



Building Resilient Urban Communities

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Symposia

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Symposia
<p>Symposium I : Lessons learnt from European Informality</p> <p><i>October 23 to 25, 2019</i></p>
<p>Symposium 3 : Training Needs for Urban Resilience in India</p> <p><i>December 2 to 4, 2019</i></p>
<p>Symposium 4 : Defining New Planning and Design Paradigm</p> <p><i>November 29 to 30, 2019</i></p>

Upcoming Events

- **Site Visits** in the Netherlands

Summary of Symposia

Symposium I : Lessons learnt from European Informality

Nexus of housing and migration, Lecture by Sybille Münch, Centre for the Study of Democracy, Leuphana University (23 October)

Sybille Münch is a Professor for "Theory of Public Policy" at the Centre for the Study of Democracy, Leuphana University. Her presentation was on the evolution of social housing in the context of Europe with a focus on Germany. Her lecture helped to understand migration in relation to the housing stock and affordability in Europe. Interestingly it also covered the history of social housing with industrial revolution which could be related with India. The influence and effects of post-world war and its implica-

tions to housing. But more than the above what was striking was the issue of "Energy" which is as essential as water and sanitation and often gets missed out on. In cold regions such as Europe. The issue of energy poverty is deep which was a learning for the participants from India. There was a discussion later about possibility of state subsidy for the most vulnerable communities towards reduced tariffs for energy.

Migrants, refugees and the nation of poverty in an affluent society, Lecture by Tania Berger, Danube University Krems(23 October)



Lecture by Tania Berger

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This session introduced fresh concepts of various spectra of poverty indices, especially the issue of privileged vs foreign born in the context of Austria, the importance of 'object' vs 'subject' was a novel concept. In Austria, low income households with migratory background face exclusions from rental housing markets. Access to social housing requires substantial down payments. Rents in social housing of "limited profit housing associations" are not affordable to many low income household (even though these rents range below market prices). In the context of climate change and again looking at energy poverty and issue of heating of homes in Austria confirmed that this was a serious issue and that citizens and governments need to work on this together.

Housing and Minority Ethnic Groups in Europe, Lecture by Gideon Bolt, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands (23 October)

The session on "Housing and Minority Ethnic Groups in Europe" by Gideon Bolt, Professor at the University of Utrecht, from was instrumental in understanding the difficulties and concerns of the migrant communities in Europe especially in the context of 'The Netherlands' especially scenarios in Amsterdam. It explained how politics, ethnicity and religion can become influential in migrant communities and their access to housing. This is a similar context in India where Religion and Caste both become barriers for access to housing within societal frameworks.



Lecture by Gideon Bolt

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Informal Housing in Eastern Europe, Lecture held by Wolfgang Amann, Institute for Real Estate Construction and Housing Ltd (23 October)

Focused on the informal housing scenario in the context of Montenegro whose geographic terrain is interesting because of the hills and poses a challenge where illegal housing is built not for reasons of “poverty” but for the reasons of Land capture especially on lands with scenic vistas, This session helped understand the practices of “Spatial Urbanistic Plan” and Detail Urban Plan. The issue of illegality of housing structures and regulatory frameworks that govern such informal housing. The detail plan to lay infrastructure like Road was also presented which is similar in case of India and could be related.



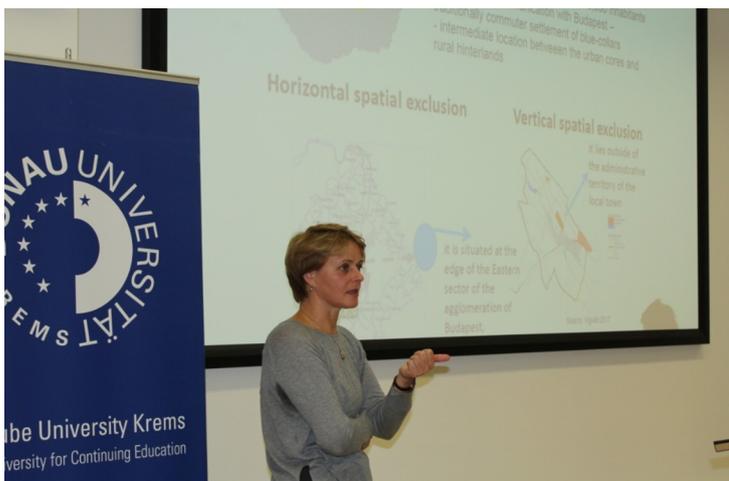
Lecture by Wolfgang Amann

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Informal Housing and socio-spatial segregation in Hungary, Lecture held by Tünde Virág & András Vigvári, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (23 October)

In this presentation, the authors sought to overview the various forms of informal and precarious housing in Hungary. They attempted to define the concept of informal housing in the Central Eastern European context and delineate the different forms of informal dwellings in Hungary and those social groups which are concerned in it. Parallel to the changing role of the national and local state, informal resources such as self-constructions and the usage of household's social capital have increasingly played an important role to cover the housing needs of the precarious so-

cial classes' housing in the Hungarian context. In their paper they attempt to show how informal practices are linked to various housing crises and how policies deal with these practices. Although informal practices have always been presented throughout the development of Hungarian housing system it has produced different spaces in different historical periods. In the presentation the authors reveal current examples of informal housing focusing on the social factors and spatial consequence of this process.



Lecture by Tünde Virág & András Vigvári

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Working in Roma settlements in Bulgaria Lecture held by Ilko Yordanov, Open Society Institute (24 October)

At the end of socialist era the social housing stock in Bulgaria has reached 16.2% of all inhabited dwellings. Its dramatic decrease to about 2 percent in the next two decades, symbolises the effect of minimal state. The state was so minimal that it simply disappeared. The ethnic minorities are among the first social groups affected by the absent state. And the most marginalized group in Bulgaria was the Roma – the largest European minority. The share of Roma in Bulgaria is the biggest throughout the whole Europe. The issue of access to decent houses, social infrastructure, and living conditions and the issue of forced evictions for a large part of Roma raises the question again: are really the Roma in Bulgaria settled? The paper explores this question.



Lecture by Ilko Yordanov

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"Wild" Vienna - Looking back at a century of informal city development (24-25 October)

The development of Vienna in the 20th century was strongly influenced by informal settlements. On a structural level the traces of these formerly "wild" colonies or "Bretteldörfer" are still widely present in today's city fabric. 1918, after the end of WWI, a large part of Vienna's 2 million inhabitants was struck by severe famine, cold, disease and desperate housing conditions. In this

precarious situation, several thousands - some sources speak of more than 100 thousand urbanites - were forced to self-empowerment. Illegal forest clearings, vegetable gardens and squats with primitive houses and sheds were expanding in the Danube floodplain and the alpine foothills, in the fields and wastelands on the fringes of the city.



Travel with Friedrich Hauer & Andre Krammer

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Summary of Symposia

Symposium 3 : Training Needs for Urban Resilience in India

Discussion on Case Studies (2 December)

Symposium 3 commenced with review and discussion on case studies of all the institutes. These have been elaborated in the previous two editions of this newsletter: IIIA and IIIB.

Political Ecology and the Rhetoric of Resilience, Lecture by Shweta Wagh, Collective for Spatial Alternatives (3 December)

The presentation had a critical look into resilience as a concept. The lecture showed how government bodies tend to prioritize construction activities over ecological concerns, since it thinks large-scale construction activities are synonymous with development. The speaker is connected with the Collective for Spatial Alternatives, a group which has worked in advocacy against coastal reclamation in Mumbai, which ignores the fragile ecosystem of the shoreline and the livelihoods of artisanal fishermen. The speaker elaborated on how the authorities go to great lengths to enable 'development', neglecting reports submitted by concerned scientific organizations.



Lecture by Shweta Wagh

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Transforming M (East) Ward: A Perspective on Resilience, Lecture by Dr. Amita Bhide, Dean, School of Habitat Studies (TISS) and Site Visit in M-Ward (3 December)

Amita Bhide emphasized on the intersection between the socially excluded and environmental vulnerability, explaining how the impoverished, and the marginalized are pushed to the city's periphery in M ward, to inhabit one of the low-lying, vulnerable areas. The site visit revealed the plights faced by the inhabitants of the M Ward, and their struggles against the establishment to procure water. M Ward provides a risky but inevitable option for the immigrants from various parts of the country heading to Mumbai for a better life. Not only can local power elites strive to concentrate "unwanted" people in specific areas of a city but also "unwanted" functions.



Residents within M-ward cleaning their locality

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Resilience in Contested Geographies, Lecture by Aneerudha Paul, Director, KRVIA (4 December)

This included presentations of the studio works of master's students. The presentation elucidated how students have developed a framework to understand the intersections of various perspectives to understand resilience, and develop proposals which contribute to better-lasting sustainability and resilience. Work done by KRVIA students, shows the struggles of communities in the Vasai River Basin and the transformation of the natural landscape

(change in land cover). Developers and local government seem to ignore natural conditions.

Urbanizations does not take place in a vacuum – it is changing usage of agricultural (fertile) land, thus contestations over land arise especially with traditional farming communities. Where water bodies are encroached and filled up, these do not simply disappear without a trace. Rather the newly urbanized areas tend to be the first areas flooded in case of heavy rainfalls.

The Question of Representation, Lecture by Rohan Shivkumar, Faculty, KRVIA (4 December)

The lecture showcased the exploration of various representation techniques by students to document the existing socio-physical conditions of settlements. Before being able to intervene in spatial settings, planners, designers and architects first and foremost need to learn tools and methods which help them to understand what is actually taking place in a given environment on a daily basis and all those facets which constitute people's lived reality of space.

The speaker brought to notice the interesting case where alternative modes of representation had changed perceptions and broadened understanding about informal communities among government officials.

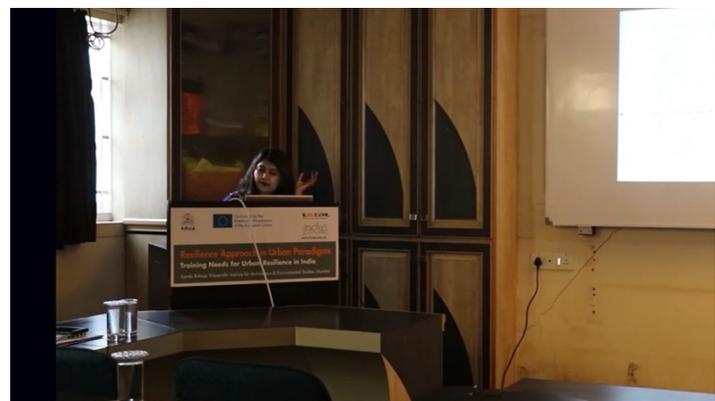


Lecture by Rohan Shivkumar

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Cities as Hubs of Regional & Global Climate Inequities, Lecture by Dr. Binti Singh, Author (4 December)

The lecture emphasizes that there is a decisive injustice at the root of anthropogenic climate change: some, especially in the Global North, consume energy and resources quite disproportionately; while others, mainly in the Global South, are exposed to the consequences of global warming. The question thus arising is whether those at the receiving end will endure endlessly. The speaker explained how disparities and inequalities exist in the modern world, and in cities. She emphasized on gender as a parameter to understand inequality. The lecture covered topics such as income-inequality, inequality in living conditions and consumption, and emissions. The talk ended with an interesting debate on the position of conflict in society.



Lecture by Binti Singh

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Towards Building Resilient Communities, Application And Usefulness Of Data Informatics, Lecture by Dr. Arnab Jana, CUSE, IIT-B (4 December)

The lecture is a clear example of socio-economic determinants of health. Slum dwellers relocated to multi-story apartment buildings with inadequate separation between towers and minimum ventilation have high incidence of tuberculosis. The speaker presented three studies, the first of which revealed the efficiency of simple interventions (such as an exhaust fan) in providing a healthier living condition among the residents of rehabilitated urban communities. This study had also taken up two types of layouts, which resulted in a difference in health conditions of inhabitants. The other two studies covered the use of social media data in post-disaster relief operations and handling public opinion.



Lecture by Arnab Jana

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Visit to the M-Ward by BReUCOM Participants

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Summary of Symposia

Symposium 4 : Defining new planning and design paradigm

Inaugural Address by R Parasuram, Director General, ABV IGGPA (November 29)

The speaker discussed mainly upon the “Communication of Planning” and emphasized upon the disconnect between ‘what is known and what exactly is needed’. He established this through varied national and International examples like water harvesting techniques adopted in Bundelkhand region, Pedestrian shed at US, 17 storied parking permission at Delhi and informal livelihood as biggest challenge at Mumbai etc. He stressed mainly on heavy

subsidization on public transport system, revision of the standards for provision of services in residential communities and also on land management to control ground level water quality. He discussed upon the way Rome and Singapore adopted the policy to discourage traffic movement inside the city core and enhancing the use of Public transport.

Climate Change & Resilience: Thoughts for the Future Education, Lecture by AGK Menon, Architect, Urban Planner and Conservationist (November 29)

The speaker emphasized on three main aspects of future Architectural Education: why we need training for architects; where we should teach the subject of architecture; and how we should teach the subject. He highlighted that presently skill is a major part of education system, and not knowledge. Hence, real time issues are not presently being studied. In his further discussions, he elucidated the need to understand the subject by making mistakes rather than teaching what you know. It was an illuminating lecture on the reality of architecture education in India, which is rooted in western paradigms and blind to the existing needs and contexts of India. The lecture revealed the pressing need to re-think the format of Indian architectural education system.



Lecture by AGK Menon

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Building Urban Resilience: Some Reflections, Lecture by Amir Bazaz, Lead Practice, IHS Bengaluru (November 29)



Lecture by Amir Bazaz

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The lecture described different issues including whether migration is an adaptation strategy or a coping strategy. It focused on HRVA studies as an important component of planning, and revealed that migrant labourers often face crises in cities (dissimilar in nature but similar in scale) as they faced in their hometowns. Their savings are negligible because of the greater costs of surviving in cities. The lecture concluded with a need for platforms for multi-stakeholder engagements, and the necessity for policy-rethinking for migrants, including social security. The lecture opened up interesting discussion on the variability of living conditions of migrants based on income and a debate on the need and inevitability of migrants.

Urban Sustainability in India, by Ravi Anand, Urban and Regional Planner, Hyderabad (November 29)

The lecture focused on individual values as a pillar of sustainability. It emphasized on traditional Indian spiritual values as being a beacon that could lead forward to future sustainability. The speaker suggested that, by limiting population growth, production and use of resources could be avoided. He described action-oriented and applied approaches (forecasting, observing, confirming, responding and innovating), which should be applied to local, regional and global scale. The lecture resulted in an interesting discussion on the relative importance of individualism vs. policy-related movements for sustenance of the human future.



Lecture by Ravi Anand

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Risk informed Planning: Creating higher levels of Community Resilience, by Janki Andharia, Dean, Department of Disaster Studies, TISS Mumbai (November 29)



Lecture by Janki Andharia

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The lecture focused on different levels of vulnerability as a precursor to any disaster study. The talk explained the necessity of a disaggregated study of vulnerability, and emphasized how quick recovery from disaster doesn't necessarily imply absence of vulnerability. It underpinned the requirement for a robust format for disaster-resilience, based on risk reduction and HRVA studies. The speaker talked about fragmented cities and social inequalities. The discussion further stressed upon critical concepts in urban resilience.

People Centric Planning and Design: A Case-Study of CURE, by Siddharth Shankar Pandey, Associate Director, CURE (November 30)

The session brought out the successes achieved when beneficiary groups are involved in the planning. It also highlighted what the city should be providing vs what the communities have to provide for themselves for planned or unplanned projects. An example could be the decentralized waste water treatment plant through de-engineered solution and the policy on water resilience in collaboration with Municipal Corporation of Agra. Other works in this field are the concept of harvesting rainwater at the neighbourhood-level and the use of stones instead of bricks to construct wells. This community-led and designed projects also bring out the untrained hidden architects from within the communities who find solutions to their own problems which are then fed into the regular system and become a part of the policy.



Lecture by Siddharth Shankar Pandey

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**Urban Challenges and Planning Deficit, by Mangesh Tyagi,
Principal Advisor, ABV , IGGPA
(November 30)**

The speaker brought the overview of the existing Planning Policies , which itself is a challenge to implement it till grass root level. Through his discussion he brought the importance and need of financial list needed to be added in the 74th Amendment of Indian constitution. He also discussed upon the methods for smoothing the prevailing transport policies. He highlighted that there is a need to accommodate the need of rental housing in housing policy.



Lecture by Mangesh Tyagi

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Ecological Landscaping: Why revisiting the Biology in Urban and Rural Planning is critical today? by Vinita Gowda, Department of Biological sciences , IISER Bhopal (November 30)



Lecture by Vinita Gowda

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The speaker primarily highlighted about plant-systems and the role it plays across other ecosystem. Deforestation and urbanization impacts the plant population. She emphasized how cultural convenience and preconceived notions play a harmful role in the landscaping decisions and choice of plants across the world, and how a thorough knowledge of plants is necessary to preserve ecosystems and bolster resilience. Dr. Gowda introduced a number of little-known plants in various contexts and their (widely unknown) positive impacts, along with the unknown negative consequences of some popular albeit invasive species of plants. Overall, this was a hugely informative and interesting session.



Participants of the BReUCOM Symposium 4, Bhopal

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