



Global Urbanisms cluster newsletter 2022

<https://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/global-urbanisms>

Summary details on one research project cluster members have been working on recently alongside select research outputs and images

Amy Horton is examining conflict between community members, councillors and property developers over housing and social infrastructure. This research focuses on defeated redevelopment plans in Haringey. It's a collaboration with Joe Penny (UCL Urban Lab).

Amy's [Open access book](#) on *Financing Prosperity by Dealing with Debt*, co-edited with Chris Harker (UCL Institute for Global Prosperity) included a chapter on the relationship between government debt and building green, caring economies.

Fabien Cante is writing a paper with Dr Alana Osbourne on urban 'atmotechnics' - how radio amateurs and tour guides shape atmospheres in contested cities (Abidjan, Kingston, Brussels).

His piece [Post-Conflict Soundings: Noise and voice in Abidjan](#) was published by *Theatrum Mundi*.



Audiences turn a peace-building show into a ball in Abobo (Abidjan north)

Pushpa Arabindoo has a project on 'Draining the city: Material realities of flood mitigation in Chennai'

Her chapter [Ecologies of infrastructure: Materialities of metabolic change](#) was published in *The Routledge Handbook of Social Change*, eds. R. Ballard and C. Barnett. London and New York: Routledge.



'Infrastructural mess' in Chennai

Hin-yan (Henry) Chan's PhD research draws on an embodied approach to study the banality, spatiality and affectivity of authoritarianism in urban settings through an ethnographic case study of contemporary Hong Kong. Empirically, he is studying ordinary HK people's everyday affective life and spatial experience across a number of public spaces in today's Hong Kong.

[Working and dwelling in a global city: going-out, public worlds, and the intimate lives of migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong](#) *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*

Alan Latham is writing a book with Regan Koch (Queen Mary, University of London) on publicness and urban life. The book focuses on a number of case studies ranging from new and rediscovered forms of movement and transportation, spaces of eating and drinking, working and making money, to novel ways of coming together to socialise. The central aim of the book is to contribute to questions of how urban space can be organised to promote the common good.

[Social infrastructure: why it matters and how urban geographers might study it](#) (with Jack Layton) *Urban Geography*

Ayona Datta has an ERC Advanced Grant entitled 'Regional Futures: the territorial politics of digitalisation-as-urbanisation in the global south'. The overall objective of this research is to investigate and assess the impacts of municipal digitalisation on the transformation and rescaling of state spaces, the continuous manifestation of information infrastructures and the emergent territorial politics of digitalisation shaping the dynamics of regional urbanisation in global south.

['Thick time': Experiments with feminist urban futures in community podcasts.](#) *Geoforum*



The urbanisation of metropolitan peripheries in Mexico

Tariq Jazeel's project 'The spatial politics of British-Asian dance music, 1995-2006' is an attempt to write a recent history of British-Asian dance music in the mid to late 1990s and the role its emergence and popularization has played in the postcolonial dynamics of Britishness and belonging, particularly for Britain's substantive South Asian community. By tracking the manifold geographies of the music, the project seeks to understand the role that this form of cultural production played in producing the nation and nationalism anew.

[The 'City' as Text](#), *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 45 (4), pps.658-662

['Scratching the surface of the taken-as-given, as a process of unsettling'](#): an interview with Tariq Jazeel about his book *Postcolonialism* (2019), *Scottish Geographical Journal*

Varvara Karipidou's PhD project explores the politics of urban development through the study of planning cultures, institutional persistence, and the effort to regulate planning initiatives in Eastern Europe. Those diverse planning cultures produce differentiated spatial results and an often-incoherent approach to city-making. The purpose of the research is to explore the evolution, function and politics of systems regulating the use of land, zoning, and allocation of development rights in Romania after 1989.



New spatial patterns of urban development in Bucharest.

Andrew Harris is developing an 'urban pamphleteer' alongside Martine Drozd (LATTS Paris) and Nathaniel Télémaque (UCL Geography) entitled 'Multi-stories: Estate interventions / Intervenir sur les grands ensembles'. This will document and explore a range of experimental interventions in the way the everyday life of multi-storey social housing in London and Paris has been represented and understood.

[When I get up it just goes to shit": unearthing the everyday vertical landscapes of Detectorists'](#)
In Keighren, I. and Norcup, J. (eds.) *Landscapes of Detectorists*. Uniformbooks

Jennifer Robinson has a ERC Advanced Grant entitled ‘Making Africa Urban: The transcalar politics of large-scale development processes’. This project investigates how the future of African cities is being shaped by transnational processes based on sovereign, developmental and private investment in large-scale urban developments in Accra (Ghana), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and Lilongwe (Malawi).

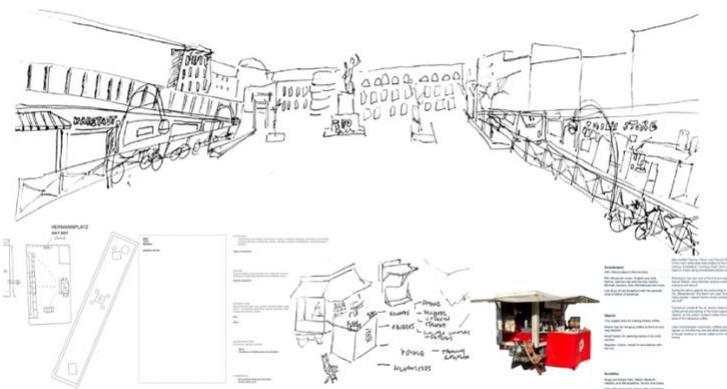
[Comparative Urbanism: Tactics for Global Urban Studies](#). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

[Beyond variegation: the territorialisation of states, communities and developers in large-scale developments in Johannesburg, Shanghai and London](#) (with Fulong Wu, Phil Harrison, Zheng Wang, Alison Todes, Romain Dittgen, Katia Attuyer), in *Urban Studies*



New housing development in Old Oak Park Royal Development Corporation, NW London

Julia Dzun’s recent participation in the 'Inside the Notebook' Sessions at the RGS-IBG has prompted her to, collectively with colleagues, reflect on and discuss more systematically the ethical and practical challenges of observing, recording, and rendering visible within fieldwork and the tricky interpersonal engagements at play in ethnographic encounters.



Excerpt from Inside my Notebook

Particular urban-themed articles, books, films etc you have enjoyed recently and would recommend

Amy Horton	Hannah J. Dawson (2022) Living, not just surviving: The politics of refusing low-wage jobs in urban South Africa, <i>Economy and Society</i> , 51:3, 375-397
Fabien Cante	Books: Histories of dirt, by Stephanie Newell; A feminist reading of debt, by Luci Cavallero & Veronica Gago; film: Nous (We), by Alice Diop
Ayona Datta	The Stack by Benjamin Bratton
Hin-yan Chan	Animated Lands: Studies in Territoriology by Andrea Mubi Brighenti and Mattias Kärrholm
Varvara Karipidou	Anjaria, J.S., 2011. Ordinary states: Everyday corruption and the politics of space in Mumbai
Jennifer Robinson	Lagoon by Nnedi Okorafor
Alan Latham	Ruth Ozeki The Book of Form and Nothingness (novel), Lum Boltanski, Mysteries and Conspiracies, Emily Talen, Neighbourhood
Julia Dzun	Travelers by Helon Habila (novel)
Andrew Harris	Pretend It's a City (Netflix)

What three words define your future research plans?

Pushpa Arabindoo	Everyday Encounters With Infrastructure
Amy Horton	Care, Social Infrastructure, Finance
Fabien Cante	Media, Urban, Geopolitics
Ayona Datta	Regional Futures, Digitalisation, Territorial Politics
Tariq Jazeel	Public Facing; Cultural; Postcolonial
Jennifer Robinson	African-Based Scholarship (And) Theorising
Alan Latham	Social Infrastructure, Sociality
Andrew Harris	London; verticalities
Julia Dzun	Emergent And Enduring