

M. ADIL SAIT

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Profile: Adil Sait is an urban planner and local economic development specialist (BSc. UCL, First Class Honours; MSc. LSE, Distinction) with experience working with international agencies, local governments, community associations, civil society, and the private sector. He is currently an MPhil/PhD student in Economic Geography at the Department of Geography and Environment, LSE; focusing on natural resource management, urban governance, and economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa. His wider interests in research, policy and practice are in the fields of urbanization and sustainable development, globalization and inequalities, urban economics, livelihoods, urban regeneration and planning – bringing together inter-disciplinary approaches to city-regional challenges.

CURRENT POSITIONS

MPhil/PhD in Economic Geography 09/2020 – 09/2024

Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics (LSE)

- Provisional Thesis Title: Conflict minerals, globalization and urbanization: Implications for local economic development in sub-Saharan Africa
- Supervisors: Prof. Simona Iammarino and Dr. Richard Perkins

Research Assistantships held at the Department of Geography and Environment, LSE:

Occasional Research Assistant 09/2020 – Present

- Ongoing research role assisting in bid development and related project work linked to current PhD on critical raw materials (CRMs) and impact on innovation policy as part of Industry 4.0
- Under supervision of Prof. Simona Iammarino

Towards Promoting Private R&D Investment in Kuwait 05/2020 – 07/2020

Kuwait Programme project, LSE Middle East Centre

- Research review into education systems in Gulf states, as part of [changing investment in R&D in Kuwait](#), and promoting economic diversification away from oil and natural resource wealth.
- Under supervision of Prof. Simona Iammarino and Prof. Neil Lee

EDUCATION

MSc. in Local Economic Development 09/2018 – 09/2019

Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics (LSE)

- Accredited by the UK Institute for Economic Development
- Degree awarded with Distinction (70% - graduating class of 50 students)
- Dissertation: Operationalising Local Economic Development through the New Urban Agenda; the case of Monrovia, Liberia (funded by the LSE Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa)

BSc. in Urban Planning, Design and Management 09/2015 – 06/2018

Bartlett School of Planning (BSP), University College London (UCL)

- Accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute; Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
- Received First Class BSc. (Hons) degree (75% - graduating class of 50 students)
- Departmental Prize(s) for outstanding academic achievement 2015-16 and 2016-17
- BSP student advocate award 2017-18 given by Six Pump Court Chambers
- BSP Expo 2016-17: Proposals: Glasgow, The Environmentally Just Post-Industrial City

Erasmus+ Exchange (Semester Abroad): Social Sciences and Urban Studies 01/2017 – 06/2017

Department of Human Geography, Planning and International Development, University of Amsterdam (UvA)

- Focus on governance, urban planning and international development practice.
- Competitive Erasmus scholarship award towards study in the Netherlands.
- Academic performance at UvA cited in the letter of award for Departmental Prize 2016-17

High School and Sixth Form 09/2011 – 06/2015

West Hatch High School (WHHS), Chigwell, Essex, UK

- GCSEs and A-levels (History, Economics, English Literature, AS Maths and EPQ; Shakespearean Drama Grade 6 with Distinction*, Trinity Guildhall, Barbican)
- Jack Petchey Award for Leadership, East London Scout District (received 07/11/2013); Young Leader and Scout, 4th Poplar Scout Group (2008-15)
- Intern, Muungano Support Trust, Nairobi (August 2013); Interviewed on BBC Radio Essex

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Role	Consultant Analyst
Organization	Buro Happold (BH), Engineering and Cities Consulting Firm
Years	December 2019 – August 2020
Client(s)	Central Arriyadh Development Company (CADC); Royal Commission for Riyadh City (RCRC); Ministry for Municipal and Rural Affairs (MoMRA); Others
Project(s)	Central Riyadh Regeneration Project; Urban Improvement in Saudi Cities; Outdoor Advertising Project (as well as advisor Abha Downtown and Riyadh Hub); Bid Development
Summary	Full-time graduate-level role based in London and Riyadh, dealing with urban regeneration, city planning and economic development part of BH's global Cities Consulting Team.

- Responsible for **review of previous project experience** for Central Riyadh Regeneration Project Phases 1-3, integrating core lessons learnt and opportunities arising for urban regeneration; Contributed to **Central Riyadh Regeneration Heritage Trail**, as part of high-level workshop on urban regeneration and place-making hosted by the RCRC at King Abdul-Aziz Public Library, Riyadh, 5th-9th January 2020.
- Co-author for **Strategies and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** for Central Riyadh Phase 3 – including sustainability, safety and security, and socio-economic development; Led **review of strategic policy alignment** to Vision 2030 – including National Transformation Plan, Quality of Life Program, National Environment Strategy, Green Riyadh Strategy, and Comprehensive Waste Management Strategy.
- Conducted **benchmarking study on urban governance**, creating framework model for Central Riyadh, mapping mandate/objectives, governance, and funding strategies. Also **reviewed urban indicator frameworks** – EIU's Global Liveability Rankings and Safe Cities Index, Mercer's Quality of Life Survey, OECD Better Life Index, ARRP Liveability Index, Arcadis Sustainability Index, UN-Habitat City Prosperity Index, and UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Contributed to **Central Riyadh Census** – review of data on health, wellbeing and economic development; involved in questionnaire design, data collection and enumeration; authored memo on census methodology; Lead co-contributor responsible for **survey design for Central Riyadh Business Improvement District**; authored memo on commercial streets for CADC, informing data collection and analysis
- Co-Contributor to **MoMRA project on Improving Urban Environments in Saudi Cities**, Phase I, Tasks 1-4, focused on current situation assessment of quality of life in Saudi cities (Jeddah, Tabuk and Abha); Responsible for developing project outputs including Stakeholder Management Plan, International Quality of Life Metrics Report, and contributed to Case-study Benchmarking Report; Main contributor for Task 4, Project Implementation Plan and Road Map, delivered as key project output.
- Technical advisor on 3 other projects: **Riyadh Hub** and **Abha Downtown** –land-use planning and spatial strategy, brought expertise in urban planning and local economic development in review phase; and **MoMRA Outdoor Advertising project**, memo on market sizing and presentations for Riyadh, Jeddah, Makkah, Medina, and Dammam on transition from traditional to digital outdoor advertising.

Also involved in writing and delivery of key project bids including:

- **CADC Central Riyadh 2020 bid** – co-author and co-lead for the development of ongoing regeneration project scope focused on six tasks – sustainability, safety and security, socio-economic development, census support, rapid impact assessment, and regeneration policy.
- **Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) Public Private Partnerships bid** – lead co-ordinator, responsible bid development, reviewing BH PPP experience in project management, education, health, municipal services, infrastructure, smart infrastructure, utilities, transport, street lighting, and outdoor advertising.
- **KSA Ministry of Housing (MoH), Innovation Housing bid** – co-ordinator for consortium including BH, Delta Partners, MACE, SHIFT, IAAC, and MIT on delivering housing innovation; responsible for developing overall project Communication Management Strategy.
- **RCRC Central Riyadh Project Management Organization (PMO) bid** – lead co-ordinator for joint BH-JASARA bid focused on six work streams: Asset Development; Place-making; Socio-Economic Development; Monitoring and Evaluation; Program Management; and Construction Management; led review of BH experience in over 50 projects linked to RFP rubric for PMO bid selection.
- **MoMRA Land Value Capture bid** – lead co-ordinator for bid development, helped review technical scope and BH experience on real estate and urban regeneration, as well as deployment of land value capture mechanisms for sustainable urban development and municipal finance.

FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Cities Alliance-led Liberia Country Programme
Role	Researcher
Years	December 2018 – July 2019
Partners	Habitat for Humanity International; Liberian National Housing Authority
Summary	Review of the Liberia Country Programme, with unprecedented access to a range of stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society, international donors and slum communities – with development of innovative local economic development perspectives.
Project Name	Land and natural resource tenure in select countries of Eastern and Southern Africa
Role	Project Co-Editor
Years	September 2017 – April 2019
Partners	UN-Habitat, Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), African Association of Planning Schools (AAPS) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Summary	Synthesis report on land and natural resource tenure regimes in 16 eastern and southern African countries, launched at the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Working Week in Hanoi, Vietnam; 22-26 April 2019
Project Name	Review of the Mayor of London's Draft Housing Strategy
Role	Researcher
Years	September 2017 – April 2018
Partners	Just Space (UK Community Planning Association)
Summary	Review of the Mayor of London's (then) draft housing strategy from the perspective of local community actors in the lead up to public consultation process; delivered keynote speech at the Just Space conference 24 October 2017
Project Name	Germany's 'Energiewende': Analysing the rise of Renewables and the Implications of Distributed Generation for British and European Energy Transitions
Role	Lead Researcher
Years	June 2017 – January 2019
Partners	Technical University of Munich; UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
Summary	Invitation as visiting researcher on energy governance at the Centre for Land, Water and Environmental Risk Management; presented findings at seminar on 13 July 2017; associated research presented at the World Bank (2018) and peer reviewed article on 'renewable energy as an under-utilised resource in European Cities' published December 2018.

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Name	World Urban Forum 10, Cities of opportunities - Connecting Culture and Innovation
Location	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Role	High level Panel Speaker
Dates	8-13 February 2020
Host	UN-Habitat
Summary	Contributed to the Second Segment of the Youth and the Decade of Action high-level panel on cities, culture and innovation; Discussion Topic: 'How to create age-responsive cities in the next UN decade of action?'
Name	Network of Excellence in Land Governance in Africa (NELGA), Expert Group Meeting
Location	Hassan II University, Rabat, Morocco
Role	Rapporteur
Dates	28-30 October 2019
Partners	GIZ, GLTN, UN-Habitat; the Arab Land Initiative
Summary	Prepared conference report for the high-level NELGA partners meeting on land governance, with representatives from universities 6 North African countries from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Mauritania and Egypt
Name	Annual World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD) Conference
Location	International Maritime Organization, London, United Kingdom
Role	Session Speaker
Dates	17-19 June 2019
Host	United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP); WASD
Summary	Discussion Topic: How to foster sustainable and inclusive development through local and regional approaches in Africa

Name	Annual Department of Geography & Environment Local Economic Development Forum
Location	New Academic Building, Houghton Street, LSE
Role	Co-Chair, Content Committee
Dates	March 2019
Host	LSE Geography and Environment; UK Centre for Cities
Summary	Conference Theme: Digitalization and Development; Keynote on the future of sustainable cities, Prof. Michael Batty, Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, UCL
Name	Annual LANDac Conference on Land Governance and (Im-)Mobility
Location	Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Role	Panel Speaker
Dates	June 2018
Host	LANDac; Utrecht University
Summary	Contributed to high level panel on land based financing (LBF) and sustainable cities, discussing prospects for Inclusive Urban Development: Lessons from India and China
Name	Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty
Location	Washington D.C., USA
Role	Speaker
Dates	April-May 2018
Host	World Bank
Summary	Contributed poster presentation on linkages between land tenure and renewable energy systems: Implications for urban governance in the global south
Name(s)	World Urban Forum(s) 6-9
Location	Naples, Italy; Medellin, Colombia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Role	Youth Delegate
Dates	2012, 2014, 2016, 2018
Host	UN-Habitat
Summary	Participant at the UN-Habitat Youth Assembly, and associated debates/sessions on urbanization, planning, economic and social issues, and sustainable development

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Role	Intern
Years	May – June 2018
Organization	Richard Max and Co. Solicitors
Summary	Specialist planning law firm, Chancery Lane, London, UK; Reviewing case law on compulsory purchase, real estate, housing, and transport; skills: writing client and case briefs.
Role	Consulting Researcher
Years	August – September 2017
Organization	Technical University of Munich
Summary	Reviewing TUM training package on approaches to land management prior to the project launch; Massive Online Open Course available at: https://www.edx.org/course/introduction-to-land-management
Role	Organizer and Fundraiser
Years	December 2013-17
Organization	British Red Cross
Summary	Successfully managed stall for Alderman Gordon Haines on three separate occasions (2013, 2015 and 2017), raising funds for British Red Cross for humanitarian assistance
Role	Features Editor and Politics Contributor
Years	September 2015 – September 2017
Organization	Pi Media Society and Magazine, University College London
Summary	Section editor dealing with a dozen writers; publication of online and magazine articles; Pi Media online and Pi Magazine on Corbyn's Labour Party ; Student Politics ; UCL's Cut the Rent Campaign ; and Fidel Castro, and the Freedom House Index
Role	Researcher
Years	August 2016
Organization	State Government of Tamil Nadu, India
Summary	Authored report on the 2023 Development Vision on infrastructure investment and economic development policy

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming:

Sait, M.A., (2020) *What do Economic Geographers write about when they write about Africa? Towards an 'Africanist' Economic Geography: Prospects and Possibilities*, LSE Thesis (Chapter 1, preliminary draft under construction)

Iammarino, S., and Sait, M.A., (2020) Technological change and critical raw material demand: the dark side of innovation and its implications for Africa, In Vang, J., (eds) *Handbook of global sustainable production: putting the SDGs in perspective*, Edward Elgar Publishing: Cheltenham, UK (forthcoming)

Sait M.S., and Sait, M.A., (2020) The paradox of Islamic land governance and gender equality, In Chigbu, E.U., (eds) *Land Governance and Gender: The Tenure-Gender Nexus in Land Management and Land Policy*, CABI Publishers (forthcoming)

Sait, M.A., (2020) *The Innovation Trap and Educational Reform: Challenges and Opportunities for policy and practice in Kuwait and the GCC*, LSE Middle East Centre (preliminary draft – part of LSE Kuwait Programme project on strengthening R&D Investment in Kuwait).

Available:

Sait, M.A., (2019) *Local economic development should focus on livelihoods in urbanisation*, Africa@LSE, Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa, London School of Economics and Political Science
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2019/11/28/livelihoods-local-economic-development-urbanisation/>

Sait, M.A., (2019) *NELGA North Africa: Report of the partners' workshop on validation of scoping study on land governance, capacity needs assessment and strategic plan*, held at the Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire (IAV), Hassan II, Rabat, Morocco, 28-30/10/2019

Sait, M.A., (2019) *Operationalising Local Economic Development through the New Urban Agenda; the case of Monrovia, Liberia*, Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science (Dissertation research).

Chigbu E.U., Sait, M.A., Ngau, P.M., and Bwana, N.O., (eds.) (2019) *Land and Natural Resource Tenure Security in Selected Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa: Synthesis Report*, UN-Habitat, Nairobi.
<https://gltn.net/download/land-and-natural-resource-tenure-security-in-selected-countries-of-eastern-and-southern-africa-synthesis-report/>

Sait, M.A., Chigbu, E.U., Hamiduddin, I., and de Vries, W., (2019) Renewable Energy as an Underutilised Resource in Cities: Germany's 'Energiewende' and Lessons for Post-Brexit Cities in the United Kingdom, *Resources*, 8(1), 7, <https://doi.org/10.3390/resources8010007> (project funded through EPSRC)

Sait, M.A., (2018) *Land Based Financing for Inclusive Urban Development: Lessons from India and China*, LANDac conference on land governance, Utrecht University, Netherlands (Conference website, below)
<https://www.landgovernance.org/annual-international-conference-2/annual-international-conference/>

Sait, M.A., and Chigbu, E.U., (2018) *Linkages between land tenure and renewable energy systems: Implications for urban governance in the global south*, World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, World Bank, Washington D.C. (news report on poster presentation from TUM, available below)
<https://cc.bingj.com/cache.aspx?q=Chigbu+World+Bank+Conference+2018+TUM&d=4687965435597090&mk=en-GB&setlang=en-GB&w=vKPRhXggbfdT10qcrq-KZDbIHx1h6pfs>

Sait, M.A., and Novakova, N., (2017) *Comparison of Just Space Community-led plan with the London Housing Strategy*, Bartlett School of Planning, UCL (for Just Space)
<https://justspacelondon.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/finished-comparison-on-policy-proposals-of-justspace-and-london-housing-strategy.pdf>

Sait, M.A., and Neijboer, E., (2017) Community-based natural resource management, In Ros-Tonen, M., and Verzijl, A., (eds.) *The language of Environment and Sustainable Development in the Global South XI*, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands <http://csds.uva.nl/binaries/content/assets/subsites/centre-for-sustainable-development-studies/cna-2017.pdf?2992605902493>.

Sait et al. (2017) *Green Futures: The Environmentally Just Post-Industrial City, A policy-plan for Glasgow, Scotland*, (presented at the Bartlett School of Planning Expo 2016-17)

Sait, M.A., (2016) *'Who should pay for Urban Infrastructure?' Critical Perspectives on the 2023 development vision*, Department for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, State Government of Tamil Nadu, India (report submitted but currently unpublished)