

# GLOBAL URBANISM

INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH  
MALMÖ UNIVERSITY

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# INTRODUCTION

This is a report of academic institutions and collectives working with an explicit or implicit “Global Urbanism” perspective in their research activities, educational programs or institutional aims. Global Urbanism in this case is broadly understood as a practice of urban studies that:

- a) contributes to debates about how we should study and understand cities in the global South (i.e., a location outside Euro-America)
- b) questions forms of scholarship and knowledge production constructed around the experience of a few cities in the West
- c) interrogates the very foundations of the field of urban studies
- d) seeks to develop novel methodological tools to analyze multiple forms of urbanities and urbanization across the globe
- e) carries out comparative work in South-South constellations as well as South-North

## *Background*

The discipline of critical urban studies within the Anglophone world has seen a “Southern” turn in the last decades, guided and led by postcolonial, decolonial, and feminist work. The “southern urban critique”, as Lawhon and Truelove (2020) broadly call it, has not only reinvigorated debates about how we should study and understand cities in the global South – a location outside Euro-America (Comaroff and Comaroff, 2012) – but has also questioned the very foundations of urban scholarship. Powerful interventions have encouraged us to postcolonize the discipline of urban geography (Robinson, 2003) by putting to work “new geographies of imagination and epistemology” (Roy, 2009). Scholars such as Tariq Jazeel, Mary Lawhon, Helga Leitner, Susan Parnell, Sujata Patel, Edgar Pieterse, Jennifer Robinson, Ananya Roy, and Eric Sheppard have questioned how a field that is constructed around the experience of a few cities in the West can give us the tools to analyze multiple forms of urbanities and urbanization across the globe. Despite differences in theoretical starting points, what could be broadly referred as **Global Urbanism**, seeks to dismantle the production of urban knowledge that is carried out through Eurocentric lenses by engaging with the global South (and other margins) through an approach that acknowledges historical difference, embodied knowledge, and the existence of a pluriverse of epistemologies (cf. de Sousa Santos, 2014; Grosfoguel, 2011; Kimari, 2023; Lancione and McFarlane, 2021).

The southern turn in critical urban studies now offers a variety of entry points for **rethinking the location, theories, and practices of the field** by engaging with the “overlooked” (Ruszczyk et al., 2021), the “ordinary” or “off the map” (Robinson,

2002, 2006), the peripheral (Caldeira, 2017) or the “postcolonial city” (Yeoh, 2001). These conceptualizations are complemented by strategies such as decolonizing (Schwarz and Streule, 2016), provincializing (Sheppard et al., 2013), subalternity (Jazeel, 2014; Roy, 2011), new comparative approaches (Robinson, 2016; Streule, 2023), and worlding practices (Ong, 2011; Simone, 2001). While this theoretical richness is cause for celebration, work remains to be done. Scholars have highlighted how the southern turn has tended to ignore secondary cities (Ruszczyk et al., 2021), warned of the risks of understanding the global South as a geographical location and not a relation (Parnell and Robinson, 2012), and argued that there is a need to clarify “the precise objects and objectives of the southern urban critique” (Lawhon and Truelove, 2020). Alongside this is scholarship that reflects how the “postcolonial condition” exists beyond the global South (Shin, 2021; Tlostanova, 2019), interrogates if we can even speak of a “south” perspective in urban studies (Patel, 2014) or goes further to question if urbanization in the global South is “fundamentally different” (Randolph and Storper, 2023).

### *Keywords*

global South, global East, southern critique, postcolonial/decolonial urban studies, provincializing, worlding, off the map, ordinary cities

### *Disclaimer*

The list provided here attempts to showcase examples from across all continents but is not exhaustive.

### *Acknowledgments*

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# AFRICA

## AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES (AAC), UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

### *Aims*

- "Focus on urban research in the global South but from an African perspective"
- "ACC is engaged in collaborative research and developing imaginative policy discourses and practices to **promote vibrant, just and sustainable cities.**"

### *Premise*

- "Given that 95% of urban growth between now and 2050 will take place in Africa and Asia, the **global South must take the lead in exploring and theorising emergent forms of urbanity.** By necessity **this knowledge practice must be rooted in concrete experiments** to figure out how to imagine, enact and institutionalise novel forms of city-making."

### *Themes*

- Climate risk and urban resilience
- Digital cities
- Everyday urbanism
- Gender and urban justice
- Informality
- Multi-level governance
- Platform urbanism
- Public culture and heritage
- Sustainable infrastructures
- Sustainable urban transitions

### *Staff (36)*

- Administrators (7)
- Phd Students (7)
- Post Doctoral Researchers (7)
- Researchers (15)

### *Master's programs*

- MPhil in Urban Studies — Southern Urbanism
  - Language: English

- <https://www.africancentreforcities.net/programme/mphil-southern-urbanism/>
- MPhil in African and Southern Urban Studies
  - Joint master's degree: Sciences Po and University of Cape Town
  - Language: English
  - <https://www.africancentreforcities.net/mphil-african-and-southern-urban-studies/>

<https://www.africancentreforcities.net/>

## WITS-TUB-UNILAG URBAN LAB

### *Aims*

- **graduate school** promoting cooperative efforts among the University of the Witwatersrand, Technische Universität Berlin and the University of Lagos
- Seeks “to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the **New Urban Agenda (NUA) on the African continent**”
- Promote North-South-South and pan-African networks

### *Premise*

- “Decisions made in cities will either exacerbate vulnerabilities caused by climate change or initiate a transformation towards more equitable outcomes. This is especially true for **urban populations in Africa that are expected to triple over 40 years**, from 395 million in 2010 to 1.339 billion in 2050, corresponding to 21% of the world’s projected urban population (UN, 2014).”

### *Activities*

- postgraduate degrees in the field of Urban Management
- PhD studies and postdoctoral fellowships at the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Lagos
- Webinars
- African Urbanisms International Conference (2024)

### *Staff (27)*

- Core team (13)
- Scholarship holders (8)
- Collaborators (6)

<https://www.urban-sdg-school.org/>

## ASSORTED CENTERS

*Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa (CURLA), University of Nairobi*

- Aim: Promote sustainable development in Africa
- Partner: UN-Habitat
- Pan-African network: Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe
- <https://curla.uonbi.ac.ke/>

*Gauteng City Region Observatory*

- Aim: Generate data and analysis to support better planning, management, and cooperative governance in Gauteng, aiming for a more integrated, sustainable, and inclusive urban region.
- Partners: University of Johannesburg and University of the Witwatersrand
- <https://gcro.ac.za/>

# AMERICAS

## CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS DEMOGRÁFICOS, URBANOS Y AMBIENTALES. EL COLEGIO DE MÉXICO

### *Aims*

- Conduct research that contributes to the advancement of knowledge in the fields of population, urbanization, and the environment in Mexico and Latin America.

### *Activities*

- Undergraduate and graduate programs, including a Master's degree in Urban Studies, as well as a PhD program in Urban and Environmental Studies.
- Manages a journal: [\*Estudios Demográficos y Urbanos\*](#)
- Summer school: *Métodos de Investigación en Población y Territorio*
- Visiting scholar scheme

<https://cedua.colmex.mx/>

## CITY INSTITUTE AT YORK UNIVERSITY

### *Aims*

- “Facilitates critical and collaborative research, providing new knowledge and innovative approaches to comprehending and addressing the complexity of the urban arena.”
- “Plays a vital role in developing Canada’s next generation of leaders and thinkers, with graduate and post-doctoral fellows playing a central role in the life of the Institute. CITY’s researchers have long-standing relationships with community groups, NGOs and policymakers, within Toronto, across the Greater Toronto Area, and globally.”

### *Activities*

- [Membership](#): Different modes of affiliation
- [Visiting Scholar](#) scheme
- [Toronto Urban Journal](#)

<https://www.yorku.ca/cityinstitute/>

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

### *Aims*

- “We strive for a critical and ethical approach to the natural environment and society’s relationship with it.”

### *Thematic areas*

- Biodiversity, Ecology, Politics
- Cities, Economies, Transnational Flows
- Climate: Science, Chance, Action
- Digital Geographies, Geospatial Analysis, GIS
- Gender, Race, Class
- Knowledge, Ideas, Practices
- Power, Colonialism, Justice
- War, Security, States,
- Water, Ice, Landscapes

<https://geog.ubc.ca/>

## FACULTAD DE ARQUITECTURA Y URBANISMO, UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE

### *Aim*

- Produce multidisciplinary scholarly work that engages with environmental, social, and urban challenges in Chile and beyond.

### *Activities*

- Eight priority research areas, including environmental systems, socioecological landscapes and territorial governance
- Undergraduate and graduate programs, including a Master's degree in Urban Studies, as well as a PhD program in Territory, Space and Society
- Manages several journals, including:
  - [\*Revista de Investigaciones Geográficas: Una mirada desde el sur\*](#)
  - [\*Revista de Urbanismo\*](#)
  - [\*Revista Invi\*](#)

<https://fau.uchile.cl/>

## **INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS URBANOS Y TERRITORIALES, PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE**

### *Aims*

- Advance interdisciplinary research and education in urban and territorial planning.
- Address urban challenges in Chile and Latin America through academic programs and applied research.

### *Activities*

- Undergraduate and graduate programs, including a Master's degrees in Urban Planning, Urban Development, and Human Settlements and Environment, as well as a PhD program in Architecture and Urban Studies.
- Manages two journals: Revista EURE and Revista PLANEIO
- Provides diploma courses and specialized training in areas like urban planning, environmental compliance, and citizen participation, aimed at professionals seeking to update or expand their expertise
- Facilitates professional internships and practical experiences for students, integrating academic learning with real-world urban planning and management scenarios.

<https://estudiosurbanos.uc.cl/>

## INSTITUTO DE GEOGRAFÍA, UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTÓNOMA DE MÉXICO (UNAM)

### *Aims*

- The institute is organized into three geography divisions (economic, physical and human), a GIS lab, and several Working Groups.

### *Core focus - Human Geography Division*

- Investigates social phenomena through the lens of spatial relations—how social groups occupy territory, the spatial distribution of resources and services, and the territorial expressions of social needs and practices.

### *Main research lines - Human Geography Division*

- Historical Geography: Explores how urban and regional forms have evolved over time, revealing power dynamics behind morphological and spatial shifts.
- Population Geography: Studies demographic patterns, including how mobility, segregation, and inequality shape lived experiences in cities.
- Urban–Regional Geography: Analyzes linkages between urban centers and their broader surroundings, including socio-spatial inequalities, governance, and planning practices.

### *Main research lines – Critical Perspectives on Urban-Territorial Development (Working group)*

- How neoliberal policies and urban governance influence city-making in Latin America.
- Gentrification and segregation as central manifestations of spatial inequality.
- Access, policy, and rights relating to housing and urban planning.
- Migration (global and internal) and the creation of cross-border urban spaces shaped by transnational flows and remittance practices.

<https://www.geografia.unam.mx/geoigg/>

## UCLA LUSKIN INSTITUTE ON INEQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY

### *Aims*

- “Advances research and scholarship concerned with displacement and dispossession in Los Angeles and elsewhere in the world. Working in alliance with social movements and communities on the frontlines of struggle, the Institute seeks to abolish structures of inequality.”

### *Thematic areas*

- Housing Justice
- Future of Finance
- Sanctuary Spaces: Reworlding Humanism

### *Activities*

- [UCLA Activist-in-Residence](#) scheme
- [Essays and Media](#)

<https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/>

## ASSORTED CENTERS

*Instituto de Geografía "Romualdo Ardisson", Universidad de Buenos Aires*

- Aim: Generate critical scientific knowledge and highlight “the role of science in the construction of more just and inclusive societies and spaces”
- Journal: [Revista Punto Sur](#)
- <https://geografia.institutos.filo.uba.ar/>

*LabCidade – Laboratório Espaço Público e Direito à Cidade, Universidade de São Paulo*

- Aims to monitor urban displacement, analyze housing and public-space policies, and produce open science outputs.
- Focuses on urban and housing policies—particularly in São Paulo—producing academic articles, reports, [maps](#), and multimedia content. Topics include eviction, rental markets, traffic injustice, public space, and urban planning.
- [YouTube channel](#)
- [Podcast](#)
- <https://www.labcidade.fau.usp.br/>

## ASSORTED NETWORKS

*Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO)*

- International non-governmental institution with associate status at UNESCO, founded in 1967. Brings together 927 research and graduate centers in the fields of social sciences and humanities across 56 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, and other continents.
- Aims to promote [South-South](#) and North-South cooperation
- Supports [Grupos de Trabajo](#), interdisciplinary research networks, selected through open calls and a double peer-review process.
- Outreach activities: [CLACSO TV and Radio](#)
- Open learning: [Book store](#), [digital library](#), and supports [Redalyc](#), a scholarly non-commercial open-access platform.
- <https://www.clacso.org/>

*Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)*

- Intergovernmental Latin American organization, founded in 1957, delivering postgraduate education, research, and social sciences cooperation across 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Aims to advance social justice and regional development by integrating education, research, cooperation, and cultural engagement.

- Operates through a system of autonomous academic units
- The network offers postgraduate programs, including doctoral degrees, master's and specializations.
- Publishes and supports several academic journals.
- [FLACSO Ecuador](#) engages significantly with urban studies. See, for example:
  - [Observatorio para la Urbanización Amazónica](#)
  - Master's programs in urban studies: a) [specialization in urban planning and land use management](#), and b) [specialization in city management and climate change](#).
  - Journal: [Civitic. Revista Interuniversitaria de Estudios Urbanos de Ecuador](#)
- <https://flacso.org/>

*Observatório das Metrópoles, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)*

- Prominent urban research network in Brazil committed to advancing transdisciplinary knowledge, metropolitan indicators, and public dialogue on the right to the city, social inclusion, and sustainable urban development.
- Operates through 16 regional centers.
- Journals: [Cadernos Metrópole](#) and [@Metropolis - Revista Eletrônica de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais](#)
- <https://www.observatoriodasmetropoles.net.br/>

# ASIA

## ASIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

### *Aim*

- “Global hub for historical and contemporary research on Asia. [...] The institute facilitates cutting-edge scholarship in the social sciences and humanities as well as interdisciplinary research collaborations.”

### *Clusters*

- [Asian urbanisms](#)
  - “The Asian Urbanisms cluster explores Asia’s diverse urban experiences historically, contemporaneously, and toward the future. It seeks to contribute to research on city life and wider urban processes from local to global scales, in diverse contexts in Asia, and through comparative studies with other world regions. The orientation of the cluster is towards research that speaks in transformative ways to both urban theory and applied public policy issues in and beyond Asia.”
  - Main strands of research:
    - Urban heritage and the vernacular city: built environment; intangible heritage; urban culture and ways of life
    - Futures: city plans, models, and “solutions”; SDGs and the city; (post)pandemic urbanisms
    - Global urban frontiers: extended/planetary urbanization (oceanic as well as territorial); infrastructures of connectivity; new geographies of urban theory
- Food politics and society
- Inter-Asia engagements
- Migration and mobilities
- Religion and globalization
- Science, technology and society

### *Activities*

- Publications:
  - Books
  - Journals
  - Newsletters
  - Working paper series
  - Annual reports
  - CoronAsur (research blog)
- [Visiting scholar scheme](#)

<https://ari.nus.edu.sg/>

## BEIRUT URBAN LAB

### *Aim*

- “The Beirut Urban Lab is a collaborative and interdisciplinary research space. The Lab produces scholarship on urbanization by documenting and analyzing ongoing transformation processes in Lebanon and its region's natural and built environments. It intervenes as an interlocutor and contributor to academic debates about historical and contemporary urbanization from its position in the Global South.”

### *Thematic areas*

- Social value of land
- Urban recovery
- Urban citizenship
- Critical mapping
- Planning actors and scales
- Spatial practices
- Urban informality

<https://beiruturbanlab.com/en/Home>

## INDIAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (IIHS)

### *Aims*

- “Urbanisation is fundamentally changing India’s economy, society, culture, natural and built environments, as well as politics. Our national development now hinges on this transition being handled with wisdom.”

### *Thematic areas*

- Governance and land
- Employment and livelihoods
- Urban inequality
- Health
- Housing
- Water and sanitation
- Energy
- Food systems
- Ecosystems
- Climate change
- Disaster risk and resilience

### *Activities*

- [Urbanisation Journal](#): “*Urbanisation* aims to publish comparative as well as collaborative interdisciplinary scholarship that will illuminate the global urban condition, beginning with a firm footprint in the Global South. A platform that brings together interdisciplinary scholarship on the urban, it is equally interested in critical and reflexive discussions on diverse forms and sectors of urban practice. It seeks to do so not only to inform urban theory, policy and practice but also to enable the construction of diverse forms of knowledge and knowledge production needed to enable us to understand contemporary urban life.”
- [IIHS Urban Fellows Programme](#)
- Graduate programs:
  - Master of Science in Sustainability Science and Practice
  - Master of Science in Climate Change Science and Practice
  - Master of Science in Urban Economic and Infrastructure Development
  - Master of Arts in Urban Studies and Practice
- [Digital Blended Learning courses](#)
- Events: lectures, film screenings, workshops, exhibitions, theatre and music performances, book launches, conferences and community engagement with schools.
- Annual events:
  - “Urban Policy Dialogues brings together policy makers, practitioners, academics, researchers, and representatives of civil society, to

deliberate on the formulation and implementation of urban policies in India.”

- Urban Arc: Annual research conference organized by IIHS
- Urban Lens Film Festival: A festival “to engage with the way the ‘city’ has found a cinematic expression in films over time.”
- City Scripts: “a celebration of city writings. It hosts novelists, journalists, thinkers, architects, planners, poets, bloggers and the broader community to engage in conversations on writing in different genres about the experience of living in Indian cities.”

<https://iihs.co.in/>

## INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY IN QATAR (#IAS-NUQ)

### *Aims*

- “The Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South at Northwestern University in Qatar (#IAS\_NUQ) produces and promotes evidence-based storytelling focused on the histories, cultures, societies, and media of the Global South. Our inclusive vision of globality recognizes the diversities and inequalities that shape the societies we inhabit and study. We harness traditions from the liberal arts, media, communication, and journalism to forge multi-disciplinary and multi-modal approaches to knowledge that is locally relevant and globally resonant.”

### *Thematic areas*

- **Genealogies and Epistemologies of the Global South**
  - “This theme cuts across much of our research. It reflects our core commitment to the Global South as a space of epistemological and theoretical engagement, broadly shaped by the concept’s geopolitical underpinnings but not fully determined by them. As part of this research strand, we highlight and engage with thought traditions, literatures, and theorists from and about the Global South, in addition to those that reflect the Global South’s resonances and articulations in the West—indigenous peoples, minorities, migrant communities, etc.”
- Arab Media, Culture, and Politics
- Southern Digitalities
- Critical Security Studies

### *Activities*

- [Fellowship programs](#) to support scholars working in and on the Global South
  - Global Undergraduate Fellowships
  - Global Fellows
- Southern Digitalities Summer School
- #IAS\_NUQ Theory and Method Winter School
- [#IAS NUQ Press](#): “Open-access, multimodal, and multilingual publisher housed at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South at Northwestern Qatar. It publishes academic papers, multimodal projects, edited volumes, and special issues that promote evidence-based storytelling centered on the media, histories, cultures, and societies of the Global South.”

[https://www.qatar.northwestern.edu/research/ias\\_nuq/](https://www.qatar.northwestern.edu/research/ias_nuq/)

## KARACHI URBAN LAB, UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI

### *Aims*

- “The Karachi Urban Lab (KUL) was set up in 2016 in a context where data production on the ‘urban’ in Pakistan remains top-down and largely technocratic. The KUL fills a ‘gap’ in data/knowledge production from the ground up and in a critically oriented way.”

### *Thematic areas*

- Urban planning
- Architecture
- Anthropology
- Human geography
- GIS
- Design
- Media fields

### *Activities*

- Housed at the Department of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts
- Open learning: [Blog](#), [podcast](#), and [videos](#)
- [Publications](#) (academic papers and reports)

<https://karachiurbanlab.com/index.html>

## URBAN RESEARCH GROUP, CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

### *Aims*

- “International and multidisciplinary team with a substantial portfolio of external funded projects currently encompassing Mainland China, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, India and Hong Kong. We are committed to research which is both theoretically robust and socially engaged.”
- “Welcomes and seeks active collaborations with other top universities and institutes.”

### *Thematic areas*

- City life and urban culture: Urban mobilities and migration; the social life of neighbourhoods; neighbourhood dynamics and social change
- The city and public policy: Urban governance and management; urban policy; governing diversity; contested urban politics
- The contours of the contemporary housing question: Housing and wealth; affordability; housing inequality and social stratification

### *Activities*

- [MA Housing and Urban Management](#) (in English)
- [Working Papers collection](#)
- Open science: [Online Open-Access Urban Studies Resources](#)

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/cityuoncities/about.asp>

## ASSORTED COLLECTIVES

### *South Asian Urban Climates (SAUC)*

- Scholars, educators, filmmakers, and practitioners
- Intersections of climate, politics, and urbanism in South Asia
- Climate breakdowns need to be understood vis-à-vis colonialism, intersectionality, and processes of militarization
- Urban Studies Foundation Seminar Series Award (2019)
- <https://www.southasianurbanclimates.com/>

## ASSORTED NETWORKS

*Centre for Spatial Studies (affiliated to the University of Mumbai)*

- An initiative of the Society for Environment & Architecture; a collective of architects, designers, environmentalists, artists, urbanists, cultural theorists, researchers and activists.
- "The Center for Spatial Studies is imagined as a node for intersections of spatial practices. It's aim is to develop an ecosystem for experimental research, open pedagogy and collaborative production of knowledge."
- "The Centre intends to intervene in the cultural landscapes and respond to the context of rising auto-diadacts, emerging digital ecosystems; limited research in spatial studies; capture of academia by institutional structures; and the absence of an academic space with a cultural ambition."
- "The spirit of the research activity at the Centre is to produce new knowledge where its applicability is not a defining imperative. However, the research may be useful for pedagogy, policy, practice of making buildings, awareness creation, etc."
- Research clusters:
  - Urbanisation and Housing Studies
  - South Asian Architecture and Urbanism
  - Environment and Spatiality
  - Alternative Materials and Technologies
  - Visual Culture
  - Covid Glossary
  - Educational Ecosystem of Architecture in India: A Review
  - Youth on the Move: Performing Urban Space in Global South
- Architect Interns scheme
- Open learning: [Open Pedagogy program](#)
- <https://sea-css.in/>

### *Complex South*

- Research Network for Complexity and Urbanism of Global Southern Cities
- "We critically engage with North-South research and researcher dynamics in the context of decolonial scholarship in urban transformations across the Global South."
- Network integrates research on Southern urbanism with Complexity Theories of Cities
- <https://www.complexsouth.com/>

# EUROPE

## ARNOLD BERGSTRAESSER INSTITUTE

### *Aims*

- “As a research institute based in the Global North that has been conducting research on developments in the Global South for over 60 years, addressing the consequences of violent and racist colonialism and subsequent global inequalities plays a central role in our work. We are not only concerned with the scientific topics of our work, but also with the reduction of global knowledge asymmetries”
- Independent institute that cooperates with the University of Freiburg
- Carries out research-based consultancy work

### *Thematic areas*

- Conflict and Fragility
- Contested Governance
- Patterns of (Forced) Migration

### *Activities*

- [ALMA Fellows program](#)

<https://www.arnold-bergstraesser.de/en>

## INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH, MALMÖ UNIVERSITY

### *Aims*

- "IUR is devoted to becoming an international leading center for research on urban justice."
- "We want to be relevant, not only to academia, but to society at large, and to meet contemporary challenges of different kinds – spatial, social, economic, environmental and cultural."
- Contribute to critical urban studies

### *Thematic areas*

- Housing and Welfare
- Green and Just Cities
- Global Urbanism
- Urban Humanities

### *Activities*

- Seminars, workshops and public lectures
- Hosts guests through [multiple schemes](#):
  - Visiting scholar
  - Artist-in-residence
  - Active-citizen-in-residence
- [Urban Matters Journal](#)
- [YouTube Channel](#)

<https://www.iuresearch.se/>

## UCL URBAN LABORATORY, BARTLETT FACULTY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

### *Aims*

- “A cross-disciplinary centre for critical and creative urban thinking, teaching, research and practice”
- “Our vision of an ‘[engaged urbanism](#)’ offers new approaches to urban problems, grounded in an understanding of everyday realities. In order to address the most challenging urban complexities, knowledge about cities, and methods of urban research, need to be produced collaboratively and publicly, with the participation of citizens, as well as those excluded from citizenship.”

### *Thematic areas*

- Climate, Displacement and the Posthuman
- Feminist Cities
- Queer Infrastructure
- Reparative Urban Practices
- Speculative Urban Statecraft
- Critical Urban Heritage
- Urban Nights
- Multidimensional Urbanism
- Bottom-Up Urbanisms
- Hinterland

### *Activities*

- [UCL Urban Room](#): “a space for events, exhibitions, workshops and engagement with students, researchers, artists and community members.”
- [MASC in Global Urbanism](#)
- [Visiting Research Fellows program](#)
- [Newsletter](#): Urban Circular
- [Urban Lab Films](#): “a multi-genred public programme of screenings on cities, urbanisation and urban experience accompanied by talks, cross-disciplinary panels, readings and performances.”
- [Urban Salon](#): Seminar series

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/urban-lab>

## URBAN INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

### *Aims*

- “International research centre which examines how cities are responding to the challenges and opportunities of intensified urbanisation, technological innovation and resource constraint. With critical social science expertise, we are recognised for the imaginative, generative, and propositional nature of our research agenda focussed on the socio-technical, political, cultural and ecological dynamics of contemporary urban life. We are committed to interdisciplinary comparative research in the Global south and north, working with urban labs around the world in equitable partnerships.”

### *Thematic areas*

- Climate urbanism
- Controlled environments
- Co-producing urbanisms
- Infrastructures in action
- Life at the margins
- Urban automation and robotics
- Urban humans
- Urban riches

### *Activities*

- Southern Theorising Group (STingG) Network on LinkedIn
- [Early Career Researchers Urban Studies Network](#)
- [Sheffield Urbanism Lecture Series](#)
- [YouTube Channel](#)
- Podcast: [Urban Radar](#)

<https://sheffield.ac.uk/urban-institute>

## URBAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF BASEL

### *Aims*

- “Urban Studies at the University of Basel starts from the premise that the world’s most pressing urban and environmental challenges call not only for new ways of doing but for new ways of thinking. Imagining alternative futures means rethinking the present and the past. Instead of seeking to solve problems as they appear, we interrogate their historical making, their political unfolding, and the ways in which they are represented. We do so by approaching scientific expertise, intellectual constructs, and professional practices through the study of lived experience, in all its complexity and contradictions.”

### *Thematic areas*

- Infrastructure and architecture in (post)colonial geographies
- Everyday urbanisms and geographies of knowledge in urban governance and practice
- Urban and architectural analysis of migration and displacement
- Planetary politics of design

### *Activities*

- [Master’s in Critical Urbanisms](#)
  - “offers students the possibility to study the urban by examining today’s social struggles and global conflicts in an interdisciplinary manner.”
- [PhD in Urban Studies](#), which focuses on the following themes:
  - Legacies of empire and comparative colonial afterlives
  - Spatial and architectural practices of mobility and migration
  - Territorial dimensions of resource economies
  - Urban cultures, creativity, and the production of imaginaries
  - Urban governance, politics, and spatial violence
- [Newsletter](#)

<https://urbanstudies.philhist.unibas.ch/en/>

## URBINLAB, UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA

### *Aims*

- “Dynamic research group affiliated with CIAUD/FA-ULisboa, dedicated to the comprehensive study of urban and territorial policies, processes, and forms in response to emerging societal challenges.”
- “We place a critical focus on contemporary urban challenges, aiming to contribute significantly to the formulation of informed, forward-thinking urban, territorial, and landscape projects and policies.”

### *Thematic areas*

- Housing and public space
- Landscape and climate change
- Urban mobility
- Urbanization and planning

### *Activities*

- “promote applied research and facilitate the dissemination of knowledge among not only academics but also policymakers, practitioners, and the community at large”
- Provide a “nurturing environment for research fellows and Ph.D. students”

<https://urbinlab.fa.ulisboa.pt/>

## ASSORTED COLLECTIVES

### *[Decoco] Decolonial Research Group*

- Previously affiliated to the Humboldt University of Berlin
- "We are a bottom-up group of researchers & artists developing decolonial thoughts, arts, practices and imaginations since 2019. We read, write, teach, translate, and publish literature & artworks around decolonial topics and debates, as well as organise and visit exhibitions, conferences and discussions on decolonial and anti-racist struggles."
- Activities: blog, reading circle, courses, and events
- <https://decoco.net>

### *Decolonial Europe Collective*

- "A collective of organisations, movements and individual people united by the common mission of fighting imperialism and racial capitalism in all its forms, in Europe and the world. We take aim at the roots of colonialism that dominate European history, and manifestations of neo-colonialism today, including the EU, and from our privileged position in Europe use our power to fight both."
- Activities: Decolonial Europe Day
- <https://decolonial.eu/collective/>

### *The Decolonial Critique*

- "A global network of more than 2,000 scholars, students, and activists who have an interest in theoretical and applied approaches to coloniality/decoloniality within and beyond the university."
- "The network does not only focus on the harms of colonialism and neo-colonialism, but also on the potential harms of purported efforts to decolonise. The purpose of the network is to: discuss topics relating to coloniality/decoloniality; coordinate online and in-person events; facilitate collaboration; share research resources; share teaching materials; and nurture a supportive and inclusive community."
- <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/sociology-social-policy-and-criminology/research/research-clusters/the-decolonial-critique/>

## ASSORTED MASTER'S AND PHD PROGRAMMES

### *MA Elective, Global Urban Studies*

- Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen
- The MA Elective "consists of three modules that can be taken separately or together as a 30 ECTS package."
- Language: English
- <https://urban.tors.ku.dk/>

### *Master's Degree in Global and Comparative Urban Planning*

- Jointly offered by the Urban School of Sciences Po and the Urban Planning Department at University of California, Los Angeles
- Language: English
- <https://www.sciencespo.fr/ecole-urbaine/en/academics/dual-degrees/global-comparative-urban-planning-governance-ucla/>

### *MSc in Urban Studies*

- Jointly offered by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
- 120 ECTS (2 years)
- Language: English
- Connected to the Brussels Centre for Urban Studies
- <https://urbanstudies.brussels/education/msc-urban-studies>

### *Parcours Transformative urban studies (TRUST). Master Urbanisme et aménagement*

- Université Grenoble Alpes
- 120 ECTS (2 years)
- Language: French and English
- <https://formations.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/fr/catalogue-2021/master-XB/master-urbanisme-et-amenagement-IDIVTRKA//parcours-transformative-urban-studies-trust-KK5GMKRQ.html?search-keywords=AUEP>

### *Ph.D. Programme in Urban Studies (URBEUR)*

- University of Milan-Bicocca
- International doctoral program
- Thematic modules:
  - Global cities and urban transformation models

- Social change, crisis and local systems: theoretical and methodological issues
  - Networks, social capital and territorial development
  - Urban and regional economics
- Language: English
- <https://en.unimib.it/study/doctoral-research-phd-programmes/phd-programmes/urbreur-%E2%80%93-urban-studies>

## ASSORTED RESEARCH CLUSTERS AND NETWORKS

*GESTUAL (Grupo de Estudos Socio-Territoriais, Urbanos e de Ação Local), University of Lisbon*

- Group of Socio-Territorial, Urban and Local Action Studies
- "Consolidate a line of research that associates, the matrix of critical thinking of Henri Lefebvre, with the premises of an interventive urbanism."
- Key themes:
  - Urbanism of proximity: "an alternative to the dominant system, that privileges the socio-territorial cohesion, the reinforcement of identities and local solidarities and the upgrading of the existent city"
  - Shared urbanism: "linked to the community practices of the self-production of their habitat and with the movements of citizens in the defense of their rights to housing, to place and to the city"
  - Emancipatory urbanism: "which builds a more inclusive city, revealing, but also inducing, a more democratic and egalitarian society"
- <http://gestual.fa.ulisboa.pt/en>

*Just Cities & Societies, Urban Studies, University of Glasgow*

- "Commitment to highlighting dimensions of inequity and inequality, and advancing and evaluating policy interventions which seek more just outcomes.
- Key themes:
  - Inclusivity, equity and equality
  - Health, well-being and social harm reduction
  - Empowering and engaging communities
  - **Decolonization**
  - Policy and power and politics
- <https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/research/urbanstudies/activities/clusters/just-cities-and-societies/#2024>

*Postcolonial Hierarchies in Peace and Conflict*

- "A collaborative project of the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (Freiburg), the Center for Conflict Studies at the Philipps University Marburg, the University of Bayreuth, and the University of Erfurt. It is an interdisciplinary research initiative funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)."
- "The Network investigates how historically formed postcolonial hierarchies manifest themselves in contemporary conflict dynamics and what implications this has for sustainable conflict transformation in the future. To do so, the Network brings together historical perspectives on the contexts of conflict

formation (in particular those shaped by colonialism) with postcolonial research perspectives as well as with methodologies and theories of peace and conflict research.”

- [Virtual Encyclopaedia](#): “a multimedia & open access platform featuring key concepts and debates about peace and conflict from postcolonial & decolonial perspectives, gathering a plurality of voices from across the globe.”
- [LinkedIn group](#)
- [Visiting Scholar Fellowships](#) program
- Knowledges in Dialogue: Public lectures, think lab and workshops
- <https://www.postcolonial-hierarchies.net/>

*Urban Worlds, Department of Geography, Durham University*

- “We ask how a diversity of urban experiences and theoretical histories pluralise the ways in which we understand and research urban worlds.”
- <https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/geography/research/clusters/urban-worlds/>