

WORKSHOP

Inside and outside 'ordinary city' margins

A virtual international workshop co-organized by Urban Studies Foundation (USF) and Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai.

This virtual workshop brings four USF International Fellows (IFs) together to exchange their research and engage with India-based urban scholars. Grounded in 'ordinary cities' of the global South, in Brazil, India, Nigeria, and the Philippines, the research conducted by this group of IFs critically engages with the notion of urban boundaries and their attendant questions of sovereignty, social justice and marginalization.

It will also provide an opportunity for a group of young Fellows from the Writing Urban India initiative, supported by the USF, to share their work in an international setting.

Date **Thursday, January 27th 2022.**

Time **13:30** (Chennai, GMT +5:30 hours) until **17.30** (with breaks).

Format online, hosted by the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, India.

Program

13.30-14.30: Session 1

Presentations by USF International Fellows.

1. An ethnography of non-state policing in low-income neighbourhoods of a Nigerian city

Faisal Umar (Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Zaria, Nigeria). This research examines evolving power dynamics among multiple security providers in under-resourced urban communities. It questions how communities and young offenders in a second-tier Nigerian city perceive and experience the plurality of actors and practices in the delivery of security and justice.

2. Urban Ecologies on the Edge and Resource Frontier Urbanisms in Manila, The Philippines

Kristian Karlo Saguin (University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines). Revisiting the concept of the frontier, this research investigates shifting urban metabolic relations of provisioning and risk transfer between Manila and the lake on its edge. With a focus on their politics and paradoxes, it shows how urban edges become generative sites where multiple possibilities emerge.

3. Property at the margins: popular/informal land markets and peripheral urbanization in Belo Horizonte, Brazil (2000-2020).

Joao Tonucci (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil). This research examines how informal property markets are assembled on the margins of Belo Horizonte. Even as such markets provide access to housing for the urban poor this form of peripheral urbanization produces deeply segregated, highly heterogeneous, and poorly serviced peripheries.

4. Contesting the Company Town in India

Ashima Sood (Anant National University, Ahmedabad, India). This study interrogates the boundaries and practices of elite informality in steel towns. Examining discrepancies between the de jure and the de facto borders of cities such as Bokaro and Jamshedpur, this paper outlines the methodological and socio-spatial disparities that have arisen in their wake.

14.30-15.15: Panel Discussion on the Presentations:

Prof. Amita Bhide, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Prof. Bhuaneswari Raman, OP Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, Sonapat.

Dr. Karen Coelho, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai.

Moderated by:

Prof. Loraine Kennedy, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, and French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP).

15.30-17.30: Session 2

Presentations by Fellows of the "Writing Urban India" initiative.

1. **Debarun Sarkar** (Ph.D scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai).

'A city to look at' and 'presenting the world to the city': Worlding New Town, West Bengal

2. **Shahal B.** (Ph.D scholar, Communications Department, University of Hyderabad).

"Sensory boundaries between urban and non-urban: a study on playing film songs in private buses of Kannur, Kerala"

3. **Aditya Singh** (Hyderabad National University)

"Becoming Waste: Water and Commons in the History of Indian Cities"

4. **Srujana Boddu** (Ph.D scholar, MIDS, Chennai)

"Formalization sans decent work: Urban Informal Labour Market amidst Changing Cityscapes"

5. **Amani Ponnaganti** (Ph.D scholar, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

"Where the state sees pollution: Caste, religion and environmental unfreedoms in Kanpur"

6. **Evy Mehzabeen** (Doctoral Fellow, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

"Tea, War and Empire: Morphology of a Frontier Colonial Town"

Discussants:

Prof. Loraine Kennedy (CNRS-EHESS, IFP)

Prof. Awadhendra Sharan CSDS, New Delhi.

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcOitqDkoGdO6g0EVkcT54BkMBBncW5Mj](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcOitqDkoGdO6g0EVkcT54BkMBBncW5Mj)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.