

# INTERSECTIONS ON THE PERIPHERY:

The Good City in a Time of Crisis





Organisers and participants of the 'Intersections on the Periphery: the Good City in a Time of Crisis' seminar series gathered in Bangalore, India for the second workshop in January 2024. The workshop was hosted by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements. The first workshop, hosted by the African Centre for Cities, was held virtually in Cape Town in November 2023.x



## CONTENTS

<b>About the Seminar Series</b>	4
Cape Town Workshop Sessions	5
Bangalore Workshop Programme	6
<b>ABSTRACTS</b>	
1. The fixity of delivery: urban peripheral warehousing along Bangalore's industrial corridors	8
2. The making and on-going death of the Bhalswa landfill and stretching the limits of Delhi's periphery	8
3. Negotiating for space: violence, segregation and urban social movements in contemporary India	9
4. For the "good city" as commons: peripheral urbanization and inequality in Johannesburg	10
5. Peripheral urbanization	11
6. Housing crisis, environmental conservation and spatial justice: on urban regeneration in the peripheries of "green capitals": Copenhagen & Bristol	12
7. Centering the periphery in reimagining the good city: the fisher campaign to save the Ennore wetlands	13
8. Peripheralisation in post-ONDoy Metro Manila: collective life on the edge and imaginaries of urban resilience that "keep all the same"	13
9. Intersections of politicized urbanization and climate (in)justice on the Tel Aviv metropolitan periphery	14
10. I can't even recognise these Streets. I don't go out anywhere ': ageing inequalities and peri-urban processes	15
11. Analysing Urban Agriculture as a form of Peripheral Urbanisation	16
12. The good city, for whom?: a gendered intersectional perspective on peripheral urbanization through a case study of government college, Sanquelim-Goa	16
13. Urban queer landscapes: an ethnographic study of queer inclusive spaces in Bengaluru	17
14. Neither monitored, nor recognised: investigating the problem of air pollution in peri-urban areas of Hyderabad	18
15. Sustainable urban growth in the Himalayan region	19

## About the Seminar Series

The intersection of rapid peripheral urbanisation, profound climate impacts, and sharply growing inequalities has placed our existing conceptual frameworks and approaches in disarray. While we have a rich body of research examining each of these domains independently, we lack two vital understandings. First, how do we make sense of the intersection between these processes, particularly at the rapidly growing urban periphery? Second, what does understanding this intersection mean for working towards ‘the good city’?

Peripheral expansion has emerged as a dominant mode of urbanization today, reshaping urban lives, economies, socialities, and ecologies. We identify four key forms of peripheralisation: one, as a result of deliberate intervention by state or private actors including corridors, magnet cities, new towns, or programmes of massive suburbanization; two, off-shoot growth from larger urban centres which might include expansionary real estate speculation on the urban edge; three, the formation of peripheries through often gradual settlement of and auto construction by new and typically lower-income migrants, and the diversity of activities that emerge in unplanned and underserved areas such as urban villages; four, the marginalization and lack of research on certain types of urban residents who exist at urban peripheries (Keil, 2017; Brenner and Schmid, 2011; Guney et al, 2019; Caldeira, 2017; Holston, 2009; Holston and Caldeira, 2008; Pati, 2022; Tucker and Hassan 2021; Tucker 2023).

This seminar series ***‘Intersections on the periphery: the good city in a time of crisis’*** consists of a series of workshops at the University of Cape Town and the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. It is curated by Shriya Anand, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (India), Andrew Tucker, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town (South Africa), and Colin McFarlane, Durham University (United Kingdom), and is funded by the Urban Studies Foundation.



The first virtual workshop in Cape Town focused on different ways of knowing or understanding peripheral urbanisation. The workshop included paper presentations by researchers across geographies and themes that unpacked the role of planning and regulation, the relationship of infrastructure and peripheral urbanisation, and reflections on the good city.

## Cape Town Workshop Sessions

Session 1	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Tucker (African Centre for Cities)</li> <li>• Shriya Anand (Indian Institute for Human Settlements)</li> </ul>
Session 2	<p><b>Setting the context: peripheralization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liza Rose Cirolia (African Centre for Cities)</li> <li>• Gareth Haysom (African Centre for Cities)</li> <li>• Mercy Brown-Luthango (African Centre for Cities)</li> </ul>
Session 3	<p><b>Paper presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researching a Good African City that is yet to come: Gilbert Siame (University of Zambia)</li> <li>• Sprawling Cities, Shrinking Farms: Urban Expansion and Smallholder Farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa: Girma Mulu Alemu, Sophie Schramm, Wilbard Kombe (Ardhi University/ TU Dortmund University)</li> </ul>
Session 4	<p><b>Paper presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the “good city” as a commons: peripheral urbanization and inequality in Johannesburg: Federica Duca (Senior Researcher, PARI, Johannesburg)</li> <li>• Peripheral urbanization: Noor Mazhar (Visiting scholar at Berkley University)</li> </ul>
Session 5	<p><b>Plenary Discussion and Way forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colin McFarlane (Durham University)</li> <li>• Neha Sami (Indian Institute for Human Settlements)</li> </ul>



15 - 16 January 2024: Workshop at Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore

The second workshop in Bangalore (15-16 January 2024), deepened the theoretical and conceptual work initiated in Cape Town, to think about ways of linking peripheral urbanisation, climate change, and inequalities, and what these mean for our ideas about the 'good city'. This workshop offered a platform for a series of conversations that enabled participants to 'step back' and reflect, in an open-ended, dialogic way, to make sense of this intersection between peripheral urbanisation, climate change, and inequality, and what we can do about it. The workshop included a wide set of stakeholders and perspectives on the periphery, as well as scholars whose work lies at the intersection of at least two of the above three trends to think about what these mean for our ideas about the 'good city'.

### Bangalore Workshop Programme

15 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 (DAY 1)	
10 - 11 am	Welcome and Introduction to the workshop
11:30 - 1 pm	<p><b>Panel 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The good city, for whom? : a gendered intersectional perspective on peripheral urbanization through a case study of Government College, Sanquelim-Goa: Mekhla Salkar</li> <li>• Peripheralisation in post-Ordoy Metro Manila: collective life on the edge and imaginaries of urban resilience that "keep all the same": Maria Christine Alvarez</li> <li>• Remaking the good city through peripheral resettlement in India: Karen Coelho, Amita Bhide, Anant Maringanti</li> <li>• For the "good city" as a commons: peripheral urbanization and inequality in Johannesburg: Federica Duca</li> </ul>
2- 3:30pm	<p><b>Panel 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysing urban agriculture as a form of peripheral urbanisation: Rajat Kumar</li> <li>• The fixity of delivery: urban peripheral warehousing along Bangalore's industrial corridors: Aman Banerjee</li> <li>• Neither monitored, nor recognised: investigating the problem of air pollution in peri-urban areas of Hyderabad: Ravi Bhushan</li> <li>• The making and on-going death of the Bhalswa landfill and stretching the limits of Delhi's periphery: Aparna Agarwal</li> </ul>

4 - 5:30pm	<p><b>Plenary discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gautam Bhan (Indian Institute for Human Settlements)</li> <li>• Iromi Perera (Colombo Urban Lab)</li> <li>• Andrew Tucker (African Centre for Cities)</li> <li>• Shriya Anand (Indian Institute for Human Settlements)</li> </ul>
<b>16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 (DAY 2)</b>	
10- 11 am	<p><b>Panel 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiating for space: violence, segregation and urban social movements in contemporary India: Arslan Wali Khan</li> <li>• I can't even recognise these streets. I don't go out anywhere ': ageing inequalities and peri-urban processes: Prajwal Nagesh, Ajay Bailey, Sobin George, Martin Hyde, Lekha Subaiya</li> <li>• Urban queer landscapes: an ethnographic study of queer inclusive spaces in Bengaluru: Rameesa PM</li> </ul>
11:30- 1pm	<p><b>Panel 4 x</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing crisis, environmental conservation and spatial justice: on urban regeneration in the peripheries of "green capitals": Copenhagen &amp; Bristol: Ihnji John</li> <li>• Intersections of politicized urbanization and climate (in)justice on the Tel Aviv metropolitan periphery: Nathan Marom</li> <li>• Sustainable urban growth in the Himalayan region: Shrikant Gheesing</li> <li>• Centering the periphery in reimagining the good city - the fisher campaign to save the Ennore wetland: Nityanand Jayaraman, Lindsay Bremner, Karen Coelho</li> </ul>
2 -3:30 pm	<p><b>Plenary discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudeshna Mitra (Indian Institute for Human Settlements)</li> <li>• Loraine Kennedy (Centre for South Asian Studies)</li> <li>• Colin McFarlane (Durham University)</li> <li>• Neha Sami (Indian Institute for Human Settlements)</li> </ul>
3:30-4 pm	Conclusion and way forward



## The fixity of delivery: urban peripheral warehousing along Bangalore's industrial corridors

**Aman Banerjee**

From ten-minute groceries to same-day Amazon shipping, life in India's megacities is increasingly identified with the phenomenon of seamless delivery. The Indian government's new Nationalist Logistics Policy too promises to deliver development as commodity circulation. Yet, underpinning this seemingly frictionless world of motion and flows lies a built environment of great fixity. In this paper, I explore how the dialectic of fixity and motion shapes the city through the lens of the warehouse. These obtrusive box-like structures simultaneously shape the city's corporeal form even as they make possible the commodity mobility that typifies the experience of urban modernity. I study these dynamics along an industrial corridor in Bangalore housing nearly 40% of the city's warehousing supply in 2022. Bangalore accounted for 4 million, of the nation's 47 million, square feet of new warehousing space in 2022.

Despite the warehousing sectors' allusions to modernity and development, I argue that urban peripheral warehousing reproduces two key dynamics of inequality. First, it reinforces historic caste-based patterns of land inequality while producing new vectors of class inequity. Since low rentals make buying land for warehousing unfeasible for developers, much urban peripheral warehousing is produced by local, caste-dominant landholders who convert their ancestral agricultural land holdings into rent-producing assets. The warehouse thus does more than just storage, it sutures an emergent world of transnational commodity and capital flows to historically rural and agrarian social institutions, land relations, and caste and class hierarchies. Second, rather than risking fixed investments in land, domestic and transnational capitals seeking to profit off India's E Commerce boom outsource the risk of warehouse rentals and management to sub-contracted third-party logistics providers. As lead firms appropriate value and subordinate risk, these third party providers are rendered flexible and contingent even as they perform

critical distribution functions. My arguments draw from semi-structured interviews with warehouse landowners and tenant firms along the corridor, warehouse procurement experts and government officials at both local and state levels, in addition to observation of warehousing brokers. The paper challenges conceptions of the 'good' city as one that promises immediate material satisfaction to its middle and upper classes.

## The making and on-going death of the Bhalswa landfill and stretching the limits of Delhi's periphery

**Aparna Agarwal**

This paper explores the politics of invisibilising waste through discarded spaces and built infrastructures. In particular, it examines the socio-spatial making and un-making of the Bhalswa landfill in Delhi, from colonial to post-colonial times. The Bhalswa landfill, which once stood on the North-West periphery of the city, has now become relatively central in terms of its location because of the ever-increasing urbanisation and expansion of the city. The landfill exhausted its capacity in 2007 but still continues to receive 2400 metric tonnes of waste on daily basis. It's gigantic presence has become an eyesore for city dwellers and raises considerable challenge and question on the working of city's municipality.

In this paper, I seek to understand the processes and politics behind the opening of the landfill and the recent attempts of its closure (due its insufficient waste receiving capacity), which have effectively failed. In doing so, I analyse the association of waste with urban marginalities both physical and social—in terms of the peripheral spaces it occupies and the lower-caste and class communities residing around the neighbouring areas of the landfill. Notably, here successful waste management is understood in terms of continuously peripheralizing and invisibilising waste by dumping it in 'distant' locations or by incinerating it. Furthermore, the paper critically explores the role of technology-led infrastructure recently installed around the landfill in eliminating the waste



Panorama of aerial view of Jaipur (Pink city)

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crisis by invisibilising it—both spatially and materially, by incinerating waste and converting it into energy for profiteering purposes, further pushing the limit of periphery and peripheralizing waste into atmosphere in different form

(mostly gaseous). Thus, in this paper I largely explore how this 'dirty' landscape of discarded materials offers us complex insights into spatial inequalities, caste-based social hierarchies and limits of technology-led infrastructure.

## Negotiating for space: violence, segregation and urban social movements in contemporary India

**Arslan Wali Khan**

The urban Muslim population in India presents a unique socio-economic landscape. As per Sachar committee report in 2006, 35% of Muslims reside in urban areas, yet paradoxically, they often find themselves comparatively impoverished compared to their rural counterparts. Furthermore, Muslims in India exist on the fringes of socio-economic and political relevance, a situation perpetuated by post-independence incidents of violence that have sustained a disquieting dynamic of segregation. This paper embarks on a critical exploration of the spatial dimension of urban Muslim marginality, with a primary objective of formulating an analytical framework for the study of urban social movements, exemplified by the Anti CAA Shaheen Bagh movement. This endeavour seeks to address the citizenship deficit experienced by urban Muslims and unravel the intricate interplay of violence and segregation that has catalysed such movements.

Drawing inspiration from Lefebvre's insights,

we delve into the spatial manifestation of a Marxist notion of fetishism, observing how the fetishization of Muslim spaces, including their food and culture, leads to their commodification and cultural marketization. Paradoxically, these very spaces, marked by violence and segregation, render urban Muslims akin to Agamben's homo sacer, deprived of substantive promises of rights and citizenship. Susan Strange's perspective on the diminishing sovereignty of the nation-state in the face of neoliberal globalization is invoked, underscoring how the state's monopoly on collective violence wanes as non-state actors increasingly participate in perpetuating violence against minority communities in urban India.

This paper seeks to present a comprehensive framework that illuminates the political agency of Indian Muslims. It examines how they navigate their distinctive identity and interests within urban India encompassing demands for equal rights, representation, and the assertion of their unique identity and concerns. In sum, this research seeks to provide valuable insights into the complex and multifaceted engagement of urban Muslims with the Indian state in a rapidly evolving socio-political landscape.

## For the “good city” as commons: peripheral urbanization and inequality in Johannesburg

**Federica Duca**

In this paper I address the relationship between peripheral urbanization and inequality and the implications for the understanding and the making of the good city. I contend that the good city can only be built and sustained when it is thought as commons, that is with a democratic self-government of social reproduction (De Angelis, 2022). The reflections are based on a decade of research on urban wealth and a recent project to build a new smart city in Johannesburg. It looks at their governance, management of resources and the meanings associated to transformation in the city.

It finds that despite racial and spatial inequalities in Johannesburg, both new gated golf estates and the plan to build a new smart city are presented as the epitome of the democratic and post-apartheid city and. This, for different reasons, contradicts the progressive urban transformation.

Gated golf estates represent new central peripheries embedded in the process of massive urbanization and expansion of the city, led by the rhetoric of inclusivity and densification. However, they foster cleavages, and a “city of clubs” characterized by selective solidarity and exclusive management of resources. Because racially diverse, they are narrated as representative of the new city. However, they contribute to detracting the commons and hinder the

possibility of a good city for all.

The plan for the new smart city on the outskirts of the city on the other side is explicitly presented as a democratic project, with mixed and low-cost housing and an aversion to gated communities. Yet, the plan does not contemplate informal settlements and the development of the new city, if it follows the plan, comes with evictions. These two cases are presented by authorities and wealthy resi-

dents as examples of the “good city”: new and inclusive. Yet, because of their economic value, governance hierarchies and visions of the city, they foster inequality and do not contribute to the good city as commons.

Based on these cases and building on Amin’s idea of the good city (2006), I conclude the paper with a set of propositions for the “good city as commons”.

## Peripheral urbanization

**Noor Mazhar**

Providing housing has been on the political agenda in South Africa since the transition to democracy in 1994. Despite the scale of the state-subsidized housing provision programs, there is a backlog in the delivery of houses, and the government and the formal property market have been unable to provide well-located, affordable housing. Thus, residents have adopted creative strategies to ‘auto-construct’ their own spaces (Caldeira, 2017), in the form of backyard housing, conversion of lofts, basements, or outbuildings, subletting rooms and spaces in the inner city and demolishing existing buildings to build at higher densities (Turok, 2011).

Although the City of Cape Town has approved an official densification policy, most of the densification happens outside of formal planning systems (Isandla Institute, 2022). Although these forms of densification lie outside of the formal planning systems, these are not necessarily illegal. Instead, they are a form of socio-spatial formation in which the citizens and governments interact in transversal and complex ways: “Actors in this way of creating cities – residents, government officials at various levels, developers, speculators, activists – engage with each other not necessarily outside of mainstream logics, but rather by taking them transversally as a matter of negotiation and transformation” (Caldeira, 2017: p. 16).

These “people-led forms of densification”

(Moyo, 2020: p. 160) meet the objectives set by the densification strategy by achieving higher densities and increasing housing supply. However, at the same time, they contravene municipal planning regulations and challenge the traditional homeownership model which underpins national housing policies in South Africa, as these provide rental tenure albeit with massive variation in quality, cost, and typology. The bulk of rental housing, provided by the private “household sector” (p. 49), is not fully acknowledged in policy because an official acknowledgement of households providing rental and backyard housing can be viewed as the government’s approval of inadequate shelter and retraction from pre-election promises of providing housing for all citizens (Watson and McCarthy, 1998).

Thus, instead of viewing densification through binary categories of formality and informality, planned or unplanned, or approved and unapproved, this research explores incremental densification occurring through rental tenure across the breadth of regulatory compliance and income brackets. Placed within a context of Cape Town, it explores how planned densities differ from actual densities in middle-income and low-income housing areas and unravels how different stakeholders envision, engage with, and implement densification across the city. By doing so, it aims to provide localized evidence to illustrate how the City of Cape Town, its residents, and other stakeholders “engage transversally” (Caldeira, 2016: p. 4) to co-produce urban spaces, and how this engagement unfolds in highly unequal and racialized contexts.

## Housing crisis, environmental conservation and spatial justice: on urban regeneration in the peripheries of "green capitals": Copenhagen & Bristol

Ihnji John

Global attention and mainstream efforts to achieve "sustainable development" have garnered rising consciousness in addressing climate impacts of urbanization. Compound-ed with the challenges of addressing growing inequalities, however, becoming a "good city" by both social and ecological standards is often a mystified ideal than a manifested reality. The sites of peripheral urbanization, in this context, provide a concrete material transactional triad between these two conflicting aspirations. Notably, the increasing popular recognition of housing crisis clamours for "building more", of which materialization is often most visible in the city outskirts; these territories, however, are equally home to unruly landscapes and more-than-human species, perceived as worth preserving by environmental activists. In other cases, on the other hand, previously-under-valued areas—overburdened with "unwanted land use"—come to be recognised as the city's untapped land market waiting to be reactivated.

This paper explores the recent (s)urban redevelopment projects in two European "Green Capitals", Copenhagen (awarded in 2014) and Bristol (awarded in 2015), both recognized for their efforts to deliver sustainable transport, food production, district-based energy networks, and development of eco-communities (e.g., passive housing, carbon-conscious construction, self-builds). Even in these presumably "good cities", however, the peripheral urbanisation is an ongoing, politically contested process. In Copenhagen, the debates surrounding Ørestad

### Centering the periphery in reimagining the good city: the fisher campaign to save the Ennore wetlands

Nityanand Jayaraman, Lindsay Bremner, Karen Coelho

Land-centred, hydrophobic urbanism has long

(a new town in South Copenhagen) have only proved the difficulty of negotiating various social and environmental priorities; while the government cites housing crisis and national pension investment returns as the legitimate reason for developing more land, environment activists see the same land as valuable habitats of species and landscapes that are increasingly becoming rare in Denmark. In Bristol, on the other hand, a previously working-class suburb (Lockleaze)—home to illegal dumping sites that were referred by scholars as examples of spatial/environmental injustice—now embarks on a journey of "regeneration": as the area becomes the targeted site for new "affordable housing" developments, the existing residents express mixed sentiments concerning the paradoxes of neighbourhood improvement (e.g., gentrification).

Through engagement with these two concrete scenarios, the paper details how the urban peripheries are increasingly becoming the sites of plural value ontologies in competition, especially pertaining to the social and the environmental. Housing crisis, environmental conservation, and spatial justice (e.g., "affordability" for whom, locations of "unwanted land use") together condition the trajectories of land development that are context-contingent and yet also thematically comparable, bearing broad insights on what it means or takes to become a "good city". Drawing on a "transitionalist" approach to social inquiry (Colin Koopman) as well as an agent-centred perspective on morality and ethics (Jane Addams), the paper will pay specific attention to the negotiation processes between government policy narratives (that are often constrained by the capitalist economic structure) and proposed alternatives by residents and grass-root groups (that harness spatial materiality as evidence of situated land ontology beyond real-estate-land).

seen wetlands as hinterlands to be colonised for urbanisation and industrialisation. They provide the invisible collateral for "good city" narratives of world-class infrastructure, uninterrupted energy and economic progress. Since the 1960s, the Ennore wetlands in north Chennai have progressively shrunk and degraded under an onslaught of state sponsored coal-



fired power plants, petrochemical industries, ports and roads. The once-thriving wetlands with diverse estuarine habitats – mangroves, salt marshes, scrub and oyster reefs – are on the brink of collapse threatening the lives and livelihoods of thousands of fishers, farmers, cattle-herders and salt workers. But a city that abuses its wetlands does so at great risk to itself. The disastrous floods of 2015 and 2023 in Chennai have revealed the folly of treating the urban wetlands as just land waiting to be developed. The waterbodies, lagoons and marshes whose wetness was deliberately zoomed out of focus to justify its repurposing to aid capitalist accumulation has been brought back into focus by Ennore's fishers who alongwith city-based activists launched the Save Ennore Creek campaign to reclaim and restore their livelihood commons. By centering attention on the wetlands and highlighting the ecologies and economies it supports, they have re-imag-

ined the good city and exposed and upended the centre-periphery relationship.

This paper will examine the two contending narratives of the good city. It will analyse the instruments – policies, plans, environmental impact assessments, and court orders -- which have legitimised the state's colonization of the wetlands, and the discursive strategies used by Ennore's fishers to resist it, including the stories-centred Peoples' Plan' for the eco-restoration of Ennore Creek. We will analyse these 'good city' stories using current literature on the potential of storytelling to decolonise planning and imagine the future otherwise (Ortiz 2023). We will present the radically transformative possibilities that can be unleashed through struggle to counter the coloniality of planning the good city by exposing its tendency to reproduce oppressive social structures and normalise capitalist accumulation.

### Peripheralisation in post-Onoy Metro Manila: collective life on the edge and imaginaries of urban resilience that "keep all the same"

Maria Kristine Alvarez

The contiguous process of clearing and fortifying Metro Manila's fluvial and littoral landscapes as a flood management, disaster resilience, and climate adaptation intervention

has resulted in the eviction of at least 52,000 households since 2012. Whilst this large-scale displacement is indeed tied to more familiar neoliberal urban processes, the resilience agenda as a driver of dispossession is key to understanding the scale and politics of the peripheralisation that followed the devastating 2009 Onoy flood disaster that catalysed shifts in disaster and housing governance in the Philippines.

Building on Kristian Saguin's (2022) concept of the edge as a location, relation, and condition, I trace the edges produced by resilient city making by following the flows of displacement and emplacement from Metro Manila's waterways. I situate the edge in and beyond the city. In the former, the edge pertains to the 'danger zone', the 'staging areas', and the community-built in-city relocation housing along riparian and coastal corridors. Whereas in the latter, the edge refers to resettlement villages beyond the city. In these spaces, I enquire into evictees' dreams of the good life and consider the timid intimations of their desires. Reflecting on people's ideas of ginhawa (relief, also well-being) in deathscapes on the edge,

I attend to the forms, practices, and agencies that produce collective life (Bhan et al., 2020). Finally, taking stock of these accounts, I juxtapose them first, with Philippine urban, development, disaster, and climate frameworks and plans, and then with the multilateral agendas that underpin them, to distill the kind of life they envision and the urban futures they prefigure.

I argue that the aspirations these texts yearn and the transformations they seek intend to "keep all the same" (Westman & Castán Broto, 2022), thereby dulling the capacious promise of the edge and thwarting emancipatory resilient futures.

### Intersections of politicized urbanization and climate (in)justice on the Tel Aviv metropolitan periphery

#### Nathan Marom

The Tel Aviv metropolitan region (TAMR) presents an exemplary – if extreme – case of highly politicized and unequal peripheral urbanization. It stretches from the shores of the Mediterranean, with its core, 'global' city of Tel Aviv surrounded by high-income and high-tech satellite towns, deep into the Occupied Palestinian Territories, where state-engineered infrastructures seamlessly connect 'peripheral' Jewish-Israeli settlements and simultaneously enclose and encroach on Palestinian towns and villages.

While mainstream political discourse (and even most of the academic literature) allude to a symbolic 'green line' separating two national spatial entities (Israel and the Palestinian Territories), I argue that this is a deeply flawed imaginary: it obscures the fact that in the past 55 years, initially-separate urban systems have been unilaterally merged into an extended and unequal metropolitan region through the force of politicized peripheral urbanisation. This 'metropolization' is also grounded in geographical facts and 'metabolic' processes, for example, taking place within a shared river basin or through expropriating a large share

of construction materials that support Israeli urban development from Palestinian quarries.

In this paper, I will address these conflictual processes of political peripheralization through the prism of climate justice (CJ). I present a study of a range of plans and projects on TAMR's periphery that intersect at different scales with CJ. This includes large-scale government plans that further entrench the unilateral metropolization process (e.g. 'Samaria Gate') and undermine CJ; alongside local activist campaigns that oppose them and offer alternative visions of CJ (the 'One Climate' campaign against the expansion of a stone quarry that benefits extractivist and polluting industries at the expense of adjacent Palestinian communities.) Using these cases, I will also try to think 'from the periphery to the center', reflecting on high-profile projects at the core (e.g. Tel Aviv's climate action and urban forest plans) and examining what such unequal peripheral-core relationships might mean for contemporary notions of the 'good' – sustainable, climate-adapted, equitable – metropolis. Finally, through this workshop, I hope to develop a comparison between TAMR and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, where I have also studied plans dealing with peripheral urbanization (i.e. the Concept Plan and Regional Plan) – as very different cases intersecting peripheral urbanization, climate change, and inequality.



### I can't even recognise these streets. I don't go out anywhere': ageing inequalities and peri-urban processes

#### Prajwal Nagesh, Ajay Bailey, Sobin George, Martin Hyde, Lekha Subaiya

Literature on peri-urban processes has focused on the issues of speculative real estate, infrastructural imaginaries, and inequalities. Rapid changes in the built environment and top-down installation of urban milieu can profoundly impact older adults. However, we have had a limited theorisation of lived and ageing experiences in the same geographical location, earlier as a village and now as an urban ward. Cities in LMICs, such as Bengaluru (India), are witnessing an increase in the size of the older population in their peripheral urban regions, but there is relatively little understanding of the risks of exclusion at a later age in these liminal zones.

This study, set in a peripheral ward of Anjanapura (Bengaluru, India), focuses on the experiences of exclusion and inclusion of socio-economically marginalised older adults (50 years and above) and their access to work, health care, and leisure. The research uses a multidimensional old-age exclusion

framework to highlight how the domains of neighbourhood, material resources, mobility infrastructure, and social relations influence the risks of social exclusion. We use a qualitative approach by combining (eighteen) in-depth interviews of older adults, key informants (transport personnel and community leaders) and behavioural mapping.

Our findings highlight how institutionalised exclusion from civic infrastructure accentuates the precariousness of ageing. The rigidity of traditional hierarchies of caste and religion in peri-urban regions has meant that older adults who were poor, women who belonged to marginalised castes experienced constrained mobility to access labour markets, health care, and social life, compounding their place-based exclusion. Despite social networks and solidarity, older adults on the periphery faced individualisation of risks while trying to access the basic amenities, thereby falling between the gaps between the urban-rural milieu and governance.

Imagining a 'good city' and 'age-friendly city' needs to accommodate such hybrid transitional urban processes, in the absence of which active ageing in these rising peripheries can be impeded.

## Analysing urban agriculture as a form of peripheral urbanisation

### Rajat Kumar

Yamuna Khadar in Delhi, a twenty-two kilometres stretch passing through the city, historically has been cultivated by the agrarian castes, residing in the villages along the river. With rapid urbanisation and the transnational discourse of 'world cities' gaining currency, the site has witnessed deagrarianization i.e. agrarian land around the river has been acquired over the years for projects like roads, flyovers, metro rail, urban parks, temples, commonwealth games village, afforestation drives and biodiversity conservation projects. However, this has not meant displacement of agrarian communities from khadar. Rather agrarian communities have found ways to co-exist with big capital. Drawing on my ethnography of agrarian communities in Khadar, I highlight that in this form of peripheral urbanisation, which I call urban agriculture, the urban and agriculture co-exist and persist though in a highly contested and precarious manner, and in a constant discourse of displacement. Resulting in emergence and persistence of agrarian spaces in the heart

of the city. In addition to this, I highlight that urban agriculture as a form of peripheral urbanisation helps us throw light on the lack of research on migrants in urban spaces who take up agrarian activities. They can neither be classified as wage labourers nor as peasants as they have characteristics of both.

Therefore, in this paper I argue that urban agriculture reflects the various possibilities that emerge in the heterogenous and uneven ecologies of urbanism in the global south. I specifically focus on changing/contested urban ecologies in the global south occupied by the agrarian communities and migrant peasants for cultivation, to understand the intersection of peripheral urbanisation and inequalities in urban economy i.e. the poor migrants are tied to highly precarious land-based livelihood activities in urban spaces because opportunities for them in other sectors of the urban economy are limited, and their income from non-agrarian ventures is not enough for them to live in a dignified way in a city. This understanding of the intersection helps in our march towards a 'good city', where the urban discourses can strive for inclusive and just urban ecologies, which support diverse livelihoods and multiple senses of belonging.

## The Good City, For Whom?: a gendered intersectional perspective on peripheral urbanization through a case study of Government College, Sanquelim-Goa

### Mekhla Salkar

This paper aims to initiate a discourse at the convergence of peripheral urbanization and intersectional gender studies, through a case study of Government College, Sanquelim-Goa. The study begins by delineating the factors that have led to the peripheralization of this small town in North Goa, following which it has seen an immense influx of development, and has become a hub of business and culture to surrounding villages.

One epicenter of such development is Government College, Sanquelim, which has benefited from aid and opportunities, including international exposure. However, native stu-

dents of this college, most of whom come from underdeveloped rural backgrounds, hesitate to develop their full potential, academic and professional, due to inequality. The rural-urban divide proves to be a jarring hindrance in their development, causing them to settle for jobs below their qualification. This is especially true for female students, who are rarely allowed to migrate out of town, and lack the confidence to compete with their urban contemporaries, opting instead for day jobs risen due to commercial development in Sanquelim.

Ironically, then, peripheralization has taken as much from female students as it has given, if not more. This begs the question of whether urbanization at the fringe in itself is enough to ensure societal development, or does socio-economic inequality prevail in spite of attempts to bridge the gap between the center and the periphery. As such, the present study proposes a detailed analysis of the data

of students who have graduated from Government College Sanquelim in the past ten years, in order to examine the impact that peripheral urbanization has had on female students. It aims at parsing trends of gender-ratios of graduates, career paths chosen by female students, migration patterns and so on, to evaluate the discrimination inherent in peripheralization. The accusation is that in lieu of equitable develop-

ment, peripheralization is creating a secondary workforce to cater to the urban center.

The ultimate aim of this study is to suggest improvements in peripheralization activity so as to benefit the margins. The paper concludes by establishing an inevitable intersectionality in peripheralization, without which any level of development remains counterintuitive.



## Urban queer landscapes: an ethnographic study of queer inclusive spaces in Bengaluru

### Dr. Rameesa PM

The formation of peripheries in urban landscapes can be resulted from various socio-political, cultural and economic apparatuses. The significance of gender and sexuality in the process of identity formation facilitates an enquiry into the lived experiences of gender minorities in city dwellings. Peripheral expansion in the modern age of urbanization delimits the physicality of spaces and promotes gender inclusivity in its framework. This paper attempts to examine queer public culture in Bengaluru by engaging with various social and cultural institutions. Using ethnographic study and digital ethnography as the research methodology, this paper explores how queer public culture reshapes and reimagines the gender hegemony. This paper seeks to outline the significance of gender inclusivity in the making of 'good city'.

As a metropolitan city, Bengaluru upholds cultural exchange as one of the core values. Expanding the nuances of feminism, the queer community spaces in Bengaluru constantly negotiates with the process of othering. Inclusive practices and policies in educational institutions and in work front, including various MNCs, remain crucial in the process of coming out of closets. Bengaluru Namma Pride March, Bengaluru Queer Film Festival, Queer Habba performances, and Drag Queen performances in pubs are some of the celebrated expressions of queerness and gender fluidity today. Furthermore, the role of recreational NGOs and theatre groups in reclaiming public spaces are also noteworthy. Activities ranging from slam poetry reading sessions, book discussions, and cross-dressing performances also contribute to the cultural realm of the urban landscape. Similarly, digital content creation about the queer community through various YouTube channels and community pages, also plays an integral part in the production of knowledge in the

public realm. Therefore, this study proposes to analyse the queer public culture in the city as Foucauldian model of heterotopia, that wel-

comes gender inclusivity towards the making of 'a good city'.

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### **Neither monitored, nor recognised: Investigating the problem of air pollution in peri-urban areas of Hyderabad**

**Ravi Bhushan**

In the last few decades, urban expansion into the peripheries has given rise to the creation of peri-urban areas on the outskirts of metropolitan boundaries. These areas, particularly in developing countries like India, exhibit a blend of urban and rural characteristics characterized by mixed land use and the presence of diverse stakeholders with conflicting interests. They are undergoing complex land use changes and rapid infrastructural development, despite their administrative non-recognition and lack of adequate institutions of governance. Due to the absence of robust regulatory mechanisms, these spaces are witnessing the relocation of polluting industries, haphazard construction activities, and a surge in vehicular pollution. As a result, peri-urban areas are emerging as new centres of air pollution in India. Due to lax regulatory mechanisms, these spaces are witnessing relocation of polluting industries, haphazard construction activities and increased vehicular pollution, leading to their emergence

as new centres of air pollution across the major metropolitans in India. Despite the transboundary nature of air and the elevated concentration of air pollutants in peri-urban areas, air pollution is still not recognised as a problem for the peri-urban regions.

My research delves into the issue of air pollution within the peri-urban areas surrounding Hyderabad, through the lens of environmental justice. There has been limited application of the environmental justice framework for recognising the problem of air pollution in the peri-urban areas and engaging with the unequal impact of pollutants. The study employs remotely sensed data to establish the extent of air pollution within these peri-urban regions. Utilizing insights derived from remote sensing-based monitoring, the paper aims to shed light on the disparities in air pollution exposure experienced by various communities within these peri-urban areas. Additionally, the research examines how changes in land use and differential access to resources contribute to unequal exposure to air pollutants in Hyderabad's peri-urban areas. By applying the pluralistic environmental justice framework, the study investigates how the lack of representation

and the failure to acknowledge air pollution in peri-urban Hyderabad result in environmental

injustice for the vulnerable communities on the peripheries of the metropolitan.

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### **Sustainable urban growth in the Himalayan region**

**Shrikant Gheesing**

The Himalayas - the highest mountain range in the world, are a source of life for millions of people who depend on its rivers, forests and biodiversity. The Himalayas are a source of natural beauty and inspiration, where religions have developed over time. The Himalayas are home to millions of people who depend on its natural resources and ecosystem services. Hence maintaining the Himalayas or the mountain ecosystems as providers of ecosystem services such as water, biodiversity, carbon storage, and cultural and recreational services is vital for the well-being of present and future generations. Urbanisation in the Himalaya is a relatively recent occurrence in India, but it is rapidly increasing. The entire Indian Himalayan Range (IHR) has experienced significant socio-economic change over the past few decades, with a 49% average decadal urban population growth rate, compared to a national average of 30.06%, driven by rapid population growth, mass tourism, improved road infrastructure, and settlement expansion. But due to the

rapid decline in natural resources, disruption of suitable agricultural ecosystem, and increase in disaster vulnerabilities in the region aggravated due to Climate Change have affected the natural livelihoods of the indigenous population which is causing their mass migration from hill villages to small towns in the hills, in search of better and sustainable livelihoods. The pace at which the process of urban development in the Himalayan regions is taking place is largely rapid, unplanned and unregulated, as a result of which the altered landscape composition and configuration of the Himalayan region are affecting the key ecological processes supporting human wellbeing.

This paper would aim to assess the urgent need to adopt sustainable and adaptive urban planning and management practices that can reduce the exposure and risk of the Himalayan population to natural climate hazards, considering the past and current development trajectories related to urban growth and recommends the government to come up with a National Urban policy, focussed on the Himalayan region of India, proposing a framework for sustainable landscape development in Himalayan region for urban planners and policymakers.



Skyline and buildings of Hyderabad city, India

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