

Panels: *The well-known session of a maximum of 4 papers in a 90 session, in which presentations by authors last for 10-15 minutes, followed by discussion, and papers are posted on line and distributed by the panel conveners directly.*

This is the list of selected panel proposals for the conference. Please contact the convener(s) from the list for more details on the same.

P1 Re-imagining Urban Politics through a Comparative Lens

The urban, in recent years, has emerged as a site for both cultural assertion and economic re-structuring. Studying urban politics in such a context, requires us, to navigate through the intersecting transversals of collective action (Leitner et al 2008). Therefore, in the light of this year's RC21 Conference's call for appreciating 'emerging ontologies' and 'new forms of urbanity', this panel aims at a radical re-imagination of urban politics through a comparative lens. However, given the fact, that a blueprint for comparative urbanism is still under way (Robinson 2016), we need to blast open the silos of 'area studies' (without losing its epistemological essence) and instead adopt a 'critical area studies' approach that prescribes 'deep listening' (Koch 2016).

This panel shall contribute to such an endeavour by working both with and beyond such 'productively relational concepts' (Robinson and Roy 2016), that wedge open the asymmetries of power relations beyond territorial limits. We encourage submissions, that use empirical case-studies from cities, located anywhere in world, but make an attempt to creatively push the boundaries of the newly emergent concepts in urban studies – viz., 'advanced marginality' in the French *banlieue* (Wacquant 2008), 'subaltern urbanism' in America (Schindler 2013), 'quiet encroachment of the ordinary' in the Middle East (Bayat 2010), 'occupancy urbanism' in South Asia (Benjamin 2008) or for that matter, the promise of 'people as infrastructure' in Africa (Simone 2004) and 'insurgent citizenship' in Latin America (Holston 2008) -- beyond the foci of their immediate geographical locus. Questions for consideration include but are not limited to:

- How are socio-territorial struggles entwined with the vectors of neo-liberal capitalism?
- How does the spatiality of urban politics reinvent the repertoire of identity politics?
- How do such processes of de-territorialisation/ re-territorialisation influence the emergent contours of participatory urban citizenship?

P2 (Un)worthy Cities: assessing urban rot and practices of (de)valuation in urban politics

Urban governance, establishment of new moral orders, identity-building, and political imaginaries - all of those processes necessarily involve valuation and valuing-in-practice. Some social and material arrangements become considered as worthy, valuable and are therefore cultivated and circulated, while others are marginalized or even erased. While valuation itself has attracted attention from both city practitioners and urban scholars, devaluation - its analytical and empirical opposite - has been de-valued itself. In this panel, we propose and provoke the participants to reply to the challenge and think of 'devaluation studies [as being] equally relevant to do' (Mol and Heuts 2013: 142) . To put it differently, we suggest the contributors to address the question: what is considered as (un)worthy in cities and beyond, and how is devaluation done in practices? How can urban scholars talk about rotten and with(out) rot?

Devaluation is beyond the distinction of being global or local, urban or hinterland. It takes place in geographical sites with various socio-political regimes. In transitioning from post-socialist towards neoliberal modes of urban governance, for example, the social and material construction of new infrastructures and ideal communities are simultaneously based on the destruction of established practices of valuing. Likewise in the political transition of European welfare state's towards a Big society or the self-help city, the creation of new public infrastructures rely on the demolition and devaluation of former bureaucratic practices and institutions. And while some urban centres are expanding, former industrial centres and the rural hinterland rather face the consequences of population shrinkage. In these locations the search for a 'good' life depends on the (literal) destruction and devaluation of infrastructures, institutions and communal practices.

Therefore, we use the chance to comparatively theorize devaluation as phenomena working its way through normative and normalized distinctions of various urban political regimes, global and local orders, and urban and outside-the-urban geographies. The panel will put focus on how processes of devaluation affect cities. We invite papers that describe which methodologies are suited to investigate devaluation, case-studies about devaluation of citizens and governments, studies about the material

aspect of devaluation and papers that explore the relation between the devaluation of citizens and materialities.

P3 Doing Urban Ethnography: New interdisciplinary and methodological approaches to comparative urban research

Academic, as well as non-academic disciplines with a research interest in urban transformation processes, face methodological challenges when searching for new ways to visualize and analyze the urban every day, its social and spatial practices, connections, interactions, infrastructures and rising complexities.

The panel will focus on new interdisciplinary and creative methodological approaches in the intersection of sociology and ethnography to capture the inner logic of the social and constructed environment of cities. Urban ethnographic methods (e.g. mapping/go-alongs) help to gain access to the social and spatial practices of the urban every day. Furthermore, urban ethnography facilitates the analysis of data sets regarding embodied socio-spatial practices. Therefore, the panel invites scholars with interdisciplinary approaches who bridge theoretical concepts with new research methods to address more comprehensively the complexity of urban research issues today.

The panel invites presenters who contribute to theoretical concepts on pressing issues of global urbanism and comparative theorizations, e.g. urban social inequality/injustice, gender or migration. Works should provide a theoretical grounding to methodological challenges, and make a case as to the relevance of the panel topics. What methodological concepts help us to think beyond our very own disciplinary boundaries? Ideas, which are not only connected to “terms” but focus on comparative theorizations or didactic mediation, e.g. how methodological tools can be developed to capture the notions of time, embedded imaginations or the invisible or unspeakable dimensions of everyday urban practices? How do urban imaginaries change the way people produce and form new urban spaces? How to enhance new (digital, visual, creative) methods in the intersection of sociology and ethnography to capture growing complexities of embodied knowledge and urban practices that shape, produce and challenge the urban today?

P4 Cities for girls, boys, and everyone else

This session is an invitation to revisit the popular slogan “cities for people, not for profit” with a specific focus on urban youth. Rather than speaking about youth generally, however, we propose to explore the gender aspects of young people’s access to the city and their sense of belonging. We model our approach on feminist interventions into the Lefebvrian notion of the right to the city (Fenster, 2005; Vacchelli and Kofman, 2018), which propose to understand everyday life as “the mediator of rights underpinning the usage of urban space to its fullest extent” (Beebeejaun, 2017: 327) and insist on taking into the account how said rights are shaped by “patriarchal power relations, which are ethnic, cultural and gender-related” (Fenster, 2005: 217). With this session we aim at overcoming the polarity between viewing urban space as necessarily disabling or enabling for various genders (Bondi and Rose 2003) and seek to draw attention to the complex dynamics in which urban belonging is negotiated through daily practices (Lisiak 2018).

The papers featured in the session will discuss the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class, age, and citizenship in the processes of minoritization of the urban youth, going beyond the ever-present heterosexual binarisms. Recognizing that with its focus on urban girlhood or urban boyhood research reproduces gender binaries and thus further silences the experiences of non-binary urbanites, we invite contributions that critically propose a revision of the dominant strands of the research on urban youth, going beyond its binarisms and thus rendering our understanding of urban social worlds more complex and inclusive. We encourage contributions that engage with one or more of the following topics:

- Criminalization of minoritized youth
- LGBTQ youth and the right to the city
- Migrant and refugee youth and the city
- Nationalist youth and belonging
- Social media activism and the right to the city

P5 The City as Employer: Re-imagining Urban Work and Belonging

Recent attention on ‘gig economies’ has revealed the large-scale predominance of short term, contractual work in cities the world over, and the concomitant challenges of regulating such work. How should services like uber cabs be priced and taxed? How should their drivers be remunerated and insured? Drivers in many cities have turned to their local governments to address demands of remuneration and social benefits. For them, they provide the city a service, which makes the city both their physical work place and their employer. While informalisation is often seen as a feature of the

current moment of neoliberalism, histories of contractual hiring of sweepers by urban civic governments(John 2016), spatial histories of street vendors (Anjaria 2016) and inter-generational recruitment systems of taxi drivers (Bedi 2016) are indicative a longer history of informal work in Indian cities. They also question the extent to which one could categorise them as not-formal, as not having their own formal structures. They point to a glaring lack in our mainstream urban imagination, that does not see these services as ‘work’ per se, but as experiments of self-employment or temporary sources of income.

Moving away from tropes of entrepreneurship and informality, the panel calls for our collective urban imagination to recognise low wage service work as having developed out of historical patterns of urban development. It asks: what has been the impact of suburbanisation, of slum rehabilitation, mechanisation or of de-industrialisation on the disappearance of some kinds of work, and the emergence of others? Papers might also address the more present-day patterns of the ways in which work is sought, the dynamics of the work per se, contractual relationships, commuting trajectories, rivalries and competition between workers, familial relations, migratory maps, notions of belonging in the city, rights-based movements on the basis of work among other themes.

P6 Civic engagement and local leadership in contested spaces

All over the world, urban spaces are contested around issues of class, gender, political affiliations, ethnicity, and race. Urban conflicts are not limited to cities that are formally categorized as ‘divided’ or ‘polarized’ but also take place in ‘ordinary’ cities, both in the global North and South. In this session, our interests lie with how residents navigate contested realities and mobilize themselves—and others—to create positive changes in their everyday lives. We define local leaders in the broad sense of the term, as socio-political actors who represent, to some extent, residents’ needs and are involved in change and sense-making processes in different scopes and scales. Participants will gather to explore both conceptual and practical questions about civic engagement and agency in a state of conflict, such as:

- In what ways do local leaders initiate and maintain social change in contested spaces?
- How do local leaders bridge between narratives, identities, and interests in contested spaces?
- Under what conditions are local leaders more inclined to lead bottom-up engagements towards perceived positive changes for the larger collective?

- Under what conditions are local leaders more inclined to foster cooperation with rival groups?
- How does gender play a role in fostering civic engagement?

Case studies, comparative studies or reflection papers that address one or several of the questions above, or related questions, are welcome.

P7 Diffuse Urbanization: Regional Landscape across the Globe

The spatial expansion of urban areas beyond the formal city boundaries has become a primary subject for urban studies. A well exhibited and plural body of work that traverses across disciplines have emphasized the importance of these areas, namely sprawl (Gottman, 1967), desakota (Mcgee, 1989) or exurbia (Nelson, 1992). There are regional differentiation across the globe in this process: while in Australia or North America, this kind of urbanization has been based mainly on Greenfield development, the growth in Europe, Asia and Latin America was on previously inhabited, and sometimes largely densified suburbs.

The built-form of diffused urbanization varies across regions, and the drivers of such growth are also diverse. While place based policies like Greenfield development or agricultural modernization are evident, mainly two kinds pictures emerge: (i) a shadow effect foisted by the large cities where dispersal of organized industries to the peripheries have fostered urban growth across the municipal boundaries, and (ii) a completely bottom-up, in-situ growth isolated from the large city networks, but more based on local place-based economies. These diverse growth processes also generate new patterns of spatial and social mobility, where migration to metropolises are replaced by short-term movements to smaller regional centres, and a growth in commuting with the development of transport networks; a pattern widely seen in the peripheries of large South Asian and South-East Asian cities. The patterns of social mobility also changes in the countryside due to diffused urbanization, where income from farmsteads can be diversified to generate non-farm incomes and regular wage jobs.

Placed in this juncture, the panel seeks interdisciplinary papers on diffuse urbanization, where the main questions will be:

- i) What are the diverse spatial forms and drivers of diffuse urbanization? What are the major axes of comparison across regions, mainly across the global north and south?
- ii) How the rural-urban transition takes shape in the form of diffuse urbanization, in relation or in contrast to official and administrative definitions? How much of this change is counted/enumerated by the state?
- iii) What are the nature of economic transformation in these areas? How does it vary across regions? Is the journey from rural to urban is a unidirectional process?
- iv) How the state policies visualize these areas and how residents react to the mobility and administrative changes from villages to cities?

P8 Dwelling in the interstices: modes of inhabitation and common life in the contemporary city

Inhabiting the contemporary city is increasingly a matter of dwelling in its interstices. As urban spaces become privatized, securitised and governed through the logic of immediate private profit and return, urbanites worldwide organise to craft multifarious forms of urban livings. Through this panel we are interested in attracting cutting-edge scholarship investigating the variegated practices challenging the predominant logic of bordering and governing the city.

The latter include specific devices of governance and control assembling the urban across the north and the south through privatising devices that include, among others: the marketisation of housing; gentrification; racial, spatial, social segregation; the adaptation of urban routes to logistics movements; borders' and mobility's policing and securitisation. Urbanites worldwide contest these processes on a daily basis, constructing forms of dwelling at the interstices of urban space and politics. Recent scholarship has increasingly pinpointed these struggles, looking at housing squats; social centres; self-managed urban camps; co-housing and hosting; self-construction; spontaneous settlements; temporary autonomous zones (TAZs); and many others.

In this panel we are interested in exploring new forms of dwelling that articulate manifold commons within saturated and highly conflicting urban environments. The panel is not necessarily limited to the

modalities listed above, and we welcome contributions that show uncanny forms of living vis-à-vis increased urban uninhabitability across the North and the South.

We invite papers addressing, but not limited to, the following questions:

- What forms of alternative urban dwelling are emerging across cities worldwide?
- How do these alternative practices unfold, and what are their modes of organising?
- What commons and solidarities are produced through encounters in these spaces?
- How can urban theory better theorise urban interstices and their politics?
- What are the affects and material cultures activated at the interstices of the urban?
- How are these forms of urban dwelling re-captured by dispositifs of institutional governance?

P9 Embedded Comparisons: Urban Processes at Multiple Scales

This session addresses comparative methodological issues raised by Theme 9 in the conference concept note. It asks: “How do new scales of connections -- networks outside the usual frameworks of globalities or localities -- inform comparative theorizations beyond conceptions of size, function, ‘importance’ or economic scale? What are the ways in which we can go beyond the divisions of North-South? What compels us to do so?” We are prepared to serve as stream conveners with the responsibility of organizing one or two additional sessions on this topic.

The comparative turn in urban studies is part of the general globalization of academia, as far-flung parts of the world come into increasing economic, political, social and cultural contact and scholars turn against received dualisms. Concepts travel in many directions, enriching analyses of increasingly interconnected places. The conference concept note calls for “innovative planetary comparisons that are not confined to a North – South divide.” Such comparisons were once based upon simple geography, geopolitical relations, or types of political economy. To the extent that they are tied to generic relations of power or dependency, urban processes can be profitably compared as embedded within political-economic structures operating at multiple scales. In addition, localities are embedded within complex connectivities among various urban nodes comprised of back-and-forth flows of many resources, including, of course, the migrations of people. Local practices and histories challenge dominant models

of urbanism originating in particular national contexts, offering up instances of undertheorized and hybrid processes that may have broader applicability. Transnational phenomena and emergent properties are everywhere, if we just look and conceptualize them beyond preconceived categories.

Our session invites presentations related to the overarching theme of “embedded comparisons.” Papers might consider how macro processes and linkages evident at and across different scales of analysis (planetary, international, regional, national) have various and mediated impacts to be compared at the local (metropolitan, city, and neighborhood) level. The focus could be on social welfare arrangements at the regional, national, and city levels that can alter market-generated or ethnic-based local inequalities. Papers might offer comparative insights into the ways that megacities in the Global South differ, thereby undermining uniform constructions of “developing,” “post-colonial,” or “urbanizing” cities or “seeing from the South.” Time, history, and culture are key sources of local differentiation within larger economic and political contexts. Yet there are shared characteristics among cities of the Global South that defy conventional categories, too, such as the elite districts that bring the Global North to otherwise developing venues. Finally, papers might elaborate on the types of embeddedness of most similar and most different urban comparisons. Authors might illustrate how comparatively informed “extended case studies” can take a step beyond the assumption that multiple scales and hierarchical urban networks are operating everywhere. The approach may identify contingent relationships, autonomous local factors, and the conditions under which forces at various levels are and are not consequential for urban life.

P10 Future insurgency and arrival: thinking place-making across divides

In cities around the globe, north and south, disparities between city dwellers continue to grow. We are thus bound to witness a rise of new forms of insurgent citizenship (Holston 2008) claimed by long-term residents as well as by newcomers. Dynamic rather than static relationships link cities and their dwellers. Furthermore, cities as places of arrival are not neutral sites which people enter. Cities are emergent socio-technical materialities, forged out of the fragile permanence of the built environment and the narrative genealogies of perception and interpretation. In this panel, we wish to explore the manifold relations between the arrival of newcomers (Meeus/Arnaut/van Heur 2018), place-making practices (of old and new city dwellers) and the concept of insurgent citizenship. We welcome contributions that engage with the cross-fertilisations offered by this dynamic trilogy. Papers should explore how place-making and insurgent forms of citizenship evolve in different arrival contexts or how places are

socially and socio-materially produced to realise arrival or new forms of insurgent citizenship. Keeping in mind the entanglements of the urban past with its present and emergent futures, we want to conceptually discuss the interconnections between arrival as place-making, insurgence as arrival, and place-making as insurgence.

By engaging in the above-outlined conjunction of three insufficiently linked discussions, we hope to overcome the dualism of old and new residents in framing and conceptualising urban social dynamics. This panel invites papers that approach the outlined issues in different contexts of arrival and by focussing on different aspects constraining and facilitating place-making and practices of insurgent citizenship.

P11 Governing 'the City yet to Come': Envisioning Urban Futures in India and Its Limits

The proposed panel will have three papers delineating the tensions inherent in the State's vision of futuristic urbanisation in India as experienced in a range of historic and contemporary models and practices of planning and governance. Papers in the panel will demonstrate how the ideation of futures enunciates the state's vision of managed dispersal of populations, resources, categories and practices of urban planning and governance. They also present narratives of conceptual and material challenges to these visions as they are implemented by different agencies in the history of Indian urbanisation.

The panel is placed in the sub-theme 'Persistent Challenges' as all the papers will discuss the limits of the imagination of urban futures over the last century when faced with both systemic tensions within modes of envisioning the city and external resistance from contingent counter-narratives and mobilizations. The panel will include a discussion of the theme and the papers where a discussion on the historical process of production of futures in terms of memory, space-place dichotomy and calculability will take place. The panelists will talk about different urban contexts, periods and power regimes within which these narratives unfold, and we hope to build a comparative perspective on the understanding of urban futures and their governance.

P12 Grounding Water: Rethinking Urbanism in Monsoon Landscapes

Can water be the 'ground' for rethinking both the past and the future of urbanism and development? With climate change, water increasingly appears as a threat against which we must fortify ourselves

through cement and resilience – in short, through a culture of keeping dry, rather than “soaking” (Cunha and Mathur, 2007). More than two thirds of the world’s largest and highly populated cities are coastal delta cities, or are situated on estuaries vulnerable to rising sea levels. Climate adaptation has become a central policy mandate across the board, where climate adaptations involves technocratic water-management. Water’s presence in our landscape is calculated as either too much, or too little, and understood as a threat to which we must adapt. The terms through which water is discussed as an object of crisis can broadly be divided into two: rising waters that threaten coastal ecologies, and drying rivers which threaten riverine economies.

While landscape architects are exploring the possibilities for designing on soft land (Busquets, Correa, Berman 2005), entrepreneurs are going forward with perilous and potentially exploitative experiments of floating cities in the Pacific (Floating City Project by Seasteading Institute). Such maritime-utopic-amphibious projects threatens the fragile land and seascapes in the region. How can our understanding of cities be enriched by engaging with the practices of living with water in deltaic cities where the line of separation between land and water is muddied, where landscapes are seasonal and the relation between land and water is defined by the phenomenon of soaking. This interdisciplinary panel asks the following questions: what tools will help us understand the specific urban forms, political constellations and modes of habitation that constitute delta urbanisms in monsoon landscapes? Through what modes can we read the hidden hydrologies of our cities and the traces of their long-forgotten waterways? Finally, can water also be the ground for thinking about the future of our cities, reorienting our visual literacy away from a land-based approach.

P13 Heritage and Gentrification in Transnationalizing Spaces

This panel session explores links between heritage preservation, urban transformation and lifestyle mobilities. In recent years, international financial institutions such as the World Bank, along with bilateral development agencies, have sought to foster new forms of local and national development through the expansion of tourism infrastructure. The built-heritage has been especially important, as evident in the growing list of World Heritage Sites, and UNESCO’s “Historic Urban Landscapes” initiative. These developments have occurred alongside the growing popularity of travel, which has experienced significant yearly growth rates dating back to the 1990s. The expansion of heritage tourism is, however, often aimed at higher income and status groups within the global division of labour, and especially to citizens of high-income countries in the “Global North.” Often, heritage-led development projects purport to create economic opportunities for lower-income groups. But do they? As we see in a growing

number of cities and towns, heritage preservation and the transnationalization of local place have deleterious effects on lower-income earners, marginalized ethnic groups, informal workers (especially women), residents on fixed or precarious incomes, and rural-to-urban migrants, among others. These processes do not occur on their own, but require interventions from 'above', and their effects are uneven, producing new opportunities for some, and displacing and marginalizing others. Often, national institutions provide incentive for private developments aimed at higher-income, global consumption. This panel session invites contributions that explore heritage cities, observing how transnational mobilities and histories intersect to produce inequality in local place. How do heritage-led urban transformation inform our understanding of global differences in wealth and income? How are they related to histories of extraction and social exploitation? How should urban scholars theorize the increasingly transnational spaces of cities of various sizes—including cities and towns that were until recently quite remote from international tourism circuits? How do contemporary spatial inequalities reflect new global economies of accumulation and dispossession, and what social movements have emerged to contest them?

P14 High-rise living and future cities

Across the world, high-rises and verticality have been dramatically changing the shape of cities. Verticality is not limited to the record-breaking and celebrated supertall towers in China and the Persian Gulf, but also to other less impressive and perhaps mundane towers rising in greater numbers in cities that thus far have had very few of them. As horizontal expansion has been gradually losing its dominance in urban development and verticality gaining traction, it is timely to begin exploring the challenges and prospects of verticality on the future of cities. This proposed panel communicates with the conference's theme that seeks to explore challenges and hopes for future cities as high-rises and verticality will certainly have an important part in shaping them. Our panel fits into the *Persistent Challenges* subtheme as we seek to discuss the challenges posed by the growing role of high-rises in city life. The overall purpose of this panel is to bring to the forefront the theme of high-rise living and engage in the discussion of its various aspects within social sciences. Possible topics in this panel are high-rises as living environments, elite enclaves vs. ordinary residences, high-rises as communities, and experience of high-rise living among different cultural and ethnic groups.

P15 Imaginary Border(land)s: Urban Territoriality Reconsidered

Scholars are now recognising that borders generate a dynamism in and of themselves, and that cross-border linkages are far more central to identities than previously acknowledged. Trans-border movement -- of both people and artefacts -- has become a part of 'modern' state-system, whilst 'deterritorialization' (Appadurai, 1990) characterizes the contemporary globalised world. However, existing studies mostly focus on the national-statist borders. This panel instead probes into imaginary border(land)s within the cityspace: how modern techniques of territorialization and urban imagination furnish urban 'enclaves'. For example, some city-roads have separately demarcated bicyclists' track. The Uber map has its own cartographic imagination (in most instances, different from the municipality map) of the city that renders certain places less accessible than others. The Google traffic app offers user-based navigation solutions customized for cars, two-wheelers, pedestrian etc. Certain gated communities restrict the mobility of certain occupational communities beyond the gates. In essence, these examples point to how imaginary border(land)s realign the geographies of the city, and in so doing, furnish an 'enclavist' identity for certain interstitial-heterotopic communities: say, the maid, the food-delivery personnel, the bicyclist etc. Taking off from here, this panel seeks to reflect on the separatist undercurrent immanent in the urban imagination of certain forms of mobility, and the specificity of the socio-spatial production involved therein. How does the digital mapping of the 'smart' city build on this? What responses from the interstitial space does this furnish? Theoretically, the objective is to question the restrictive nature of the urbanisation process -- from the perspective of the Indian cities --, leading to a specific sense of local territoriality.

P16 Large housing estates: (re)structuring urban inequalities and civic life

Large Housing Estates (LHE) are an inevitable part of the modern urban landscape. Enabled by the development in construction technologies and social policies after the WWII, this housing form first has been seen a solution to a housing crisis, and later as a problem: LHEs were described as difficult to govern, prone to concentration and reproduction of poverty, and negatively affecting the life chances of those living there.

Most of the research has been conducted in the countries of the Global North (Aalbers and Rancati 2008; Andersson and Musterd 2005; Kempen and Dekker 2005; Wassenberg 2013; Hess, Tammaru, and van Ham 2018). Recently, the Eastern European LHE, "inherited" from the socialist past of these

countries, are an emerging topic (Szafrńska 2013; Herfert, Neugebauer, and Smigiel 2013; Andrews and Sendi 2001; Soaita 2012). Evidence from the countries in the Global South (Glasze and Alkhayyal 2002; Janoschka and Borsdorf 2004) suggests that this urban form is truly global and developing; the estates around the world share some commonalities, but also differ due to cultural contexts, urban environments, and housing policies.

The aim of this panel is to explore the role of LHEs in cities around the world today. We invite papers that look both at the internal dynamics, including lived experiences in large housing estates, and at the role of the LHEs in the cities, the ways they shape and restructure urban inequalities, mobilities, and civic life. The discussion on LHEs will contribute to the development of new ontologies raising a question about the key elements of urban life. The panel welcomes contributions from all over the world to start mapping the different scenarios of LHEs and to show that their role in the contemporary urban world could not be reduced to some well-known dimensions of the city life, they usually put into, such as suburban, social housing, or problematic “heritage.”

P17 Innovative research methodologies of urbanity: new techniques of data collection, visualization and interpretation for collaborative and impactful research

One of the persistent challenges of conducting research in urban and regional sociology is the use of innovative research methodologies that make justice to the diversity of contexts and data that we encounter in social and urban life. From researching new phenomena, under studied regions or diverse networks of complex urban actors, using and creating methodologies that could enlighten our research questions and fit our fieldwork is still a complex process. Innovative methodologies of urbanity would have to address and move beyond the use of traditional qualitative and quantitative research methods in sociology, and to engage with other techniques of data collection, representation or interpretation. A fresh approach to research methods could engage with techniques borrowed from other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, including mapping, GPS tracking, visual and audio-visual methods, reporting tools or platforms, or a combination of these. This panel would like to explore the possibilities of integrating innovative methods for researching urbanity, encouraging reflexivity on how research questions are formed through methods, how empirical material arises from the field and in which ways our informants or participants collaborate or co-investigate with us. This reflexive approach could also open up discussions about the generation of ad-hoc methodologies, according to specific localities, especially when researching in the Global South context. We suggest that experimentation with

traditional and new methodologies could enhance our inquiry into social and urban life, contributing to theorizations about urbanity and to create further impact with academic research.

For this panel, we invite researchers to submit a contribution including title, up to 5 keywords, and a 300-word abstract.

P18 Networks, Circulation and Everyday Urban Economies

This session is broadly framed around the subtheme "networks, communities, capital" of the 2019 RC21 conference. The overall aim of this session is to bring together research on urban networks, circulation and the making and re-making of everyday economies in contemporary cities.

This session takes as its starting point empirical inquiries that grapple with the role of diverse networks – social, political, cultural, material, etc. – in shaping economic processes and practices at the urban micro-level. Intricate networks both enable and determine the circulation of labour/people, commodities/goods, capital and ideas in and beyond the city. Networks are thus at the heart of the everyday functioning of urban economies, but are difficult to grasp as they are repeatedly remade. Circulations to the city – for instance rural-urban migration, or material flows of commodities – often lead to the reconfiguration of existing networks and allow for the emergence of new connections. Taking ‘networks’ and their contingent evolutions as an entry point to researching urban economies can thus provide important insights into processes of exchange and circulation, as well as into varied ways of organising work and making livelihoods in the contemporary city.

This session invites a diverse range of conceptual, methodological and empirical contributions from cities around the world. The session’s emphasis on ‘everyday economies’ implies a commitment to in-depth empirical inquiry into the contingent ways in which different networks become manifest in urban spaces and dynamics and thus come to be experienced by different urban dwellers. Thinking across scales and contexts will enrich debates on the benefits, as well as potential shortcomings, of placing emphasis on ‘networks’ in approaching contemporary urban economies.

P19 New dynamics of peripheral urbanization: financialization, extended urbanization and political agency in the Global South

For much of the 20th century, urban peripheries in the Global South were characterized by the autoconstruction of settlements by immigrants from the countryside. Post-colonial concepts such as “peripheral urbanization” (Caldeira 2016) and “subaltern urbanism” (Roy 2011) have highlighted the political agency of residents implicated in this process. However, the world’s self-built peripheries are increasingly permeated by neoliberal policies such as the privatization of housing, transport and infrastructure, and the financialization of urban development and everyday life (Keil 2018). Furthermore, the changing frontiers of primary resource extraction, cheap-labour-based industrialization and the associated transport infrastructure led to the integration of hitherto “non-urban” spaces and people into the global urban fabric (Brenner 2014), showing the necessity of reconsidering older notions of peripheral urbanization as those inspired by Latin American dependency-theory (Castells 1974, Kantor 1981). This session discusses processes of peripheral and extended urbanization in the Global South.

We explicitly seek contributions that aim to combine considerations of political agency, culture and identity of urban/rural-urban dwellers with critical political economy. We invite proposals for papers addressing (but not limited to) one or more of the following questions:

- How do new dynamics of peripheral urbanization relate to current modes of capital accumulation, such as the increasing power of finance capital, new extractive frontiers and agrarian change?
- What are the social, ecological and economic effects of the new spatial configurations?
- To which extent are peri-urban/rural-urban spaces (potential) new arenas of resistance to neoliberal capitalism?
- (How) Can neo-Marxist and post-colonial approaches of peripheral urbanization be brought into dialogue to understand current socio-spatial transformations in the Global South and advance critical urban studies?

P20 New Forms of Mobilizations and Resistance under Neoliberal Urban Governance

Interdisciplinary critical urban studies analyze both the political economy of urban projects, their disastrous consequences on populations and the environment, as well as new forms of neoliberal

governance techniques, relations of power, and emerging subjectivities. This literature also shows that political and economic elites consolidate new governance techniques into constantly changing circumstances, such as popular participation, techno-moral politics, and proliferation of actors involving in projects. The aim of our panel is to bring together new responses, mobilizations, and resistance strategies developed by populations against/to cope and get along with these new governmental techniques that go beyond classical social movements, open conflicts, occupy movements etc. We especially encourage papers that draw on ethnographic research and reveal novel sites of politics and innovative techniques of voice, resistance, and representation.

- How do complex networks of power and capital demand and allow individuals and groups of populations to create novel strategies and alliances for action and resistance?
- How do efforts to alter and capture governmental, institutional, and private bodies' projects and programs rely on new articulations of technologies, new publics, or new conceptions of political fields in order to imagine change?
- How do collectivities and individuals reshape and reimagine the objectives of resistance and the stakes of acquiescence?
- What kind of resistance and alternative visions are possible in the wake of rising authoritarianism on the left and on the right?
- How do these efforts demand a rethinking of the contours of politics and collectivities of the possibilities of struggle and the aims of collective action?

P21 Occupying the city: artistic activism, the production of space, politics and the everyday life in large cities

Recently, scholars have identified the growing activism of artists and cultural producers in cities of the Global North, suggesting their growing role in urban struggle and the right to the city. They are a strong voice in the contestation of current urban order and development logics. By exploring counter-narratives and experiences, artists and cultural producers have been defending specific urban spaces and challenging hegemonic norms, discourses, imaginations, and their social and spatial expression.

Similar phenomena have been occurring also in the Global South cities. Though, it occurs with a strong protagonism of artists and cultural producers from the peripheries. In these cases, the critique of the subaltern urban condition have come to the centre of the political activism, specially, through its

aesthetics expressivenesses. Confronting the public figurations of the peripheries, which operates through homogenizing stereotypes that combines ideas of incivility and violence, cultural and artistic peripheral groups have been able to concentrate shared expectations and to produce other narratives, subjectivities, spatialities, economies and meanings.

This session looks for studies that shed light on contemporary articulations between aesthetics, urban space, politics and everyday life. It encourages the submission of papers with a diversity of methodological and theoretical approaches, specially, ethnographies and in-depth case studies dedicated to the study of contemporary forms of artistic activism in cities. Some stimulating questions:

- How these artistic activisms confront the ordering of the public space and operate dissensions (and deconstructions) against the accusatory discourse that produces political and social "unfeasibility" of the peripheries?
- How the city, its architecture and everyday life are (re)imagined and rebuild throughout different forms of urban art?
- How these activisms produce spatialities, politicizations, economies and ordinary ways of inhabiting the city?
- What do they tell us about the forms and contents through which the youth deals with politics and the state, specifically, with the struggles for "the right to have rights" and "the right to the city"?
- What are the implications of this activisms regarding current interpretations about the social and political conflicts in the contexts of large contemporary cities, which have been embedded in militarization processes, urban redevelopment policies, economic crisis and the rise of xenophobia and fascism?

P22 On the Platform: Is the Future (City) already here?

Our imagery of an urban future is in many ways stuck in the past, updated versions of mid-century Visions and fears – Smart and even Conscious Cities, Hyperloops, ceaseless slums, polarized nations. The ongoing reality of urban (and societal) transformation, driven by the sweeping reach of digital technologies, is both more unostentatious as well as profound. Their implications, for individuals, communities, cities and states, are still poorly understood, and will be complex, varied and contingent.

This session will examine the nature of the changes associated with digital platforms - digital

marketplaces, agglomerators, online communities and social media platforms – in the real, physical world of places, cities, communities and organizations. Papers in the session will examine how digital platforms are experienced and perceived by participants; how they influence economic and social organization and relations; how they enable new forms of political action as well as control. What sort of futures do they presage? Hopeful, ambivalent, anxious? The session seeks empirically-grounded research papers, descriptive as well as analytical, qualitative and quantitative, in a wide range of urban and social contexts. The goal of the Session/ Panel discussion is to draw out theoretical propositions and ideas to help scholars as well the broader public gain a better understanding of the nature of the changes underway. The session will be divided in 3 sub-sessions, organized around three domains:

- Work- This session focuses on how/whether digital platforms change the nature of work, informalize or formalize work relations, influence industrial organization and the functioning of markets.
- Community/ Society- Do digital technologies reconfigure the relationship between communities and places? Do they re-inforce or alter existing social cleavages and inequalities?
- Control/ Power- Do digital technologies threaten or enhance state power and control? How do they affect mobilization strategies and outcomes for different groups?

P23 Peri-Urbanism(s): Visions for Inclusivity and Plurality in the Urbanizing Countryside

It is estimated that by 2031, 40% of India will live in urban centers.¹ Most of this urban growth is taking place in peripheries of existing metropolitan areas which are sites for a chaotic urbanization. These forces of urbanization are such that city sprawl overtakes the rural countryside, leaving a fragmented urban-scape riddled with inequality and segregation. Most of this kind of urban growth spawns from existing city-centric modes of thought and forms of urbanization, where the peri-urban sites seem doomed to terrible dis-economies of density. As we anticipate major impacts on existing ecological, socio-cultural and economic systems accompanying this wave of urbanization, the need of the hour is to bring to the forefront alternative ideas on rural-urban relationships– be it equitable urban models, developing institutional frameworks for rural-urban partnerships or leveraging urban narratives that focus on inclusivity and plurality. The panel will bring together voices and visions of designers, planners, urban scholars and researchers whose work breaks away from the traditional city-centered definition of

¹ The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, Sep 2017. It should be noted that figures on urban population are quite different depending on the sources, method of analysis and definition of ‘urban’. Based on other reports, 55.3% of the population already live in areas with urban-like features (World Bank Report: Leveraging Urbanization in South Asia: Managing Spatial Transformation for Prosperity and Livability, 2016)

'urbanism'. The presentations bring to the forefront new ways of thinking about, experiencing and representing peri-urbanization. The speakers will present their critical analysis of the current urbanization phenomenon and will reflect on how their work could allow for developing new meanings and forms for the urbanizing countryside.

P24 Politics of Belonging: Narratives around Frontiers of Spatial Identity

The creation of insider-outsider identities, and processes of flux-and-flow, inform migrant trajectories in any space. But these are not the result or cause of any single trajectory. Instead, varied positionalities, experiences, governance and legal policies contribute to the dilemmas of the migrant in the host society (Papastergiadis, 2000) and the social actor's sense of belonging to the space. Employing a range of theoretical framework, the papers in this panel will investigate the intersections of belonging, locality, and integration across geographically diverse spaces-urban and rural. The panel aims to highlight questions of urban citizenship in present (Sutherland, 2013) forays into the historical analysis of events and practices that have over time contributed to the idea of 'home and belonging'. Papers in the panel will be expected to offer both contemporary and historical perspectives on identity formation, they come together to question the dynamics of 'inclusion-exclusion' in a given space. The papers will use a range of empirical data to analyse the visibility of everyday practices that characterise spatial identities. Through an analysis of specific regional case studies, this cross-regional panel hopes to stimulate new debates on migration, urban citizenship and construction of spatial identities.

P25 Proximate lives in shifting spaces: examining urban life through the relationalities of neighbouring in diverse urban environments

The neighbourhoods in which we live are diverse and changing. Socio-structural processes such as detraditionalisation, mobility and rural-urban migration have profoundly reshaped the ways we conceive and live in cities, as have urban policies and processes such as urban expansion, gentrification, slum transformation and urban consolidation. Affluent groups have sought to incubate themselves from these processes by retreating into privatised or gentrified neighbourhoods to accumulate collective symbolic capital with those who share their values and aspirations. Conversely, disadvantage neighbourhoods become 'dumping grounds' for unwanted populations – migrants, refugees, the homeless, the dispossessed and the poor – thus trapping them into a state of collective marginality. Regardless of the city, or the urban dynamics at play, urban dwellers have one thing in common: they all have neighbours. Neighbours are simply people who live near one another, although even 'proximity'

has different meanings depending on whether one lives in a freestanding home in the suburbs, an apartment block with shared walls and communal spaces, or a densely populated informal settlement. Physical proximity between neighbours reworks the ontologies of domestic and public; dwelling and neighbourhood; intimacy and distance, and leads to distinct types of relationships and interactions between neighbours that are normatively governed in distinct social and spatial contexts. Sometimes these relations can be positive and rewarding as neighbours provide one another with practical and emotional support, engage in collective action, and generate a sense of local community. But neighbours can also be a source of conflict, gossip, fear and social exclusion. This panel session invites papers that examine urban life through the relationalities of neighbouring in diverse urban spaces. Empirical and/or theoretical papers that broadly accord with this theme are welcome and may cover the following issues:

- Studies of neighbourliness, social capital and collective efficacy
- Forms of exclusion and segregation within residential areas
- Neighbour support and interactions in slums, ghettos and other informal settlements
- The impacts of mobility, trans-localism and residential dis-location on neighbouring
- Neighbour conflicts and disputes
- The changing role of institutions and authorities in regulating and managing neighbour relations
- Formal and informal neighbour associations, politics and movements.

