

## **Call for Papers**

### **International Seminar Series -II**

## **The ‘Southern Tilt’ in the Urban: Embedded Wisdom and Cultural Specificity as Pathways to Planning**

Co-organized by the Institute of Public Policy (NLSIU, Bangalore) and URBAM (EAFIT University, Medellín)

The Institute of Public Policy (NLSIU, Bangalore) and URBAM (EAFIT University, Medellín) invite papers from urban scholars and planners working on global South for Seminar Series (Part II) to be organized at the Institute of Public Policy, NLSUI, Bangalore

### **Dates**

Bangalore, India on February 13-14-15, 2020.

### **Context**

The two-part seminar series in Medellin Colombia (concluded, August 2019) and Bangalore, India seek to evolve planning approaches and methods to shape city futures in geographies that promise to be the future of urbanization. As cities in the global South experience unprecedented urbanization, planning for, and managing these processes appears ineffective as evidenced by high levels of poverty and inequality, and the near breakdown of urban services and amenities in these cities. The ineffectiveness of city planning and urban management is pegged in part to planning being ‘borrowed’ and ‘imposed’ by knowledge systems – developed to manage urbanization experienced by the global North in 20<sup>th</sup> century - through complex processes of colonialism and globalization (Friedmann, 1993; Watson, 2009; Batra, 2009; Gupta and Sharma, 2006; Mahadevia and Joshi, 2009).

In contrast, the 21<sup>st</sup> century, responses to ‘new’ urban forms such as mega cities and city-regions encompassing large land areas, gated communities, sprawls, edge cities, peri-urban and the ‘rurban’, are either absent or few in-between. It is this context that led to a call for ‘reinventing planning’ such that it contextualizes the 21<sup>st</sup> century urban (Framer, et.al, 2008). Building context specificity requires, one, an acknowledgement of the transition from an “Euclidian world order of stable entities” to the emergence of the “non-Euclidian world of many space-time geographies” (Friedmann, 1993) and two, factoring in global concerns of climate change, natural resource depletion and food insecurity, in turn, necessitating the need to build resilient cities.

The two-part seminar series focus on the urban planning processes and methods by foregrounding the varying contexts of the global South juxtaposed with historical trajectories of these geographies. Scholarly debates and action research privileging embedded wisdom and contextualizing socio-cultural specificity as the ‘ordinary’ is encouraged. While an easier and accepted method is to contextualize existing and emerging planning methods developed in the North to ‘suit’ the South, the seminars push for a radical departure that is ‘inward’ looking. These will explore alternative (to those developed in the Global North) locally rooted knowledge systems as possible conduits to evolving planning methods that address general and specific conditions of “new forms”. These include informality and access to services and housing, increasing socio-ecological vulnerability, inadequate and outdated statutory frameworks underpinning fragmented and fractured governance processes and systems. Embracing the argument that historically, cities have been centers of culture and the crucibles for the advance of civilizations (Perlman 1990), the two seminars will foreground historical and contingent geographies of cities to debate the intersectionality between planning and new urban forms and their challenges.

## **Invitation**

This call encourages papers on the following (although not restricted to) themes

1. Planning for and governing city-regions: City-regions in the global South are rapidly emerging geographies. In 2014, there were 28 mega-cities worldwide of which sixteen

are in Asia, four in Latin America, three each in Africa and Europe, and two in Northern America. Yet, conventional planning is limited to the city as against the emerging city-region. The city-regions, in effect, are “missing planning hierarchies”(Mohan, 2019, forthcoming). This track invites papers that focus on identifying and establishing city-region and plan for these by foregrounding the symbiotic relationship between the city and its region.

2. Informality, demand for access to services and housing: Planning theory is undergoing a transition with a focus on informality and associated rights, although the recognition of rights in informal contexts is hugely different (Davy and Pellissery 2013). These are often neglected in planning processes and the ensuing plans. This track invites papers that aim to address and incorporate informality and associated rights in planning approaches.
3. Resilience, planning and governance: While evolving planning methodologies for cities of the South, an added complexity is that of enhancing resilience. This track invites papers that marry the objectives of resilience and context-specificity in planning and governing the Southern cities.
4. Statutory frameworks and Planning laws: Planning cannot be separated from the question of property and legal frameworks that govern the land (Davy 2012; Pellissery, Davy and Jacobs 2017). Planning laws in the global South are reflective/ continuation of the colonial times. While this is found to be stifling for the challenges of the global South, a range of statutory innovations are unfolding in response. This track invites papers on these innovations and their ability to shape the planning process.

Papers addressing the following question(s) will be prioritized for selection

1. Does the research provide an alternative paradigm, an understanding or a theoretical diversion to the existing urban planning practices in the global South or the developing country context?
2. What drivers and potentials underpin these alternatives – theory and experiential- and what are the urban challenges that these alternatives seek to address?
3. How do these alternatives vary from the those developed and practiced in the global North or the developed West?

4. How can these alternatives be scaled suitably and appropriately to address the complex and vast urban challenges of cities of the South.

## **Application Procedure**

Full papers or extended abstracts (500 – 750 words) indicating the title of the paper, the key argument and the nature of empirical evidence may be sent to [usfseminar@nls.ac.in](mailto:usfseminar@nls.ac.in) by December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

Emails: [usfseminar@nls.ac.in](mailto:usfseminar@nls.ac.in)

## **Important Submission Dates:**

Submission of Abstract/ extended Abstract (500 – 750 words): 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.

Announcement of accepted abstracts: 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2019

Full Papers (6000 words): TBD

Selected papers will be published in one of the edited volumes derived from the Seminar Series.

## **Support Available**

The seminar series are being organised with support from the Urban Studies Foundation. While there are no funds to support travel, the organisers will provide local accommodation and hospitality at the conference venue. The organisers will also facilitate visa processes.

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## **References**

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