THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK ON CITIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

The renaissance in urban theory draws directly from a fresh focus on the neglected realities of cities beyond the west and embraces the global south as the epicentre of urbanism. This Handbook engages the complex ways in which cities of the global south and the global north are rapidly shifting, the imperative for multiple genealogies of knowledge production, as well as a diversity of empirical entry points to understand contemporary urban dynamics.

The Handbook works towards a geographical realignment in urban studies, bringing into conversation a wide array of cities across the global south – the ‘ordinary’, ‘mega’, ‘global’ and ‘peripheral’. With interdisciplinary contributions from a range of leading international experts, it profiles an emergent and geographically diverse body of work. The contributions draw on conflicting and divergent debates to open up discussion on the meaning of the city in, or of, the global south; arguments that are fluid and increasingly contested geographically and conceptually. It reflects on critical urbanism, the macro- and micro-scale forces that shape cities, including ideological, demographic and technological shifts, and rapidly changing global and regional economic dynamics. Working with southern reference points, the chapters present themes in urban politics, identity and environment in ways that (re)frame our thinking about cities. The Handbook engages the twenty-first-century city through a ‘southern urban’ lens to stimulate scholarly, professional and activist engagements with the city.

Susan Parnell is an Urban Geographer in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science and also serves on the Executive Committee of the African Centre for Cities, both at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Sophie Oldfield is a Geographer and Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.
”This Handbook brings together some of the most interesting and prominent voices on cities to speak of and from the conurbations in which the majority of the World finds itself. Thinking on cities has been dominated by perspectives from the north, but this volume provides an elegant and insightful reassessment; one that manages to get past familiar but unhelpful north–south dualisms. It illuminates the lives and spaces of the many, the politics of being and becoming, the materiality of urban formation, and the contours of a new urbanism informed from the south. An essential and compelling read put together with care by the editors.”

Ash Amin, 1931 Chair in Geography and Fellow of Christ’s College, University of Cambridge, UK

”Cities across the global south are busily reconstructing multiple forms of ‘received’ twentieth-century urbanism. During the early twenty-first century, they will help reshape the global and regional economic landscapes, along with our contemporary imaginations of justice, good governance, social development and sustainability. Through this, they will almost certainly create new geographies, histories and epistemologies. Under the editorship of Parnell & Oldfield, this Handbook explores this diverse and heterodox terrain in a rich and timely contribution to the theory and practice of critical and transformative urbanism as articulated by leading voices of the global south.”

Aromar Revi, Director Indian Institute of Human Settlements, India
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CONTRIBUTORS

Adriana Allen is a Senior Lecturer at The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London, where she currently leads the Research Cluster on Environmental Justice, Urbanisation and Resilience. She is also the Co-Director of the UCL Environment Institute theme on Sustainable Cities. Originally trained as an urban planner in Argentina, she specialized over the years in the fields of urban environmental planning and political ecology.

Nufar Avni has a masters in urban planning from Ben Gurion University of the Negev, where she explored gray space and housing policies in Colombo, Sri Lanka and Tel-Aviv-Jaffa, Israel. Her research interests are sustainable urbanism, housing policies, urban renewal and community planning and she is continuing her doctoral research in the School of Urban Planning at McGill.

Roger Behrens is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Cape Town. He directs the Centre for Transport Studies (CfTS), and the African Centre of Excellence for Studies in Public and Non-motorized Transport (ACET).

Claire Bénit-Gbaffou is an Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. She is the Acting Director of the Center for Urbanism and the Built Environment Studies (CUBES) at Wits University, and associate researcher in UMR LAVUE-Mosaique (Université de Paris X, France). She is interested in urban governance and politics, community participation, local leadership and urban change.

Solomon Benjamin is an Urbanist, and Faculty Member at the Humanities and Social Science Department of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India. Located within critical studies, his interests focus on contests over urban land, economy and globalization. His current work explores the relationship between Indian and Chinese cities shaped by small firm economies, and small town urbanization in coastal South India.

Chris Benner is an Associate Professor of Community and Regional Development, and Chair of the Geography Graduate Group at the University of California, Davis. His research focuses on the relationships between technological change, regional development and the structure of economic opportunity, focusing on regional labour markets and the transformation of work and employment patterns.
Contributors

Ingrid Brudvig is a doctoral student in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cape Town. Her research focuses on the emergence of conviviality in diverse migrant communities in Cape Town, South Africa. Her research involves fieldwork and narratives techniques to explore how localized perceptions of belonging influence conceptualizations of citizenship in contemporary South Africa.

Deborah Fahy Bryceson is an economic geographer and Reader in Urban Studies at the University of Glasgow. Her recent research has been focused on the process of deagrarianization, income diversification in rural and urban areas, and mining.

Robert Buckley is the Julien Studley Fellow in the Graduate Program in International Affairs at the New School. Previously he was an Advisor and Managing Director at the Rockefeller Foundation, and Lead Economist at the World Bank and held positions at a number of universities – Syracuse, Johns Hopkins and the University of Pennsylvania.

Teresa P.R. Caldeira is an anthropologist and Professor at the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on predicaments of urbanization and reconfigurations of spatial segregation and social discrimination, mostly in cities of the global south. She has been studying the relationships between urban form and political transformation, particularly in the context of democratization, and was named a Guggenheim Fellow in 2012.

Sylvia Chant is Professor of Development Geography at the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, where she is Director of the MSc in Urbanisation and Development. Sylvia has conducted research in Mexico, Costa Rica, The Philippines and Gambia, and has specialist interests in gender and poverty, female employment and urban labour markets, rural migration, housing, and female-headed households.

Martha Chen is the International Coordinator of the global action-research-policy network Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and a Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Xiangming Chen is Dean and Director of the Center for Urban and Global Studies and Raether Distinguished Professor of Global Urban Studies and Sociology at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut and Guest Professor in the School of Social Development and Public Policy at Fudan University in Shanghai, China.

Jonathan Crush is the CIGI Chair in Global Migration and Development at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Ontario, and Honorary Professor at the University of Cape Town. He has published extensively on global migration and African food security issues.

Julio D. Dávila is Professor of Urban Policy and International Development, and Director of the Development Planning Unit at University College London. He has over 25 years international experience in research and consultancy projects in over a dozen countries of the global south.

John E. Fernández is Head of the Building Technology Program of the Department of Architecture and co-Director of the International Design Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He directs the Urban Metabolism Group and is a practising architect.
Contributors

Philippe Gervais-Lambony, Professor at the University Paris Ouest Nanterre and member of the University Institute of France, is an urban geographer. His research focuses on African cities. He has published on issues of urbanity, construction of local identities, urban policy and spatial justice. Philippe is a member of the UMR LAVUE (the Mosaics Team), and the editor of the journal Justice Spatiale/Spatial Justice.

Saskia Greyling is a human geographer with a masters degree from the University of Cape Town. Her research interests focus on housing and the politics of citizen−state encounters. She works for the Mistra Urban Futures programme at the African Centre for Cities, where she is part of a team researching sustainable urban pathways. She has been the editorial assistant on two volumes, including this Handbook and Africa’s Urban Revolution.

Richard Harris, an urban historical geographer, is Professor of Geography at McMaster University, Canada. He has written about the history of suburban development, owner-building and housing policy in North America, Africa and India. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Clare Herrick is a Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at the Department of Geography, King’s College London with a particular research interest in health and the urban.

Robert Home is Professor in Land Management at Anglia Ruskin University, UK. His published research on planning history and land management includes Of Planting and Planning: The Making of British Colonial Towns (1997 and 2013) and Local case studies in African Land Law (edited, 2012).

Marie Huchzermeyer is a Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Marie’s research interests include informal settlement policy, with a particular concern about the post-millennial drive globally to eradicate informal settlements and the impacts of this on African cities, as well as private tenement investment as a poorly recognized form of affordable housing supply in cities such as Nairobi.

Katherine Hyman is a doctoral candidate in the Architecture, Planning and Geomatics Department at the University of Cape Town. She received her M.Phil. in Sustainable Development Management and Planning from Stellenbosch University. Her research interests focus on urban sustainability and urban infrastructure in cities of the global south.

Salwa Ismail is Professor of Politics with reference to the Middle East in the Department of Politics and International Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Her research focuses on everyday forms of government, urban governance and the politics of space. She has published widely on Islamist politics, and on state−society relations in the Middle East.

Sylvy Jaglin is a Professor of Geography and Urban Planning at the University Paris−Est Marne-la-Vallée (France) and a researcher at Latts (Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires et Sociétés). Her work addresses the social and spatial issues associated with the regulation of, and reforms in, urban utility industries in developing countries. Her current research focuses on urban energy issues in sub-Saharan Africa.

Achilles Kallergis is a doctoral candidate in Public and Urban Policy at the New School. His research interests evolve around the question of informal settlements and urban policy. He has consulted for the Gates Foundation and the World Bank, and collaborated with Slum Dwellers International and the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights.
Contributors

Hayley Leck is a post-doctoral researcher at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She is a geographer and her research focuses on the relationship between global environmental change and urbanism with a particular interest in social and institutional dimensions of municipal and community-based adaptation in diverse contexts.

Loretta Lees is a Professor of Human Geography at the University of Leicester, UK. Loretta’s research expertise includes gentrification, urban regeneration, urban policy, urban public space and the geography of architecture.

Alan Mabin is Professor at the Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria. Alan has spent time at universities in the US, Canada, France, and Brazil. He has undertaken research in Brazil, France, Tanzania and South Africa and has NGO, government and consulting experience.

Jenny Mbaye held the 2013 Ray Pahl Postdoctoral Fellowship Urban Studies at the African Centre for Cities of the University of Cape Town. Her research interests focus on the practices and politics of cultural production in Africa, especially in the Francophone West African fields of urban music. She has worked in cultural and media organizations in Senegal and Burkina Faso, as well as an academic researcher and consultant.

Diana Mitlin is an economist and social development specialist at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London; and at the University of Manchester, UK, where she is Professor of Global Urbanism and Director of the Global Urban Research Centre.

Garth Myers is the Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of Urban International Studies at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut. He teaches in the International Studies and Urban Studies programs. His primary research interests reside with the historical, political, environmental and comparative geographies of urban planning and urban development in eastern and southern Africa.

Francis B. Nyamnjoh is Professor of Social Anthropology at University of Cape Town, which he joined in August 2009 from the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in Dakar, Senegal. He has researched and taught at universities in Cameroon and Botswana.

Sophie Oldfield is a geographer and Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences at the University of Cape Town. Her research focuses on urban social and political change, community and social movement politics, and state restructuring.

Susan Parnell is an urban geographer in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science and also serves on the Executive Committee of the African Centre for Cities, both at the University of Cape Town. She recently just completed a Leverhulme Visiting Professorship at University College London.

Sheela Patel is founder and present Director of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) India, which is based in Mumbai and works in partnership with NSDF and Mahila Milan, two community-based organizations working on issues of land, housing and amenities for the poor in cities in India. She has been a member of the NTAG for JNNURM and is also Chair of Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI).
Sujata Patel is a sociologist at the University of Hyderabad. Her work covers diverse areas such as modernity and social theory, history of sociology/social sciences, city-formation, social movements, gender construction, reservation, quota politics and caste and class formations in India. She has been associated in various capacities with the International Sociological Association and was its first Vice President for National Associations (2002–2006).

Edgar Pieterse is holder of the South African Research Chair in Urban Policy. He is founding Director of the African Centre for Cities and is Professor in the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, both at the University of Cape Town.

Kamalini Ramdas is Instructor at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. She obtained her PhD degree from the National University of Singapore (2013). Her research focused on singlehood and biopolitics to analyse the geographies of family and community in Singapore. Prior to joining the Department of Geography, she worked with the Asia Research Institute and the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Jennifer Robinson is Professor of Urban/Human Geography at the University College London and Honorary Professor at the African Centre for Cities, UCT. Prior to that she worked at the Open University, the London School of Economics and the University of Natal.

Ananya Roy is Professor of City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, where she also holds the Distinguished Chair in Global Poverty and Practice. She is a scholar of global urbanism and development.

David Satterthwaite is a Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment and Development, Editor of the international journal Environment and Urbanization and a Visiting Professor at the Development Planning Unit, University College London.

Eric Sheppard is Humboldt Professor of Geography at University of California–Los Angeles, previously Professor of Geography and Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change at the University of Minnesota. His research and teaching examines geographical political economy, urban change and uneven geographies of development.

David Simon is Professor of the Department of Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London and a member of the UK Academy of Social Sciences. He serves on the Scientific Steering Committee of the IDHP’s Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project and has published widely on the theory, policy and practice of development, environment and urban issues.

AbdouMaliq Simone is an urbanist with particular interest in emerging forms of social and economic intersection across diverse trajectories of change for cities in the global south. Simone is presently Research Professor at the University of South Australia and Honorary Professor of Urban Studies at the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town.

Caroline Skinner is Urban Policies Programme Director of the WIEGO network and a Senior Researcher at the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town.
Contributors

Kristian Stokke is Professor of Human Geography at the University of Oslo, Norway. His research focuses on movement politics, democratization and conflict transformation, especially in Burma/Myanmar, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

Cecilia Tacoli is a Principal Researcher at the Human Settlements Group, International Institute for Environment and Development. For the past 20 years she has worked with researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America to explore the demographic, socio-economic and cultural dynamics interconnected with processes of urbanization.

Ivan Turok is Deputy Executive Director at the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa and Honorary Professor at Cape Town and Glasgow Universities. He is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Regional Studies* and an expert adviser on city and regional development to the United Nations, OECD, European Commission, South African Government, UK Government and African Development Bank.

Carlos Vainer, an economist and sociologist, holds a doctorate in Social and Economic Development from the Université de Paris I, Panthéon/Sorbonne. He is a Professor at the Institute of Urban and Regional Planning and Research at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (IPPUR/UFRJ). He leads the Research Laboratory State, Labor, Territory and Nature (ETTERN), focused on regional and urban policies, migration, social and environmental impacts of large dams, large urban projects’ impacts, urban conflicts and social movements.

Sophie Watson is Professor of Sociology at the Open University and co-Director of the ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change. Her recent research has concerned the making of multiple publics in city spaces; multicultural city spaces; religion, materiality and culture; street markets as sites of connection, innovation and sociality. Her current research focus is on water in the city in its diverse cultural, material and socio-technical forms.

Vanessa Watson is Professor of City Planning in the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics at the University of Cape Town (South Africa) and is on the executive committee of the African Centre for Cities. She writes in the area of planning theory.

Brenda S.A. Yeoh is Professor (Provost’s Chair), Department of Geography, as well as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore. She is also the Research Leader of the Asian Migration Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, NUS.

Oren Yiftachel is a Professor in Urban Studies and Political Geography at Ben-Gurion University, Beersheba. Yiftachel has taught as a Guest Professor at a range of universities in Australia, Europe, the USA and South Africa. He is an activist in the RCUV – council for unrecognized Bedouin villages – and, most recently, served as chairperson of B’Tselem – monitoring human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
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Sue and Sophie
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