



**Celebrating  
70 years**  
1954-2024

## **DPU News September 2024 Issue 75**

**Mobilising Learning for Change:  
40 Years of Gender in the DPU**



**The Bartlett**  
Development Planning Unit



# Focus On

## Mobilising Learning for Change: 40 Years of Gender in the DPU

By Caren Levy

In its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the DPU is not only celebrating seven decades of higher education in international development policy and planning. We are also recognising 40 years of working actively in the DPU with gender justice in teaching, research, capacity building and practice-based work, and public engagement. The distinctive historical trajectory of the DPU's Gender Policy and Planning Programme was the subject of the 'Face On' section in DPU News No. 57 on the occasion of DPU's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Levy and Walker, 2014). Dominated in its early history by capacity building in local, national and global organisations seeking to address gender equality in development activities, over the years, the DPU's work has diversified into teaching, research, and practice across DPU's thematic concerns (such as urban planning and design, the environment, urban health, and economic development). Learning continues to be at the core of these activities, and this editorial examines this history through the prism of the specific character of the learning that is at the heart of DPU's engagement with theory, methodology and practice.

Learning is clearly central in the context of any higher educational setting; however, the particular setting of an institution like the DPU raises many challenges that are germane to our work with gender justice. The accumulation of knowledge in action in an institution located in the global north working in the field of international development



Caren Levy and Caroline Moser in 1986 (credit: unknown).

has itself been the focus of wide-ranging critique, deconstruction and reformulation. The now-established interdisciplinary field of Gender Studies also continues to undergo fundamental questioning and change. Working at the intersection of these two dynamic bodies of knowledge has necessitated an ethical and theoretical positioning and repositioning in relation to learning in our work with gender justice. The DPU's decentred learning approach (Allen et.al, 2015) in the context of international policy and planning, identifies five principles of a "pedagogical approach, which has at its core a commitment towards knowledge co-production" (Ibid, 2015:35). These five principles are that learning is *relational*, *reflexive*, *embedded*, *active* and *collective* (Ibid.,2015; Castán Broto, 2014). The principles are a useful entry point for exploring DPU's 40 years of work promoting gender justice.

### Relational: Learning as Reframing Social Relations

A relational approach is foundational to any engagement with gender. Gender relations constitute socially constructed systems of power in which a range of inequalities are embedded and reproduced in different ways in different contexts. This has always been the starting point for those working towards gender equality and justice, and this was the case for the elaboration of the gender policy and planning (GPP) methodology developed in the DPU. GPP was initiated in 1984 by Caroline Moser (DPU 1978-86) with the support of Caren Levy (Moser and Levy, 1984; Moser, 1989). However, the articulation of these power relations has been the focus

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of much critique over the last 40 years. First, the challenge has been to move debates beyond both the sex/gender and the women/men gender binaries to recognise a more complex relationship in expressions of identity which embrace multiple and different relationships with the body and with sexual and gender expressions in different contexts.

Second, the understanding of relations of social identity as *intersectional power* relations has also been an ongoing pursuit in the DPU (see, for example, Walker, Frediani and Trani, 2013). While in that work, gender was always understood as intersecting with class, age, ethnicity, race, disability and sexuality, translating this intersectoral conception into practice is fraught with challenges. Grappling with the simultaneity and fluidity of intersectional identities in the context of development practice and the organisations and institutions in which it takes place is a constant struggle (Levy et al, 2021; Rigon and Cástan Broto, 2021). Overcoming institutional silos created to address particular identities (women and development, youth and development etc) have become part of the challenge associated with shaping pathways to transformative development practice. As noted in the previous DPU News No. 74, examining inequalities related to specific social identities while embracing intersectionality is an ongoing process in DPU work. For example, DPU colleagues have examined gender in relation to transport, environment and sanitation, housing and dwelling (Caren Levy, Jordana Ramalho, Adriana Allen,

Pascale Hofmann, Rita Lambert, Julian Walker; Tim Wickson and Paroj Banerjee); youth, refugees and health (Camillo Boano, Andrea Rigon, Haim Yacobi); disability and mobility (Julian Walker and Daniel Oviedo); race in the curriculum (Kamna Patel); religion in international development (Raktim Ray and Azadeh Mashayekhi); and diversity and planning (Barbara Lipietz) (Levy, 2024).

Third is the recognition that many of the assumptions underlying the understanding of gender relations are based on ‘western’ views (albeit within an increasingly complex and entangled distinction between the ‘west’ and the ‘majority world’). These views have influenced the formation of policies, planning and procedures in colonial and postcolonial development practices, and challenging these naturalised assumptions and practices is an important dimension of the critical learning and application of the GPP methodology.

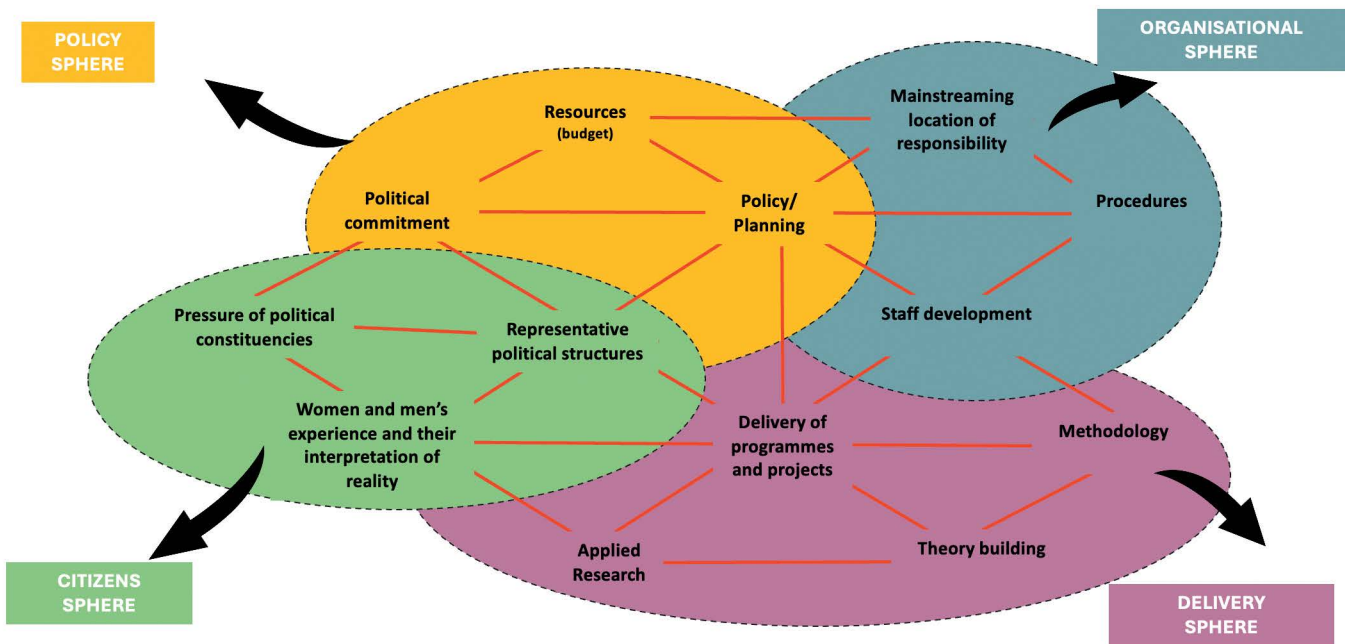
Finally, recognition of the international politics of higher education and the power hierarchies of knowledge and knowledge production that are dominated by universities and academic practices in the global north is an impetus for constant self-reflection and review of the pedagogies and content of our gender work. Taking on these intersecting relational challenges reframes understandings of gender as a non-binary intersectional social relation in historical and contemporary practice and brings into play the remaining four learning assumptions.

## Reflexive: Learning as Challenging Discriminatory Ideologies and Naturalised Practices

Promoting and designing reflexive practice in pedagogic approaches, “...acknowledging that our learning is influenced by internalised world views” (Allen et al, 2015:39), is foundational to generating transformative practice-based education. Building on the long feminist tradition of ‘consciousness raising’, the GPP methodology is designed around a set of conceptual ‘building blocks’ that encourage learners to question what has become naturalised everyday practices related to gender relations and the reproduction of inequalities. Combining conceptual discussion with practical engagements in a grounded reality familiar to learners, the GPP methodology seeks to generate reflexive discussion about the often-accepted assumptions underpinning fundamental social concepts. These include the gender division of labour, access to and control over resources, the treatment of ‘the household’ and ‘the community’ as a homogeneous unit, and the notion of ‘choice’ prevalent in neoclassical economics and its use in planning. For example, ‘travel choice’ in transport planning problematically assumes equal conditions for everyone in the household engaging with a transport system designed on the basis of erroneous assumptions about how people live (Levy, 2013). All this involves uncovering and questioning accepted stereotypes related to intersectional gender relations embedded in ideologies in the material and discursive practices of organisations and institutions at different scales, including their translation into policy and planning in different contexts.

Another dimension of promoting reflexive practice is recognising when a gender perspective is being co-opted in policy and planning. For example, in neoliberal policy formulations, gender equality and





Caren Levy's Web of Institutionalisation, a 'building block' in the DPU's gender planning methodology ( C. Levy, *The Process of Institutionalising Gender in Policy and Planning : The "Web" of Institutionalisation*, DPU Working Paper No. 74, 1996).

women's empowerment have often been promoted in the name of efficiency rather than as a right in itself. The notion of practical and strategic gender interests and needs (Molyneux, 1985; Moser, 1989), as used in the GPP methodology, is helpful in stimulating the analysis of when policy and planning address interests and needs defined within existing relations of inequality or challenge existing unequal social relations.

**In the GPP methodology, great care is taken not to universalise the form and expression of gender relations, recognising the specificity of context in time and place.**

## Embedded: Learning in and across Context

As acknowledged above, it is essential to recognise the context of intersectional gender relations and the history and contemporary development processes at work in a particular place. In the GPP methodology, great care is taken not to universalise the form and expression of gender relations, recognising the specificity of context in time and place.

In a country setting, this has involved working in a grounded manner in 'partnerships with equivalence' with local partners who themselves are co-producing knowledge and sometimes services with diverse local communities. Within a classroom setting, the DPU's international staff and student body enables the development of pedagogies designed to draw on local knowledges to compare intersectional gender relations and their translation into policy and planning across different

contexts. In the setting of international aid and capacity building in bi-lateral (e.g. SIDA, NORAD, SDC) and multilateral organisations (e.g. UN-Habitat, UNEP, UNIDO, ILO), all the dimensions of an embedded relational understanding of intersectional gender relations come into sharp focus.

Contextualising the interpretation of the 'building blocks' of the GPP methodology – understanding the particular character of intersectionality; the gender division of labour, access to and control over resources; the expression of gender interests and needs; the responsiveness of policy and planning and their 'web of institutionalisation' in place and time – enables a relational and embedded basis for learning that stimulates reflexivity about hierarchies of power and the potential for change.

## Active: Learning through Engaging with Practice

The DPU's intellectual location in an applied set of disciplines makes a practice-based agenda and the exploration of transformative strategy-making an important part of our learning across all activities. Designing learning that is active and propositional in this way, whilst seeking to address gender justice framed in intersectional terms and "negotiating complex, unstable and often conflictive development processes and practices" (Allen et al., 2015:37), is a challenge addressed in the GPP methodology in two ways.

The first is through the application of the Web of Institutionalisation (Levy, 1996, 1997). This is used to map out critical sites of power in the institutional landscape in which everyday gendered lives, policy and planning, and politics are acted out. This institutional and systemic understanding of context allows an active and collective diagnosis of the resistances and opportunities for transformative change. In other words, it creates 'room for manoeuvre' (Safier, 2002; Levy, 2015) for transformative change. The 'web' has been widely used in different contexts (for example, in ILO, UNEP, UNCCD, and at country and local levels in different countries). Most recently it has been used in DPU's research on a feminist approach to sanitation, including the creation of a [media resource](#) on its application.

The second methodological 'building block' draws on Levy's wider work on strategic action planning (Levy, 2007). At the heart of this approach to co-constructing action is a recognition that social change cannot be pursued through a linear process of cause and effect but rather needs to engage strategically in a complex institutional landscape in which practitioners, as agents of change, have a particular positionality. It also highlights that gender practitioners are only in a position to directly effect change within their limited sphere of influence, necessitating the building of alliances and coalitions of interest or 'collective action' to shape pathways to equality.

## Collective: Reciprocal Learning and Knowledge Co-production

The programmatic nature of our work in gender justice in the DPU, as well as its practice-based emphasis on collective action, highlights the collective character of learning in our work. This implies "...that knowledge production is understood as a common endeavour pursued by networks of individuals, community organisations, NGOs, as well as public, private and academic institutions that share a progressive axiology. This is an approach that starts by questioning the role of the expert and how discourses of expertise are constituted in particular contexts." (Allan et al, 2015: 38).

The wealth of the DPU's work on gender justice has been created by many actors operating at different scales – local, national and global. Reciprocal learning has been central to maintaining the dynamism of our knowledge co-production and methodology development, between and among staff, students and international partners in teaching, and all those involved in our capacity building, research and public engagement.

## Conclusion: Learning in Transdisciplinary Practice

The 40-year history of working with gender justice in the DPU comprises different themes, people and places. Being part of this history has been a privilege – and a challenge. It is clear that practicing learning that embraces these five principles demands intellectual vigilance and openness. It is an engagement with a transdisciplinary practice that seeks to hold multiple knowledges across disciplines in simultaneous view. Embedded in this is the grounded reality of diverse gendered lives and expressions, often painful in their inequalities and absence of respect for human rights, are collective endeavours reflecting the power and inspiration of doing things differently and together. It is daunting and exciting to consider what the next decade of our work on gender justice holds.

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Michael Walls with Julio Dávila and Caren Levy at the signing of the UCL – UN Habitat MoU (credit: Alex McFarlane).

## Announcing a New DPU Director

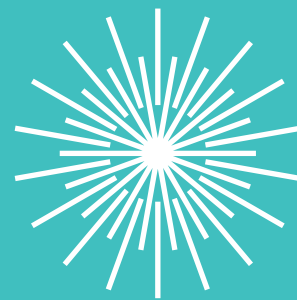
In September 2024, Michael Walls will be moving on from his role as Director of DPU to focus on his research, teaching and developing external partnerships. Michael took over as Director of DPU from Julio Dávila in September 2020. This was a turbulent time for the DPU as it continued working on teaching, research and partnerships in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. All this required balancing the delivery of DPU's core academic activities and wider mission with the wellbeing and support of partners, students, and staff. In this context, Michael did an amazing job of coordinating efforts to move teaching online, supporting distance research collaborations, and

focusing on the wellbeing of the whole spectrum of DPU staff, students and partners. Since then, Michael has presided over a series of highlights in the work of the DPU, including the rollout of the launch of a range of scholarships to increase access to DPU's learning offer (the Health in Urban Development MSc, the Bartlett Promise and DPU 70 scholarships), a new MoU with UN-Habitat, and the current DPU 70 Celebrations. At the same time, he has continued to steer DPU through a complex and changing institutional environment and external context. Throughout his tenure as Director, Michael has been a responsive and supportive presence and has done a wonderful

job of keeping the DPU team together and focused on our shared mission. Michael will be on sabbatical for the coming year, working on his ongoing research collaborations in the Horn of Africa and developing DPU's international collaborations with academic institutions in Brazil. Julian Walker will take over from Michael as DPU Director in September and has some big shoes to fill.



# DPU70 events



# Dialogues in Development



To celebrate DPU70 through 2024, the DPU Research Clusters have developed a series of **Dialogues in Development** to discuss the most prominent contemporary challenges facing *cities, planning and international development* with guests and speakers across contexts and disciplines.

16 January 2024

## Valedictory Talk from UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif

Watch the event recording on YouTube

Chair  
**Michael Walls**, DPU, UCL

Speakers  
**Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
**Geraint Rees**, UCL Vice-Provost Research, Innovation and Global Engagement  
**Adriana Allen**, DPU, UCL

17 January 2024

## Housing As a Verb: Treasuring the Legacy of John Turner

Watch the event recording on YouTube

Chair  
**Adriana Allen**, DPU, UCL

Speakers  
**Kathrin Golda-Pongratz**, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya  
**Patrick Wakely**, DPU, UCL  
**Gautam Bhan**, Indian Institute of Human Settlements - IIHS  
**Tim Wickson**, DPU, UCL

21 February 2024

## Advancing Gender Justice in Policy and Planning: Current and Future Challenges

Watch the event recording on YouTube

Chair  
**Caren Levy**, DPU, UCL

Speakers  
**Rhodora Bucoy**, University of the Philippines, Cebu  
**Leslie Crosdale**, City Hub and Network for Gender Equity (CHANGE)  
**Caroline Moser**, University of Manchester and DPU, UCL  
**Claudy Vouhé**, L'Etire Égale  
**Julian Walker**, DPU, UCL

13 March 2024

## Post Growth: Planning After Capitalism

Watch the event recording on YouTube

Chair  
**Alessio Kolioulis**, DPU, UCL

Speakers  
**Carolina Alves**, Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, UCL

29 May 2024

## **(Local) Actions Shaping Urban Environmental Trajectories in The Global South: Key Turning Points in Research and Practice**

Watch the event recording on YouTube

Co-chairs

**Pascale Hofmann**, DPU, UCL

**Donald Brown**, DPU, UCL

**Cassidy Johnson**, DPU, UCL

Speakers

**David Dodman**, IHS

**Celine d’Cruz**, SDI

**Julio Dávila**, DPU, UCL

12 June 2024

## **Forefronting Local and Regional Government Actions to Achieve SDG11: Upcoming Challenges for the UN High-Level Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development**

Watch the event recording on YouTube

Chair

**Michael Walls**, DPU, UCL

Speakers

**Pablo Fernández Marmissolle-Daguerre**, United Cities and Local Governments World Secretariat Barcelona

**Camila Cociña and Alexandre Apsan Frediani**, IIED

**Daniel Oviedo**, DPU, UCL

**Adriana Allen**, DPU, UCL

**Julia Wesely**, University of Vienna

**Caren Levy**, DPU, UCL

**Lorena Zárate**, Global Platform for the Right to the City

2 October 2024

## **The Feminist-turn of Environmental Justice: Radical Care Through the Everyday**

Venue and time tbc

30 October, 2024

## **Dilemmas of Development Planning: Southern Subjectivities in Flux**

Venue and time tbc

14 November 2024

## **China-Africa Knowledge Exchange: Development Trajectories and Shared Paradigms**

Venue and time tbc

12 December 2024

## **Shaping Pathways to Urban Equality: Planning Methodologies for Collective Strategic Action**

Venue and time tbc



# Film Festival

The **DPU70 Film Festival** organised by Rita Lambert, Paroj Banerjee and Haim Yacobi saw a series of film screenings drawing on the research of DPU colleagues to explore film as a method that engages with the politics of knowledge generation and ethical considerations of representation.

The first session on 24 January 2024 focused on **housing**, and screened three films:

## Towards a Lima with energy justice and dignified housing

**Presented by Rita Lambert**

The documentary explores how to co-produce knowledge remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Made as part of the “Grounded Energy Modelling for Equitable Urban Development in the Global South” (GEMDEV) project, it pushes remote participatory video training to capture energy and housing challenges of low-income settlements in Lima and the strategies inhabitants adopt to reduce vulnerability.

## Sensing the City: Young people and regeneration in London

**Presented by Barbara Lipietz**

This film is a collaboration with Pempeople and The Ubele Initiative to explore new methods of public voicing for young people. Facilitated by poet and performance artist Kat François and interdisciplinary media artist Daniel Oduntan, the film explores notions of belonging, change and displacement, race, age and labelling, COVID-19 lockdowns and mental health, voicelessness and the importance of active listening when designing tools to empower.

## (Un)Homely City: Navigating houselessness in a pandemic

**Presented by Paroj Banerjee**

Attention to unhoused groups in Indian cities has been poor. The COVID-19 pandemic—more precisely, the ways it was governed—exacerbated the living conditions of the urban houseless. This documentary has been produced following a research project called “Interrogating Unsafety,” which examined how the measures of protection were counterproductive for the houseless in Mumbai.

The second session on 7 February 2024 focused on **art and intersectional identities as resistance**. Again, three films were screened:

## Gaza artists and desirable cities

**Presented by Haim Yacobi**

The main topic of this film is the resilience of people in Gaza through art. Throughout their fieldwork, the researchers were surprised by the many art activities in Gaza, a territory that suffers from decades of oppression and violence. They were also concerned by the ways in which Gazans are represented as passive victims rather than active human beings and hence saw the importance of giving interviewees a voice. They saw film as an effective medium to share academic knowledge with the wider public.

## Creative practice and the Anthropocene

**Presented by Liza Griffin**

This audio-visual documentary is made as part of the “Creative Practice and the Anthropocene” project initiated by Liza Griffin and George Revill. This project critically explores ways in which arts-based thinking and publicly engaged practice intervene productively in the current environmental crisis. The video, directed by Chris Bonfiglioli, captures a conversation between four artists and the research team, discussing how creative practices might be fostered, developed and deployed to address some of the challenges of the Anthropocene.

## We want to change everything

**Presented by Adriana Allen**

Since 1976, Habitat International Coalition (HIC) has been a global force in the struggle for social justice, gender equality and environmental justice to defend and promote habitat-related human rights. For its members, this common struggle takes place through grassroots or “popular” schools. This film takes viewers through the critical reflections of the protagonists of some of these schools in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico and Uruguay. The film was made as part of the Knowledge and Action in Urban Equality (KNOW) programme and in collaboration with Habitat International Coalition in Latin America, as well as the feminist film collective La Sandía Digital (2020-2021).



The final session on 6 March 2024 focused on **vulnerability and capacity to act**. Four films were screened as follows:

## After the rain

Presented by Cassidy Johnson

This documentary film by David McEwan is part of the “Reducing Relocation Risks” project. It is about flooding and relocation in Kampala, Uganda.

## Kelyan Barat: Building capacity and participation for community-led solutions

Presented by Julian Walker

This film documents a participatory initiative to design and develop an inclusive public space in the Kelyan Barat settlement in the city of Banjarmasin, Indonesia. The initiative emerged as part of the “AT2030” research project, conducted by the Indonesian NGOs Kota Kita and Kaki Kota, together with the DPU and supported by the Global Disability Innovation Hub. The film explores the challenges of developing public spaces that are relevant for a wide range of groups, including disabled people, assistive technology users, older persons and children, in a dense urban setting where public space is scarce and contested.

## Empowering vulnerable communities through participatory design

Presented by Andrea Rigon

The film shows the importance of participatory design in empowering communities and addressing social cohesion in contexts affected by displacement. It is divided into two parts. The first part shows a built project in a Lebanese city that hosts a large number of Syrian refugees, where participatory design methods were adopted to address vulnerabilities through the implementation of a spatial intervention. The second part shows the importance of participatory design in empowering children who have been affected by displacement.

## Indefensible space

Presented by Caren Levy

The aim of this film is to highlight the problems and strategies related to gender-based violence faced by women in slums due to the lack of secure and dignified access to toilets. The film was produced in partnership with the DPU, the UCL Institute for Global Health, and the Mumbai Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action (SNEHA), and it was supported by a grant from UCL Grand Challenges. The film was made in Dharavi, Mumbai, with the participation of the communities working with SNEHA, an organisation working on the prevention of violence against women and children since 2000.

# Head On

The DPU was well represented at the **2024 World Symposium on Transport and Land Use Research** in Bogotá, Colombia. Daniel Oviedo led a workshop on “South-South Dialogue and Collaboration in Transport and Land-Use Research and Policy”. This workshop included reflections from the DPU-led “On the Way to School” and “Walking Cities Lab” projects. Over 30 researchers and practitioners discussed ways to advance more localised and inclusive research and policy engagement in transport and land use in the global south.

Julio Dávila was a keynote speaker at the symposium. His presentation entitled “Urban transport and land-use in Latin America: historical legacies and ways forward” outlined how transport has been a central organising factor in modern cities, a powerful driver of economic growth and, potentially, also a contributor

to human wellbeing. In examining the history of some large cities in Latin America, he argued that the Modernist planning legacy of giving priority to motorised transport while separating land uses and classifying some de facto residential areas as illegal or informal still exerts a powerful influence over density and urban form and, by extension, over proximity to opportunities.

Daniel Oviedo and Maria José Nieto presented a paper at the symposium titled “Alleys to streets: understanding urban transformations through the prism of diverse pedestrians and their walking experiences”. Orlando Sabogal presented the paper “Lycra and guardian angels: can leisure cycling help induce modal shifts away from urban motorised transport?”. His presentation explored leisure cycling, focusing on its impact on



Daniel Oviedo joining a panel at the 2024 World Symposium on Transport and Land Use Research (credit: unknown).



The first meeting of the Housing Justice Hub (credit: unknown).





MSc ESD Students in Bogotá (credit: unknown).

travel behaviour in Colombia's coffee-growing region. Orlando presented the same paper at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Congress 2024, also held in Bogotá in June.

On 13-14 June 2024, DPU hosted the first face-to-face meeting of the [Housing Justice Hub](#), attended by Adriana Allen. Paroj Banerjee and Tim Wickson also joined one of the sessions online. Spearheaded by Alex Frediani and Camila Cociña at IIED, this Hub is a collaborative initiative led by a group of civil society and research organisations that aim to advance housing justice by reframing agendas, sharing resources, synchronising efforts, and promoting learning and action across different contexts. DPU is one of the leading partners of the Hub and a member of its Steering Committee, while the Secretariat role is performed by IIED.

Several environmental movements in Bogotá are working to advance environmental justice, while re-embedding the city's territory and ecological structure through everyday city-making. These movements are driven by a collective understanding of the environmental challenges and injustices in this highly unequal city. In 2024, the MSc ESD practice module launched a new [Learning Alliance](#) with various partners that are amongst a network of "guardians" of urban ecological systems. These include: Guardians of the Hills, Water Guardians, Guardians of the Wetlands, We are One, Guaches and Guarichas Popular Environmental Education School for Bacatá, and the Neighbourhood Community Action Board (JAC) of Santa Rita in Suba. In April-May 2024, MSc ESD students joined these organisations, along with Adriana Allen, Rita Lambert, Pascale Hofmann, and Alban Hasson. They worked together to support local partners defending their territorio, through cultural practices, social relations, and political autonomy interwoven with nature.

The DPU is partnering with the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) in Brazil, Universidad de Concepción in Chile and Universidad del Norte in Colombia for a [new research project on walkability](#),

funded by the Volvo Research and Education Foundations (VREF). The project seeks to develop novel methods for the improvement of walkability indices based on participatory approaches for research and advocacy using Virtual Reality to simulate walking conditions across three cities in Latin America. Daniel Oviedo is the lead DPU investigator.

The [Inmóviles podcast](#), co-hosted by Daniel Oviedo and Bartlett Alumna Florencia Rodriguez-Touron, has completed its first season. The podcast invites experts from across Latin America to discuss transport, equity and sustainability, covering all modes of transport, from walking and cycling to cable-cars.

DPU research on shared e-scooters and social exclusion in the UK is the main feature in an episode of UCL's [Together We Create podcast](#). Daniel Oviedo and host Lili Golmohammadi explore how working with researchers from different disciplines and various institutional stakeholders helped to conceptualise a more inclusive policy approach for e-scooters.

# Research

Kamna Patel was awarded UKRI and British Academy funding through the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Caucus to commence a new study titled **“Feeding the research and innovation pipeline: COVID-19 and closing the awarding gap”** with Leading Routes, a group dedicated to preparing the next generation of Black academics. The study comes at a pivotal time for policy and practices of fairness in higher education, which are under continual political and financial pressure. The study is grounded by the longstanding undergraduate awarding gap for Black and other racially minoritised students, who are awarded lower marks overall in their final degree results than white students. This affects how they progress, and especially whether they are accepted into postgraduate study which requires a “good” degree. However, in 2019-2021, due to changes put into place during the COVID-19 pandemic regarding how work was assessed and the widespread use of no-detriment policies, the awarding gap narrowed considerably. This meant that more Black and other racially minoritised students gained the highest marks. This study will ask graduates from these years whether this opened up new possibilities and allowed them to progress into postgraduate study or careers in innovation. Through the learnings from this research, universities will have the evidence to permanently change how they operate in this area in the future. Further, this work will benefit the UK Office for Students and allow it to widen its understanding around awarding gaps and matters of racial equity to improve recommendations and requirements of universities.

In recent months much headway has been made on the **“Co-producing Youth Inclusive Digital Urban Governance” (YUP)** project, led by Julian Walker and Andrea Rigon. This project is funded by Fondation Botnar, and it is implemented through a partnership with three organisations, all led by DPU alumni: Rifai Ahmed (KotaKita, Indonesia), Joana Dabaj and Riccardo Conti (CatalyticAction, Lebanon), Anna Kydd (SHM Foundation). Data collection activities have included interviews and focus groups with 10–24 year-olds in four cities (Solo and Denpasar in Indonesia, and Bar Elias and El Mina in Lebanon). Also underway is the documentation of case studies examining autonomous, youth-led urban (both digital and non-digital) initiatives and those initiated by municipal actors. The case study documentation has been supported by MSc SDP students on their Overseas Practice Engagement in Solo. Early findings informed the design of a questionnaire surveying young people about the action they take in their cities. Additionally, the project has recruited citizen scientists for a crucial role in the data collection and at the centre of the next action research phase, seeking to co-produce digital tools with young people and their local governments to address urban issues important to them. Finally, the project is pleased to share its recently launched [website](#).

On 2-3 May 2024, the **“Towards a low-carbon city: a collaborative study on UK-China environmental governance on climate change”** project organised a workshop bearing the project’s name. Ten scholars, six from The Bartlett, UCL and four from Peking University (PKU), shared their research and insights on strategies towards more sustainable, low-carbon urban development and governance. The participants also discussed opportunities and options for future research and education collaboration. Le-Yin Zhang co-chaired the workshop in her capacity as a Co-I of the project and presented a paper titled **“Net zero and city economies: Challenges and strategies”**.

**The YUP project has recruited citizen scientists for a crucial role in the data collection and at the centre of the next action research phase, seeking to co-produce digital tools with young people and their local governments to address urban issues important to them.**





OWS International Dialogue Week in Bogotá (credit: unknown).

The “**On the Way to School**” (OWS) project, led by Daniel Oviedo, was awarded additional funds from the International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) Institutional Support Grant (ODA) for the financial years 2023 and 2024.

Between 29 April and 3 May 2024, the OWS project held an “International Dialogue Week” at Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá. This sought to co-produce a framework and a work plan for the project’s various work packages and prepare an action plan for implementing a pilot project in Maputo, Mozambique. The week included presentations, discussions, training, and visits to local programmes in Bogotá. It involved the participation of Maputo government officials to strengthen partnerships between local authorities, academia, and non-governmental organisations. The week ended with strategic and operational results designed to promote active mobility for children and adolescents.

**The “International Dialogue Week” ended with strategic and operational results designed to promote active mobility for children and adolescents.**



Promoting active mobility in Bogotá (credit: unknown).

Meeting with the Bogotá Government Children First programme for active mobility to school (credit: unknown).



In June 2024, the OWS project met with facilitators from the Bogotá Government's "Children First" programme for active mobility to school. The meeting was an opportunity to recognise the labour of facilitators in making children's commute to school safer, healthier and happier while discussing the challenges and opportunities for both the policy and the OWS research. The meeting was hosted by local partners, Universidad de los Andes, and it was attended by Daniel Oviedo, Julio Dávila and María Alejandra Wilches.

Julio Dávila and María Alejandra Wilches presented the key premises and interim findings of the OWS research project at a DPU 30|30 research seminar. The seminar also involved a presentation by Carolyn Johnson, from the project's main funders, the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD). Two former DPU MSc students, María Laura Torres and Johanna Florez, currently research assistants for the OWS project, presented their dissertation research at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA).

María Alejandra Wilches presented the OWS methodology at the World Society for Transport and Land Use Research in Bogotá. The presentation focused on developing, implementing, and assessing active mobility programmes and their health impact on adolescents. Camila Casas, Bogotá-based project coordinator for the OWS project will enrol in the MSc SDP in the next academic year.

**The Bogotá Living Lab focuses on exploring the intricacies of informal transport in low-income and peripheral areas.**

Daniel Oviedo co-leads the **Bogotá Living Lab** as part of the Partnership for Research on Informal and Shared Mobility (PRISM), funded by the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations and led by Columbia University. The Bogotá Living Lab focuses on exploring the intricacies of informal transport in low-income and peripheral areas, aiming to develop comprehensive strategies that enhance equitable and sustainable urban mobility by addressing unique challenges in service provision and labour dynamics. Researchers in Bogotá are working with communities of suppliers, users and regulators of three modes of popular transport: shared taxis, bike-taxis and minibuses, as well as technology company La Wawa, in search of co-produced solutions for the challenges of these modes in Colombia and Latin America.



# Connections

On 20 June 2024, Julio Dávila, Daniel Oviedo and María Alejandra Wilches led celebrations at a **reception to mark 70 years of the DPU's foundation**. Colombia has a large number of DPU (and UCL) alumni. Almost 60 people attended, including the UK Ambassador to Colombia, HE George Hodgson, who delivered a warm and engaging speech highlighting the DPU's role in educating students from various countries. The event was made possible through the support of DPU PhD student Ethel Segura and OWS Project Manager María José Arbelaez, who helped with preparation and dissemination. The gathering highlighted the many areas and projects where the DPU has collaborated with Colombian partners over the past decade. It also offered a valuable networking opportunity to prospective students and DPU alumni, many of whom currently hold or have held prominent positions in the public and private sectors in Colombia.



Marking 70 years of the DPU's foundation in Bogotá. From left to right: Daniel Oviedo (DPU), Milena Jaimes (La Rolita, Bogotá Government), Roberto Angulo (Secretary for Social Integration, Bogotá Government), George Hodgson (UK Ambassador to Colombia), and Julio D Dávila (DPU). Photo credit: Edgar Beltrán.



DPU70 celebrations in Bogotá Photo credit: Edgar Beltrán.

# PhD News

**Alban Hasson** successfully defended his thesis, “Urban Agriculture and Democratisation: Comparing Allotments and Community Gardens Trajectories in London”, in April 2024. His thesis explores the contributions of urban agriculture practitioners in London in expanding the political space towards a democratic food regime. On 20-21 June 2024, he attended the XI AESOP Sustainable Food Planning Conference in Brussels and Ghent, where he presented his PhD research findings and a paper on the neoliberalisation of London’s urban agriculture.

**Stefano Mastromarino** presented a paper at the conference “Keywording the European Irregularized Migration Regime: Reflections from/on the Peripheries,” held from 11-13 April 2024 at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research in Zagreb, Croatia. The paper “Maraude as practices of reception beyond shelter” contributed to the call for methodological and theoretical perspectives on keywords and keywording in relation to the EU border regime and migration studies. Stefano also presented his research at the AHRA PhD Symposium hosted by the Architectural Association in London on 10 May 2024. Stefano discussed his ongoing research on the multiple sheltering practices enacted by migrants and refugees at the Italian-Slovenian border, focusing on the histories of domesticity and solidarity in Trieste’s Silos.

**Francisco García Gonzalez** has been awarded the [RGS-IBG Postgraduate Research Awards](#) for PhD students undertaking fieldwork/data collection to advance geographical knowledge. The project, supported by the Albert Reckitt Award, aims to understand the reconfiguration of Santiago’s “ollas communes” through concepts such as the right to the city, everyday life and food sovereignty. Francisco also presented their work entitled “Food movements and the right to the city: The case of Santiago’s ollas comunas in times of civilisational crisis” at the Decolonising Development Geographies workshop organised by the Development Geographies Research Group and held at the Royal Geographical Society, in London on 17-18 June 2024.

**Qinjing Luo** recently showcased her research at the “Future Urban Sustainability: Lessons Learned from the SDGs and Perspectives for a Post-2030 Agenda” conference, held in Vienna on 8-9 July 2024. Her presentation focused on her PhD project titled “Integrating Indigenous Knowledge for Sustainable Peri-Urban Agriculture: The Fish-Rice-Duck System in Guiyang, China.” Her interdisciplinary study explores the integration of traditional knowledge within sustainable agricultural practices with planetary health.



Silent Prayers in Busy Nights  
(credit: Said Mahathir).

**García Gonzalez’s project aims to understand the reconfiguration of Santiago’s “ollas communes” through concepts such as the right to the city, everyday life and food sovereignty.**



In June 2024, the Bartlett Forum for the Global Majority organized a writing retreat for PhD students, including **Hanadi Samhan** and **Rana Zein**. This retreat offered a sanctuary of solidarity and support, recognizing the profound impact of genocidal conflicts on students and their communities. In recent months, the mental and emotional toll of ongoing wars in Sudan, Palestine, and Congo has severely affected researchers' ability to focus on their writing. The retreat provided a secluded space where participants could heal from these devastating impacts by reconnecting with nature and committing to writing practice.

**Sara Granados Ortiz** participated in an interdisciplinary panel at the GERMINATIONS 2024 event, hosted by the Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) on 2 May 2024. Sara shared insights from her arts-based research on amphibious territory planning and its potential for fostering equitable pluriversal coexistence.

**Said Mahathir** presented a chapter of his research titled "Religious Territoriality: Mapping Muslim Religious Spaces in Multicultural London" at the 2024 Annual Conference of the British Association for Islamic Studies (BRAIS), hosted at the University of Leeds on 21 May 2024. On 5 June 2024, Said's poster titled "Pocket of Muslim Territorialities in London" was shortlisted in the UCL Research Poster Competition 2024 under the theme "Clashing Worlds (Novel Interdisciplinary Research)". He also received a runner-up prize at the UCL Research Image Competition 2024 for his work entitled "Silent Prayers in Busy Nights: Challenges of Coexistence between a Mosque and a Pub in Shepherd's Bush".

A group of Bartlett students and staff members, including **Hanadi Samhan**, **Said Mahathir**, **Rana Zein** and **Nura Ali**, organized a collage-making workshop on 28 February 2024 to foster solidarity and empathy amid the devastating wars in Congo, Sudan, and Palestine. This event was part of the Bartlett Forum for the Global Majority. It aimed to provide unfiltered nuance and critical thinking on the complexity of catastrophic humanitarian conflicts beyond conventional media narratives. Participants engaged in constructive collaging to create narratives that were both representative and critical. By deconstructing Western media bias, the workshop sought to expose layers of prejudice within these narratives.

**A group of Bartlett students and staff members organized a collage-making workshop to foster solidarity and empathy amid the devastating wars in Congo, Sudan, and Palestine.**

# Hands On

From 29 June – 4 July 2024, Adriana Allen represented the DPU and the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) at the [Collective Housing International Conference 2024](#) in Bangkok, Thailand. The gathering brought together almost 200 participants from over 17 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, with the active participation of social movements, practitioners, activists, local and national governmental representatives and external support organisations. Adriana joined two panels: one titled “[Why Collective Housing?: and another called “How to Link Collective Housing with Global Development Agendas and Programmes?”](#). At the end of the conference, participants collectively drafted a manifesto spelling out what “collective housing” means and how to advance it as a critical way to reclaim the social and ecological common functions of housing, cities and land.

**In Adriana’s words:**  
“**Why collective housing? Because housing is not the end but rather the beginning of wider and deeper transformative change to bring people to the centre of development. They have the full vocabulary of change, not just concepts but practices, experiences and evidence to place housing back into local and national government and global agendas with the prominence and support it deserves.**”

Adriana Allen at the [Collective Housing International Conference 2024](#) (credit: [Collective Housing 2024](#)).



This year’s Development Studies Association (DSA) conference was held at SOAS from 26-28 June 2024. There was strong DPU (specifically MSc DAP) representation, given the conference theme of “Social justice and development in a polarising world”. Kamna Patel attended the conference alongside DPU alumni Illias Alami (DAP, 2013), Assistant Professor in the Political Economy of Development at the University of Cambridge, who was there to launch his new co-authored book “The Spectre of State Capitalism” (2024) and Sophie Efange (DAP, 2015), the interim Director of the Gender and Development Network was speaking on feminist foreign policy. At the conference, Kamna was elected to the DSA Council beginning a three-year term.

Kamna Patel, Illias Alami and Sophie Efange (from left to right) at the DSA 2024 conference (credit: unknown).





Research Team with community members in a peri-urban settlement (credit: Anthony Odili, 2024).

Pascale Hofmann recently travelled to Durban, South Africa, as part of a joint project between UCL and eThekwinini Municipality focused on **developing a policy toolkit for selecting sanitation solutions that can achieve multiple benefits across SDGs**. This builds on previous work, which evidenced synergies, trade-offs, and risks between sanitation (SDG 6) and the other SDGs. The team led a series of research activities in collaboration with municipal partners. These included a collaborative learning workshop at eThekwinini Municipality with over 20 key stakeholders from diverse professions and sectors in the municipality. Discussions from the workshop provided critical insights on identifying locally relevant areas for where and how sanitation technologies can contribute to the SDGs.

Activities also included pilot fieldwork in a selected settlement involving a transect walk and a focus group discussion (FGD) with women. This allowed researchers to observe the local environment first-hand and see the sanitation options available to the community. The FGD shed light on the sanitation options in use and how they affect different aspects of residents' everyday living. This is a settlement where the municipality provided free urine diversion dehydration toilets (UDDT), but many have been converted to flush or pour-flush toilets. One of the participants explained that they stopped using the UDDT because they were a danger to children, while for another, it was a self-preservation act to minimise contracting diseases. The FGD further clarified what qualities an adequate sanitation facility ought to have, with participants emphasising (menstrual) hygiene, safety, comfort and affordability.

The trip to Durban further involved site visits to other settlements and the city's wastewater treatment plant, including the processing facility of a container-based sanitation provider that started operating in selected settlements of the city in 2023. Insights from the pilot fieldwork provided the basis for fieldwork in four other case study areas and are central to the development of a decision-making toolkit aimed at identifying appropriate sanitation solutions with the greatest overall impact on its people, the society, and the environment. Findings from the research are expected to be published in a future academic journal and a non-academic output to guide eThekwinini in the development and design of appropriate sanitation solutions beneficial to all residents within eThekwinini Municipality and with a high impact on the SDGs.

Pascale shared insights from Durban at a workshop co-organised by the Urban Studies Group at the University of Vienna and the University of Applied Sciences in Berlin from 8-9 July 2024. The workshop focused on **Future Urban Sustainability: Lessons learnt from the SDGs and perspectives for a post-2030 agenda**. Pascale presented a paper entitled "More than just technology: SDG localisation for inclusive and sustainable sanitation solutions" in a session centred around participatory approaches, knowledge (co-) production and learning. Her paper discussed the benefits of working closely with city officials and involving a wider group of actors in helping to develop more inclusive and sustainable sanitation solutions.

**The FGD shed light on the sanitation options in use and how they affect different aspects of residents' everyday living.**



Focus group participants engaging with a map of their settlement (credit: Pascale Hofmann, 2024).



In particular, active engagement with diverse groups of residents from a gender and intersectional perspective reveals intra-city disparities that need to be addressed.

**The London Project** provides a unique opportunity for MSc UED students to put theoretical concepts into practice. Margarethe Theseira collaborates with a wide range of partners, including UK Government departments, the Greater London Authority, Transport for London, Mayoral Development Corporations, London boroughs and charities to shape questions about how to make London a better place to live, work and enjoy. The MSc UED 2023-24 cohort worked across multi-disciplinary teams for three months, undertaking qualitative and quantitative research to review existing literature and data, identifying information gaps and undertaking primary research with key stakeholders to address these. After the research phase, students developed practical recommendations for the partner organisations, ensuring that outcomes were socially inclusive and supportive of climate transition.

**The London Project provides a unique opportunity for MSc UED students to put theoretical concepts into practice. Students developed practical recommendations for the partner organisations, ensuring that outcomes were socially inclusive and supportive of climate transition.**

Rafe Bertram (Built Environment Sustainability Lead at Enfield Council) leads a group tour as part of the UED London Project exploring retrofitting housing at scale (credit: Alex McFarlane).





# Staff News

**Zeremariam Fre** recently retired from the DPU, having made an enormous contribution to its scholarship, culture and, above all, engagement with colleagues and concerns in the Horn of Africa. The DPU will forever be richer from Zere's input and the warmth of his interactions with colleagues. He also contributed hugely through his advocacy and engagement personally and through PENHA (Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa), the NGO he set up some 35 years ago. That, too, was a multi-faceted relationship as many DPU staff and students worked with or for PENHA over the years, gaining valuable experience as well as contributing to their vital work. Zere will, of course, be missed, but the DPU wishes him a happy and fulfilling retirement and hopes to keep in touch in the years ahead.



Zere and colleagues at his DPU retirement party (credit: unknown).

**Bruna Ferreira Montuori** is an urban researcher and multidisciplinary designer from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She recently joined the DPU as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow working on the project “Listen, Learn and Leap”, which investigates and co-develops Nature Based Solutions with the organisations KDI in Nairobi, Kenya, and CCI in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Brunu holds a PhD from the School of Architecture, Royal College of Art (SoA/RCA), where she investigated the intersection between space, narratives, and insurgent citizenship through the work and collective action of Redes da Maré, an organisation based in the group of 16 favelas of Maré in Rio.

**Dasha Moschonas** also joined the DPU as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the “Listen, Learn and Leap” project. She is a design researcher, architect, and planner, working at the intersection of social and physical dimensions of space. Dasha completed a practice-based PhD in Architecture at Monash University (Melbourne, Australia) as part of a research project on “Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments” at a global scale, designing and implementing the participatory strategy for water and sanitation infrastructure. She is a participatory design specialist, experimenting with design processes in infrastructure and public space projects.

**Zeremariam Fre recently retired from the DPU, having made an enormous contribution to its scholarship, culture and, above all, engagement with colleagues and concerns in the Horn of Africa. The DPU wishes him a happy and fulfilling retirement and hopes to keep in touch in the years ahead.**

**Elizabeth Heather** has joined the “Listen, Learn, and Leap” project as a Project Coordinator. She has over 20 years of experience in International Development, working with local organisations in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. She has an MSc in Development and extensive experience in programme management working on WASH, urban conservation and regeneration, sustainability, youth livelihoods, and disability.

**Juliano Cavalli de Meira** has joined the DPU as the new PGTA of the MSc UED. He is an MSc UED alumnus and has contributed to the programme in numerous ways over the past two years. He is also a PhD student at the Institute for Sustainable Resources at the Bartlett School of Environment, Energy and Resources (BSEER). Juliano's research focuses on understanding just energy transitions in the northeast state of Bahia, Brazil, with a particular emphasis on regional economic development.

**Harriet Allsopp** has joined Giovanna Astolfo, Camillo Boano and Estella Carpi as Senior Research Fellow for the AHRC-funded project on "Reframing Arrival Infrastructures". Harriet has a disciplinary background in International Relations, Politics and Middle Eastern Studies. Her independent research has focused on disputed/border territories and spaces, the organisation of groups with restricted rights and their underlying political and socio-economic relations and geo-political contexts, employing mixed and adaptive methodologies to negotiate challenging research environments.

**María Alejandra Wilches** has joined the DPU as a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant for the OWS project. She has a background in industrial engineering and holds a PhD in Engineering. María Alejandra works at the intersection of urban mobility, policy, and health. Before joining the DPU, she worked as a researcher at the Research Group of Epidemiology and the Centre for Optimization and Applied Probability at Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá. Her PhD thesis evaluated the health impact of two sustainable transport interventions in the city of Bogotá: the expansion of cycle routes and the creation of a new aerial cable.

**María José Arbeláez** has joined the DPU as the Project Manager and Communications Lead for the OWS project. She has a background in Government and Public Affairs and holds an MSc in Urban Studies from the Geography Department at UCL. María José will also start her PhD at the DPU in October 2024 under the supervision of Daniel Oviedo and Kamna Patel. The focus of her research will be on walkability, appropriation of urban public space, and the right to the city.

**Andrea Rigon** has moved to Milan, taking up a role at Milan Polytechnic while also retaining some responsibilities at DPU. We would like to thank Andrea for his huge commitment over the years and wish him and his family a happy relocation to Milan.

**Catalina Ortiz** has taken up the role of Director of Urban Lab. **Raktim Ray** has become DPU Director of Studies. **Kamna Patel** has taken over as Chair of the Board of Examiners, with **Paroj Banerjee** as Deputy Chair. Paroj has also joined SDP as Co-Programme Lead, and **Giorgio Talocci** has joined Raktim as Co-Programme Lead for DAP.

# Networks and Meetings

In February, Liza Griffin discussed the links between health and greenspace planning at the **“Pride in Place Roundtable: Places that Bring People Together”**. The roundtable was a practitioner-focused event attended by numerous government and third-sector organisations based in the North of England. It was organised for *Pride in Place* by the Northern Housing Consortium and Create Streets to generate cross-sector conversations about belonging in local areas, the meaning of community cohesion today and how to tackle local and regional inequality across the UK.

Over the past few months, Kamna Patel has given several talks across academia and practice. In February 2024, Kamna was invited to the **Gender and Development Network (GADN) member meeting** to speak

**The programme team behind Arup’s new research study had engaged with the Bartlett’s “Race and Space” curriculum”. It developed its own framework to guide built environment practitioners in producing antiracist approaches to planning, design and delivery.**

on the topic “From decolonisation to locally-led development: repoliticising the agenda”. She spoke about locally-led development to an audience of over 40 development practitioners from NGOs, community-based organisations, networks and funders. In April 2024, Kamna also gave an address at the University of Birmingham to mark the **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Development Department (IDD)**. The theme of the event was the past, present and future of both IDD and development studies. Kamna spoke about the state of development studies in relation to moves to decolonise the discipline and its engagements with antiracism.

In June 2024, Kamna was invited to speak at the launch of **Arup’s new research study on racial equity in the city**. The programme team behind the study had engaged with the Bartlett’s “Race and Space” curriculum (an initiative led by Kamna). It developed its own framework to guide built environment practitioners in producing antiracist approaches to planning, design and delivery. Alongside speaking with practitioners and drawing from her EDI work, in July 2024, Kamna gave the closing address at the University of Sussex on a day-long programme on **building better research cultures**. She focused on the importance of building imperfect and tangled webs of solidarity and care in place of traditional framings of “wellbeing and belonging”.

On 10 May 2024, Le-Yin Zhang was a discussant at a workshop titled **“Research Exchange on China Planning Studies”**. The workshop was supported by China Planning Research Group and ERC project “ChinaUrban”.

In June 2024, Azadeh Mashayekhi was invited to an international workshop at King’s College to present her research on the **state’s role in the politics of urban land acquisition and conflict in Iran**. The workshop marked the launch of a collaboration with Beirut Urban Lab to explore state-making and governance through an urban lens, focusing on Middle Eastern case studies as sites for broader theorisation. A second workshop will be held at the American University of Beirut in 2025 in preparation for a special issue on the topic.

In June 2024, Daniel Oviedo participated as an expert in a workshop organised by the **International Transport Forum** of the OECD in Paris on “Data for Better Transport Governance”. Daniel delivered a presentation building on the work of the Walking Cities Lab, challenging traditional transport planning approaches for data collection and use. His presentation reflected on the need for more participatory and inclusive methodologies and the levelling of the playfield on transport decision-making. Daniel also presented findings from the Walking Cities Lab in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America at the second meeting of the Volvo **Research and Education Foundations’ (VREF) Walking Programme**, in July 2024. The meeting brought together all the projects funded by VREF since the start of the programme and included reflections about ways forward for research on walking as a mode of transport. Mercilia Lombe and Sara Marquez presented the results of the DPU-led Walking Cities Lab’s work in Maputo at the **African Transport Research Conference (ATRC) 2024**.



Haim speaking at the University of Tokyo (credit: Itamar Yacob Padan).



In June 2024, Haim Yacobi was an invited speaker at the **University of Tokyo's Centre for Middle Eastern Studies**. His lecture, "From a Divided to a Neo-Apartheid City: Notes on Jerusalem's Urban Geopolitics," was attended by scholars and journalists working on the Middle East.

On 24-26 July 2024, Julia Wesely and Adriana Allen attended the **RC21 Conference, "The politics and spaces of encounters: advancing dialogues between and within the Global North and the Global South"**, held in Santiago, Chile. They screened the documentary "What We Want is to Change Everything", collectively produced with several popular schools coalescing under the umbrella of Habitat International Coalition (HIC) in Latin America, as part of a session on "Radical Pedagogies for territorial contestation" convened by Camilo Boano, Martin Arias-Loyola and Francisco Vergara-Perucich.

DPU Colleagues at the RC21 conference in Santiago de Chile (credit: unknown).





In July, Adriana Allen participated in the annual meeting of **Centro del Desarrollo Urbano Sustentable (CEDEUS)** at the Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago. CEDEUS is a research centre of excellence funded by the National Research and Development Agency (ANID), through its FONDAP programme. Adriana has been a member of CEDEUS' International Advisory Board since the inception of the Centre, supporting its development into a highly impactful organisation working towards just, healthy, resilient and accessible cities across Chile.

Commenting on a (currently unreleased) documentary on daily urban commuting by domestic workers in Bogotá and Medellín, Colombia, Julio Dávila participated in a roundtable discussion at Queen Mary, University of London, on the **economic, social, and spatial implications of urban transport in Colombia**. Valentina Montoya Robledo, Daniel Gómez Restrepo, and Andrés Gonzalez Robledo jointly directed the documentary.

Daniel Oviedo delivered the keynote lecture on Transport Poverty at the **National Conference of the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy of the Republic of Slovenia**. Over 200 participants, including the Minister of Environment and Energy, attended the meeting from all spheres of government dealing with transport, energy, and the environment.



Celebrating 12 years at the annual meeting of CEDEUS (credit: CEDEUS communication team).

# Publications

Astolfo, G., and Allsopp, H. (2024). "The colonial face of 'housing' refugees: the construction of the racialised subject within a necropolitical infrastructure". *Housing Studies*: 1:24.

Astolfo G., Boano C., and Desmaison, B. (2024). "Abitare precario tra i margini: limiti, scarti e rotture nel fare territorio". *Tracce Urbane*, 15: 386-410.

Astolfo, G., Boano, C., and Desmaison, B. (2024). "Displacement as Precarious Inhabiting: Care and Repair at the Urban Margins". In: Nuno Martins, A., Mendoza-Arroyo, C., Hobeica, L., León, J., Hobeica, A. (eds). *Beyond Houses*. The Urban Book Series. Springer.

Cohen, N., and Yacobi, H. (2024). "Oren Yiftachel". In: *Key Thinkers on Space and Place*. Gilmartin, M., Hubbard, P., Kitchin, R., and Roberst, S. (eds.). SAGE Publications.

Griffin, L., and Pallaris, K. (2024) "Parks". In: *Social Infrastructure in Neighbourhoods and Cities*. Latham, A., and Layton, J. (eds.). Policy Press.

Griffin, L., Reville, G., and Wellesley-Smith, C. (2024) "What is the potential of Creative Practice for Building Community Resilience in Flood-prone Communities in the UK?" *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*.

Okyere, S. A., Frimpong, L. K., Boateng, F. G., Mensah, S. L., Oviedo, D., Abunyewah, M., Kita, M. (2024). "Walking cities that are (un) walkable: exploring everyday lived realities in low-income neighbourhoods in Accra". *Transportation*: 1-24.

Okyere, S. A., Oviedo, D., Frimpong, L. K., Mensah, S. L., and Abunyewah, M. (2024). "Walking in African cities can be a miserable experience: Accra study shows planners ignore needs of pedestrian". *The Conversation*.

Patel, K. (2023). "Development and racial hierarchy". In: Clarke, M., Zhao, X. (eds.). *Elgar Encyclopedia of Development*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Patel, K., Sanyal, R. (2024). "Diasporic Scholarship: racialization, coloniality and de-territorialising knowledge". *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 54(2): 347-360.

Patel, K. (2024). "Global North and Global South". In: Dauncy, E., Vandana, D., Potter, R. B. (eds.). *The Companion to Development Studies* (4th edition). Routledge.

Patel, K. (2024). "The morality trap of decolonising development: a reply to 'From dematerialising race to distorting decoloniality: development-as-imperialism and Hindu supremacy' by Kalpana Wilson". *Global Discourse*, 14(2-3): 406-410.

Scholl, L., Lleras, G., Oviedo, D., Castro, J., and Sabogal-Cardona, O. (2024). "The Potential for Ride-hailing Integration with Mass Transit Systems: A choice Experiment in Latin America". *Inter-American Development Bank*.

The journal "City" has selected 20 articles on Palestine/Israel, highlighting the urgent need for a ceasefire and an end to the occupation. Three of these important articles have a connection to the DPU:

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