



**CALL FOR PAPERS
21st N-AERUS Conference**

Hosted by the Urban and Rural Planning Discipline of Khulna University, Bangladesh
& Department of Sustainable Cities and Communities, University of Kassel, Germany

**TRANSFORMING ROLE OF STATE IN ADDRESSING INCLUSIVE URBAN
DEVELOPMENT**

27.10.2022 - 29.10.2022

The role of the state in addressing urban development in the Global South remains relevant for academics and practitioners. Since the middle of the last century, the main ideological shift was from post-war Keynesian re-development politics to voluntarily and involuntarily neoliberal political changes and operations in late 1970s and 1980s, which had their ideological roots in late 1940s (Harvey, 2005). These experiences globally impacted cities, urban infrastructure and services. As Brenner and Theodore (2005: 101) indicate that "... deconstruction and attempted reconstitution of urban social space" since 1980s were conceptualised by categories, such as "deindustrialisation, reindustrialisation, post-Fordism, internationalisation, global city formation, urban entrepreneurialism, informalisation, gentrification and socio-spatial polarisation". At the beginning of 2000s these concepts were "complemented by references to 'neoliberalism', which is increasingly seen as an essential descriptor of the contemporary urban condition" (*Ibid.*). In early 2010s, after three decades of neoliberal politics, "the form and consequences [have] continue[d] to evolve through an eclectic blend of failure and crisis, regulatory experimentation, and policy transfer across places, territories and scales" as Peck et al. argue (2013: 1091).

This ideological shift manifests itself in deregulation in general and privatisation of urban public services and space in particular. Determined by the transforming role of the state from a provider and regulator to an enabler, new actors both in the private as well as the civil society sector in urban development arose worldwide. In many cases, the neoliberal turn restructured the relation between local and national state, forcing the former to abdicate its regulatory power in favour of emerging private actors. However, the state has continued to play an ambiguous role in urban development. On the one hand state acts to create and safeguard institutional framework and conditions for "private property rights, free markets and free trade" (Harvey, 2005). On the other hand, it has been argued that the state stays silent in steering urbanisation and development in many cases and has even often actively produced and managed informality itself by using planning and the legal apparatus to define what forms of informal development are accepted or not (Roy, 2005).

Under these circumstances, Marcelo Lopes de Souza (2006) suggests, we must understand the role of the state vis-a-vis the civil society, which as de facto agents of urban planning and management, may act together with, despite and against the state. Diana Mitlin (2008) also highlights that the state has a role in co-producing public services that can ensure inclusive urban development. However, in such co-production the role of state has been portrayed as a passive attributor rather than being considered as an actor to pledge for inclusive urban development.

A great body of research already addresses the relationship between the state and civil society, focusing on marginalised urban communities. We draw on four of these approaches. The first approach showcases the success stories of state-led urban development activities where the urban poor communities are actively involved and the interventions are co-designed and produced both by the state and the urban poor communities. The second approach highlights the self-help activism of



marginalised communities and how it eventually enables individuals or communities to develop a strategic relationship with different state institutions in accessing different urban public services. Here the role of state is often portrayed as a response to politically address a civil society movement. The third approach expands forms of neo-liberal urban development, in which the state abdicates and enables the market to address urban development which eventually supposed to cater to the urban poor. Such a notion has been critically analysed worldwide. Lastly, research investigates different state-led programmes which are often top-down in nature, being designed and implemented without the participation of the community.

Already in 2003, NEARUS organised a seminar in Paris called “Beyond the neoliberal consensus on urban development: other voices from Europe and the South”. A selection of ten over 40 contributions was published in the Trialog Journal in early 2004. The editors (Cripps et al., 2004) brought up a variety of cases addressing neoliberal urban and infrastructure development policies as well as alternatives, including those addressing gender perspective and right to the city and housing. Cripps and others asked: “is urbanity possible under neo-liberal premises?” After 19 years of experiences with neoliberal forces and counter-movements in cities we are attempting to explore a similar question. How far neo-liberal urban policies are rooted and influenced the relations between the actors shaping urban development in global South? While contextualising the New Urban Agenda in Global South cities, we see an urgent need to revisit how the state engages with private sector and the civil society, especially with marginalised urban communities in regards to urban development. The purpose of the conference is to reach out for a variety of cases witnessing transforming role of the state and the relation among various actors in the society. We are looking for examples of production and appropriation of space in neighbourhoods, cities and metropolitan areas. Furthermore, in this context, the overarching question arises if these particular cases can lead to a commonality and conceptual abstraction for urban South?

Therefore, in the 21st N-AERUS conference, we invite contributions including following thematic areas but not limited to:

- **Theme 1: Beyond neoliberal urbanisms in the Global South:** What are the current urban development discourses and contemporary multi-level governance models? How do national governments and global cities compete and reclaim their positions in a global context?
- **Theme 2: The role of the state in urban rehabilitation and transformation:** What are the current cases of urban redevelopment interventions on a scale from authoritarian to participatory and inclusive approaches, including the state vis-à-vis self-help activism;
- **Theme 3: Counter-movements to neoliberal urbanism:** What are the scope and impact of alternative urban movements including the rights discourse and culture? What are the viable examples of partnerships among actors?
- **Theme 4: Neo-Keynesian response to the pandemic:** What are the recent experiences of national and local government recovery interventions in cities in post-COVID phase?

Submission of Abstracts

Please send your abstract (max. 300 words in .rtf or .docx format) in English to naerus2022@gmail.com no later than April 30th 2022, 1pm CET, indicating: a) session, b) names of the authors, c) title of the paper and d) mode of participation. Please also find a form for abstracts [here](#).

Papers will be selected by an independent scientific committee composed of the Urban and Rural Planning Discipline of Khulna University, Bangladesh; University of Kassel, Germany and N-AERUS representatives through a blind refereeing process. After the conference a selection of articles will be published in an edited book format.



Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline: 30th of April 2022, 1pm CET

Abstract review and selection for full paper by: 15th of July 2022

Full paper submission: 10th of October 2022, 1pm CET

Conference in Khulna, Bangladesh and in Kassel, Germany: 27-29th of October 2022

Location and Format of the Conference

Conference will be a hybrid format and will primarily take place in person in Khulna, Bangladesh at the Khulna University. A satellite session is planned in Europe. Institute for urban development at the University of Kassel will host the satellite session in Kassel, Germany. Participants who will be not able to join in-person either in Khulna, Bangladesh or in Kassel, Germany will be allowed to join online sessions. All the sessions will be live streamed and zoom platform will be used for interactive sessions.

Costs

No registration fee accompanies attendance of the conference. Coffee/tea breaks and lunches will be provided for by the organisers. Dinners as well as accommodation and travel have to be covered by the participant.

Accommodation

Some low-cost accommodation will be available for participants in Khulna, Bangladesh. Relevant details to apply for low-cost accommodation will be provided on the conference website at www.n-aerus.net along with supplementary information on additional accommodation at special negotiated rates.

About N-AERUS

N-AERUS (Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South) is a pluridisciplinary network of researchers and experts working on urban issues in developing countries and emerging economies. It was created in March 1996 by a group of European researchers. Its objective is to mobilise and develop the European institutional and individual research and training capacities. Further information on the network can be found at www.n-aerus.net.

The Host Institute

The Urban and Rural Planning Discipline of Khulna University (<https://discipline.ku.ac.bd/urp>) will be the organising and hosting institution of the 21st N-AERUS Conference. Located in a global south city and in the coastal zone of Bangladesh, Urban and Rural Planning Discipline of Khulna University is the pioneer academic institution in offering planning education in Bangladesh. Department of Sustainable Cities and Communities of University of Kassel, Germany (<http://www.uni-kassel.de/go/sustainable-cities-and-communities>) will be the satellite European host of this conference.

The Organising Team of 21st N-AERUS Conference

Prof. Dr. Md. Ashiq Ur Rahman, Urban and Rural Planning Discipline of Khulna University, Bangladesh; G.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Umut Kienast-Duyar, Department of Sustainable Cities and Communities of University of Kassel, Germany & Dr. Lorena Melgaço, Lund University, Lund, Sweden, on behalf of Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South.

Further information

For more information please contact naerus2022@gmail.com or visit the website www.n-aerus.net.