

# In the KNOW



# KNOW

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**In the KNOW** is our bi-annual newsletter providing a space to share project outputs, updates, stories, and more from Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW). It is co-produced by our KNOW Investigators, City Partners, and Associates working on issues of urban equality, resilience, prosperity, and extreme poverty; in the fields of urban development policy, planning, research, and capacity-building in cities of the global South.

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C/O KNOW Communications Officer  
34 Tavistock Square, Bloomsbury  
London WC1H 9EZ

Email: [info@urban-know.com](mailto:info@urban-know.com)

Copy editors: KNOW Research Fellows  
Design and Layout: David Heymann  
Contributors: As noted in authorship

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### On the cover

*Participants meeting to discuss the renovation of the local market in Barrios Altos, Lima, Image: KNOW Lima*

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## In this issue

By Prof Caren Levy

KNOW Principal Investigator

When in the UK Government announced November 2020 that it would cut its ODA<sup>1</sup> budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI – at the same time as shifting DFID<sup>2</sup> into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office – we knew there had been a fundamental change to the approach, structure and content of UK aid, but we did not foresee the impact on ODA-supported research that had already been awarded their funds. As we were finalising our annual reporting to our funders UKRI (UK Research and Innovation), in March 2021, we heard that UKRI had experienced a large cut to its budget for the 2021/22 financial year, leaving a £120m gap between its allocations and commitments<sup>3</sup>. This affected ODA-funded research projects, whether they were at the start, middle or end of their programmes. Sadly, the period since the [last Issue](#) of *In the KNOW* has been focused on dealing with the impact of these cuts, including to those projects supported by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), like KNOW.

The cuts to research budgets that are already awarded and underway raises many fundamental and ethical questions, on top of the already difficult question that the pandemic forced on ODA-funded research programmes. In projects like KNOW, the cuts go to the heart of the relationships between project partners in the international consortia that drive ODA-funded research. How do we address such resource reductions without affecting the trust built together between partners – and our partners' partners who include community-based organisations and local governments? It also goes to the core of relationships between different generations of researchers in such projects. How can we maintain the developmental commitment to the next generation of international researchers working at the 'coal face' of the project? In ODA-funded projects where impact in the context of national and global development goals is a key issue, the resource reductions challenge the value of the knowledge being created in the project and its translation into real changes for diverse women and men in project locations

and beyond. How can we maintain the integrity of findings and co-construct their impact with a truncated budget?

### In projects like KNOW, the cuts go to the heart of the relationship between project partners in the international consortia that drive ODA funded research

Given that this is the final year of KNOW, we have found strategies to weather this storm and to respond effectively to these fundamental questions. Others have had to make more difficult compromises. In the process, we have been reminded of the value and importance of the work done with peers in other countries, and the critical importance of global efforts to expand knowledge and practices to co-produce decent living conditions that 'leave no-one behind'. This only echoes the learning so dramatically imparted by the reinforcing cycles between inequality and the impact of the global pandemic. We remain committed to contribute not just to 'building back better', the often-heard exhortation when considering a post pandemic future, but in the phrase coined by the Marmot Review, to 'build back fairer'<sup>4</sup>.

In this Issue 5, *KNOW Why* puts these UK ODA cuts in historical context. One of the six work streams of the KNOW Programme is focused on 'Expanding UK ODA Research Capacity' ([Work Package 6](#)) and this lead piece shares a summary of one of its research outputs, a history of UK ODA and its treatment of urban development. The recent events impacting UK ODA are a poignant reminder of the essentially political character of foreign aid, its links to colonial and post-colonial experience, and the need to reframe the aid relationship between the countries of the global South and global North.

A counterpoint to the ODA cuts in the last six months was the exciting and generative experience of the final *KNOW Annual Workshop* (*see KNOW What*) held remotely at the beginning of the year. The workshop set out to respond to the following ambitious but essential questions at the centre of the *KNOW* programme:

- What have we learnt about urban equality and its different dimensions?
- What have we learnt about resilience, prosperity and extreme poverty, and their relationship to the different dimensions of urban equality?
- What have we learnt about shaping pathways to urban equality at different scales?
- What have we learnt about research and capacity building methodologies and the ethics of practice?
- What is the *KNOW* legacy, locally, nationally, regionally and globally?

We celebrated the full breadth and depth of the knowledge and experience generated by the *KNOW* programme in a carefully designed process, in which audio-visual and written responses to these questions were shared in advance, and synchronous working sessions ran daily over a week, scheduled in the middle of the day to enable the full participation of all partners from Latin America to East Asia and Australasia. Reflections on this collective experience are presented in *KNOW What* feature piece (*pg 6*) and captured in the contributions to **KNOW How** by the six

- 
1. Official Development Assistance or Foreign Aid
  2. Department for International Development, the official arm of the UK governments ODA
  3. The cut arose because of a 50% cut to the ODA allocations for the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) which supports the GCRF (and the Newton Fund). This, in turn, generated BEIS's ODA cut to UKRI, the umbrella UK Research funder, leaving it with a budget of £125m for ODA-funded research.
  4. Marmot, M., Allen, J., Goldblatt, P., Herd, E. and Morrison, J. (2020). *Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review. The Pandemic, Socioeconomic and Health Inequalities in England*. London: Institute of Health Equity



Work Package, as they pertain to the focus of each work stream. While we missed the conviviality of our face-to-face annual meetings, the remote character of the workshop enabled partners to bring their full teams to our collective deliberations, which were all the richer for this wider engagement.

The section on **KNOW What** shares a number of articles that talk primarily to the impact and legacy of the KNOW programme.

**The first** piece relates the experience of the **KNOW Doctoral Training Course (DTC)** entitled, “Co-producing urban research in the global South. Practising partnerships with equivalence to activate knowledge in action for urban equality”. This was piloted in January 2021 and is being modularised for future use by the DPU with their international cohort of PhD students and with KNOW partners Ardhi University in Dar es Salaam, CUJAE in Havana and IIHS in Bangalore.

**The second** presents the experience of dealing with the impact of COVID-19 on food security in Lima, and the responses led by the **City Partner** (Lima) in collaboration with their NGO partners and the Municipality, to address this challenge in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

**The third text** reflects on lessons from our fourth and final Annual Workshop, held virtually in February 2021 through a series of synchronous discussion sessions and asynchronous activities.

**The fourth text** shares the multi-stakeholder progress on the KNOW collaboration with UCLG to jointly produce the next Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization Report, **GOLD VI**, that focuses on pathways to urban and territorial equality.

**The final** piece reports on our action research from our **City Partner** in Da Nang, to mobilise, conserve and link fishing communities and their cultural heritage in Da Nang with the new ‘world class city’ and tourist vision for the city

The final section of Issue 5 is **KNOW When** which summarises what have largely been remote KNOW events in the last six months, as well as updates on KNOW outputs since the last Issue. As usual we look forward to engaging with you in our public events in the future, which are likely to continue to being remote in the coming months.

As usual, please do keep in touch with us through the [KNOW website](#), [blog](#), [Vimeo channel](#) and [KNOW mailing list](#).

#### Above left

*Participatory process carried out in Barrios Altos, Lima to co-produce model plans for a new market square in Barrios Altos, Lima, Image: KNOW Lima team, 2021*

#### Above right

*Visitors in Da Nang at the exhibition of DAU student interpretations (sketches) of the historic fishing villages, Image: KNOW Da Nang Team, 2021*

# KNOW Why

## UK Official Development Assistance (ODA)

### Contact:

**Christopher Yap**  
Research Fellow  
KNOW Work Package 2 & 6

[c.yap@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.yap@ucl.ac.uk)

*This article draws on a forthcoming publication authored by Christopher Yap, Colin Marx, and Prof Caren Levy.*

## UK ODA at the crossroads: Looking back, looking forward with an urban lens

**By Christopher Yap** (WP2 & WP6 Research Fellow)  
**and Prof Caren Levy** (KNOW Principal Investigator)

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact every community around the world, the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the UK would reduce its Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget by more than £4 billion. In real terms, this represents the single biggest cut ever imposed on the UK aid budget. The cuts are and will significantly impacting the lives of many of the poorest and most vulnerable groups around the world and jeopardise long-standing international partnerships that are critical to meeting the UK's aid objectives as well as global development goals.

At the time of writing, key details about how the cuts will be distributed are still to be made public. The Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) has reported that 68% of the cuts *"were achieved by rescheduling payments to multilaterals, 21% were made by deferring payments to the CDC and 11% were made to bilateral programmes implemented by NGOs and private sector suppliers. Beyond that, little is known"* (Baldoumas, 2021). Nevertheless, the details that have emerged have been received with dismay from politicians, academics, aid-workers, and much of the wider public: funding for women and girls' education is to be cut by 40%; funding for clean water and sanitation projects in developing nations is to be cut by more than 80%; humanitarian aid to Syria and Yemen is to be cut by almost 50% and 60% respectively. These figures are dramatic, and yet they do not convey the full impacts of these cuts, which will be felt for years to come.

The announcement about cuts to the budget closely followed on from the biggest institutional change in the UK ODA landscape in more than two decades. On 2nd September 2020, the Department for International Development (DFID), the primary agency responsible for the delivery of UK aid, was merged with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to form the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development

Office (FCDO). In 2021, the FCDO will be responsible for 81% of the aid budget, more than the combined total for DFID and FCO in 2019.

Our KNOW research on *'Expanding UK ODA Research Capacity'* ([Work Package 6](#)) based on archival and secondary sources and interviews with current and former academics, practitioners, and civil servants involved in ODA policy, research, and programming, demonstrates that these changes to the ODA budget and institutions are only the latest in a long history of shifts in the UK's aid landscape. Over the course of the past sixty years, the UK's aid budget has been raised and reduced; its aid institutions upgraded and downgraded. These changes have never been driven by the extent of poverty around the world. Rather, they are primarily a reflection of domestic political processes and priorities. In order to understand the significance of the latest cuts to the aid budget and of changes to the UK's aid institutions, it is useful to put them in historical context.

### Researching Official Development Assistance

Scholars have argued that ODA is fundamentally ambiguous as it both reduces poverty (Alvi & Senbeta, 2012) and contributes to unequal relations between nations (Sørensen, 2004). And, in the context of the UK, foreign aid is inextricably linked to the history of the British Empire and transition to the Commonwealth (Hodge, 2010).

The structure and priorities of the UK's aid agenda are a reflection of the convoluted way that ODA emerged as a distinct set of issues within the dismantlement of the British Empire; the ways that UK politicians mobilise and politicise ODA while electioneering; and the relations between the UK and the broader, international ODA landscape. In addition, the malleability of the UK's aid agenda is also partly a reflection of the diversity of activities that ODA funds,

including research and capacity-building, humanitarian assistance, programmes, and infrastructure development.

Within the uneven and intricate trajectory of UK ODA, specific agendas have travelled in different ways. Decisions that are taken about which types of activities are prioritised, which populations are targeted, and which issues are addressed, are informed by a complex set of relations between domestic political processes and other institutional actors. This includes the priorities, capacities and structures of ODA recipient-governments for administering aid developed over time, institutional cultures and mandates, international developments agendas and discourses, to name just a few of the influences on ODA policy. For this reason, different agendas, including 'the urban', have journeyed into and out of focus – have been characterised and approached in different ways – under different governments, at different times.

## The structure and priorities of the UK's aid agenda are a reflection of the convoluted way that ODA emerged as a distinct set of issues within the dismantlement of the British Empire; the ways that UK politicians mobilise and politicise ODA while electioneering; and the relations between the UK and the broader, international ODA landscape

There is and has always been a significant urban component to UK ODA programming. This work is most visible in informal settlement upgrading programmes in different countries. The UK also has an extensive history of funding urban infrastructure development, training

and capacity-building in urban contexts, and conducting specifically urban research. The character of the urban dimension of UK ODA policy and programming has shifted significantly over the past sixty years.

### Charting the History of UK ODA

Overseas concessional spending by the UK government can be traced back to the administration of the British Empire at the turn of the twentieth century. For much of the nineteenth century, Britain's overseas expenditure was primarily military. However, in the years before the First World War, Britain administered a small number of concessional loans to territories such as the West Indies.

In the 1920s, Britain passed a series of Regional Loan Acts that outlined concessional and guaranteed loans to protectorates such as East Africa. These regional agreements were consolidated in the 1929 Colonial Development Fund Act, which allocated a small budget of £1 million for concessional overseas spending (approximately 0.02% GNI), which was

intended to boost trade between the UK and its colonies. The concessional overseas spending budget was increased substantially to £50 million over ten years by the 1940 Colonial Development and Welfare Act, which included additional funding specifically for overseas research.

The end of the Second World War brought about fundamental changes to the international landscape that continue to influence UK aid policy today. The first was the creation of multilateral organisations including The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) (1944), the first institution of the World Bank Group, and the United Nations (1945). The second was the independence of former colonies and the expansion of the Commonwealth.

Some historians have argued that the primary aim of overseas spending in the post-war period was to facilitate the continued extraction of primary resources from former colonies, such as Malayan rubber and West African cocoa, with the overarching goal of strengthening the UK's

### What is Official Development Assistance (ODA)?

Official Development Assistance (ODA) refers to resource flow between donor countries and countries included in the Organization for Economic Cooperation for Development (OECD's) Development Assistance Committee List (DAC-list) of countries eligible to receive ODA. ODA refers specifically to resource flows that: are administered by official agencies; promote economic development and welfare in recipient countries; and are concessional in nature with a grant element of at least 25% (OECD, 2019). In the UK, ODA is often referred to as Foreign Aid.

In 1969, based upon on the OECD's definition, the Pearson Commission established the 0.7% target, meaning that each member of the OECD's

Development Assistance Committee should aim to allocate 0.7% of its Gross National Income (GNI) to ODA. The Commission's report, 'Partners in Development', proposed that all DAC-members aim to achieve this target by 1975 and no later than 1980.

The most recent figures from 2020 show that global ODA spending totalled \$161 billion (USD), which represents an average spend of 0.32 % GNI for donor countries. In 2020 the UK aid budget was £14.5 billion (\$20.18 billion), which represents 0.7% GNI, a proportion at least matched by six other countries (Germany, Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Turkey, and Sweden).

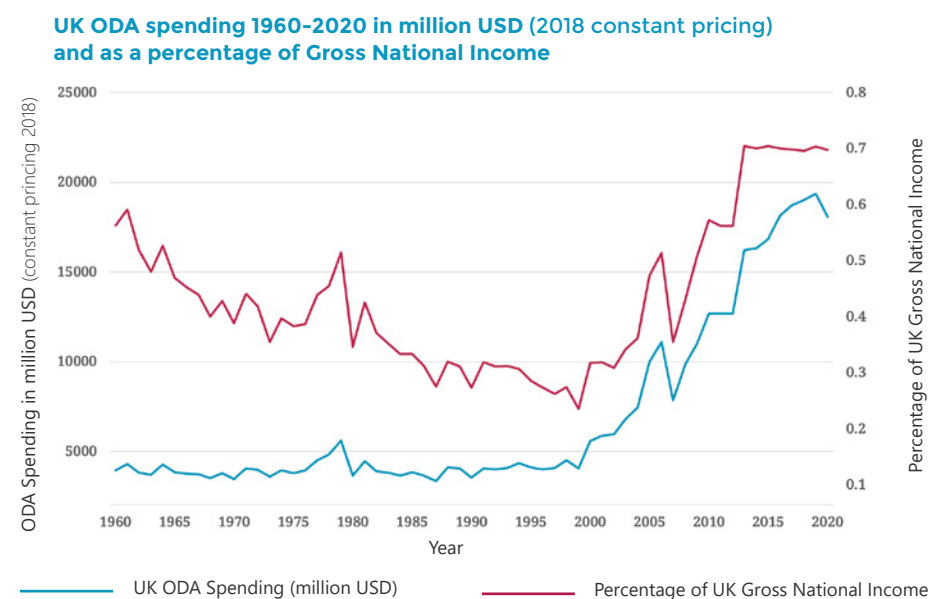


economy (Tomlinson, 2003). However, throughout the late 1940s and 1950s, it could be argued that the UK's aid policy was not driven by a coherent ideology. Rather it was defined by a series of processes that gradually filled the vacuum left by colonial administration. The fragmented way that expenditure was managed across four government departments – the Foreign Office, the Treasury, the Colonial Office, and the Commonwealth Relations Office – reflected the incremental processes through which overseas aid was emerging, the rapidly changing colonial and post-colonial landscapes, and the distribution across departments of civil servants with expertise in dealing with specific regions or territories. Significantly, this period also saw the gradual establishment of the foundations of today's aid paradigm: the notion that aid should be given to countries outside of the UK's control or influence; that aid should contribute to the welfare of people in the recipient country; and that there should be a distinction between the UK's commercial and aid interests.

## The UK's first Ministry of Overseas Development

In 1964, Prime Minister Harold Wilson established the UK's first Ministry of Overseas Development led by Cabinet-level Minister, Barbara Castle. The new Ministry was responsible for all aid spending with the exception of budgetary aid to former colonies which was managed by the Colonial Office<sup>1</sup>. Aid spending during this period was neither targeted or recorded in terms of urban and rural spending. However, the UK contributed significantly to the construction of urban infrastructure projects such as building roads, bridges, and airports, overwhelmingly in Commonwealth countries. Between 1964-71, bilateral aid to former colonies represented at least 86% of the annual aid budget (Tomlinson, 2003).

Over the following decades, the status of the Ministry of Overseas Development changed several times as it was upgraded or downgraded by successive governments. In 1967, it was downgraded with the Minister losing Cabinet-level status<sup>2</sup>. Following the election of a Conservative government,



Above

Figure 1: UK ODA Spending 1960-2020 (USD), Data source: OECD: <https://data.oecd.org/oda/net-oda.htm>

the Ministry was renamed the Overseas Development Administration in October 1970, and downgraded to be a department within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, led by a Minister without Cabinet-level status. When the Labour Party won the 1974 election, it re-established the Overseas Development Administration as a separate department with its own non-Cabinet-level Minister. However, in 1975, the powers of the Minister were transferred to the Foreign Secretary. In 1979, following the election of Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government, the Overseas Development Administration was again downgraded to be a department within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office where it remained without a cabinet-level Minister until 1997.

What these institutional changes show is how ODA in the UK has always been a political issue within the wider domestic political landscape.

In the mid-1970s, UK ODA policy took a consciously 'rural turn'. For the first time, following pressure from UK politicians, rural projects came to be actively prioritised over urban interventions on the grounds that the poorest countries were predominantly rural and that the poorest populations lived in rural areas. This shift marked the first entry of the spatiality of aid spending in the political and policy discourses

surrounding ODA. At the time, a report by the Commonwealth Development Corporation found that less than a third of ODA projects (46/150) were urban in nature (HC Deb 7 Sep 1975). This turn reflected a broader international shift towards rural development, championed by the World Bank and other multilateral agencies.

The change of government in 1979 marked a significant turning point in UK ODA policy. This was the first of four consecutive Conservative governments that lasted until 1997. While much changed in the UK and in DAC-list countries, there were no new White Papers published on the UK's overseas aid policy during this period. Neil Martin, Thatcher's first Minister for Overseas Development (1979-1983),

1. From 1962 the Colonial Office and the Commonwealth Relations Office were headed by the same Secretary of State, although they remained separate departments. The two departments merged to form the Commonwealth Office in 1966. In 1968 the Commonwealth Office merged with the Foreign Office to form the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). In 2020 the FCO merged with the Department for International Development (est. 1997) to form the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), which exists today.
2. The Cabinet is a group of the most senior government Ministers in the UK that regularly meets with the Prime Minister to discuss major public and policy issues.



explicitly advocated for an aid policy that was tied to Britain's political and commercial interests. One of the first acts of the new government was to cut ODA spending from 0.51% of the budget to 0.35% of the Gross National Income (GNI). Proportionately, this represents the greatest cut ever made to the UK ODA budget (33 percent budget cut). However, in real terms, the cut meant a budget reduction of £1.4 billion, far less than the cuts in 2021.

The budget cut in 1979 was significant, as it abruptly reversed progress made towards reaching the 0.7% target made in the preceding five years. However, when considered in the context of long-term ODA spending trends the cut is less remarkable. As **Figure 1** shows (*previous page*), while the actual budget allocated to UK ODA remained relatively stable from 1960 until 2000, it decreased significantly as a percentage of UK GNI.

Throughout the 1980s, regional concentrations of urban ODA activities remained, such as in South Asia. However, many of these programmes represented policy and programmatic legacies – commitments made and partnerships built in the 1970s – rather than new areas of work. The lack of new urban ODA initiatives also reflected changes to the broader ODA landscape. The large-scale infrastructure projects that had been funded by UK ODA in the 1960s and 70s, were increasingly funded by debt, rather than by grants, and administered by development finance institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian and African Development Banks rather than bilateral ODA (Wihtol, 2014).

Internationally, this period saw the rise of neoliberal approaches to managing global, national, and local economies, characterised by market liberalisation, and the promotion of privatisation and private property laws. With this shift came fundamental changes to governance arrangements. In many contexts, including the UK, the state was scaled back while the role of the private sector expanded. This approach was taken into the practices of both bi-lateral and multi-lateral aid, the latter led by the International Monetary Fund. These shifts – what came to be referred to later as the Washington consensus in the ODA discourse – had profound impacts on

low-income groups, increasing inequality and increasing rates and severity of urban poverty (Amis, 1995; Mehrotra & Jolly, 2000; Wratten, 1995).

## The creation of DFID

When the Labour Party won the general election in May 1997, they immediately enacted the biggest changes to the UK's ODA institutions, policies, and programming since 1964. The Overseas Development Administration within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was replaced by the Department for International Development (DFID), led by a Cabinet-level Minister, Secretary of State for International Development Clare Short (1997–2003). DFID was initially structured around professional advisory units, such as the Infrastructure and Urban Development Department (IUDD), which held a central budget and were responsible for overseeing policy and programmes in their sectors.

The Labour government, in accordance with their commitment to an “ethical foreign policy” gave the space and support for DFID to flourish on its own terms. The Department broadened its remit beyond the administration of overseas aid to include international affairs affecting developing countries (Ireton, 2013). Short's leadership brought about a significant change in the culture of the Department, particularly for civil servants, who were encouraged to put forward new agendas.

In the period between 1997–2003, DFID emerged as a world leader in urban ODA policy and initiatives. In 1999, along with the World Bank and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), DFID was one of the founding partners of the Cities Alliance, a global partnership that promotes inclusive and sustainable urban development through slum upgrading programmes and the formulation of city development strategies. In 2001, John Hodges, Head of DFID's IUDD, addressed a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, held five years after Habitat II, after which UNCHS was elevated to a full UN programme, UN-Habitat.

DFID also developed a number of significant urban ODA initiatives such as the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF), which was jointly founded

by the UK and Japanese governments in 1999, and which acted as a catalyst for increasing private sector participation in emerging markets. PPIAF complemented another major urban ODA innovation during this period, the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG); a multi-donor organisation established in 2002 that develops and finances urban infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa and South and South East Asia. By 2019, PIDG Trust's total funding exceeded £3 billion, managed by a private company, PIDG Ltd (est. 2018).

The early 2000s also marked a shift in global debates about aid, which was reflected in the UK's changing approach to ODA management and delivery. Governance and effective states became primary preoccupations of the Department. In accordance with DFID's commitment to developing partnerships with aid-recipient governments, the Department began to focus on supporting ‘effective states’. In practice, this meant a swell of governance and institutional advisors across the Department, many of whom specialised in public financial management and other disciplines that previously had not existed within the UK's aid institutions. These new advisors often engaged directly with central Ministries in DAC-list countries, such as the Ministries of Finance and Justice, rather than providing technical development assistance for specific projects, programmes, or sectors. Accordingly, bilateral aid became much less sector specific. This reflected the approach championed by DFID's Permanent Secretary, which emphasised professional knowledge, such as auditing, over technical expertise (House of Commons International Development Committee, 2004).

In January 2003, then Director-General of Country Programmes, Suma Chakrabarti, led a significant restructuring of DFID in which he replaced the Department's professional units with a single Policy Division which was responsible for all ODA policy. The impact of the restructuring of DFID on its urban agenda was profound. Senior figures, some of whom had been involved in the Department since the early-1990s left the organisation. In the space of a few weeks DFID's urban agenda largely disappeared (Interviews).

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In the same year, the UK government reaffirmed its pledge to spend 0.7% GNI on ODA, at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles, Scotland. It met this target in 2013 and maintained this level of spending until 2020. This commitment to ODA spending is particularly significant in the context of international trends and domestic spending priorities. Since 2005, ODA spending by DAC countries has significantly decreased; in 2017, the mean ODA spent by DAC countries was 0.3% (OECD, 2018). Of the G8 nations that reaffirmed their pledge to spend 0.7% GNI on ODA, only the UK and Germany have since met their target, though not consistently.

Following the 2010 UK general election, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats formed a Coalition government, led by the Conservative Leader, David Cameron. The Conservative party manifesto recommitted the UK to spending 0.7% GNI on ODA. Cameron became the first Conservative leader not to downgrade the status of the UK's aid institutions upon taking office. The new government did, however, begin a programme of 'austerity', which saw significant cuts to almost all government budgets; from 2010 to 2020 the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department of Justice, for example, saw their budgets cut by almost 40%. In the same period, UK ODA spending increased by almost 43%. In 2015, the target of 0.7% GNI was enshrined into law.

During the same period, ODA administration was significantly restructured. An increasing and significant proportion of the UK ODA budget was channelled through departments and agencies other than DFID; in 2016, more than 25% of UK ODA was spent by other agencies (Krutikova & Warwick, 2017). In other words, in order to maintain the 0.7% commitment, the UK government broadened the activities that could be classified as ODA and displaced the cost of administration from central agencies to other departments. This includes the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), which was announced as part of the UK Government's 2015 spending review. The review committed a five year £1.5 billion "to support cutting-edge research which

addresses the most pressing problems faced by developing countries" (ESRC, 2021)

A result of this trend saw the size of ODA grants and programmes significantly increased. On the one hand, this continued the shift away from projects and towards larger programmes initiated by the previous Labour governments. On the other hand, this ensured that the transaction costs for administering aid were born by NGOs, multilateral agencies, and recipient government departments, rather than DFID. In order to maintain public and political support for the 0.7%, especially during the period of economic austerity, the government increasingly emphasised value for money and results-based management (Interviews).

## **In the period between 1997-2003, DFID emerged as a world leader in urban ODA policy and initiatives**

In the past decade, the UK's urban ODA agenda has re-emerged significantly through large scale programmes such as the £105million Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility (NIAF) (2011-2017), as well as smaller projects, such as the £14.9 million Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) programme (2012-2015), which took place across six African and Asian cities. In 2015-2016 DFID's bilateral programming on transport and urban infrastructure consisted of 57 programmes with combined budgets of £3.9 billion (ICAI, 2018), approximately 15% of the total ODA budget for the same period. In many ways, this approach to urban ODA policy and programmes is most reminiscent of UK ODA policy in the 1960s, which emphasised infrastructure development as a means to stimulate economic growth. What is different however, is that this infrastructure and economic growth-oriented agenda also reflects the accumulated character of ODA practices, priorities, and capacities developed over previous decades. These included the emphasis on partnerships and good governance, on making markets work for the poor, and on value for money. Viewed in this historical context, the recent

changes to the UK's ODA institutional landscape are perhaps less surprising but no less concerning. The proposed cuts are not unprecedented, but in the context of Brexit and the global pandemic, they could not have come at a worse time for the UK, as well as for poor and vulnerable communities around the world.

The reduction of ODA spending from 0.7% to 0.5% GNI returns the UK to spending levels of 2009, following previous reductions after the global financial crisis in 2007/08. However, the cuts today follow a sustained period of expansion of ODA activities, which has seen significant initiatives developed, partnerships and capacities built, in the UK and around the world. By withdrawing funding from water and sanitation programmes, humanitarian crises, and international research initiatives, the UK is undermining its commitments to reducing poverty around the world and jeopardising relationships that have been carefully built over decades, including vital efforts to understand and control the COVID-19 pandemic.

The re-absorption of DFID into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) could have significant, practical implications for the ways that ODA is distributed. We have seen at various points in the past sixty years how the UK's commercial and political international objectives have been separated or brought together through the approaches of different governments. The merger between DFID and the FCO, and the removal of a Cabinet-level Secretary of State for International Development, means that there is no longer an office whose sole mandate is to reduce global poverty. No longer can there be a separation of the UK's aid commitments from its broader international commercial objectives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the critical nature of urban development challenges sharply into focus; the WHO estimates that 95% of cases have occurred in urban areas. The impacts of the pandemic and associated lockdowns have impacted disproportionately on the poorest and most vulnerable urban groups and have highlighted the urgency of the need to address the most basic and pervasive drivers of risk, vulnerability, and deprivation.

The world continues to urbanise rapidly, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South and South-East Asia, and we are likely to see poverty and inequality increasingly concentrated in urban areas. ODA remains a key instrument through which the UK can contribute to fairer and more equal forms of urban development around the world by financing and building partnerships with governments and global institutions committed to global targets, including Sustainable Development Goal 1, ending poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030.

The debate about the legality of and motivations behind the cut to UK ODA continues in the UK Parliament and in the wider international development 'community of practice'. So does the assessment of the impact on the work DFID performed and the other streams of ODA funds in other departments, like that of ODA-funded research, which supports research and capacity-building programmes such as KNOW. The impact on NGOs, CBOs, academic and research organisations is already keenly felt, in the UK and abroad. Overall, UK's partnerships with countries in both the global South and the global North, as well as with key global institutions like WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA, is at a crossroads. The situation will not change the commitment, solidarity, and reciprocal learning that many UK organisations outside government will continue to act on, building on a long and critical history of decolonisation and ODA. At stake – yet again – is the kind of relationships the UK is going to have with the world.

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Forthcoming online : *A Short History of Urban Aid Policy and Programming in the UK*, Story timeline:  
[www.urban-know.com/short-history-urban-oda](http://www.urban-know.com/short-history-urban-oda)





# KNOW How

## Updates from the Work Packages

### Points of contact:

#### WP1

Emmanuel Osuteye  
[e.osuteye@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:e.osuteye@ucl.ac.uk)

#### WP2

Saffron Woodcraft  
[saffron.woodcraft@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:saffron.woodcraft@ucl.ac.uk)  
Christopher Yap  
[c.yap@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.yap@ucl.ac.uk)

#### WP3

Yael Padan  
[y.padan@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:y.padan@ucl.ac.uk)

#### WP4

Stephanie Butcher  
[stephanie.butcher@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:stephanie.butcher@unimelb.edu.au)  
Camila Cocina  
[camila.cocina@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:camila.cocina@ucl.ac.uk)

#### WP5

Ruchika Lall  
[ruchikal@ihs.ac.in](mailto:ruchikal@ihs.ac.in)  
Julia Wesely  
[julia.wesely@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:julia.wesely@ucl.ac.uk)

#### WP6

Christopher Yap  
[c.yap@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.yap@ucl.ac.uk)

### Work Package 1

## City Knowledge Co-Production

By Emmanuel Osuteye (Research Fellow)

The first half of 2021 has been an exciting one for WP1 and has seen the team effort pooled together in the production of two main collective outputs. Firstly, drawing on six case studies, the team has worked on developing a framework to explore the multiple outcomes of co-production among the partners of the KNOW programme.

This emphasises the centrality and diversity of co-production strategies to deliver knowledge that advances urban equality goals in different settings in the KNOW cities. Whilst this exercise casts a very interesting picture across the programme of the value of co-production, it also makes a useful contribution to the debates on the utility of community-oriented knowledge in participatory planning approaches.

The second collective output, delves deeper into the critical value of knowledge co-production by reflecting on the various city-based efforts to address the challenges of resilience, prosperity and extreme poverty, and how they have (or will) contribute to reducing urban inequality. In this regard, the central question being examined is: What is the added value of KNOW to the understanding of the dimensions of urban equality? What are the structural drivers and urban practices (by the state, civil society and the private sector, as appropriate) affecting these inequalities? The WP1 team reflections on these questions are primarily drawn from the contributions of the various KNOW city teams, which were prepared for a session in the 2021 KNOW Annual Workshop. The city team contributions did not only highlight the manifestations and structural drivers of inequalities, but also provided a grounded assessment of the successes and limitations of the planned interventions to address inequalities in the various cities. Additionally, this session in the Annual Workshop provided an opportunity for the

entire KNOW team to collectively deliberate further on the lessons and the evidence of how and where KNOW has made relevant contributions. Consequently, this collective output also draws on the accounts of the rich discussions that were characteristic of the KNOW team's time together that week.

**...the multiple outcomes  
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in the KNOW cities**

Furthermore, the WP1 team members have continued to work closely with individual City Partners on the development of other collaborative research, including a selected emphasis on the impact of COVID-19 and pandemic responses. For instance, in both Dar es Salaam and Freetown, this expanded focus on COVID-19 responses in informal settlements, has generated significant research efforts and exchanges between the WP1, Ardhi, CCI and SLURC teams, and led to the commitment of new documented outputs. The assessment of COVID-19 impacts also includes a short reflexive exercise with CCI to gain a better understanding of the intuitional and organisational impact of COVID-19 on community organisations that support vulnerable populations.

Throughout this year, and with the support of programme-wide structures, WP1 has convened regular virtual meetings and

co-learning spaces online, including collaborative writing workshops. It continues to support the effective cross-cutting functioning of the KNOW processes and systems in a COVID-19 context. The rest of the year 2021 is dedicated to the production of different committed outputs, including an edited volume which will document the diversity of the strategies of co-production deployed during the four years of the KNOW programme. This edited volume, and the two collective outputs mentioned earlier, will capture and cement the legacy of our lessons on the process, outcomes and value of knowledge co-production in KNOW.



## WP1 at a glance...

WP1 focuses on knowledge co-production as a tool to achieve urban equality and assesses how it can support the development and implementation of policies and planning across KNOW cities. These investigations are grounded through multidisciplinary, co-produced research, centred on the City Partner's specific projects and programmes to interrogate the various development challenges in individual cases. Our research also creates a space for a critical discussion on perceived challenges to the process and sustenance of knowledge co-production in a multi-disciplinary and multi-national project such as KNOW.

### Our team

Prof Vanesa Castán Broto, Prof Cassidy Johnson, Prof Wilbard Kombe, Barbara Lipietz, Catalina Ortiz, Emmanuel Osuteye & City Partner leads

### City/geographic connections

Kampala, Dar es Salaam, Freetown, Havana, Lima, ACHR Network (Da Nang, Yogyakarta, Yangon, Nakhon Sawan)

Below

*Briquette-making groups in Kampala, Uganda receiving a 'Seed Grant' in the form of a briquette-making machine to support their micro-business enterprises, Image: Urban Action Lab, Makerere University, 2021*



## Work Package 2

# Comparative Inquiry for Urban Equality

By **Allan Lavell** (Co-Investigator on Resilience),  
**Christopher Yap** (Research Fellow on Extreme Poverty) and **Saffron Woodcraft** (Research Fellow on Prosperity)

For the past six months the Work Package 2 team has been working to find new ways to collaborate across the KNOW programme as the differential experiences of COVID-19 in KNOW partner cities – not least the different responses from different governments – has curtailed fieldwork and international travel. The global pandemic has forced the team to revisit and revise how it engages with partners around the world. And in the past six months, we have found new, rich, and productive ways to co-produce knowledge that will have lasting impacts on our research practice.

In November 2020, the WP2 team collaborated to produce a short, written output, reflecting on the urgency of the COVID-19 crisis in cities. The piece ([available here](#)) recognised that existing inequalities are exacerbating the impacts of the pandemic for vulnerable groups, and argued that a holistic response from

all sectors of society, which enables us to build back better, must recognise and engage with the tangled and non-linear relationships between poverty, resilience, and prosperity in urban contexts.

## Resilience

After a year of postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Resilience team (led by Allan Lavell) is now preparing for their second stage of work between June and December 2021. This work builds on the premise established through the previous stages of research, that disaster risk management can be a strategic contribution to urban equality in terms of improving access to services, promoting equal recognition, voice and participation, as well as the use and appropriation of the city.

For the resilience team, COVID-19 has reaffirmed their understanding of the social construction of risk, whereby the pandemic, like other disasters, has impacted disproportionately on the poorest, most marginalised and excluded groups. Reducing risk, then, means addressing the conditions – the inequalities – that determine the impacts of disasters. For this reason, the second phase of research will focus on understanding the

drivers of risk in the context of COVID-19 as well as other forms of risk, and to explore the potentials of multi-sectoral, territorial approaches to risk reduction in Lima, Barranquilla, and San José.

**The global pandemic has forced the team to revisit and revise how we engage with partners around the world. And in the past six months, we have found new, rich, and productive ways to co-produce knowledge that will have lasting impacts on our research practice**

## Extreme poverty

Over the past few months, the extreme poverty team (Prof Colin McFarlane; Christopher Yap) has continued to collaborate with partners in Lima and in Dar es Salaam. Working closely with Belen Desmaison at PUCP, Lima, the team is conducting reflective, comparative research on the social infrastructures that have emerged in Lima, such as community kitchens, in response to widespread food insecurity and reduced employment brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns. This research draws on the idea of urban metabolisms to explore the ways that social infrastructures influence and shape both material and immaterial flows in urban contexts; the team then juxtaposes the experience of Lima with previous research conducted in Seville, Spain, and Mumbai, India.

The extreme poverty team has also continued to develop its remote collaboration with Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Building on the experience of CCI in developing Simplified sewerage systems, this research will examine the relationships between sanitation, extreme poverty, and inequality in one informal settlement in the city.

## WP2 at a glance...

Work Package 2 links the city-based research agendas with contemporary debates on global urbanism. To do so, WP2 explores how we learn across cases, cities, and regions, asking: how is urban equality comparatively understood, promoted, and implemented?

The Work Package is structured around three key development challenges: reducing extreme poverty, delivering prosperity, and building resilience. The team engages critically with each of these terms, recognising the diversity of ways they are mobilised and understood by urban inhabitants, researchers, municipal and national governments, and multi-lateral agencies around the world.

Drawing on qualitative, quantitative, and participatory methods, the WP2 team is collaborating with partners across the KNOW project to understand key dimensions of urban equality including local articulations of prosperity as 'the good life', spatial distributions of disaster risk, and the relationships between shocks and extreme poverty in cities.

### Our team

Prof Colin McFarlane, Prof Henrietta Moore, Allan Lavell, Saffron Woodcraft, Christopher Yap

### City/geographic connections

Dar es Salaam, Havana, Lima, San José, Barranquilla, Kampala, Da Nang



## Prosperity

In the last three months the prosperity team (Prof Henrietta L. Moore; Saffron Woodcraft) has been working with CCI to develop new indicators of prosperity based on research co-produced with residents of three informal settlements. In-depth qualitative research identified 20 headline indicators of prosperity - *maisha bora* – which will form the basis of a new Prosperity Index that measures local determinants of prosperity (*model pictured below*). New household survey data will be collected by CCI's community research team later this year. Alongside this work, the prosperity team are collaborating with Ardhi University, CCI and Emmanuel Osuteye (WP1) to co-author a comparative analysis of prosperity in government development frameworks and community-led visioning of prosperity in informal settlements.

Finally, the whole WP2 team is continuing its engagement with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A forthcoming article will examine the relations between different development agendas within the SDGs and reflect on the potentials of an urban equality lens for reading and engaging with the Goals. Also on this theme, Christopher Yap collaborated with Camila Cociña and Stephanie Butcher (WP4) and Prof Caren Levy to produce the second KNOW International Engagement Brief, "Localising the Sustainable Development Goals: An Urban Equality Perspective" ([available here](#)).



### Below

Community-led conceptual model of prosperity showing key indicators supporting prosperity (*Maisha-Bora*) in informal settlements of Dar es Salaam. (Swahili and English)  
Diagram: KNOW/IGP & CCI, 2021 ([click to view full model](#))



## Work Package 3

### Ethics of Research Practice

By Prof Jane Rendell (Co-Investigator) and Yael Padan (Research Fellow)

Work Package 3 focuses on the ethics of research practice, and in the past months we have examined ethical challenges in processes of knowledge co-production.

During the KNOW 2021 Annual Workshop we held an online session in collaboration with Vanesa Castán Broto and Catalina Ortiz from Work Package 1, which looked at the wide range of methodologies used by the KNOW researchers. These methods were used to explore the various forms of knowledge produced by urban dwellers from diverse and intersecting positions and groups. These forms of knowledge, and the multiple data that they yield, are at the core of demanding recognition and epistemic justice, which are essential components in working towards urban equality. To this end, various participatory, interdisciplinary and creative methods were employed by the KNOW researchers, from qualitative methods such as collaborative historical mapping, transect walks, narrating testimonies and story lines, to co-produced visual methods such as photo diaries, participatory videos and visual mapping, as well as quantitative methods. Charting and sharing this impressive range of methodologies in our session at the Annual Workshop allowed members of the different KNOW City Partners and Work Packages to discuss their application across space and time and to reflect on ethical dilemmas, or 'hotspots', that came up in different contexts. We asked our colleagues to also reflect on the ways in which they responded to these difficulties and addressed them, with reference to ethical principles that can act as 'touchstones' and so be helpful in making ethical decisions. Our discussions also referred to corresponding 'blindspots', which due to conventional habits often pass unnoticed, and yet are rooted in structural contexts, and lie behind the hotspots, making their resolution often challenging.

Discussions concerning the process of encountering a hotspot, reflecting on an ethical dilemma with reference to a touchstone, and revealing a blindspot, have allowed us to question the universality of ethical principles, and their applications in specific contexts and situations. We critically examine key ethical values, principles and terms used in the global North, and their western-centric bias derived from enlightenment thinking. We explore the types of ethical methodologies required for knowledge co-production that will not re-produce colonial, racial, and gendered power relations in academia and beyond. To this end, we are co-producing a lexicon of keywords that contextualises and re-defines ethical terms for built environment researchers and practitioners. The lexicon will emphasise not only similarities but also differences of interpretation, and highlight alternative concepts that reflect a diverse range of disciplines, languages, contexts, cultural and geographical situations. The lexicon and other resources are part of a co-produced, open access web-based platform called **Practising Ethics** ([www.practisingethics.org](http://www.practisingethics.org)), designed and made by David Roberts from the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, in collaboration with the Bartlett Ethics Commission. In addition to the lexicon, the

website will feature four other sections: a set of Guides to practising ethics (pictured below; Guide #3), an overview of relevant publications, a selection of ethical codes and protocols used by different institutions and groups, and case studies that reflect on the hotspots, touchstones and blindspots of ethical processes.

## The lexicon will emphasise not only similarities but also differences of interpretation, and highlight alternative concepts that reflect a diverse range of disciplines, languages, contexts, cultural and geographical situations

Our next steps include extending the website to bring in more authors and contributors for lexicon entries, guides and case studies. We intend to launch the website as part of [Global Ethics Day](#) (17 October 2021). We are also working on an article that will reflect upon the

methodologies for producing a lexicon and the translation of ethical terms to and from English. Translation was a practical tool used by researchers and participants in our international KNOW workshops, but shifts and modifications of meaning highlight the limits of literal translation, and emphasise the necessity for intercultural translation as a precondition for contextualisation and for achieving reciprocal intelligibility. The translated ethical terms that we have gathered in our workshops therefore have conflictual, but also dialogical and transformational potential. Their inclusion in the lexicon will allow for better understanding the role of situated and engaged ethics, and for paying attention to the multiple cultural and linguistic ontologies linked with the lexical entries. Further, while written text in the form of glossaries and key word projects is the core of most lexicons, we will also use visual and material tools as modes of inquiry and representation in the lexicon, and explore their potential for extending beyond the limits of language and translations.

We will continue to examine the expressive and relational aspects of ethical practice, which are emphasised in feminist ethics and care ethics. In our workshops and research into the ethics of knowledge co-production processes, we have also noted the importance of affective registers – emotions, feelings and reactions – in ethical relationships. This line of inquiry will widen our exploration of tools and methodologies for developing the sensitivities that are necessary for co-producing practices of ethics.

### WP3 at a glance...

Work Package 3 aims to develop a situated ethics approach that supports knowledge co-production for urban equality. We examine the ethics of site-specific practice and the relations between applied and situated ethics. Our analysis of institutional ethical codes and procedures has led us to critically reflect upon their relevance to the research of urban inequality and to collaborations of researchers from the global north and south. Through research fieldwork and workshops in cities from the KNOW project, we have questioned the connections between the general and the specific by examining concepts and values relating to research ethics. We use various representational forms as

methodological tools for making visible and discussing difficult ethical questions that come up in the process of knowledge co-production. We work with KNOW partners to co-produce tools and guidelines based on their city projects. Such tools will be useful for other cities as well, both within the KNOW project and beyond.

#### Our team

Prof Jane Rendell & Yael Padan

#### City/geographic connections

Dar es Salaam, Kampala, Lima



## Work Package 4 Translating Research into Practice

By **Stephanie Butcher** and **Camila Cociña**  
(Research Fellows)

As the final year of the KNOW programme begins, the WP4 team has focused on consolidating lessons from the collaborative work with partners, coproducing research outputs, while also strengthening the legacy of the programme through the involvement in the next UCLG Global Observatory of Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) Report. Alongside these activities, over the past months the team has steered discussions within the wider KNOW team on the ways in which the programme is translating knowledge into action and building pathways towards urban equality. In the context of the 2021 KNOW Annual Workshop, the WP4 team led a Unit entitled, 'What have we learnt about pathways to urban equality at different scales?'. This Unit was focused on 'knowledge translation', or the ways in which KNOW partners and their networks have been producing and actioning knowledge – across different actors and scales – into different local-

level impacts. This focus was framed by the work of WP4, with the understanding that knowledge translation processes are non-linear, impacted by uneven knowledge politics at global and local scales, and deeply connected to local histories and planning trajectories. Discussions during the workshop were focused on examining impact achievements, critical moments, and enabling conditions, tracing both similarities and divergences across the multiple KNOW cities and partners. They outlined the strategies through which knowledge has been co-produced and mobilised through different entry points, spatial focuses, temporalities and contexts. Though discussions were rich and varied, we highlight here three key and interlinked reflections on how KNOW partners are seeking to produce 'actionable knowledge'.

### Establishing and nurturing platforms for the reciprocal recognition of knowledges

Shared across the majority of KNOW partners is a focus on establishing, building, bolstering, or broadening existing platforms for the mutual sharing of knowledges, experiences, and ideas. From university-led partnerships in Havana to City Learning Platforms in Freetown,

to networks of local fishing villages in Da Nang, KNOW partners have worked to support innovative governance structures which have sought to intervene in planning and policy. Integral to many of these platforms is the commitment to building wide-reaching alliances in the city, bringing together diverse actors that may not previously have shared decision-making spaces. Also crucial to the work of these platforms is reflecting on the nature of partnerships, and the conditions which support 'partnerships with equivalence' between stakeholders that may have differential access to power, resources, and influence (See more in [KNOW International engagement Brief #1](#)). While these platforms have been able to extend the 'reciprocal recognition of knowledges' in the city – particularly centering the voices and experiences of often-marginalized groups – partners also raised the point that these networks share different rhythms and challenges related to conflict and power imbalances. As such, key to unpacking how knowledge is produced and translated is in understanding the different temporalities of these platforms, which for KNOW partners requires variously creating, consolidating, extending, shifting scales, or sometimes, disrupting existing networks.

### Reframing vocabularies and methodologies

The second key mechanism through which KNOW partners have been mobilising knowledge is through the questioning and reframing of the dominant vocabularies and methodologies through which urban inequalities are diagnosed, understood and addressed. That is, the acknowledgment of the uneven geographies of knowledge production also suggests the need for revised research, planning, pedagogical and design tools and approaches to support the reframing of key challenges, creation of new visibilities, and changing narratives relating to the drivers of inequalities. For instance, partners in the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) reflected on their work reframing how planning and inequality is conceived and practiced through learning trajectories and planning pedagogies. At the community scale, partners from the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) in Nakhon Sawan, Thailand, shared their work

### WP4 at a glance...

Opportunities in society can only be transformed if unequal relations and geographies of power in knowledge production are challenged. The objective of Work Package 4 (WP4) is to support and research the processes of translating learning generated by KNOW activities into policy and planning practices at different scales, strengthening pathways to urban equality.

Therefore, the key focus of WP4 is on investigating the challenges of knowledge translation processes with KNOW City Partners, exploring and supporting the various ways in which they take place, and strengthening the impact of the project.

WP4 seeks to build local capacities to better leverage processes of knowledge co-production, investigate and foster the institutional capabilities required to support policies and planning practices for urban equality. The main questions that WP4 seeks to address are: how do knowledge translation processes take place; and how might interfaces of knowledge translation facilitate encounters between various co-production processes in the city?

#### Our team

Alexandre Apsan Frediani, Prof Michele Acuto, Stephanie Butcher, Camila Cociña

#### City/geographic connections

Freetown, Havana, ACHR Network, International Organisations



documenting the histories and mechanisms through which community-led housing has been produced to scale in the city. Fundamental to both of these processes has been querying how historical definitions and framings operate as a mechanism of power that render certain practices, people, and knowledges invisible – raising questions about for what purposes and for whom our histories, pedagogies, and vocabularies are produced. In different ways, this ethos is also reflected in the work of WP3 to create an ‘ethics lexicon’ which seeks to contextualise key ethical terms for researchers and practitioners, recognising the situated nature of ethical challenges for research practice; as well as the work of WP4 in collaboration with WP2 on how global agendas such as the SDGs can be better oriented towards the everyday politics of inequality as experienced by urban poor communities (See more in [KNOW International Engagement Brief #2](#)). These activities have closely examined the links between the uneven production of knowledge and inequalities in cities, seeking to create space for often-invisibilized voices and experiences to inform diagnosis and action in the city.

## Adoption of a systemic approach

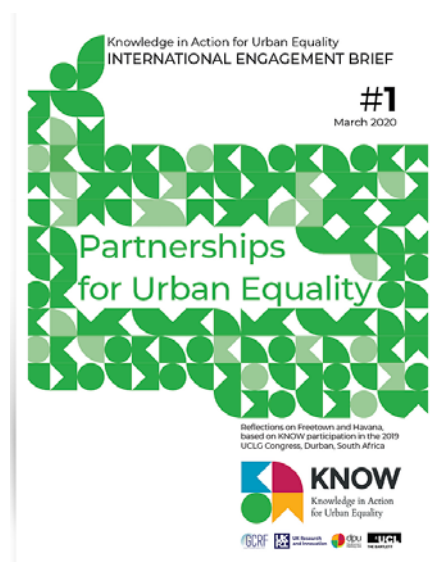
Finally, partners shared the crucial importance of adopting a systemic approach to produce impact. For KNOW partners, this means diverse things: the creation of conditions and identification of

strategic moments to support interventions; the building of capacities across local governments communities, research teams; or identifying the appropriate scale of intervention through strategic reading of the particular context. In Kampala, for instance, partners describe the adoption of a ‘whole cycle approach’ to understanding the urban waste system, moving beyond quick technical fixes, to understanding how risk is produced in the city. In Lima, a systemic approach has manifested in deeper reflections on the linkages between gender and livelihoods, taking an explicitly feminist stance to unpack the intersectional relations shaping inequalities and solidarity practices in response to the pandemic. In Dar es Salaam, the building of community knowledge has manifested both in material changes in regard to changed tariff structures and extended infrastructure, as much as in relational changes with the local water utility. Through different approaches, KNOW partners are building impact by engaging with structural conditions and everyday practices, building transformative pathways that navigate the multiple scales and systemic nature of urban inequality challenges.

## Conclusion

In different ways, the conversations during our final KNOW Annual Workshop helped to deepen and broaden the discussions undertaken by WP4. This work, focused on knowledge translation, has been mobilised through a process of historical

mapping of different planning trajectories, tracing how these are underpinned by different knowledge paradigms, and exploring the outcomes for equality. In doing so, KNOW has mobilised ‘impact’ as something that is not an afterthought of research programmes, but rather a political endeavour that takes place throughout research processes, across multiple scales and actors, and this is enacted through different ‘infrastructures’. Crucially, across KNOW partners a sense was shared that the pandemic has both exacerbated existing inequalities, but also expanded networks of solidarity and care, with many of these ‘infrastructures of impact’ playing a vital role in responding to the crisis. While we have started to build an extended reflection on the strategies of knowledge production and translation, the diversity of the experiences shared during the workshop invite further nuance on the form and content of these infrastructures. In the months ahead, we hope to deepen our reflections on these varied ways through which knowledge translation is occurring: on how to learn from ‘failures’ or tensions as much as successes; how conflict is negotiated; and how these ‘infrastructures of impact’ are adapted within specific temporalities and diverse conditions towards urban change.



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Covers of the KNOW International Engagement Briefs #1 & #2, downloadable at [www.urban-know.com/resources](http://www.urban-know.com/resources)

## Work Package 5

# Multiplying Translocal Learning in Higher Education

By Ruchika Lall (IIHS Researcher) and Julia Wesely (Research Fellow)

Over the past months, fluctuating curves of COVID-19 case numbers, deaths and variants have been met with steep and upward (un-)learning curves of urban practitioners. Local governments, activists, social movements, academics and others have constantly sought to make sense of, and be responsive to, current developments while putting in place building blocks for post-pandemic urban recovery. The continuation of physically distant WP5 research and pedagogies provoked deepened collective reflections on how to remotely co-produce generative pedagogies and instigate collective learning that tackles the stark inequalities brought into spotlight by the pandemic. The following paragraphs reflect on the WP5 activities of the past six months from the perspective of their contextual responsiveness, while teasing out the elements that are being activated to strengthen and consolidate KNOW's pedagogic legacy beyond the programme.

The KNOW Annual Workshop has been a milestone in conceptualising the notion of legacy-building in WP5 research and practice, making explicit the momentum for developing collective strategies that intend to sustain and expand co-learning and capacity building activities beyond the programme's duration. As various forms of legacies were discussed as part of Unit 4 ([see KNOW What, p 26](#)), WP5 engaged in group discussions specifically around KNOW's pedagogic legacy - that is, institutionalising generative learning practices with the supporting networks and necessary (virtual and grounded) resources to continue, adapt and multiply them in different contexts.

Thinking about pedagogic legacy has provoked the team to reflect on translocal learning, specifically in regard to intentionally curating the traveling of ideas, practices and pedagogies. For example, the IIHS Activist Workshops in Indore have been using a tool called 'the tenure ladder' to stimulate reflections about the lived experiences of a particular tenure status and of moving along the ladder. This tool has now been modified for the housing module of the IIHS' Urban Fellows programme, to

explore its potential with a rather different group of learners. Moreover, the pandemic has forced Activist Workshops to shift from focusing on housing struggles to building alternative livelihood strategies, which required developing curricula based on new demands for skills and capacities while working with the same group of learners and pedagogic principles.

**Legacy-building over the past months has taken place in practice through strengthening and institutionalising collaborations with planning education associations and practitioner networks, and conceptually, by thinking through transgressive frameworks for crafting enabling environments that allow for innovating and mainstreaming generative pedagogies**

Another example is the KNOW Doctoral Training Course (DTC), which was first held in January 2021 with MPhil/PhD students from UK universities ([see KNOW What, p. 22](#)). Following a meeting with City Partners, WP5 and WP6 are currently preparing a Facilitator's Guide that seeks to provide flexibility for adapting the course to different conditions and contexts, while retaining the coherence, principles and logic of the initial course. This document aims to become a key resource for adapting the DTC for CUJAE, where doctoral training for urban disciplines is only recently emerging; and it will support the extension of the DTC to existing programmes at Ardhi University; and it will contribute to provoking different discussions in already established PhD courses at IIHS.

From the outset of KNOW, WP5 proposed that translocal learning is not a simple copy-paste exercise. Hence, we acknowledge

## WP5 at a glance...

Transforming education from exacerbating inequalities to becoming a driver of equality, demands a better understanding of how urban practitioners can develop skills, sensibilities and capabilities to tackle the immensity of challenges today's and tomorrow's cities face. Work Package 5 aims to research and support education and learning for urban equality through multiple engagements with higher education and research institutions, grassroots movements, and civil society organisations. In order to co-learn with our partners how generative pedagogies of practitioners, institutions and networks can be triggered, strengthened and expanded for urban equality, WP5 asks: how do pedagogies currently

generate capacities and capabilities for challenging urban inequalities? The teams from the DPU and IIHS work closely with several KNOW City Partners, and also expand research to cities like Indore and networks such as the Habitat International Coalition in Latin America to address pedagogic challenges from a wide range of institutional, geographical, and scalar perspectives.

### Our team

Prof Adriana Allen, Aromar Revi, Geetika Anand, Shriya Anand, Gautam Bhan, Nandini Dutta, Vikas John, Ruchika Lall, Neha Sami, Priya Singh, Julia Wesely

### City/geographic connections

Indore, Jaipur, Latin America (Habitat International Coalition), Freetown, Havana, Dar es Salaam, Bangalore

that tools and documents like the DTC Facilitator's Guide and the tenure ladder are important heuristics for pedagogic legacy-building, but stress that they need to be embedded in networks and enabling environments, which activate and nurture the agency of pedagogues and learners to critically reflect, and potentially adapt them to their respective contexts.

Legacy-building over the past months has therefore also taken place *in practice* through strengthening and institutionalising collaborations with planning education associations and practitioner networks, and *conceptually*, by thinking through transgressive frameworks for crafting enabling environments that allow for innovating and mainstreaming generative pedagogies. The conceptual research has taken WP5 to explore notions of the 'pluriversity' and 'subversity'. Through writing a comparative paper about the learning practices of IIHS' activist courses and the Schools of the Habitat International Coalition-Latin America, the team explored how these two concepts can be useful for challenging the political economy and outdated pedagogies of urban planning education from within and outside dominant educational institutions. IIHS has also reflected on institutional cases of higher education, synthesising learnings from established programmes at Ardhi University, as well as documenting and reflecting on pedagogy, curriculum, institutional processes at IIHS itself which recently completed 5 years of the Urban Fellows Programme.

In practice, WP5 has intensified its collaboration with the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) to support the design and implementation of so-called 'co-learning spaces'. The collaborative process of developing and facilitating (online) co-learning spaces will bring together curating teams composed of HIC members across regions. The aim is to convey a horizontal, open learning environment for co-learning in complementary fields related to habitat issues - specifically focusing on feminist approaches to habitat, land rights strategies, and multi-level advocacy. The team has also co-hosted a workshop at ICLEI's RISE Africa Action Festival, distilling principles of emancipatory pedagogies for



transformative change. This workshop was open to the public and brought together HIC members from grassroots organisations and social movements as well as academics and researchers from CPs Ardhi University and SLURC and members from the Association of African Planning Schools, amongst others.

In synthesis, there are several pathways through which WP5 is intentionally building its pedagogic legacy, including developing modular learning resources that can be flexibly adapted; strengthening and institutionalising collaborations within and across different spheres of pedagogy and urban practice; and debating and advocating for key KNOW concepts

and pedagogies in international arenas of planning education associations and practitioner networks.



#### Above

Havana City Partner (CUJAE) discuss the role of universities as catalyzers of urban transformation pedagogies. Image: CUJAE, 2021



## Work Package 6 Expanding UK ODA Research Capacity

By Christopher Yap (Research Fellow)

In January 2021, in collaboration with WP5, the WP6 team (Colin Marx; Christopher Yap) launched the first iteration of the KNOW Doctoral Training Course (DTC), entitled, “Co-Producing Urban Doctoral Research in the Global South.” The DTC brought together 22 Doctoral students from Higher Education Institutions across the UK as well as two KNOW partner cities. The aim of the programme was to translate some of the research, approaches, and methods of the wider KNOW programme into structured learning. The first iteration was run online and offered a key opportunity to engage with a dynamic and engaged group of students on issues of knowledge co-production, urban equality, and epistemic justice.

Since running the inaugural DTC, WP5 and 6 have continued to engage with the cohort of participants, who are finding ways to continue to collaborate and support one another going forward. Additionally, the team that developed the DTC held meetings with KNOW partners from Ardhi University, Dar es Salaam, CUJAE, Cuba, and IHS, India, to discuss ways that the course might be adapted for their contexts and incorporated into their doctoral training programmes. The institutionalisation of the KNOW DTC in partner institutions, as well as in the Bartlett Development Planning Unit, represents a key legacy of Work Package 6, which aims to build capacity for urban equality research beyond the life of the KNOW programme. Further iterations of the KNOW DTC will be held later in 2021.

The WP6 team has continued its engagement with UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy and programming and watched with concern as the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) was merged with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2020, to be closely followed by the biggest real cut to the UK's aid budget since 1960 ([see KNOW Why, p. 6](#)). The team is finalising a monograph on the historical trajectory

### WP6 at a glance...

WP6 aims to expand UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) research capacity for urban equality. The team is undertaking a series of activities to build capacity to produce and engage with urban equality research in the global South amongst UK-based academics, UK-based doctoral students, and UK ODA civil servants.

WP6 activities include historical analyses of urban issues in UK ODA policy as well as exploring how to bring an equality perspective into the UK's contemporary urban agenda. The team are collaborating with colleagues across the KNOW project to develop a doctoral training programme based on the

KNOW experience and working to consolidate a network of researchers in the UK that engages with the concept of urban equality. Finally, WP6 is promoting urban equality research through the KNOW Small Grants Fund which allows UK-based researchers to conduct primary research on the theme of urban equality in collaboration with the KNOW City Partners.

#### Our team

Colin Marx & Christopher Yap

#### City/geographic connections

UK and KNOW Small Grants Fund awardee cities: Da Nang, Dar es Salaam (2019); Dar es Salaam, Havana, Lima (2020-2021)

The institutionalisation of the KNOW DTC in partner institutions, as well as in the Bartlett Development Planning Unit, represents a key legacy of Work Package 6, which aims to build capacity for urban equality research beyond the life of the KNOW programme



# KNOW What

Reflections  
on KNOW  
methodologies,  
capacity-building,  
research, and  
learning

## KNOW Training

### Co-producing Doctoral Urban Research in the Global South? Reflections from the first KNOW Doctoral Training Course

By Julia Wesely (WP5 Research Fellow) and Christopher Yap (WP2 & WP6 Research Fellow)

Knowledge co-production can be a challenging undertaking, even in a programme like KNOW which has been developed based on longstanding partnerships of trust. But how might knowledge co-production work in Doctoral research? How might you, for instance, build partnerships in a short time span? What strategies and tactics allow for developing, conducting, and sharing research that reflects the values, ethics, and principles of co-production processes, yet remain compatible with the rigid requirements of conventional Doctoral research that is assessed as an independent body of work?

These were some of the difficult questions that were raised in the first KNOW Doctoral Training Course, entitled 'Co-producing Urban Doctoral Research in the Global South'. From 18-21 January, a diverse group of 22 Doctoral students from across the UK, facilitators from all KNOW Work Packages and KNOW City Partners, [CUJAE](#) and [Ardhi University](#), met online to examine different aspects of knowledge co-production, including issues of epistemic justice, positionality and partnerships with equivalence. We share here some of the key themes and learnings that were discussed transversally over these four days.

The first theme relates to the issue of mapping and positioning ourselves within the *wider political economy of knowledges*. In the first session of the week, each of the participants contributed reflections to the idea that knowledge is not neutral, that it is situated in time and in place, and that it exists in the relations between, and is embodied by, a diversity of actors. In discussing the political economy of knowledge production surrounding the different PhD research projects, we elaborated together how power differentials between these actors are the reason that some knowledges are elevated and others are marginalised. We recognised, then, the very real need to challenge the mainstream approach to Doctoral research. One participant

encapsulated this as contesting "*the idea that there are undiscovered territories of knowledge out there. And that your role as a doctoral student is to pluck this knowledge and make it your own.*" Rather, we discussed the ways in which each process of knowledge production – the field work, analysis, theory-building – can be thought about as sites of politics, which relate to our responsibilities as researchers. Critically, assuming these responsibilities requires us to reflect on, and recognise, the intersectional character of our identities and positionalities; how our language, country of origin, insider-outsider status, amongst others, influence the ways we produce knowledge.

A second transversal theme of the week related to the conscious crafting and curating of relationships, and the particular quality which *partnerships with equivalence* can bring to PhD research. Participants and KNOW investigators discussed ways to mobilise principles of mutual trust, honesty, transparency, and accountability, while recognising that partnerships require constant nurturing. The diversity of actors involved in partnerships can be incredibly generative – between sectors, institutions, disciplines – but it demands that we bring out into the open and reflect on the different priorities, mandates, and trajectories of institutions and individuals. It further demands that we recognise how our relations are embedded in colonial and post-colonial contexts, in a political economy of higher education and research, and for those of us working in planning, in the context of the professionalisation of planning education, theory, and practice.

Thirdly, the week clearly established that there are multiple spaces and roles for knowledge co-production in PhD research. However, Doctoral students face a series of challenges as the vast majority of research conducted in UK Higher Education Institutions is not done in this way. For example, conventional institutional frameworks often do not recognise the agency of PhD students and

their research partners in making collective decisions, they often follow a mechanistic approach to evaluating physical risk, and have a universalist or disciplinary understanding of what conducting ethical and responsible research means. Moreover, publications on knowledge co-production currently draw heavily from large-scale research programmes, while the challenges, opportunities, tensions and strategies of alternative, smaller processes such as those of a PhD are rarely examined. Hence, Doctoral researchers have an important role in documenting their reflection-in-action not only for the purpose of their PhDs, but for consolidating these reflections collectively to enable learning from their experiences.

In efforts to contest and stretch these conventional institutional moulds, knowledge co-production and partnerships with equivalence have to be considered not only as useful approaches to doing PhD research, but as challenges to hegemonic systems of knowledge production, to epistemic injustices, and crucially, as a response to growing inequalities we see within and between cities around the world. Throughout the DTC, participants and facilitators demonstrated how a certain professionalisation of knowledge co-production comes with a range of responsibilities, one of them being the responsibility to avoid watering-down the concept of co-production, the responsibility to engage critically with its limits and potentials, including saying 'no' to it.

## DTC participant reflections

### Whitney Banyai-Becker

My biggest takeaway is that co-production is exceptionally challenging to execute well and ethically - it can be very difficult (if even possible?) to balance inherited unequal relations (between individuals, institutions, geographies, etc...). There are so many nuanced, complicated aspects that co-production demands be considered carefully - which I think is also the exciting part! Having the opportunity to do such research - and build such relationships - is precisely what I imagine to be so rewarding of a process.

### Albert Cuthbert Nyiti

I came into the training at the very beginning of my PhD journey, with just a concept note and lots of questions on how to move forward. My biggest takeaway was on how to best position myself given the type of research I was to undertake in my study. I was able to discover in this very early stage, how my PhD would engage with different forms of knowledge and how my positionality will influence the way I interact with different forms of knowledge. There is no doubt that the KNOW DTC offered me a timely basis and clear path for take-off in my research.

Co-production is not the only way of engaging ethically in Doctoral research with communities, nor does it come with a manual or one widely agreed approach to follow. Hence, Doctoral researchers are challenged to be clear about their specific individual contribution to global conversations.

Looking forward, participants and facilitators developed ideas for contributing as a collective of early career researchers to the KNOW UK Urban Learning Hub, including through co-authorship of texts, reading groups, and shared events. Moreover,

the KNOW team is excited to develop a Facilitator's Guide to advance the adaptation and future reiterations of the course. For more details about the KNOW Doctoral Training Course, including announcements about the next courses, please visit: [www.urban-know.com/resources-dtc](http://www.urban-know.com/resources-dtc).



#### Below

Participant feedback to the question: 'Which key idea or learning do you take away from the DTC for your PhD research?' Source: KNOW DTC, 2021





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## KNOW Lima

### Challenging food insecurity in collaboration with the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima and the Ministry of Housing

By Belen Desmaison (Lima City Partner)

The COVID-19 pandemic reinforced previously existing urban inequalities in Lima, as shown in how the inhabitants of poorer districts were hit the hardest by the subsequent health and economic fallout. Increased poverty, unemployment, and a lack of access to services led to the emergence of spontaneous community kitchens in the peripheries of Lima, as communities tried to lower the costs of obtaining food and set up emergency funds for those who could not afford a meal.

Food vendors in traditional neighbourhood markets were also hit hard, as markets became hotspots for infections because the infrastructure was not prepared for a pandemic. Many stands closed down, as they were run by elderly people, and the flows of clients diminished. Thus, the supply of food and the daily social interactions

in those spaces, were interrupted, and livelihoods were greatly impacted.

The team in KNOW Lima Team has continuously participated in the *Mesa de Seguridad Alimentaria* (MSA), which was established by the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima (MML). It brings together community kitchen leaders, NGOs, academia, and different units of the metropolitan and national government in weekly meetings to discuss main challenges faced by the community kitchens. Moreover, the MSA discusses ways of moving forward, with the long-term goal of maintaining the activities carried out by the participants towards the diversification of other activities of shared care and support. KNOW Lima brings support mainly through the infrastructure committee by bringing recommendations on how to improve the

current infrastructure of the community kitchens, which is often times precarious and without access to basic services. To do this, KNOW Lima implements prototypes in community kitchens in José Carlos Mariátegui (JCM) to build evidence of the benefits and costs of implementing architectural components to improve access to water and sanitation, low-cost and safe cooking technologies, and to implement spaces that can be used for a variety of activities.

**Increased poverty, unemployment, and a lack of access to services led to the emergence of spontaneous community kitchens in the peripheries of Lima, as communities tried to lower the costs of obtaining food and set up emergency funds for those who could not afford a meal**

The work carried out in JCM, was recognised by the Ministry of Housing. Following this recognition, KNOW Lima collaborated in capacity-building of district municipalities so that they can, in turn, capacitate citizens to build the components developed for the community kitchens. The Peruvian government launched a programme called *Reactiva Perú* (Reactivate Peru), in which municipalities hire citizens as construction workers to improve the streets



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Left

Participatory design process carried out in Barrios Altos, Lima Image: KNOW Lima team, 2021



by building sidewalks or implementing green areas. The collaboration between KNOW-Lima and the Ministry has allowed for the diversification of activities for which municipalities and citizens alike receive training under *Reactiva Perú*, so that they can improve the infrastructural conditions of the community kitchens. This is an improvement on the current programme, as it offers work opportunities not only for those participating in the public programme but also improves the working conditions of the women who participate in the community kitchens.

The inhabitants of a particular neighbourhood are not only those who dwell there but also those who regularly work in Barrios Altos. KNOW Lima therefore sought to recover the memory of the local market as a space of encounter and exchange between residents and vendors and to shed light on the important role vendors play in configuring the identity and sense of place of the neighbourhood of

Barrios Altos. The team worked closely with the vendors and with the MML in a series of participatory workshops to discuss the main problems, potential, and visions for the future of the local market. They reached an agreement on the kind of intervention to be had in order to adjust the market to the newest safety protocols while adding social spaces for visitors to spend more time in the market enjoying their meal. In the future, we hope to continue working on other areas of interest such as the provision of an urban farm and a connection between the market and a historic house (Quinta Hereen), which is under renovation. We see this opportunity as the co-production of a methodology for highlighting and recovering local markets and expanding current understandings of the concept of being a 'resident' of a place.

For the dissemination of both experiences (the community kitchens and the local market), the team is currently preparing two open access publications. Each publication will include the participatory

processes, a construction guide for the architectural interventions that took place, and a proposed governing structure for the maintenance and sustainability of the intervened spaces.



#### Above

Participants presenting a co-produced renovation plan of the local market in Barrios Altos, Lima. Image: KNOW Lima team, 2021



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## KNOW Annual Workshop 2021

### Reflections from the KNOW Annual Workshop, 2021

By Ruchika Lall (WP5, IIHS Researcher); Wilbard Kombe, Alphonse Kyessi and Tatu Mtwangi-Limbumba (Dar es Salaam City Team, Ardhi University)

As the world remains engulfed in the COVID-19 pandemic, the crisis of urban inequality is more than apparent across the world. In the past year, we have seen the differential impact of lockdowns to contain the pandemic, health risks, loss of livelihood, and absence of food security. While the COVID-19 pandemic has made apparent the cracks in our institutions and systems across governance, finance, education, health and basic services, among many others, it has also pronounced and highlighted the drivers of inequality across cities – exposing the deeply entrenched inequalities that have for so long been considered normal.

The research through Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW) on how we learn about inequality, name it, pay attention to it, identify its drivers and shape pathways to change, remains particularly relevant.

Over the last few years, KNOW City Partners, across geographies and several research streams, have focused on this interrogation and proposition through work packages on City Knowledge Co-production and a Comparative Inquiry for Urban Equality with attention to cities of Lima, Havana, Barranquilla, Freetown, Dar es Salaam, Kampala, Da Nang, Nakhon Sawan, Yangon, and Yogyakarta. Partners have also deepened an inquiry of the Ethics of Research Practice, Translating research into Practice, the role of Higher Education and Translocal Learning, and expanding UK ODA Research Capacity for urban equality. Using a flexible framework that builds on a social justice framework of parity of political participation, reciprocal recognition, equitable distribution and the role of solidarity and mutual care, partners have entered through a site or question often focusing on one such dimension, touching upon others, and explored the contextual interrelation across these four dimensions. Over the last year through the pandemic, partners have also modified courses of



action, with attention to the role of solidarity and care and the relational and temporal nature of participation, distribution, recognition and care.

### Discussions revealed how the emerging research through KNOW is significant and valuable for adding detail to what we knew earlier, and importantly, making visible what was invisible, connecting to structural drivers and hierarchies of power at local and global level

In February 2021, The KNOW project met for the fourth and final annual workshop, for partners to come together to share what they have been learning, as a week of reflection and to articulate and structure the work ahead. The week was important, because it allowed partners across the world to come together, discuss their

Below

*More radical empathy, London calling.*

*Image: Julia Wesely, 2021*

*This article originally appeared on KNOW's blog at:*

[www.urban-know.com/post/reflections-from-know-annual-workshop-2021](http://www.urban-know.com/post/reflections-from-know-annual-workshop-2021), (April 2021).

findings, research and challenges. Attended by 52 researchers coming from across the continents, the structuring was different than previous workshops, with an asynchronous week before, followed by a synchronous week online. This arrangement also allowed partners to further understand each other's work and prepare before the synchronous week online. The week was structured over the days to reflect on what we are learning about urban equality, the pathways and drivers across scales and geographies, methods and ethics of practice, the legacy of the project and how work being done by partners is conceptually and methodologically interconnected. The week allowed for concentrated reflections, across different aspects to pinpoint emerging themes through the research, and steps ahead into the coming year.

### Building a grounded vocabulary, knowledge co-production and why that matters for global targets

Discussions through the week reflected on how the global targets such as the SDGs often miss the 'everyday politics of inequality' on the ground. It is imperative to build a vocabulary around urban inequality



that is driven from local communities, local governments and contextual processes. It is imperative to listen to what sites, cities and the ongoing research is revealing about urban inequality – that is contextual, differential, and intersectional. Discussions revealed how the emerging research through KNOW is significant and valuable for adding detail to what we knew earlier, and importantly, making visible what was invisible, connecting to structural drivers and hierarchies of power at local and global levels. The programmes' research across geographies captures a diversity and complexity of the different dimensions of inequality, their inter-relation and intersectionality, as well as propositions that are localised and contextual and can speak to pathways forward. While frameworks of economic, social and environmental justice have been key to framing a conceptual and theoretical inquiry around inequality, for KNOW, the question of how these play out in space, time and across scales is significant. Here, the question of their epistemic justice is crucial. It is from here, that building a vocabulary around inequality, its drivers and propositions; a vocabulary that listens to processes that are localised, contextual and often rendered invisible, is significant.

## The relationship between epistemic justice, methods and ethics

What have we learnt about research and capacity building methodologies and the ethics of practice? Through the week of discussions, partners reflected on the breadth of methodologies in the project and ethical moments in them, the relationship of methodology and ethics of practice. Reflecting on how epistemic justice is pivotal to building knowledge and pathways towards urban equality, partners also discussed how methods are often deeply rooted in disciplines, lived experiences and positionalities. What does co-producing knowledge and listening to multiple forms of knowledge look like?

The rich range of research methods tabulated and discussed across research streams included mapping of institutions and actors, building platforms, interviews, focus groups, workshops, propositional research,

trajectories and reflection, among many others. KNOW researchers discussed how a practice that is reflective and reflexive of positionalities, and that pays attention to the multiple forms of knowledge and the concerns of epistemic justice is important in this work. Particularly, paying attention to critical and ethical moments during the research, both before and during the pandemic, partners reflected together on methodologies and ethics through a frame of 'hotspots, blindspots, touchstones and moonshots' based on the work from the research stream on ethics of practice, which also shared a valuable lexicon and protocols ethics developed through the ongoing work ([see KNOW How, p. 15](#))

## Drivers of inequality and pathways towards urban equality

The discussions of the workshop also emphasised the importance of paying attention to the drivers of inequality and pathways to shift the discourse and practice, by recognising systems and inter-relational approach. Within this, attention to the dimensions of space, time and scale are particularly significant. Reflecting on impact achievements, critical moments and underlying conditions through different streams of research, and discussions thereafter, partners shared what we have learnt together about pathways to urban equality at different scales.

Across discussions, several common pathways emerged. These include recognising and building the capacities of platforms, local government and research teams, enabling reciprocal learning, making inequalities visible and changing narratives, engaging across scales and systems, building on feminist perspective, the differential impacts and intersectionality. We also discussed the presence of the pandemic as a crucial experience in understanding the irreversible dimension of such inequality, and how this experience has highlighted several concerns, as well as the importance of changing plans and strategies. The partners also reflected on the importance of learning from both successes and 'failures', and the importance of institutionalising processes, reinventing urban education, and the methodologies to do so.



Above

The other Zoom view window- Bangalore Calling.  
Image: Ruchika Lall

## KNOW Legacy

The partners discussed ways for collaboration - building and sharing knowledge in action for urban equality, the project outcomes and intended legacy. Apart from the contributions in the form of scholarly publications, policy briefs, podcasts, visual materials and cross-sectoral networks engendered over the last three years, the Annual Conference provided an important platform to reflect upon the legacy of KNOW locally, nationally, regionally and globally. To this effect the legacy of KNOW include: internalising principles and practices that promote urban equality among local and national institutes supported by Urban Learning Hubs. Another important area concerns sustaining transformative research capacity on urban inequality and contributing:

1. to reforming planning education and theory on knowledge co-production;
2. to national and global policies e.g. SDGs;
3. to relevant data and information.

In addition, papers published are used in university teaching programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Early career researchers involved in KNOW build their future work on the methodology and concepts advanced in this research.

## GOLD VI Report

# Co-producing an urban equality agenda for local action: KNOW involvement in the next United Cities and Local Governments GOLD Report

By Camila Cociña (WP4, Research Fellow)

This text was written with crucial inputs from members of the GOLD VI Steering Committee.

While reducing inequalities has been increasingly acknowledged as a globally experienced challenge shaped by structural conditions, local action is indispensable to tackle the territorial manifestations and many of the underlying causes of inequities. Global phenomena such as the climate emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic, increased housing insecurity, or the precarisation of working conditions have deepened existing inequalities and created new ones, which bring challenges that are locally experienced. Local knowledge and action are therefore crucial to articulate meaningful and effective responses.

For the last three years, we have been working from the KNOW programme to mobilise research and capacity building for urban equality through the co-production of knowledge led by local teams in different urban contexts. Through this work, it has become evident that even if most inequalities demand collaboration at multiple scales, the actions of local governments are key to tackling them. This has been increasingly recognised by movements such as the New Municipalism<sup>1</sup>, whose progressive politics have gained even more relevance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>2</sup>. We believe that the role of Local and Regional Governments in reframing and responding to inequalities is fundamental for at least three reasons: local authorities are close to the territories, and therefore have better knowledge about how people are experiencing inequalities; they have the capacity to act and mobilise efforts and collaborations between public, private and civil society actors; and they have the potential to sustain action over time, with closer opportunities for accountability.

Seeking to translate research into practice, the WP4 team has looked for different spaces to expand KNOW's legacy and to bring an urban equality lens to the forefront of urban debates. Among the many fora



for agenda-setting and urban debate at the international level, we believe that one that engages directly with those, who are leading responses in the local arena, can provide a fruitful space for collaboration. Thus, we have found in [United Cities and Local Governments](#) (UCLG) a key and strategic partner for action, as a coalition that represents autonomous and democratic local governments at a global level, working side by side with local authorities.

**The sixth version of the GOLD report will be jointly produced by KNOW and UCLG and launched in November 2022, under the title “Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality: Addressing inequalities through local transformation strategies**

Below

Alexandre Apsan Frediani presenting KNOW proposal for next GOLD Report during the UCLG Retreat in Tangier in February 2020. Image: UCLG

Our first engagement with UCLG was in November 2019, when members of the KNOW team, including representatives from Freetown and Havana, participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> UCLG Congress in Durban, South Africa, with a panel session entitled 'Partnerships for Urban Equality'<sup>3</sup>. Since then, we have had several exchanges with UCLG, particularly with the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CSIPDHR). These led to our participation in the UCLG Retreat in Tangier, Morocco, in February 2020, in which we proposed that the next [Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralisation Report, GOLD VI](#), should focus on discussing 'Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality'. This proposal was debated, accepted and formalised in a partnership agreement last September.

Since 2006, UCLG has published five Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralisation (GOLD) reports, which seek to be “a major source of information on local self-government, local authorities and international solidarity”. The sixth version of the GOLD report will be jointly produced by KNOW and UCLG and launched in November 2022, under the title

*"Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality: Addressing inequalities through local transformation strategies".*

GOLD VI has a series of strategic objectives. Initially, it seeks to reframe the notion of equality, recognising the drivers that perpetuate inequalities across different scales, as well as their context-specificity. It does so by addressing cross-sectorial and spatial performance principles (i.e., distribution, recognition, mutual care, and parity participation). The report also aims to centre equality and justice in debates on global development agendas, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath; and to identify current policy and planning actions and co-produced interventions that recognise the agency of local and regional governments and civil society groups.

We have proposed a **collaborative methodology** for the production of GOLD VI. This methodology aims not only to produce a rigorous and relevant report, but also to facilitate a process of co-production, supporting and strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogues and ensuring the participation and involvement of UCLG members, civil society networks, researchers and academics. We consider this methodology as relevant as the output itself, as it seeks to bring an equality lens to a process aimed at strengthening local learning and action alliances, facilitating translocal learning, and collaborating with international networks.

## GOLD VI: An engaged international process to build pathways to urban and territorial equality

Early in 2020, we set up a **GOLD VI Steering Committee**, composed by four members of UCLG (Edgardo Bilsky, Ainara Fernández Tortosa and Anna Calvete Moreno from UCLG Research and Amanda Fléty Martínez from CSIPDHR), and four members of the KNOW team (Caren Levy, Adriana Allen and Camila Cociña from DPU and Alexandre Apsan Frediani from IIED). Our first task was to agree on a structure for GOLD VI. From the beginning, we envisaged a report that goes beyond taking a snapshot of current inequalities, to offer a vehicle for transformative action. We have also tried to avoid the reproduction of sectoral and siloed approaches to equality. After presenting the **state of inequalities**, GOLD VI will be organised through a series of chapters that present pathways that local governments, in collaboration with other actors, are taking to advance towards equality: **commoning, caring, connecting, re-naturing, prospering and democratising**. The report will conclude in a discussion of some of the challenges to **mobilise transformative change at scale** and the presentation of final recommendations. Through the lens that each of these chapters offers, a diversity of themes will be addressed, such as issues related to informality, housing, land, basic services, education, urban health, migration,

violence and discrimination, food security, sustainable transport, digital connectivity, decent livelihoods, resilience, energy transition, decarbonisation, culture, finance, regional inequalities, all within a framework of political participation and accountability.

Each of these chapters will be authored by one to three **Chapter Curators**. The process of inviting curators to join us in this journey has provided rich moments of exchange during the last six months. We are very happy that GOLD VI has now a complete list of curators with vast experience in their fields, coming from different geographies, disciplines and institutions (*see diagram below*).

There is a reason why we have called them "curators", and not just "chapter authors". While each of them brings their approach and experience to the report, and are in charge of building the central argument and writing the chapter, there is a **constellation of multiple actors** who are contributing to each chapter with their experiences, visions, and knowledges. These contributions constitute a key element of the report, as they seek to provide not only information about grounded experiences, but key insights and messages that seek to shape future pathways for equality. Each chapter has contributions from four different kinds of sources (*listed overleaf*).

### Below

*Constellation of institutions contributing to the co-production of GOLD VI. Diagram: Camila Cociña, 2021*





1. **UCLG Network**, with contributions produced by seventeen Teams, Committees, Fora, Communities of Practice and partner networks, and with direct participation of its membership, drawing on grounded experiences from local governments that ensure a good balance of different geographies and territories;
2. **Civil society networks**, which will draw from experiences of several members across five global coalitions: Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), CoHabitat Network, Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI), and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO);
3. **KNOW partners** from twelve institutions, who will draw on experiences and lessons from their research in cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America; and;
4. **Other academics** working on issues particularly relevant to this report, from several universities and research institutions. This last category has allowed us to reach out and build collaborations and synergies with other GCRF programmes such as [PEAK Urban](#)<sup>4</sup>, which will be participating with thematic contributions.

Between September 2020 and January 2021, the GOLD VI Steering Committee led a process of defining the scope, distribution and aims of these contributions. To this end, we hosted **five workshops** with different sets of actors, which sought to create safe spaces in which diverse stakeholders could share the motivations behind their involvement in the report, as well as the vision and key messages they want to put forward, and the experiences that they would like to capture to illustrate grounded efforts towards equality. While the drivers for each organisation to get involved are diverse, the workshops have allowed spaces for finding synergies and complementarities. On Monday 25th January, more than 100 representatives from local governments, civil society networks, activists and researcher institutions met virtually to finalise this first stage of producing the report. The virtual workshop was a space to discuss and exchange views, and to start the second stage of this ongoing

co-production process, in which **68 case-based contributions** and **21 thematic contributions** will be produced to feed into the report's chapters. During May 2021 we received the first drafts of these contributions, and we are working together with Chapter Curators to make sure that the richness of these experiences is reflected in the final report.

## Global efforts to articulate local actions that advance towards equality are more urgent than ever

As we embark on the second stage of co-producing this report, there are many challenges ahead, particularly related to the coordination of the diverse voices and experiences that GOLD VI aims to capture. In practical terms, there are important constraints for a project like this in the context of COVID-19, considering the limitations of not being able to be together during co-production processes<sup>5</sup>.

However, even if we are aware that the dependency on online connectivity opens questions about new divisions and inequalities<sup>6</sup>, we have managed to leverage available digital tools to engage with more actors and voices than we had originally envisioned and anticipated in a pre-COVID-19 time. Beyond the practical considerations, we are aware that the pandemic has exacerbated social injustices, exposing social weaknesses and widening inequalities<sup>7</sup>. Therefore global efforts to articulate local actions that advance towards equality are more urgent than ever. Under the current circumstances, to be able to achieve the objective of leaving no-one and no-place behind outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - it is crucial to have an equality lens when localising the SDGs.

This report, emerging out of a process of strengthening local and international action alliances, seeks to address this challenge and contribute to shaping pathways to urban equality.



1. To read more about the Municipalist movement, check <https://minim-municipalism.org>
2. Zarate, L. (2020). *Pandemic lessons, progressive politics: Right to the city and new municipalism in times of COVID-19*. Minim. Available at: <https://minim-municipalism.org/magazine/pandemic-lessons>
3. To read more about this panel, check our International Engagement Brief #1, "Partnerships for Urban Equality", available at <https://www.urban-know.com/international-engagement-brief-1>
4. For more information about PEAK, visit <https://www.peak-urban.org>
5. To read more, see the lead article in our previous "In the KNOW": Osuteye, E. (2020) 'Doing together' when we can't be together: co-producing actionable knowledge in a COVID-19 world. In the KNOW #4, 6-11, available at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/80db23cd-22ba-4935-9fef-9c831e7d3aa5>
6. For more information, check the UNCTAD publication, "Coronavirus reveals need to bridge the digital divide", available at <https://unctad.org/news/coronavirus-reveals-need-bridge-digital-divide>
7. For more information, check the UNDP publication "Coronavirus vs. inequality", available at <https://feature.undp.org/coronavirus-vs-inequality/>

**Exhibition | Da Nang**

**Sketching the historic  
fishing villages of  
Da Nang (Thi kỹ hoa)**

The fishing villages of Da Nang represent a unique cultural heritage in the city. A sketching contest was held among Da Nang Architecture University students followed by an exhibition (12<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June), which sought to highlight the tangible and intangible heritage of Da Nang's fishing villages through artistic interpretation. The exhibited images were shared widely with audiences in Da Nang and the local fishing communities.

This page presents some of the beautiful entries as well as the winning sketch (No.4)

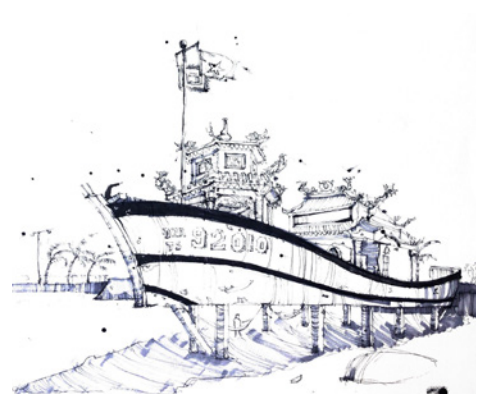
Watch a short film about the exhibition and competition process from the Da Nang team here: <https://vimeo.com/urbanknow/danangfishing>



1



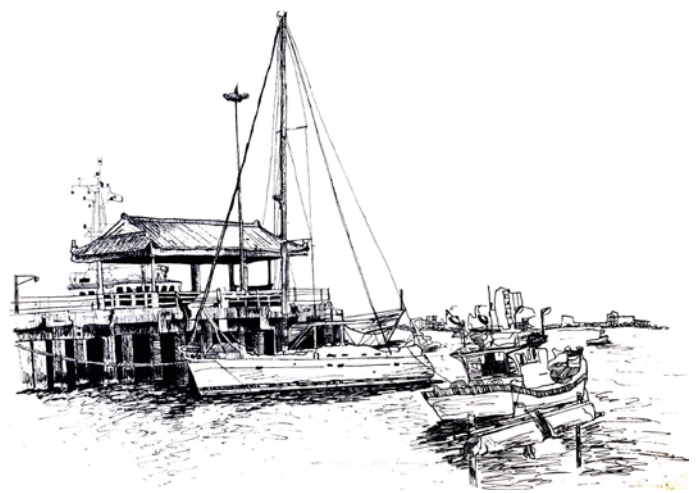
2



3



4



5



6

**Artworks as numbered**

1. Sound of the sea, by: Phan Quốc Anh
2. Temple of the Whale, by: Nguyễn Văn Đức
3. Temple of the soul, by: Nguyễn Cao Toàn
4. Sunset on the calm sea, by: Phạm Đình Tuấn (First prize)
5. Fishing, by: Trương Thị Khánh Việt
6. Return, by: Nguyễn Đăng Ngọc

All images courtesy of the artists, 2021. Not for reproduction without written permission from the artist. Please contact: [trangptk@dau.edu.vn](mailto:trangptk@dau.edu.vn)



## Local heritage

# Fishing communities contributing to Da Nang's identity and development

By Brenda Pérez-Castro (ACHR Regional Lead), Trang Phan & Hanh Vo (Da Nang City Leads, Danang Architecture University)

Vietnam's economic growth is a well-known story of success. The country's GDP increased steadily above 6% since 2000 until the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and poverty rates have shown a stark decline. The young and centrally governed city of Da Nang bares testimony to the positive impacts of the national policies towards industrialisation and modernisation, and the deliberate process of accelerated urbanisation and increased national and foreign investment. Da Nang's growth rates consistently surpass the national averages and only 0.5% of its population, categorised as poor.

While global indicators tell a story of progress and prosperity, Da Nang's vision of a "world class tourist destination city" and a "smart city", has encompassed a shifting economic base and the industrialisation of traditional occupations. In only two decades, the forestry and aquaculture economy fell from 9.74% to 1.68%. In the lived experience of the fishing communities of Da Nang, the story is one of uprooting, disenfranchisement, loss of livelihoods, damaged community cohesion and disappearing traditions and local knowledge.

In this context, the KNOW program in Da Nang, through its local partner, Da Nang Architecture University (DAU), set the objectives of co-identifying the fishing communities in Da Nang city, characterising their social structure, culture and local assets, contributing to the formation of a network of fishing communities, and assessing the potentials for alternative livelihoods. The following paragraphs illustrate some of the key achievements of the research-action project, to date:

## Building community strength

Through documentary revision and visits to identified sites, the KNOW team identified and mapped out the 16 historic fishing villages that have survived in Da Nang, both physically and culturally. The process of mapping and profiling resulted in the categorisation of the villages according to different features. Only two still remain in their original location as dwelling and livelihoods centres of the communities; ten communities have been resettled but still gather and work around the fishing grounds, as well as celebrate traditional festivities; and four communities have been

### Below left

Students surveying local fishing-folk in Tho Quang fishing village, image by: Bui Quang Sang, 2021

### Below top

Network meeting with Da Nang fishing village representative, images by: Da Nang team, 2021

### Below bottom

Introduction from local government before preparing the surveys, image by: Da Nang team, 2021



scattered across the city and their social links and cultural practices as a community have practically disappeared.

While global indicators tell a story of progress and prosperity, Da Nang's vision of a "world class tourist destination city" and a "smart city", has encompassed a shifting economic base and the industrialisation of traditional occupations

The loss of social and cultural links was a finding of the initial stages of the research process that confirmed the need for strengthened connections within and among fishing villages in the city. In the process of profiling these communities, students, community leaders from the







villages and local authorities were engaged and learnt from each other. The project promoted a series of study tours, training sessions, and workshops where fisherfolks had the opportunity to introduce their localities, and their challenges, potential, and opportunities, while learning from other communities in Da Nang and nearby provinces. This has formed the base for a regional fishing community network.

### Recognising the local knowledge and cultural heritage of fishing communities

The local government of Da Nang has recently shifted its perception of the role that fishing communities can have in the city's development and identity. In 2016, a national policy restricted nearshore fishing and the use of small vessels – including the traditional “basket boats” used by small-scale fisherfolks in Da Nang –, a measure that had shattering impacts on the economy and social life of these communities.

Conversely, in 2019, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism designated the craft of fish-sauce-making of *Nam O village* as an intangible heritage of the nation. Building on this significant milestone, the KNOW research-action project has contributed to assessing and valorising the tangible and intangible heritage of the fishing communities of Da Nang as a way of making these communities visible to city-level stakeholders and protecting their social, cultural and environmental assets. In early 2021, the city government hosted a ceremony to declare seven historical



monuments of *Nam O fishing village* as a city-level monuments cluster. The declaration will facilitate the maintenance and protection of these monuments, as well as their inclusion and promotion as a local tourism destinations.

### Diversifying the city's tourism offer through city-wide partnerships

In the face of fierce reactions from environmental and social activists and residents, a large-scale tourism and real estate project planned in the area of *Nam O fishing village* was stopped in 2016. The increased media attention and citizen debate derived from this case has raised awareness of the environmental impact of tourism-led coastal development. Through peer exchanges between Da Nang and the neighbouring provinces of *Quang Nam* and *Quang Ngai*, community leaders, university students and local authorities had the

opportunity to visit and learn from existing initiatives of Community-Based Tourism (CBT) in the central region of Vietnam. The leaders of Da Nang's fishing communities and other local stakeholders were inspired to develop CBT pilots in four communities, an idea that has now consolidated as a partnership between the network of fishing communities, DAU, and the Da Nang Department of Tourism.



#### Above clockwise

Research conference participants including local stakeholders, students, Department of Tourism representatives, and local media.

Ceremony recognising the *Nam O fishing village* as a city-level cluster of monuments. March 27, 2021

Students present their work on the history of Oriental and Vietnamese architecture to the community.

All images: Da Nang Team, 2021.

# KNOW when

## Events and Outputs

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### Stay in the KNOW

#### Facebook

[facebook.com/UrbanKnow](https://facebook.com/UrbanKnow)

#### Twitter

[twitter.com/urban\\_know](https://twitter.com/urban_know)

#### Blog

[urban-know.com/KnowNow](https://urban-know.com/KnowNow)

#### Vimeo

[vimeo.com/urbanknow](https://vimeo.com/urbanknow)

#### COVID-19 Stories

[urban-know.com/covid19-stories](https://urban-know.com/covid19-stories)

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[info@urban-know.com](mailto:info@urban-know.com)

## Workshops, Trainings Conferences & Exhibitions

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**05-08 November 2020 | Online**

### ACSP Conference

At the 60th annual conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Neha Sami and Gautam Bhan (IIHS) organised a panel titled "Teaching the Urban: Reflections from Experiments in Pedagogy", which included presentations from different aspects of WP5 research.

**12 November 2020 | Online**

### UCLG World Council 2020

KNOW's PI Caren Levy and Col Adriana Allen participated in the UCLG World Council 2020 in the session of the UCLG Executive Bureau. They contributed to the discussion focused on "Policy debate: Addressing inequalities, key in the post-COVID era". In their interventions, Prof Caren Levy and Prof Adriana Allen referred to the urgency of dealing with multiple inequalities exacerbated by COVID-19. Their participation was part of the ongoing engagement between the KNOW programme and UCLG for the preparation of the next GOLD Report.

**08 February 2021 | Online**

### Within or Beyond the University

The workshop brought together editors and authors of a forthcoming special issue in the *Educação & Realidade* journal to present on the theme of 'Within or beyond the university'. Ruchika Lall, Geetika Anand, and Julia Wesely presented a paper with comparative reflections on IIHS' activist courses and the 'Schools' of the Habitat International Coalition - Latin America.

**18-21 January 2021 | Online**

### DTC Co-producing Doctoral Urban Research in the Global South

The first KNOW DTC brought together 22 doctoral researchers from across the UK and City Partners Ardh University and CUJAE, to learn and explore together how knowledge co-production might work in doctoral research. Through a series of interactive sessions as well as individual and collective tasks, participants engaged with four key issues in co-production research: positioning yourself in your research; building partnerships with equivalence; navigating opportunities and tensions; and sharing and collectivising.

Find out more here:

[www.urban-know.com/resources-dtc](https://www.urban-know.com/resources-dtc)

**25 January 2021 | Online**

### GOLD VI Stage 1 Final Workshop

On Monday 25th January, more than 100 representatives from local governments, civil society networks, activists and researcher institutions, met virtually to finalise the first stage of producing the next [GOLD Report](#) to be published in 2022. GOLD VI will be jointly developed by [United Cities and Local Governments](#) (UCLG) and part of the KNOW team. The virtual workshop was a space to discuss and exchange views about the different contributions that will feed into the report, through an ongoing process of co-production that seeks to strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogues.

Find out more in [KNOW What, p. 28](#)

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## 22-26 February 2021 | Online Fourth KNOW Annual Workshop

From the 22nd to 26th February, 52 KNOW investigators and partners gathered remotely for our fourth and final Annual Workshop. The week of online-facilitated discussions centred around unpacking what we have learnt about urban equality over the course of the programme.

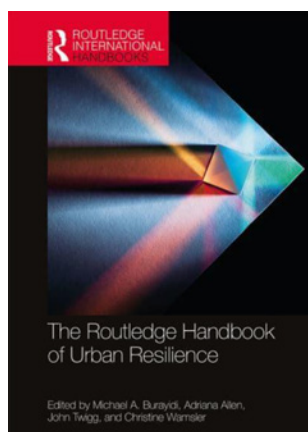
Find out more in [KNOW What, p.26](#)

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## 28 January 2021 | Online Book Launch: Handbook of Urban Resilience

This joint Dialogue in Urban Equality and launch of the Handbook of Urban Resilience (Editors: Michael A. Burayidi, Adriana Allen, John Twigg, and Christine Wamsler) (pictured below), gave authors and editors, a space to reflect on the complexity, contradictions and optimism of resilience as ubiquitous notion, concept, and principle, which has taken hold in urban research, policy and practice. The webinar discussed particularly how disaster risk and resilience are, and could be, re-framed in efforts to address issues of urban equality.

Find out more & watch the launch [here](#)



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## 25-28 May 2021 | Online RISE Africa Festival ICLEI Africa

As part of the festival (pictured below), KNOW and the Habitat International Coalition facilitated a workshop titled "Learning from and across African cities: Emancipatory pedagogies for transformative change". This workshop brought together learning practices from grassroots organisations, social movements and higher education institutions to discuss the key qualities, which make learning emancipatory. To continue this conversation, workshop participants and contributors will collectively draft a manifesto.

Watch the presentation [here](#)

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## 15-19 February 2021 | Online UCLG Annual Retreat & Campus 2021

KNOW's PI Caren Levy and Col Alexandre Apsan Frediani participated in the UCLG Annual Retreat & Campus 2021, a week-long gathering that provides an opportunity for the keynotes of the organisation and partners to define synergies and develop actions in line with the work plans set out by the governing bodies. In the context of the collaboration between UCLG and KNOW for the production of the next GOLD report, Caren Levy delivered a presentation in the session "Researching with UCLG", and Alexandre Apsan Frediani presented about UCLG's "Urban Equality Agenda".

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## 14-16 January 2021 | Online IIHS Urban ARC Conference 2021

The fifth edition of Urban ARC, the Annual Research Conference of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, was conducted between the 14 – 16 January 2021. The theme for this edition was 'Urban Imaginaries: Past, Present and Future'. It included a panel titled "The Work that 'Urban Observatories' do: Institutionalizing Urban Imagination between Trust, Advocacy and Expertise" with inputs from Shriya Anand, Michele Acuto and Alexandre Apsan Frediani

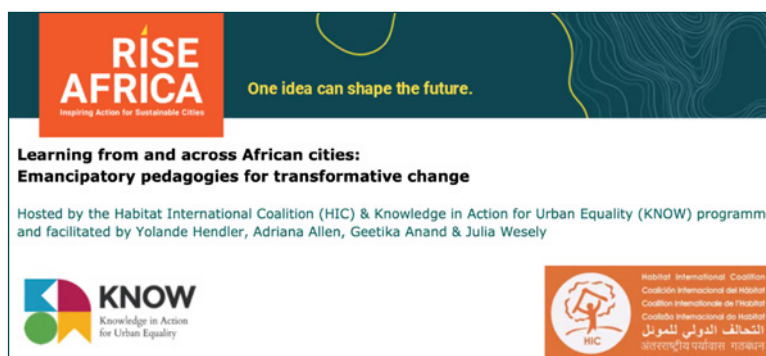
Find out more [here](#)

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## 22 January 2021 | Kampala Kampala Seeding Event & Workshop

On the 22nd of January, seven briquette-making groups were handed a Seed Grant in the form of briquette-making machines. The initiative follows two years of successive capacity-building with numerous groups to start alternative waste business enterprises, utilising the 'energy-briquette value chain'.

Find out more [here](#)





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## Publications

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### International Engagement Brief #2 Localising the Sustainable Development Goals: An Urban Equality Perspective

By Stephanie Butcher, Camila Cociña,  
Christopher Yap, and Caren Levy

This brief outlines the case for the adoption of an urban equality lens to orient decision-making through localisation processes. The authors ground their understanding in a multi-dimensional and relational concept of 'urban equality', reflecting interrelated dimensions of: distribution, recognition, parity of participation, and solidarity and mutual care.

Drawing on grounded examples of research and practice across a range of cities in KNOW, this brief outlines three opportunities in the adoption of an urban equality lens and concludes by setting out four principles to support the operationalisation of an urban equality lens through the SDGs.

[Available here](#)

Contact: [stephanie.butcher@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:stephanie.butcher@unimelb.edu.au)

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### Architecture & Culture, 8 Hotspots and Touchstones: From Critical to Ethical Spatial Practice

By Jane Rendell

This essay-based paper begins by describing an ethical 'hot-spot' (a moment in which a researcher-practitioner encounters an ethical dilemma), that occurred in the authors life and then discusses how, by reflecting on the issues and the practices that developed out of them, it might be possible to develop modes of ethical practice that – following Foucault – could be called, *basanic*.

[Available here](#)

Contact: [j.rendell@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.rendell@ucl.ac.uk)

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### Radical Housing Journal, 2 (2) Networked practices, knowledges and pedagogies for translocal housing activism

By Adriana Allen, Camila Cociña, and  
Julia Wesely

This conversation with the President of the *Habitat International Coalition* (HIC), Adriana Allen, examines HIC's perspectives on the practices, knowledges and pedagogies for translocal housing activism through reflections structured along several themes. These include understanding the horizontal democratic practices of working as a 'network of networks', with particular focus on how translocality can go beyond international mobility. The conversation highlights the value of foregrounding an explicitly rights-based housing agenda, which has been continuously nurtured over the past 40+ years of HIC's work.

[Available here](#)

Contact: [julia.wesely@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:julia.wesely@ucl.ac.uk)

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### Sustainability, 13 (5) Multiple Hazards and Governance Model in the Barranquilla Metropolitan Area, Colombia

By Allan Lavell, Celene Milanes, Marina Martínez-González, Jorge Moreno-Gómez, Ana Saltarín, Andres Suarez, Samuel Llano, Alex Vasquez, and Seweryn Zielinski

This paper co-authored by WP2 Resilience Investigator, Allan Lavell, develops a new governance model for risk management in Barranquilla, Colombia, a city exposed to multiple natural and anthropogenic hazards. The paper explores the critical impact that local and regional institutions have in scenarios of vulnerability, as well as the effectiveness of governance arrangements in minimising disaster risk.

[Available here](#)

Contact: [allanmlavell@gmail.com](mailto:allanmlavell@gmail.com)

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### Open Health, 1 (1) Fighting COVID-19 in Freetown: the critical role of community organisations in a growing pandemic

By Emmanuel Osuteye, Braima Koroma,  
Joseph M Macarthy, Sulaiman Kamara, and  
Abu Conteh

This paper explains the nature and form of community organisation that can be galvanised and leveraged for COVID-19 preparedness and responses that are suited in informal settlements. It highlights the critical contribution of community organisations in social protection measures that tackle deeply entrenched inequalities in rapidly urbanising contexts. Finally, the cases examined seek to provide evidence of the value of processes of continuous learning within community organisation that are essential for both humanitarian assistance and emergency management.

[Available here](#)

Contact: [e.osuteye@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:e.osuteye@ucl.ac.uk)

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### Axon: Creative Explorations, 10 (2) A 'Minifesta' as the Promise of Collective Voice

By Yael Padan, Vanesa Castán Broto, Jane Rendell, and David Roberts

This polyvocal paper describes the collective writing of a manifesto for urban equality by an international and interdisciplinary team of researchers who met in Kampala, Uganda, in November 2019. It explains the methodologies that inspired the process of writing; it reflects on the contradictions that permeate the generation of collective voices, and discusses the relationship between collective voice and situated knowledge. In doing so, it proposes a move from grand manifestos to situated minifestas, arguing for minor literature in the generation of feminist, subaltern knowledge.

[Available here](#)

Contact: [vcastanbroto@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:vcastanbroto@sheffield.ac.uk)

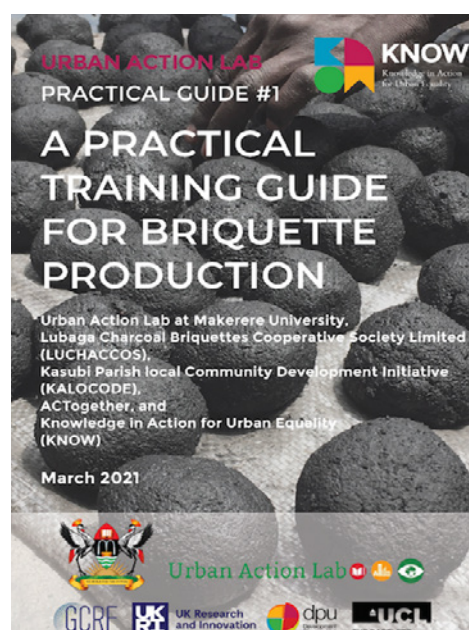
## KNOW Practical Guide #1 A Practical Training Guide for Briquette Production

By The Urban Action Lab at Makerere University, Lubaga Charcoal Briquettes Cooperative Society Limited, (LUCHACCOS), Kasubi Parish local Community Development Initiative, (KALOCODE), and ACTogether

This Practical Guide from the KNOW Kampala team, provides training advice for briquette-making as an alternative livelihood for the urban poor in Kampala and potentially further afield. This Practical Guide is intended for training purposes with groups, organisations and/or individuals interested in starting briquette enterprises as an alternative livelihood strategy utilising localised micro-finance business strategies.  
(Pictured below)

[Available here](#)

Contact: [kteddy58@gmail.com](mailto:kteddy58@gmail.com)



## The Bartlett Ethics Commission Practicing Ethics Guides

Guides 2 & 3 by Yael Padan;  
Guide 6 by Emmanuel Osuteye

Practicing Ethics is an open access project for built environment researchers and practitioners, bringing together a lexicon of ethical principles, guidelines on how to negotiate ethical issues in practice, reading lists of ethics publications, overviews of ethics protocols, and case studies including reflections on the hotspots, touchstones and blindspots of ethical processes. The Practicing Ethics guides offer insights into how to negotiate the difficult 'ethical moments' that different built environment research practices, methods and contexts pose.

Guides from the KNOW team:

No. 2 Asking Questions

No. 3 Co-production of Knowledge

No. 6 Researching Internationally

(pictured below)

[Available here](#)

Contact: [y.padan@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:y.padan@ucl.ac.uk)



## plaNext, May 2021 Online Generative pedagogies from and for the social production of habitat: Learning from HIC-AL School of grassroots urbanism

By Julia Wesely, Adriana Allan, Lorena Zaráte, and María Silvia Emanuelli

This paper examines the pedagogies of such grassroots networks by focusing on the experiences nurtured within Habitat International Coalition in Latin America (HIC-AL), identified as a 'School of Grassroots Urbanism' (Escuela de Urbanismo Popular). Although HIC-AL follows foremost activist rather than educational objectives, members of HIC-AL identify and value their practices as a 'School', whose diverse pedagogic logics and epistemological arguments are examined in this paper. The analysis builds upon a series of in-depth interviews, document reviews and participant observation with HIC-AL member organisations and allied grassroots networks.

The discussion explores how the values and principles emanating from a long history of popular education and popular urbanism in the region are articulated through situated pedagogies of resistance and transformation, which in turn enable generative learning from and for the social production of habitat.

[Available here](#)

Contact: [julia.wesely@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:julia.wesely@ucl.ac.uk)

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**UCL Press**

## **Rethinking urban risk and resettlement in the global south**

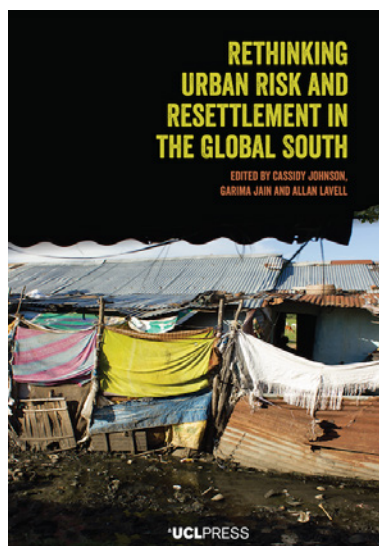
Edited by Cassidy Johnson, Garima Jain, and Allan Lavell

'Reducing Relocation Risks' was a research project that studied urban areas across India, Uganda, Peru, Colombia and Mexico. The findings are presented and augmented in this book with chapters unpacking resettlement, property rights, and evictions, across the global South.

The contributors to this book collectively argue that the processes for making and implementing resettlement decisions play a large part in determining whether outcomes are socially just. These examine various value systems and strategies adopted by individuals and authorities. Considering perceptions of risk, the volume offers a unique way to think about economic assessments in the context of resettlement and draws parallels between different country contexts to compare fully urbanised areas with those experiencing urban growth. It also provides an opportunity to re-think how disaster risk management can better address the accumulation of urban risks through urban planning.

[Available here \(open access\)](#)

Contact: [cassidy.johnson@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:cassidy.johnson@ucl.ac.uk)



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## **International Development Planning Urban equality and the SDGs: three provocations for a relational agenda**

By Stephanie Butcher

This article explores the potentials of adopting a relational lens to read the SDGs, as a mechanism to navigate its internal contradictions and critiques and build pathways to urban equality. In particular, it offers three questions if we want to place urban equality at the heart of the agenda: who owns the city; who produces knowledge about the city; and who is visible in the city? Drawing from the practices of organised groups of the urban poor, this article outlines the key lessons for orienting this agenda towards the relational and transformative aims of urban equality.

[Available here](#)

Contact: [stephanie.butcher@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:stephanie.butcher@unimelb.edu.au)

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## **KNOW Working Package 6 A Short History of 'the Urban' in UK Overseas Aid Policy and Programming**

By Christopher Yap, Colin Marx, and Caren Levy

Urban development has formed a persistent part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) activities over the past seventy years. However, the nature of urban ODA policy and programming has shifted significantly throughout this period. In this online story timeline the authors track the urban trajectory of UK ODA policy and programming against the evolution of the UK's aid institutions, shifting domestic political priorities, and the global ODA landscape. In order to present some key turning points and changes within historical context.

Forthcoming online at: [www.urban-know.com/short-history-urban-oda](http://www.urban-know.com/short-history-urban-oda)

Contact: [c.yap@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.yap@ucl.ac.uk)

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## **KNOW Working Paper No. 5**

(En Español)

## **José Carlos Mariátegui: Hacia un visión colectiva e integral del espacio, la ciudad y el territorio**

By Kelly Jamie, Luciana Gallardo, Diana Bernal, and Marco Herndon

¿Cómo desafiar la creciente precariedad de los asentamientos en la ladera? Jóvenes investigadores de KNOW Lima exploran la fragmentación multidimensional (social, territorial y política) que reproduce desigualdades y esbozan algunas estrategias para superarlas.

*English version forthcoming*

[Available here](#)

Contact: [belen.desmaison@pucp.edu.pe](mailto:belen.desmaison@pucp.edu.pe)

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## **KNOW Working Paper No. 6**

(En Español)

## **Barrios Altos: Hacia un nuevo contrato social para la reducción de desigualdades en el habitar urbano**

By Kelly Jamie and Diana Bernal

¿Cómo promover la convivencia y la vida barrial en el Centro Histórico de Lima? Jóvenes investigadoras de KNOW Lima analizan las tensiones y conflictos entre comerciantes y residentes de Barrios Altos en búsqueda de un Centro Vivo.

*English version forthcoming*

[Available here](#)

Contact: [belen.desmaison@pucp.edu.pe](mailto:belen.desmaison@pucp.edu.pe)

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[www.urban-know.com/resources](http://www.urban-know.com/resources)



*Local, small-scale fisherfolk in DaNang mending the nets after a morning of fishing. Image: Búi Quang Sáng, 2021*





## Primary Management Group

### Principal Investigator

Prof Caren Levy, The Bartlett DPU, UCL

### KNOW Project Manager

Andrea De Santis

### KNOW Communications Officer

David Heymann

## International Advisory Board

### Chair

Prof Sue Parnell, University of Bristol

### Advisors and Board

Robin Bloch (ICF), Prof Murray Fraser (UCL), Dr Sumila Gulyani (World Bank), Clare Hunter Funnell (UKRI), Dr Mark Johnson (Goldsmiths), Rubbina Karruna (FCDO), Prof David Satterthwaite (IIED), Lorena Zárate (Global Platform for the Right to the City)

## Work Package 1 City Knowledge Co-Production

### Co-Investigators

Prof Vanesa Castán Broto, Co-Lead  
Urban Institute, University of Sheffield

Prof Cassidy Johnson, Co-Lead  
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

Dr Barbara Lipietz,  
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

Dr Catalina Ortiz,  
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

Prof Wilbard Kombe, Africa Regional Lead,  
Ardhi University

### Research Fellow

Dr Emmanuel Osuteye,  
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

## Work Package 2 Comparative Inquiry for Urban Equality

### Co-Investigators

Prof Colin McFarlane, Lead on Extreme  
Poverty, Department of Geography,  
Durham University

Prof Henrietta Moore, Lead on Prosperity,  
Institute of Global Prosperity (IGP), UCL

Dr Allan Lavell, Lead on Resilience and  
KNOW Latin America Regional Lead,  
FLACSO Costa Rica

### Research Fellows

Dr Christopher Yap,  
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

Dr Saffron Woodcraft,  
Institute of Global Prosperity (IGP), UCL

## Work Package 5 Multiplying Translocal Learning in Higher Education

### Co-Investigators

Prof Adriana Allen, Co-Lead  
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

Dr Aromar Revi, Co-Lead and  
Asia Regional Lead, Indian Institute for  
Human Settlements (IIHS)

### IIHS Team

Shriya Anand, Dr Neha Sami, Ruchika Lall,  
Geetika Anand, Dr Gautam Bhan, Nandini  
Dutta, Vikas John, Ruchika Lall, Priya Singh

### Research Fellow

Dr Julia Wesely,  
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

## Work Package 1 City Partners

Dr Paul Mukwaya  
Urban Action Innovation Lab,  
Geography Department,  
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Dr Tim Ndezi,  
Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI),  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Dr Joseph Macarthy & Braima Koroma,  
Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre  
(SLURC), Njala University, Sierra Leone

Prof Jorge Peña Díaz & Joiselén Cazanave  
Macías  
Urban Research & Action Group,  
Universidad Tecnológica de La Habana José  
Antonio Echeverría (CUJAE), Havana, Cuba

Prof Paulo D Mazzi & Belén Desmaison,  
Department of Architecture, Pontificia  
Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP), Peru

Somsook Boonyabancha &  
Brenda Pérez-Castro  
Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR),  
Bangkok, Thailand

## Work Package 3 Ethics of Research Practice

### Co-Investigator

Prof Jane Rendell,  
The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL

### Research Fellow

Dr Yael Padan,  
The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL

## Work Package 4 Translating Research into Practice

### Co-Investigators

Dr Alexandre Apsan Frediani, Lead,  
International Institute for Environment and  
Development (IIED)

Prof Michele Acuto,  
MSD, The University of Melbourne

### Research Fellows

Dr Camila Cociña,  
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

Dr Stephanie Butcher,  
MSD, The University of Melbourne

## Work Package 6 Expanding UK ODA Research Capacity

### Co-Investigator

Prof Colin Marx,  
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

### Research Fellow

Dr Christopher Yap,  
The Bartlett DPU, UCL

### Abbreviations

DPU	Development Planning Unit
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FLACSO	Latin American Social Sciences Institute
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
MSD	Melbourne School of Design
UCL	University College London

For details and investigator profiles, please visit  
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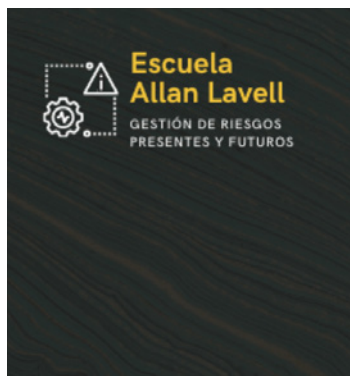
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### Next issue Coming 2022

'In the KNOW' is made possible by contributions from the whole KNOW team and all our partners.



### Congratulations to: Allan Lavell

Work Package 2 lead Investigator on resilience, Allan Lavell, has had the *School of Present and Future Risk Management* renamed in his honor, for a dedicated 30 years of coordinating national and regional research projects across Latin America.

Find out more about the school [here](#) (NB: this film is available only in Spanish).

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## In the KNOW

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Achieving sustainable development requires putting a stop to the growing rates of inequality around the world. Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW) asks how citizens can be involved in delivering equality in the cities of the future. KNOW is a 4-year research and capacity-building programme (2017-2021) that seeks to promote urban equality in selected cities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Led by Prof Caren Levy of The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, it brings together an interdisciplinary international team of 13 partners in the UK, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Australia to develop innovative long-term programmes of knowledge co-production for urban equality among governments, communities, business, and academia. It is a unique gathering of places, people and their knowledge, innovation, and ingenuity. Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality is funded by UKRI through the Global Challenges Research Fund GROW Call, and led by The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, UCL. Grant Ref: ES/P011225/1



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