

DSA2022 Pre-Conference Webinar 1

The politics and governance of sustainable urban futures

Thursday 19 May, 13:00 – 14:30

Link to register: <https://www.devstud.org.uk/conference/conference-2022/plenaries/>

This first pre-DSA conference session focuses on the challenges for politics and governance in shaping sustainable urban futures. The Speakers will talk to a series of tensions in relation to future governance between:

- *The diverse claims for the right to the city of different social movements, and representation and accountability in urban governance*
What political claims are poor rural and urban communities, as well as migrant and displaced residents, making and what forms of political participation and planning help bring about just sustainable futures?
- *Science policy engagement and governance*
How are political claims translated into knowledges that contribute to the formulation and implementation of policy and planning that addresses just sustainable futures?
- *Globalisation leading to increased commodification and financialisation of land and housing, and governance aspiring to address equality and justice*
How are cities in the global south becoming integrated into new flows of capital and new super-power struggles, including around investments in infrastructure and real estate, and with what implications for the governance of development? How can commoning respond and what is the scope for linkages between movement for urban and rural justice across the global south and global north to address these widening cleavages?
- *Global targets, and local policy and governance*
What are the challenges of 'localisation' of the global agendas like the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework? What are the implications for multiple scales of governance and just urban-rural linkages? What is the scope for cities to collaborate with each other in pursuing the localisation of global targets?

This session is dedicated to our colleague and friend, Vanessa Watson, Professor of City Planning at the University of Cape Town, who died on the 15 September 2021. She was committed in all her work to the promotion of justice in the planning and governance of urban areas.

Chair: **Caren Levy, University College London**

Caren Levy is Professor of Transformative Urban Planning at the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU), Faculty of the Built Environment, UCL. She is an urban development planner specializing in planning, community-led development and governance with a focus on housing, transport and infrastructure and land management in urban areas in the Global South. She has a special interest in the institutionalisation of social justice in policy and planning, particularly related to the cross-cutting issues of gender, diversity and the environment. With a strong commitment to contributing to transformative practice, she has explored and developed innovative approaches to planning methodology, planning education and capacity building.

Caren has over 35 years' experience of teaching, applied research, capacity building and advisory work with partners in communities, governments, international organisations, and academia in a range of cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. She was Principal Investigator (PI) of a 4 ½ year GCRF supported research and capacity building programme, Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality (KNOW) (2017-2022), which worked with 13 partners across 12 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. She is a former Director of the Bartlett DPU (2005-12) and ViceDean International for the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment (2012-18).

Speakers:

- **Gautam Bhan, School of Human Development, Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS)**

Gautam Bhan is Associate Dean, School of Human Development, as well as Senior Lead, Academics and Research, School of Human Development at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. He holds a PhD in City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley.

At IIHS, Gautam teaches, researches and writes on the politics of urban poverty and inequality, urban and planning theory, housing, and identity and social practice. He anchors IIHS' work as a Centre for Excellence with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, as well as a knowledge partner to urban movements for housing rights. As part of the School of Human Development at IIHS, he also leads work on urban welfare regimes, social protection and informal work. New projects include work on child health outcomes for the children of informal workers in domestic work and construction, as well as advocacy work on urban social protection regimes. He is widely published. Most recently, he is the author of *In the Public's Interest: Evictions, Citizenship and Inequality in Contemporary Delhi* (University of Georgia Press 2017; Orient Blackswan 2017) and co-editor (with Smita Srinivasan and Vanessa Watson) of the *Routledge Companion to Planning in the Global South* (Routledge 2018).

- **Mona Fawaz, Professor in Urban Studies and Planning, American University of Beirut**

Mona Fawaz is Professor in Urban Studies and Planning at the American University of Beirut where she has co-founded the Beirut Urban Lab, a regional research center invested in working towards more inclusive, just, and viable cities. Mona's research spans across urban history and historiography, social and spatial justice, informality and the law, land, housing, property and space. She is the author of over 50 scholarly articles, book sections, and reports in Arabic, French and English. She has also worked as a consultant, advising on urban and regional development as well as housing, land, and property issues. In addition, Mona has been tightly involved in Beirut's ongoing transformations by publishing in the local press and speaking in numerous local venues where she has advocated for upgrading informal settlements, protecting the urban commons, improving urban liveability, adopting more inclusive planning standards, and more generally, defending the right to the city for the urban majorities.

Mona holds a BArch (1995) from the American University of Beirut, a MCP (1998) and Ph.D. (1994) in Urban Studies and Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies at Harvard University during the 2014/15 academic year and in Summer 2017. She has served on numerous national, regional and international juries, including the Aga Khan awards in 2019. She is also member of the editorial board of the journals *Planning Theory*, the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, and *City and Society*.

- **Susan Parnell, Global Challenges Research Professor, School of Geography, Bristol University**

Susan Parnell is a Professor in the School of Geography at the University of Bristol and Emeritus Professor at the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town. She has been actively involved in local, national and global urban policy debates around the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, leading the push for an urban goals, and is an advocate for better science policy engagement on cities. Her publications focus on how cities, past and present, respond to policy change. Her most recent books include the co-authored *Building a Capable State: Post Apartheid Service Delivery* (Zed, 2017) and the co-edited *The Urban Planet* (Cambridge, 2018) and *Localising SDGs in African Cities* (Springer, 2022).