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Inhabiting Arrival

Focus On

Inhabiting Arrival

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What do we mean by 'arrival' and why do we need to REFRAME it?

The term 'arrival' has long served as a dispositif for governing migration, tightly bound to the nation state and reflected in the imaginaries of governable subjects. Within this frame, arrival is often quantified as a border crossing, reduced to an administrable event, a tool for controlling movement and population, useful for managing territory, regulating access to resources, and establishing criteria for distributing services and rights. As a consequence, the figure of the one who arrives remains trapped in the rhetoric of scarcity and in narratives of municipal overload.

The REFRAME project begins with the assumption that arrival is not truly definable: it is at once a condition, a time, a space, a relation, a policy, and a form of capture. Rather than fixing a meaning, the project asks what arrival does, allowing its "what it is" to emerge as an imperfect and fragmentary portrait through stories, self-accounts, and art interventions. Across four territories, we have interrogated which relations arrival stabilises or destabilises; which entanglements it becomes caught in; and how it disturbs conditions of being, living, and representing.

Thinking with, from and across territories

Hastings, London, Istanbul, and Borgo Mezzanone are distant, incomparable, and incommensurable spaces with no common narrative and no possibility of comparison. They move beyond the singular and the universal. In this sense, our research is firmly decentralised: it lives in the territories, while the thinking happens *with, within and from* each territory.

In each of them, we have looked at arrival through refuge and home making, mobilising conceptual definitions of home (hooks, 1990; Massey, 1994; Young 1997; Blunt 2005; Banerjee 2023), homing (Boccagni 2017; Ahmed 2006), shelter (Fassin 2012; Malkki 1995), refuge (Agier, 2012; Nevius, 2021; Novak, 2025), habitability (Escobar 2019; Simone 2016), inhabitation and habiter (Lefebvre 2003; Butler 2019), dwelling (Heidegger 1971; Lancione 2019), and inhabitation (Boano and Astolfo 2020; Agamben 2019; Ferdinand 2022; Papadopoulos 2026), in all their complexity and contradiction.

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Unbearable: the spatialisation of hostility in Hastings¹

In Hastings, UK, our work in partnership with The Refugee Buddy Project (The RBP) has examined how 'arrival' is interrupted and drawn out through hostile housing, and how refugee- and migrant-led community arts practices counter isolation and the harm of hostility while building inclusivity and belonging (Allsopp and Astolfo, 2026; Allsopp and Leal, 2026)

Under the UK's hostile policy framework, housing has been constructed and practised as a deterrent to migration – a 'technology of hostility' – that positions asylum seekers as exceptions to UK society, ringfenced by an internal border. In a forthcoming report, 'Unbearable: Housing and the Spatialisation of Hostility' (2026), we highlight how one can observe its operation across three forms of accommodation that asylum seekers, refugees, and racialised citizens access: dispersal, resettlement schemes, and the private housing market. Centralising the testimonies of asylum seeking in Hastings, Rother, and Wealden, we find evidence of discrimination in the poor conditions of housing provided to asylum seekers and refugees; in the negative effects of housing on the physical and mental health of asylum seekers and refugees; and in the lack of appropriate and targeted informational support for asylum seekers and refugees accessing housing.

In parallel, our collaboration with The RBP has encompassed their annual Stitch for Change textiles storytelling workshops (Community is a Superpower in 2025 and Courage in 2026). Textiles, patchwork and embroidery are mediums employed across the world in protest, in incarceration, asserting threatened identity, threatened life, communicating lived experience, and as a therapeutic practice and expressive or occupational outlet. In Hastings, it is no different. As a metaphor for arrival, and observed in practice within SFC, the threading and each deliberate stitch, patch, repair, and embroidered emblem that it forms become an act of conscious,

reflective action and reaction that produces an alternative imagining and story of displacement, journeying, and creation, which endure and progress as a relational process.

There is something particularly significant about stitching. Each thread requires an affective attachment; it moves between surfaces, disappears and reappears, joining fragments without eliminating the seams between them. The textile does not represent a linear journey or resolve displacement into a coherent story of departure followed by arrival. Instead, it holds together different places, temporalities, and attachments that are continually made and remade. In this sense, the works resonate with an understanding of home-making as a relational practice of survival and inhabitation: *one arrives by making home, one continues to inhabit arrival, one arrives too late, one never arrives.* Embroidery became less a medium of expression than a material practice of care, through which refugees, asylum seekers and racialised citizens held together memories of home, relationships forged in displacement, and possibilities of belonging. In this sense, arrival became an ongoing practice of inhabitation, sustained by the capacities to care, connect, repair, endure, and imagine otherwise.

Reproducing arrival: migrant lifeworlds and urban uncertainties in Istanbul²

In Istanbul, REFRAME asks what happens when arrival is no longer understood as a single moment of crossing a border, but as an ongoing condition of inhabiting the city. Working with Arabic- and Persian-speaking migrants and refugees, the Türkiye-focused case study explores how the meanings of 'arrival' change across languages, histories, and political contexts. With a team of five researchers who contributed at different stages of the project, we found that arrival rarely signifies a clear beginning or an achieved destination. Migration is often described through notions of refuge, uncertainty, transit, return, waiting, or temporary presence rather than permanent settlement (Carpi, 2025). Such framings resonate with wider scholarship on displacement, which has highlighted waiting, uncertainty, and suspension as constitutive dimensions of migrant lives rather than temporary interruptions on the way to settlement (Brun, 2015; Biehl, 2015; Hage, 2009). The figure of the 'arrival' that dominates much European migration debate is therefore far less stable than it first appears. Arrival emerges less as a completed event than as a

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1 | By Harriet Allsopp, Rossana Leal and Mahsa Alami Fariman.

2 | By Estella Carpi.

condition of living with uncertainty and negotiating an unfinished relationship with place (Carpi, 2025).

These questions emerged through our engagement with multilingual media, academic debates, and community-based conversations in neighbourhoods across Istanbul. As a city shaped by centuries of mobility and, more recently, by large-scale displacement from Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, and elsewhere, migrant life in Istanbul constantly challenges linear understandings of migration. People may arrive physically while remaining socially, politically, or legally suspended. Others create forms of belonging long before they are formally recognised as residents. Arrival, in this sense, is less about entering a place than about negotiating one's relationship with it over time (Carpi et al., 2024). This perspective echoes scholarship that understands home and belonging not as fixed destinations but as ongoing practices produced under conditions of uncertainty, mobility, and partial inclusion (Brun and Fábos, 2015; Boccagni, 2017). Our focus on disaster preparedness within the framework of Istanbul further corroborated this fluid conceptual approach to arrival, revealing how urban dwelling, risk, and belonging become deeply intertwined (Carpi, 2025).

This perspective became particularly important when examining migrant and refugee lives in relation to disaster preparedness in a city facing significant seismic risk. Municipality-led preparedness initiatives often

assume a stable and settled population that shares common forms of citizenship, language, and access to information. Yet many refugee and migrant residents experience the city through different temporalities, infrastructures of care, and relationships with institutions. Questions about housing security, documentation, neighbourhood networks, access to reliable information, and trust in public authorities shape how people prepare for future disasters (Carpi et al., 2024; Carpi, Darvishahmadi and Atay, 2025). As disaster studies scholars have long argued, preparedness cannot be reduced to the dissemination of technical knowledge but must be understood through broader questions of vulnerability, social position, and access to resources (Bankoff, 2001; Gaillard and Mercer, 2013). Preparedness, therefore, cannot be separated from the conditions through which migrants and refugees arrive, settle, wait, and build everyday lives in the city.

Rather than treating migrants as temporary guests or external populations, the project explores how disaster risk reduction can recognise them as urban residents whose knowledge, experiences, and everyday practices contribute to collective resilience (Carpi, Darvishahmadi and Atay, 2025). Research conducted across Istanbul's districts demonstrates that migrant communities possess situated forms of disaster knowledge and preparedness practices that often

remain invisible to formal governance frameworks (Carpi, 2025). This finding resonates with broader work on social capital and community resilience, which shows that everyday networks of trust, reciprocity, and mutual support frequently shape people's capacity to respond to and recover from crises more effectively than formal preparedness campaigns alone (Aldrich, 2012). In this context, arrival is not a prelude to belonging; it is itself a way of inhabiting the city. Understanding how people make refuge, create social ties, and imagine futures in Istanbul helps us rethink preparedness as a shared urban practice rather than a purely technical intervention (Carpi et al., 2024; Brun and Fábos, 2015). In Istanbul, we connect the politics of migration with the politics of urban safety, asking how a city can prepare for uncertain futures while acknowledging the multiple and unfinished ways in which people arrive, remain, and make life possible together.

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From Top:

Suma's house
in Borgo.
(Credit: Stefano
Mastromarino,
2025)

Borgo. (Credit:
Frédérique Gélinas)



Caught up in endless arrivals in Borgo³

Hundreds of dwellings stretch along the two roads that run across the concrete slab of a disused NATO military airstrip. Dwellings built from scrap wood, plastic sheets, corrugated metal, concrete blocks, and reinforced beams; they materialise the illusion of permanent temporariness (Hilal and Petti, 2018) that its inhabitants continuously endure.

Borgo Mezzanone, or Borgo, as most inhabitants call it, is a settlement for migrant (farm)workers, located a few kilometres from Foggia in the centre of the Apulian Capitanata, one of Italy's most productive agricultural districts. Over the past twenty years, thousands of mainly sub-Saharan migrants have transited here seeking work, documents, and a place to stay, while grappling with the constant uncertainty and suspension of their racialised condition in the country. Expanding around a former reception centre

(CARA) on an abandoned runway that once hosted Kosovarian refugees, they have built houses, mosques, churches, restaurants, shops, and workshops, gradually transforming the former military infrastructure into a place of everyday inhabitation.

Over the past five years, Borgo became the target of a major intervention funded through the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR). The programme allocated 52 million euros to the *superamento degli insediamenti informali* (the overcoming of informal settlements) in the region, aiming to erase Borgo and relocate its inhabitants into container camps and abandoned houses in nearby hamlets built during the Fascist agrarian reforms and internal colonisation. Acting on the present through its slow and violent ruination (Stoler, 2013), these places are already understood in the region's own planning history as instruments for fixing populations to land and rendering them legible and governable.

In a series of articles produced as the project's outputs, we have examined the design and discursive politics underpinning the plan, in which *superamento* gives material form to its epistemic eradication while dressing it as an act of aid (Boano et al., 2025). The plan pivots on the paradigm of 'informality', through which the place is read and rendered unfuturable, turning decades of affective and material investment into a problem awaiting a technical solution, thereby licensing its erasure by first refusing to recognise its – exhausting, fragile and yet stubbornly enduring – inhabitability (Grimaldi et al., 2025).

Arrival as an artistic and political practice

Arrival shapes our world not only through narratives and arguments, but also, especially, through non-linguistic gesturing: through moods, feelings and the arts. Building on this, REFRAME has approached arrival through artistic interventions, storytelling and stitching.

Azioni Apripista per lo Spiazzamento

Azioni Apripista per lo Spiazzamento is an experimental set of artistic-activist interventions developed in and around Borgo in 2024-25 by a group of researchers, artists, activists, and volunteers, and conceived by artist and agroecologist Luigi Coppola. The artwork unfolds through small, situated actions that open cracks in everyday urban routines, making visible the frictions, exclusions, and improvisations that shape life in places like Borgo. Through collaborative gestures, occupations of space, and provocations that challenge who is allowed to inhabit, speak, or remain, the work frames 'spiazzamento' as a means of reclaiming presence, unsettling power, and generating forms of collective inhabitation, while addressing the (un)inhabitability of Borgo and creating relations otherwise.

AereoBorgo

AereoBorgo is another art intervention performed in Borgo in 2025, conceived by La Escuela Nunca y los Otros Futuros with Inappropriable. The artwork unfolded on the Pista, a former NATO airstrip used during the Kosovo war and now home to agricultural workers living in self-built dwellings. Amid a landscape where military ruins intersect with everyday life, the collective proposed the construction of a plane as a way to reactivate the site's fractured histories through the settlement's present economies. Built from iron frames, barrels, pipes, ropes, fans, decorations and other discarded objects sourced through exchanges with residents and local traders, the plane became a symbolic and material assemblage. It was ultimately disassembled by residents, its fragments returning to populate Borgo's economies.

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AereoBorgo. (Credit: Frédérique Gélinas, 2025)

Stitch for Change
exhibition, Hastings.
(Credit: Mahsa
Alami Fariman,
2026)



Stitch for Change

Stitch for Change is an exhibition showcasing artwork created through weekly gatherings of refugee and migrant women with members of The RBP. Together, they produce embroidered textiles that weave together memories of home, journeys across borders, and arrival, transforming them into collective expressions of resilience, community, and belonging. Housed in the De La Warr Pavilion overlooking the town and the sea, the exhibition brings these practices of agency, resistance, and collective care into public view. Stitched with patience, the textiles carry memories of movement, loss, and hope, bearing witness to lives in motion while affirming new forms of belonging. Together, The RBP, the Dove Café, and the textiles displayed throughout the Pavilion reveal that the refugee body is far more than a figure of displacement: she is an active maker of community and cultural expression.

Suspended between Hastings and the sea, the embroidered capes complicate any understanding of arrival as a moment that ends upon reaching the shore. They instead speak of arrival as something inhabited over time.

Against the glass, these intimate, affective and performative acts of stitching become entangled with the city and the sea beyond. Dwelling is therefore neither entirely inside nor outside, neither here nor elsewhere. What the exhibition makes perceptible is precisely this unsettled condition: making a home does not mark the end of arrival but becomes an ongoing practice of making life inhabitable while memories, movements, and attachments to elsewhere persist.

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Growing the work: new collaborations and creative extensions

After three years, we have come to see arrival not simply as an event, a category, a process, a condition, or a space, but rather as a disturbance, an actant. Arrival is a force that moves, reshapes, and reorganises relations, determines social (re)production, and generates affective and material consequences in the world.

REFRAME continues to grow through collaborations that extend its work into artistic practice, advocacy and collective (un)making. The Inappropriate Collective brings together artists, scholars and refugees to develop work that resists extractive research logics and fosters solidarities. UCL KEI funding supported a second round of *Stitch for Change* workshops on Courage, with the capes later exhibited in Bexhill and London (UCL200 Intersections).

At the DPU, three rounds of Dissertation Fellowships have advanced REFRAME's concerns across new geographies and methods, with theses by Sunny Gupta, Kelly Flanagan, Samiksha Mukherjee and Ananya Jain exploring affect, waiting, fugitivity and oceanic thinking. The project has produced publications, reflections and a Housing Report, and all members are contributing to *Inhabiting Arrival*, a collective book that examines the semantics, spaces and affects of arrival.

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Head On

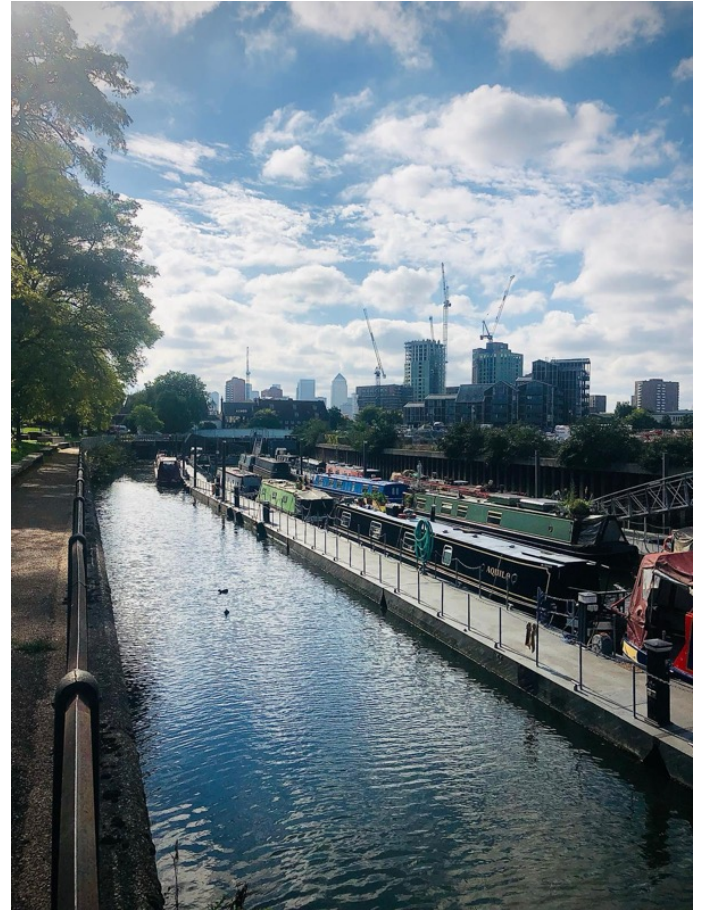
The 2026 Area Development and Policy Best Paper Award was awarded to DPU colleagues Daniel Oviedo and Alexandria Z. W. Chong, together with Clémence Cavoli and Yasmina Yusuf from UCL's Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, Joaquín Romero de Tejada from the Mozambique Transport and Mobility Observatory, and Braima Koroma from the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre. Their paper, 'Accessibility, (dis)advantage and everyday mobility practices and experiences: the cases of Maputo and Freetown,' examines how access to transport and everyday mobility shape experiences of advantage and disadvantage in two rapidly changing African cities. By bringing together perspectives from urban planning, transport research and local institutions, the study contributes to wider debates on mobility justice and unequal access to urban opportunities. The paper was recognised by the Regional Studies Association for its contribution to understanding the relationship between transport, accessibility and inequality in emerging economies.

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Research

Reflecting on the River Lea, East London. (Credit: Joseph Cook and Maurizio Marinelli, 2025)

Riverworks: Prosperity through Community on the River Lea, edited by DPU's Maurizio Marinelli and Joseph Cook of the Institute for Global Prosperity, is a new Bartlett publication that explores how communities along East London's Lower Lea are reimagining a genuinely flourishing and inclusive future beyond narrow models of economic growth. Supported by the UCL-PKU Global Engagement Award, the publication emerged from a year-long collaboration between UCL researchers and more than ten local organisations. It shows how the river is being transformed from a former industrial artery into an ecological, cultural and social commons grounded in community action. Through case studies spanning citizen science, arts-based initiatives, cooperative housing and inclusive access to blue spaces, the collection highlights how prosperity can be co-created from the ground up in ways that strengthen ecological health, social justice and everyday wellbeing. It invites policymakers, practitioners and residents to see the River Lea not simply as infrastructure, but as a partner in shaping more inclusive and environmentally sustainable futures for East London and beyond.



Listen, Learn & Leap moves into its LEARN phase. Following the close of LISTEN, the Listen, Learn & Leap (3L) project is working with two youth-led community partners: Green Park Mathare in Nairobi and the Kipawa Environmental Group (KEG) in Dar es Salaam. Both groups engage with nature along their watersheds to address flooding, erosion, waste accumulation and heat stress. In Nairobi, the team, working with Kounkuey Design Initiative, completed baseline site assessments in Kiamutisya, Mathare, and marked the partnership through a community

clean-up with Green Park. In Dar es Salaam, an MoU signed on 9 March 2026 between KEG, Ardhi University, the Centre for Community Initiatives and UCL formalised collaboration in Karakata and Mji Mpya, where KEG's four grassroots groups have sustained bamboo planting along the Msimbazi River for more than eight years. Open House events in both cities brought exhibitions, biodiversity findings and nature-based solutions catalogues into public discussion. The work is guided by ten co-produced principles developed with project partners.



Participants at Listen, Learn & Leap Open House events in Green Park, Mathare, Nairobi (left), and Karakata, Dar es Salaam (right). (Credit: Listen, Learn & Leap, 2026)

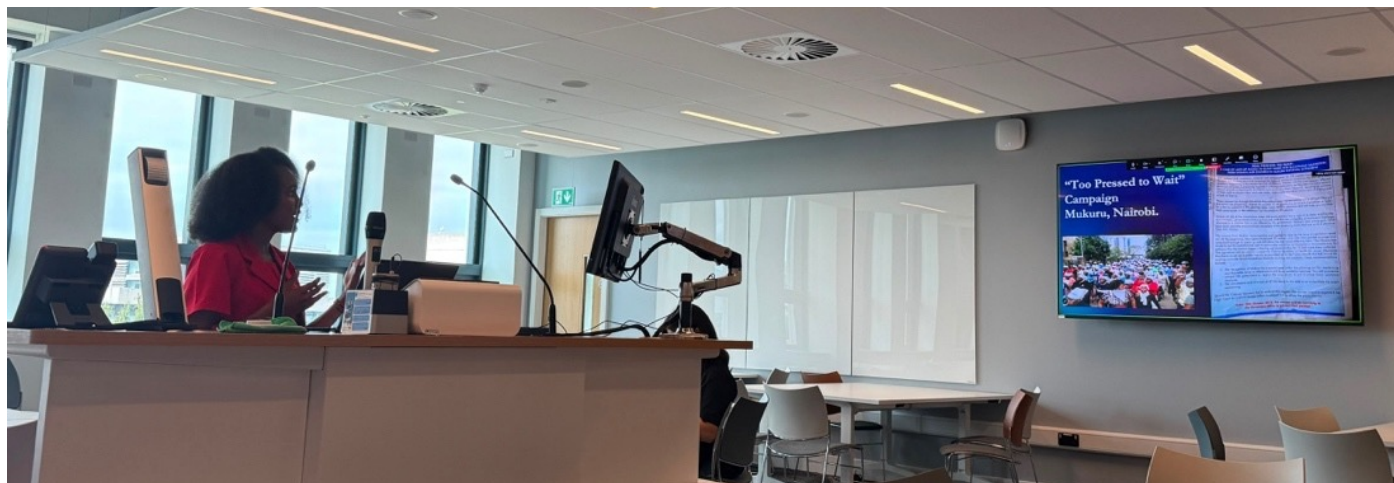
In July 2026, Wendy Baariu, a current MSc Social Development Practice (SDP) student at the DPU, presented her research at the **Development Studies Association Conference 2026 (DSA2026)** at University College Dublin, with support from the DPU. Her paper, 'Whose Knowledge Counts? Reimagining Power, Participation, and Agency in Urban Development under Climate and Governance Uncertainty: Lessons from WASH in Nairobi', was presented in the panel Rethinking Urban Governance in Africa. It draws on six years of professional experience in WASH across Nairobi's informal settlements, including Mukuru, Mathare, Korogocho and Kibera. The research is also informed by fieldwork undertaken through the SDP Overseas Practice Engagement along the Mae Kha Canal in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Drawing on epistemic justice, Southern urbanism and feminist political economy, the paper examines how participation processes can extract community knowledge without transferring power or influencing decisions. It argues that grassroots actors already produce essential knowledge on affordability, safety and climate risk, and that participatory co-design can redistribute agency only when accompanied by meaningful shifts in power.

Climatecide and Health in Gaza: Evidence to Action received £40,000 through the UCL Grand Challenges Climate Crisis Grant scheme. Led by Haim Yacobi of the DPU and Anne Irfan of UCL Arts and Humanities, the project brings together interdisciplinary expertise to examine the intersections of climate, health and violence in Gaza. It uses the emerging conceptual framework of 'climatecide' to consider how environmental damage, public-health pressures and conditions of violence become interconnected rather than operating as separate crises. By linking conceptual development with an evidence-to-action approach, the research aims to make these relationships more visible to academic, policy and public audiences. The collaboration also creates a basis for dialogue across urban studies, health, environmental research and the humanities, contributing to wider debates about how climate injustice is understood in settings shaped by conflict and prolonged political violence.

The official launch of the Walking Cities Lab brought together more than 30 partners and over 100 members of the global Volvo Research and Educational Foundations community online on 29 April. Hosted at the DPU and led by Daniel Oviedo, the Walking Cities Lab forms part of VREF's Walking as a Mode of Transport research programme. It connects researchers, decision-makers and allies across Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Europe through a global research and action platform focused on making walking a global priority. Although walking remains the most universal form of human mobility, it is often overlooked in the ways cities are planned, funded and built. Over the next four years, the Lab will connect evidence and practice across four continents, strengthen research capacity and develop communities of learning that place walking more firmly at the centre of urban and transport agendas.

The project 'Climatecide and Health in Gaza: Evidence to Action' brings together interdisciplinary expertise to examine the intersections of climate, health and violence in Gaza.

Wendy Baariu presents her research at the Development Studies Association Conference at University College Dublin in July 2026. (Credit: Unknown, 2026)



Each dialogue will convene a regional community of learning and practice to share effective approaches, learn about the Lab's plans and help shape the next phase of collective work on walking.

The [Walking Cities Lab](#) has partnered with the [Inmóviles podcast](#) for an eleven-episode season dedicated to the global walking-for-transport (W4T) agenda. The series connects academic research with urban practice, engaging researchers, policymakers and advocates from across the world. In the first episode, Henrik Nolmark of VREF and Bronwen Thornton of the Walk21 Foundation share their vision for bringing the Make Walking a Global Priority initiative to life through the Walking Cities Lab and discuss their expectations for the programme's work over the next four years. The partnership gives the Lab a valuable channel to reach wider audiences interested in walking and to carry conversations between research, policy and advocacy beyond academia.

The [Walking Cities Lab regional dialogues](#) will launch the programme's Living Labs between October and November 2026. Funded by the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations and co-hosted with the Walk21 Foundation, four events will take place across Africa in Ghana, Latin America and the Caribbean in Belo Horizonte, Pan-Europe in London, and Asia-Pacific in India. Each dialogue will convene a regional community of learning and practice to share effective approaches, learn about the Lab's plans and help shape the next phase of collective work on walking. The events mark the programme's transition from its foundational stage towards regionally grounded action. They will also create opportunities to connect research, policy and practice across varied urban contexts while identifying shared challenges and priorities. DPU colleagues working on walking, mobility and related urban issues will be able to follow the programme and participate as dates, locations and registration details are announced through Walking Cities Lab and Walk21 channels.

The [On the Way to School video](#) brings together the voices and experiences of children in Colombia and Mozambique as they describe their daily journeys to school. The first section introduces Bogotá's long-standing programmes, Ciempiés Caminos Seguros and Al Colegio en Bici, following children who walk and cycle and documenting benefits including stronger social connections, improved physical and mental wellbeing, and better coordination between institutions. The second section turns to pilot programmes being developed in Maputo and Macaneta, where walking and cycling interventions are being tested in urban and peri-urban settings. By placing children's accounts alongside the work of schools, local partners and public institutions, the video demonstrates how active mobility can support safer, healthier and more inclusive cities. Available with English subtitles, it offers an accessible way to share the project's comparative research and practical learning with families, practitioners and policymakers.

The [On the Way to School booklet](#) was presented to panellists, institutional partners and school principals at the project's preliminary results event at Universidad de los Andes. Framing the project as co-produced research, the publication is grounded in the principle that raising children is a collective responsibility that extends into public spaces, streets and everyday journeys. It brings together experiences from Colombia and Mozambique to demonstrate how walking and cycling to school can contribute to health, safety, social connection and citizenship. Designed to encourage dialogue among decision-makers, schools and communities, it also highlights connections between active mobility, education, public health, gender equity and road safety. María José Arbeláez designed the booklet, and Daniel Oviedo, María Alejandra Wilches, Julio D. Dávila, Natalia Villamizar-Duarte and María José Arbeláez edited it. English and Portuguese versions are being developed to extend its reach and support further international exchange.

The **On the Way to School project extension** moves the project's completion date to 30 June 2027, following approval of a twelve-month, no-cost extension. The additional period will enable partners in Colombia and Mozambique to deepen comparative analysis, strengthen dissemination and consolidate the practical impact of the interventions developed through the project. It will also provide more time to connect evidence on children's journeys, active-mobility programmes and local institutional collaboration with wider debates on equitable and healthy urban transport. During the extension, the partnership will advance both academic outputs and practical applications, ensuring that findings can be shared with academic, policy and practitioner audiences. Planned outputs include peer-reviewed papers, conference presentations and policy dialogues. Together, these activities will extend the project's reach, support continued learning across the two country contexts and help translate its research into discussions about safer and more inclusive journeys to school.

The **On the Way to School working paper series** supports fellowship students undertaking MSc dissertation research linked to the project's capacity-building programme. The initiative enables early-career researchers to produce academic outputs from their

research while contributing new evidence and preliminary analysis on walking, cycling and active-mobility interventions. Three working papers have so far been published, with contributions from former DPU students Dike Armelia Saviera, Camila Casas and María Laura Torres. Their work strengthens the project's research base and demonstrates how student dissertations can develop into outputs of value to wider academic and practitioner audiences. The series also gives emerging researchers experience in preparing, revising and communicating research beyond the degree programme. By linking capacity building with publication, the initiative supports a growing community of researchers working on children's mobility and journeys to school.

Re-imagining Food Systems in London: stakeholders convene at UCL to test a values-based approach.

On 15 June 2026, the research team behind the Climate Crisis Pump Priming Grant 'Leveraging Bottom-up Food Markets to Build Resilience and Decarbonisation in Food Systems' convened 28 practitioners and policymakers to explore how bottom-up food spaces can support a more resilient, low-carbon and just food system. The project is led by Maurizio Marinelli, who recently joined DPU, and by Estella Carpi from UCL's Department of Risk and Disaster Reduction. The research team

includes Selcuk Cidik from The Bartlett School for Sustainable Construction, Martina Rotolo from the Bartlett School of Planning, and DPU's Liza Griffin, Alban Hasson, and Qijing Luo. Building on a year of market mapping, literature review and stakeholder consultations, the workshop used six food values to structure discussion: democratic control, agroecological practices, cultural foodways, economic fairness, the right to healthy and nutritious food, and spatial equity. Participants included GLA officers; borough officers from Hounslow, Camden, Brent, Islington, Southwark and Lewisham; C40 Cities; Sustain; The Felix Project; Trussell Trust; School Food Matters; Alexandra Rose Charity; Lewisham Local; Made in Hackney; Be Enriched; Camden Giving; and Incredible Edible Lambeth. In the morning, sector-based groups examined food markets and retail, urban growing, food governance, community food provision, and food cultures and education. In the afternoon, participants regrouped around the six values to identify shared opportunities and the conditions needed to realise them. Governance fragmentation, affordability and the under-recognised civic value of markets and growing spaces emerged as common concerns. The findings are now informing a larger grant application.

Workshop discussion at Re-imagining Food Systems in London, UCL. (Credit: Qijing Luo, 2026)



Connections

MSc Building and Urban Design in Development (BUDD)

Joana Dabaj and Riccardo Conti (MSc BUDD, 2013–2014) are co-founders of [CatalyticAction](#), a charity using participatory design and architecture to support vulnerable communities. Joana is Director of Programmes and Riccardo is Executive Director. Their work combines design, research and community engagement across Lebanon and other crisis-affected contexts.

MSc Social Development Practice (SDP)

Ahmad Rifai (MSc SDP, 2013–2014) is Co-founder and Executive Director of Kota Kita, an Indonesian non-profit organisation promoting inclusive urban development. His work strengthens urban citizenship, community participation, and collaboration between residents, civil society organisations, and local governments, with a particular focus on participatory planning, urban governance, and youth involvement.

MSc Health in Urban Development (HUD)

Camilla Rossi (MSc HUD, 2021–2024) has recently become the Development Manager at Made In Hackney, a London-based charity that aims to reduce health inequalities, increase access to climate-friendly food, and bring communities together through the power of plants. Camilla brings experience across research and practice, working closely with the community while focusing on expanding funding, partnerships, and the organisation's reach.

Short-course and visiting-scholar Connections

In June 2026, **Nithi Nesadurai** and **Natalia Gavazzo** reconnected with DPU colleagues during London Climate Action Week. Nithi completed the Local Agenda 21 short course, taught by Adriana Allen and Adrian Atkinson, in 2001. She is now Director and Regional Coordinator of Climate Action Network Southeast Asia. Natalia joined the DPU as a visiting scholar in 2023 to explore links between climate change, migration and gender equality. She now works with [Alianza Global por los Cuidados on care and climate justice](#).

Hands On

During the **BUDD Overseas Practice Engagement in São Paulo**, DPU staff and students, alongside colleagues from Fundação Escola de Sociologia e Política de São Paulo (FESPSP), visited Ocupação Lélia Gonzalez, a housing occupation organised by the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Teto (MTST). The visit took place at a significant moment in the occupation's history. Following four years of collective organising, residents had secured legal entitlement to the land and were awaiting the construction of social housing. The engagement created an opportunity to discuss housing justice, collective care and the politics of urban land with movement leaders and residents. Through body-territory mapping, walking conversations, participatory drawing and collective reflection, students worked alongside community members to explore how everyday experiences, struggles and memories can inform knowledge production and spatial design.

Children take part in the On the Way to School Leadership Workshop at Colegio de la Bici, Bogotá. (Credit: On the Way to School, 2026)



On the Way to School Leadership Workshop in Bogotá. In May 2026, the project and Awatta Camp brought together 76 children from four schools at Colegio de la Bici. Through practical, interactive activities, participants explored leadership and reflected on their journeys to school. Each child received a diploma, a gift bag and a personalised physical-activity report, recognising their contribution to the research and reinforcing teamwork and inclusive school mobility.

The On the Way to School Leadership Workshop team in Bogotá. (Credit: On the Way to School, 2026)





ESD students and local collaborators during the Overseas Practice Engagement on walkability and ecological corridors in Bogotá. (Credit: On the Way to School, 2026)

OPE in Bogotá: a new research strand on walkability. Daniel Oviedo and doctoral researcher María José Arbeláez coordinated the ESD programme's first research strand on walkability and ecological corridors. Nine international students and three local interns combined interviews, transect walks, school-route walk-alongs and community discussions. Their work examined walking as care, access, climate resilience and governance, and will inform future partnerships through the new Walking Cities Lab.

Staff News

Huge congratulations to **Daniel Oviedo**, who has been promoted to Professor of Urban Mobility and Development Planning, and **Azadeh Mashayekhi** and **Raktim Ray**, who have been promoted to Associate Professor.

Daniel Oviedo joins UNEP's Global Working Group on Active Mobility and Integrated Transport. He has been selected to join the group, which supports the Global Environment Facility's electric mobility programme by promoting active travel and improving integration between transport modes and digital systems, helping ensure that electric mobility forms part of a wider sustainable transport strategy.

Emmanuel Osuteye receives two UCL awards. Together with the Bartlett Promise Scholarship Team, Emmanuel Osuteye received the 2026 UCL Provost Education Award for Enhancing Belonging and the Community Impact Award at the 2026 UCL Inclusion Awards. The honours recognise the team's contributions to education, the student experience, equality, diversity, inclusion, and the creation of a stronger sense of community across UCL.

In March 2026, **Barbara Lipietz** became Chair of the IJURR Foundation. As part of the wider IJURR journal family, the Foundation promotes social science research, education and scholarship in urban, rural and regional studies, with a particular focus on Global South contexts. In her new role, Barbara oversaw the selection of Writing-Up Grant scholars supporting PhD researchers nearing completion, and the Majority Regions Workshops for early-career researchers. She worked alongside outgoing Chair Tuna Taşan-Kok of the University of Amsterdam and other IJURR Foundation trustees. She also participated in the associated RC21 doctoral school, coordinated by Claire Colomb of the University of Cambridge, Alberta Andreotti of the University of Milano-Bicocca and Hanna Hilbrandt of the University of Zurich, and partly funded by the IJURR Foundation.



Emmanuel Osuteye and the Bartlett Promise Scholarship Team at the 2026 UCL education and inclusion awards. (Credit: Kirsten Holst, 2026)

The General Assembly of Habitat International Coalition (HIC) awarded **Adriana Allen** the title of Wisdom Keeper. The honour recognises long-standing, highly committed members who safeguard the Coalition's institutional knowledge and experience in advancing the right to adequate housing and the right to the city. During her tenure as HIC President from 2019 to 2023, Adriana led the co-development of several foundational initiatives, including the Habitat Voices Manifesto, HIC's political position on climate justice as a habitat-related right, and its renewed engagement with social and feminist movements. She also supported the Coalition's first multi-year Board strategy and strengthened cross-regional exchange, learning and training through an emancipatory approach to co-learning and political reflection.

The DPU is deeply sorry to share the sad news that **Patrick Wakely** (1939–2026), a distinguished Emeritus Professor and member of DPU's academic staff, and DPU Director from 1989 to 2003, passed away as DPU News went to press. A full obituary will be published in the April 2027 issue.

PhD News

In recent months, several DPU PhD researchers have successfully completed their vivas. Huge congratulations to everyone listed below on this fantastic achievement!

Mohammad Arifuzzaman: Heat stress, urban density and social capital: A Southern urban perspective based on Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Carolina Moore-Sagredo: The makings of precarious property: Low-income tenants in inner-city Santiago, Chile.

María José Nieto-Combariza: The value of mobilities in two- and three-wheelers beyond informality and transport: The case of the Barranquilla-Soledad conurbation.

Orlando Sabogal-Cardona: Mountains, bikes, and friends: Leisure cycling and social capital in Colombia's coffee-growing region.

Hanadi Samhan: Voluminous Exile: The Scaffolded Verticality of Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps.

DPU PhD researchers have continued to develop their excellent research, professional practice and international collaborations.

Alaa Assani successfully passed her PhD Upgrade in November 2025 and received ethics approval in March 2026 for research on housing, land and property rights in conflict and post-conflict Syria. She has since begun fieldwork, conducting 25 interviews with representatives of international organisations, Syrian NGOs and development agencies working on housing, gender and recovery, with further interviews planned with displaced women. In April, Alaa presented research on Syrian women scientists in exile at the UNESCO-OWSD International Conference in Rome and contributed to roundtables on displaced women's experiences and feminist research methods. She also contributed to policy discussions with Syrian officials and an FCDO-hosted roundtable on higher education and research. As a Chevening alumna, she received funding through the Chevening Alumni Programme Fund for 2026-27 to co-lead 'Women Shaping Neighbourhood Recovery Priorities in Syria', which will pilot a women-led participation toolkit through co-design workshops in Syria.

Carmen Freed Huici contributed to the Chilean Energy Poverty Network's [policy paper](#), 'Vivienda y pobreza energética en Chile: hacia una política integral de habitabilidad', which calls for housing and energy policy to be integrated around thermal habitability as a dimension of adequate housing. She also co-authored the Springer Nature chapter, 'Whose Energy Justice? Situated Knowledges from Women-led Grass Roots 'Organising' in the Global South', which examines situated knowledge and women-led grassroots organising through feminist and intersectional perspectives.



Daniela Castillo participates in the 8th International Writeshop in Critical Agrarian Studies and Development in July 2026. (Credit: Lan Xin-kai from China Agricultural University, 2026)

Daniela Castillo received a Bartlett External Training Fund Award in July 2026 to attend the 8th International Writeshop in Critical Agrarian Studies and Development in Beijing and Sanggang Village, Hebei. The event was organised by the Journal of Peasant Studies, China Agricultural University's College of Humanities and Development Studies, and the International Institute of Social Studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

María José Arbeláez received a Postgraduate Research Award from the Royal Geographical Society, supported by the Albert Reckitt Award Fund, to support fieldwork in Bogotá during 2026. The award advances her doctoral research on participatory and equity-focused approaches to urban mobility and care infrastructures. In March 2026, she was also accepted to present 'Care on the Move: Walking in Bogotá's Caring City' at the 6th International Congress on Space and Gender at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Qinjing Luo presented at the researcher forum of China's 10th Agricultural Heritage Conference in Kaili, Guizhou, in August 2026. Drawing on fieldwork in southwest China, her presentation examined how peri-urban transformation and changing governance arrangements are reshaping the rice-duck-fish agricultural system.

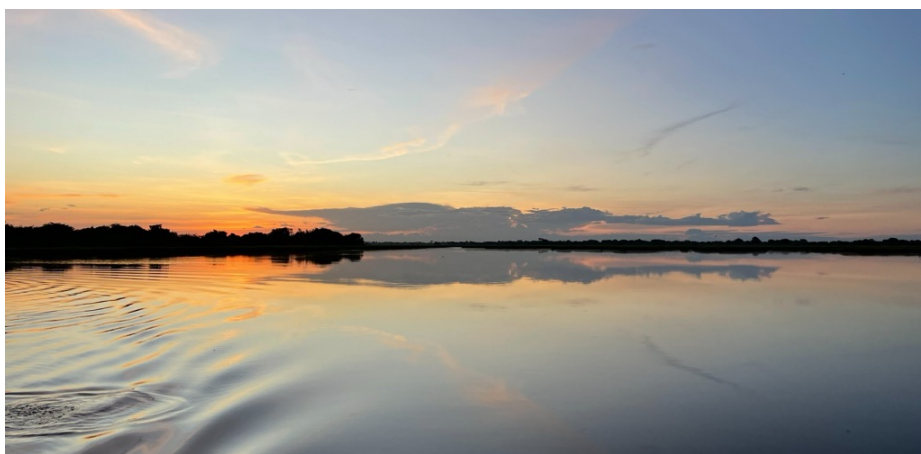
Reem Al-Emadi graduated from the Qatar Leadership Centre's year-long Rising Leadership Program in May 2026, having also participated in the Institute of International Finance's Future Leaders Group during 2025. Her doctoral research examines the institutional role of sovereign wealth funds in Qatar's structural economic transformation.

Sara Granados Ortiz has expanded the international reach of her doctoral research on amphibious territories, sonic methods and nature-based planning. Through the Hydrocommons Working Group, coordinated by Entre-Ríos Collective and Cornell University, she presented her research to a network of more than 35 initiatives addressing water, territory and

environmental change across Latin America. During a research visit to Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Colombia, she established links with its Latin American Studies Centre and explored future collaboration with the MAPUKA Archaeological Museum. Sara also participated in Soundcamp's Reveil broadcast, hosted the weekly radio programme Ventana Sónica on Radio Estruendo Tinansucá, and discussed her doctoral research on El Oficio del Investigador, produced by Universidad de Manizales.

Stefano Mastromarino presented work from the REFRAME project at the RGS-IBG International Conference at the University of Birmingham in September 2025. In January 2026, he presented research on diasporic inhabitation in Trieste at the DPU's USF Seminar Series, Epistemes of Non-Dominant Inhabitation. Since December 2025, he has also worked as a research assistant on the series, which brings together early-career and under-represented scholars to explore everyday, non-normative forms of urban inhabitation and alternative urban epistemologies.

A river landscape documented during sonic fieldwork in Mompox, Colombia. (Credit: Sara Granados, 2026)



Networks and Meetings

In January 2026, the DPU hosted the first international seminar of [Epistemes of Non-Dominant Inhabitation](#), a project funded through the Urban Studies Foundation Seminar Series Award. The three-day event brought together early-career and under-represented scholars and activists from across the world to explore everyday forms of inhabitation beyond dominant frameworks in urban research and policy. The programme combined keynote lectures, mentoring sessions and paper presentations with a community-based walking workshop in North Kensington. Led by Flora Cornish, the walk introduced participants to local histories of housing struggle and collective care around Grenfell. The seminar also featured a keynote by the DPU's Catalina Ortiz reflecting on co-production. The event formed part of a wider seminar series advancing debates on inhabitation and epistemic justice. The discussion continued

through an online writing workshop in April 2026 and will conclude at TU Dortmund in September. The project is led by Paroj Banerjee, with Ishita Chatterjee and Raffael Beier, and is assisted by DPU PhD candidate Stefano Mastromarino. Other DPU contributors included Madina Arifah, Catalina Ortiz and Giovanna Astolfo.

Participants attend the first international seminar of Epistemes of Non-Dominant Inhabitation at the DPU. (Credit: Epistemes of Non-Dominant Inhabitation project, 2026)



Participants join the Inhabiting Grenfell Walk with Flora Cornish during the Epistemes of Non-Dominant Inhabitation seminar in North Kensington. (Credit: Epistemes of Non-Dominant Inhabitation project, 2026)

Asri Septarizky presents YUP findings from Indonesia at the Asian Studies Association of Australia Conference, Deakin University. (Credit: YUP project, 2026)



The **YUP project** contributed to academic discussions on youth participation in Australia. Funded by Fondation Botnar and led by the DPU's Julian Walker and Andrea Rigon, the project works with researcher Clara Siagian and partner organisations Kota Kita in Indonesia and CatalyticAction in Lebanon. On 10 June 2026, Siagian presented 'Belonging as Affect and Practices of Youth Participation in Cities' at Western Sydney University's Young and Resilient Research Centre. Drawing on YUP's earlier research in Solo and Denpasar in Indonesia, and in Bar Elias and El Mina in Lebanon, she explored how young people's experiences of belonging and non-belonging are shaped by economic precarity, social marginalisation, conflict, the climate crisis and technological disruption. The presentation prompted comparisons with the experiences of young people from migrant communities in Western Sydney. In July, Siagian and Asri Septarizky of Kota Kita participated in the Asian Studies Association of Australia Conference at Deakin University. Septarizky examined how patriarchy, nativism and adultism shape institutional forms of youth participation in Indonesia. Siagian chaired the panel Youth, Precarity and the Politics of Participation in Contemporary Indonesia, which also featured Annisa Beta, Widi Sari and Robbie Peters.



Clara Siagian with contributors to the panel Youth, Precarity and the Politics of Participation in Contemporary Indonesia. (Credit: YUP project, 2026)

Drawing on YUP's earlier research, Siagian explored how young people's experiences of belonging and non-belonging are shaped by economic precarity, social marginalisation, conflict, the climate crisis and technological disruption.



Haim Yacobi delivers his keynote at the Space and Politics in Capital Cities conference in Paris. (Credit: Space and Politics in Capital Cities Research Project, 2026)

Haim Yacobi delivered two invited talks **on settler-colonial urbanism and capital-city politics**. At Lund University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Haim examined the spatial and political typologies of settler-colonial urbanism in Palestine/Israel. His talk considered how planning has been employed as an instrument of social, demographic and spatial control, and how Palestinian claims to the right to the city operate as political forms of resistance. On 15 June 2026, he also delivered the keynote 'Jerusalem: The Making of a (Settler Colonial) Capital' at the Space and Politics in Capital Cities conference in Paris. The talk explored how planning, architecture and urban design participate in the political construction of Jerusalem as a capital.

Liquid Cities, Sonic Worlds convened an international dialogue on listening and fluid geographies. On 3 July 2026, the UCL Anthropocene Initiative hosted the hybrid event Liquid Cities, Sonic Worlds: Listening to Fluid Geographies in the Anthropocene, organised by DPU's Sara Granados and Liza Griffin. The event brought together participants in London and online across Latin America to consider how sound and listening can inform understandings of environmental change, urban transformation and more-than-human coexistence. The programme combined keynote conversations, artistic contributions and participatory listening exercises. Keynotes were delivered by Liza Griffin, Sara Granados and George Revill of The Open University, with contributions from Grant Smith

of Soundcamp and the artist duo Blanc Sceol. The South Dialogue included Jorge Bejarano Barco of the Medellín Museum of Modern Art; Jorge Díaz; Luisa Roa; Laura Giraldo of Wageningen University; Gloria Baigorrotegui of the University of Santiago de Chile; Dominique González; and David Rincón of Radio Estruendo Tinansucá. Discussions explored how sonic approaches can draw attention to memory, environmental knowledge, collective care and multispecies relations, and opened possibilities for further collaboration on climate adaptation, environmental justice and more-than-human planning.

Liza Griffin speaking at Liquid Cities, Sonic Worlds, alongside George Revill. (Credit: Sara Granados Ortiz, 2026)





Participants at the WALK21 regional workshop in Panama City. (Credit: On the Way to School, 2026)

On the Way to School strengthened regional links and shared its research at WALK21 in Panama and NECTAR '26. In February 2026, Project Manager María José Arbeláez represented the project at WALK21's first in-person regional workshop in Panama City. The two-day FIA Foundation-supported event brought together 24 participants from across Latin America, alongside colleagues from CAF and UNEP, to discuss policy continuity, road-safety data gaps, motorcycle safety and gender equity in active-mobility policy. Participants applied Walk21's eight-step framework and joined workshops through Panama City, enabling lessons from Colombia and Mozambique to inform regional debate.

In July, María Alejandra Wilches presented the project at **NECTAR '26**, an international conference on mobility transitions and transport sustainability. Her presentation examined how active mobility-to-school programmes in Bogotá influence wellbeing and outlined two co-created pilot interventions in Maputo. Discussion highlighted the project's attention to children's and adolescents' experiences and the importance of adapting urban mobility interventions to local contexts.



Daniel Oviedo presents preliminary findings from On the Way to School at Universidad de los Andes. (Credit: On the Way to School, 2026)

Participants and partners at the On the Way to School preliminary results event, Universidad de los Andes. (Credit: On the Way to School, 2026)



DPU research contributed to two **Inter-American Development Bank knowledge events** on equitable mobility. At 'Rethinking School Mobility', held in Nassau, The Bahamas, on 26 March 2026, Daniel Oviedo presented research on school transportation and its effects on caregivers. DPU alumni Orlando Sabogal-Cardona and Camila Casas-Cortés also presented findings on the barriers and enablers shaping children's and caregivers' school journeys in Nassau. The session considered actionable improvements that could address current mobility barriers. On 10 June, Oviedo contributed to a second IDB event, 'Microtransit and Walkability: Rethinking Mobility Through Technology, Safety and Access'. The discussion examined how digital technologies and new transport services might address public transport gaps across Latin America and the Caribbean. Together, the two events connected DPU research on everyday access, care and mobility inequality with policy debates concerning school travel, walkability and emerging transport technologies.

The **Urban Transformations Cluster** hosted a **seminar on illicit trafficking and urban planning in April 2026**.

The event examined how organised crime and illicit capital shape cities and their infrastructures. Gabriel Feltran traced the infrastructures used by organised criminal groups, including São Paulo's PCC, to produce and move illicit substances. Rowland Atkinson examined the effects of illicit capital on London's housing market, an under-researched dimension of housing financialisation. The seminar forms part of the nine-part **Urban Violence series** led by Azadeh Mashayekhi, Barbara Lipietz, Colin Marx and Nasser Al-Khalidi. Emerging from students' and staff concerns about the growing pervasiveness of urban violence, the series considers how planning both shapes and is shaped by displacement, crime, war and reconstruction.

On 24 June 2026, Giovanna Astolfo contributed to related discussions as an invited speaker at the annual UCL Institute for **Risk and Disaster Reduction conference**. She participated in the panel 'Forced Displacement and the Making of Cities' alongside Olga Demetriou and Estella Carpi, discussing themes from the recently published book *Displacement Urbanism*. Together, the events examined how violence, displacement and illicit economies both shape and are shaped by urban planning.

DPU Alumni Dinner at WUF. (Credit: Unknown, 2026)



The Manifesto for Just and Democratic Housing in European Cities was launched and discussed across a series of events from April to July 2026. First introduced in DPU News, Issue 78, the Manifesto was launched in Paris in April and in Brussels in May. In Paris, Barbara Lipietz recorded a podcast outlining its context and purpose, and in July she presented the Manifesto at the RC21 Conference in Vienna. It will next be discussed at the final Fairville conference in Brussels in November 2026. A panel on co-produced housing and city-making will bring together key European housing actors, including the coordinator and Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Housing Task Force.

A DPU team contributed to the **World Urban Forum (WUF 13) in Baku**, Azerbaijan, held under the theme 'Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities'. Paroj Banerjee participated as an author of UN-Habitat's World Cities Report 2026 and as a member of the Baku Call to Action Advisory Group, which developed shared commitments on adequate housing, urban resilience and implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Barbara Lipietz moderated UN-Habitat Classroom lectures on transforming informal settlements and slums at the WUF Academy Campus, joined a guest panel for the launch of TU Delft's Centre for the Just City, and coordinated Habitat Village events including 'Reflections on the Co-produced Housing Europe Dialogues'. Habitat Village brought together grassroots organisations, academics and international partners to advance rights-based responses to the housing crisis, housing justice and people-centred urban transformation. Andrea Rigon contributed to sessions on young citizen scientists and on the co-production of digital platforms with young people and municipalities, both focused on evidence-based urban governance.

The Walking Cities Lab Advisory Board meets in Gothenburg. (Credit: Walking Cities Lab, 2026)



Walking Cities Lab partners at the programme's inception week in Gothenburg. (Credit: Walking Cities Lab, 2026)



DPU researchers contributed to the **INTALInC Hallsworth Conference in Manchester**. Held from 19 to 21 May 2026 under the theme Addressing Transport Inequalities in Global South Cities, the conference featured several DPU contributions. Daniel Oviedo delivered a plenary keynote and co-facilitated a workshop on walking with Jim Walker of Walk21. María José Nieto-Combariza co-led a workshop on mobility governance with Tim Schwanen of the University of Oxford and Ariana Salas-Castillo of Columbia University. Their contributions considered how walking, governance and institutional arrangements shape transport inequality, while creating space for researchers and practitioners to compare approaches across Global South contexts.

Walking Cities Lab partners met in Gothenburg to establish the programme's operational roadmap. From 15 to 19 June 2026, partners from four continents convened in Gothenburg, Sweden, for the Walking Cities Lab's launch week. The programme opened with the first meeting of the WCL Advisory Board, followed by VREF's Walking Research Workshop, 'Walking as a Mode of Transport: Ongoing Research, Future Plans'. A two-day inception meeting followed, during which Daniel Oviedo and María José Nieto-Combariza led sessions on roles and accountabilities, research themes and gaps, Living Lab priorities, and the programme's foundational propositions and rules of conduct. María José also presented 'Identifying Strategic Opportunities to Mainstream Walking in Urban Governance from an Intersectional Gender Perspective', examining how an intersectional gender perspective can strengthen urban walking strategies. Work package leads shared ongoing initiatives, partners agreed on cross-package activities, and the week concluded with commitments on indicators, deadlines and monitoring. The partnership includes TOI Norway, Newcastle University, UCL, the Federal University of Minas Gerais, the University of Cape Coast, CEPT University, the University of Malta, Walk21, WRI, Laboratorio de Cambio Social, Architectures without Borders, INTALInC, SLOCAT and UNEP.

The DPU celebrated the intellectual legacy of Yves Cabannes, Emeritus Professor of Development Planning. On 16 June 2026, colleagues, collaborators, students and friends gathered at Senate House and online to reflect on Yves' contributions to housing justice, participatory budgeting and urban agriculture. Following a welcome from Julio D. Dávila and reflections from Yves' widow, Cecília Delgado, three thematic sessions revisited key areas of his work. Cassidy Johnson chaired a discussion on forced evictions and the right to adequate housing, with contributions from Cihan Baysal and Alex Frediani. Barbara Lipietz chaired a session examining participatory budgeting across Brazil, Indonesia, China and Portugal, while Alban Hasson led a discussion on urban agriculture, food sovereignty, agroecology and commons governance. The afternoon also featured the launch of Recognising Intangible Heritage in Urban Transformations, co-edited by Farnaz Arefian, Yves Cabannes and Judith Ryser. Closing reflections reaffirmed the ongoing relevance of his work to movements and practitioners pursuing more democratic and just cities.

The DPU reflected on urban design, planetary collapse and the work of Camillo Boano. On 23 June 2026, colleagues, students, alumni and friends gathered to celebrate Boano's intellectual contribution to the DPU and to discuss the future of urban design. Peg Rawes, Hanadi Samhan, Julio D. Dávila and Giovanna Astolfo reflected on his contributions to urban theory and to minor and destituent approaches to design. The event combined critical discussion with personal reflections on Boano's generosity, teaching and influence across the DPU community, while opening further conversations about how urban design might respond to planetary crisis and the challenge of living together.

DPU mobility research featured at **the WCTR and WSTLUR conferences**. At the World Conference on Transport Research, Daniel Oviedo presented 'Navigating School Journeys: Barriers and Enablers for Children and Caregivers in Nassau, Bahamas' in a session devoted to children's and young people's mobility. The presentation connected school travel with care, access and transport inequality. At the WSTLUR 2026 Conference in Beijing, a paper co-authored by Daniel, 'Shared Micromobility and Social Inclusion in a Digital Era: Lessons from Australia and England', was presented in the active travel and micromobility track. Together, the contributions linked DPU research to international debates on inclusive transport, digital mobility and the social dimensions of travel.

Publications

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