



United Nations

HABITAT III

SIDE EVENT REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of the lead organization	Urban Transformations Network, UK Economic and Social Research Council (UT-ESRC)
City and country where the lead organization is based	Oxford, United Kingdom
Title of the event	Transforming research into practices and policies – dialogues on implementation and evaluation of the New Urban Agenda
Date	10/17/2016
Room number	R19, Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana "Benjamin Carrion"
List of partner organizations	University of Oxford (Oxford, UK); Centre on Migration Policy and Society (Oxford, UK); Oxford Program for the Future of Cities (Oxford, UK); South African Local Government Association (Pretoria, South Africa); Prefecture of Rio de Janeiro (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).
Number of attendees	41-60
Percentage of women participating	51-60%
Background information on the event (themes, issues, context).	This session will bring together local authorities, community leaders and researchers from Brazil, South Africa and the United Kingdom to address how comparative research findings and methods in the planning process can facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 urban agenda. City planning has increasingly included different stakeholders, but multi-level governance and dialogue have not always led to inclusive planning and outcomes. Building on Sustainable Development Goal #11, and as demonstrated by the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda, there is currently a renewed discussion on the importance of new skills in city planning for shaping equitable and sustainable cities. In this event, participants are invited to imagine new ways for academic research to inform and be informed by planning interventions. Supported by the UK Economic and Social Research Council's Urban Transformations Network — a premier urban research funding body working through bilateral government partnerships across global north and south to direct comparative analysis — it aims to promote lasting partnerships between researchers, community organizers and policy makers. Centrally, speakers will debate what institutional support is needed to facilitate knowledge co-production and multi-level governance, as well as identify key challenges for the communication and sharing of ideas. Making research part of urban policies and local practices is crucial for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the New Urban Agenda post-Habitat III, and new approaches to effective synchronization between science, policy and practice are timely.
Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed	Our session brought together local authorities, community leaders and researchers from Brazil, South Africa and the United Kingdom. It addressed how comparative research findings and methods in the planning process can facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 urban agenda. The dialogue considered how to operationalize city 'expertise', how to research better and intervene with regards to city futures, and how a better-futures-oriented approach compels us to revise how research and policy interplay. Four themes emerged from the discussion: 1) That we need to understand the 'pedigree' of the research expertise that shapes cities. 2) That researchers need a particular expertise to bridge the worlds of city institutions, city managers need the imagination and courage to be challenged by research. 3) That cities have geometries of international networks and internal configurations of knowledge and expertise, forms of expertise found frequently in the most marginalised or precarious communities. 4) That the horizons of the future are uneven, but that the New Urban Agenda cannot project only into a future of decades. It demands real-time knowledge, short-term achievements and longer-term goals.
Recommendations that emerged from these discussions.	The pedigree of expertise Participants recognised the value of specific bodies of science and knowledge but felt that cities needed to be cautious about how such expertise is used in shaping grand plans and city futures. Vanesa Castan-Broto stressed that, "there cannot be research without a normative approach, there are people that are called experts because they are marked by their institutions". She invoked the Argentinian theorist Silvio Funtowicz to suggest that we should be clear about such 'pedigrees', especially when thinking about how research expertise is performed in cities. Newly elected President of United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) and former Mayor of Johannesburg Cllr Parks Tau highlighted the work of the Gauteng City-Region Observatory as one model of a city lab that occupies the precarious and productive ground of both challenging and informing city government. Bridging worlds All speakers stressed the imperative for embedded research to cross worlds of knowledge, translating ideas but also thinking through processes of research from design to completion, the pattern of city decision-making and the ability to learn from research. Cathy McIlwaine stressed that "as a researcher it is essential to get collaboration with local government in place at the beginning of the project" and that the New Urban Agenda appeared at times tokenistic in recognising "the deeply gendered nature of all dimensions of city life". Ramin Keivani stressed the need to be smart about the realities of the local politics of the city to communicate and design research. Gabrielle Guimarães, Head of Planning and International Cooperation in Rio de Janeiro, recognised that in the municipality of Rio that too often "when we begin to work in partnership we discover research that is already done but unknown". Geometries of knowledge production Theory travels increasingly from global south to global north but also needs to recognise uneven pattern of power and knowledge in the cities themselves. The geometrical configuration of knowledges in the city, of the city and between cities is important. 'Seeing like a city' for Sophie Hadfield-Hill should be about making visible local knowledges of NGOs and communities alongside the logics of city governance. Temporalities Reconciling the demands of the present and the vision of the future can be hard, but trying to reconcile short term needs and long term sustainability can be productive. Parks Tau suggested that the trade offs between short term and long term demands and relationships between city researchers and city managers are "non linear" generating both complexity but also at times productive engagements when trust relations are strong and communities engaged. Beth Chitekwe-Biti from Slum Dwellers International suggested that "planning is always futuristic" by its very nature. For her this is where the problem lies. Consequently we must manage time horizons, reconcile the realities of today with the visions of tomorrow. Researchers need to bridge these temporalities; "valid information for the planning of cities has to be real time!
Partnerships or collaborations that emerged from the event.	Partnerships were strengthened across all universities within the ESRC Urban Transformations Network at Habitat III (University College London, University of Birmingham, Queen Mary University, Oxford Brookes University, University of Oxford, Kings College London, and more), with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), with South African Local Government Association (SALGA), with Prefecture of Rio De Janeiro, with UN Habitat Housing Policy Section, with the UK Embassy of Ecuador, and with the UK Department for International Development (DFID)
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 1st speaker at your event.	Vanessa Castán Broto, Spain, Senior Lecturer, Development Planning Unit at University College London
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 2nd speaker at your event.	Cathy McIlwaine, UK, Professor of Geography, Queen Mary University of London



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Name, nationality, title and organization of the 3rd speaker at your event.	Ramin Keivani, Iran, Professor of International Land Policy and Urban Development, Oxford Brookes University
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 4th speaker at your event.	Sophie Hadfield-Hill, UK, Lecturer, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 5th speaker at your event.	Beth Chitekwe-Biti, Zimbabwe, Executive Director, Dialogue on Shelter, Representative, Slum Dwellers International
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 6th speaker at your event.	Cllr Parks Tau, South Africa, Former Mayor, Johannesburg, President, United Cities and Local Governments
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 7th speaker at your event.	Gabrielle Guimarães, Brazil, Senior Adviser for Multilateral Cooperation, Rio de Janeiro City Hall
Name, nationality, title and organization of any additional speakers at your event.	Michael Keith, UK, Director, Centre on Migration Policy and Society, Co-ordinator of Urban Transformations (ESRC), Co-Director, University of Oxford Programme for the Future of Cities
Dissemination of the outcomes of your event?	<p>Through the following articles and blogs: BBC Brasil: 1) "O que podemos dizer sobre o futuro das cidades no Brasil e no mundo?" - Michael Keith, Andreza Aruska de Souza Santos, Nicholas Simcik Arese [http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/brasil-37466807] 2) "Saúde precária nas cidades sem acesso rodoviário no Amazonas desafia próximos prefeitos" - Luke Parry, Patricia Torres, Andre de Moraes and Jessem Orellana [http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/brasil-37491145] 3) "Estudo pretende identificar principais problemas que idosos enfrentam nas cidades brasileiras" - Rodrigo Siqueira Reis and Geraint Ellis [http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/brasil-3750437] 4) "Lições da Maré: como combater a violência a partir de um projeto exclusivo para mulheres" - Eliana Sousa Silva, Cathy McIlwaine, Paul Heritage [http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/brasil-37519546] 5) "Como ciência e tecnologia podem ajudar a transformar o sistema de saneamento no Brasil" - Deljana Iossifova e Ulysses Sengupta [http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/brasil-37641804] 6) "Acessível para quem? Como o transporte divide ricos e pobres na cidade brasileira" - Joana Barros e Michael Batty [http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/brasil-37572962] The Conversation: 1) "What is Habitat III and why does it matter? A beginner's guide to the new urban agenda" - Enora Robin [https://theconversation.com/what-is-habitat-iii-and-why-does-it-matter-a-beginners-guide-to-the-new-urban-agenda-65500] 2) "How should we plan the cities of tomorrow?" - Michael Keith, Andreza de Souza Santos, Nicholas Simcik Arese [https://theconversation.com/how-should-we-plan-the-cities-of-tomorrow-66695] 3) "How can we make the world's cities safer for women and girls?" - Caroline Moser and Cathy McIlwaine [https://theconversation.com/how-can-we-make-the-worlds-cities-safer-for-women-and-girls-66688] 4) "Here's how young people help to secure food, water and energy in the city" - Sophie Hadfield-Hill and Peter Krafti [FORTHCOMING] 5) "Beyond urbanisation in risk - Bridges across science-policy and communities" OR "What kind of data is required to promote urban just resilience?" - Adriana Allen [FORTHCOMING] 6) "Here's what happened at Habitat III - the world's biggest conference on cities" - Vanesa Castán Broto [https://theconversation.com/heres-what-happened-at-habitat-iii-the-worlds-biggest-conference-on-cities-66146] Urban Transformations/COMPAS Blogs: 1) "So what difference will the 2016 New Urban Agenda make when the world has had enough of experts?" Michael Keith, Nicholas Simcik-Arese, Andreza de Souza Santos [http://www.urbantransformations.ox.ac.uk/blog/2016/so-what-difference-will-the-2016-new-urban-agenda-make-when-the-world-has-had-enough-of-experts/] 2) "New migrant urbanisms and the United Nations Habitat III conference in Quito" - Michael Keith, Nicholas Simcik-Arese, Andreza de Souza Santos [http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/2016/new-migrant-urbanisms-habitat-3-quito/] 3) "A place for the UK in supporting UN Habitat's New Urban Agenda - The role of the ESRC's Urban Transformations Network" - Nicholas Simcik Arese [http://www.urbantransformations.ox.ac.uk/blog/2016/a-place-for-the-uk-in-supporting-un-habitats-new-urban-agenda-the-role-of-the-esrcs-urban-transformations-network/] 4) "Just sustainability and the New Urban Agenda" - Vanesa Castán Broto [http://www.urbantransformations.ox.ac.uk/blog/2016/just-sustainability-and-the-new-urban-agenda/] 5) "2030 Policy endorsement of a sustainable future: Implications for urban research" - Susan Parnell, Owen Crankshaw & Michele Acuto [http://www.urbantransformations.ox.ac.uk/debate/2030-policy-endorsement-of-a-sustainable-future-implications-for-urban-research/] 6) "An historic moment to be seized!" - David Simon [http://www.urbantransformations.ox.ac.uk/debate/2030-policy-endorsement-of-a-sustainable-future-implications-for-urban-research/an-historic-urban-moment-to-be-seized/] 7) "Defining cities to measure sustainability" - Michael Batty [http://www.urbantransformations.ox.ac.uk/debate/2030-policy-endorsement-of-a-sustainable-future-implications-for-urban-research/defining-cities-to-measure-sustainability/] 8) "Surprising optimism" - Michael Cohen [http://www.urbantransformations.ox.ac.uk/debate/2030-policy-endorsement-of-a-sustainable-future-implications-for-urban-research/surprising-optimism/] We are also currently planning an edited volume in an academic journal on UT ESRC participants research and the implications for operationalizing a New Urban Agenda.</p>