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Bulletin Board

I. THEMES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

October 2008: Building good governance in cities, including the role of civil society and social movements. Deadline for submissions: 15 March 2008.

April 2009: Securing land for housing and urban development. Deadline for submissions: 15 September 2008.

Access to land is obviously central to all aspects of urban development, including poverty reduction, service provision and measures to improve housing conditions. Managing land and land use is also important for managing urban expansion and infrastructure development and for addressing a range of environmental issues including minimizing sprawl and building resilience to extreme weather events, and the direct and indirect impacts of climate change.

For this issue, papers are welcomed on any of the above aspects in relation to urban land. This would include papers that examine whether more secure land tenure brings other developmental benefits (for instance, access to services and credit or political voice); also papers that identify more effective government land acquisition and land management policies that support better possibilities for good quality housing and livelihood opportunities for low-income groups. Papers that consider how public transport systems influence land markets are also encouraged – especially where improvements in public transport act to increase land areas with good access to livelihood opportunities.

October 2009: Migration and mobility and the implications for local governance and local development. Deadline for submissions: 15 March 2009.

The last 10 years have seen much-increased recognition of the positive aspects of migration, including those related to remittances and to the capital, knowledge and contacts that return migrants can bring to their “home”. Discussions of the means through which poverty can be reduced also recognize the importance of mobility and of the disadvantages faced by those unable to move in response to new opportunities. The last 10 years have also brought greater recognition of the scale and nature of rural–urban linkages (partly expressed through mobility, partly through remittances) and of the significance of smaller urban centres both in these links and in housing a substantial part of the urban population.

Among the topics for which papers are welcomed are:

- How does increased mobility affect gender relations, inter-generational relations and relations between non-migrants, out-migrants (and their relatives) and in-migrants?
- How do different groups of migrants protect and promote their interests (e.g. those who migrate seasonally compared to those who migrate long-term; the existence and role of social networks; how ethnicity, gender and age affect these)?
- How do migrants protect and promote their interests (not necessarily self-interests) and influence decision making in their hometowns (e.g. through associations and their activities; by ensuring their relatives’ support for specific political groups; by engaging in decentralized – municipality to municipality – cooperation projects...)?

Papers are also welcomed on mobility and migration in relation to small urban centres:

- Small urban centres as “senders” of migrants (both within nations and internationally) and receivers of remittances; what social, economic and other impacts do these bring to small urban centres and for whose benefit?

- How do global and national contexts affect poverty and mobility in small urban centres?
- How do high levels of mobility and remittance flows affect local governance systems in small urban centres? How are different priorities negotiated, who are the actors involved (local/national government; civil society, including migrant associations; private sector, including migrants where relevant) and what is their role? What are the key lessons from innovative initiatives and how can these inform policies and initiatives in different contexts?

During 2008, a web-based questionnaire will be available to all readers – and themes for *Environment & Urbanization* issues after October 2009 will draw on readers' preferences and suggestions.

II. CALL FOR PAPERS

Building Latin American Bicentennials in the Age of Globalization

Call for submissions: papers and visual digital presentations, from the Observatory on Latin America (OLA), The Graduate Programme in International Affairs, The New School University, New York and the Programa Bicentenarios, Facultad de Arquitectura, Diseño y Urbanismo, Universidad de Buenos Aires (FADU-UBA).

The bicentennial commemorations of national independence in Latin America, especially Argentina, Chile and Mexico in 2010, and seven other countries in the next 15 years, offer an excellent opportunity for comparative and multidisciplinary research on how governments and civil society in these countries are constructing their bicentennial commemorations and how they will use this historical moment to address urgent issues of social inclusion and institutional reform. The Observatory on Latin America (OLA) of The New School University, New York, and the Programa Bicentenarios of the Facultad de Arquitectura, Diseño y Urbanismo, Universidad de Buenos Aires (FADU-UBA) are launching a research project entitled "Building Latin American Bicentennials in the Age of Globalization". This call for papers and visual presentations to the Ibero-American and English-speaking scholarly community and to civil society is part of this project. Our intention is to issue a wide call for attention to this topic in the hope that it will stimulate thinking and action with regard to the respective bicentennials in Latin American countries, as well as communication and interaction among peoples within the region.

In 2004, the Latin American Bicentennial Project team of The New School created an initial data base on bicentennial activities and published a volume entitled *Construir Bicentenarios: Argentina* that is described in the Book Notes section in this issue. An important message of the book is that the bicentennial should be an inclusive social process and not a single official event. This work has been further extended by the Programa Bicentenarios of FADU-UBA, which has developed a directory of 90 bicentennial activities in Argentina and elsewhere (www.bicentenarios.edu.ar).

OLA and FADU-UBA seek to bring together knowledge and information on activities and thinking about how governments and civil society constructed their centennial commemorations and how they are now constructing their bicentennials. Submissions should focus on:

- Documentation and interpretation of the different modes through which Latin American countries constructed their national centennial commemorations and how they left their mark on their respective cities and visual imagination. This can include a study of the media, policies, projects, public works, social mobilization, official and civil society commemorations, cultural production, visual images and photography production and dissemination, and forms of urban transformation.
- Documentation and interpretation of current preparations for the bicentennials. This can include evidence in the above areas and other more

contemporary activities related to new technologies such as videos, films, interactive projects or internet applications.

- Comparison of these themes between past and present and across Latin American countries.

Submissions could consist of academic papers that could include visual images, or could consist of visual and multimedia digital presentations such as videos, power point or other digital media. All submissions should be in either English or Spanish. Brief descriptions of proposed submissions of up to 300 words should be sent to ola@newschool.edu and copied to bicentenarios.fadu.uba@gmail.com by 15 May 2008. Responses to all submissions will be sent by e-mail by 15 June.

Full papers should have a suggested length of between 4,000 and 7,000 words, plus images and captions. Full visual and multimedia digital presentations should have a suggested duration of 5–15 minutes. Most file types will be accepted (.swf, .pps, .mov, .avi, .mpg, .wmv, etc.) Please enquire by e-mail as to compatibility, file sizes and upload options before submitting. Visual presentations should be accompanied by a written description of roughly 1,000 words. All final submissions should be sent by 15 September.

Selection and dissemination of the papers

To facilitate the exchange of knowledge about bicentennials, an independent jury of scholars will select, on behalf of OLA and FADU, the appropriate submissions. With the agreement of the authors, these submissions will be placed on the OLA and Programa Bicentenarios/FADU websites. The launch will include a well-publicized video-conference with a panel of selected authors. It is hoped that the authors of the submissions could be brought together in a regional bicentennial conference in 2010 and the results of this conference published as a book and a CD.

Calendar of events

15 May 2008 – Deadline for submission of brief descriptions of papers or visual and multimedia digital presentations.

15 June 2008 – Responses sent to authors of all submissions.

15 September 2008 – Deadline for final submissions.

15 November 2008 – Completion of submission selection for publication.

Week of 1 December 2008 – Posting of submissions on websites and video-conference.

For more information, see:

<http://www.bicentenarios.edu.ar>

<http://www.observatorylatinamerica.org>

<http://www.argentinaobservatory.org>

For any questions, please contact: Ileana Versace (bicentenarios.fadu.uba@gmail.com), Coordinadora Programa Bicentenarios FADU UBA; and/or Bart Orr (ola@newschool.edu), Coordination Building, Latin American Bicentennials in the Age of Globalization.

Knowledge Integration: Successful Interventions in Urban Health

The 7th International Conference on Urban Health will be held in Vancouver, Canada, 29–31 October 2008. The conference is intended to bring together scientists, practitioners and community persons in an interdisciplinary setting to share information about and network around issues of health in cities. Delegates are encouraged to move beyond description on this theme and to share their actions that have improved the health of urban communities. The theme was chosen to showcase action-oriented projects and best practices.

For further details of the programme, abstract submissions, scholarships and registration, see <http://www.icuh2008.com/index.htm>.

Key dates in 2008

April 1: Call for Abstracts
May 1: Registration opens
May 31: Abstract submissions closed
June 1–30: Abstract review and vetting
July 1–15: Author acceptances
July 15: Abstract selection and final programme
July 28: Early-bird registration deadline

III. IBAM: INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DE ADMINISTRAÇÃO MUNICIPAL

IBAM has long been a valuable source of research and information on local government issues in Brazil; now it has some of its research papers available in English and Spanish, as well as in Portuguese. To see a list of these (and to download them), see www.ibam.org.br and click on “*estudos e pesquisas*”.

IV. ADAPTING CITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

A new web page has been set up at <http://www.iied.org/HS/topics/accc.html> on adapting cities in low- and middle-income nations to climate change. In part, this is in response to the interest generated by the April 2007 issue of *Environment & Urbanization*. But it is also because of the lack of attention to adaptation and to cities in low- and middle-income nations – especially from governments and international agencies. To date, discussions on how to address climate change have focused far more on mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) than on adaptation (coping with the storms, floods, sea-level rise and other impacts that climate change will bring). The limited discussions on adaptation have also paid little attention to cities – except in some high-income nations. But hundreds of cities and smaller urban centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean are at high risk from climate change. Many such urban centres (or the nations in which they are located) have contributed very little to greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, while mitigation may be a national agenda driven by international agreement, adapting cities to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change is intensely local – and needs to be rooted in local development agendas, local land use planning and local infrastructure investments. The best basis for adaptation in cities is competent capable local governments with a commitment and an ability to work with low-income groups – whose homes and livelihoods are often among the most at risk from climate change.

This website includes a range of case studies of particular cities and of urban populations in particular nations. It also includes pre-publication versions of papers that will be published in future issues of *Environment & Urbanization*. Among the new publications available are the working paper on “Climate change and urban children: implications for adaptation in low- and middle-income countries” by Sheridan Bartlett and a pre-publication draft of “Thinking globally, acting locally; institutionalizing climate change at the local government level in Durban” by Debra Roberts, both of which will be published in the October 2008 issue of *Environment & Urbanization*.

V. DISCOUNTED PRICES FOR ENVIRONMENT & URBANIZATION

The publisher of *Environment & Urbanization*, Sage Publications, offers large discounts on the subscription prices to charities and students and to all subscribers from low- and middle-income nations.

Annual subscription prices:

Charities: £95/US\$ 166 (this includes print and e-access)

Students from high-income nations: £18/US\$ 32

Subscribers from low- and middle-income nations:

Institutions: £57/US\$ 100 (print and e-access)

Individuals: £20/US\$ 34 (print)

Students: £13/US\$ 23 (print and e-access)

To subscribe to one of these, e-mail: subscriptions@sagepub.co.uk

VI. ALL BACK ISSUES NOW AVAILABLE ON ENVIRONMENT & URBANIZATION ON-LINE

Sage Publications has made the full text of all issues of *Environment & Urbanization* back to its first issue in April 1989 available on-line at <http://eandu.sagepub.com/>. All but the four most recent issues are available at no charge; the contents list and abstracts for the four most recent issues are also freely available although the full text of papers is only available to institutional subscribers or through a fee paid per paper accessed. There is also a searchable database with details of all papers ever published in *Environment & Urbanization* at <http://eandu.poptel.org.uk>, and this has automatic links to papers that can be downloaded free of charge.

VII. NEW ISSUE OF MEDIO AMBIENTE Y URBANIZACIÓN ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

The new issue of *Medio Ambiente y Urbanización* (Issue 67, November 2007) is on the theme of "Climate change: vulnerability and adaptation in the cities of Latin America". All the papers listed below can be accessed at no charge from www.ingentaconnect.com/content/iieal/meda.

- Introduction – Jorgelina Hardoy and Gustavo Pandiella
- Climate change and human settlements in the low elevation coastal zones in Latin America and the Caribbean – *Gordon McGranahan, Deborah Balk and Bridget Anderson*
- Adaptation to climate change; from constructing objectives to constructing action – *Jorge Karol and Pablo Suárez*
- Adapting Argentine cities to the effects of climate change and variability – *Jorgelina Hardoy and Gustavo Pandiella*
- How will the government of Mexico City manage climate change? – *Patricia Romero Lankao*
- Sea-level rise on the Uruguayan coast of the Rio de la Plata: trends, vulnerabilities and options for action – *Gusavo Nagy, Mónica Gómez Erache and Virginia Fernández*
- Climate and floods in the watershed of the La Picasa Laguna, Argentina – *Maria José Garcia Montaldo and Alexandra Celis*
- Local-municipal as the basis for management – *Gustavo Wilches-Chaux*

Medio Ambiente y Urbanización, produced since 1983 by IIED–América Latina in Buenos Aires, is now available on-line at: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/iieal/meda>. Several back issues are available at this site at no charge. An annual personal subscription to the print edition of the journal (two issues) costs US\$ 28 for those outside Latin America; payment can be arranged by credit card through IIED (e-mail: humans@iied.org). An institutional subscription for those outside Latin America, which includes both print issues and e-access, costs US\$ 100; this can be paid via the website mentioned above or payment can be arranged through IIED (e-mail: humans@iied.org). For more details of the work of IIED–América Latina, see: <http://www.iiedal.org.ar/>