

Cities News

Cities Programme newsletter issue 21
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Alumni news

Anna Dekker (2012) is Academic Director of a 3-week summer programme *'The Everyday City and Beyond'* at the University of Amsterdam. Certainly Cities programme - inspired, the interdisciplinary course unravels the practice, theory, policies and politics of 'placemaking' and includes lectures, excursions and studio work. Students and professionals with an interest in socio-spatial dialectics and the functioning of public space (interventions) are very welcome and should apply by April 1st 2018. Learn more at uva.nl/summer-everyday-city.

In addition, as part of the office Placemakers, Anna will be implementing a public space project in Da Nang, Vietnam in 2018. The concept of *'Sports Streets'* - a participatory design and programming process that transforms a network of public spaces into sites for sports and play - was selected as part of the UN-

Habitat Global Public Space Programme.

'Sports Streets' was piloted during the 2nd edition of Placemaking Week Nairobi, Kenya, of which Placemakers was a co-host.



Sports Streets, Nairobi Placemaking Week - Mark Ojal.

Sobia Rafiq and **Ida Lien** (both 2014), through [Sensing Local](#) and [Rodeo Architects](#), are collaborating on a project in Bengaluru, India, to systematically rejuvenate one of the city's most polluted lakes ([link](#)).

Varthur Lake is today a highly polluted lake contaminated with domestic sewage, wastewater and industrial effluents through decades of misuse, like most lakes in Indian Cities.



Foaming at one of the Varthur Outlets, Dec 2017 - Sensing Local

Lakes that should have been important water sources and vital eco-systems are now serious health hazards that are reduced and destroyed by the rapidly expanding city; chemical foaming and fires outbreaks on the water surface is a regular occurrence.

The project aims to look at how behavioural change strategies can complement a physical clean-up of the lakes to ensure a long-term, sustainable outcomes of the

revitalisation efforts. The ambition is to operationalise a social-science based approach, where knowledge and expertise from different

contexts informs the project design and implementation. The project is part of a greater initiative to establish a platform for information-sharing and discussion on these topics, and they encourage any reader who is interested in creating a space for collaboration and debate to get in touch at: izl@rodeo-arkitekter.no, sensinglocal@gmail.com.

Bridget Ackeifi and **Ignacio Uliarte**, representing their colleagues **José Cesar Faria**, **Ghadeer Mansour** and **Oliver Tovatt** (2017), presented their Studio project *"Mapping Thamesmead's Economic Landscape: An ethnographic approach to self-employment and invisible economies in south east London"* at the 10th International Forum of Urbanism: The Entrepreneurial City, in Hong Kong in December last year. The research won the best paper award at the conference.

At the same conference, Ignacio Uliarte presented his dissertation titled *"Work in Progress: Mapping the urban economy of co-working spaces in London"*.

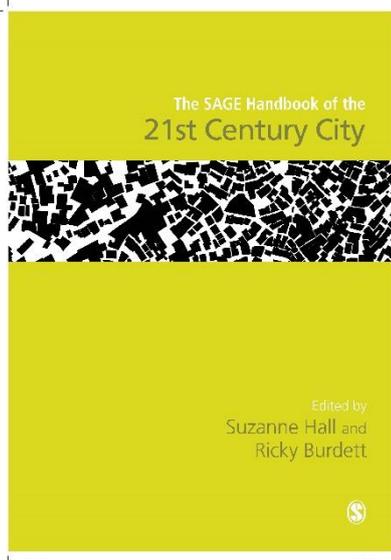
Günter Gassner (PhD 2013) recently published an article *"Wrecking London's Skyline? A political critique of how the city is viewed"* in the journal *CITY*. In this article he explores the powerful role of visual arguments in the professional production of 'the London skyline', argues that both those who argue for and against the construction of tall buildings do so on ideological grounds, and, drawing on Benjaminian allegory and critical montages, employs ruination as political critique that opens up possibilities for different cities to come: Gassner, G. (2017) *Wrecking London's skyline?, City*

21:6, 754-768, DOI: 10.1080/13604813.2017.1408994.

Faculty news

Suzi Hall has been awarded a prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize. This will allow her to expand her work on global migration and urban marginalisation. Her project the 'Migrant Margins' is based in South Africa, and brings into dialogue urban sociologies of 'race' and postcolonial approaches to city-making in urban studies.

Suzi Hall and Ricky Burdett's edited collection, ['The Sage handbook of the 21st Century City'](#) has been published by Sage, incorporating perspectives from an international range of scholars who engage with emerging urban conditions and inequalities in experimental ways. Cities Programme contributors include David Madden, Fran Tonkiss and Julia King. Jane M Jacobs, Professor of Urban Studies at Yale-NUS College writes, 'This carefully curated collection redefines the interdisciplinary field of urban studies and sets its moral course to meet the challenges of the 21st century'.



David Madden organised and spoke at a public event at LSE in October titled "What Is Housing For?" The event also featured speakers Anna Minton and Alex Vasudevan, and was chaired by Suzi Hall.

David published "The Contradictions of Global Urban Public Space: The view from New York and London," a chapter in *The*

SAGE Handbook of Urban Sociology, edited by Suzi Hall and Ricky Burdett. Along with his co-author Peter Marcuse, he also published "For a Radical Right to Housing," a chapter in Verso's ebook on *The Right to the City*.

Finally, David recorded an episode of "Thinking Allowed," which will air on BBC Radio 4 in January 2018.

LSE Cities news

LSE has been [awarded one of the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education](#) for LSE Cities' broad range of research, education and outreach activities. The Prize, which is part of the UK honours system, is given biennially to institutions across the UK, recognising excellence in a number of key academic areas which have had impact on society and the wider community.



High-rise apartments, Shanghai - Christian Petersen-Clausen / Getty Images



THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
2017

The Queen's Anniversary Prize for 2016-2018 is awarded in recognition of LSE Cities' work on 'training, research and policy formulation for cities of the future and a new generation of urban leaders around the world.' A version of the winning [submission document](#) is on LSE Cities' website.

Philipp Rode, Executive Director of LSE Cities, launched [Resource Urbanisms: Asia's divergent city models of Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Singapore and Hong Kong](#) in Kuwait on [7 November 2017](#). The report consolidates key findings of the [Resource Urbanisms](#) project that LSE Cities led between 2015 and 2017.



Kuwait and Hong Kong - Alexandra Gomes and Nic Tinworth

This research, supported by the LSE Middle East Centre investigates questions of urban form, geography and sustainability in Kuwait and the Gulf States as part of a broader comparative analysis of divergent forms of urban growth in Asia. Rode was joined by Research and Project Coordinator, Alexandra Gomes. A [report launch in London](#) was held on 23 January 2018.



Kuwait - Alexandra Gomes

Philipp has also recently published a new book ['Governing Compact Cities How to Connect Planning, Design and Transport'](#). The book investigates how governments and other critical actors organise to enable compact urban growth, combining higher urban densities, mixed use and urban design quality with more walkable and public

transport-oriented urban
development.

Philipp draws on empirical evidence from London and Berlin to examine how urban policymakers, professionals and stakeholders have worked across disciplinary silos, geographic scales and different time horizons since the early 1990s.

News from the Editor:

I just wanted to thank everyone for their warm welcome since I started this role in October last year. I have worked for LSE since early 2016, where I joined the Human Resources Division. In 2017 I decided upon a change in career and joined the Department of Sociology. I am still learning the ropes but it has been a great first few months. I have really enjoyed meeting everyone so far, and I look forward to meeting more of you along the way!

We are always keen to hear from our students and alumni, so please do stay in touch with us about how you're shaping cities around the world.