of the urban fabric leads to global warming, showing an increase in both regional and global temperatures (Balling, 1992). Cities being the hub of various activities and services become source of heat and pollution affecting the thermal structure of the atmosphere above (Oke, 1989). The concentration of human activities in an urban area creates an "Island" of heat surrounded by "sea" of cooler rural areas called the "Urban Heat Island" (Ritter and Michale, 2006). Urban Heat Island is the characteristic warmth of a town or city and is present in all cities of all climatic regions (Oke, 1995). It is also considered as the basis of temperature difference between the urban and rural stations. While it is observed of higher level of urbanization would lead to the cause of various impact on the physical environment. One of the notable changes is associated with emission of heat waves at micro level and leads to global warming and climate change at greater scale. To undermining the consideration of heat emissions on an urban area like India, it is most important to study the impact of urban planning to mitigate the cause at higher level. Heat generation in an urban area is a phenomenal process, by exchange of energies from the people interactions, emission from mobilities, etc. which resulted in creation of Urban Heat Island effect. Heat emission and transformation will not only happen due to human interaction, widely occurs in urban area due to replacement of natural covers into pavements, built forms and other static layer creations which acts as an absorbent of heat. Subsequently, thus resulted in displace other mechanical cooling systems. Apart from the rise in temperature in urban areas, compared to sub-urban areas, this generation of heat waves causes various potential health hazards [4]. Aggregating the growth of built environment, creates impact on both human and environmental health. The inadvertent climate change of urban areas is due to the human modifications of the surface and atmospheric properties along with the urban development. The dense urban construction materials store the heat and waterproofs the surface, the building geometry increases the trapping of radiation (Oke, 1987). The tendency of an urban area to be warmer than a surrounding lesser developed area and that resulted in Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. The replacement of vegetation, soil and water with concrete, brick, asphalt and metal reduces evapotranspiration, and energy consumption in buildings and motorized vehicles leads to the anthropogenic emission of heat and water vapour into the urban environment which increases the storage and transfer of sensible heat and decreases air movement. Problems that are associated with the urban heat island phenomenon include atmospheric pollution, increased morbidity and mortality, a decreased thermal comfort and an increase in energy consumption. Staking reasons leads to force up the planning professionals to look up to mitigate the UHI effect in its own desirable way. This research is an experimental approach to understand the influence of urbanization on built environment and to assess its intensity through transect spatial planning approach. These allow the built density to be related to thermal comfort of





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the neighborhood area, habitat layouts and other spatial attributes, to identify the factors that affect the built environment.

#### Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: Using non-survey spatial data for ex-post evaluations: A systematic review of designs and methods

*Author(s): Elias Peter Mwakilama*

#### Abstract:

Globally, donor-aid urbanization projects face the challenge of sustainability and impact due to lack of ex-post impact evaluation (EIE) studies to evaluate the projects' impact and draw out lessons for related future projects. Ex-post impact evaluations are only done very infrequently, even though such analyses can be very useful. Particularly, in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) literature, such kind of evaluations are scarce. Consequently, there has been an increased incidences of project replicas, leading to non-optimal or improper use of resources. Despite the case, availability of non-survey spatial data across the SSA region, provides an opportunity for the development of appropriate designs and methods of ex-post evaluation studies. Non-survey or administrative data has been successfully employed to estimate the degree of causal-effect (impact) of interventions (programs) on certain outcomes. This review outlines the various designs and methods that exist for ex-post evaluations and presents the non-survey spatial data available in this area. In doing so, the review collates studies that employ non-experimental methods to describe causes of certain spatial distribution of patterns in both the Global North and South, whilst stimulating research that should employ the EIE approach to determine/describe influencers of urbanization on the basis of non-survey spatial data.

#### Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: Understanding Lilongwe's urbanisation using remote sensing and the SLEUTH urban growth model

*Author(s): Zola Manyungwa*

#### Abstract:

Lilongwe has grown nearly tenfold in the last 40 years with a 4-5% annual population growth rate, and its population is projected to double over the next decade. Driven by rural-to-urban migration and natural increase, urban expansion is unplanned and characterised by the growth of informal settlements. Integrating remotely sensed geospatial data and spatial models enhances urban growth studies and contributes to a better understanding of a city's urbanisation trajectory. Utilising remotely sensed data, the study employed post-classification change detection and the SLEUTH urban growth model to analyse urban expansion in



Lilongwe from 2002 to 2022. Post-classification change detection using Landsat images reveals increased built-up area coverage. Using satellite imagery and remotely sensed topographic data, the coefficient values obtained from the modelling indicate the city's urbanisation trajectory, which is mainly characterised by the edge growth of existing urban clusters with little influence from road networks. A comparison of the results and literature also reveals the gaps in existing geospatial data that need for targeted geospatial data creation. The study provides a starting point for city authorities to use the SLEUTH model effectively for urban growth modelling and prediction using remotely sensed geospatial data.



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## *H2 Urban Mobility Studies: Methodological Enquiry from Social Science and Human-Centric Approaches*

*Session Organizer(s): Gaurav Raheja and Anita Sarmah*

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Study on the environmental impact of city bypass road development: A case example from Kerala.**

*Author(s): Karthik S Kumar and Nidhish PJ*

### **Abstract:**

Roads can offer significant economic and social benefits for communities and interest groups that rely on a variety of natural habitats, but they can also have significant negative effects for communities and interest groups that rely on a variety of natural habitats. The environmental implications of highways continue to garner widespread attention, especially as the road system expands. Changes in people's interactions with their surroundings lead to the creation of roads. They're made to make it easier to get to natural resources, connect human communities, transport things to markets, and get people to work. Roads, road construction, road maintenance, and road traffic have a wide range of effects, regardless of their aim. As we become more aware of these consequences, there is an increasing demand for the techniques and abilities required to incorporate environmental concerns into road planning and management. Road networks serve as the primary mode of transportation for the majority of the world's population, boosting local and regional economies. After the United States, India has the world's second largest road network. Since the early 1990s, India's road network has improved at a glacial rate. The Golden Quadrilateral Project—a massive highway project connecting India's four megacities (Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi, and Mumbai), as well as many other cities, in the shape of a quadrilateral—has resulted in economic growth and a relatively considerable increase in per-capita earnings. Because of how quickly the world's road network is growing, ecosystem effects will continue to be severe and occasionally fatal. In order to measure these consequences and provide strategies for minimizing the negative effects of traffic and roads, an area of study known as road ecology has emerged. Roadway construction can affect abiotic elements such as landslides, noise, light, hydrological, geomorphological, and chemical characteristics. The study aims to understand the major environmental effects of bypass road development, for which the study was divided into two parts - The primary goal of the study was to determine the impact of transportation and road development on land use variations. To understand the methodology utilized and the impacts, a literature evaluation of various publications examining the impact of bypass was conducted. The second part was a live study and a comparison with the literature to Study on existing condition includes obtaining the current land use map of the area. And the final stage was the analysis of changes in land use over the periods, how much ecological degradation was caused, what are the possible impacts and best practices to tackle them.



Road ecology is the study of the ecological impacts, both positive and negative, of roads and highways (public roads). Using advances in mapping technologies, such as automated recognition from satellite images and real-time mapping on the ground, scientists created a trustworthy, comprehensive depiction of the world's road system. The extensive and occasionally catastrophic consequences on ecosystems and the services they offer in rural regions will endure while the world's road network expands at a swift, unprecedented rate. The wider environmental effects of automobile emissions include habitat fragmentation, ecosystem decline, and climate change. Local consequences include air quality, noise, water pollution, habitat disruption, and habitat destruction. The conditions and procedures by which natural ecosystems and the animals that make them up maintain and fulfill human life are referred to as ecosystem services. They stand for the various advantages that people can gain from ecological functions, either directly or indirectly. Many of these (such as food supply, climate regulation, and air purification) are absolutely necessary for human survival, while others (such as aesthetics) improve it. Economic valuation of ecosystem services is becoming increasingly important to understand the multiple benefits provided by ecosystems. Ecosystem valuation, also known as Ecosystem Service Value (ESV), is a method of placing monetary values on an ecosystem and its essential goods and services.

Air pollution is one of the serious environmental concerns of the urban Asian cities including India, where majority of the population is exposed to poor air quality. It causes health related problems such as respiratory disease, risk of developing cancer and other serious ailments etc. and also contributes to tremendous economic loss especially in the sense of financial resources that are required for giving medical assistance to the affected people. Within the next two decades, the bulk of the population of the country is anticipated to reside in cities, with the majority of Indian cities also experiencing fast urbanization.

After identifying these parameters, a comparative study was done with similar developments in Czech Republic, Indonesia and Kollam to identify the issues and possible best practices were studied.

The Kollam bypass extends from Mevaram to Kavanad for about 14 kilometers. About 80% of the route is a 2-lane, undivided road with a width of 15 meters, while 20% (2.7 km) is a 4-lane, divided carriageway with carriageway widths of roughly 7 meters on either side. In all areas, two-way traffic is authorized.

A comparison of land usage in 2012 and 2019 was done in order to analyze the fluctuations in land use. This was accomplished by digitizing maps from the local planning department and using a Google temporal earth map. Similar alterations, such as a decrease in farming, open space, and wetland as a result of bypass development, have been reported in Kollam and may have an effect on the ecosystem there. Most of the land in the region was used for wetlands and residential purposes. The area's commercial, industrial, and water bodies made up just 1% of the total area. Together with the land use map from the Kollam master plan and a Google Earth map, the 2019 land use map was produced. The number of byways in the region has increased. This results in large plots being split up into smaller areas. The rise in land value can also be interpreted as a factor for smaller parcels being broken up and sold. The utilization of commercial and industrial land has risen. There has been a significant decline in agricultural land and wetlands. After the completion of phase 2 of the Kollam



bypass, there is a significant difference in the build-up in the corridor area, which is understandable. The amount of construction in the area has increased by 10.7%. Assuming the coefficient value is similar for Asian countries. (India does not have its own Esc) a calculation of the value of services offered by the ecosystem around the 300m buffer around the first stretch of the bypass it was found to be 55 lakhs/year and this was under threat due to uncontrolled development and this value is expected to rise with each passing year. The number of vehicles on the bypass road is increasing. And Assuming all are passenger vehicles of (BSIV) category :11156628.1 g (co<sub>2</sub>) ,599.98g (pm),1049965g(no<sub>2</sub>),3599.9g (hc),3525.8g(CO) are released during peak hour while burning 3377.75 L of fuel. It is obvious from the predicted data that the concentration of contaminants is increasing. It also provides an estimate of future air quality. Air pollution is one of the most important issues we face today. Automobile exhaustion is one of the most significant sources of air pollution. Vehicle emissions are the primary cause of degradation of urban ambient air quality, hence they must be avoided in the future. In a sense, every road project is an experiment, and when they are joined with other road projects, they are repeated. Many higher order effects (at the level of populations, communities, ecosystems, or landscapes) remain unquantified. Future research must concentrate on these higher order impacts due to the interactions and intricacy among the effects of roads and traffic, which are significant and may be unanticipated. The examination of these intricate interrelations calls for methodical investigation. Roads and the traffic they generate interfere with biological processes, increase animal mortality, degrade the land or modify how it is used, and fracture the landscape. Despite the large number of empirical investigations, it is still challenging to formulate impact thresholds that could direct evaluation work. The development of evaluation tools for civil engineers and ecologists to use in the planning and building of transportation infrastructure is imperative given the growing public demand for environmental impact mitigation and prevention. Future research should provide answers to questions about the kinds of development behaviors that make animal populations more susceptible to roads, the kinds of roads that have the biggest effects on population persistence, as well as how the effects of roads change depending on how sensitive a population is to the four effects of roads. Another option is to develop a software technology framework that will map the road network, identify bottlenecks, analyze specific stretches of road and landscape, and employ a variety of ecological and technological solutions for avoidance, mitigation, and compensation.



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## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: Developing Accessible Urban Mobility: Innovating a Framework for Evaluating Environmental Accessibility in Multimodal Transportation Hubs

*Author(s): Kiran Kumar Sreedharan, Anjali G R, Veena R S, Dimple Maria, Ardra S Babu, Vincy Vijayan, Priyanjali Prabhakaran and Shailaja Nair*

#### Abstract:

While Multimodal Transportation Hub (MMTH), offering seamless transition between various modes of transportation are burgeoning, the extent of environmental accessibility offered by these hubs for Persons with Disability and Elderly Persons remains to be addressed particularly in India.

The study aims to formulate a framework to evaluate the environmental accessibility of a MMTH, taking into consideration the current guidelines relating to accessibility brought out by the Government of India.

The framework to evaluate the environmental accessibility of a MMTH is formulated by deriving an Accessibility Quotient from the access audit of both terminals and connections. The second component of the framework is Semi-Structured Interview with participants recruited through convenience and purposive sampling. Based on the inferences of the interview process, reiteration and modification of the checklist, ideally taking into account the local context, is required to ensure accessibility of MMTH. The framework is showcased through a pilot test conducted in a MMTH to demonstrate its effectiveness.

The framework can be adopted as a model for the assessment of accessibility of existing hubs as well as the design of new accessible transportation hubs in India, which would go a long way in improving the life of the vulnerable groups.

## Presentation 3

### Title of Paper: Fusing Design and Research Methods to enquire Inclusivity in a Suburban Mobility System: A Case of Mumbai

*Author(s): Gaurav Raheja, Anita Sarmah, Divyang Purkayastha and Suyash Rahariya*

#### Abstract:

Inclusivity is emerging to be critical for sustenance of any system including public mobility systems. Mumbai Railways is one such suburban rail mobility system that is responsible for the commute of nearly 8 million diverse people on a daily basis. This study focuses upon a social and behavioral understanding of people along with the conspicuous absence of persons with disabilities and other diverse needs, triggering an enquiry driven by research with an expected outcome through the applied intent of design. The fundamental question





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raised is, "How can design help in achieving greater inclusivity in the suburban mobility context of Mumbai?". The paper discusses the unique intersections of research approaches guiding design towards a larger goal of inclusive mobility in the given context of suburban rail mobility. It builds upon a critical understanding of fusing the twin approaches of field based research (including ethnographic studies and visual research methods) with applied tools of design development and validation (including design thinking and stakeholder frameworks). This paper brings forth a discussion on the key challenges of deriving conclusive responses for scales of population size and diversity (8 million plus) considering the global south paradigms.

#### Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: Covid-19 and Cities: Does connectivity exacerbate pandemic?

*Author(s): Pratik Kumar Singh and Alok Kumar Mishra*

#### Abstract:

The talk will focus on the question of "Does density aggravate the contagious disease like Covid-19." Since this Covid-19 is the most recent pandemic that has invaded every part of the world, especially urban areas. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported about 770 million confirmed cases and over 6.9 million deaths worldwide from the onset of the disease till July 31, 2023. Adopting an epidemiological perspective, some scholars have argued that the connectivity of people in dense urban areas, is a primary reason for the spread of contagious diseases like COVID-19. This paper, based on an economic perspective, empirically examines the effect of connectivity on COVID-19 infection and mortality rates in India. Using a large disaggregated dataset across the Indian states, we find there is insignificant relationship with connectivity and severity of Covid-19. Our findings suggest that cities, which offer external economies of scale due to clustering of productive economic activities and generate resources for socio-economic development need to be enabled to effectively manage mobility rather than considering it a demon. They must be empowered to build a robust public health foundation, address health inequities, and develop resilience against future disasters. Urban governance reforms hold the key to disaster-preparedness and pandemic management.



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## Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: How do we research bicycling? Mixed-methods for bicycling research in LMIC cities

*Author(s): Smruthi Bala Kannan, Rahul Goel, Jonathan Shapiro Anjaria, Srishti Agrawal, Anisur Rahman Bayazid, Shivani, Joel Shelton Terrance, Mehul Gupta, Rohit M, Ankush Pal, Ernest Agyemang, Zahidul Quayyum, and Kavi Bhalla*

#### Abstract:

This presentation explores mixed-methods research to study bicycling in Low-and-Middle-income countries' cities (LMICs), combining participant observation on roads and parking areas, intercept surveys with cyclists and road users, and semi-structured interviews with road users and stakeholders in bicycling conducted in Delhi, Dhaka, Accra, and Chennai. To understand the complex interplay of gender, age, ability, migration status, and socio-economic status in determining bicycling choice and experience, we conducted the following research:

1. Participant observation of cycle use in Delhi, Chennai and Dhaka helps identify variation of bicycling, routes and navigation patterns specific to bicyclists, their interaction with built environment and fellow road-users. Observations included populations who cannot be intercepted (e.g., children, hurrying commuters, aged whose communication was not coherent in interviews)
2. Intercept surveys conducted with 170 bicyclists in Delhi, (ongoing in Accra), and 100 road-users (bicyclists and non-bicyclists) in Dhaka, at arterial junctions to understand interplay between demographic and travel pattern. This allowed us to note the current trip's origin, destination, intent, and characteristics of their travel.
3. Semi-structured interviews with bicyclists, officials, vendors, cycle retail and repair shop owners, and parents of children who bicycle helped explore connections between policy, geography, and urban infrastructure surrounding bicycling. A total of 79 interviews across cities engaged a range of bicycle use characteristics (e.g. commute to school or domestic work), and stratifications and perceptions surrounding bicycles. In our presentation, we discuss the epistemological challenges of using any one of these methods in itself to study the prevalence of bicycling, and the experiences and issues faced by bicyclists and describe how we combine the methods by iteratively modifying the survey tools, observation locations, and interview questions, and triangulating the data in interdisciplinary qualitative and quantitative analysis.



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## *H3 Comparative Study about 'Leaving' and 'Living': Housing and Young People in Asia*

*Session Organizer(s): Mihye Cho*

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Negotiating Urban Place-making: Exploring the role of Neighborhoods and Gatekeepers for Northeast and Muslim Women Migrants in Delhi**

*Author(s): Swapnil Pareek*

#### **Abstract:**

This paper addresses the pivotal research question of how place-making practices are influenced by neighborhoods and gatekeepers among Northeast and Muslim women migrants in Delhi, India's urban landscape. As these migrants navigate their daily lives, they grapple with the challenges of establishing a meaningful presence in a city often marked by its complexities and demands. By focusing on Northeast and Muslim women migrants, this paper sheds light on the role of neighborhoods and gatekeepers in shaping their experiences. Drawing from secondary literature, it unveils the intricate negotiations that migrants undertake to carve out a place for themselves within Delhi's urban milieu. Neighbourhoods emerge as dynamic sites of transactions, while gatekeepers emerge as pivotal facilitators in these migrants' urban transitions. At the core of this analysis is the interplay between urban experiences and identity. The paper underscores the intimate link between these experiences, challenging uniform interpretations of urban interactions. Through a comparative analysis of Northeast and Muslim women migrants, this study highlights the role of subjectivity in comprehending identity-related urban experiences. In doing so, it aligns closely with the overarching theme of the conference session, revealing the multifaceted journey towards housing stability and existential fulfillment for young individuals in Delhi's ever-evolving urban landscape.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: Portraying the process of studentification in a typical Indian City: Case of Dehradun**

*Author(s): Diksha Tiwari and Uttam Kumar Roy*

#### **Abstract:**

The aim of this study is to examine the studentification process and its impact in Dehradun, a city with a large institutional base in India. While previous researches have focused on



studentification processes in cities and its effect on area near higher education Institutes (HEI), this study delves deeper into the complexity of such neighbourhood change which are dominated by these young migrants. Thus the paper aims to contribute to the process of gentrification that overlaps with a 'change' in the cities mainly at the neighbourhood level. In India more than 40% of the population is below the age of 25. This young population migrate for study for higher education as well as for preparation of competitive examinations for jobs and higher educations. These institutes that assists students and prepare for examinations are the coaching centres. Very often the urban areas or localities acquire their identity through these centres such that if it moves the flux of the population or the growth around these areas also moves. This urban mobility leaves a mark or the identity on urban fabric. Such studentification is multifaceted and largely unattended in the contemporary social and policy discourse in India. Therefore a study on the generic process of the same is appropriate based on the local narratives. The research combines socio- demographic analysis with in-depth interviews, and a local narrative for revealing several key finding: Firstly, students migrants are attracted to the areas which provide them with educational infrastructure, with fellow student community, leading them to increase housing demand in these areas, which then gets rented on per bed bases rather than floor space. Subsequently, displacing long-term family tenants. Secondly, the kind of student intake the HEI take i.e. in terms of high scholars affects the social fabric, crimes in the neighbourhood. As a result, such neighbourhoods accordingly becomes positive or negative spaces for the local long term residents for living. The study demonstrates that young students significantly affect the urban areas, offering an integrated analysis of both processes to understand how neighbourhood changes occur in areas impacted by students. In doing so, the paper provides a fresh perspective on how studentification unfolds in a city and offer novel insight on intergenerational social changes with housing as an indicator and student as agent of urban change. The paper relate directly to the theme , dealing with young students leaving their houses and living and changing new communities in a Indian city.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Youth and Housing in Jakarta, Indonesia

*Author(s): Stefani Nugroho*

#### Abstract:

Due to a concoction of interrelated problems such as bad land-use planning and management, rapidly growing urban sprawl and population size, the youth in Indonesia face severe housing problems. The current housing backlog stands at 12.75 million in 2020 with an increase in demand of 800 000 each year (Laksono, 2022). Most of these demands will be made by millenials and members of the Gen Z; more than 63.4 percent of potential house buyers come from within this group that together make up more than 50% of the entire Indonesian population (Sulaeman, 2022). The house price-to-income ratio in Jakarta, the capital, is 10.3, whereas it is 12.1 in Denpasar (Bali) and 11.9 in Bandung (West Java). This is double than the house price-to-income ratio in New York, and twice and Singapore (Azwar,



2021) For people in the lower income bracket, rent or mortgage are beyond their means. Those working in the informal sector are considered not creditworthy, thus lacking even the access to apply for mortgage. Many opted to continue living with their families sharing cramped spaces. The young people in the middle class can afford houses in the peripheries, thereby adding to the rapid growth of urban sprawl. To compound the issue, public transport is underdeveloped, thus creating a huge reliance on private vehicles, long commutes and an overall decrease of the quality of life.

#### Presentation 4

##### Title of Paper: Conflict or Negotiation of Traveling and Dwelling

*Author(s): Kim Ji Youn*

##### Abstract:

The younger generation in their 20s is ideally expected to explore the world by traveling and, at the same time, is expected to prepare well for their future through self-development. In societies where a significant level of social pressure to become a stable middle class exists, the two issues of traveling well and dwelling well are essential to understand the affection of the younger generation. Traveling well, as either metaphorically or literally, means travel and explore the broader world and different cultures, more importantly accumulating cultural capital. More often, many young groups prepare 'exodus' to escape from competitive society by migrating to foreign countries. Dwelling well in many Asian societies like Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore, in a secular way, means becoming an house owner, symbolizing middle class status. After the Asian Financial Crisis, followed by a low-growth era, housing property values rapidly increased in those societies. Through interviews with younger generations in Taiwan, Korea, and Singapore, I explore the emerging values and ethics of movement and settlement by asking whether the desire for settlement and movement are in conflict with each other, and how young people negotiate different forms of life between mobility and settlement.

#### Presentation 5

##### Title of Paper: "What's next?" temporary life-cycle trajectories of Korean college students' living experience in dormitory

*Author(s): Hyeonjeong Yoo and Mihye Cho*

##### Abstract:

This study examines the extent to which those university students who live in dormitories relate their housing experiences to their sense of temporality in their life-cycle trajectories. Specifically, it analyzes the interviews conducted with 10 university students, including recent graduates in Korea, and compares their stories with those of young adults living in a one-room studio, which includes "goshiwon" in Korean contexts. The living experience of one-room studio and goshiwon is drawn from other studies. University dormitories have been



regarded as temporary accommodations where those students who go through educational migration need to stay for university semesters. However, a dormitory is functionally similar to a shelter, where the residents do not have full control over the space and must follow certain rules and disciplines. For the residents, a dormitory is a partial and temporary space-cum-home. This paper argues that dormitory living reveals the life-cycle ambiguity of college students, who are in a transitional position between adolescents in need of protection and independent adults in need of independence.





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4<sup>th</sup> International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS Conference)  
and the 4<sup>th</sup> RC33 Regional Conference "Asia: Thailand" Hosted by Chulalongkorn University

## *11 & 12 Decoding the City: Entanglements of the Material and Affective & Urban Assemblage: Interrogating Transdisciplinary Methodological Approaches to Researching the City Environments*

**Session Organizer(s):** Aditya Mohanty, Anthony Mavuto Gunde, Victor Chikaipa and  
and Christian Smigiel

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** Interrogating Smart Cities: The Case of ICCC in Patna

**Author(s):** Shubham Shekhar

#### **Abstract:**

Smart cities epitomize a form of 'political assemblage' (McFarlane, 2011), characterized by the global dissemination of policy ideas through circuits of knowledge (Peck, 2011). In sync with such a conceptualization, the Integrated Control and Command Centres (ICCCs) have emerged as a pivotal endeavor that leverages technology to amplify urban services and streamline governance in India. ICCC use big data and real-time information to enhance urban safety, alleviate congestion and improve urban services by fostering synergy between local and state agencies. This paper seeks to delve into the intricacies of smart cities by focusing on the case study of the ICCC in Patna. Drawing from Vanolo's framework of 'smartmentality' (2014), which calls for a nuanced comprehension of the sociotechnical and cultural dimensions inherent in smart urbanism, this research aims to critically assess the extent to which the ICCC in Patna aligns with the tenets of 'smartmentality'. The underlying peril in this development lies in the potential reduction of urban mobility to a technology-centric reading of the city. Such a scenario thus promises to expand the scope of imaginative planning approaches and diversify traffic management patterns.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper:** 'Lock the Gates': How Risk as Affective Determines Urban Dwelling

**Author(s):** Soumili Kundu

#### **Abstract:**



In this paper, I consider what affective assessments of risk might offer to the conception of dwelling in the city, specifically in rapidly developing gated communities in urban neighbourhoods of post-colonial cities and townships in India. Although sociologically and anthropologically, the category of risk has gained currency, its interaction with emotions and affect theory has been obstructed on multiple grounds. This paper draws on fieldwork conducted in a gated neighbourhood and the adjacent slum area, in Salt Lake, Kolkata, about the periods of COVID-19 lockdown, and offers this alternative framework. In doing so, it seeks to enrich the conversation on affective cities (Raban 1998, Thrift 2004) and argues that risk, embodied and felt, determines everyday political, social and spatial practices of dwelling in the urban. Simultaneously, it also brings to attention how a methodological focus on the sense of kinesthesia, or bodily movement, can take us beyond the city's cartographic imagination to the lived, affective experience of the urban.

### Presentation 3

**Title of Paper:** Materialities, affects, and politics of religion in the Polish city: Gdańsk aspiring for pluralism

*Author(s): Anna M. Maćkowiak*

#### Abstract:

Studies of urban religion focus primarily on its material expressions (Burchardt and Westendorp 2018). And the material approach was the starting point of the research project RUM: Religion-Urbanity-Mapping (<https://rum.project.uj.edu.pl/en>). In 2021–2022 in a team of nine, we gathered qualitative and mix-method data on broadly conceptualized "religion" in three Polish cities, which can be classified as a part of neither Global North nor Global South (Müller 2020). Our Gdańsk's map of religious things is dominated by the Roman Catholic matrix. But beyond the map, Gdańsk differs from other Polish cities due to its immaterial urban aspirations for religious and cultural pluralism. Driven by these aspirations, urban stakeholders create new assemblages and influence affects and politics. My paper will focus on two spaces of such new assemblages: the Cemetery of Lost Cemeteries with its interfaith commemorative practices and the European Centre of Solidarity which serves as the place of protest for the separation of church and state as well as the protector of religious heritage.

### Presentation 4

**Title of Paper:** Expanded Corporeality: Reflections on the transgression of the lived body through sensual reciprocity

*Author(s): Frederike Brandt*

#### Abstract:



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The theoretical and methodological question of how bodies can be grasped in their social, subjective and material dimensions can be addressed through the concept of corporeality of communicative constructivism (Knoblauch 2017). On the one hand, the concepts of the lived body and the physical body are conceptually interwoven, and on the other hand, reference is made to the sociality of our (research) perspectives on both concepts. At the same time, it can be focused that reciprocity between bodily subjects is above all sensual and affective. This emphasis on sensuality and affectivity can make complex forms of bodily corporeality and reciprocity, such as conflicts, situations of violence and coordination, more visible for researchers. The paper proposes to expand the concept of corporeality by considering its specific sensuality, through which it transcends itself not only from a subjective perspective but also with a specific materiality. At the same time, the concept also aims to show that the body can not only be expanded but also reduced, in the subjective as well as in the interactive perspective. In this way, bodily forms can be grasped that point beyond or deviate from the limitation of skin and hair and blind cane. Certainly, diverse sensory qualities can be differentiated, such as different spatial and bodily figurations. For example, one can perceive the smell of a person who rode in front of one in the lift, which can create a certain kind of asymmetrical relation. A one-sided closeness to a person can arise that the other person does not know about. Certain looks can also create a specific relation, etc. The different senses cannot be considered in isolation from each other. Empirically, cases from interviews of experiences of sexualized violence from a subjective perspective will be referred to. Central arguments presented were derived from the analysis of these interviews. Here, the extended concept of the body, which emerged from this analysis, will be discussed mainly, focusing on the impact for social theory.



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## *13 Experimenting with Methods for Entangled Areas and Critical Zones*

**Session Organizer(s):** *Jakkrit Sangkhamanee and Casper Bruun Jensen*

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** Co-respond and Circulate: Translocal Methods

**Author(s):** *Indrawan Prabaharyaka and Muhammad Insan Kamil*

#### **Abstract:**

In this presentation I will report on three ongoing parallel studies in Muaragembong (an estuary at the suburb of Jakarta, by Labtek Apung), Bixiga, (a neighborhood at São Paulo, by Atlas do Chao) and Tempelhofer Feld (the former airport at East Berlin, by Floating University). To connect these three areas, we do not only co-respond, exchanging ideas between one site and other, but also circulate materials (plants, foods, waters, etc) as part of the artistic-research intervention. I will reflect on the trials and tribulations of doing correspondence and circulation as well as the analytical efficacy of the concepts.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper:** Entangled while Recognizing Tsunamis: Indonesian Tsunami Warning Center as an Area

**Author(s):** *Irina Rafliana*

#### **Abstract:**

Tsunami science moves and refracts, although not as loud, rapidly growing, and massive as the tsunami waves themselves. How could then one follow the epistemic waves and which methods could be applied? By deploying an assemblage of experimental and multi-modal methods to follow science on tsunamis, this paper discusses how knowledge travel, propelled by series of devastations in the coastal urbans and littoral spaces and problematize the quest to mitigate the waves. In an effort to recognize tsunamis in its entirety, modern science intervenes with new ways of sense-making that in turn functions socially in different areas; not merely territories, but also as disciplines, and as warning centers. Such entanglements of tsunamis and related knowledge, emotions, politics, and warning thresholds are observable through bodily experiences of operators in a particular area called the Indonesian Tsunami Warning Center. It is enticing to conclude how one could only fully recognize the tsunami waves when it already withered years away.



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### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Multispecies Entanglements on an Urban Campus

*Author(s): Fadjar Ibnu Thufail*

##### Abstract:

Multispecies living in Yogyakarta, a college town in Central Java, has a long history and constitutes different cultural and social practices from Grebeg ritual that involves parading white buffalos to horse carriages as a tourist attraction. In the last few years, Gadjah Mada University students have established an organization to take care of stray cats living in the campus neighborhood. This presentation will be discussing how the organization provides a space for the students to promote a new ethic of multispecies care by transforming the neighborhood cats from feral animal to animal companion and assigned a status of "four-legged students". At the same time, the relation of the cats to the humans has also changed. They stop scavenging the trash bins and look for foods from people. Feral entanglements become mutual entanglement that takes place in a specific urban quarter, in this context a university campus.

### Presentation 4

#### Title of Paper: Ethnographic DIY as a method to learn to be affected

*Author(s): Atsuro Morita*

##### Abstract:

How can one learn to care for the critical zone him/herself depends on? This paper discusses hands-on DIY experience and ethnographic exploration as ways to articulate more-than-human others in an urban critical zone of Kyoto, Japan. Connected by multiple rivers, the city and its mountainous hinterlands historically formed a heterogeneous landscape unit where urban and forest processes were interdependent on each other. In order to revitalize such interdependency, a group of activists has experimenting with new circular use of timbers and other forest product. DIY using locally produced timbers to retrofit existing housing stocks to adapt to climate change is a focus of this experiment. The paper discusses how the group, including myself, uses ethnography and DIY as a means to explore the entanglement of industrial and ecological processes and cultivate sensibilities to be affected by more-than-human others inhabiting in this complex landscape. In particular, the paper focuses on the role of mediations that DIY and ethnographic exploration generate in articulating the materiality of various flows and processes that hitherto overlooked by untrained bodies of urbanites.



## Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: Reimagining Southeast Asia through the urban

*Author(s): Kristian Karlo Saguin*

#### Abstract:

This presentation aims to rethink Southeast Asia as an area through the urban. It explores two sets of interventions that take up the session's focus on experimenting with methods. First, cities as constituted by socio-material flows suggest that urbanization assembles and entangles diverse objects and relations in making particular socioecological arrangements across space. Cities as always in the making unsettle notions of the urban as a fixed area, with consequent implications for framing the spaces of urban ecologies amid planetary change. Second, turning attention to urban peripheries and their atmospheres enables a similar reevaluation of the area of the urban. Characterized by uneasy juxtapositions and undecidable trajectories that unfold with varying temporalities, the periphery presents a productive point from which to capture the dynamism of urbanization as area-making. In conversation with empirical examples from cities like Manila, these interventions open up ways of revisiting the area question in Southeast Asia and their consequent methods.





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# *J1 & J5 Design Methods Across Socio-Spatial Contexts: Well-being, Participation, Accessibility, and Social Inclusion*

**Session Organizer(s): Angela Million, Marta Brkovic Dodig and Gaurav Raheja**

## **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Serious Games as Method for Investigating the Well-Being of Children and Teens**

**Author(s): Angela Million and Katrin Schamun**

### **Abstract:**

The well-being of children and the influence of the built environment play a significant role in shaping the physical, emotional, and social development of young people. This research highlights the potential of a serious game as a method for exploring children's perceptions of well-being in children's centers, focusing on those up to 14 years old, within their overall socio-spatial context. The game was developed as part of the interdisciplinary BMBF project WIKK\*I, where researchers from architecture, urban planning, educational sciences, and ethnography investigate children's perspectives and definitions of well-being. This encompasses aspects like security, agency, and positive self-perception (Fattore et al., 2009). The setting of extracurricular institutions for young people in Berlin at the Graefekids serves as the starting point for mapping a socio-spatial "landscape" of children's well-being, considering the context of the neighborhood and the city. The overall aim of the research is to empower children's voices in the development of socio-spatial learning opportunities in their neighborhoods. Game approaches are common in spatial research in architecture and urban planning. Since their inception in the 1960s and 1970s by pioneers like Henry Sanoff and Richard Duke, games have proved valuable for education, exploration, creative development, planning, and design. In our case, games offer an engaging and interactive platform that provides a safe and enjoyable environment for children to express their thoughts and experiences related to their well-being, which is the focus of our research. At the same time, we want to use it for knowledge transfer, which refers to the process of conveying scientific insights, and research findings from the academic realm into practical applications. Hence, we use the game as (1) a tool for engaging with children, (2) collecting data, and also (3) for dissemination and engagement with community stakeholders (such as social workers, politicians, educators, administrators). The presentation will emphasize the development and adaptation of the gaming process, as well as the phase of data analysis and experiences from knowledge, but also reflecting the benefits and challenges of games in interdisciplinary research. The game's design is graphically, and in-game principles inspired by an existing serious game development called "Agents & Accomplices" (Benze et al., 2019, p. 224-227).



Content-wise, it is based on narrative interviews and walk-alongs with selected children visiting the Graefekids institution, conducted by educationalists and ethnographers. This content was used to create the initial tiles of the game. In a pilot phase, the game's principles needed to be adjusted, considering factors like language barriers, literacy levels of participating children from different backgrounds, and feedback from the interdisciplinary research group. Ultimately, we were able to engage children between 3 and 14 years old in gaming activities over 6 months at the Graefekids setting. The game sessions were documented visually via photos and through field notes. Data analysis utilized a multi-method approach involving visual analysis and the translation of data into maps, combining cartography and visual methods. The outcomes were also validated with qualitative data sets from our research partners in educational science and ethnography. We plan to use the game as a tool for knowledge transfer with community stakeholders in November 2023. In a workshop setting, social workers, politicians, educators, and administrators will be asked to play the game and imagine what children value in terms of well-being. The outcome of their play round will then be discussed in relation to the outcome of the children's play rounds of the game. We expect that the adult players will be confronted with unexpected and previously unknown children's perspectives on well-being, potentially leading to a shift in adult perspectives. So far, this process has shown that games as a research method enable children to actively contribute to knowledge creation, empowering them to share their perspectives and contribute to the understanding of their own well-being. This method surpasses traditional surveys or interviews, allowing researchers to capture nuanced insights into children's experiences within their socio-spatial contexts. We are also testing how the game can be used to transmit findings to stakeholders. In the interdisciplinary study of well-being, this method also offers a valuable opportunity to bridge multiple research disciplines. We observed that during the development of the game in an interdisciplinary context, we faced challenges due to the lack of a shared language. While spatial experts based their methodological approaches on experiences of collective participation in architecture, urban planning, and design, educational specialists approached the research from the standpoint of individual subjects and their diverse needs of the single child. In conclusion, the serious game method facilitates a dynamic and comprehensive understanding of a complex environment, fostering interdisciplinary research settings and potentially can be also used for knowledge transfer. By engaging with the game, children, teens (and adults) gain deeper insights into both themselves, and others, as they explore values, ideas, and behaviors but also assumptions through interactive dialogue. This learning occurs as children and adults assume various roles and articulate their viewpoints, promoting a comprehensive exploration of personal differences. The use of games also stimulates constructive exchange of knowledge among children, teens, adults, and researchers alike.

## Presentation 2

Title of Paper: Methodological Insights into Exploring Mother-Child's Spatial Usage in Urban Public Spaces



*Author(s): Aishwarya Isha and Gaurav Raheja*

**Abstract:**

As per United Nations, 68% of the world's population will be living in urban agglomerations by 2050. With a rapid influx of urban migration, there is greater diversity in terms of population in our cities worldwide. Public spaces are an essential part of our urban infrastructure which unfortunately does not cater to different diversities of population. Research indicates an intricate relationship between public spaces and the lives of mothers with young children, which has emerged as a crucial research domain. This preliminary study is part of ongoing research which delves into the various dimensions of their experiences and perceptions to shed some light on the dimensions of motherhood, spatiality and urban environments. This study has been conducted in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) in India and seeks to illuminate the concealed spatial patterns spread across neighbourhoods and different public spaces used by mothers with young children (aged 0-5 years) and pregnant women. This study is relevant to the chosen session as it directly relates to the inclusion of mothers with young children in the public realm.

**Methods** - The methodology consists of qualitative research techniques which enables the researcher to get a detailed, contextual understanding and holistic insights from the participants of the study. The chosen methodology is flexible for use and can be customised depending on the nature and situation of the participants. The study involves in-depth interviews based on semi-structured questions. The questionnaire includes six sections namely; Family Structure and Responsibilities, Everyday Routine, Learning about the use of Baby/Infant Mobility Devices, Understanding the Neighbourhood, Understanding the preferences and use of public spaces and Mobility experiences and perceptions. The interview durations ranged from approximately two to four hours, reflecting the profound discussions. All responses were digitally recorded after taking the consent of the participants. The interviews were followed up with a guided walk with the mothers and their young children up to the neighbouring parks, supported by photo documentation.

**Sampling** – This research was exploratory in nature and used snowball and convenience sampling to recruit participants. The researcher circulated a poster via friends and family which was helpful to recruit the participants. Overall five mothers and one pregnant woman agreed to participate in the interview. The participants reside in various parts of Delhi-NCR.

**Results** - The responses were transcribed, coded and analysed. The content from the interviews was manually analysed thematically. The final findings brought out understanding regarding the preferences, challenges and needs that mothers with young children and pregnant women incur while using public spaces. These were categorised into the following three themes– Child-Friendly Public Spaces, Mobility Needs and Bodily Needs. The photo documentation done during the guided walk was studied for content analysis which complemented to support the findings from the recorded interviews.

**Conclusions** – Being a small sample size, the study results cannot be generalized among the larger study area. Even then, this preliminary study is helpful in identifying the criteria for sampling for future studies. It also helps to understand how to restructure the existing questionnaire to make the duration of the interviews shorter, more concise and effective in



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getting better responses from the participants. The future scope of the study would be to include more participants from diverse socio-economic backgrounds to understand the use and perception of public spaces by mothers of young children in the context of urban India.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Methods and tools for studying inclusion in Indian streets

*Author(s): Jinoj Mathidharan and Gaurav Raheja*

#### Abstract:

Despite being a channel for movement, streets play a vital role as a public space for socializing. Being a public space, streets demand certain qualities, the most important of which is inclusivity. Human behaviour in Indian streets are complex and multi-dimensional because of their continuous interaction with each other and with the unique surrounding environments. For understanding how inclusive these streets are, there is a need to look at how methods of enquiry can change according to the context and culture of the place of study. Hence, the aim of is to discuss and critique methods and tools, to study inclusivity in streets, in the unique Indian context. Methodology involves literature analysis and on-field experience of the researcher. The study addresses challenges regarding methods of study, for a researcher in the Global south. It is also the intention of this paper to understand the interrelationship between the type of inclusion studied and the research methods and data collection tools used for it. The study concludes with the understanding that there is a need for focused, contextual research design, based on the socio-cultural aspects and type of inclusion, in Indian cities.

### Presentation 4

#### Title of Paper: Intersections of Urban Design and Sense of Security in the Hill City of Shimla

*Author(s): Amisha Thakur*

#### Abstract:

This paper examines the intersections of urban design and then sense of security in the hill city of Shimla, nestled in the Himalayan region of India with a unique geographical and historical context. Ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents becomes a crucial aspect of urban planning and design as urban environments continue to grow and evolve. The paper investigates how several elements of urban design, such as the townscape design, streetscape, street furniture, lighting, public spaces, and architectural features, contribute to or detract from the sense of security in Shimla. It analyses how these design factors affect residents' perceptions and experiences with a particular focus on how they feel



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about safety and security. The study uses a mixed methods approach to collect data through schedules, in-depth interviews and observations. Stratified Random Sampling is used to collect data from short-term and long-term residents with a special focus on women, elderly, and disabled. The findings of this study will contribute to the knowledge base of urban planning and design for hill cities, offering insights and recommendations for creating more secure and socio-spatially inclusive urban environments.

## Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: The Eye, The Notebook and The Senses: Examining the ethnographer's toolkit in 'disability' research

*Author(s): Mahashewta Bhattacharya and Bijendra Singh*

#### Abstract:

Based on case studies with visually impaired students in a public university campus in New Delhi, India, our paper shall address the significance of thinking through issues of sensory impairment in ethnographic research. We seek to capture the sensory and corporeal transgressions that complicate ethnographic transparency and call out methodological rituals that take sensory uniformity of researcher and subject as a given. Our approach employs a micro-focused autocritical lens that critically examines qualitative methodological training and practice in the social sciences in two parts of the world. We consider standard tools in ethnography such as participant observation and thick description and show how ocular-normative frameworks pose an epistemic threat to research with visually impaired communities. Drawing from our findings and experiences from field research, we shall address the issue of the ethnographer's sensory corporeal presence posing significant detriments to or being limitations to understanding the sensory realities of sensorily divergent communities. Through a practice-based analysis of the visual, we open up the scope of examining ethnographic transgressions in other sensory fields and discuss possibilities of employing a pluri-sensory framework to better explore the affordances of ethnography.





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## *J2 & J3 & J4 Spatial Methods in Healthcare Research & Dialogues between Health, Urbanity, and the Environment: Applying Mixed Methods Approach and Findings*

*Session Organizer(s): Cornelia Thierbach, Faith Ndungi, Ulrike Fettke, Susanne Ferschl, Leilanie Fletcher, and Sarah Matenge,*

### **Presentation 1**

#### **Title of Paper: A Mixed Method Approach to The Prevention of Lifestyle Diseases in The Work Environment**

*Author(s): Faith Ndungi, Leilanie Fletcher, Sarah Matenge, Caroline Imani, Victoria Mbigidde, Jasmine Mushi, and Musa Nada*

#### **Abstract:**

The examination of health or disease, healthcare and healthcare systems in spatial relations is well established. For example, during the Covid-19-pandemic the geographical distribution of Covid-19 incidences, regional disparities or health inequalities due to living or working conditions in disadvantaged areas were constantly communicated by scientists and media. Healthcare studies also focus on other spatial topics such as access to care (e.g. distances and travelling times to healthcare providers), how patients (literally) move through the health system, how workflows in hospitals can be better spatially organized, or how architecture can affect health recovery. This session aims at exploring spatial methods in healthcare research. In particular, we would like to discuss from a methodological perspective which theoretical assumptions of space are operationalized with what method and research design. Space can either be viewed as dependent or independent variable. Papers should answer at least one of the following questions either on a general methodological level or by a concrete example of a specific research project: (1) What are the most suitable spatial methods and research designs when analyzing the relationship of health / healthcare and space? (2) How is the research question addressing health and space issues affecting the type of data needed and vice versa? (3) How and where should data collection take place? (4) What (spatial) sampling strategies are applied and how does it affect the generalization of results? (5) What kind of data analysis method is best suited for such an endeavor? (6) What are other methodological challenges and/or solutions to spatial health questions that need to be discussed? (7) Who should be involved in the different stages of the research design, data collection, analysis, and reporting? We welcome papers addressing one or more of the following levels of healthcare research: individual level (i.e. patients, providers), organizational level (i.e. infrastructure, processes), or system level (i.e. governance, financing, development,





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transformation/change). We strongly believe that a multi-perspective view (i.e. from different disciplines, from different countries etc.) on this topic will inspire our work and will be very beneficial for the discussion.

## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: The States Hands in Our Underpants - Gynecology as Gatekeeper to Reproductive Rights

*Author(s): Salma Mekkes*

#### Abstract:

Medicine has historically been a science researched and practiced by men on men. Methods of treatment, medication and negotiation were stated to medical guidelines to the exclusion of female bodies and their specifics. Gynecology, as a science of female reproductive organs and obstetrics, is thus a science that developed without its own object of study and can therefore act as a burning glass for the consequences of a non-gendered medicine. As the site of execution for reproductive decisions, gynecology has a gatekeeper role. Who is allowed to have children when, with whom, and in what ways is subject to social, religious, and political negotiations that are enacted in gynecological care. Every cultural space ascribes other values and rights to gynecological care based on their political and social values. Fröhlich/Schütz's (2022) concept of "Politics of Reproduction" helps to extract the different spaces and power fields methodologically which interplay in healthcare decisions with the aim to capture the interplay of biopolitics with economics, social values, and medical guidelines. Using their concept I will draw the relevant spaces and power relations that play into some specific German gynecological guidelines and consequently into reproductive rights.

## Presentation 3

### Title of Paper: Counting Death and Disease: Ethnomethodology of Data Generation in a Hospital Setting of Delhi, India

*Author(s): Bijendra Singh*

#### Abstract:

During COVID-19 pandemic, geospatial data distribution of new cases and deaths was instrumental in providing the real-time pictures of the contagion and its impact on different sections of the population. Epidemiologists use spatial methods for evaluating the distribution of diseases and deaths caused by certain events such as COVID-19 pandemic for a population. In social epidemiology, spatial methods are highly dependent upon the data sourced from different sections of the society. Hence it becomes essential to study the social process of data generation related to prevalent diseases and causes of deaths in a population



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in order to understand the reliability and quality of the data used for epidemiological exercise. This paper will discuss the social processes informing "cause of death" data generation in New Delhi, India where it will use the ethnomethodological framework to study the social life of death certificates. By using in-depth interviews with physicians, nurses and other staff members of the hospital and 'non social observation', it will try to highlight the everyday activities of hospital staff which are carried through a trail of paperwork around the occurrence of a death. It will further try to evaluate the usability of mortality data, thus generated, for social epidemiology.

#### Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: Health Risk Behavior Research among Indian Adolescents: Challenges and Future Directions

*Author(s): Aysha Thasleema, Adarsh K Verma, and Usha Chivukula*

#### Abstract:

Research on adolescent health risk behaviors is crucial for identifying patterns leading to long-term health consequences and informing targeted interventions. Despite its prevalence, adolescents are reluctant to open up about their involvement in risky behaviors due to stigma, cultural norms, lack of awareness, privacy concerns, limited access to support, and fear of consequences or judgment. These factors often create distorted results in empirical research and flawed conclusions. The present work involves reporting researchers' hands-on experience while collecting data from adolescents while working in the area of health risk behaviors. Challenges range from the subject's own discomfort to reveal risk behavior preferences (such as drug abuse or risky sexual practices) to the reluctance of parents and institutional authorities to grant permission. Sometimes, even getting ethical approval for specific methodologies acts as a challenge to address unexplored questions. Adding to that are methodological flaws like the resistance emerging from an explicit way of asking questions and the inability to obtain heterogeneous representative data across various socioeconomic strata. Along with reporting identified challenges, steps are proposed to be taken care of in future research concerning adolescent health risk behaviors and similarly sensitive topics.

#### Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: Mapping spatial maternal health care provision in a city of inequalities – The case of Windhoek

*Author(s): Sarah Mlambo*

#### Abstract:



Barriers to maternal health are perpetuated by several factors that include but are not limited to individual, interpersonal, community, and organizational that impact the outcomes of the health of women in society. It is evident that inequalities impact all persons however, some groups carry the most burden than others and maternal health is no exception. The effects of spatial inequality include poorer public health of which maternal health is no exception. The sustainability and resilience of cities lie in the improvements and quality of maternal health hence responding to the Sustainable Development Goals of Healthy Wellbeing. Access to equitable healthcare that is within reach is a sustainable way of improving care among pregnant and postpartum women that reduces the spatial inequalities as community midwives engage with women and their families in the communities that they come from. A midwifery-led methodology to answer what women want and answer the spatial inequality in terms of reach to maternal health that is led by the midwifery model of care to address the socio, economic and cultural aspects pertaining to women.

## Presentation 6

**Title of Paper: Global South paradigms and the decolonial logics of health equity in a post-apartheid city: Towards a spatial maternal healthcare communication approach in the city of Windhoek, Namibia**

*Author(s): Nelson Mlambo and Sarah Mlambo*

### Abstract:

The horrors of the apartheid system and its afterlives continue to haunt present urban centres whose spatial constructions were crafted along a dual system of inclusion and exclusion. These reverberations are typified in the city of Windhoek, Namibia. Efforts to redress the effects of apartheid are arguably progressing but such cannot be said about Windhoek, as the Namibian plight is often eclipsed by South Africa's discourses. The present talk, therefore, grapples with the critical concept of evolving and inclusive urban discourses for well-being through the application of a 360° approach to maternal healthcare provision. Essentially, the idea is to present study results on the spatial maternal health communication approach which was used to examine maternal health accessibility and social inclusion through the communication of and provision of birthing choices. Through investigating diverse voices from social and spatial contexts inhabited by previously (apartheid) and presently (post-apartheid) disadvantaged populations, the talk presents an interdisciplinary birthing model that can be used for maternal accessibility and social inclusion in a divided city.



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## *K1 Engendering Urban Governance and Planning in the Global South: Methodological Issues and Challenges*

**Session Organizer(s): Varsha Prasad and Binitha V Thamp**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Youth and Urban Governance: Analysing Kerala local body polls 2020 to discern the changing gender and caste dynamics in local governance**

*Author(s): Varsha Prasad and Binitha V Thampi*

#### **Abstract:**

This paper looks into the changing gender and caste dynamics of urban local governance and planning in the state of Kerala subsequent to the last local body elections in the state using a mixed-method approach. The engagement of youth in politics generates novel forms of political engagement that often defy conventional patterns as well as take on creative forms of exercising agency and practicing citizenship. In the last local body polls in the state of Kerala, India, hundreds of young women entered the fray and a number of Dalit candidates were also nominated in general seats, marking a shift in the profile and demography of candidates. On the other hand, despite young people constituting a significant share of population in the urban Global South, avenues for their collaboration and engagement with the governance bodies are sparse. This gains significance in the context of housing crisis, ambitious spatial imaginations and slum redevelopment in the rapidly urbanizing spaces of Global South. The study examines the key methodological challenges in understanding the caste and gender implications in urban governance, in the context of an ongoing shift in the profile of urban governance representatives and the imminent need for a youth-centered participatory approach to urban development and planning.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: Unravelling Gender and Class Dynamics: Socio-Spatial Mapping near Delhi University North Campus**

*Author(s): Swapnil Pareek*

#### **Abstract:**

This research employs socio-spatial mapping to investigate gender and class dynamics within Delhi University North Campus neighbourhoods shaped by investments in paying



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guest accommodation start-ups. The study explores how these investments constrain specific populations geographically, emphasising gender-class intersections. Aligned with the session's gender/intersectional perspective, the paper addresses methodological urban studies challenges. It reimagines governance and planning representation through socio-spatial analysis, enhancing classical ethnography. Socio-spatial mapping vividly substantiates spatial implications of gender-class dynamics. The core argument emphasises socio-spatial mapping's superiority in portraying gender and class confinement. This perpetuates inequalities, hindering mobility. Despite being seen as progressive, investments in paying guest accommodation start-ups are often overlooked for their exclusive effects on gender and class intersections by governance and local authorities. This pioneering study unveils hidden urban disparities through socio-spatial mapping near Delhi University North Campus. By visually representing gender-class complexities, it informs equitable governance and planning strategies, catalysing discussions on participatory and inclusive urban development in the Global South. The research advances methodological innovations, adding critical insights to the study of urban gender dynamics.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Moral Geographies and Spatial Governance: A Study of Sex Work in Silchar, India

Author(s): *Tridib Mukherjee*

#### Abstract:

My study delves into the governance of the immoral geographies sex work in Silchar - a small town in India's northeast. Much of the writings that connect sex work and moral geographies within urban centres have focused on the bigger urban centres and metropolises. This is not only a problem with writings on sex work, but a general problem within urban theorisation. Silchar has northeast India's only brothel-based sex work site. Despite the absence of legal recognition for sex work as a profession in India, spatial governance of sex work in Silchar involves both official and non-official stakeholders, with some of the latter even operating in the realm of economies of illegality. In charting down spatial governance, insights into the political economy of sex work in Silchar are offered. My study focuses on the spatial governance of both brothel-based and non-brothel-based contexts of sex work in Silchar by drawing on extensive interviews with police officials, 'targeted intervention' NGOs under AIDS control initiatives of the state, pimps, municipal authorities, brothel-keepers, middlemen, public intellectuals of the town, and the like. In doing so, it locates sex work within the discursive space of the town, documenting the diverse, and sometimes conflicting notions about the geographies of sex work and their spatial governance.



## Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: Assessment of planning strategies to assemble land towards affordable housing in Bangladesh

*Author(s): Kasphia Nahrin*

#### Abstract:

Land is one of the major factors for production of housing. Land is very expensive in the free-market economy and realized as one of the most commercialized commodities to invest. Therefore, land become unaffordable to many people, specially to the poor and middle-income bracket. This situation is crucial in the cities in fast growing developing countries. High land price increases the housing price and distorts the housing market. Eventually, a number of people are become homeless in the cities in developing countries. The realization of adequate housing is strongly linked to access to land for producing affordable housing units. It is needed to assemble land for providing or accommodating affordable units of housing. Urban planning policies has some significant tools that might be used successfully to generate accessible and affordable land units to utilize for producing affordable housing units. The objective is to explore the potential urban planning tools for producing affordable land parcel and to assess the feasibility to implement the tools in urban Bangladesh. The research uses mixed approach. The empirical qualitative data is collected through semi-structured interviews, workshops, and case study areas visit. The stakeholders on urban planning and land management in cities in Bangladesh are selected as sample. The qualitative data is grouped and classified based on themes and sub-themes to discussed based on the research objectives. The quantitative approach collects spatial and numeric data on land price from Land Office. The quantitative data is analyzed by both market and income approach to identify the feasibility of the urban planning tool to assemble land for the homeless. Moreover, the findings according to themes is coded based on subjective decisions and critical analysis to compare and to present more pragmatic meanings.





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## *K2 Feminist Participatory Methods for Gender-Inclusive Urban Planning and Design*

**Session Organizer(s): Megha Tyagi and Inês Martina Lersch**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: Water & Gender Insecurity In India: A case of Tier II state capital city of Lucknow-Feminist Participatory Approach To Rurban Sustainability**

**Author(s): Ananya Tripathi and Subhrajit Banerjee**

#### **Abstract:**

One of the fundamental human rights determining one's health and well-being is having access to clean water. Piped water supply in India is available to 60 percent of the households in urban fringes, which does not suffice for the minimum requirement of consumption considered to be 90 LPCD (according to URDPFI). Hence, it is a common phenomenon in rural and urban fringe areas for female folks to fetch the deficit water for their household necessities. This activity becomes a catalyst for gender insecurity in terms of fiscal, physical, and social aspects. This paper explores the critical issues of women's insecurity during water collection and brings out how Rurban sustainability practices can solve such issues. The study will focus on recognizing the existing disparities and methodological challenges in understanding and quantifying gender inclusiveness during water collection.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: Water Insecurity and Climate Change, and their Impact on Women: A Case Study of Delhi, India**

**Author(s): Arti Devi**

#### **Abstract:**

Water insecurity is a significant problem in India, specifically, Delhi, and climate change has exacerbated the situation. It has affected every aspect of society. However, it has varying impacts on every section of society. Due to the social structure of society, women are the primary bearers of the brunt of water insecurity and climate change. Therefore, ensuring the availability of clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) and gender-sensitive climate change adaptation (13. b) is a prerequisite to ensuring gender equality (SDG 5) and women empowerment. Women are not just vulnerable victims of water insecurity, climate change,



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and other associated challenges; they also have unique experiences and knowledge to share that can help develop more effective adaptation strategies. Therefore, it is critical to include them in any decision-making process related to climate change, adaptation, or water insecurity, among other issues. Therefore, the proposed study will analyse the concerned authorities' planning and policies regarding water insecurity, climate change, and the SDG goals of gender equality and women empowerment in Delhi and, more specifically, in Sangam Vihar. Because they are all interlinked, it is necessary to address all these issues cohesively for desired results.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Applicability of Feminist Participatory Strategies for Gender Inclusion in Smart Cities Mission of India

*Author(s): Tarun Kumar Mondal*

#### Abstract:

Inclusion of gender perspective is an integral part in urban planning and design by ensuring women's rights to urban space. Feminist participatory strategies in urban planning and design processes have long been debated to create gender inclusive urban space. However, the following questions need to be addressed from urban development perspective in the global south in the light of feminist participatory strategies.

Is it viable to ensure female participation across class, caste, sexual and gender minorities in urban planning and design processes at different levels in global south? Considering the socio-economic and politico-cultural settings in the global south, female participation in urban planning and design may come from elite group of the society. Will this lead to further exclusion of marginal women in urban space? Given the structural gender inequality existing in the societies of the global south, will it be possible to create and sustain a gender inclusive urban space? This study will attempt to address these questions in the context of the flagship project 'Smart Cities Mission' in India. Finally, to find out suitable strategies for gender inclusive urbanization in global south with revisiting the existing feminist participatory strategies.



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## *K3 Between Precarity and Formality: Interrogating the Gendered Spaces of Informality in the Global South*

**Session Organizer(s):** *Wiwandari Handayani and Edlyne Anugwom*

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** Life histories of informality in a Kenyan 'slum': A study of 50 years of gendered experiences

**Author(s):** *Stephen Vertigans*

#### **Abstract:**

This paper draws upon fieldwork undertaken in one of Africa's largest informal settlements or 'slums' to gain comparative insights into gendered experiences of informality. With the majority of working women in sub-Saharan African engaged in the informal economy, in larger numbers than men and in different roles, the central challenge is to understand the economic, social and political processes and spatialities that have contributed to these gendered differences and their consequences. The gendered pathways and constraints intersect with spatiality and other demographic variables, including age, with research concentrating on the marginality and precarity of youth. Rising life expectancy, allied to very limited state provision for the over 60s, requires that attention is extended to explore experiences of older participants within informal economies. Therefore, this paper concentrates on the processes, decisions and interdependencies that result in female and male pathways into economic informality and their subsequent, including current, gendered roles and businesses. Within the drivers into and across informality, participants explain changes that have occurred during their working lives, such as gender empowerment programmes, and outcomes both in terms of livelihoods and social responsibilities. Results indicate female pathways within informality operate within continuing societal patriarchal practices.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper:** Study of Women's Mobility in the Public Buses in Delhi: Challenges in 'ethnography on wheels'

**Author(s):** *Prakriti Arya and L.K.Das*

#### **Abstract:**

Women's safety and mobility in public spaces are affected by the gendered nature of the built environment in urban spaces that are reflective of gender hierarchy and power dynamics in society (Bhattacharya, 2015; Dutta & Ahmed, 2020; Phadke, 2007; Viswanath & Mehrotra,



2007). Built environment refers to human-made structures that provide space for human activities and social interactions (Mahadevia & Lathia, 2019). It includes green spaces, roads, parks, buildings, neighbourhoods, transportation, drainage and water supply etc. Due to unequal gender relations and power structures in society, men and women experience violence differently in urban spaces. Daily, women experience gender-specific forms of violence such as threats and fear of threats in urban spaces like buses, bus stops, roads, parks and neighbourhood etc. United Nations has classified these threats in terms of visual, verbal, physical and mental or psychological threats (1993). Besides these threats, there are other risks for women due to crimes in public spaces like the risk of victim blaming and the risk of no or minimal interaction with the city resulting in loss of work or educational opportunities (Mahadevia & Lathia, 2019, pp.155). Scholars have shown that actual public violence or fear of it restricts or forces the mobility of women (Viswanath and Mehrotra, 2007; Whitzman, 2013). Fear of violence or actual violence in urban spaces affects their access to social activities like commuting, education, employment and leadership opportunities. It also constrains their choice to study, work, travel and loiter in public spaces. Hence, violence restricts their participation in urban public spaces and affects and alters their experiences and usage of them (Neupanea and Chesney-Lind, 2014; Phadke, 2007; Royo et al., 2022). These studies show, unequivocally, that violence and public safety are gender issues (Beall, 1996; Beebeejaun, 2017; Bhattacharya, 2015;). This paper has studied equitable access and mobility of women to public transit such as buses in urban areas. Public transit system refers to an interconnected set of elements that facilitates passenger movement which involves infrastructure, transport demand, politics/public policy and land use planning and regulations (Guerra et.al., 2015). To understand the link between gender, safety and mobility in urban spaces, various methods like safety audits, surveys and participant observation, in-depth interviews have been used in previous research (Tara, 2011; Roy and Bailey, 2021; Uteng, 2021; Whitzman, 2013). This research have used ethnographic participant observation along with in-depth interviews to understand the interrelationship of socioeconomic factors that shape the experiences of women in the spaces such as public buses, bus stops, roads and localities. Observations have been recorded through field notes. Data has been analysed based on documents generated throughout the research. This ethnographic study about women's experiences of mobility, accessibility and safety in public buses in Delhi demanded researcher to travel in the public buses for a longer period of time in order to talk to the various stakeholders such as female commuters, bus drivers and conductors. This 'ethnography on the wheels' in the Delhi Transport Corporation buses has been challenging due to various reasons. First, identification and finding research respondents in a field which is moving and where commuters keep changing and are initially available for a short time during their bus trips. Due to this, conversations with the commuters were small and inadequate to identify them as respondents. These conversations were also hindered by activities such as buying tickets, ticket checking by ticket checker etc. Therefore, initially navigating the field and respondent identification was tough. Consequently, building rapport with the respondents was a challenging task as it required conversation and trust building from both researcher and respondents, which was difficult to have in such a short duration of trips. Thus, it required me to have conversations outside this field setting. Building trust and overcoming respondents' hesitation towards opening about the sensitive topic of violence, harassment and safety in buses has also been slow and challenging. So, to say, this paper



delves into the methodological complications of employing ethnography in the mobility study of women in public buses in Delhi which are relevant to discuss and address in order to study mass transits through human-centric approach. It becomes more important in the context that women's participation in urban and transport planning and governance is low, especially in India and their concerns are seldom featured in its governance, policies and planning (Sethi & Mittal, 2015). Differential access to the city, urban spaces and services like transportation etc. leads to the marginalisation of women not only in the usage of the city but also in the workforce, education, medical care etc. This kind of systemic and institutional exclusion of women from the city and public spaces reinforces the socially constructed power hierarchies in relation to space. These spatial hierarchies and inequalities are not restricted to gender alone. In fact, class, caste, age, locality and disability are also important social divisions that shape one's experiences in urban spaces. Social power hierarchies and relations are reproduced in DTC buses in various ways making them a gendered space which results in different travel experience for women in buses from that of men. This also makes DTC buses unsafe and less accessible for women. Ethnographic study reveals that focusing on and understanding the everyday practices and negotiation of women with/in the public spaces will give insight into the multiplicity of spatial practices and realities which affects and in turn affected by gendered experiences (Beebeejaun, 2017).

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Uneasy Coexistence: Religion and Patterns of Exclusion of Female Migrant Domestic Workers in Homes and Public Spaces

*Author(s): Anindita Chatterjee*

#### Abstract:

This paper examines the narratives of migrant women as they describe the displacement from their daily practices of living and the formation of new relationships in a different place. A growing body of South Asian historiography has produced rich analyses on the trends and causes of migration witnessed in different time periods, in particular to Indian partition literature, but engagement with migration experiences among women in the contemporary period has been largely understudied. My paper draws on such experiences of migrant female workers that characterize both rural-urban and urban-urban within India, as well as border migration from Bangladesh into India. Using ethnographic data gathered through interviews and prolonged observations, the study focuses on the hierarchies and spatial boundaries that are re-created and re-drawn by the workers on the basis of work, caste, and religious practices. The diversity in caste/religion breaks the domestic solidarity creating an uneasy coexistence among female workers based on different caste or religious backgrounds. The narratives articulates the critical need to develop policies that would protect the female workers in the informal labour market, and the physical urban spaces.



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## Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: Cultural transitions as strategies of adaptation among women domestic workers in Kolkata's local train travel

*Author(s): Mahashewta Bhattacharya*

#### Abstract:

Sarala worked at an upper middle-class household in South Kolkata. As she prepared to get off the Canning Local train at Sealdah railway station, readjusting her saree as per "shohure kayeda" (city style), it was not just routine. It was an (un)becoming. Based on case studies of women domestic workers in the city of Kolkata in Eastern India who travel regularly between the suburbs and city proper by local trains for work, this paper traces similar routine and ritualistic modes of self-organisation by which the Indian rural prepares itself in ways deemed suitable for the urban. Through ethnographic methods of participant observation, semi-structured interviews and visual methods, it tries to focus on the objects, narratives and practices around these standards which helps them organise their lifeworlds on either sides of the postcolonial binary constructions of urban/rural and modern/traditional. It reads into the murmurs among the material, sensory and corporeal worlds that animates the railway compartment and station as liminal spaces of transition and maps the cultural shifts that occur in tandem with the spatial. In doing so, it is able to empirically study aesthetic and affective precarities that are parts of the gendered informal labour economies in the subcontinent.

## Presentation 5

### Title of Paper: Viewing from an Indigenous Theoretical Lens: Upholding Stiwanism in the Study of Street and Domestic insecurity of Girl-Hawkers in the South-West, Nigeria

*Author(s): Temitope Yetunde Bello*

#### Abstract:

In recent times, movements that project African epistemology by African researchers towards knowledge decolonisation have been growing. African indigenous scholars are challenged to rewrite African history and reassert its dignity by being intellectually autonomous in the global space. Yet, there are phenomenological and theoretical gaps; an indication that researchers who are sympathetic towards the validation of local knowledge and are actually generating intellectual frameworks for analysis of African phenomena are still few in number. As issues of globalization and climate change leave different interconnected manifestations in the Global North and South, the question of African's contribution to global knowledge and solutions to local perspective of the generated challenges has also informed the need to increase African indigenous knowledge. Developing countries in Africa have been rapidly experiencing urbanization that manifest in population explosions, urban poverty and





vanishing kinship system. Urbanisation has equally been producing socio-economic gender-based issues that compound the existing cultural stereotypic restrictions to young women's development. This largely calls for the development of homegrown, context-specific theories that speak directly of Africa. The essence is to establish appropriate intellectual apparatus for empirical analysis of these issues rather than merely historicising and contextualising. The international division of labour, in which Africa is recognised as a continent that supplies raw materials while Europe specialises in the production of capital goods and finished products, is also replicated in scholarship. There is the ideological and intellectual reduction of African continent to a source from which data are generated and exported to Europe for advancing the frontier of knowledge. The end product is the importation of Western theories, packaged as 'universal theories' but usually do not adequately represent facilitated explanations and predictions of Africa's situation. Until the post-colonial era, the theory that centres on the social, economic and political equality of the sexes was widely believed to be Feminism – a theory that originated from the West. Irrespective of the differences in the local demands by women, Western Feminism theorists are confident that the theory represents worldwide movements that fight for gender equality in all aspects of human endeavour. However, Stiwanism Theory digresses from these Western feminist theoretical assumptions. The postulations of Stiwanism are upheld this paper. Exiting critiques affirm that using 'woman' as a universal group and defining women from only the gender perspective, without incorporating differences in social class, race and ethnic identities, is insufficient and misleading. From a broad perspective, there is a clear difference in the socioeconomic environments of the global North and South. While women from the North are reaping the dividends of capitalism and global economy, women in the South are too often confronted with poverty, terrible labour conditions as well as faulty education and health care. The basic tenets and conclusions of western feminism only apply to women in developed industrialised countries. This is because as they make equality between men and women the centre of their struggles, third world feminism does not consider gender discrimination the sole or primary focus of oppression. Non-western, African feminism is tasked with the need to defeat other types of oppressions like racism and economic exploitation. Stiwanism is Africa-defined feminism, an ideological movement invented by Molar Ogundipe-Leslie. Stiwanism, coined from STIWA, which is an acronym for Social Transformation Including Women in Africa, is an alternative to Western Feminism. It emphasizes that in the course of advocating for gender equality, numerous perspectives and varying social needs of women in relations to their environment should be articulated and addressed. While this feminist theory expresses dimensions of gender discrimination, subordination and inequality experienced by women, it proposes an inward, Afrocentric remedy that addresses the problem from a systemic angle. Women subservience should be viewed as part of a wider societal issue and therefore efforts should be made to address the wider inequality. Working on gender equality is interpreted as part of a broader transformative approach that involves the socio-economic welfare of other social groups as well as their cooperation to build a society immune against external forces of oppression. The peculiar socioeconomic contexts that are connected to young women's simultaneous exposure to street and domestic insecurity are examined and used to explain Stiwanism in this paper. While some principles in the theory have been discoursed more often, the paper uses an empirical approach to explain two of the Stiwanism principles that have not received as much attention. Stiwanism principles like resistance of Western feminism, projection of



indigenous feminism in Africa, giving specific attention to African women in contemporary moment and concentration on individual and collective identity have been discussed relatively more in different African feminist discourses. The paper identifies the domestic and public gendered insecurity that girl-hawkers are simultaneously experience and uses this to explain the theory's description of women's body and personhood struggle in a socioeconomically hierarchical society. The paper also examines the implications of gendered insecurity on women's developmental inclusion and participation to explain the theory's essence of including women emancipation in the socio-political transformation of African continent. Girls and girl-hawkers in the urban centres have steadily formed the centre of discourse on gendered insecurity as their encounters offer multi-dimensional perspectives to investigating different forms of threats and cruelty that cause harm to young women and make them more vulnerable. The survival and livelihoods of urban girl-hawkers in the domestic and public sphere are directly linked to their active participation and ability to withstand embedded victimhood. Urban life has placed low-income working families in situations where they seek non-monetary strategies to managing their lives because they cannot afford sophisticated alternatives. Consequently, the use of young girls as a cheap family and household labour in nuclear families is gradually overtaking dependent on kinships and members of extended family for child care and household management. Similarly, the vulnerability of urban girl-children outside the home is evident in different forms of street violence that they could be exposed to. Sustaining means of livelihood and survival in congested cities has compelled a huge number of low-income settlers to take to the streets and this increasingly expands concern by researchers about the growing number of youths on the streets. The reason for this concern is that clusters of activities in the public space are fertile grounds for gendered insecurity identified with the streets. The household and street gender inequality and insecurity of urban girl-hawkers cannot be understood without referring to the broader urban situation and the widening gap between the rich and the poor. These scenarios are suitable for more practical understanding of Stiwanism. The research is an empirical, qualitative study that focuses on Lagos and Ibadan in the South-West Nigeria. These purposively selected geographical areas are two of the most rapidly urbanising cities in the region and the entire country where there are heterogeneity and cluster of livelihood activities involving different categories of people, including girl traders. The studied areas are two major public transit terminals in Ibadan (Ojoo and Iwo Road motor parks) and two in Lagos (Ojota and Oshodi motor parks). These areas are selected because they constitute the "street" or a public place with high population density and they are places of large gathering of people, including traders and hawkers that are involved in several activities that have tendencies of generating violence. Data are collected from primary and secondary sources. Primary data constitute field observation of motor park activities and in-depth interviews of girl-hawkers, motor park workers and other traders. The interviews are conveniently conducted with the use of snowball sampling techniques. Secondary sources are from books, journals and the internet. Data are content-analysed using thematic style to reaffirm the propositions of Stiwanism theory by establishing that unfavourable conditions like poverty and class inequality in urban centres as well as disintegrated extended family structure are major contributory factors of girl-hawkers' insecurity in the household and on the street. This paper concludes that though gender equality is a major condition for the growth and stability in the society, securing the lives and future of young women cannot be feasible without looking at wider societal factors



and conditions that directly or indirectly affect their development. From an indigenous theoretical viewpoint, the paper reestablishes that understanding the plights of women and peculiar setbacks to their emancipation is as important as identifying the influence of collective social, economic and political structures existing across African countries. Just like in the course of addressing other developmental challenges, it is therefore more appropriate and dignifying to explain and analyse the peculiarities of Africa's gender inequality and gender-based insecurity using indigenous theoretical frameworks.



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## *K4 Implementing Gender Sensitive Research Methods*

**Session Organizer(s):** *Salma Mekkes*

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** *Attentiveness to Gender in Post-Pandemic Research: The Potentials and Limits of Grounded Theory to Guide Gender-Sensitive Inquiry*

**Author(s):** *Cornelia Bading and Claudia Bosch*

#### **Abstract:**

During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, gender equality was reported to undergo a rollback; an observation that calls for an in-depth understanding of the gendered impacts of the pandemic and subsequent developments. Such an aim may be supported by increasing the attentiveness to gender when conducting respective inquiries. We take this situation as a starting point to explore methodological potentials and limits of grounded theory (GT) to guide gender-sensitive inquiries. We argue that an appropriate GT-gender nexus can only be determined in relation to researchers' positionings within the current GT landscape. To support this claim, we discuss various interpretations of GT elements, particularly examining their relation to gender as an a-priori concept and an implicit influence on research. Furthermore, strategies for dealing with gender-related challenges are presented based on our own research experiences and complemented by studies addressing health- and violence-related phenomenon.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper:** *Women's Health and Sustainability: Assessment of Exclusive Use of Menstrual Products in Urban India*

**Author(s):** *Puja Das and Suresh Jungari*

#### **Abstract:**

**Backgrounds:** Ensuring women's access to appropriate menstrual hygiene management is a fundamental right. Lately, enhancing menstrual hygiene management practices has become a key requirement for achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. As a developing nation, India is achieving notable advancements in menstrual health, particularly in the enhancement of menstrual hygiene management. Running parallel to these strides, urban regions within India are grappling with challenges pertaining to the adequate disposal of sanitary napkins. The current research intends to investigate evaluations regarding the



exclusive utilization of menstrual products in urban India. Methodology: The current study conducted a survey which based on menstrual hygiene management among young adult women in metropolitan city like Kolkata. The study carried out on 220 young adult women from six ward. Present study conducted structured scheduled to understand menstrual hygiene management and gynaecological morbidities. Descriptive statistics and PCA techniques used to analysis factors leading gynaecological morbidities due to improper menstrual hygiene management. Results: The study explored that 90% young adult women use sanitary pads in urban area. 3% women use menstrual cups and 2% women use tampons and cloths. The findings revealed that a significant proportion (50%) women face to challenges disposal system regarding menstrual products. More than 40% of young adolescent and about 30% of working women are suffering from the gynaecological morbidities during menstruation and after completing menstrual cycles due to inadequate management of menstrual hygiene. Lack of awareness regarding menstruation, use of low quality pad, improper management of water, sanitation facility increase susceptibility of lower reproductive tract infection among young and adult women in urban area. Conclusion: Government policies should focus on the effective placement of vending machines in public areas and ensuring the quality of sanitary pads. Furthermore, extensive campaigns and mass media initiatives should be employed to promote the benefits of menstrual cups, which contribute to a waste-free menstrual environment and women's well-being.

### Presentation 3

## Title of Paper: Trans-gendering the Urban: Lives of Gender Non-conforming People in India

*Author(s): Aniket Nandan and Swarupa Deb*

### Abstract:

An assessment of urban spaces has the potential to explain normative structures of social relations and offer a reflection of the inherent inequalities, segregations and differential values associated with human social ordering. Thus, investigating infrastructures of urban spatiality becomes equally pertinent in understanding the processes of marginalization and 'othering'. With regards to questions of gender, spatiality and inclusivity this paper focusing on the strategies of navigating urban spaces deliberates the concerns of gender non-conforming people with respect to their experiences of marginalization and discrimination coupled with socio-cultural seclusion, disgust, shame and humiliation. Therefore, this study assesses the diverse gendered experiences and the notions of fear and safety of transgender communities revealing the geographies of exclusion within the urban spaces of India. Additionally, this study will examine the effectiveness of Urban Development Missions, in the name of one nation one policy, run by the Government of India for decent livability conditions and fulfilling human rights for the gender non-conforming community. Furthermore, the study will peruse organized trans-subversive practices for assigning new possibilities and opportunities for space production for the urban transgender population/communities. In this paper, we concentrate on contributing to effective discourses of urban anthropology and culture-based



methodology pertaining to the lived experiences of the city-dwelling gender non-conforming community.





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## *L2 Methodological Challenges, Overlaps, and Misunderstandings between Planning and the Social Sciences*

**Session Organizer(s):** *Ariane Sept and Jacques du Toit*

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** Transdisciplinarity to strengthen capacities in the formulation of development public policies and land management

**Author(s):** *Gisela Paredes Leguizamón and Claudia Patricia Uribe Galvis*

#### **Abstract:**

Social and natural sciences generate concepts, approaches, principles, languages, tools (methodological, regulatory, political) and strategies for formulating and managing public policies. Effective management of sustainable development and land use planning requires the knowledge, abilities, and skills to: i) understand the complexity, multidimensionality, heterogeneity, and multiscale of territories, ii) promote dialogue and connection of empirical and scientific knowledge, from the economic, social, and cultural environment that affect the conditions for design and implementation of policies, iii) conflict management, iv) lead or participate in the creation processes of comprehensive and shared visions of urban/rural territory, v) cultural, natural, economic-productive environments, on which the urban dynamics changes are not isolated events, vi) contribute to achieving socio-ecological resilience, social legitimacy, and inter-institutional coordination. How to move forward a transdisciplinary and inter-institutional approach with the direct beneficiaries of the policies and from the differentiated but complementary roles of institutions for strengthening planning, formulation, follow up, and evaluation capacities of public policies? This paper presents the challenges and lessons learned from the political-institutional fields of a cooperation process in the definition and implementation of public policies to approach the socio-ecosystemic, rural, and urban context in Colombia.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper:** Participatory Poverty Assessment: a Tool to Understand Urban Poor Livelihood Vulnerabilities

**Author(s):** *Anjali Pathak, Harshit S Lakra, and Smriti Mishra*

#### **Abstract:**



Urban poor people worldwide have referred to similar deprivations when describing the vulnerabilities they experience. The vulnerability here relates to exposure to contingencies and difficulty coping with them—the external environment in which the urban poor live. Vulnerability is a dynamic and context-specific phenomenon. The income-consumption approach limits its ability to capture the qualitative aspects of the urban poor. It excludes the social factor and the perspective of the urban poor, which act as an opportunity or constraint for the poor while accessing their livelihood. The study uses participatory inquiry, mainly Participatory Poverty Assessment, as an assessment tool to understand the non-quantifying aspects of vulnerabilities experienced by the urban poor. It is an alternative tool to the income-consumption approach. The methodology fulfills three objectives; (i) assess the livelihood assets of the urban poor households by wealth ranking; (ii) assess the vulnerabilities of the urban poor households by the Prioritized Problem Index of the Poor. The two objectives exist both at the individual and community levels. The methods used will be wealth ranking, semi-structured interviews, and institutional diagramming. This qualitative and quantitative mix in poverty analysis has led to a broad and better understanding of the situation of the poor. The method will deepen the understanding of vulnerability by including the perception of the poor. It will influence policy through attitudinal change and strengthen the policy delivery framework. The integration of the assets and the vulnerabilities will lead to the development of the urban poor livelihood vulnerability index.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: A methodological framework for transdisciplinary urban planning

Author(s): Jacques du Toit

#### Abstract:

Urban planning research is challenged with combining scientific rigour with societal relevance, especially in terms of urban sustainability at local government level. Transdisciplinarity is exactly intended to combine rigour with relevance to address sustainability challenges. How should urban planning researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders collaborate and conduct transdisciplinary research? Instead of advocating specific methods, this paper presents a holistic and flexible methodological framework for transdisciplinary urban planning. Examples of transdisciplinarity for urban sustainability are reviewed, while implications from these examples are synthesised into four principles for a methodological framework. Considering these principles and existing frameworks for sustainability research and social research in the built environment, a methodological framework for transdisciplinary urban planning is presented, structured around four dimensions of social-scientific research. The framework serves as a heuristic to help urban planning stakeholders navigate transdisciplinarity and make more informed decisions for conducting transdisciplinary research for urban sustainability.



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## *L3 Historical and Contextual Uses of Planning and their Methods*

**Session Organizer(s):** Lê Anh Đức, Nguyễn Thị Bích Ngọc and Ingmar Ehle

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** Notes on the methodological conflict in creating an alternative perspective for smart cities: discussing the Carta Brasileira para Cidades Inteligentes

**Author(s):** Dante Chiavareto Pezzin

#### **Abstract:**

Some critical authors argue that smart cities need an alternative approach to that built by big tech companies, claiming that cities must develop sovereign structures, based on efficiency principles subordinated to the aim of well-being in cities, democratic governance, sustainability and respect for labour legislation. Nevertheless, some methodological issues about this debate still are unclear demanding an epistemological effort on the subject: what is meant by smart cities? Is it possible to think of a universal perspective on the issue? How can such a perspective dialogue with specific historical processes and institutional trajectories (path dependency) on cities in the Global South? And how does this alternative respond to the challenges of urban sustainability in the 21st century? In order to give empirical consequence to this methodological debate, the paper's debate will be completed with a critical analysis of the Carta Brasileira para as Cidades Inteligentes (Brazilian Chart for Smart Cities). In this exercise, the session participants will be invited to discuss what this chart is and what it should be from an alternative approach to smart cities.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper:** Conceptual History in Urban Planning: a theoretical examination of the "Masterplan" in Porto Alegre, Brazil

**Author(s):** Marina de Castro Teixeira Maia

#### **Abstract:**

The conceptual problem of planning has been addressed in distinct societies. Nevertheless, imprecisions and ambiguities still taunt the understanding of its problems, methods, and effects. The issue is not rhetorical, as the sociotechnical complexity of planning keeps being diverted, with distinct terms and theoretical processes behind them constantly taken as



interchangeable. This obscures the academic debate, formulation of educational curricula, and often leads to vagueness in policy scopes. Furthermore, interpreting analyses and histories of planning and its tools becomes a daunting task due to the insufficient situational clarity. Therefore, methods that can update the dialogue between empirical and analytical approaches and between different technical languages remain essential. Accordingly, I argue the Conceptual History method is an effective ally in this epistemological quest. Although it does not seek universal definitions, CH enables more efficient knowledge use by framing concepts in their historical situatedness and sharpening their employment through distinct epistemic, cultural, linguistic and/or technical regimes. To illustrate this potentiality, I propose formulating a Conceptual History of the masterplan in the context of Porto Alegre, Brazil.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Multi-dimensional conflicts in local planning in interregional spatial planning system– case of Viet Nam

Author(s): Lê Anh Đức and Phạm Thanh Hiền

#### Abstract:

Since the latest Planning Law (2017), localities throughout Viet Nam have carried out planning work in accordance with the provisions of the guiding documents whereby the requirements set out for local planning are guided in Article 27 of the Law and Article 28 of Decree No. 37/ND-CP. The important new feature of the content of this planning law is that the provincial sectoral plans are integrated into a single master plan, which is the Provincial Plan. Thus, the development and implementation orientations of the province in the 10-year period and with a vision of 20-30 years will be fully stated in the provincial master plan. To understand the position of provincial planning in the whole planning system, it is a must to overview the relationships of all levels of planning of Viet Nam. They are as follows: The content of the national plan is built on the major perspectives and orientations of the 10-year socio-economic development strategy (SEDS). The content of the regional planning is based on the major orientations of the national parliaments, and concretizes the functions of the region mentioned in the national plan. At the same time, the regional plan also forms a linkage framework for localities in the region and localities in neighboring areas to ensure the sustainability in the organization of economic, social and environmental activities of whole region. For local-level planning, regional planning has a role in handling the links between localities for spatial functions and ensuring synchronization over time. In addition to the function of spatial linkage, the use of coordination mechanisms and policies at the regional level will promote linkages to be implemented in localities. Provincial planning is the planning level that must be concretized and spatially organized, including functional objects oriented in national and regional planning levels. The provincial planning itself is also oriented to local planning levels, including more specific spatial plannings prescribed by specialized laws associated with specialized standards, regulations and codes. Then, to understand the challenges of provincial planning, first it is necessary to look at the challenges of regional planning. Regional plannings has to put into their scenarios the following factors which



require combination of multiple social and natural science theories and methods at once: - Factors of ecological environment: Here environmental factors are considered at many international, national, regional, territorial and local levels. In the process of assessing the ecological environment conditions, there are specific and functional factors such as water security, the problem of ensuring reduction in CO2 emissions, prevention of impacts from natural disasters, climate change, biodiversity conservation; - Institutional factors: available coordination mechanisms and the difference between development goals among localities: This is a non-spatial factor but very important affecting the process of organizing and implementing the plans. to concretize functional inter-regional links and create development space. - Factors of realistic available resources and ability to meet technical infrastructure conditions: Resources and actual situation of regional linkage infrastructure conditions have an impact on the selection of spatial organization options for proposed activities. Regional linkage resources also decide the prioritization in development space to produce spill-over-effect. - Economic efficiency factor: The organization of local economic spatial linkage is first seen from the perspective of the efficiency of the overall economic benefits of the region and the country; - Cultural, population and ethnic factors: Localizing planning to ensure fairness in accessing development opportunities, improving the level of development. development, integration and preservation of cultural identity; - Factors of distance and density: Spatial aspects such as density, distance and fragmentation clearly show the policy challenge in each type of site. In predominantly rural areas, that challenge is one-way and meets the need for density construction. In regions with a relatively high degree of urbanization, the challenge is two-way, combined with the need to promote density and address the distance problems caused by congestion. In highly urbanized areas, the challenge is three-dimensional. Large cities also need to encourage density and overcome distances, and there is an additional need to remove the spatial divergence between already officially planned and not-yet-planned areas within cities. The current national planning system nationwide will have 63 provincial master plans, of which 5 are city plans directly under the central government. The implementation is carried out at the same time, creating pressures to ensure the synchronization between types of planning. Theoretically, the provincial plans are implemented, in order to ensure the development orientations of the locality synchronously integrated in a single master plan, while national and regional master plans are conducted in parallel as the basis for creating framework orientations, having "forecasting" nature for local development but this is up to now, still unsatisfactory. From the perspective of local planning, the provincial planning is the highest plan that orients various types of urban, rural and land use planning. However, ensuring the orientation for planning types lower than the provincial planning is a very challenging problem for localities. The challenge is whether the issues of integration are possible when the methods and perspectives of selecting priorities and orientations proposed in the provincial planning are not really unified in terms of space, time and industry object, for example: (i) Conflicts during the implementation of planning at the local level when new master plans have not been formulated, while the period planning is first effective. Gaps in implementation organization when no plan is approved when the planning period expires; (ii) Contradictions in space for functional activities at each level and type of planning. The level of specific regulations at each level and type of planning is expected to ensure uniformity in the process of implementing plans and managing development in localities; (iii) Conflicts between different types of planning on the same scope and spatial





object. For cities directly under central government, it is necessary to have separate regulations (different contents compared to the province) to ensure the synchronization between the provincial planning and the city construction general planning; (iv) Conflicts at planning implementation levels, including issues of resources and implementation objectives. Doctrine directs SEDS and planning. The transformation of the development status according to the socialist-oriented market mechanism doctrine poses a requirement in renewing thinking in local planning. There is the need of finding effective tools for both development management and promoting potential advantages of each locality, ensuring balance and concentration of development resources. How should the local planning be distinguished from the central plan in order to ensure the synchronous coordination of their functions? Is it really an operating tool of the local government and conveys the policies of the central government efficiently and timely? Therefore, it is necessary to re-identify: what is the goal of local planning? What is the object and scope of the local planning? The current problems of local planning need to be approached both "from the top down" and "from the bottom up" to ensure the feasibility of implementation at spatial organization levels - national, regional and inter-regional territories. This paper focuses on clarifying the role of local planning in the planning system of Viet Nam, pointing out issues that need to be solved in order to ensure the synchronization and continuity of the local development process. The author will analyze local planning based on its territorial planning objects and functions and the relationship among different types of planning in multiple matrices to highlight the conflicts in its theories and methods as well as implementation.

#### Presentation 4

### Title of Paper: Historical and Contextual Uses of Planning and their Methods in Seoul, Korea

*Author(s): Soomi Jeong*

#### Abstract:

The dynamics of urban planning are deeply intertwined with the unique contextual factors of each region, country, and city. Historical, geographical, cultural, demographic, economic, and external conditions all play pivotal roles in shaping urban development strategies. The assertion that there is no universal solution to urban planning is evident in the divergent methods adopted globally, tailored to the distinct preconditions of individual cities.

Sir Raymond Unwin underscores the social underpinnings of urban planning, which evolves through technological advancements and regulatory mechanisms in response to societal needs. Urban spaces reciprocally influence lifestyles, prompting a pressing question of how spaces can adapt to rapid societal changes. This ongoing transformation necessitates innovative responses to new needs and demands, elevating urban planning to the supply of both infrastructure and services.

The case of Seoul's urban evolution from the 1960s to 1990s exemplifies the multifaceted nature of urban planning. Korea's Comprehensive National Territorial Plan shifted its focus





across different periods—growth poles, regional restriction, local promotion, and territorial integration—underscoring the adaptable nature of planning strategies. Seoul's trajectory reflects this flexibility. In the post-war era, economic growth drove concentration in major cities, culminating in housing and transportation crises. A master plan emerged, emphasizing population dispersal and functional allocation.

The 1970s witnessed industrialization's impact, accentuating challenges such as unchecked expansion, environmental degradation, and inequality. Interventions like the "city planning law" and development restrictions aimed to rectify issues. The 1980s ushered in urban beautification, structural adjustments, and increased citizen participation, while the 1990s sought equitable development through localized initiatives.

Seoul's urban history exemplifies the varied approaches necessitated by changing circumstances. Today, the challenge lies in devising a sustainable, forward-looking urban plan for Seoul and beyond, attuned to contemporary complexities while learning from past experiences. Urban planning's success hinges on aligning with residents' lifestyles, integrating services, and contextual analysis, ensuring that cities remain vibrant and responsive to their inhabitants' evolving needs.



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## *L5 Sustainability and Resilience of Cities*

**Session Organizer(s): Robert Cowley**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: A Methodological Approach towards the Assessment of Wastewater Governance in Urban Botswana**

*Author(s): Lebogang Basimane*

#### **Abstract:**

Urban sustainability and urban resilience are the leading concepts in urban studies due to the spike in populations, rural-urban migration, and economic development. Cities need to take an active role towards achieving sustainability and resilience for better living conditions. Better governance strategies which include involvement and participation of all stakeholders are critical in the management of urban water resources. This study aims to assess urban sustainability and resilience in wastewater management in Botswana. Botswana is generally considered a water-scarce country due to the prevailing climate (The World Bank Group, 2021). Botswana has also experienced significant urbanization in recent decades, driven by economic development and rural-urban migration (Matlhodi et al., 2019). This has led to increased wastewater generation, and that, coupled with the underlying issues of water scarcity and increasingly arid conditions renders the country uniquely qualified for urgent assessment of its wastewater governance. To achieve this, the study will apply relative ranking methods and governance assessment tools to define the performances of wastewater management systems of the two major cities in Botswana. The assessment involves a spatial-temporal perspective that will display the spatial patterns of urban sustainability and resilience of the two cities. The study uses a mixed methods approach to assess how the environment, economy, and social dimensions in Gaborone and Francistown are vulnerable to the wastewater governance systems in place. The assessment will be used to come up with a methodological framework for wastewater governance in Botswana, which will lead to better living conditions for its urban residents.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: Measuring Sustainability of Urban Sanitation in India: Development of a Statistical Evaluation Metric**

*Author(s): Debasree Bose and Arijita Dutta*

#### **Abstract:**



**Motivation:** Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), biggest public program in the world so far to support construction of improved toilet with household and subsequent reduction of open defecation, has invested huge amount of funds. The prime challenge for India remains huge gap from Target 6.2.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) outlining the universal usage of safely managed sanitation services. Joint Monitoring Programme (WHO & UNICEF 2017) introduces the concept of sanitation ladder identifying categories of household toilet as safely managed, basic, limited, unimproved and open defecation. Till date as very little countries are able to produce data on safely managed services, there is a significant research gap on this area. Hence, this research analysing sustainability quotient of the country focusing on urban India could be considered as a major advancement in determining the statistics for gauging how far away each state is from the goal of sustainability underlined in target 6.2.1. The paper aims to construct sanitation ladder across the states of India for the assessment of improvement in sanitation besides coverage which could be served as an evaluation sanitation metric for assessment of performance of the Indian regions towards SDG.

**Research Questions:** As per latest WHO report, India topped worldwide in increasing sanitation coverage by 15% points. Yet, sustainability of this success heavily depends on country's progress towards safely managed sanitation. Here, the movement along the sanitation ladder plays the key role. The transition from access to basic toilet to sustainable sanitation is the need of the hour as a precautionary measure to alleviate escalating future cost of unprocessed waste management. Not only that, the progress of individual states in both rural-urban settings are extremely important to improve the national scenario. Hence, the first research agenda of the paper deals with the estimation of suitable and comparable statistics across the states of India to gauge the gap from targeted SDG from latest nationally representative data.

Next, there exists a huge divergence in sanitation challenges between rural and urban India where the battle of rural areas is with pervasive open defecation, the urban counterpart is continuously being burdened mounting solid and liquid waste. On the other hand, policy makers are overemphasizing subsidy mechanism under SBM as a remedy for whole sanitation problem of the country. Whether this sanitation benefit is equally effective for urban India to cope up with waste management or not is the burning question. This paper tried to fetch out empirical evidence to answer the same.

Lastly, study on micro service levels remains important. Hence, the paper models a household choice function among different sanitation services along the ladder and that has been estimated separately to check the significance of the socio-economic parameters between two sectors. **Research Gap:** Till date, very little countries can produce data on safely managed services. So, this research could be considered as a major advancement in determining the same statistics for India, and her states with sectoral specific figures which to quantify how far away each region is from universal safely managed services. Moreover, existing literatures hardly produced any empirical evidence that puts light on significance of sanitation benefit in terms of increase in choice of safe sanitation especially in urban India by analysing nationally representative data up to household level. The paper is able to fill up such void in literature by answering the pertaining questions. **Data and Method:** The paper utilizes NSSO 76th round data on Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing condition



in India (July-December 2018). To fulfil the first research agenda, an estimation of 'Total Service gap' has been done which is a sanitation metric that seeks to address the risks of slipping down in sanitation ladder by assigning a weight to each service level and combining data on each rung of the sanitation service ladder. This measure governs how far a region is from universal safely managed services - a total service gap of 100% represents universal open defecation, and a gap of 0% represents universal safely managed services.

Secondly, household utilization of sanitation services is a choice opting for either 'safely managed', 'basic', 'limited', 'unimproved', or 'open defecation'; ranked in the order from most environment friendly and sustainable to least one causing pollution and health hazards. Hence, it is appropriate to involve Ordered logit function to estimate household choice of sanitation which determines the significance and strength of the factors responsible for such choice. The model is basically used to check the significance of sanitation benefit on urban household's choice of sanitation service i.e., whether the households decide to select more sustainable toilet over other options or not after receiving the benefit. If the model gives an affirmative answer to this research question, then it could be stated that the existing sanitation policy is in the right track to handle waste management problem of urban India. Otherwise, the country requisites to device new strategy immediately because a negative result will imply ineffectiveness of current subsidy mechanism to diffuse sustainability in urban sanitation. Other explanatory variables include socio-economic status of the household with educational qualification, the drinking water facility available to household, percentage of women, elderly and infant member of the household will act as controls.

**Key Findings:** The paper finds that India is way behind from universal sustainable sanitation. Only 14.7% of Indian household uses safely managed toilet that means these excreta are collected and managed properly whereas the figure for basic toilet is 53.7%. That implies that the distribution of sanitation is heavily skewed towards basic toilet which desired to be shifted towards safely managed ones for sustainable future. NSSO data estimate for urban India is obviously a little high i.e., 40.8% but it is of course not an encouraging number in the path of sustainability. Additionally, most of the states (18 states and UTs) with less than 20% incidence of safe sanitation, West Bengal is one of them. Western states like Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh are best of the lot. Capital of the country have shown major progress with 82.2% of safe sanitation coverage. Majority of the states and UTs (20 out of 36) have declined the level of open defecation up to 2% but that have not created any spill over effect in the growth safe sanitation percentage in urban India. Unlike rural India, one interesting feature of urban India is overwhelming percentage of 'limited' sanitation service indicating larger number of households using shared toilet. Hence, an effective the sanitation policy in urban context should be such, that enables translation to 'safely managed' toilets from existing high percentage of 'limited' and 'basic' sanitation. The calculation of "Total Service Gap" with equal weights in each rung of the ladder points out that states like Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar needs most attention for increasing coverage of sustainable sanitation solution. The paper finds that the different weighting models can result in significant changes to the results of specific, but they do not lead to significant changes in states' comparative rankings.



The results of ordered logit model find no statistical significance of sanitation benefit on choosing upper rung sanitation service over basic ones in urban India despite having associated facilities like water within the household premises. Whereas in rural areas sanitation benefit plays a vital role in regards to choice of sanitation services. Hence, urban India needs different sanitation policy setup to pave the journey towards sustainable sanitation. Higher education, unreserved social status, higher income quintiles, water in the premises are the other factors influencing safe and improved choice of sanitation in urban households.

Implications: The measure of total service gap can help to visualise advocacy messages around a progressive realisation of the human right to sanitation. The results speak for renovation of subsidy driven sanitation policy and shifting its centre towards management the waste to retain future sustainability. Otherwise, this momentum increase in sanitation coverage will be baffled. Safely managing sanitation systems throughout their operational lifetime is vital in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contributing to the formation of human capital by reducing stunting and enhancing early life of childhood. Therefore, the current research on safely managed sanitation in India demands absolute importance and the paper serves as the statistical factsheet of Indian states showing the level of sanitation services that are critical for policy decisions.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Methods for Identifying Accessibility Issues of Indian Public Toilets

Author(s): Divyang Purkayastha and Gaurav Raheja

#### Abstract:

Accessibility is a major concern for public toilets. In Indian cities, it continues to be a challenge for diverse population groups including persons with disabilities, elderly, children, women, transgender and many more. As per a survey conducted in the city of Delhi in 2018, nearly 3 out of 4 public toilets lacked provisions of a ramp. There have been various methods that have been used to identify accessibility issues in public toilets. This study aims to elaborate on the grounded perspectives of using distinct methods to study the state of accessibility in public toilets of Indian cities. It follows an introspective approach focusing on field experiences. It discusses the classification of methods used for studying accessibility in public toilets. Using a qualitative and comparative methodology, the study brings out contextual complexities faced by the researchers while conducting field studies using the identified methods which include audit-based assessment methods and ethnographic approaches (like participant observations, perception surveys, semi-structured interviews, etc.). It attempts to contribute to the existing body of knowledge through key insights on ground challenges of implementing human-centric research methods to understanding and identifying issues of accessibility. This paves the way forward to enhance the relevance and understanding of methods for studying a multi-dimensional concept like accessibility, which has socio-cultural, socio-economic, and policy-based aspects.





## *M2 Methods in Food Studies Research*

**Session Organizer(s): Fraya Frehse**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** An approach to urban hunger during lean season

**Author(s):** Rodrigue Samb

#### **Abstract:**

Urban food security is very pressing, understanding the vibrancy of urban economy, infrastructure, and development growth, yet few and marginalized people in the urban setting face moderate or severe hunger. Urban areas are mainly vulnerable to natural shocks and stress, such as flooding, extreme heat waves, overpopulation, and land degradation for agricultural production, making the availability and supply of food very complex. As nutrition is vital in human health, during the lean period, most urban populations are faced with adequate food and nutrition intake, impacting their immune system, causing child stunting, susceptible diseases, and driving productivity, hindering most households from economic progress. There is significant importance to addressing food insecurity today as many people find it challenging to satisfy the daily dietary requirements. The four dimensions (Availability, accessibility, utilization, and Stabilization) of food security are perceived to be impossible for most, especially the poor and vulnerable, and this caused an alarming subject of relevance today as we have seen the increase in the number where over 800 million people faced hunger globally in which least developing countries like Africa, Asia and part of Southern America are much more vulnerable to food insecurity (FAO, 2021). The rising climatic problems, high cost of food prices, urbanization effect, conflicts, poverty, etc. which contributes to a significant threat to eradicate hunger. The urbanization plays a huge part in how we produce food, access food, consume, and ensure stability and adequate food supply as per demand with nutritious requirements for healthy living. SDG 2 is set in place to ensure reducing hunger by 2050. However, studies found that achieving this goal has yet to be reached. Such prioritization of food security is essential to end hunger.

Seasonal hunger, or lean season, is the most challenging period as many are likely to skip meals, decrease balanced meals, or sell household assets as a means of coping with this period accompanied by heavy rains that destroy crops, flooding, erosion, and damages to household's properties and structures.

A country like The Gambia is not an exception to hunger issues. It is one of the smallest in Africa, with about 11,259 square kilometers in size, with a population estimated in 2018 to be 2 million by 2020. Its population growth rate is 3.1 percent (2010-2019), with a 53 percent growth rate, as one of the fastest urbanized countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is primarily an agriculture-dominant country, with a booming Tourism sector contributing to over 20 percent





of its GDP. The urban Gambia consists of 58% of the total population. Despite having favorable arable land, it is among the most vulnerable to climate change in sub-Saharan Africa. The average rainfall is about 989mm annually, with rainfall available from June to September. The prevalence of food insecurity faced a worsened transition over the past years from 5.8 in 2011, which increased to 8 percent in 2016, to 13.4 percent in 2021, with 11.6 moderately insecure and 1.8 severely insecure. The current government developed a national development plan for the period 2018-2021 to align with the SDG2 goals ("Access to adequate food and healthy diets, for all people, all year round"). However, The Gambia is unable to meet half of the population's food needs indicating a massive gap in food insecurity, being the rural population the most affected, with an estimation of 23.9% food insecure, and 10% in the urban sectors. Since the COVID pandemic in 2020, the Gambia has faced socioeconomic challenges, and the recent conflict in Ukraine posed a significant problem to the rising food commodities price and devaluation of the Gambian currency. Besides, Gambia highly depends on imported foods. People are faced with accessing affordable food, especially during the lean season (May to September), where it is reported nine out of ten households experienced a decline in income. During the studies conducted by Cadre Harmonize (CH) in 2022, it was estimated that 319,628 people were projected to face high food crisis in the lean season (June to August 2023) and might be needing assistance. The lean season is when variation in fluctuation seen in agricultural productivity and the disruption in the flow of goods and services leads to challenges in the availability of adequate food to households in urban areas, causing considerable consequences: food security, extreme poverty, etc.

The Gambia's efforts to end hunger fall short with findings and majorly poor alignment of policies to national strategic plans for reducing poverty. The sectoral gap entails a stand-alone food and nutrition security policy, a need for policies targeting women, and a limitation to the School Meals Programme (SMP).

**Purpose and Benefits of the paper:** There is significance immeasurable impact of this study's contribution to global understanding of urban food security, sustainable development, and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero hunger). Furthermore, finding insights into ways and approaches best suited to elevating the country's food system and security level, especially in urban settings. The study will also serve as an eye opener and a reference in allowing more academicians, policymakers, stakeholders, and community members to intervene sustainably through policies or actions to end hunger during lean seasons.

**Objective:** To analyze the policy frameworks and the structure of governance related to food security and understand how it supports or restrains the urban hunger approach during the lean season.

**Methodology:** The approach will consist in a comparative study to compare and analyze policies across different contexts, such as policy elaboration and implementation, evaluation of policy effectiveness, best practices, and policy transfer and adaptation. It will be on evidence-based policymaking in a comparative study between India and Gambia. This approach will compare policies on food security, access to nutritious food, and poverty. We will collect data from policy documents, academic literature, reports, legislation documents,



and evaluations. To get more insights, interviews, surveys, or focus groups will help bring more insights from urban-affected communities, stakeholders, and policymakers.

Main findings: Evidence showed that the majority of food produced globally, around 70 percent is for consumption in urban areas. On the verge of ending hunger in urban areas, FAO established an agenda called "FAO 2030 Vision for the Urban Food Agenda" to eradicate hunger and related mechanisms. Scholars have pointed out that more urban food security studies are needed. New projections confirm that hunger will not be eradicated by 2030 unless bold actions are taken to accelerate progress, especially actions to address inequality in access to food (reference). All other things constant, around 660 million people may still face hunger in 2030 in part due to lasting effects of the pandemic on global food security – 30 million more people than in a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred (UNICEF, 2021)

The recent sectoral and Governmental-led assessment indicates Cadre Harmonize analysis of March 2023, which projects severe food insecurity in the Bay states of Nigeria at the peak of the lean season between June to August as the main priorities and interventions, which include ramping up the treatment capacity for malnourished children, are met, and to reduce affected people's vulnerability to food insecurity. There is clear evidence that the social acceptability of food sources represents a significant part of the experiences of food insecurity, such as insufficient food quantity, inadequate food quality, and the uncertainty and worries about food insecurity experiences across different cultural context. Urban transition is known to impact food accessibility and affordability significantly. Therefore, the food price hike is typical and has a massive implication for hunger in the lean season.

In India, studies show that rural and urban poor dwellers are similar regarding nutritional status. Informal settlements' prevalence of food insecurity in Kolkata, India, is 15.4% in slums to 76.3 percent in slums in Mumbai. Another study on slums in Delhi found that 51 percent of the households in Northeast Delhi were food insecure, and 77 percent in the resettlement colony in North Delhi. Mackay, H. (2019) findings indicated that socioeconomic circumstance (class) constitutes a crucial factor in shaping differences in daily food access strategies. Furthermore, the people's socioeconomic status interacted with other identity aspects; an individual's asset base and broader structural inequalities influenced the urban food system. During the annual lean season in Bangladesh, about 50-60 percent of the income decreases in most affected areas and spending on food drops by 10-25 percent. The advantage of rural households over urban dwellers is that access to land for production and consumption is available. Urban dwellers highly depend on a cash economy and requires a stable income.

In Nepal, evidence from different scholars found that the people working in informal sectors in urban areas virtually spend their whole income on food yet lack the required nutritious food. Another paper by Wertheim-Heck et al. (2022), pointed out that the plan to replace 67 traditional markets with 1000 supermarkets by 2025 in Hanoi, to prioritize food safety may also have a setback on the urban low-income population, increasing food insecurity for small-scale traders.

"While urban agriculture alone will not solve the many dilemmas of our food system, from ecological collapse to inequitable access to healthy food, it can be part of a constellation of



interventions needed to reform the food system into one that is more socially just, ecologically sound, and economically viable" (Santo et, al., 2016).

Evidence in Malawian households that normally harvest their crops earlier than average engaged in a short-term coping mechanism that reduces the crop's yield and nutritional value, possibly prolonging hunger in urban and rural Malawi. Therefore, fighting urban hunger is crucial, and more sustainable and concrete interventions are needed.

## Presentation 2

### Title of Paper: Mapping and Measuring Tribal Food Security Status of Jharkhand, India: A Block-Level Analysis

*Author(s): Ambika Prasad Gupta and Harshit Sosan Lakra*

#### Abstract:

The present study tries to assess the status of tribal food security along with its various dimensions. The study aims to undertake an assessment of the food security status of all tribes, including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal groups living in various geographical locations in Jharkhand, India. The methodology of this study focuses on measuring the Tribal Food Security Index (TFSI) and comparing its value with their geographical conditions, environmental status, and Forest Dependency through mapping. Overall Tribal Food Security status was measured cumulatively and mapped as per dimensions: Affordability, Availability, Quality & Safety, and Natural Resources & Resilience. The result shows that due to the transition from rural to urban areas, there is a significant change in TFSI and a decrease in forest dependency of tribal communities. Socioeconomic factors like occupation and household size had a significant correlation with TFSI. Tribal households living in forests have a higher food security index than tribal households residing in urban transition areas. The alternative methodology adopted to measure specific community-level food security creates high significant impact than using commonly used Indexes. And also, for collection of primary data from specific communities like tribes requires their geo-location for a better understanding of their status.

## Presentation 3

### Title of Paper: Rural-Urban Transformation: Assessment of Typology, Physical Environment, and Socioeconomic in A Rural-Urban Landscape

*Author(s): Iwan Rudiarto, Siti Liza Fauziah, and Tia Dianing Insani*

#### Abstract:

The peri-urban area has become a transition zone where rural-urban transformation took place and even expanded to rural areas. Land use policy is also believed to be one of the rural-urban transformation triggers where development activity in a region is aimed to fulfill



the policy, as found in Maja District, Lebak Regency, West Java, Indonesia. The land use policy for developing large-scale settlements in Maja District has impacted and triggered villages to transform and change their physical environment and socioeconomic structure. These conditions indicate a series of changes, including the behavior patterns and activities of the population in the study area. The research is purposed to examine the transformation from rurality, physical environment, and socioeconomic development. The data used in this study were obtained from a primary survey with questionnaires distribution and direct interviews to 100 samples distributed in the study area and secondary data. Physical variables include land use, land prices, accessibility, and essential public services. At the same time, the socioeconomic variables include population, livelihoods, income, agricultural production, community activities, and shopping habits. We applied Land Use Land Cover Change (LULC) analysis, kernel density, and buffer analysis to identify physical environment change. Meanwhile, scoring and overlay analysis were conducted to analyze rurality/region typology, followed by descriptive statistics to identify the socioeconomic transformation.



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## *M3 Methods in Deviance Research*

**Session Organizer(s): Khumo Mothwari**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper: A SPATIAL-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARACTERISED BY FEMALE FATALITY: THE CASE OF POLICE JURISDICTIONAL EVIDENCE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Author(s): Godfrey St Bernard**

#### **Abstract:**

Violent crime has become commonplace in Trinidad and Tobago with the onset of the 21st century. Additionally, domestic violence resulting in the fatality of women and girls has surfaced over the period and constitutes a scourge that has enveloped this oil-rich twin island Caribbean Republic. The paper aims to examine spatial and temporal clusters of police jurisdictional areas in accordance with variable concentrations of domestic violence characterised by female fatality. Such variation is to be explained in accordance with spatial-temporal attributes such as spatial demographics of human populations, and community-level ecosystems. The latter include factors that are economic, socio-cultural, environmental (urban/rural), and rule of law. Police stations and their jurisdictional domains constitute the principal units of analysis. Secondary data will be obtained from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Central Statistical Office. Both entities manage extensive databases containing data covering the first 20 years of the 21st century. Cluster analysis and multinomial logistic regression will be used to facilitate explanatory findings. This kind of spatial-temporal investigation offers a first opportunity to engage spatial insights in conjunction with temporal coverage towards informing police jurisdictional interventions to reduce the scourge of female fatality due to domestic violence.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper: Problem Gambling and the Question of Women Empowerment in the Inner Cities of SouthWest, Nigeria**

**Author(s): Temitope Yetunde Bello**

#### **Abstract:**

Africa's Urbanisation and informal settlement expansion have necessitated alleviating urban poverty, particularly among women dwellers who dominate the informal sector. While scholarly contributions have pin-pointed that women empowerment is multidimensional,



determined or enhanced by government's institutional provisions, recent societal menace of problem gambling that adversely influences inner-city women's socio-economic empowerment is yet to be adequately incorporated into academic discourse. It is expedient to go beyond the dominating narrative on women's empowerment enhancements and investigate the extent to which city-produced gambling addictions negatively affect inner-city women's socio-economic independence. Structural Constraint Theory explains how multi-layered restrictions from disadvantaged informal settlements and the produced gambling addictions adversely affect women's empowerment. The research, covering Ajegunle (Lagos) and Beere (Ibadan), is a qualitative ethnography that raises issues of how researcher's bias reduces research validity (integrity) and reliability (consistency). To address this, the researcher employs data triangulations; sourcing primarily from observations, In-depth and Key Informant Interviews and secondarily from books and internet to establish truth, trustworthiness and credibility. Information was content-analysed, using thematic styles and incorporating thick verbatim accounts that affirm how illegal, under-aged and hard drugs-induced gambling addictions form demographic constraints that expose women to domestic economic burdens and violence, limiting accessibility to micro-credit.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Urban Crime Mapping – An Assessment of Spatial Intensity of Urban Crime Spatial Configuration as a tool to Identify and Control Urban Crime

*Author(s): Madhivadhani Kalaiselvan*

#### Abstract:

Urbanisation is considered to be an important process for the growth of any geographical area mainly with respect to economic aspect. The principle of sustainable development implies the three-dimensional concept for improving quality of life in sustained path, socially, economically and environmentally, over a long time. Urban system comprises of several sub systems, such as physical, social, economic, environment, ecology, infrastructure and institutional respectively. The function of these sub-systems is interconnected and interdependent with each other. i.e, a subsystem's output is one or more other subsystem's input. In an urban system, if one of the subsystems defunct, or partially function or takes lead role in its function over a period of time its effects would be visualised in the whole system. This study focus of -- But the third most important dimension of this process includes social aspects and as urbanisation level increases, the rate of crime would eventually increase in many urban areas, notably on metro and mega cities. Rise in urban population is an inevitable phenomenon when it influences the built environment, it turned to be a source of action related to crime. In many cases crime is being a part of social system and dynamic with respect to time and location. As per the National Crime Records Bureau report, the crime rate is increased from 383.5 in 2018 to 385.5 in 2019, reflecting a 1.6 percent of annual increase in India. Notably the crime rate against women increases from 56.5% to 64.5% in 2020-2021. There where various measures were taken by the police departments, but the effects are





squandered due to various reasons. It is also identified that one of the major causes was documentation of crime records. Since many of the crime case records are manual and documented in a traditional method, it would have been difficult for the police department to identify such prone areas spatially. Such tedious process neither helps in resolving further crime nor helps to identify the crime prone locations. "Criminal activity is influenced by several factors. One of the important factors is Urban Environment. The influence of urban environment on criminal activity has been detailed upon several studies. Urban planning process acts as a catalyst in shaping our environment" (Shuchi Joshi). In line to that planning parameters are considered to be the major aspect in terms of built environment. Hence understanding the spatial pattern of urban crime is considered to be an important factor to be demonstrated. The study of built environment and its relation for crime and its related activities helps to accelerate the need of development of spatial pattern in an orderly manner. Spatial assessment of crime includes the assessment of various planning parameters such as ratio of built and open space, presence and proximity of open spaces, height and width ratio, land use, street networks and some of the qualitative aspects includes but not limited to time and location of the activities, frequency and capacity of people movement and so on. It is also believed that crime rate can be reduced by shaping the built environment with proper zoning and application of development regulations. Thus, the integration of technological advancement on geo spatial research would be a massive productive approach to trace the crime and helps to control in further. Use of geo-computation is more like an unavoidable resource in urban planning, to evident the importance of geo spatial analysis using technologies. Hence to identify the intensity of urban crime and its spatial distribution will be assessed through hotspot analysis, its an analysis of demarcating the crime spot using geo spatial technology and to identify its spatial trend of occurrence. The concept of hot spot assessment is to indicate the cluster of incidences in a particular place. This attempt will also be contradicted too the traditional model, where the hot spot is determined by only the geometry of the events occurred. But this research will also focus on the time of crime and its relevance to the spatial distribution. The configuration of spatial distribution of crime spots will be identified in order to mitigate the future crime. It will assess the geometric aspect of the event but also by their time characteristics. This study will also helpful to understand the occurrence of crimes over a geographical area. The collected point features would be assessed through the grid cell analysis method, to understand the distribution of crime events and to estimate the proportion of total incidences that can be expected to occur in the location. The environment of an area always plays a crucial role for the occurrences of crime in a short span of locality. The study will also focus on the assessment of influence of planning parameters, physical and social characteristics of the place and the concentration of people using the space. Built environment will attributes to the crime pattern and it varies with respect to the correlation of different associated factors. Built environment is a major element of spatial interventions of crime and shapes the geography of crime. This experimental approach will demarcate the geo spatial location of crime and its intensity. And assessed its sphere of influence on with socio and economic factors, it also correlates various planning parameters association towards crime preventive environment. Spatial data related from Chennai Metropolitan Area, one of the mega cities in India would be adopted to experiment the geo spatial crime assessment technique and the urban crime would be mapped to identify the intensity of crime and its configuration. This approach will be limited to experimenting few



of the physical parameters in correlation with the intensity of crime occurred. While this experimental research would just be an attempt to identify the spatial relevance with respect to the crime and its distribution.



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## *M4 Methods for Studying Religions and Religious/Sacred Spaces*

**Session Organizer(s):** *Gabriel Faimau and Silke Steets*

### **Presentation 1**

**Title of Paper:** Towards an Ethnography of Post-Capitalist Religious Tourism in the Global South

**Author(s):** Aditya Mohanty

#### **Abstract:**

Based in one of India's poorest states, Bihar, the quaint city of Gaya prides itself on being the folklorist, chosen destination for hosting the annual pind daan fair. The pind daan is an inevitable ritual for all Hindus to help rescue the deceased souls of their ancestors from the karmic cycle of life and death. In this moment where the 'infrastructural and institutional paralysis' of an underdeveloped city overlaps with the indispensable needs of religious tourism, a unique opportunity is created. The embedded network that 'pandas' (or local priests) offer in such a scenario clearly shows how strategically 'post-capitalist pathways' (Fletcher et al., 2021) are engendered. Tracing the 'extended case study' (Burawoy 1998) of the 'pind daan' ritual, the paper reflects on two key issues. Firstly, by seeing through the interstices of the tourist-panda-administration triad, we detect the blind spots in the current tourism policies of the Federal Government of India and the Provincial Government of Bihar. Secondly, this paper also evidences how the current climate of resurgent Hindu nationalism (Jafferlot 2021) in India today provides us strategic cues to utilize 'post-capitalist pathways' to harness the hitherto unexplored limits of institutionalized religious tourism in a postcolonial city.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title of Paper:** Religious Spatial Dynamics of Srirangam: Socio-Cultural and Socio-Economic Influences

**Author(s):** Amanjeet Kaur and Vishaliny V

#### **Abstract:**

Nestled in Srirangam lies the vibrant Sri Ranganathaswamy temple complex. This sacred island is not just a historical landmark; it's a living tapestry of intricate connections between religious practices, local businesses, and the community. Through the lens of qualitative surveys, historical exploration, and interviews with locals, this paper decodes the secrets of



Srirangam's soul. The focus? To understand how religious practices and economic activities intertwine, painting a vivid picture of a town that thrives on its spiritual pulse. But it doesn't end there. The temple's rituals and celebrations shape more than just events; they mould the town's very own identity, instilling a sense of belonging in every resident. A symphony of tradition and modernity reverberates through the streets of Srirangam. Yet, challenges loom, common to sacred towns grappling with growth. The narrow paths that once felt intimate now face congestion; waste management calls for innovative solutions. The sacred meets the practical, and that's where this story finds its resonance. Srirangam exemplifies the harmonious coexistence of sacred and urban spaces, nurturing community bonds amidst contemporary demands. This reflects the interplay between socio-cultural and socio-economic intricacies shaping Srirangam's religious spatial dynamics, highlighting a resilient cultural heritage legacy that enriches multi-generational existence.

### Presentation 3

#### Title of Paper: Traditional Priestess of Anyigba: Researching and Performing Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Sacred Spaces in Central Nigeria

*Author(s): Danladi Abah*

#### Abstract:

How does the performance and practice of traditional divination and healing impinge on the gender, temporality and positionality of traditional Priestess in Anyigba, central Nigeria? What methodological approaches are needed to under and unpack them as critical agents of social change in the society? This study examines the changing social reality and place of traditional Igala women priestess as wives, custodians of sacred deities, shrines, healers, diviners and powerful actors in a patriarchal society. I focus on the spatial materiality of the various sacred places they oversee and demonstrate how they weave their lives daily as wives, 'daughters of the soil' and priestess. I analyze the horizontal and vertical performativity of power and how they are shaping their perceptions in the society. Using primary and secondary data including participant-observation, I trace their history, significance, and challenges contemporary Anyigba Igala Society of Nigeria. The traditional Priestess of Anyigba are critical historical and socio-cultural forces for the production and sustenance of both tangible and intangible cultural resources of the Igala society.



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## *Action 4: Spatial Methods Go Global and Transdisciplinary: SMUS Action 4-Outcome Showcase*

**Session Organizer(s): Fraya Frehse**

### **Abstract:**

How may spatial methods contribute to transdisciplinary projects regarding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal # 11 (SDG# 11) 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'? This session aims to present and discuss four different research-and-practice answers to this question, which were developed by teams of academics and professional practitioners (from NGOs and CBGs to local government agencies) in Global South countries ranging from India to Brazil as well as South Africa and Iran between 2023 and 2024. Concerning respectively the Kolkata wetlands, the São Paulo ecologies of urban health, homelessness in Pretoria and bike mobility to Teheran's schools, the four transdisciplinary projects in focus were forged in the framework of the SMUS Strategic Action "Exchange". From 2020 to 2024, the SMUS Action 4 has sponsored practical-empirical implementation projects of spatial methods on a global scale with the aim of critically assessing if and how spatial methods may make a difference in the daily professional practice of stakeholders involved in urban sustainability initiatives.

### **Presenter 1**

Jenia Mukherjee (PEIP Team Member - Kharagpur, India from Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur)

### **Presenter 2**

Shreyashi Bhattacharya (PEIP Team Member - Kharagpur, India from Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur)

### **Presenter 3**

Shamin Golrokh (PEIP Team Member – Teheran, Iran from School of Urban Planning, University of Teheran)



#### **Presenter 4**

Dorsa Kazeminia (MA candidate & PEIP Team Member - Teheran, Iran from Cultural Studies, University of Science and Culture)

#### **Presenter 5**

Laura Kemmer (PEIP Team Member - São Paulo, Brazil from Martius Chair Germany-Brazil for Human Sciences and Sustainability - University of São Paulo)

#### **Presenter 6**

Fraya Frehse (PEIP Team Member - São Paulo from Department of Sociology, University of São Paulo)

#### **Presenter 7**

Michelle Janse van Rensburg (PEIP Team Member - Pretoria, South Africa from Unit for Street Homelessness & COPC Research Unit & Department of Occupational Therapy, University of Pretoria)





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## *Action 5: Contagious Tactics for Wicked Urban Problems*

**Session Organizer(s): Ilana Boltvinik Riesenfeld, Katleen De Flander, and Rodrigo Viñas Miranda**

### **Abstract:**

Working with non(human) allies (estera, quelites, and cow dung) as entry points for wicked urban problems, three teams from Lima-Peru, Xalapa-Mexico, and Kolkata-India present and invite you to discuss the results of their 6-month multi-format action research project. This co-designed KITCHENING methodology that used techniques that range from video to cooking also has an exhibition format during this conference.

### **Presenter 1**

India team: Jenia Mukherjee, Shreyashi Bhattacharya, and Sukrit Sen

### **Presenter 2**

Mexico team: Eugenio Tisselli Vélez, Ilana Boltvinik Riesenfeld, and Rodrigo Viñas Miranda

### **Presenter 3**

Peru team: Daniel Ramirez Corzo Nicolini and Javier Vera Cubas

### **Presenter 4**

SMUS team: Katleen De Flander



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