



**Erasmus  
University  
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# **The Collection**

## **Volume 3**



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Learning for Equality is a project lead by Dr. Isabel Awad.  
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# Impact of Spatial Transformation on Women's Livelihoods in Slum Rehabilitation Housing after Development-induced displacement:

*An analysis of spatial transformation and women's livelihoods in case of Natwar Parekh Compound in Mumbai, India*

Radhika Saran




## Programme

MSc Urban Management and Development | IHS | EUR

Housing is a human right and forced displacement is a violation of this fundamental right. It leads to a breakdown of livelihoods and disproportionately affects the socio-economically vulnerable groups of society. One such group is women. In a patriarchal society,


women are given secondary social status and are stripped of several basic rights purely as a virtue of their gender. Over many decades of negotiating socio-spatial freedom, women have started to shed the socio-cultural implications of patriarchal norms and artfully devised livelihood strategies that serve them. However, displacement disrupts these complex systems and forces





women to start from scratch in unfamiliar spatial contexts. This thesis explores the multifaceted impact of spatial transformation on the livelihoods of women in a resettlement housing after development-induced displacement. It delves deep into the characteristics of transformation conducted and their reasons to do so. Several notable findings have been discovered, elucidating the ongoing change that shapes their well-being. Through a series of in-depth interviews with displaced women, a comprehensive understanding of their experiences in the transformed environment was garnered. The significance of this transformation becomes apparent in its multifarious contributions across social, human, and economic livelihoods assets. Women's ability to effectively rebuild their lives within the new spatial confines speaks to the inherent resilience and adaptive capacities they possess, which leads to a ripple effect and improves the livelihoods of all household members, especially females. Moreover, the study illuminates the transformative potential of spatial changes in enhancing women's sense of agency, fostering social networks, and reinstating a semblance of normalcy in their daily lives required for livelihood restoration.

However, it is noteworthy that spatial transformation is an ongoing process, necessitating continual attention and support. The research underscores the need for sustained institutional backing to fortify and scale up the positive outcomes of spatial change. Through capacity building, knowledge sharing and speedy redressal of grievances, spatial transformation can be effectively designed to respond to evolving challenges and aspirations of the women residents. The research methodology employed a combination of in-depth interviews and spatial analysis to unravel the intricate dynamics of spatial transformation and the role of women in it. The narratives of displaced women offer profound insights into the nuanced ways in which the need for spatial transformation is recognized and actualized in households and the community. Complementing these narratives, spatial analysis was conducted to map conditions before and after the transformation. This approach enriches the understanding of the physical and socioeconomic shifts that have transpired. In conclusion, the thesis underscores that spatial transformation wields a substantial influence on the livelihoods of women in resettlement colonies



following forced displacement. The restoration of livelihood assets through this transformation emerges as a noteworthy positive outcome, yet the process's ongoing nature necessitates continual support. As societies continue to grapple with the challenges of displacement, this thesis contributes essential insights into the role of spatial transformation in fostering resilience and empowering women within their new communities.

[Read the full thesis here](#)





# Breaking the Bias:

## *Addressing the Social Biases in Artificial Natural Language Models for Neuroscientific and Medical Implementation*

Cindy J. Steward

### Programme

Neuroscience | Liberal Arts & Sciences | EUC | EUR

Artificial natural language models, such as ChatGPT, have gained widespread popularity across professional domains, including search engines, generative-, and predictive modelling. However, concerns have emerged regarding their fairness and the potential perpetuation of harmful biases. This capstone examines how present racial and gender biases are in artificial models intended for neuroscientific and medical implementation. A ChatGPT-3.5 API-powered NeuroAnalyzer system was developed in Python to analyze case studies within a neuro-medical context based on 7 identified neurological disease classifications. The system utilizes inputs related to race, sex, residency, and the neurological disorder classes to generate responses. Data analysis consisting of a descriptive analysis, a linear regression

analysis, and a Pearson's correlation analysis was conducted to examine the output variables of word count, paragraph count, sex mentions/references, and race mentions/references. The results reveal significant relationships between the word count and residence ( $p=0.011$ ), and paragraph count ( $p<.001$ ), suggesting a bias towards a North American perspective. Moreover, the results suggest a potential association between mentions of race and neurological disorders, highlighting the need for further investigation into the intersectionality of race and neurological conditions. Furthermore, this thesis demonstrates the interconnected nature of race and gender, as evidenced by the strong significant correlation between race references ( $p<.001$ ,  $z=1.311$ )/mentions ( $p<.001$ ,  $z=1.012$ ) and sex references and mentions. The results also indicate weak positive correlations between word count and variables such as sex

( $p=0.007$ ,  $z=0.138$ ), race ( $p<.001$ ,  $z=0.171$ ), residency ( $p<.001$ ,  $z=0.241$ ), and race mentions ( $p=0.010$ ,  $z=0.133$ )/references ( $p=0.018$ ,  $z=0.122$ ) and sex mentions/references ( $p=0.041$ ,  $z=0.105$ ). Similarly, paragraph count shows weak positive correlations with race ( $p=0.045$ ,  $z=0.104$ ), residency ( $p=0.006$ ,  $z=0.143$ ), and race mentions ( $p=0.031$ ,  $z=0.112$ )/references ( $p=0.036$ ,  $z=0.108$ ), as well as sex mentions ( $p=0.056$ ,  $z=0.099$ ). Collectively, these findings suggest that artificial models like ChatGPT may be significantly influenced by variables such as race, residency, sex, and neurological disorders. It emphasizes the importance of identifying biases and conducting further research to explore specific safeguards and additional factors that contribute to artificial models, prior to neuroscientific and medical implementation.

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# Weaving memories:

*An ecosystem of initiatives that deal with the legacies of civil war in Lebanon*

Joaquín Fuentealba Muñoz



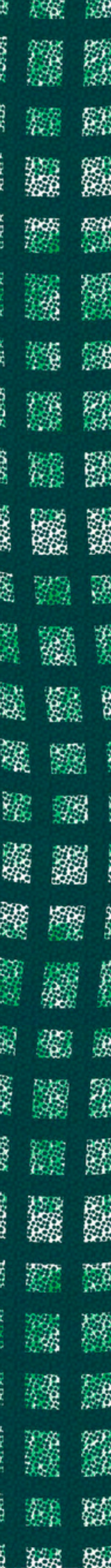
## Programme

MA Governance and Development Policies | ISS | EUR

The following study delves on the ways in which a wide array of promoters – whose work span from activism, awareness-making, policy reform, artistic and cultural productions, education, philanthropy to diplomacy – interact in the hopes of developing a broader understanding of the civil war that scarred Lebanon. To do so, the research builds on onsite observations carried out around members of the Forum for the Memory and the future, one of

the many undertakings that comprised an entangled ecosystem of initiatives happening in a country that continues to ignore the whereabouts of thousands of compatriots and keeps being immersed in a profound institutional crisis.

The research argues that their daily activities are anchored in what YungSong Lee (2021) pointed as the three pillars upon which peace rests: plurality, subtlety, and connectivity. Further, it shows that these initiatives – sometimes knowingly, others spontaneously – make use of this theoretical tool.



More interestingly, it sheds light on how the way they interact resembles those present in the theory of complex systems and invites to consider such an approach when facing other pressing social challenges.

Lastly, this research identifies that members' main motivation for such efforts lies in their desire to overcome the fear that the civil war installed. And, in what appears to have theoretical implications, their interactions, rather than advocating an emancipatory peace, seem to be inclined towards a constant adaptation to the parameters set by an uplifted liberal peace-sustaining agenda.

[Read the full thesis here](#)





# “I had only experienced life as myself”:

*Self-representation of autistic people on Instagram*

Chantal Verdoold




## Programme

MA Media, Culture and Society |  
ESHCC | EUR

Representations of autism in the media are often colored by discourses asserting that autism is a deficit or the product of imposed social structures. These discourses stem from the so-called medical and social models of disability. Both offer unnuanced understandings of autism, which affect audiences' views, and impair autistic people's possibilities to recognize

themselves in the media. Lived experience of autistic people is therefore overlooked and autistic people are seen as victims of social structures or of their disability. A third model of disability, the predicament model, takes into account lived experiences of autistic people and asserts that autism is at once a biological and social disability that presents itself differently in every autistic individual. This model creates a more nuanced understanding of autism by arguing that we need to take into account



autistic voices to better understand how autism is experienced by them. For example, autistic people can assert a more complex and nuanced understanding of autism through self-representation on social media. This research examined such self-representations on Instagram and aimed to answer two research questions: (1) how do autistic people represent autism on Instagram? and (2) how do users engage with and interpret autistic people's portrayals of autism on Instagram? Through purposive sampling, three autistic Instagram creators were selected to examine their representations of autism. Using qualitative multimodal content analysis, ten posts of each account and thirty accompanying comments were analyzed. From the analysis, four categories and their patterns were developed. The first three categories were based on the medical, social and predicament models of disability. These categories demonstrate the way that these models influenced, were present, or were opposed in the creators' representations of autism. The medical model was opposed through the use of irony. The social model was present to explain how living in a neurotypical society is difficult for autistic people, and how autistic people continue to be mistreated.

The predicament model fits the creators' representations of autism best because they normalized being autistic through a variety of strategies. Emphasis was furthermore placed on valuing autistic experience, representing lesser-known autistic traits and behaviors, and challenging stereotypes. The fourth category focused on user engagement with and interpretation of the creators' posts, and concludes that users largely adopt the intended meaning of the creators' posts. They are grateful for the representations, relate to the content and engage in conversations with others, thereby building a positive autistic identity and safe space on the internet.

[Read the full thesis here](#)



# Fashion speaks louder than words:

*How modest fashion brands in the Netherlands aim to empower women through social media, unity and self-representation*

Anne-Lotte Kunst



## Programme

MA Media, Culture and Society |  
ESHCC | EUR

The Dutch modest fashion industry keeps expanding, despite the current radical right-wing political climate, which has Islamophobic tendencies. This popularity could be explained by the increasing number of Muslims in the Netherlands. With my research I answer the question: How do modest fashion brands in

the Netherlands aim to empower women in their fashion choices through social media? I answered this question by conducting 15 interviews with women who supply modest fashion in the Netherlands. They are founders and managers of the brands and find themselves in a unique position to operate from, they combine their Muslim identity with their position as Dutch-Western citizens. I found out that modest fashion brands empower women through social



media by promoting modesty and inspirational posts and platforms, some with the help of Muslimah influencers. The brands safeguard Islamic values and dresscodes in various ways, therewith demonstrating the diversity within the Ummah (Muslim community). A prominent example regards the photographs that are used to promote the products, where some brands cover the faces of models and other brands purposely hide them. The aesthetic labor that comes with working in the commercial fashion industry remains complex for Muslim women, since on the one hand they have to safeguard their Islamic principles by protecting their awrah and on the other hand they participate in an industry that evolves around appearance and performativity. Revealing more of the feminine features such as her face and bodily shapes seems to be a way to earn more money. Nevertheless all brands I interviewed adhere to the Islamic guidelines in their own ways, therewith opposing the male-dominated mainstream fashion industry in the West, that often objectifies women. Lastly, the brands empower women by creating online communities, welcoming women of all backgrounds who are united through sisterhood.

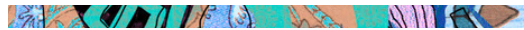
Social media plays a significant role in the communication and support between sisters. Mainly Instagram is a tool to facilitate community and functions as a source of inspiration for women who want to start or grow in their modest fashion journey. Modest fashion is thus not only about covering garments, it is a lifestyle that unites Muslim women and non-Muslim women through representation and self-expression, while and staying true to their Islamic values if applicable.

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# Virtual Reality as an Accessibility Tool to Cultural Heritage Sites for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Saskia Dechaene




## Programme

MA Cultural Economics and  
Entrepreneurship | ESHCC | EUR

Cultural heritage sites hold immense significance as they have the ability to embody human development. In many ways, cultural heritage is a representation of everyone for everyone, consisting of our shared history, traditions and cultural diversity. Due to its relevance to our society, access to cultural heritage is seen as a fundamental human right. Despite this, the perceived lack of accessibility surrounding cultural heritage sites has been widely discussed in academic literature. This accessibility is especially overlooked when it comes to people with invisible disabilities. One group of people in particular that is often neglected in such conversations is individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). A limited amount of accessibility

initiatives exist for people with autism, and those that do have occasionally received mixed reactions. Recently, the use of virtual reality (VR) technology has joined the conversation surrounding accessibility. Virtual reality has been used both for virtual tours of heritage sites and as an intervention tool for ASD, but rarely has the combination of virtual reality to increase the accessibility of heritage sites for individuals with autism been discussed. Thus, this thesis seeks to answer the question: How can virtual reality contribute to the accessibility of cultural heritage sites for people with autism spectrum disorder? An in-depth qualitative research was conducted through interviews with individuals with ASD and primary caregivers of children on the autism spectrum. Participants were asked about their experiences with accessibility at cultural heritage sites, their opinions on virtual reality and



possible benefits and risks of the use of virtual heritage for the accessibility for the autism community. The social model of disability was used as a theoretical underpinning. Results show that if developed and implemented correctly, virtual reality could contribute in an exceedingly positive way to the accessibility of cultural heritage sites for people with autism. Certain features, such as customisation based on hyperreactivity to specific sensory inputs and the ability to use virtual heritage for preparation or repetition of a visit could be advantageous to many individuals with ASD. However, specific constraints such as the possible apprehension towards head-mounted-displays, the resulting divide between visitors with autism and neurotypical visitors, and the abandonment of physical accessibility initiatives could influence the perceived usefulness and ease of use of virtual heritage for people with autism. Results conclude that a widely available virtual heritage option which prioritises the accessibility needs and wants of visitors with autism could simultaneously increase autism awareness amongst neurotypical visitors whilst providing visitors with autism with the possibility to adapt a heritage site in a way that feels

comfortable to them. Furthermore, there should be an emphasis on the concept of co-creation with members of the autism community which takes into account the heterogeneous accessibility needs of visitors with ASD. Hence, by reflecting the social model of disability, this research highlights the importance of ensuring accessibility to cultural heritage sites for all individuals, regardless of ability.

[Read the full thesis here](#)





# Too light, too dark or just right?

*A qualitative study of how colorism has changed in cosmetics ads with the body positivity movement.*

Lenee Lloyd



## Programme

MA Media and Creative Industries  
| ESHCC | EUR

Media marketing communications are one of the main ways companies keep their customers informed of their products or activities. They have been proven to be successful at reaching a company's target group, this is also true for cosmetics companies. Generally speaking, these communications feature hegemonically beautiful people who meet Eurocentric beauty standards. However, for many minority groups, particularly Black

communities, media representation is a point of contention. As their looks do not typically align with Eurocentric beauty standards, they receive less media representation. When they are represented, it is typically done from a limiting or inaccurate point of view. Similar arguments can be made for representation within cosmetics. This has been the norm for many years, but the body positivity movement is working to change this and promote more natural and realistic standards of beauty. Many people look to the media as a source of representation. Proper representation is important as

many people, particularly adolescents, rely on the media to help construct their views and opinions regarding body image. Having narrow views of beauty or poor representation contributes to these groups experiencing low self-esteem or body image issues. Furthermore, without good representation, many minority groups harbor feelings of inferiority or even nonexistence. With that said, the researcher chose to investigate how the introduction of the body positivity movement impacted colorism in media marketing communications featuring Black female models. Therefore, this research project will focus on identifying what constitutes colorism, how it affects Black representation and body positivity, and how it presents itself in print marketing communications.

In terms of approach, online databases were used to filter through and retrieve the advertisements. In total, 100 ads were collected and analyzed. In terms of processing the content, a visual content analysis was conducted to code the images, while a thematic analysis was used for the codes. Additionally, the thematic analysis was used to identify the relevant themes and patterns within the data.

Moreover, the ads from cosmetics

companies were analyzed. Specifically, pictorial print advertisements were used for this study. The results from the analysis indicated that the body positivity movement has shifted the presence of colorism within these marketing communications. Additionally, the data yielded three major themes: skin tone, facial features, and hair type. Within each theme, there was evidence that showcased the diminished effect of Eurocentrism, and increasing effects of Afrocentrism. The findings of this study revealed that though colorism was evident in the marketing communications, its presence and prominence have been significantly diminished. This is due to a significantly higher level of Afrocentrism present than what was deemed the standard based on theory and literature. Additionally, these findings indicated that the body positivity movement made an impact on colorism within the marketing communications. This is attributed to the fact that many communications opted to embrace a more natural or Afrocentric look through the visibility of dark skin, full lips, and short kinky hair.

[Read the full thesis here](#)



# **Banksia Hill Detention Centre: Aboriginal youth discrimination, exploitation, and injustice in Western Australia**

Madeline Elizabeth Phoebe Walker



## **Programme**

MA Social Justice Perspectives |  
ISS | EUR

Banksia Hill Detention Centre has been at the forefront of human rights debates within Australia since its opening in 1997. Western Australia's existing political majority and the constitution provide a challenging backdrop for actualised structural long-lasting reform to take place. This research paper problematizes this issue by providing a socio-legal approach

as to how and why various actors right these violations and laws. It is argued that legal and non legal actors have shifted towards utilising strategies of legal mobilisation in order to bring about social transformation. Through quantitative interviews and analysis of judgements conclusions were drawn on the recent success of lawyers being on this transition towards strategic litigation. However, while success can be identified within lawyers actions, contradictions can be found within the social movements which are



yet to shift towards sustainable mobilisation of the law. As such this juxtaposition between the two exists demonstrating reasons as to why structural change is slow passed and takes bureaucratic routes. Collective legal consciousness is needed to provide a space for these actors to work together to hold institutions accountable to the law.

[Read the full thesis here](#)



# Branding in the Nonprofit Sector:

## *A Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis of Refugee Organizations' Branding Strategies on Instagram*

Emilia von Peterffy-Rolff



### Programme

MA Media and Business | ESHCC  
| EUR

The construct of branding has mostly gained its popularity in the for-profit context, even though it is of equal importance in the non-profit sector. Nonprofit organizations (NPOs) are dependent on recruiting volunteers, receiving donations, and partnerships with external stakeholders. Thus, an effective branding strategy is vital to the daily operations of NPOs. Social media can act as a useful tool to

brand the NPO, however, the potential should also be fully realized. This calls for more practical insights into NPOs branding practices to guide practitioners in their content creation on social media. While previous studies have investigated platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube in the context of NPOs' branding practices, research on the strategic use of Instagram remains scarce. Furthermore, research on branding practices in the humanitarian sector remains narrow. For this purpose, the Instagram posts



of three international refugee organizations, namely, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (N = 30), the International Rescue Committee (N = 30) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (N = 30) are examined in the context of one of the most recent humanitarian crises in Europe, the conflict in Ukraine. More specifically, through deploying the method of multimodal critical discourse analysis, this research aims to explore how international refugee organizations strategically position their brand on Instagram in the context of the Ukrainian conflict. The findings indicate that organizations position their brand through four dominant strategies. First, the organizations showcase their brand purpose by emphasizing the severity of the crisis and storytelling about forcibly displaced people and brand origins. Second, the organizations highlight their brand mission through showing their presence, efforts and measures, communicating about the organizations' solidarity and aim to influence external actors, and driving their financial objectives and visibility. Third, the strategy of branding the organization visually is characterized using organizational colors and the strategic positioning of the logo. The last strategy, reinforcing humanitarian discourses, is showcased by three

representations 'organization vs. forcibly displaced people', 'forcibly displaced families' and 'generic masses fleeing'. The four strategies together illustrate how refugee organizations brand themselves on social media, contributing to the limited amount of research in the field.

[Read the full thesis here](#)



[illegible]

MA Applied History | ESHCC |  
EUR

hyperfemininity, and DIY (Do-It-Yourself) activism. Within the pages of these zines, femininity is constructed as a multifaceted and layered concept; women are constructed as beings in their own right rather than objects for the 'male gaze.' This analysis is framed through the lens of Mikhail Bakhtin's carnivalesque literary theory, which posits that such materials hold a revolutionary potential to overturn the dominant world order. Through a qualitative analysis of fifteen zines from the 1990s United Kingdom, this research aims to understand how

these materials utilized the carnivalesque elements 'the grotesque body' and 'the upside-down world.' It additionally examines how these zinesters explored realms which have historically been reserved for men, such as anger, humor, profanity, and obscenity. Through this qualitative analysis, certain recurring themes are identified, such as body image, eating disorders, 'girl power,' menstruation, and more. Key findings reveal that the constructions of femininity in these girl zines contributed not just to an ever-evolving feminist body of work, but to a carnivalesque canon of literature. Through this analysis, a nuanced picture comes into focus about how '90s third wave feminists enacted a wide range of visual and linguistic resistance. Although the girl zine movement of the 1990s had declined by the end of the decade, their constructions of femininity continue to hold significance for modern day feminists. By reconceptualizing this media as a subversive, feminist, and revolutionary art form, these 1990s publications can act as a guide and inspiration for fourth wave feminists to understand how their struggle fits into the larger feminist discourse.

[Read the full thesis here](#)



# The politics of migration categories:

## *The case of the 'economic refugee' in the Netherlands*

Renee Kolpa

### Programme

BSc Political Science | FSW |  
University of Leiden

In the Dutch debate on migration, we can identify a particular type of migrant: the 'economic refugee' ('economische vluchteling'). While this person does not exist in legal terms, it does exist in the collective imagination of the Dutch, as the economic refugee is often the topic of migration debates. For instance, when politicians speculate on television about the number of so-called economic refugees applying for asylum, as CDA party leader Hoekstra did during the 2021 election debate: 'I believe that three-quarters of the asylum applications are from economic refugees' (Hoekstra, 2021). This simplistic depiction of individuals on the move infuses public discourse. As the imaginary mass of 'economic refugees' knocking on the Dutch door is not unnoticed by Dutch citizens, as illustrated by

the following tweet: 'Let's be grateful to the Poles for doing everything they can to stop these economic refugees. If it were up to the EU, these hopeless people would have walked in. It would be an example for the Netherlands to keep the borders closed' (Bentham, 2021). This is just one of many examples of how the economic refugee is being used discursively in public and political debates. As such, the use of the migration category 'economic refugee' is common practice. But why? And who is the 'economic refugee'? How did this migrant category come into existence? And importantly, what purpose does it serve?

This thesis can be regarded as a critique of the migrant category 'economic refugee'. A critique, as Foucault put it:

*'does not consist in saying that things are not good the way they are. It consists in seeing on just what type of assumptions, of familiar notions, of established and*




*unexamined ways of thinking the accepted practices are based'* (Foucault, 2003, p. 172).

By doing so, this thesis contributes to a growing body of literature that challenges how lives on the move are categorised in public, political, and academic spheres. Scholars have deconstructed the migrant categories in different ways, for example by examining how the categorisation of migrants does not accurately reflect the complex migration dynamics (e.g., Crawley & Skleparis, 2018), how categories are constructed in the academic arena (e.g., Haddad, 2004; Dahinden, Fischer & Menet, 2021), in the public arena (e.g., O'Doherty & Lecouteur, 2007; Taylor, 2021; Goodman & Speer, 2007; Yantseva, 2021; Kunz, 2020; De Coninck, 2020), in policy arena (e.g., Duvell, 2012; Becker 2014, Elrick & Schwartzman, 2015; Sajjad, 2018), in the political arena (e.g., Zetter, 2007; Rowe and O'Brien, 2014), in legal discourse (e.g., Kritzman-Amir, 2020) and how categorising migrants has negative consequences for those on the move who are subjected to these categorisations (e.g., Janmyr & Mourad, 2018). However, the emphasis on how people on the move are socially and politically constructed and the real-life consequences of these

constructions have obscured the political processes that underpin migrant categories. As a result, there is a gap in the literature regarding the political goal of constructing and using the category.

Going beyond examining how people on the move are categorised, this thesis focuses explicitly on the political purpose of such a construction and its use. By adopting the concept of discursive psychology, I understand the category as a discursive recourse or strategic vehicle discursively utilised to accomplish a specific goal (Potter, 1996). The emphasis on explicating this goal and not so much on the representation adds an original contribution due to the debate.

Additionally, in light of the ever-expanding catalogue of categories – family migrants, labour migrants, asylum seekers, economic migrants, illegal, returned, economic refugee – to name a few, this thesis seeks to contribute to an understanding of the trend that Apostolova (2015) named 'categorical fetishism', by discussing the 'economic refugee' instead of the more traditional categories of 'refugee' or 'migrant'. Moreover, the centrality of 'economic refugee' is also of social relevance: the widely used



category 'economic refugee' conveys substantive objectivity, thereby ignoring the category's political nature. Which results in people adopting uncritically the term and hence unintentionally reproducing a status quo they actually oppose. Therefore, deconstructing this category - which entails explicating the implicit political processes upon which the category rests - helps to create awareness on the power of terminology or categories.

Hence, this thesis will examine the highly politicised but little-examined category of 'economic refugees' often used in the Netherlands. It seeks to deconstruct this category by examining its function in Dutch parliamentary discourse, specifically by asking: 'What purpose does the category 'economic refugee' serve in Dutch political discourse?' This thesis conducts a discourse analysis of 186 extracts from parliamentary transcripts dating from 1964 to 2020 that contain the term 'economic refugee.' The main finding is that the category 'economic refugee' serves to legitimise exclusionary politics in political discourse.

The remainder of this thesis first introduces research on the politics of migration categories in general. The second section presents the data and methodology used. The

The third section discusses the purpose the category 'economic refugee' serves. Finally, I conclude by paving the way for a new direction for critical migration studies.

[Read the full thesis here](#)

# Planning approaches for cleaner and flood resilient cities in the context of social justice:

*The case of the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) project - 2020-2025*

Iddrisu Mohammed Kamil



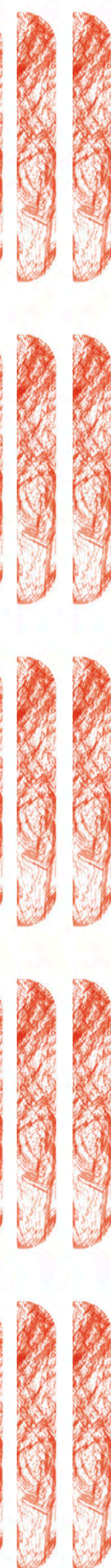
## Faculty

IHS | EUR

One of the negative effects of urbanization is that it poses a serious threat to the environment, especially when it comes to issues like waste management, pollution control, access to water resources, and the creation of conditions that increase the menace of various types of disasters such as urban flooding

and stormwater runoff (Kagblor, 2010). The World Bank is currently assisting the Ghanaian government in carrying out the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project. The goal of the five-year (2020–2025) GARID Project is to enhance solid waste management and flood risk in the Odaw River Basin of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA). This urban development project, under



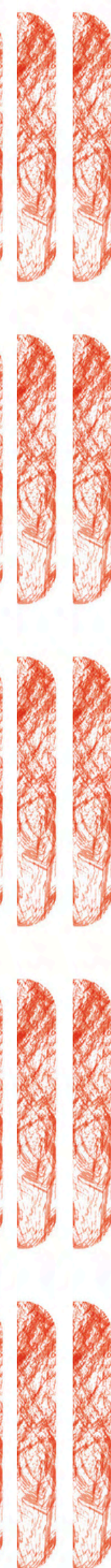


five components, intends to improve 101 targeted low-income flood-prone communities with access to essential infrastructure and services. The five main components of the GARID project include Climate-resilient drainage and flood mitigation measures; Capacity improvements for Solid Waste Management (SWM); Participatory upgrading of targeted low-income communities that are vulnerable to flooding and local government support; Project management; and Contingent Emergency Response Component (GARID, 2022b). A careful analysis of this project points to the fact that it was designed with a careful consideration in applying urban planning theories into practice by prudently grounding the project on the foundations of some planning methodologies based on the pillars of participatory planning (Friedman 1995), spatial justice (Soja 2010), adaptive planning and urban informality.

### **1.1 Theoretical Review:**

Some urban scholars have espoused that urban planning approaches have transformed over time and there is the need to reconsider the prevailing epistemologies of the urban. The traditional conceptions of urban as static, constrained and a generalizable settlement in nature

are no longer feasible to capture urban complexity and diversity of modern urban life (Brenner & Schmid, 2015). New epistemologies of the urban should be based on more reflexive approaches and complex processes of localization and transformation of urban policies and practices in different contexts and scales to derive the autonomy of the local state as a possible developmental actor (Parnell & Robinson, 2012). The traditional universal or top-down urban approaches can no longer stand the test of time and therefore a need for urban planners to develop innovative and more reflexive systems by co-creating to help form and guide urban life through collective efforts and experimentations (Zhilin, 2023). In line with the calls for more reflexive and innovative planning approaches, the GARID project consulted relevant communities, identified their primary infrastructure needs through a participatory process, planned and engineered the projects, prepared bidding documents, which oversaw the management and implementation of the project (GARID, 2022a). Based on Arnstein (1969), “citizen participation,” “citizen control,” and “maximum feasible involvement of



the poor,” the GARID project was designed to inspire an open-minded dialogue, based on a typology of citizen participation utilizing the three state social programs such as urban renewal, antipoverty, and model cities. The project considered a well-organized representation and the degree of public control in planning the project.

Additionally, the GARID project adopted the resilient planning approach based on the concept of adaptive planning. City resilience according to (Rockefeller Foundation, 2014) is the ability of cities to function in a way that allows its residents and workers, especially the impoverished and vulnerable, to survive and prosper under any conditions or shocks. The City of Accra became a member of 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) in 2014. The 100RC assists member cities worldwide in strengthening their ability to withstand the social, political, and economic problems that are more prevalent in the twenty-first century. Founded by the Rockefeller Foundation to oversee efforts to increase resilience throughout the GAMA, the city established the new position of Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) as part of the integrated planning and policy process (AMA, 2019). There are a variety of reasons why certain

planners, academics, and cities have chosen to examine or experiment with strategic planning procedures. These have to do with a few of the erratic characteristics of the most recent urban life season. One of these includes the appearance of new topics to local public agendas, beginning with the increased focus on social cohesion, the environment, and quality of life issues (Albrechts & Balducci, 2013).

Adaptive planning reveals some of the mechanisms that underlie a world of belonging, such as self-organization, non-linearity, and basic uncertainty, starting from a complexity perspective. An approach to adaptive planning also highlights how important it is for localities to be able to respond, cope, and adapt to change to preserve their liveliness. In other words, the primary goal of intervention planning is enhancing the adaptive capacity itself. An extra degree of intervention is introduced via adaptive planning. The adaptive planning technique specifically targets these factors as the aim of action, whereas the strategic spatial planning staging is mostly oriented towards supporting desired change given particular conditions. The Adaptive planning approach therefore builds on strategic planning (Rauws, 2017).

Almost 58% of Accra's population is residing in flood-prone areas with 65 of the 82 officially recognized informal settlements being located here. The Odaw Basin which is the focus of the GARID project has a high population density, danger of flooding, and high business density (Amoako & Frimpong Boamah, 2015). Urban scholars including (Roy, 2005: Shatkin 2004) have argued for policy epistemologies by understanding and presenting urban complexities in dealing with informality. They also argued for understanding the paradoxical relationship between the state/planners and informality. According to them, Governments in developing countries must consider growth and informal settlement management as two opposites.



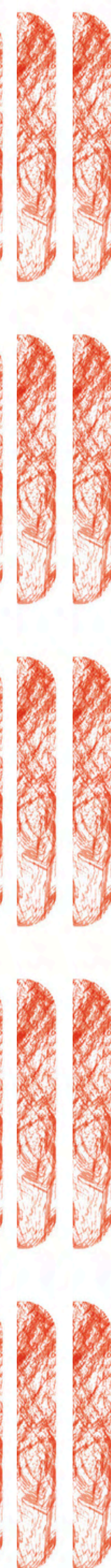
Parts of Accra submerged in floods (Source: Daily Graphic Ghana – July 2022)

## 2.0 Methodology

This is purely a desk review based on extensive secondary data collected from the review of published and unpublished reports, plans, and strategic policies of the GARID project, and other relevant academic literature.

Desk review was solely used for this case study because there is sufficient secondary data and information available for this case. Also, the time and resource availability may not have allowed for gathering primary information with key informants to gather information for the case. Secondary data source included policy documents related to the GARID project, such as reports on consultancy services for the project, the Greater Accra Resilience Strategy Report (2019), guidelines for the implementation of the GARID, the GARID project strategy report (2022), medium-term development plans and strategies of affected metros and municipalities (2022-2025), World Bank reports on the project, and pictures and maps from project sites. Other secondary data sources will include newsletters and media reports on the GARID project (2020–2025) and supporting academic literature via Google Scholar and related electronic sources. The data will be analyzed through the use of quantitative and qualitative data sets by employing document analysis of published and unpublished information. It is expected that findings from this analysis will help identify two (2) key drivers of the project's vision





within the socio-political and economic context. It will also support unravelling the frictions created in the implementation process of the project so far. This will enable proposals and policy recommendations to help mitigate anticipated bottlenecks in the project implementation so far based on these findings.

### **3.0 Case Analysis:**

In modern times, Accra is still susceptible to earthquakes, urban flooding, poor city sanitation, collapsing buildings, growing numbers of informal communities, high rates of unemployment, poor urban transit infrastructure, and extreme human and vehicular traffic jams in the city (AMA, 2019). Accra also doubles as a significant political setting for national political elites because of its position inside the GAMA and an electoral swing region, which is crucial in determining the outcome of presidential elections. The dynamic sub-national politics of the city are closely linked to and influenced by national politics, which present both opportunities and obstacles for tackling difficult urban issues (Acheampong, 2021). The vision of the GARID project according to the project's brand is "to become the most successful climate mitigation project in Ghana" (GARID, 2021).

To further examine the socio-political and economic veracities that predisposed the vision of the GARID project, and the frictions that have seen its implementation so far, there is the need for a qualitative methodological analysis.

### **3.1 Proposal Formulation:**

#### **3.1.1 Scenario Assessment:**

Deliberately exploring a variety of programs aimed at addressing the shocks and pressures that appear to be a stumbling block for the GAMA would well-position it to handle the challenge of building resilient and cleaner cities. In doing this, the City Authorities, associated Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and development partners should wave their unflinching commitments and cooperation to achieving the Accra city visions. Accra's fast urbanization should serve as an unintended opportunity because this urbanization trend reechoes the city's attraction as a catalyst for economic expansion and a crucial entry point into the West Africa sub region.

#### **3.1.2. Stakeholder mapping and analysis**

Adopting the Food and Agricultural Organisation, (FAO, 2022) template or toolkit will be useful in analyzing the GARID project

team's stakeholders and maintaining stakeholder data, such as developing the stakeholder list, stakeholder mapping in terms of their roles, responsibilities or mandates (relative power and interest) and stakeholder analysis.

### 3.1.2. Public Authorities:

Stakeholder /Organization	Roles, Responsibilities Obligations and Contributions	Relative Power and Interest
1. Ministry of Works and Housing (MWH)	Focuses on climate-resilient drainage and flood mitigation measures under the GARID project	High Interest High Power
2. Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (SWM)	Implements the Greater Accra Region's capacity for solid waste management under the GARID project	
3. Ministry of Health	The Ministry of Health is carrying out the Project's Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC).	
4. Ministry of Local Government Decentralization and Rural Development	Encouraging cooperation mechanisms amongst adjacent GARID beneficiary and creating an Inter-jurisdictional Coordination Management Committee (ICMC) for each of the 17 MMAs.	
5. Hydrological Services Department, Water Resources Commission (WRC), National Disaster Management Organization	Work together with other agencies to supports the GARID project to improve Flood Early Warning Systems (FEWS)	
(NADMO), Ghana Meteorological Authority (GMet)		High Interest High Power
6. Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies (MMAs)	All 17 Beneficiary MMAs in their respective MMAs are in charge of improving the capacity for solid waste management and managing and operating the drainage infrastructure.	High Interest Low Power
7. Lands Commission	Supports the project with quality control of mapping-related matters as well as land acquisition and valuation	
8. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Issue pollution abatement notices and environmental permits to the GARID proposed infrastructure in line with the environment's quality.	
9. Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA)	Encourage the enhancement of the built and natural environments, which will ultimately improve people's quality of life in the project's affected urban settlements.	

### 3.1.3. Economic / Primary Actors:

Stakeholder /Organization	Roles, Responsibilities Obligations and Contributions	Relative Power and Interest
1. Traditional Authorities: Communal Chiefs, Neighborhood Chiefs/leaders	Social mobilization of local residents and advocating for the supply of essential community infrastructure with duty bearers	High Interest Low Power
2. Zonal/Unit Committee members of Project Affected communities	Community mobilization, awareness-building and teaching the locals how to use the newly installed community infrastructure.	High Interest Low Power
3. Residents / Community members	Adherence to regulations, appropriate use of community infrastructure and attitudinal and behavioral change	
4. Market associations, market queens and kings, and market traders and women	Raising awareness of environmental sanitation among hawkers and market women/traders. Encouraging proper trash disposal	

### 3.1.4. Civil Society:

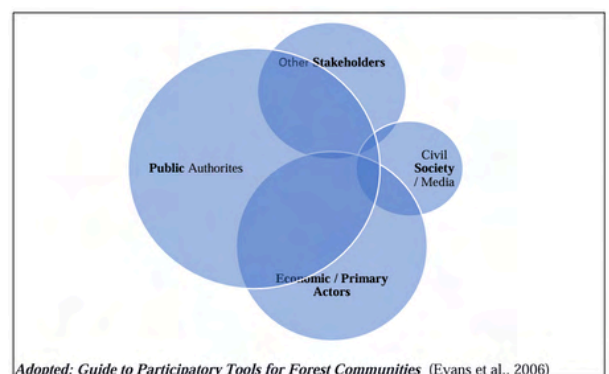
Stakeholder /Organization	Roles, Responsibilities Obligations and Contributions	Relative Power and Interest
1. CSOs/NGOs/FBOs	Sensitization, influencing changes in behavior and attitudes, and marketing efforts for sanitation and promotion.	Low Interest Low Power
2. Media	Creating public awareness and educating the people	Low Interest Low Power

### 3.1.5. Other Stakeholders:

Stakeholder /Organization	Roles, Responsibilities Obligations and Contributions	Relative Power and Interest
1. The World Bank	Provision of financial resources	Low Interest High Power
2. GARID Project Team	Enabling the execution of project, project/contract management	High Power

### 3.1.6. Stakeholder Engagement:

Considering the nature of the GARID project and the list of stakeholders and their respective powers and relative importance as stated above, participatory research tools like the Venn diagram shall be used for the stakeholder analysis and engagement process. This will help evaluate the most appropriate policies and recommendations to mitigate the challenges and frictions as espoused earlier. Additionally, institutional analysis and decision-making analysis can be performed with Venn Diagrams.



From the Venn Diagram above it realized that public authorities mostly comprised of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as the Metros and Municipal Assemblies (MMAs) have a very strong influence in the execution of the GARID project and therefore need to be engaged closely.

Additionally, the economic or primary actors on whom the project is going to be directly affected have low influence but very high interest. This group of actors therefore need to be consulted and empowered in the project implementation process. Civil society and the media have to be monitored because they have low interest and low power. Finally, the World Bank and the GARID project team need to be kept satisfied in the project implementation process because they command a very high power of influence in the project.

#### **4.0. Policy Evaluation and Testing:**

The simplified process of policy will be used. This involves the definition of the problem and evaluation criteria, identification and evaluation of alternatives and the policy recommendation. As can be seen from the analysis so far, one of the biggest urban problems facing Accra and a major danger to its resiliency is urban flooding. Although flooding has always occurred in Accra, in recent times it has become increasingly regular and destructive. Flooding destroyed property valued at approximately 150 million cedis (US \$30 million) between 1955 and 1997, leaving 10,000 people homeless and taking over 100 lives. The effects of floods

have been worse lately as Accra has increased. Floods claimed the lives of 83 people between 2000 and 2012, displaced 178,750 people, and caused losses of about US \$43.7 million (Amoako & Frimpong Boamah, 2015).

#### **4.1. Identification and evaluation of alternatives:**

Capacity enhancement workshops on the design of drainage systems, where locals can engage with specialists to exchange their understanding on drainage flow challenges

Through organizing workshops, specialists should create new drains using management models to reduce floods by fusing community knowledge with their modeling expertise

Participation of all parties to be engaged in the planning, design, building, and maintenance of drains in order to promote cooperation and build stakeholder capacity to ensuring wellbuilt drains that can reduce the frequency of floods in Accra

Thorough evaluation of the city's entire drainage system, with a focus on locations that are prone to flooding, where all drains' efficiency and functionality will be documented.

## **5.0 Results and Findings**



### 5.1. Key drivers of the GARID project's vision

Resilience building at the municipal level is more crucial than ever because of the growing problems brought on by climate change and the rapid urbanization that is occurring. Officially, Ghana's population has surpassed the 50% mark, meaning that more people reside in cities than in rural areas (World Bank Group, 2015). To build a resilient city, a city's administration and service delivery systems and institutions must be able to endure shocks and strains while ensuring ongoing development, progress, and a thriving community. This cannot be done solely within the confines of AMA in Accra.

According to Amoako & Frimpong (2015), the recently released resilience strategy report from the AMA names flooding as one of the main causes of vulnerability. Unplanned physical development, development in marsh and floodplain areas, inadequate or poorly designed drainage systems, and inadequate solid waste management systems are some of the factors that contribute to floods. Approximately 3,000 tonnes of solid trash are produced daily in the city, of which 83% is collected. Accra's Resilience Strategy is planned on the foundation of 3 pillars and

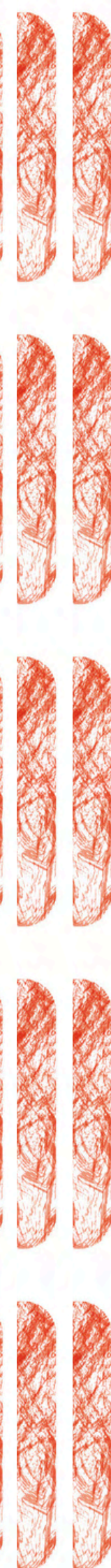
strategic directions to achieve a vision:

*"A smart, sustainable, and resilient city that anticipates and plans for shocks, rather than reacts to them. We will transform the city's ongoing stresses into opportunities: by embracing informality as an engine of growth, designing infrastructure to improve our natural and built environments, and optimising our resources and systems for greater efficiency, accountability, and transparency." (Accra Resilience Strategy 2019, p.33)*

The pillars of the Accra Resilient Strategy have therefore laid the socio-political and economic foundations on which the GARID project was set up by providing an overview of all aspects of future urban planning and development. Two (2) of the drivers are detailed as follows:

#### 5.1.1.: An integrated system for the planning of urban infrastructure and basic services

Infrastructure development investment is not keeping up with Accra's rapid growth. There is therefore the need for an integrated approach to service delivery and infrastructure design that takes population expansion, shifting economic trends, and shifting climatic patterns into account. These include managing



garbage, sanitation, and flooding. Also, systems and resilient thinking should be incorporated into infrastructure development and delivery to address and minimize these risks. This will help in responding to the shocks and pressures that threaten the city of Accra (AMA, 2019).

Karley (2009), contends that adequate infrastructure must be given priority to build an urban community that is well-planned and of high quality. A proper urban development must include other amenities like public transit, rubbish collection, gas and electricity connections, and garbage collection. When municipalities build access roads and other infrastructure, it results in orderly development that complies with planning laws and theories.

However, the ownership of these urban infrastructures at the local or urban level can serve as a catalyst for political frictions at the local level as a result of struggles over their management and ownership. This challenge has further been confirmed by some urban scholars, including Ayee & Crook (2003), who argue that the ownership and administration of social services and community infrastructure in urban areas have the potential to become quite political because in many cases these can develop into

platforms for political mobilization, allowing individuals and community organizations to participate in and have an impact on local politics and power structures. Patronage at the urban level, the city government level, and the interactions between these players in the management of these community facilities has sometimes turned into a flashpoint for local political tensions.

### **5.1.2. Recognizing the role of informality in urban resilience planning and development**

The informal economy employs about 74% of the workforce, and the metropolitan authority does not yet have a well-thought-out plan for incorporating these operations into the urban environment or connecting them to formal sector activities (Ghana Statistical Service, 2018). Particularly low-income people are forced to live in cramped, improvised homes with little to no access to urban amenities. This unplanned urban growth poses a problem for the city. The diverse and intricate informal sector presents both possibilities and lessons about resiliency and means of subsistence. The informal sector in Accra has grown to such a size that it is unavoidable. The informal sector is responsible for a large

portion of the region's economic growth. The informal economy accounts for over 80% of Accra's population and is a significant contributor to the GDP of the country (AMA, 2018).

Since Accra's economy is changing quickly, it is essential to comprehend the lives of its informal citizens and provide services that complement the informal services and social networks that people currently rely on (AMA, 2019). According to the World Bank Project Information Document, GARID will probably assist in improving the fundamental services and infrastructure that the most disadvantaged communities have prioritized. It will also be guided by asset management diagnostics, social vulnerability, risk, and geographic data. This might involve building or renovating tertiary drains, local roads, pedestrian paths, schools, health facilities, open spaces, community sanitation facilities, street lighting, informal markets, and assistance for smallscale, safe housing improvements. It could also involve steps to integrate the targeted informal settlements with neighboring settlements and the main city infrastructure through access roads and other actions decided upon by the targeted communities; community-based

disaster warning and preparation activities, such as identifying safe havens; and flood preparedness through awareness campaigns, training programs, and the appointment of emergency volunteers (World Bank, 2018).

However, waterways are often obstructed by the improper citing of structures in these informal areas, which is made worse by lax oversight and control over physical development and political meddling. Political leadership's fear of public uproar, tensions and frictions undermines mandated Assembly officers' efforts to demolish unlawful buildings in the informal settlements which increases the frequency of construction on waterways.



Ongoing construction & desilting of drains under the GARID project (Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/garidaccra/posts>)

## 6.0. Conclusions / Recommendations:

Waste, sanitation, and climate concerns, infrastructure should be designed and adjusted.

Long-term planning initiatives (master plans) for managing drains and flooding with an inter-ministerial coordinating committee to be clearly led by the Ministry of



works and Housing.

Facilitate the construction of the GARID project's development of two waste transfer stations within the GAMA area.



*Artistic impressions of proposed waste transfer stations under the GARID project*

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# Combating gender-based violence and violence against women in Nigeria

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Combating Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Women in Nigeria (GBV & VAW)

Aniekan Bassey Udo (ISS)  
8th June 2024

## Introduction to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Women (VAW)

-GBV: Acts of violence directed at an individual based on their gender (Carpenter, 2017)

-VAW: Any act of GBV that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm to women. (Russo, 2016)

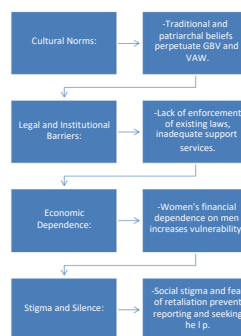
Statistics: Approximately one in three women aged 15-49 have experienced GBV-(UNICEF, 2024)

-One of the key forms of violence is the forced marriage. Case study of northerners in Nigeria

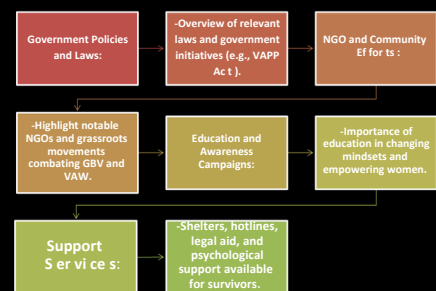
-Stigmatization and Isolation, Physical Injuries, depression, Anxiety, and Prone to sexually transmitted diseases.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mm8ka0oVn0s>

## Root Causes and Challenges



## Current Strategies and Initiatives



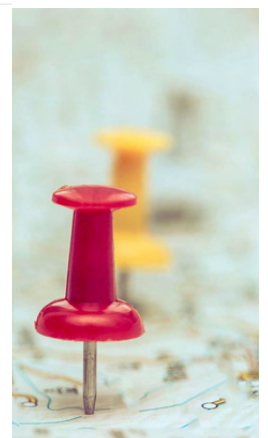
## Recommendations and Conclusion

- Strengthening Laws and Enforcement:
  - Need for stricter enforcement and new laws to protect women.
- Community Engagement:
  - Involving men and boys in advocacy and educational programs.
- Economic Empowerment:
  - Initiatives to provide women with financial independence.
- Conclusion:
  - Reiterate the importance of a collective effort in combating GBV and VAW.
  - Call to action: Encourage the audience to participate in advocacy and support efforts.



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# Policy brief: Creation of permanent regional working groups for women seasonal workers in the agri-food sector, Chile

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Temporary work in the agro-food trade sector is a feminized labor sector characterized by its high levels of vulnerability, precarity, and deprotection of workers (Willson and Caro, 2010, p.10). Most seasonal workers are women working for an intermediary, with contract mechanisms and legally flexible payment methods that allow low salaries and high working hours periods (Ibid., pp.11-12).

According to Willson and Caro (2010, p.10), most female peasants have a lower salary than their male counterparts because their work is understood as a mechanism to complement their husband's income, helping their families avoid falling into poverty and facilitating access to public services, such as education, health, and nutrition, without acknowledging many single-parent female-headed households. Also, deprotection can be seen in the exposure of women seasonal workers to pesticides and

and agrochemicals, having severe negative repercussions for their health and their pregnancy, and their vulnerability to being victims of sexual violence, facing humiliating situations and subjugations from male managers (Tinsman, 2000, p.151).

These conditions of vulnerability, insecurity, and deprotection represent a patriarchal structure in the working arrangements of women's seasonal workers. Kurian and Jayawardena (2017, p.3), using the case of plantation production in Sri Lanka, present the concept of 'plantation patriarchy': plantations are patriarchal institutions that perpetuate structural violence against women workers, incorporating social hierarchies and gender biases into the structure of the labor regime and the social organization to justify and normalize the subordinate status of women workers. In the case of Chilean seasonal workers, this violence can be seen in the long working hours, low wages, and cases of physical and sexual violence by their male authorities.

Furthermore, women peasants are mainly responsible for household work and care chores (Tinsman, 2000, p.151). This cultural and patriarchal gender division of labor requires women to work double shifts in the fields and in their

households, resulting in gender inequalities in their use of time and their level of stress (Valdés, 2023, cited by Willson and Caro, 2010, p.12). This reality is driven by a gendered understanding of unfree labor, where women workers "normalize their duty to provide continued care of their families after their paid work", using their salary to perform their work on care (Astrid and Sathi, 2022, p.977). In this context, social reproduction is understood as a place of unfreedom (Ibid., p.973) and facilitates the accumulation of the big agrarian companies, providing them cheap (productive) and free (reproductive) labor.

The double labor shift and the patriarchal structure in the plantations have reduced women seasonal workers' self-esteem, as most of them do not understand their position of oppression. In Chile, the Labor Code of 1979 eradicated the political rights of the working class, making peasants' unions illegal (Tinsman, 2000, p. 149). According to the National Association of Rural and Indigenous Women (Anamuri)<sup>1</sup>, legalizing inter-enterprise or transitory unions is necessary to increase seasonal workers' empowerment (ANAMURI, 2011, p.6). Nevertheless, besides legalizing workers' unions, to



reduce the gender injustice related to the gendered understanding of free labor and precarious labor conditions of seasonal women's workers, it is necessary to strengthen the relations between women's temporary workers to make them recognize their agency, bargaining power, and sense of citizenship. According to Barrientos (1998, p.35), seasonal workers play a fundamental role in the agribusiness industry, selling their labor to sustain "Chile's prominence as an exporter of out-of-season fruit to the north during its winter months". This position gives them a potentially powerful bargaining position, which is not being used because of their marginalization and fragmentation.

To increase seasonal women's workers empowerment, the creation of permanent regional working groups composed of seasonal women workers and other civil organizations is necessary. The aims are to create connections between temporary workers and identify their needs, considering different forms of oppression, such as gender, race, nationality, and age. The information gathered will be an input for creating public policies, and the social relations created will empower women to mobilize for their productive recognition and reproductive

redistribution of labor (Fraser, 2007, p.25). Given the interest of the government of Gabriel Boric in increasing workers' organization to heal one of the social and political injuries generated during the dictatorship of Pinochet, the Institute of Agricultural Development needs to be the public institution that supports the creation of these working groups, using its public authority and resources.

These working groups need to follow a Community Transformational Organizing Strategy (Chun et al., 2013, p.918), focusing on demonstrating the nature of interlocking forms of oppression through an intersectional approach. With this strategy, seasonal women's workers can connect with each other to realize their subordinate state of devaluation and transform it into an empowered state of self-representation and self-activity.

In the next sections, I will present an outline of the relevant features of the intervention.

### **Targeted population:**

According to the preliminary data of the National Agricultural and Forestry Census 2022, 78.7% of agricultural workers are men, and 21.3% are women. Of the total, 58.1% are temporary workers.



Disaggregating by gender, 49.2% of male agricultural workers are seasonal workers, and 90.6% of female agricultural workers are seasonal workers (Argüello, 2022, pp.2-3). According to Rueda et al. (2008, p. 24), fewer women participate in agriculture than men because of the gender division of labor. At the same time, women's participation in temporary work could be explained by their undervaluation and invisibility in their productive activities.

According to Anríquez et al. (2014, cited by Argüello, 2022, pp. 4-5), in 2013, the mean age of temporary workers in the country's four main agricultural regions was 40.1 years old; the average schooling years were 9; the average family size was 3.7 people; and 45.2% were heads of their households. Their principal labor tasks are fresh fruit harvest (56%) and packaging (18%). The two principal payment methods are per day or payment linked to the production level.

### **Actors involved**

The Labor Office is the public institution responsible for protecting and guaranteeing workers' rights. Also, a civil organization that promotes the organization of women's peasants is Anamuri, which is part of 'La Vía Campesina'<sup>2</sup>. Through the

campaign 'Promoting the rights of agricultural women's wage workers', every August 26th Anamuri publishes their demands and proposals related to women's temporary workers to the government and society. One of their demands is 'Fully collective negotiation and trade-union freedom', which highlights the necessity of legalizing the collective negotiation for temporal worker's unions (ANAMURI, 2011, p.6).

On the other hand, the agro-food industry is one of the country's biggest economic sectors, representing 4.7% of the national GDP. The main subsectors are the production of wine, fresh fruit, seafood, and meat, among others. The main buyers are the US, China, and Japan (ProChile, n.d.). The companies with the highest numbers of women's temporary workers are those that grow fruit, such as cherries, grapes, and walnuts. These companies usually contract temporary work through intermediaries or contractors, delinking the labor relationship between those workers and the companies (Caro and Cárdenas, 2022, p.181).

The Institute of Agricultural Development's participation in implementing this policy is fundamental to building an

institutional process that permits the creation of long-standing social relations between women temporary workers.

### **Associated entitlements**

According to the Labor Office (Dirección del Trabajo, n.d.), when a company hires 20 women or more, it is mandatory to provide access to childcare. Nevertheless, seasonal women's workers are hired by different intermediaries without reaching the 20 workers to avoid providing these services. In addition, these workers do not have paid holidays or compensation for loss of employment (ANAMURI, 2011, p.3).

Regarding sanitary facilities, every workplace must have a minimum number of toilets and washrooms, depending on the number of workers (see Annex 1). The employer must keep them clean and functioning (Dirección del Trabajo, n.d.). However, women's temporary workers have reported insufficient toilets and lack of hygiene. Driven subcontracting, the companies do not provide the correct number of toilets, giving testimonies of women who have to relieve themselves in the field or in dirty chemical baths, getting urinary infections (CIPER, 2007).

Regarding providing a dining area and access to lockers, in full-time

jobs, the employer must provide a dining area with access to fresh water. Moreover, when the workers are exposed to chemicals and toxic substances, a dressing room with lockers must be available (Dirección del Trabajo, n.d.). Nevertheless, testimonies of women workers report a lack of access to safe water and lockers, having to carry their own food and water on their backs, and suffering from pain and back injuries (CIPER, 2007).

It is evident how companies do not provide these and other entitlements driven by the fragmentation of employment in different intermediaries, which allows them to not comply with the regulations and makes the organization of women's workers more difficult.

### **Funding**

The costs will depend on the region, especially in the more extended areas where material conditions must be provided to ensure the participation of temporary workers. Also, it depends on the number of meetings per year. I recommend 3 to 4 meetings per year to ensure the participation of seasonal workers in the periods without harvesting. The meetings can be online and face-to-face, ensuring

the provision of Wifi or transport to increase the participation of peasant women. Most of the budget will be spent materializing the conditions to ensure women's participation; regional INDAP offices can be used. Alliances with different ministries, such as the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Labor, and the Ministry of Agriculture, can be made; this will increase the amount of public funding necessary to implement this policy.

### **Effectiveness and feasibility of intervention**

The government of Gabriel Boric has a public posture in favor of workers' organizations, giving a good political environment to start this initiative. Nevertheless, working organizations suppose an eventual increase in labor costs, so agro-food industries and intermediaries will be against this initiative, moving right-wing politicians to reclaim it. The principal arguments against this initiative will come from the supposition that workers' organizations reduce the amount of labor, affecting rural women's access to economic resources (income). For them, temporary work is a source of women's empowerment, decreasing their social and material dependence on men, increasing their intrahousehold bargaining power, and facilitating

the capacity to leave in abusive situations (Tinsman, 2000, pp. 146-147). Nevertheless, the labor conditions of women seasonal workers do not empower them but exploit them through low salaries, long working hours, and work double-shift of productive and reproductive labor.

Civil society's support is fundamental for the approval of this policy. This is why regional working groups need to be organized with the support of ANAMURI and local civil organizations of seasonal workers, inviting them into the design, implementation, and evaluation.

It is also necessary to consider the physical, social, and cultural constraints many women's seasonal workers face when participating in the working tables. First, transportation or digital connections must be provided for the women participating in these meetings to reduce the physical distance in rural areas. Second, given the long working hours, the meetings must be in different months of the year so seasonal workers can assist during the months without harvesting. It is necessary to consider the cultural diversity of women workers, considering intersectional specialists that can facilitate the participation of migrant women at



the working groups. Finally, with the Labor Office, we need to provide a special treat for all the women who can be threatened by their managers for participating in these working groups, having special attention and giving the institutional mechanism to denounce these cases.

In conclusion, regional working groups are proposed to increase and strengthen social relations between women's seasonal workers. This proposal includes an intersectional perspective to recognize the different forms of oppression these women face daily, to gain productive recognition and reproductive redistribution. This is one of the necessary steps toward legalizing women's peasant unions in agriculture.

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## Annexes

Annex 1: Number of toilets and washrooms regarding the number of workers:

Workers	Toilets	Washrooms	Showers
1 to 10	1	1	1
11 to 20	2	2	2
21 to 30	2	2	3
31 to 40	3	3	4
41 to 50	3	3	5
51 to 60	4	3	6
61 to 70	4	3	7
71 to 80	5	5	8
81 to 90	5	5	9
91 to 100	6	6	10

Source: Labor Office (Dirección del Trabajo, n.d.).

# Revitalization of Old Town Saddar: A case of Empress Market, Karachi

Meiraj Najm Khan



## Programme

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One cold November morning in 2018, the residents of Old Town Karachi in Pakistan were jolted awake as bulldozers razed one of the oldest informal markets in its downtown Saddar. The aftermath left the once vibrant Empress Market, built in the 1800s, silent amidst the ruins of colourful shanty structures that used to surround its limestone walls. Though such actions were not unprecedented for the city of

Karachi, amidst its government's anti-encroachment drive against hawkers and squatters in public spaces, it proved fatal for the area's low-income residents who depended on the market. The government justified its actions as part of efforts to protect heritage and revive Karachi to its former 'glory,' with its rigorous revitalization campaign for Saddar's public spaces. (Basir, 2017). However, this justification was met with disdain by the local community, who saw the informal market as an



extension of the heritage structure and a public space accessible to all—a haven of wholesale goods, services, and recreation for those who couldn't afford the luxury of malls and supermarkets.

This reactionary approach to urban informality, challenges our right to the city, prompting questions about who truly benefits from this development initiative for Empress market? Why are such policies allowed to exist? who defines and decides what a public space should look like?




Figure 1: Empress Market post destruction of its surrounding informal market (Kohari, 2022)

Karachi, home to 14.91 million people, stands as Pakistan's economic hub, a port city renowned for its ethnic diversity and rich history of resilient migrant communities (Hasan, 2019). However, rapid urbanization has also led to severe urban sprawl in old city centres like Saddar, straining transport networks and diminishing its overall liveability. This expansion of the metropolitan city jeopardizes open public spaces and heritage buildings, a vital

source of free recreation and solace of the urban poor, epitomized by the current plight of Empress Market.

Understanding the symbiotic relationship between public space and heritage in Saddar is vital for community social and economic well-being. Many public sites in the region suffer neglect and misuse, challenging the restoration efforts. Government-led anti-encroachment drives are met with resistance as they exacerbate the problem by displacing traditional bazaars and local communities, fuelling a decline in public engagement (Hasan, 2020). Instead of preserving the area's character, there's a trend leading to the decimation of once-vibrant neighbourhoods. Little effort is made at institutional collaboration or systematic approaches to consult experts or involve primary stakeholders, neglecting the sentiments and attachments of the primary users to the site.

There is also a tendency of planners to affiliate informality with the organisational form and physical aesthetics in which the informal market around Empress market's original structure is seen as an ad hoc encroachment of public property. McFlarene (2012) explains "The central idea is often that informality is represented by




unorganised, unregulated labour” therefore the planning focus shifts solely to the physical structure and reorganization of a chaotic organic market whilst disregarding the intangible relationships that contribute to the site's functions and unique identity. Even after years to the incident the market has not been able to recover its former level of activity and brinks on abandonment with 1700 shops demolished and 200,000 hawkers uprooted to separate locations. (Kohari,2022)

As part of the ‘Saddar Downtown Area Revitalization’ effort there have been ambitious plans that further exacerbate the move towards dismantling the market, two of which are sponsored by the World Bank; The revival of the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) and Karachi neighbourhood improvement programs (KNIP). Their key goals are to transform the city's historic neighbourhoods into accessible vibrant public spaces and with street activities (World Bank,2018). The government with the support of the World bank and Asian development fund hopes to return Saddar to its “former glory as the hub of commercial activity and cultural prosperity “(KSDP,2020) but as seen by the Empress market case lacks the tact and understanding of the complex relationships which

formulate informal sites and how to incorporate these “improvement” initiatives strategically. It is important that we view the plans critically in terms of what is defined under revitalization? Does prosperity mean removing the urban poor?

Shatkin (2004) contends that the neglect of the poor is not inevitable but rather a deliberate outcome of decisions made by influential actors. He argues that developing country governments and organizations like the World Bank prioritize creating "spaces of flows" over "spaces of places," often excluding the poor in the process or justifying reforms in the name of global demand and economic efficiency, thereby neglecting localized poverty alleviation efforts. This perspective is echoed by Pakistani Urban planner Arif Hasan “About 30 to 40 per cent of Karachi’s economy is informal, a fact this government ignored when razing all the shops in and around Empress Market,” (Hasan, 2020).He highlights the informal economy provides a livelihood to some two million people and encroachment is the result of an unplanned city, rather than a purposeful illegal action, attributing the chaotic growth of the markets hawkers to the inadequate provision of resources "The



vendors took over any spot that they could find because there were no permanent small or retail markets.” Saddar being an area of full of heritage structures and commercial activity requires an approach that can enhance its liveability without erasing its character, while the governments idea of revitalization borders very close to what we identify as sanitation or as Roy (2004) describes as “aestheticization of poverty”, in which upgrading is equated with aesthetics rather than people livelihoods and capacities. Viewing informality as a practice rather than a problem could offer solutions for activating sites like Empress Market which operate on systematic social processes in a limited space. If one can understand the informal market as a system built on close-knit relationships and social capital, it may provide insights for revitalization efforts. (McClarene, 2012)

Marvi Mazhar a prominent urban activist concludes that Karachi is in constant flux of negotiations on how its uniqueness can be maintained, while it's integral for its infrastructure to be developed accordingly that does not necessarily imply the destruction of the “city's essence which lies in its inheritance and historically built environment.” (Marvi, 2022)

## **Case study Analysis**

My analysis addresses three pivotal aspects as key drivers behind the project vision for Empress Market; Political instability in policy implementation, Inadequate understanding of the role of people and community in the preservation of heritage and then finally leading to top-down exclusionary approaches. First, I investigate how city policies affect revitalization strategies in downtown Saddar and in turn Empress. I use a qualitative approach with secondary data sources, supported by interviews with professionals such as Marvi Mazhar. Then I delve into the issue of aestheticization of informality leading to exclusionary approaches, drawing on literature ,supported by on-site observations and interviews with primary users to portray divergent perspectives.

### **Political instability in implementation**

Empress Market case is one of the many in challenges the city of Karachi has faced since the development of its original city Master plan in 1952. Due to rapid urbanization and migrations to the city, its planning has had a hard time keeping up with its consistent socio-spatial transformations.



There have been five master plans made to address this chaotic development, the 'Karachi Strategic Development plan 2020' being the one being currently implemented with its vision elaborating on transforming Karachi into a "world-class" city and boosting economic factors.

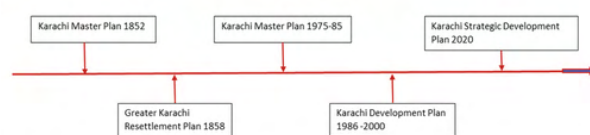


Fig 2 master plans over the years


Analysing these plans exposes a recurring theme: the failure to adequately address Karachi's multicultural context and resource constraints. Karachi's political landscape has long been characterized by instability, from martial law in 2010 to ongoing power struggles between regional parties like MQM and PPP vouching for seats in the provincial assembly. This instability, compounded by squabble for control of the metropolitan corporation, has resulted in a lack of cohesive policy and consistency in government projects. Moreover, as one of Pakistan's largest cities, Karachi's urban development has become a battleground for voter politics and mafia influences, with power vacuums swiftly filled by political promises and fierce competition (Waseem, 2022).

This cycle of instability profoundly

impacts policy formulation, resulting in vague objectives and minimal discussion on implementation strategies such as what to do after the Provincial governments antiencroachment drives? Additionally, there is an absence of clear administrative hierarchy responsible for the megacity, with administrative bodies such as Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Karachi Development Authority (KDA), Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) and others having overlapping domains and skirting from the burden of responsibility. This has led to many projects being abandoned or only partially completed while the urban poor are marginalized in the process, further fuelling citizens distrust towards planned development initiatives.

### **Inadequate policies when defining heritage in Pakistan**

The case of Empress market is a small part of the plan concerning Saddar regions revitalization. Along with the city master plan initiatives it is also important to realize that heritage protection is a misconstrued and often misused part of this post-colonial city's planning policies which gravely impacts how the site is envisioned by policy makers.



In his paper, “City and Plans”, architect Arif Hasan (2018) discusses Karachi’s rapid urban development, emphasizing on the need to protect heritage sites as not only physical structures, but as the narrative of the people and communities that surround it. However, within Pakistani legislature, the “Sindh Cultural Heritage Act of 1994”, defines heritage as only “objects and places” that must be preserved. This archaic law is based on the outline of “The Antiquities act of 1904” that was written during the country’s colonial era mainly for the protection and documentation of monuments and artifacts.

Since then, the only new amendment has been the formation of Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) in 2011 to overview structural design and no-objection certificates (NOC) for new constructions. With 11 different departments under it to supervise legal affairs, it is often caught up in its own administrative issues to provide any real support in effective conceptualization of planning projects. Mazhar (2020) elaborates “Policy makers often see things from above, they lack the insight of how much archive is available and what is its significance.” Those involved in planning projects often lack the knowledge and skills

required to deal with multifaceted issue of heritage public spaces or to further build SOP’s. According to her “You also need to grow that system of archiving what the British did is still stuck there, yet no one is building upon it.”

Karachi heritage is evolved beyond the physical realm, yet its policies struggle with incorporating new layers such as those of intangible heritage. This hinders the understanding of its complex association with the surrounding context, resulting in conceptualization of policies that disregard the socio spatial value of projects like Empress Market.

### **Aestheticizing of poverty**

Cities like Karachi in the global south present the additional challenge of a blurred boundary between heritage and informality, making it difficult to untangle private from public property. This complexity leads to ongoing friction between government planning objectives and the community’s perception of public spaces. This can be attributed to the organic growth and intertwined functioning of many old cities with surrounding urban informalities. The distinction becomes particularly challenging due to the absence of frameworks that accurately reflect the unique characteristics and epistemology of



South Asian cities (Roy, 2005).



Fig 3a: site observations by the author on a south Asian Mohalla in Saddar old town, Karachi, picture by Farishtay from Sacred trails Instagram and Fig 3b Empress market outward growth picture by Urban Resource Centre

The south Asian Mohalla's, characterized by their narrow streets and shared roofs, expand both vertically and inwards, blurring spatial boundaries onto streets and neighbouring walls. Public footpaths seamlessly integrate into their semi-private Sehn (porch), fostering safe intimate zones for community interaction, serving as safe playgrounds for children and public gatherings. Similar pattern language could be observed in my site visit in which the Empress Market's informal structure mirrors this organic growth, intertwining with daily activities of hawkers and shoppers. The shaded walls evolve from meeting points to sellers' nooks, becoming integral parts of the bustling bazaar. The sensory experiences—smells of spices and colours of tents—imbue the market with a unique character over time echoing the familiar atmosphere of a Mohalla, an essential part of its intangible living heritage and identity. However, development authorities often overlook these vital

elements, viewing them as disruptions and encroachments on public property. Their top-down approach leads to the destruction of these place making features, alienating the communities they serve. Upon inquiring from a few shoppers why they still frequented the market they gave the following responses. (2020, Site observation)

*"The goods here are cheaper, they come in bulk. Sometimes the halwai gives me a discount, because I come here so often to buy biscuits for my evening tea"*  
*"The sour leaves/herbs my herbalist suggested for my cough were only sold here, I cannot find them in the mall. The vendor outside would often carry these small good. Especially the women hawkers"*  
*"My mother would always like the environment here better because she knows the shopkeepers and feels comfortable, they in turn know her preferences without her saying much".*

Reflecting on the temporal nature of cities like Karachi, it's notable how the informal market evolved in tandem with the city's density forming its own nuclei's around the original structure, anchored by a network of community relationships and meanings. The absence of these 'informal' bazaars, post-encroachment drives, left the site empty and estranged for many users who were accustomed to the vibrant, diverse space it once was—a space steeped in their collective memory as a bustling bazaar of cheap goods, diverse friendships and community.



Fig 4a: Empress market with the surrounding bazaar busy economic centre

Fig 4b: after the site's hawkers and bazaars removal

This trend is persistent as seen in Hasan's 2008 interviews with



Saddar's hawkers where the municipal authorities labelled them as "eyesores," a sentiment echoed in my 2020 interviews with the market's shopkeepers, revealing a persistent lack of effort by the state to foster trust or collaboration with them. Hawkers report minimal resettlement efforts, with no dialogue initiated. Karachi neighbourhood improvement program (KNIP) and other newly initiated projects confirm a similar pattern of their exclusion, where participatory processes involve students, experts, and significant community members, but overlook participants that form unpleasing sights such as street hawkers and informal markets. Leading to Proactive communication and citizen engagement as consistently highlighted challenges during project conceptualization due to ingrained public sector culture." (GPSC, 2021)

## **Proposal**

Currently Empress market is one of the abandoned projects of Karachi governments, its public grounds lie empty and desolate with the absence of its primary function of a bazaar, only the internal structure is kept intact with a few remaining markets. To ensure that in its bid to revitalize Saddar, the government

the government does not completely alienate the communities and erase the culture that form its heart, it is imperative to adopt a holistic approach to the development project. This approach needs to be underscored by a rigorous campaign to engage stakeholders and create awareness of the social, cultural, political and economic dynamics that govern spaces like Empress market.


To make this possible, it will be necessary to follow three key steps to mitigate the diverse challenges on site:

- 1) Creating Public discourse for recognition of living heritage sites
- 2) Independent heritage protection Association
- 3) Top-Down and bottom-up Transformation Methodology

## **I. Recognizing informality as Living Heritage**

After the foundation of "UNESCO", international bylaws define heritage as much more than just a site; it is the culture of the people and often the essence of space itself. A site, on its own, holds little significance without the affiliation of the users and their surrounding context, known as **living heritage**.

This term should be defined in policies with indicators as it allows the recognition many spaces



demarked as informal, in fact as social processes and practices to the site passed down by one generation to the other, evolving in response to our environment and hence part of heritage. The emphasis of living heritage is on continuity of spaces of use (Poulios, 2014). This can potentially aid in creating an additional argument to contest the displacement of the informal market as an essential aspect of the sites programming. The existing Empress market as a protected site, will allow the engagement of its primary users not to be seen as a threat but rather as important components in its revitalization.

I) Extensive surveys need to be conducted to see which shop owners have legal contracts and how long they have been there

II) Simultaneously plans need to be developed so that the space can be multi-purpose pop-ups and dismantlable structures that do not intrude on the heritage structure but alleviate its intangible value.

III) Governing authorities need a new framework for designing such sites as public spaces, using examples of conserved old town bazaars around the world like the Istanbul grand bazaar in Turkey or the Souks of Marrakesh in Morocco that provide great economic and tourist value to the cities.

Creating discourse around the potential of the historic Market as an economic opportunity being recognized as living heritage, rather than a monument opens avenues for potential investment and collaboration with government and international organization such as International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The debate has already sparked international attention and there have been proposition for multiple plans, the challenge lies in mitigating the markets development with the exclusion of local community. Which brings us to stage 2.

## **II. Independent Heritage Protection Association**

The political instability prevents projects to be fully realized while policies are often biased towards party agendas therefore there is critical need for an independent body formed with citizen collectives, research institutes and municipality officials to mediate the situation at hand. Their goal should focus on

I) Organizing townhalls for shop keepers, hawkers and shoppers so that their concerns can be properly represented to governing bodies

II) Using Educational programs to create awareness and expediate development process by public





isolated, top-down planning decisions can hinder economic activity of the locals. Street hawkers lamented the new layout's impracticality, preferring the previous setup near the inner court, which offered better access and facilitated their zoning needs. The disconnect is one of the reasons future efforts at resettlements have been futile and there is a dire need for a platform that allows ideas and debates to be heard out.

Empowering communities to participate in their area's reconstruction fosters ownership and ensures long-term sustainability. Mapping activities with focus groups can be used to capture the imagination of the primary stakeholders and translated as usable research by experts and NGOs for the site, upon which the authorities should act. Government's role should prioritize project management rather than dictating aesthetic direction allowing research institutes, professionals and boundary spanners to be the mediating middleman between government goals and community needs.

## Conclusion

The glaring absence of legislation acknowledging the significance of intangible elements in the revitalization of historic centres and

public spaces sparks a thought-provoking exploration. Delving into this issue, we unravel a dynamic interplay of cause-and-effect relationships, elaborating the multifaceted nature of revitalization efforts for the market in which actions to improve have led to abandonment and community alienation. Therefore, beyond mere physical enhancement, this proposal hopes to weave together the narratives and associations for the site by bridging government ventures with community needs. Building hope for the future sustainability of vital urban nodes like Empress Market within the fabric of Old town Saddar.

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# Thesis proposal: Exploring the nuanced interplay between perceived tenure security and incremental housing upgradations within the Sites and Services context in Ambedkar Nagar, Chennai, India

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## Programme

MSc Urban Management and  
Development | IHS | EUR

## Research Atelier Program 2024



- Objective: The thesis atelier aims for impactful master theses, by linking student research to ongoing Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and action within marginalized urban communities. CBPR fuses the heuristics of participatory action research to form a methodological practice that places community partnerships at the forefront for three interconnected goals: research, action, and education. It combines academic excellence with co-creation and the inclusion of marginalized urban groups.
- In this approach, communities are engaged as co-researchers mapping community needs, defining research agendas, exploring, and practicing appropriate methods of knowledge co-creation, supporting the analyses, maintaining local databases, setting, and prioritizing action arenas.
- Co-creation here is driven by the understanding that local, tacit, contextual knowledge is as valuable as academic knowledge. Critically, knowledge remains at the community-level in support of a better understanding of community processes, and as a tool for community organizing and civic action.
- In Chennai, the research of IHS students is connected to on-going work of action groups like IRCUDUC and research conducted by (PhD) researchers of IHS and Anna University in the field of "access to information and digital inclusion in resettlement." Outputs of student research are stimulated to move beyond extracting data to produce a master thesis that will become part of a data repository which will be made accessible to all partners and communities in Chennai.  
(Source: Van Eerd, 2024)



# Problem Statement



- Informal settlements are often categorized by substandard living conditions and inadequate infrastructure while their legal status is generally insecure, they are under-served by certain urban infrastructure which pose a significant challenge to urban development worldwide. On the contrary they are adaptable, receptive and affordable housing methods that enable communities to extend and recover their dwellings over time (Wakely & Riley, 2011). Conventional top-down approaches often neglect the exclusive needs of these communities, leading to ineffective interventions and limited improvement.
- In the urban landscape of Chennai, informal settlements have become an integral part of the city's fabric, housing a substantial share of its population, this fuelled by rapid urbanisation, enabled the authorities to forcefully relocate communities to alternative sites. Most of these resettlement sites, constructed till date are either in low-lying areas prone to flooding or in isolated and remote locations which are inaccessible to livelihood opportunities (Radhakrishnan, 2022).
- But till date 64% of these settlements which were eligible for land titles do not have access to secured tenure in the city of Chennai (IRCDUC, 2022). Despite this, twenty years post completion of the last sites and services project, new evidence illustrated that people not only came forward but heavily invested on their dwelling unit, on a neighbourhood scale these units "built out and built up" (Owens et al., 2018). People have invested to add spaces, upgrade their amenities along with more durable building materials to strengthen their foundations as well the superstructure – all pointing that the idea of "incremental" housing had worked (Owens et al., 2018).

## Academic Relevance



- On a broader terminology "right to land" is not covered in any international human rights mechanisms (Gilbert, 2013). Across literature there are implications that the higher the level of legality higher is associated with higher perceived tenure of security which are a significant predictor of housing transformations and settlement upgrading (Van Gelder, 2009). But there is dearth on the research as to the reasons associated with it.
- This study on the incremental housing upgradations despite insecure security of tenure, holds academic relevance as it can aid in bridging the gap in understanding the factors beyond tenure security that motivate residents to improve their dwellings (Wakely & Riley, 2011). As also it attempts to challenge the conventional top-down approach, which often fails to consider the housing aspirations of the households (Radhakrishnan, 2022).

## Research Objective & Questions

The study aims to explain, what are the perceptions of tenure security and how these perceptions influence communities to continually practice incremental housing upgradations despite the lack of legal tenureship.

Explain how perceived tenure security among communities in incremental housing processes influence their housing outcomes?

### Sub-Questions:

- a. What are the factors influencing residents' perceptions of perceived tenure security?
- b. What factors contribute to the incremental housing processes?
- c. How does the role of government influence the relationship between perceived tenure security and incremental housing processes?





# Literature Review

## The paradigm shift: Sites and Services

The provision of adequate housing has been a fundamental concern for urban governance since the onset of 1970s, with national governments and local municipal authorities embracing 'non-conventional' approaches to housing production, maintenance and managerial strategies (Wakely, 2018). Thus emerged the "Sites and Services" scheme sponsored by the World Bank, which was aimed at engaging the beneficiaries in the decision-making process, and the governments controlling the city-level aspects, such as the project location and infrastructure provision (Payne, 1984).

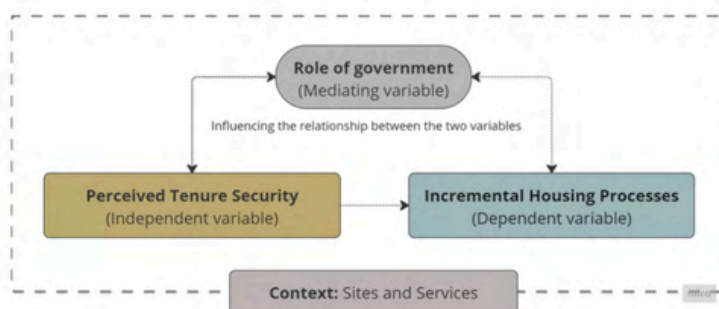
## The notion of perceived tenure security in informal settlements

Perceived tenure security, theoretically consists of perceived probability of eviction and fear of eviction, where one significantly influencing housing improvement in informal neighborhoods, where the fear of eviction is a more significant determinant factor (van Gelder, 2007). This concept primarily involves the perception of de facto situation at least as much as the definition of the legal status (Payne et al. 2009).

## Incremental Housing transformations in 'self-build' housing typologies

Incremental 'self-build' housing in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was a pioneer in the shift in housing typologies. Jon Silver et al., argues that incrementalism is shaped and subsequently procured and scaled through various material configurations, which seek to test and configure new forms of infrastructure and accompanying resource flows (Jon Silver et al., 2014). The response to the population growth, third world countries saw the rise of massive housing projects, which were 'informal', 'illegal', squatters. But these people who started out with nothing ended up with standard upper middle class multi-storied building. Through this process there was innate nature to mimic this informal practice. Through this S&S was a proactive strategy which was modelled based on how people live (Goethert, 2015)

# Conceptual Framework



Source: Author, 2024

# Operationalization

Concepts	Definitions	Variables	Sub-variables	Indicator(s)	Instrument		
Perceived Tenure Security	The perception of de facto situation at least as much as the definition of the legal status (Payne et al. 2009).	Independent Variable	Legal Perspective	Evidence of tenure -beneficiary demonstrating their right to live or occupy the land	Possession of a formal legally binding document Possession of an informal document No document	Interview, document analysis, field observations	
			Threat of eviction	Risk of Eviction (van Gelder, 2007)	Legal actions (eviction notices) Local policy (regulation)		
				Perceived risk Eviction (van Gelder, 2007)	Stability of livelihood Has the beneficiary been moved within the neighbourhood Has the beneficiary heard of someone being evicted Unstable income Landlord tenant relationship		
			Quality of well-being		Influence of social aspect (societal influence) Economic status Cultural influence		
					Social attitudes (Reale & Handmer, 2011) Local and state level – measuring their presence and influence.		Custom and dominant Community leaders Local municipality NGO Media
			Influence of stakeholders				

Concept	Definition	Variables	Sub-variables	Indicator(s)	Data Source
Incremental Housing processes	Incremental housing process is often carried out in three main phases: obtaining land, building a basic housing nucleus, and then gradually improving the house to the required level (Greene & Rojas, 2008).	Type of incremental development (Greene & Rojas, 2008).	Typology of beneficiary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First generation: Original allottee</li> <li>Second generation: buyer/renter (van Eerd &amp; Schelshorn, 2024)</li> </ul>	<b>First generation (period of arrival):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process involved</li> <li>Provision of a document</li> <li>If no document, why did they invest?</li> <li>How was finance acquired?</li> </ul> <b>If document provided?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started with a shack</li> <li>Started with a core unit</li> <li>Core unit with additional construction</li> </ul> <b>Second generation (period of arrival):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process involved</li> <li>Provision of a document</li> <li>If no document, why did they invest?</li> <li>How was finance acquired?</li> </ul> <b>If document provided?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started with a shack</li> <li>Started with a core unit</li> <li>Core unit with additional construction</li> </ul>	Interview, document analysis, field observations
		Built environment	Spatial configuration and its effect on overall experience of inhabitants (Wie & Dewi, 2019).  Spatial configuration of Housing (Typology)	<b>Type of spaces:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What space did they build first.</li> <li>What space did they build additionally.</li> <li>Provision of amenities</li> <li>When did they build it</li> <li>Materials used to build</li> <li>Area of these spaces</li> <li>Vertical expansion</li> <li>Horizontal expansion</li> </ul>	

Concept	Definition	Variables	Sub-variables	Indicator(s)	Data Source
Role of govt.	Government's three primary functions to society entails establishing effective policies, constructing political choices that outline and protect communities, and towards delivering effective services (Kirlin, 1996).	Influence of local legal system	Actions by government authority (Kirlin, 1996).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did government help in accessing finance for construction</li> <li>Were the building regulations strictly enforced?</li> <li>Was property tax levied on these residents?</li> <li>Maintenance of street services</li> <li>Social welfare events</li> </ul>	Interview, document analysis, field observations

## Methodology

### 1 Interviews

Primary Data: Conduct semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, residents 10-12 nos., NGO: 2 nos., Government officials if available, local leaders, Media: local newspaper, Journalist – snowball sampling



### 2 Focus Group Discussion

Primary Data: to gather collective perception on tenure security of the community, will be done with a set of 4-7 residents, who will be identified during the interview period. – Random sampling



### 3 Document Analysis

Secondary data: Analyse relevant documents such as community plans, Reports from World Bank, IRCUDC, Asian Development Bank, Project files from CMDA website and from organization archives.



### 4 Observations

Primary Data: Document the type of incremental housing constructions that the community has adopted, types of additional constructions, vertical and horizontal. (unit level documentation)



### 5 Transact walk

Primary Data: To understand the typology of housing (neighbourhood level documentation) series of pictures and compare it with archival images of the streets (if available) and google street view snapshots.



## Data Collection



Informal discussion with a group of women during an evening stroll in Ambedkar Nagar, Chennai  
Source: Author, 2024



## Contd.



Source: Author, 2024



Portable water collection through tankers



A shack which has been the same state since over 20 years

## Contd.



Differences showing how some families were able to incrementally develop their dwelling units and some remained with the fear of eviction and unstable livelihoods  
Source: Author, 2024

## Insights on findings

### Collective perception

One family built the house as their family expanded, a few months later, the next owner also went ahead, which over the years, one by one influenced the entire neighborhood to construct their homes.

### Availability of services

The residents not receiving formal title deeds, have received access to basic services such as water, electricity and sanitation.

### Political assurances

Over the decades, there have been changes in governments, where one political party promised and built them roads and provided street lights, another helped in transfer of ownership.

### Disaster triggered incrementalism

The residents were constantly exposed to floods and other disasters, which compounded to their already existing issues.

### Time

This being a long standing issue, over the decades the stretch of time have made the residents resilient towards having a security of tenure. A degree of security as every year passed by.

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