

Cities News

Cities Programme newsletter issue 23
Lent Term 2019

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MSc Student News

On 21st January 2019 the 2018/19 MSc City Design and Social Science students presented their work at the Islington Town Hall, on re-imagining the Holloway Prison site. The group had a wonderful exchange with the ward councillor, planners and community groups.

Amongst an array of key issues, there was discussion on what genuine affordability means, as well as the alternatives to incarceration.



Islington Town Hall
Photo: Suzi Hall

An essay written by second year MSc City Design and Social Science student **Dieter Leyssen** for the Cities by Design course has been published in the latest *Joelho Journal for Architectural Culture*. The full essay can be viewed [here](#).

Alumni News

Recent graduate **Rohan Patankar** (2018) was selected to represent the Cities Programme, at the *Norman Foster Foundation Workshop- On Cities* in Madrid in June 2018.

The workshop focused on Autonomous Innovative Communities under the mentorship of Prof. Kent Larson, based on CityScope - the urban programming tool being developed by the City Science Group - MIT Media Lab. You can learn more about the workshop [here](#).

Rohan is also working on developing an interactive **Cities Programme Alumni Map** to help understand and utilize the global footprint and influence of the Cities Programme, LSE. The map is envisioned to be useful to:

-Students and recent graduates to locate contact points in organisations for research, employment, and mentorship.

-Alumni to connect with other practitioners across the globe to compare notes on methodologies, outcomes, and alliance-building.

-The Cities Programme to position the programme more effectively for future students and stakeholders.

If you are keen to contribute to building this map with your time/ideas/resources or are just curious about how this will be made to happen, please feel free to email [Rohan](#).

Juan Pablo Corral, Clémence Francotte, Dieter Leyssen and Rohan Patankar (class of 2017/18) joined the *International Architecture Biennial of Rotterdam* with their initiative called *foUL, futures of Urban Life*.

They organized a panel discussion '*foUL #1 Connecting Global Futures*'. The event aimed to connect practitioners around the world and find common grounds for discussion. This included discussing the urban-rural dialogue in India with Rahul Srivastava of Urbz, informal economic practices in Johannesburg with Threshen Govender of UrbanWorks, the ephemeral festival city phenomenon with Felipe Vera, the tech-driven real estate of London with Tommaso Franzolini of Factory Futures, and finally the play-based urbanism in Brussels with Urban Foxes.

Secondly, foUL discussed how to create paper or online platforms for exchange between geographically scattered urban practitioners together with Hunder Doye of magazine Due, Roeland Dudal of You Are Here Brussels and LSE alumni Flavien Menu of New Commons for Europe and Justinien Tribillion of Migrant Magazine.

The event was made possible thanks to the support of the Cities Programme LSE, the IABR and You Are Here Brussels. Further information can be viewed [here](#).



Photo: Ana Helena Arevalo

Alasdair Jones (PhD 2008) recently published an article “*Everyday without exception? Making space for the exceptional in contemporary sociological studies of streetlife*” in the ‘Streetlife’ special issue of *The Sociological Review*. In this article he draws on his ethnographic fieldwork on London’s South Bank to make a theoretical intervention in the growing literature on everyday streetlife and to make the case for more scholarly attention to the exceptional in this literature.

Working with Meg Bartholomew (Cities Programme 2018), Alasdair has also recently completed the LSE Cities-funded project ‘[Measuring Community in the Urban Age](#).’

Findings from this study have been presented at the RCA and UNSW, and Alasdair and Meg will be working on publications from the study over the coming year.

Jones, A. (2018) ‘Everyday without exception? Making space for the exceptional in contemporary sociological studies of streetlife,’ The Sociological Review 66(5): 1000-1016. DOI: 10.1177/0038026118771280.

Dr Susan Parham (PhD 2009) has recently been appointed as Director of the University of Hertfordshire’s new Urbanism Unit (UHUU). Susan will be working with colleagues at UH and beyond on a range of urbanism initiatives including research, teaching and partnership working on planned settlements, masterplanning, materials, food and other urbanism themes.

On November 13th, 2018, Assistant Commissioner of New York City Small Business Services **Nisha Mistry** (2009), delivered a presentation at the *American Planning Association’s Emerging Firms in Planning Roundtable* in New York City. The goal of the event was to advance dialogue around the ways the New York metro urban planning and design community can encourage and support the growth of new, small,

diverse firms. Nisha spoke about municipal strategies for promoting fairness and equity in public procurement and contracting, with a focus on opportunities for emergent minority- and women-owned firms in the planning/design sector.

Under Mayor Bill de Blasio, the City of New York aims to award 30 percent of the value of all City contracts to minority- and women-owned firms by the end of its fiscal year 2021.

In her current role at New York City Small Business Services, Nisha oversees operations of the City’s Minority- and Women-Owned Enterprise Certification Program, which has over 7,000 participating firms.



*APA New York Metro Emerging Firms Roundtable, held at WXY Architecture + Urban Design Studios in New York City, Nov. 13, 2018
Photo: SJR Photography*

Larissa Heinisch (2017) has been involved in the coordination of a research project concerning Rural Health Centres in Myanmar, working for architectural NGO Article 25. [Article 25](#) is a humanitarian architecture NGO that uses design to improve health, livelihoods and resilience to disasters.

The launch event of the report “*Design Guide for Rural Health Centres*”, the key output document of this research project, will be held on 11th February 2019 in The Building Centre ([Store Street, London, WC1E 7BT](#)) starting at 6:30pm (reservation is required and can be done via the [Article 25 website](#)).

The design guide consists of recommendations for design and infrastructure improvement of Rural

Health Centres in Myanmar, regarding both the upgrading of existing buildings and the construction of new facilities.



*Workshop on Rural Health Centres held in Yangon (Myanmar)
Photo: Article 25*

Guglielmo Mattioli (2013) is currently working as a freelance reporter after working with The New York Times for one year. He recently attended the Urban Age conference in Addis and published a story with Metropolis Magazine about the first contemporary art museum of the city scheduled to open in March.

The full article can be read at <https://www.metropolismag.com/architecture/addis-ababa-zoma-museum-design/>.

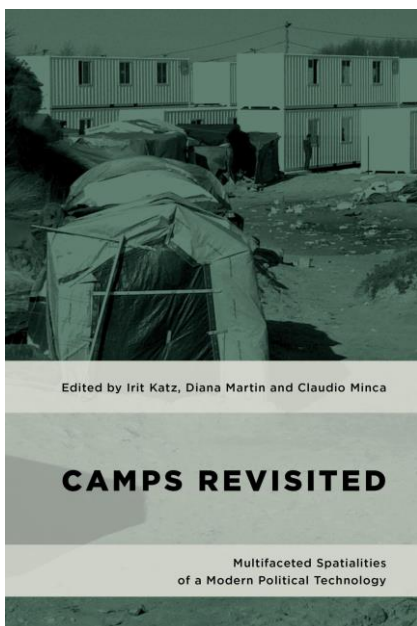


*The museum, which is wheelchair accessible, features a large central gallery (seen here) flanked by several smaller freestanding galleries
Photo: Guglielmo Mattioli*

Faculty News

Dr Irit Katz has recently released a new co-edited book *Camps Revisited*.

Camps Revisited is a new edited volume which reflects on various types of camps – urban migrant camps, refugee camps, protest camps, detention camps – as a spatial-political instrument of control and resistance. The book examines past and present camps, both makeshift and formalised, as an ever-present modern spatial formation in the management of unwanted populations, characterizing authoritarian regimes as well as liberal democracies, while investigating camps as a tactical tool through which people work against oppressive governments and policies. Please see [here](#) for further information.



Dr David Madden spent Michaelmas Term 2018 on parental leave. During this time, the Spanish translation of *In Defense of Housing* was published by Madrid-based publisher Capitán Swing.

David will be giving a series of talks in Spanish cities to promote this edition of the book.

LSE Cities News

Urban Age 'Developing Urban Futures' Conference

Over 400 people attended the Urban Age "[Developing Urban Futures](#)" conference in Addis Ababa between 29-30 November 2018.

Jointly organised by LSE Cities and the Alfred Herrhausen Gesellschaft, *Developing Urban Futures* was the 17th Urban Age conference. The two-day event convened policymakers, urban experts and practitioners from cities in Africa and across the world. It focused on the development of cities in rapidly urbanising countries, asking questions about the economic foundations of urban change, and the role of metropolitan areas and national spaces in globalised economies. It investigated how current models of planning and governance can be leveraged to achieve greater integration between efficiency, productivity, accessibility and social justice.

The conference acted as a platform for debate on the development trajectories of key sub-Saharan African cities, including Addis Ababa, Lagos, Nairobi, Kampala, Accra, Dar es Salaam and Cape Town alongside corresponding cases from the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, South America, Europe and North Africa.

To coincide with the conference, an [Urban Age newspaper](#) was published with new research and contributions from keynote speakers and international urban experts. [Videos and slides](#) of presentations are also available to view.



MOPIX|LSE Cities

New special issue of the Journal of Urban Affairs

Nuno F. da Cruz, Philipp Rode and **Michael McQuarrie** co-edited a [special issue of the Journal of Urban Affairs](#). This special issue, entitled *New Urban Governance*, shows that engaging with modern-day urban governance study and practice will require an interdisciplinary and mostly empirical research agenda from diverse global contexts.

By presenting a set of articles that explore the relationships between institutional settings, national urban policies, and city-specific reforms and changes while also offering perspectives on current governance challenges and future opportunities in Brazil, China, Europe, India, and South Africa, this special issue lays an important foundation for that agenda. The article is an output from LSE Cities' [New Urban Governance](#) research project.

LSE Cities Public Events

12th February, 18.30, LSE
Professor Diane Davis, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University and **Alejandro Echeverri**, architect and planner, will contrast experiences with urban tactics linked to social urbanism and transport policy cutting across a range of innovative cities including Medellín, Mexico City, Vienna and Stockholm.

[Political Strategies and Tactics for Transformative Urban Change](#)

28th February, 18.00, LSE
As part of LSE Festival: New World (Dis)Orders, this event will explore urban dynamics in rapidly changing Sub-Saharan African cities, and discuss how current models of planning and governance succeed or fail, addressing specific urban conditions on the ground. Speakers are **Professor Jo Beall**, **Professor Ricky Burdett** and **Dr Philipp Rode**, with the event chaired by Professor **Sue Parnell**. Ticket information can be found [here](#).

[Future public events](#) will be announced in due course.

LSE Cities Research Seminars

LSE Cities will be running two sets of research seminars throughout the Lent and Summer Term.

[‘The Emotional Life of the City’ seminar series](#), led by British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, **Ed Charlton**, thinks in critical terms as much as creative terms about the place of extreme emotional life in the city.

LSE Cities Research Seminars will commence on Thursday 21 February and run throughout the Lent and Summer Term. These will include:

Thursday 28 March FAW.9.05

Design as Infrastructure: Why design matters for thinking about the city

Julia King Research Fellow at LSE will present her work on sanitation and housing in the context of rapid urbanisation, inequitable infrastructure developments and urban micro-culture in Delhi.

To keep up-to-date with LSE Cities’ news and events, please join the [mailing list](#) or follow on Twitter [@LSECities](#).