



4th Border Urbanism Research Centre Conference

SOCIO-SPATIAL NARRATIVES OF MIGRANTS' JOURNEY

EDITED BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

GRAZ, June 2025

Editor

Quazi Mahtab Zaman, PhD Urbanism
Scott Sutherland School of Architecture & Built Environment
Robert Gordon University
Scotland UK

*In memory of a cherished soul,
Whose laughter warmed the hardest role.
With wit that shone and purpose true,
Their legacy lives on in all we do*



**Walfredo Antunes de Oliveira Filho
(1949-2025)**

Past President and State Director, Tocantins, Brazil.

A distinguished architect and urbanist, active since 1974 in the cities of Goiânia and Palmas, has played a pivotal role in guiding urban development across central Brazil. Throughout a career marked by public leadership and visionary planning, Walfredo held key positions that shaped the regional growth trajectory. From 1975 to 1979, he served as Director-President of INDUR-GO (Institute of Regional and Urban Development of Goiás) in Goiânia, followed by a term as Director-President of IPLAN (Institute of Research and Planning of Goiânia) from 1980 to 1981. Decades later, Walfredo continued to influence urban policy as President of IPUP/Palmas (Institute of Urban Planning of Palmas) from 2018 to 2019, contributing to the sustainable development and long-term planning of the capital of Tocantins.



4th BORDER URBANISM RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2025

**FH JOANNEUM, University of Applied Sciences
27 - 30 June, Graz, Austria**

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The right of Quazi Mahtab Zaman to be identified as the Author of Editorial Material in this Work has been inserted

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For sponsoring the Gala Dinner

Professor George Palattiyil

School of Social and Political Science, The University of
Edinburgh, Scotland

ABOUT BORDER URBANISM RESEARCH CENTRE

Since its founding in 2016, the Border Urbanism Research Centre (BURC) has served as a vital global platform for examining the complex socio-spatial dimensions of migration and urban displacement. BURC has hosted a series of impactful gatherings, including international conferences in Aberdeen (2018) and Málaga (2019) and an online seminar held in São Paulo in 2024. These events have consistently brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to interrogate the shifting landscapes of borders, mobility, and urbanism.

The upcoming 2025 BURC conference will build on this legacy by critically engaging with the lived experiences of migrants, the spatial narratives that emerge from displacement, and the evolving urban responses to these movements. As the scale and urgency of migration crises intensify globally—mirroring, in both severity and scope, the climate emergency—there is a growing need to better understand the drivers, trajectories, and human geographies of forced mobility.

Displacement often separates people from their homes, communities, and cultural foundations. In seeking refuge from conflict, environmental collapse, or political instability, migrants are frequently thrust into unfamiliar urban contexts that challenge existing social, economic, and spatial structures. These disruptions generate complex patterns of settlement and resettlement that require nuanced, interdisciplinary investigation.

The 2025 BURC conference will respond to this urgent global condition by fostering critical dialogue and collaborative inquiry into the multifaceted nature of border urbanism. By foregrounding the narratives of the displaced and the urban systems they encounter, the conference aims to contribute to more inclusive, informed, and humane responses to one of the defining challenges of our time.

For more information, please visit: [Home | Urbanism at Borders: Global Research Group](#)

Opening of the 4th Border Urbanism Conference

Good afternoon, global delegates!

With great pleasure and deep appreciation, I welcome you to the 4th Border Urbanism Research Centre Conference.

We are truly honoured to have FH JOANNEUM – University of Applied Sciences as our host and to welcome such a diverse and distinguished gathering of global representatives, scholars, and researchers. Together, we convene to explore one of the most pressing and complex challenges of our time: borders and the socio-spatial narratives of migrants. To give you an idea, in May 2025, the world witnessed a continued rise in forced displacement, with an estimated 120 million people forcibly displaced worldwide by the end of April 2024. This included 117.3 million at the end of 2023, an 8% increase from 2022. The consequences need to be understood through your intellectual discussion.

Our journey began in 2017, with our first conference held in 2018 in Aberdeen, Scotland. We continued in Málaga in 2019, followed by an interim online meeting with e-DAU in Brazil. Since then, we have built a vibrant network of talented researchers and institutions, and we look forward to welcoming even more future collaborators into this growing community. The series of conferences offers a unique platform where disciplines intersect, theory engages with lived experience, and we confront the evolving realities of movement, identity, and belonging across geopolitical landscapes. Today, as we come together, we witness stories of displacement and resilience, policy and placemaking, home and liminality.

Your presence here today reaffirms the critical importance of cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange. Through these dialogues, we can better recognise, explore, and document the lived realities that shape the subject of border urbanism—and, in doing so, draw strategies for creating more inclusive, equitable, and humane urban futures.

Your voice matters, whether your perspective comes from architecture, urban planning, sociology, migration studies, or a related field. Your work contributes to understanding how we could comprehend and reimagine borders not merely as

dividing lines but as spaces of negotiation, encounter, and transformation.

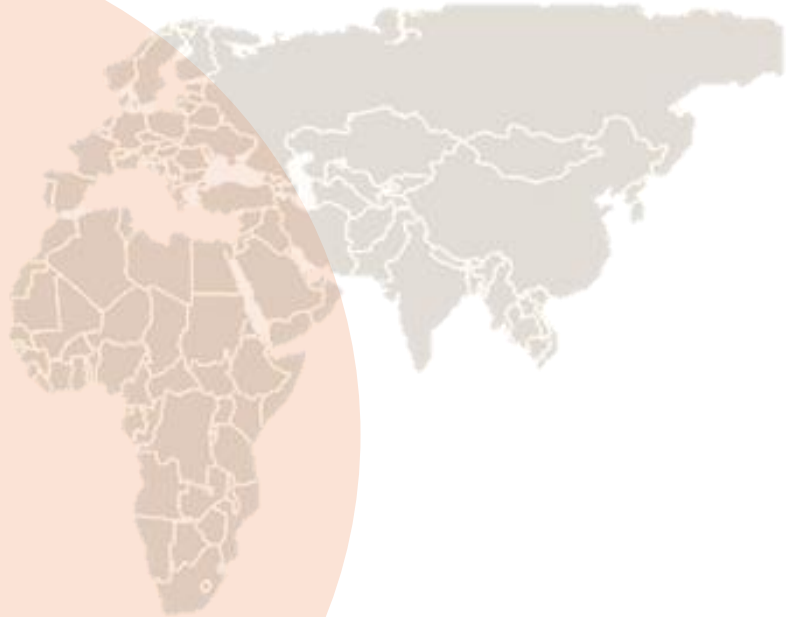
Over the next few days, I encourage you all to listen attentively, speak courageously, and think critically. Let this conference be a site of academic inquiry and a space of empathy, openness, and innovation.

Once again, welcome the 4th Border Urbanism Research Centre Conference in Graz. I look forward to the pragmatic and polemical conversations, meaningful long-term collaborations, and lasting insights that will emerge from our time together in this exquisite city, Graz.

Thank you

Quazi Mahtab Zaman

PhD Architecture and Urbanism



HOST SPEECH

Inaugural of the 4th Border Urbanism Conference:

Meixner Karen

FH JOANNEUM – University of Applied Sciences

Welcome!

I am pleased to welcome you to the 4th Border Urbanism Conference, hosted by the Institute of Social Work at the FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences in Graz, Austria. We are honoured to partner with the Border Urbanism Research Centre and our international colleagues to bring together this interdisciplinary gathering focused on the Socio-Spatial Narratives of Migrants' Journeys.

As part of the Department of Building, Environment and Society, our Institute of Social Work is rooted in a long-standing commitment to social justice, critical reflection, and engaged teaching and research. The broader department—home to degree programmes such as Architecture, Construction Design and Economics, Environmental Management, and Construction Management and Engineering—reflects our shared belief that pressing global challenges, such as forced migration and spatial (in)justice, can only be meaningfully addressed through interdisciplinary cooperation.

Border regions—both physical and symbolic—are central to many of these challenges. They are sites of exclusion and resistance, of vulnerability and resilience. In this spirit, we welcome contributions that engage with these complexities from across academic disciplines, professional contexts, and creative practices.

We are delighted to host this conference in Graz, a city known for its vibrant cultural life, rich intellectual history, and forward-looking urban planning. We hope you will take time to explore the city's dynamic spaces, historical architecture, and welcoming atmosphere.

Thank you for joining us. We look forward to inspiring exchanges, critical dialogue, and new connections over the coming days.

Warm regards,

Karen Meixner

Institute of Social Work
FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences, Graz

CONFERENCE THEMES

For the 2025 Graz conference, the following themes were offered:

Theme 1: Social Fragmentation of Migrant Communities

Theme 2: Spatial Injustice and Contested Urbanism

Theme 3: Non-Place and Empty Geographies

Theme 4: Scarcity of Policies & Jurisdictions on Migrant Issues

Additional areas of interest

Psychogeography of Displacement

Impact of Temporal Spaces in the Lives of Migrants

Experiential Narratives of Migrants

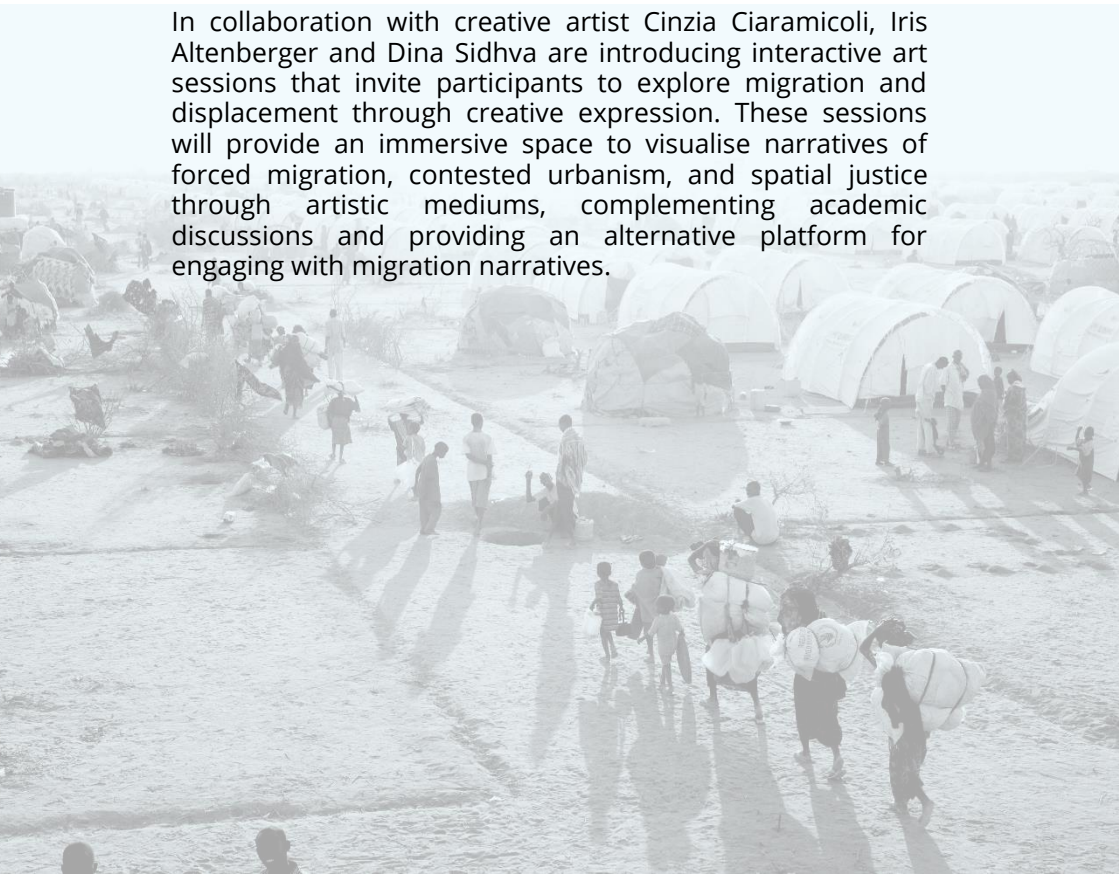
Mapping Migrants' Journeys for Vulnerability Reduction

Understanding Spatial Justice at Borderlands

Contours and Narratives of Fear in Migration

Creative Exploration: Artistic Reflections on Migration

In collaboration with creative artist Cinzia Ciaramicoli, Iris Altenberger and Dina Sidhva are introducing interactive art sessions that invite participants to explore migration and displacement through creative expression. These sessions will provide an immersive space to visualise narratives of forced migration, contested urbanism, and spatial justice through artistic mediums, complementing academic discussions and providing an alternative platform for engaging with migration narratives.



CONFERENCE SESSIONS

4th Border Urbanism Conference. 2025

Socio-spatial Narratives of Migrants' Journey

Host: FH JOANNEUM, University of Applied Sciences, Graz, Austria, in collaboration with the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture & Built Environment, Robert Gordon University, Scotland

June 27–30, 2025

Friday, June 27

1400 Registration and pickup registration folder

1500 Opening of the 4th Border Urbanism Conference:
Dr Quazi Zaman, Chair BURC

1515 Host speech for Inaugural of the 4th Border
Urbanism Conference: **Meixner Karen**

1530 **Opening Keynote: Dr Dina Sidhva**, Listening
Across Borders: Epistemic Justice, Silence, and the Fragile
Threads of Knowing

1630 **Keynote: Prof. George Palattiyil**, Fragmented
Lives, Unbroken Spirit: Refugee Protection and the Ethics of
Presence

Q&A

TEA and COFFEE: MEET & GREET and continue to the Gala
Dinner

1830: Gala Dinner & Meet and Greet, Venue: TBC

Saturday, June 28 (Morning Session): 0930

Full Conference Session 1 Theme 1: Social Fragmentation of Migrant Communities

Session Chair: Dr Iris Altenberger

Keynote: Non-Place & Urban Justice:

Dharavi, Borderlands and Urban Faultlines: Waste, Resistance, and the Art of Informal Survival

Prof Graham Jeffery, Professor, School of Business and Creative Industries, University of West Scotland, UK, and Q&A

Paper presentation and discussion session with Q&A

Time	Authors/ Presenters	Title
1100	Raju Subedi , PhD Candidate, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture & Built Environment, Robert Gordon University, Scotland	Theorising psychogeography of displacement, Nepal
1130	Sidra Khokar Department of Architecture, School of Art, Design & Architecture, NUST, Pakistan Sana Malik Birmingham School of Architecture & Design, Birmingham City University, England	Feminism at the Fringe: Exploring Gender and Space in Islamabad's Nurpur Shahan and Its Afghan Immigrant Community
1200	Sarah Shemery , PhD Candidate in Social Work at the University of Edinburgh; Dr. Gwenetta Curry , University of Edinburgh; Dr. Jaime Miller , Northumbria University	Birth and Bordering: Loneliness, Structural Violence, and Birthing Advocacy in the UK Asylum System
1230	Rainer Loidl , FH-Prof. Mag. Dr. Institute of Social Work, FH JOANNEUM.	Cities as Socio-Spatial Interfaces of Migration: Adaptive Structures and Social Innovation for Spatial Justice and Migrant Inclusion

Saturday, June 28 (Afternoon Session)

Full Conference Session 2 **Theme 2: Spatial Injustice and Contested Urbanism**

Session Chair: Dr Sana Malik

1415 Keynote: Statelessness and Borderless Border: Legal Invisibility and the Right to Belong

Professor Parivelan K. M.

Woxsen University, Associate Dean, School of Liberal Arts and Humanities

Q&A

Paper presentation and discussion session

Time	Authors/Presenters	Title
1530	Asma Mehan PhD, Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University	Spatial Justice and Contested Urbanism: Migrants' Journeys in the Context of West Texas
1600	Ndudirim Nwogu , PhD Candidate, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture & Built Environment, Robert Gordon University, Scotland	Psychosocial Factors Associated with Flood-Induced Human Displacement in Lagos State, Nigeria

Q&A

SPECIAL SESSION: ART and MIGRANT SPATIAL NEXUS	
1700	<p><u>Workshop 1</u></p> <p>Crossing Threads: A Participatory Healing Workshop at the Borderlands of Memory</p> <p>Authors: Cinzia Ciaramicoli (Artist, The Itinerants), Dina Sidhva (The University of the west of Scotland, UK), Iris Altenberger (MCI, Innsbruck, Austria)</p> <p><i>Keywords: migration, participatory art, healing, displacement, collective memory, borders, psychogeography, resistance</i></p> <p><i>Crossing Threads</i> is a participatory healing workshop situated at the borderlands of memory, where fabric and storytelling come together as acts of quiet resistance and care. Through fabric—softened by time, held close to the body, and charged with</p>

memory—participants are invited to enter a shared space of reflection, creation, and witnessing.

Each person is asked to bring a T-shirt of personal significance—something worn, held, or tied to a particular moment in their journey. Although we do not disclose in advance how it will be used, this act of carrying something personal into the space becomes part of the emotional preparation. The fabric carries with it a weight that is felt before anything is said. It becomes the starting point of an embodied process—private, yet collective.

Co-led by artist Cinzia Ciaramicoli and academics Dina Sidhva and Iris Altenberger, the session draws on trauma-informed, feminist, and narrative methodologies. Each participant marks a piece of fabric with a word, symbol, or memory—something they associate with loss, transition, identity, or survival. These pieces are then tied to a suspended, border-like frame that begins as an empty structure and slowly transforms into a shared tapestry of voices and experiences. Each thread contributes to something larger: fragile, layered, and deeply human. At the heart of this work is the belief that memory is not passive. It is a powerful act of resistance. In systems that erase or silence lived histories, remembering becomes a way to honour what was lost, to reclaim identity, and to remain visible. Memory helps carry what cannot always be said. It connects us across differences and anchors us when place has been taken away. Fabric, in this context, is not neutral—it carries grief, joy, rupture, and longing in its folds. It becomes a vessel for what cannot be spoken, and an archive of survival.

Following the fabric ritual, participants are invited to sit together in a circle for reflection and dialogue. These questions form the heart of our gathering:

What does a border mean to you? How do you carry memory? What needs to be named before it can heal?

Responses may emerge through words, gestures, silence, or the quiet closeness of sitting together in shared presence.

Scheduled as part of the conference's Creative Exploration strand, *Crossing Threads* speaks directly to the broader themes of psychogeography, fear, and experiential migrant narratives. It offers no fixed outcome, no answers—only a pause. A woven and quiet form of solidarity, where stories may be held, not solved. "Crossing Threads" becomes, in this light, a small act of communal repair—a weaving together of what still aches to be remembered.

We plan to write this workshop up as a chapter for the conference publication. The writing will mirror the texture of the session itself: quiet, layered, and grounded in the embodied act of shared making. It will not present a linear narrative, but rather move through fragments—moments of stillness before cutting fabric, the pause before marking memory, the gentle motion of tying one thread to another. These fragments will hold space for the unspeakable, the tentative, and the remembered.

Drawing on the work of bell hooks, Eve Tuck, Saidiya Hartman, and Judith Butler, the chapter will explore how fabric becomes both a medium of resistance and a carrier of care. Hooks' call to remember as a political act, Tuck's insistence on refusal and desire-based frameworks, Hartman's fragmented re-narration of silenced lives, and Butler's reflections on grievability and shared vulnerability will guide our thinking. This is not a study of outcomes, but a practice of witness: a writing that listens, lingers, and leaves room for what refuses to be concluded.

Sunday, June 29

SOCIO-SPATIAL CITY TOUR: Graz will seduce you!

0900: Meet at the FH JOANNEUM, University of Applied Sciences

0930: WALKING TOUR

1330: SMALL LUNCH BREAK – EAT AS YOU LIKE

1700: Tour complete

Narrow alleys, imposing buildings, and modern architecture. Enjoy a stroll through a fascinating old town that is youthful, cheeky, and innovative. The classic Old Town tour will open your eyes and ears to a city centre whose beauty and uniqueness were recognised by UNESCO in December 1999 with its designation as a World Heritage Site. Graz has revealed its remarkable complexity since becoming a European Capital of Culture in 2003 and a UNESCO City of Design in 2011. Visitors can expect an incomparable blend of historical charm and modern flair. In addition to quiet courtyards—such as the beautiful Italian Renaissance arcade courtyard of the Landhaus—and narrow alleys exuding southern European spirit, the city also boasts the "city crown" of the castle, cathedral, and mausoleum, the main square with its eclectic mix of architectural styles, and a view of the Schlossberg with the clock tower, the emblem of Graz. The city is also impressive with its new museum quarter, the Kunsthaus (Art Museum), the Mur Island, and much more.



Monday, June 30 (Morning Session)

Full Conference Session 3 Theme 3: Non-Place and Empty Geographies

Session Chair: Professor Parivelan K. M.

0930: KEYNOTE: Khadeja, Khadija Mohammed

Dr Professor, Associate Dean (EDI), Office of VP (People), the University of the West of Scotland, **Unmuting Marginalised Voices: Decolonising Praxis and Everyday Resistance**

Q&A

Time	Authors/Presenters	Title
1100	Kowshik Ahmed, Khairun Nahar, and Shariar Alam Santo , South East University, Bangladesh	Project Sanctuary: A Minimalistic Shelter for the Rohingya Community to Improve Living Conditions with A Platform to Socialise at Kutupalong, Ukhiya, Bangladesh,
1130	Gaurangi Sehgal , Graduate in MSc Social Anthropology, The University of Edinburgh	A Non-Place with Its People: The Kashmiri Dilemma
1200	Bogdan Funk , PhD Student, University of Sopron, Hungary	Innovative architecture as a result of forced migration - a case study from West Africa
1230	Dr Sandro Guli' (Department of Philosophy, University of Aberdeen)	Living in Temporal accommodation: Unpacking Spatial Biopolitics Through the Lived Experiences of Asylum Seekers in Aberdeen

Q&A

LUNCH BREAK

Monday, June 30 (Afternoon Session)

Full Conference Session 4 Theme 4: **Policies & Jurisdictions on Migrant Issues**

Session Chair: Dr Sandro Guli

1400: KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Brigadier (Retd) David Neal,
Ex-Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and
Immigration, UK

Q&A

Paper presentation and discussion session

1500	Syed Monirul Islam (Associate Professor) and Shariar Alam Santo (Lecturer) (Department of Architecture, Southeast University)	Recipe for Disaster: The Vulnerability of Refugee Settlements in Kutupalong Rohingya Camp
1530	Ar Mehreen Mustafa Principal Architect, Architorque, Secretary to THAAP, Visiting Faculty, Punjab University – PUCAD and Dr Hafsa Imtiaz Associate Professor, National College of Arts & Principal Architecture, Design Centre	Tracing the Evanescent: Understanding the expansion of Lahore city through the migration trajectory of nomadic slum settlements.
1600	WORKSHOP 2: Abstract 2 The Flowing River Without Edges: A Painting Workshop on Freedom and the Refusal of Borders <i>Cinzia Ciaramicoli (Artist, The Itinerants), Dina Sidhva (The University of the West of Scotland, UK), Iris Altenberger (MCI, Innsbruck)</i> Keywords: <i>borderlessness, creative expression, freedom, migration, psychogeography, participatory art, silence, collective making</i> <i>The Flowing River Without Edges</i> is a silent, co-created painting workshop that invites participants to	

explore what it means to live, feel, and create without borders. Led by artist Cinzia Ciaramicoli in collaboration with academics Dina Sidhva and Iris Altenberger, this session offers an expansive, wordless space where freedom is not explained, but felt—gently, instinctively, and without containment. Participants will work together on a large surface made from either sheets of newspaper or cotton—materials that are both fragile and full of meaning. Using only three colours, chosen for their emotional resonance, the group will engage in intuitive painting. There are no instructions, no expected outcomes, and no imposed structures. The work unfolds as a quiet and shared experience—shaped by stillness, flow, and the quiet insistence of freedom beyond borders.

Participants are gently encouraged to begin with the image of a river—open, meandering, without edges—as a way to reflect on movement, boundarylessness, and continuity.

This workshop is not about making art in the traditional sense. It is about what emerges when we release the need to define—when language gives way to colour, and when imagined boundaries—of self, space, and nation—begin to dissolve. The newspaper or bolt of cloth becomes a living surface, carrying traces of public narrative, now remade through personal expression.

Situated within the conference's Creative Exploration strand, *The Flowing River Without Edges* speaks directly to the themes of Post-Border Urbanism, the Psychogeography of Displacement, and Experiential Narratives of Migration. It offers a counterpoint to narratives of control and restriction—not by rejecting them explicitly, but by gently refusing to replicate their form.

There is no critique, no right or wrong. But at the end of the session, participants will be invited to gather—

	<p>informally, in a circle or around the work itself—for a moment of reflection titled <i>Gathering Around the Colour</i>. The conversation may begin in gesture or silence. What matters is being present to what has unfolded.</p> <p>What remains is the trace of freedom—movement without direction, colour without containment, and a ‘canvas’ of quiet possibility, like a river passing through a landscape it does not ask permission to cross.</p> <p>We plan to develop this workshop into a chapter for the forthcoming volume <i>Gathering Around the Colour: Painting Presence and Refusal in the Socio-Spatial Lives of the Displaced</i>. The chapter will not merely describe the session, but attend to its quieter moments—the slow unfolding of gesture, the shared pauses, and the movement of colour across paper in response to bodies, emotions, and presence.e</p> <p>Reflecting the spirit of the workshop, the writing will be gentle, layered, and rooted in the felt experience of co-creation. Rather than presenting a linear account, it will move through fragments: the stillness before painting, the quiet rhythm of colour being laid down, and the ways bodies encountered one another through movement and making. In doing so, we aim to honour the emotional labour of displacement and the subtle forms of connection made possible through collective presence.</p> <p>The chapter will draw on the work of Bell Hooks, Karen Barad, and Harney & Moten, whose writings invite us to consider co-creation, touch, and shared time as acts of inquiry and resistance. This is not research <i>about</i> participants, but <i>with</i> them—in colour, in silence, and in motion.</p>
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**Q&A . TEA & COFEE. END OF THE SESSION with Summary
and announcement of the next conference host**

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



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AUSTRALIA



BANGLADESH



BRAZIL



CHINA PRC



Germany



HONG KONG SAR



HUNGARY



INDIA



ITALY



NEPAL



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THE UNITED
KINGDOM



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WALES

"You look down there and you can't imagine how many borders and boundaries you cross, again and again and again, and you don't even see them."

Rusty Schweikhart, a member of the 1969 Apollo 9 space mission)

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr Dina Pervez Sidhva

School of Education and Social Sciences,
University of the West of Scotland

Dr. Dina Sidhva is an esteemed social work practitioner, educator, and researcher with over 30 years of experience in India and Scotland. Her work is deeply committed to amplifying the voices and agency of marginalised communities, particularly those affected by HIV/AIDS, migration and asylum, domestic abuse, and educational access for minority groups. With a broad research scope, Dr. Sidhva delves into a range of social issues, including gender-based violence, international social work, human rights, and cross-border reproductive services such as surrogacy.

Dr. Sidhva has worked extensively with women, men, and children impacted by HIV/AIDS and forced migration, striving to bring about meaningful change through her advocacy and scholarship. One of her most notable contributions was a year-long participatory action research project in 2016, using PhotoVoice to document the lived experiences of African migrants living with HIV in Scotland, set against the backdrop of UK asylum policies. The project culminated in a powerful photographic exhibition titled "Living in Limbo", which poignantly captures the struggles of asylum seekers and refugees.

Her work resonates through exhibitions, talks, and publications at local, national, and international events, with ongoing dissemination efforts planned through March 2018. Dr. Sidhva's dedication to social justice and human rights remains a guiding force in her ongoing commitment to elevating marginalised voices.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Professor George Palattiyil, PhD

Personal Chair in Social Work and Refugee Studies, Head of Social Work at the University of Edinburgh

Professor George Palattiyil, PhD, holds a Personal Chair in Social Work and Refugee Studies and is the immediate past Head of Social Work at the University of Edinburgh. With a distinguished career spanning over 15 years, his teaching and research have focused on the complex issues surrounding forced migration, refugees and asylum seekers, human rights, HIV/AIDS-affected populations, and the needs of older adults.

Professor Palattiyil's research has taken him across diverse global contexts, including Scotland, Uganda, Jordan, and Bangladesh, where he has explored the social dimensions of refugee health. He is the founding Convenor of the Global Refugee Health Research Network. He has an extensive publication record, including co-editing *Social Work in a Global Context* (Routledge, 2016) and contributing to special issues of *Practice – Social Work in Action* on topics such as Social Work in India (2012) and the Global Agenda (2024).

A prominent social work and refugee health figure, Professor Palattiyil serves on the governing board of the International Consortium for Social Development, is a Board Member of Social Work Scotland, and is a Trustee of the Joint Universities Council for Social Work Education. He is also a Senior Fellow of the UK's Higher Education Academy and a Senior Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg. For more information, visit: [George Palattiyil - University of Edinburgh](#)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Brigadier (Retd) David Neal

Ex-Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, UK

David Neal is a former Army Brigadier who retired in 2019 as the Provost Marshal (Army) and commander of the 1st Military Police Brigade.

Dave has extensive military operational experience spanning Northern Ireland, the Balkans, and Afghanistan. He is a former Director at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, where he taught strategy, planning, and operational art to senior defence leaders in the United Kingdom and NATO.

The United Kingdom Home Secretary appointed Dave as the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) in March 2021. He left the ICIBI in February 2024. During his three years as the ICIBI, he regularly exposed shortcomings in the United Kingdom's border, immigration, and asylum systems.

He has written and spoken extensively in the media about asylum and immigration matters and is currently a special advisor to the United Kingdom Parliament's Home Affairs Select Committee.

He has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Wales and a Master's Degree from Cranfield University; his Master's dissertation related to the state's response to the industrial action in the Miners' Strike of 1984/1985.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Professor Graham Jeffery

School of Business and Creative Industries
University of the West of Scotland

Professor in Arts and Media Practice in the School of Business & Creative Industries, UWS. Director, UWS Protracted Crisis Research Centre. Graham's work spans participatory and community arts practices, creative pedagogies, cultural policy and urban and community development. He is the principal investigator on a three-year British Academy/GCRF-funded project: Waste, Water and Wellbeing, which consists of lessons from the interface of formal/informal urban systems in Dharavi, Mumbai. Graham has also worked as a teacher, composer and facilitator in a wide range of contexts, including work with London International Festival of Theatre, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and East London Dance, as well as in policy advice and consultancy with CapeUK, Creative Scotland and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. He has led numerous action research projects with diverse communities in different places around the world. He keeps a blog at www.generalpraxis.org.uk.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Professor Parivelan K. M.

Woxsen University, Associate Dean, School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, India

Prof. Parivelan K.M. is the Associate Dean and Professor at the School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, Woxsen University, Hyderabad. He holds a Master's and Ph.D. from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Previously, he taught at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, and worked with the United Nations Development Programme and UNHCR on post-tsunami recovery and refugee repatriation in South Asia.

His research and teaching focus on refugee protection, statelessness, forced migration, international relations, access to justice, human rights, and disaster management. He established the Centre for Statelessness and Refugee Studies at TISS in collaboration with UNHCR and has been affiliated with the Mahanirbhan Calcutta Research Group since 2004. Prof. Parivelan guides doctoral scholars and teaches courses on global justice, international law, foreign policy, and humanitarian issues. He serves on various academic boards, is a member of the *Statelessness Journal* (University of Melbourne), and contributes regularly to scholarly publications.

He is a member of the Tamil Nadu government's Advisory Committee for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees and the Journal Committee of the Sardar Patel National Police Academy. He also serves as a Visiting Professor at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany, under the EU-supported EMMIR program.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Professor Khadeja Mohammed

Associate Dean (EDI), Office of VP (People)
University of the West of Scotland

Professor Khadeja Mohammed is experienced as both a teacher and teacher educator, working with young children in primary school and considering ways to encourage learners to participate as socially and morally responsible citizens. To do this, she affirms their personal and social backgrounds, particularly children from diverse cultural backgrounds. She believes that the best learning occurs when a child is self-motivated, and this is linked intimately to their personal histories, language and social identity.

The changing demography of the West of Scotland has posed challenges for both Nurseries and Primary schools. Teachers must work in settings where many different languages and cultures congregate and be aware of second language acquisition and the importance of maintaining the child's mother tongue.

In her opinion, a more accessible curriculum is required, which would be more open to the understanding, languages and expectations that the children bring to the learning process. A focus is also necessary on ways to encourage the recruitment of ethnic minorities into the 21st-century teaching profession. Professor Khadeja is keen to work towards re-engaging classroom teachers in debate about their perceptions towards children from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds and their interactions with them.

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEECH

Listening Across Borders: Epistemic Justice, Silence, and the Fragile Threads of Knowing

Dr. Dina P. Sidhva

What happens when a voice is present but unheard? When pain is visible yet dismissed? When knowledge exists outside the formats we're taught to trust?

This keynote explores borders not only as geographic lines but as persistent divides between voice and credibility, care and bureaucracy, memory and documentation, survival and recognition.

Drawing on nearly four decades of experience as a social worker, academic, and researcher across India, Scotland, and Jordan, I reflect on lives shaped by silent knowing: Syrian refugee women, South Asian dementia carers, African asylum seekers with HIV, and women facing intensified violence during COVID-19. From informal settlements in Bombay to locked rescue homes and HIV clinics, these are not stories of absence but fierce, quiet resilience.

A daughter identifies memory loss through a forgotten spice. A woman hides her HIV status. A refugee's testimony is dismissed as "inconsistent." A survivor describes "screaming under a blanket." These are not just narratives—they are embodied ways of knowing, often ignored because they do not fit expected forms.

This keynote aligns with BURC's themes of border epistemologies, contested belonging, and urban fracture and repair. It calls for a relational, accountable, and slow ethics of listening. Here, silence is not emptiness—it is a borderland. And it is where witnessing must begin. Fragile lives are not marginal; they are central. They carry the threads that may yet hold us together.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Fragmented Lives, Unbroken Spirit: Refugee Protection and the Ethics of Presence

Professor George Palattiyil

The journeys of displaced people are shaped not only by physical borders but by deep social fragmentation that fractures families, communities, identities, and protections. Navigating hostile environments, restrictive asylum systems, and shifting public attitudes, migrants and refugees live amid border regimes, legal uncertainty, and constant precariousness.

This keynote explores social fragmentation in forced migration and refugee protection. Drawing on research with displaced communities in Jordan, Bangladesh, Uganda, and Scotland, I argue that fragmentation is not merely a byproduct of displacement but often a result of deliberate policy choices and global inequities. Through these lived experiences, I will show how displacement reshapes geography, social ties, and belonging.

Social work, humanitarian efforts, and grassroots support face a key challenge: How can we support fractured lives when the systems meant to protect them often perpetuate separation? How do we act ethically where belonging is conditional and protection is limited?

I propose an ethics of presence—a relational practice that resists invisibilities, honours fragmented narratives without forcing repair, and affirms the dignity and agency of those whose lives transcend borders.

Aligned with the conference theme of Socio-Spatial Narratives of Migrants' Journeys, this keynote highlights how spatial dislocation and social fragmentation are intertwined. It calls for an ethical practice that meets these challenges with solidarity, humility, and critical hope.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Statelessness and the Borderless Border: Legal Invisibility and the Right to Belong

Professor Parivelan K. M.

Across the world, growing numbers of people find themselves trapped in an invisible condition: statelessness. They cross no visible borders, yet their lives are shaped by the constant negotiation of legal and political boundaries that deny them recognition, rights, and belonging. Statelessness renders individuals simultaneously present and absent within their spaces, excluded from basic protections by the systems meant to guarantee them.

In this keynote, I will explore how borders are both territorial and legal and existential, operating silently yet powerfully to fragment lives and communities. Drawing on research and examples from South Asia and other regions, I will examine how policy frameworks, historical inequalities, and geopolitical tensions produce and sustain statelessness — often deliberately.

The discussion will consider the profound socio-spatial consequences of statelessness: the erosion of security, family ties, identity, and citizenship. It will also reflect on the ethical challenges of social work, humanitarian action, and governance, and how professionals can meaningfully engage with populations whose very existence is problematised by the state.

This keynote links directly to the conference theme of Socio-Spatial Narratives of Migrants' Journeys by highlighting how displacement is a journey across land and through shifting and unstable legal landscapes. It also speaks to the sub-theme of Policies and Jurisdictions on Migrant Issues, urging us to rethink the role of law and policy not simply as responses to migration, but as powerful forces in producing exclusion and statelessness.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Unmuting Marginalised Voices: Decolonising Praxis and Everyday Resistance

Professor Khadija Mohammed

In today's urban landscapes, borders extend beyond physical spaces to include social, cultural, and institutional barriers. These often appear as systemic racism, marginalisation, and the silencing of minority voices—especially in education.

Drawing on over 30 years in Scottish education and grounded in decolonial thought, Prof. Khadija's keynote explores how everyday acts of resistance can challenge these invisible borders. By centring the voices of those historically excluded through race and other forms of othering, she underscores the importance of diverse, experience-based knowledge systems.

Her work engages with *Muted Group Theory* to reveal how dominant structures silence marginalised voices in schools and universities. Understanding these dynamics is essential to disrupting dominant narratives and advancing empathy and inclusion.

The keynote synthesises these insights and outlines practical pathways for decolonising institutions, practices, and knowledge. It calls on scholars, educators, and communities to work across boundaries to create spaces where all voices are heard, valued, and empowered.

The closing address will reflect on the conference's key themes and issue a call to action—urging continued resistance to invisible borders and a collective commitment to justice and inclusion.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Dharavi, Borderlands and Urban Faultlines: Waste, Resistance, and the Art of Informal Survival

Prof Graham Jeffery

Across rapidly growing cities, informal spaces emerge where formal infrastructures fail, displacing and marginalising communities. In Dharavi—often mischaracterised as a “slum”—residents have forged ingenious systems of survival and solidarity amid systemic neglect. This keynote reflects on work in Dharavi, particularly with youth involved in waste economies and creative practices, to explore how informal infrastructures, labour, and art embody everyday resistance.

Drawing on experiences at Compound 13 Lab and youth-led initiatives, the talk examines how knowledge systems, spatial negotiations, and care practices develop outside formal planning. It also connects these insights to broader struggles on borderlands worldwide, where migrants, refugees, and displaced individuals continuously reinvent life in spaces defined by exclusion.

By reframing informality beyond poverty or deficit, the keynote reveals how everyday tactics sustaining livelihoods across urban faultlines offer vital lessons in resilience, agency, and creative defiance. Linking Dharavi’s narrative to global stories of displacement and urban precarity, it challenges assumptions of emptiness in peripheral urban spaces—highlighting them as vibrant arenas of survival, memory, and resistance. This perspective directly engages with the conference themes of Socio-Spatial Narratives of Migrants’ Journeys and Non-Place and Empty Geographies.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Brigadier (Retd) David Neal

Ex-Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, UK

This keynote examines how the United Kingdom independently ensures oversight of its migration and border systems, focusing on its principal assessor, the **Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI)**.

Immigration, alongside the National Health Service and the state of the economy, remains one of the three most significant issues in UK politics today. Following 14 years of Conservative government, during which net migration—both legal and illegal—rose dramatically, a Labour government was elected in May 2024. Since then, it has continued to oversee illegal and record-high net migration increases.

In the summer of 2024, widespread unrest erupted across UK towns and cities, partly fuelled by resentment toward migrants. More fundamentally, the disorder stemmed from a broader sense of betrayal by the ruling class, who were perceived as consistently disregarding concerns from large sections of the community. The local elections of May 2025 saw the emergence of a third party, **Reform UK**, which capitalized on the failure of the two main parties to address migration issues in a way that satisfied the electorate.

This keynote explores the role of independent oversight in the UK's border, asylum, and migration systems—an issue at the heart of much of the country's political turmoil. It examines which **public bodies** are accountable to Parliament for reporting on the effectiveness and efficiency of the systems underpinning the UK's migration operations.

A crucial aspect of this examination is understanding who is responsible for scrutinising crime, illegal migration, and immigration detention and how this scrutiny is applied. It also investigates what happens when oversight exposes systemic failures and what the consequences are when scrutiny becomes too effective. Additionally, the keynote addresses

the selection process for independent system overseers, questioning how their statutory powers can be constrained or limited in practice.

Migration is fundamentally reshaping UK politics, bringing about the most significant political shift since the rise of the Labour Party in the early 20th century. Given this reality, the keynote explores how oversight can be strengthened to ensure more effective governance and accountability.

Keywords: Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI), Assurance of the UK Border, Reform UK, Small Boats.

ABSTRACTS

BORDERS AND FRONTIERS: CONFRONTATION OR CONNECTION?

Bruno Roberto Padovano, PhD

Full Professor (Ret.), FAUUSP – University of São Paulo

"Imagine there's no countries...

Nothing to kill or die for...

I hope someday you'll join us,

And the world will be as one."

— John Lennon, Imagine

Having lived in Italy, South Africa, Brazil, and the U.S., and crossed many borders in my life, I came to realize how simple such crossings were for me—but not for the millions fleeing war, persecution, or poverty. As an architect, urban designer, and educator, I've often reflected on how we might rethink borders—not as barriers, but as bridges.

Borders and frontiers are not the same. Borders typically demarcate political limits, often enforced with walls, guards, and conflict—tragically exemplified today in places like Gaza, Ukraine, and the U.S.–Mexico boundary. In contrast, frontiers are spaces of exchange, porous zones where cultures meet, interact, and evolve—as seen in the American West during the 19th century or among democratic nations in Latin America.

Yet too often today, frontiers are hardened into borders. Refugees are turned away. Walls rise. Lives are lost. The U.S., once a beacon of immigration, now enforces increasingly inhumane policies. The Gaza wall, breached on October 7, 2023, triggered a devastating war claiming tens of thousands of lives. These examples underscore the urgent need to rethink our relationship with borders.

Can architects and planners make a difference? Can we imagine borderlands not as sites of division but as spaces for peace, sustainability, and shared humanity?

This is the vision behind **Artica**, a proposed megacity on the Bering Strait between Russia and Alaska—a symbolic and literal bridge between East and West. Conceived with colleagues from the e-DAU network and inspired by peace-

driven urbanism, Artica is imagined as a global city of 14 million, built on shared values and collective action.

Still in its early concept phase, we aim to present Artica to the United Nations to spark global dialogue and collaboration. The goal: to turn confrontation into connection, borders into frontiers, and imagination into reality.

Like Lennon's dream, this vision may seem idealistic—but it's only through such dreams that we move closer to peace.

We invite you to join us. This is not just our project—it's yours too. A new world awaits, built by many hands, united by one shared hope.

Keywords: Border, Frontiers, US-Mexico Border, Artica, Gaza, Ukraine, e-DAU

Urban Border of Privileged: Expatriates, Tourists, and the Architecture of Urban Ghettoisation

Professor Marc Aurel Schnabel, Dean

School of Design, Xi'an Jiaotong Liverpool University, Suzhou, P.R.
China

Migration today extends beyond national borders, embedding itself in the spatial fabric of urban life. Cities have become contested terrains where architectures of privilege and exclusion define everyday experience. Expatriates, tourists, and affluent transients—acclaimed as symbols of global mobility—often inhabit insulated enclaves disconnected from local cultures and economies. These “mobile elites” live not across borders, but within urban islands of separation (Carey, 2024). Rather than dismantling inequality, contemporary urbanism, planning, and architecture often entrench it, creating invisible yet rigid borders—gated communities, malls, embassy districts, and luxury developments fragment cities into archipelagos of affluence. Chan and Low (2024) describe “cosmopolitan grids” that reframe diverse neighbourhoods into zones of selective inclusion, where architecture governs access and belonging. Once imagined as tools for cohesion, urban design now functions as an instrument of spatial exclusion.

Expatriate mobility, though seemingly effortless, depends on strict regulatory and spatial frameworks—visa regimes, employment contracts, corporate housing, private schools, and secure leisure zones. These infrastructures sustain selective inclusion. Even while contributing economically, expatriates continually negotiate their “right to presence” yet remain shielded from meaningful interaction with host communities (Tuncer, 2025). Their lives unfold in sanitised, globally uniform spaces that signal exclusion rather than belonging.

Tourism-driven development further accelerates this fragmentation. Cities are increasingly shaped for visitors, not residents—through curated waterfronts, sanitised markets, and air-conditioned heritage quarters. González-Pérez and

Domínguez-Mujica (2023) show how such spaces displace locals and commodify culture for transient audiences. Sklair (2021) notes that in the post-pandemic city, spectacle eclipses substance, reducing heritage to consumable experience and eroding authenticity.

In this context, architecture becomes complicit—not a medium for encounter but a mechanism of division. Freire-Medeiros (2024) critiques how networked cities prioritise elite mobility while marginalising those excluded from global wealth flows. The built environment, designed around these hierarchies, undermines grassroots urbanism and socio-spatial interaction. Urban design now enforces containment—regulating access, visibility, and movement. Public space, once vital to democratic life, is increasingly privatised and controlled. Madden (2020) and Bhattacharyya (2024) describe how cities produce “managed spaces” that entrench privilege and suppress everyday heterogeneity. Echoing Schnabel’s (2006) call to rethink static urbanism, a reorientation is urgent. Cities must move beyond convenience, control, and consumption toward becoming porous, dynamic spaces where cultures coexist, clash, and evolve. Architecture should champion permeability, resilience, authenticity, and sustainability.

The paper argues that the tourists and expatriates, as part of the migration story, do not dismiss more vulnerable groups—it reveals how inequality is embedded in urban design. Today’s urban borders lie not at the edges of nations but at the heart of cities. The future of border urbanism depends not on celebrating mobility but on dismantling the mechanisms that segregate and sanitise. Cities must reclaim their role as shared commons—encounter, negotiation, and belonging sites.

Keywords: Privileged, tourists, Architecture of Urban Ghettoization, mobile elites, managed spaces, static urbanism

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**Project Sanctuary: A Minimalistic Shelter for the
Rohingya Community to Improve Living Conditions With
A Platform to Socialise at Kutupalong, Ukhiya,
Bangladesh**

The Rohingya refugee crisis has displaced over a million people, most of whom now live in temporary shelters in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. These makeshift structures often lack space, ventilation, privacy, and basic living standards. **Project SANCTUARY** proposes flat-pack, minimalistic shelters to offer dignified, functional spaces for rest, nourishment, and community.

This paper has two main goals: first, to examine the inadequate living conditions in Kutupalong, Ukhiya—including overcrowding, poor sanitation, and lack of communal areas; and second, to propose a sustainable shelter model that includes shared spaces for healing, green restoration, and improved hygiene.

Using a qualitative methodology, the study combines case studies, field observations, and interviews with refugees from archived data, alongside a design-based approach for shelter development. It also addresses the challenges of implementing participatory models and integrating ecological practices within existing infrastructure.

Keywords: Sanctuary, Flat-pack Shelter, Rohingya community

Raju Subedi

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Environment, Robert Gordon University, Scotland

Theorising psychogeography of displacement, Nepal

This paper examines the psychogeography of displacement through the lens of religious practices among people displaced by natural disasters, focusing on the 1985 flooding of Choser, Upper Mustang, Nepal. Now resettled in Dhulegauda, Pokhara, the community's adaptation reveals how emotional and spatial memories shape their reconstruction of religious life in a newly built environment. Drawing on Guy Debord's concept of psychogeography—the emotional impact of geography on behaviour—the study explores how displaced individuals recreate sacred spaces through cultural memory and spatial interventions. Set against a backdrop of escalating global displacement due to natural disasters, the research highlights the disruption to religious and cultural practices and the resilience involved in adapting them to new contexts.

Keywords: Internal Displacement, Natural Disaster, Psychogeography, phenomenology, Choser and Dhulegauda.



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Psychosocial Factors Associated with Flood-Induced Human Displacement in Lagos State, Nigeria

Flooding poses a significant threat to the built environment, especially in developing countries like Nigeria, often causing loss of life, property damage, and displacement. While its socio-economic and physical impacts are well documented, psychosocial effects remain underexplored. This study examined psychosocial factors linked to flood-induced displacement in Lagos State, Nigeria, using two research questions and null hypotheses tested at a 0.05 significance level. A correlational design was applied to data from 340 displaced individuals out of a population of 3,400.

Data were collected using two validated and reliable instruments—the Psychosocial Factors Questionnaire (PFQ) and Flooding and Human Displacement Indicator (FHDI)—both using 4-point scales. Analysis with Pearson's correlation and linear regression showed a strong link between stress and displacement and a significant relationship between anxiety and family displacement. The study recommends psychological support for displaced individuals and notes its implications and limitations.

Keywords: Nigeria, Lagos, Psychosocial Factors, Flood, Human displacement, Psychosocial Factors Questionnaire (PFQ) and Flooding and Human Displacement Indicator (FHDI)

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Quazi Mahtab Zaman

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Robert Gordon University, Scotland

**Housing for Migrants (or not): Precarity and Informal
Governance in Bastuhara Housing in Megacity Dhaka,
Bangladesh**

Dhaka, classified by the UN as a megacity with over 23 million people, attracts migrants from Bangladesh seeking better opportunities. However, the city struggles to provide affordable housing, leading to the rise of informal squatter settlements or *bostees* in rapidly growing areas. To address this, the Government of Bangladesh introduced Bastuhara housing—low-income, one-story public housing units—for displaced and poor migrants.

This study focuses on the Bastuhara housing in Section 7, Mirpur, which has undergone significant changes. Over time, higher-income groups acquired these properties, converting them into multi-storied buildings for profit, often facilitated by local ‘Mastans’—an informal power syndicate. This shift undermines the original purpose of affordable housing and reflects a broader pattern of socio-spatial transformation driven by hidden power structures.

Keywords: Migrant Poor, Squatter Settlement, Bastuhara Housing, Adaptive Transformation, Invisible Syndicate.

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Dr Gwenetta Curry, University of Edinburgh

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Birth and Bordering: Loneliness, Structural Violence, and Birthing Advocacy in the UK Asylum System

This paper critically examines how birth is experienced under institutionalised exclusion in the UK asylum system and how community-led maternal support organisations intervene. Drawing on two linked studies, it explores how structural violence, through restricted access to housing, healthcare, and social networks, creates isolation and worsens maternal outcomes for refugee and asylum-seeking mothers. Using Galtung's concept of structural violence and feminist border critiques, the paper frames the asylum system as a regime of emotional containment.

In this context, volunteer birth companions act as advocates, resisting institutional racism and transforming clinical spaces into temporary zones of care and solidarity. By framing birth as a critical borderland, the study reveals maternal support as care and resistance against spatial injustice.

Keywords: refugees, mothers, structural violence, racism, birth, birthing advocacy, spatial injustice, loneliness, hostile environment

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Cities as Socio-Spatial Interfaces of Migration: Adaptive Structures and Social Innovation for Spatial Justice and Migrant Inclusion

Migration is a dynamic societal force shaped by evolving global factors. Historically, European cities have been hubs of diversity—from industrialisation to colonial and labour migration (Saunders, 2011). Today, they face new pressures from shifting migration patterns, socio-spatial inequalities, and rising populism, demanding innovative, resilient responses (IOM 2024; UNHCR 2023).

Cities function as resilient systems (Loidl, 2025), capable of adapting and sustaining core functions amid disruption (Wink, 2022). This resilience depends on providing institutional, physical, and cultural spaces that foster adaptability, equity, and innovation. Urban resilience is inherently tied to sustainability, requiring integrative socio-spatial strategies that turn challenges into opportunities.

Viewing cities as adaptive, multidimensional systems, this paper draws on systems theory (Luhmann, 1984), spatial sociology (Lefebvre, 1991, 2016), and actor-network theory (Latour, 2007) to explore the intersection of migration and urban development. It offers a framework for building inclusive, resilient cities that promote coexistence and improve quality of life.

Keywords: Urban resilience, socio-spatial justice, migration, social innovation, adaptive structures, sociological theory.

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**Informal economies in contested urban streets: politics,
migration and the spatial struggles of street vendors in
Dhaka**

This paper examines the role of street vendors in Dhaka's informal economy, focusing on the bustling corridor between Newmarket and Gauchia Market. In Bangladesh, ranked 11th globally for informal employment, the informal sector is vital for urban migrants, many of whom turn to street vending due to economic hardship and climate-induced displacement. Using an ethnographic approach, the study explores how vendors transform the street into a dynamic economic and social hub integral to Dhaka's urban fabric. It highlights how class, gender, migration, and politics intersect in this contested space, shaped by informal governance structures and exploitative networks. Vendors operate at the precarious edge of formal policy and informal regulation, with migrant vendors facing marginalisation.

The paper uncovers the local mechanisms governing this space, revealing how informal economies are spatially and politically negotiated without formal recognition.

Keywords: Informal Economies, Street Vendor, Dhaka City, Spatial Struggle, Invisible Mechanism.

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**Pioneer and Prisoner: People Mobility and Spatial
Production
in Mainland China-SEZ-Hong Kong**

Since the 1898 demarcation of the Shenzhen–Hong Kong border, its meaning has evolved with shifting political contexts. After decades of open movement, both sides established restricted zones to control migration. The “Great Escape” from Mainland China to Hong Kong (1950s–1970s) highlighted mass cross-border migration, supplying Hong Kong with cheap labour and fuelling its industrial boom. In contrast, Shenzhen faced a population vacuum in the early reform era. To build the new Special Economic Zone (SEZ), 20,000 demobilised soldiers became its first official settlers. The SEZ’s isolation, marked by the establishment of the Second Line, created a unique governance model distinct from both Hong Kong and the mainland. This study examines how the SEZ managed migrants and their spatial presence, revealing how the Shenzhen–Hong Kong border has continuously embodied opportunity and constraint. Ultimately, the research interrogates how the politics of mobility shaped migrants as symbols of pioneering progress and confinement across different historical periods.

Keywords: Shenzhen, Hong Kong, border, SEZ

Asma Mehan PhD

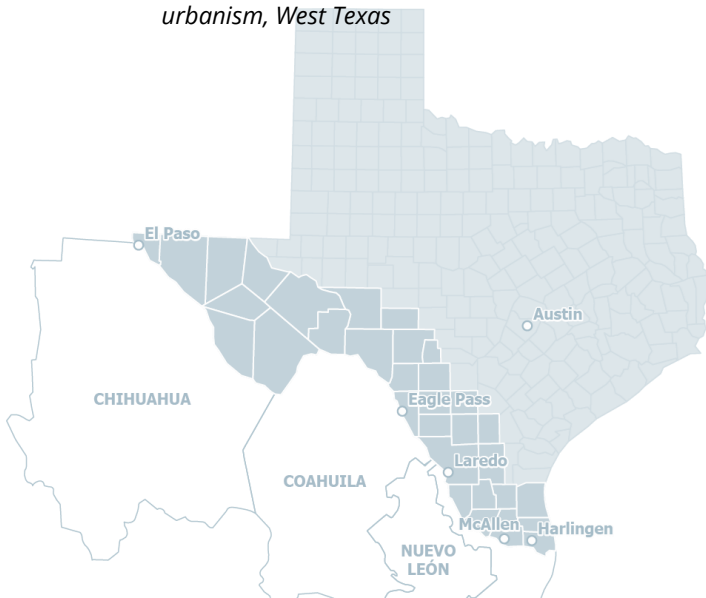
Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University

Spatial Justice and Contested Urbanism: Migrants' Journeys in the Context of West Texas

This paper examines migration and displacement within the socio-spatial landscape of West Texas, a region shaped by rural-urban divides, industrial legacies, and marginalised communities. Focusing on contested urban spaces and borderlands, it explores how migrant communities experience fragmentation, spatial injustice, and the creation of "non-places." By mapping migrant trajectories and collecting experiential narratives, the study highlights both vulnerability and resilience. West Texas's patterns reflect the intersecting forces of historical migration, resource extraction, and environmental crises, exacerbated by weak policy frameworks.

The paper advocates for integrating lived experiences into planning to promote spatial equity and reimagine borderlands as spaces of inclusion.

Keywords: migration, spatial justice, socio-spatial narratives, contested urbanism, West Texas



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Unmasking Child-Friendly Spaces: The 'Cage' Illusion in Rohingya Camps and CFS as Therapeutic Technology for Childhood Healing at the Border of Bangladesh

Amid severe human rights violations in Myanmar, the Rohingya were forced to flee to refugee camps near the Bangladesh border, with children comprising 68% of the displaced population. Exposed to traumatic experiences, these children face heightened vulnerability. In response, Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) have emerged as global architectural technologies offering psychosocial support. However, this study critically examines existing CFS in the Balukhali camp (Cox's Bazar), revealing a mismatch between institutional designs and children's lived experiences. Using critical ethnography with children aged 7 to 12, the research uncovers how children reimagine CFS not as cage-like enclosures but as open, natural public spaces—comprising trees, birds, water, and social interactions.

The paper also exposes how CFS are increasingly politicised and shaped by stakeholders' financial interests, complicating their ability to genuinely serve refugee children's mental health needs. Ultimately, the study challenges conventional notions of CFS, calling for a rethinking of their design and purpose.

Keywords: Childhood Healing, CFS, Forced Displacement, Psychosocial Supportive Technology, Rohingya Children

Md Iftekhar Rashid

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**Adapting to constraints: Understanding the Gender
dynamics in the domestic space of the standard
Pakistani refugees in Kalshi Slum, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Rapid urbanisation has fuelled the growth of informal settlements, where gender dynamics often push urban poor women into home-based work to support their families. In Dhaka's Kalshi slum, descendants of the 1971 stranded Pakistani refugees—now third-generation Bangladeshi citizens—continue to navigate socio-political marginalisation, often leveraging their "Bihari refugee" identity for economic opportunities.

Within religious, social, and political constraints, women in Kalshi creatively repurpose their homes into workspaces. This ethnographic study examines how they negotiate spatial and economic boundaries, using in-depth interviews and spatial mapping to document the transformation of domestic spaces for dual use—balancing privacy with productivity.

These adaptations reflect both resistance and empowerment, showing how gendered spatial practices shape survival strategies. The study offers policy insights for advancing gender equity and improving livelihoods in refugee-descended urban slums.

Keywords: Spatial Adaptation, Gender Dynamics, Pakistani Women, Domestic Space, Transformation.

Gaurangi Sehgal

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A Non-Place with Its People: The Kashmiri Dilemma

This research examines the socio-spatial condition of Kashmir, where forced disappearances and unmarked graves render people anonymous, blurring the line between life and death. Framed through the anthropology of absence, violence, and kinship, the study explores how political limbo and perpetual conflict transform the region into a "non-place" marked by grief, erasure, and uncertainty. Ethnographic narratives from Indian-administered Kashmir reveal how the state shapes a landscape of both suppression and fragile hope, fostering spatial injustice and anonymity. Situated within broader discussions of non-places and contested geographies, the paper highlights how conflict redefines identity, space, and belonging.

Keywords: unmarked graves, half-widows, forced disappearance, identity, ambiguity, grief, non-place, violence, state, spatial injustice



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**Spatiotemporal impact of the Checkpoint-Oriented
Development (COD) model on Shenzhen's migrants
around
the Shenzhen-Hong Kong borderlands**

In 1979, China's 'Reform and Opening Up' policy designated Shenzhen as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to attract foreign investment and channel expertise via Hong Kong. Two key borders defined the area: the 'First Line,' separating Shenzhen from Hong Kong, and the 'Second Line,' regulating entry from mainland China. These borders shaped distinct social identities—natives, New Shenzheners, and short-term migrants.

Influenced by Hong Kong, Shenzhen rapidly transformed from a village of 300,000 into a city of 18 million. Checkpoints along the First Line became engines of growth, with migrants central to its development. Shenzhen's 'checkpoint-oriented development' (COD) model, backed by adaptive policies, effectively managed this influx.

This paper examines: (i) spatial and temporal changes in Shenzhen's borderlands around key checkpoints, and (ii) how the COD model shapes migration and urban growth. Shenzhen's evolution unfolds in three phases: Industrialisation (1980s–90s), Transformation (2000s–2010s), and Quality Development (2020s–present).

The analysis offers insights into how policy-driven spatial strategies impact migrant populations and provides a model for sustainable development in other cross-border regions.

Keywords: Checkpoint-Oriented Development, Shenzhen-Hong Kong borderlands, spatiotemporal impact, Shenzhen migrants

Bogdan Funk

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Innovative architecture as a result of forced migration a case study from West-Africa

While migration is often viewed through its negative impacts, some of our most significant architectural achievements stem from the forced displacement of people. A notable example is Venice, traditionally thought to have been built by refugees from nearby Roman cities.

In the 15th century, another group, forced from present-day Mali due to conflicts over fertile land and gold, settled innovatively on stilts above Lake Tandane. Fleeing various enemies, they built their homes to avoid floods and attacks. Over time, this settlement, Nzulezo (Ghana), known as the "Venice of Africa," developed a harmonious relationship with its aquatic environment. The isolation and limited resources led to a low ecological footprint, with homes made from locally harvested wood and raffia built using knowledge passed down through generations.

Studying the settlement's structure, its evolution, and the challenges faced by the 600 residents can inspire innovative approaches to address modern migration challenges.

Keywords: Architectural Theory, Regenerative Architecture, Community-Based Architecture



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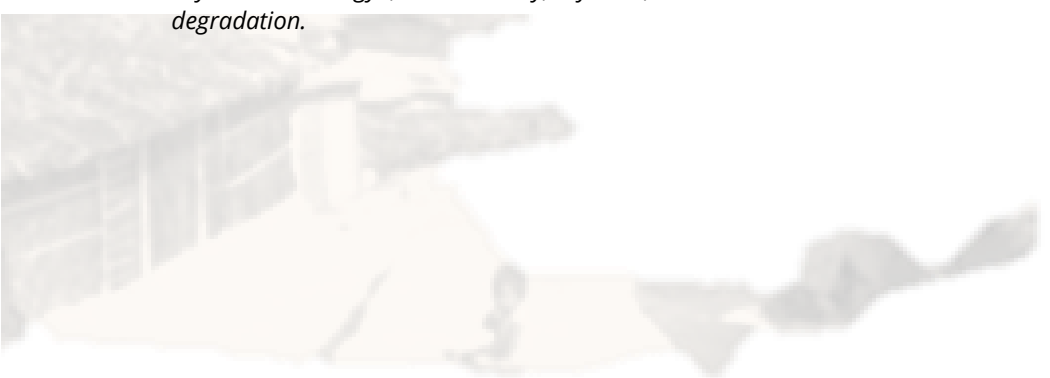
Recipe for Disaster: The Vulnerability of Refugee Settlements in Kutupalong Rohingya Camp

The 33 overcrowded Rohingya refugee camps in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar—home to nearly 920,000 forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals—represent one of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian crises. Fleeing ethnic and religious persecution in Myanmar, these communities now face extreme vulnerability due to both natural and manmade hazards. Located in a cyclone-prone region, the camps are at high risk from severe storms, fires (due to flammable bamboo and tarpaulin shelters), and landslides during monsoons, particularly given their steep terrain.

This study focuses on Kutupalong, the largest camp, to assess the compounded risks of climate change and environmental hazards. It evaluates current disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies and identifies key vulnerabilities, aiming to propose integrated solutions for strengthening resilience and preparedness.

Ultimately, the research underscores the urgent need for a holistic, climate-adaptive approach to safeguard these highly vulnerable communities.

Keywords- Rohingya, Vulnerability, Cyclone, Fire and Environmental degradation.



Ar Mehreen Mustafa & Dr Hafsa Imtiaz

Principal Architect

Architorque, Secretary to THAAP

Visiting Faculty, Punjab University – PUCAD

Pakistan

Tracing the Evanescent

Understanding the expansion of Lahore city through the migration trajectory of nomadic slum settlements.

A city is a multi-layered organism driven by various forces like economy, infrastructure, and politics, but its most vital component is the people and communities that reside within it. In recent years, the notion of urban utopia has shaped the spatial dynamics of informal settlements in Lahore, known as Katchi Abadis. These settlements, mainly nomadic slums, have a unique character shaped by their diverse cultural and geographical backgrounds, creating hybrid spaces that influence both internal and external interactions with the city. Due to their transient nature, these settlements are often ignored or neglected.

The most striking feature of nomadic slums is their movement within the urban fabric, shifting from one boundary to another. This paper aims to trace and map the trajectory of these settlements, comparing a historical map from 1966 with a current one to analyse their shifting locations. The study will explore their relationship with the city's growth by identifying the settlements' positions on both maps and examining their migration patterns. Preliminary results show that these settlements move parallel with the city's expansion, marking boundaries reflecting urban growth patterns.

The paper will conclude with a discussion of these communities' migration behaviour, their relationship with city boundaries, and their role in the city's fabric.

Keywords: Katchi Abadi, boundary, migration patterns, morphology.

Dr Sandro Guli'

Department of Philosophy, University of Aberdeen
Scotland

**Living in initial accommodation: redefining the spatial
biopolitical power dynamics through the stories of
people seeking asylum in Aberdeen**

In the UK, asylum seekers are often placed in temporary dispersal accommodation on a 'no choice' basis, with no clear end date while awaiting a decision on their legal status. These accommodations, which differ from traditional housing or prisons, create distinct urban spaces that fuel social unrest and challenge conventional social, ethical, and political frameworks. This paper combines conceptual and empirical approaches to explore the social and spatial dimensions of dispersal accommodations through the experiences of asylum seekers in Aberdeen. Drawing on philosopher G. Agamben's work, this paper views these spaces as 'spaces of exception,' neither prisons nor conventional housing, but limbo governed by arbitrary sovereign decisions. Influenced by Agamben's political philosophy, these spaces are interpreted as 'camps,' bio-political tools for managing selected individuals while segregating them from society.

This paper addresses three key aspects using the narratives of asylum seekers and volunteers. First, while the 'camp' remains a tool of bio-power, its increasing privatisation has reduced its status as a public space. Second, the 'camp' is reshaped by collective interactions—shared beliefs, desires, and intentions—among asylum seekers and locals. Third, the 'camp' can also be a site of agency, solidarity, resilience, and political resistance.

Keywords: Asylum seekers, dispersal accommodation, biopolitics, camp, Agamben, collective intentionality.

Asma Siddika

Assistant Professor

Department of Architecture

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Dhaka.) and

Mohammed Mahbubur Rahman, PhD

Pro-vice-chancellor, Ahsanullah University of Science and
Technology, Dhaka

A Comparative Examination of the Design of Shelter for the Marginalised Urban Migrants in Bangladesh

Rapid urbanisation, rural-urban migration, and economic inequality have led to a severe housing crisis in Bangladesh, marked by the growth of informal settlements. Over 1.8 million people live in these settlements—more than 5,000 in Dhaka alone—often facing overcrowding, poor infrastructure, and constant eviction threats. Despite various low-cost housing initiatives targeting marginalised communities, little research has assessed the suitability of these shelter designs. This paper presents a comparative analysis of four shelter projects—'A Dwelling in the Community-Led Housing Model in Jhenaidah,' 'Jogen Babu Maath Slum Upgrading,' 'Mohammadi RMG Housing,' and 'Low-Cost Climate Resilient Urban Housing.'

The study gathers data from implementing agencies, staff, and fieldwork to evaluate spatial, structural, environmental, and economic aspects. The findings aim to bridge the knowledge gap on design effectiveness, offering insights to guide more responsive and sustainable housing solutions for urban low-income populations.

Keywords: shelter, design, low-income people, migrants, marginalised

Sidra Khokar

Department of Architecture, School of Art, Design & Architecture,
NUST, Pakistan

Sana Malik

Birmingham School of Architecture & Design, Birmingham City
University, England

Feminism at the Fringe: Exploring Gender and Space in Islamabad's Nurbur Shahan and Its Afghan Immigrant Community

This research explores the intersection of urban slums and Afghan female immigration through a case study of Nurbur Shahan Village in Islamabad. As one of the capital's oldest post-independence settlements, Nurbur Shahan has developed around the shrine of Bari Imam, whose spiritual presence continuously shapes its socio-spatial dynamics.

Since the 1980s, waves of Afghan migration have led to complex, often undocumented settlements across Pakistan. In Nurbur Shahan, the growing presence of Afghan women has further complicated its urban fabric—yet they remain largely invisible in urban planning and migration discourse.

Guided by Luce Irigaray's theory of sexed subjects, this study examines how Afghan immigrant women navigate and reshape informal urban space. It considers their gendered experiences and socio-spatial practices, particularly in relation to the shrine's influence, to challenge dominant narratives about informal settlements.

Using critical ethnography, the research highlights the triple invisibility of these women—as immigrants, as women, and as informal dwellers—and contributes to a feminist historiography of Islamabad's evolving informal urbanism.

Keywords: Urban slum, Afghan immigrants, feminist urbanism, informal settlements, Islamabad, Irigaray, intersectionality, gender and displacement, socio-spatial practices, critical ethnography.

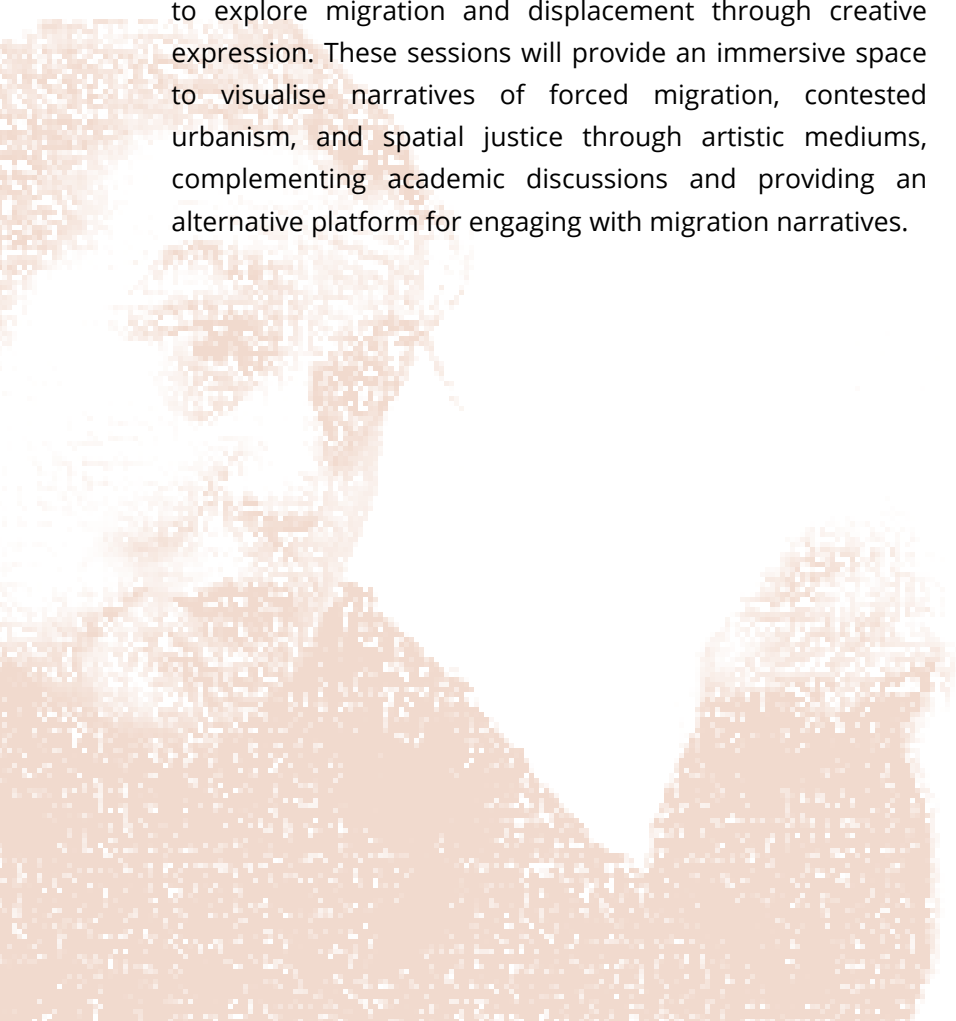
SPECIAL SESSION: ART and MIGRANT SPATIAL NEXUS

Cinzia Ciaramicoli

Artistic Director at The ItinerAnts
Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Creative Exploration: Artistic Reflections on Migration

In collaboration with creative artist Cinzia Ciaramicoli, we are introducing interactive art sessions that invite participants to explore migration and displacement through creative expression. These sessions will provide an immersive space to visualise narratives of forced migration, contested urbanism, and spatial justice through artistic mediums, complementing academic discussions and providing an alternative platform for engaging with migration narratives.



Tarana Tabassum(1) and Md. Zahidur Rahman (2)

(1) Gopalganj Science and Technology University (GSTU)
And (2) Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), Dhaka,
Bangladesh

Homing Under Constraint: Spatial Injustice and Shelter Adaptation in Rohingya Refugee Camps

The Rohingya refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, has led to highly regulated camps where displaced populations face systemic spatial injustice. This research examines the homemaking practices of Rohingya refugees under severe spatio-legal constraints. Originally intended as temporary, these camps have evolved into quasi-urban spaces with restrictive legal frameworks, inadequate infrastructure, and environmental risks. Refugees lack control over their environment, heightening exclusion and vulnerability. This study critically explores the tension between imposed spatial limitations and refugees' adaptive strategies for shelter.

Through a multiple-case study approach, it documents the morphological evolution of shelters, focusing on unofficial modifications, material swaps, and spatial rearrangements that reflect cultural identity, privacy, and daily rituals. These changes highlight refugees' resistance to the temporary nature of humanitarian shelters, illustrating their active role in shaping space.

The research reveals how cultural identity, resource scarcity, legal constraints, and environmental vulnerability intersect. It calls for a shift from short-term, rigid shelter solutions to flexible, context-sensitive approaches, contributing to the broader understanding of adaptive behaviour in displacement contexts and informing more sustainable, compassionate shelter strategies for future crises.

Keywords: Rohingya refugees, spatial injustice, legal-spatial constraints, shelter transformations, adaptation strategies

Md. Zahidur Rahman (1) and Tarana Tabassum (2)

- (1) Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), Dhaka, and
- (2) Gopalganj Science and Technology University (GSTU), Bangladesh

Displacing Homes: Adaptive Responses and the Spatial Realities of Coastal Displacement

Climate change-induced disasters drive widespread displacement, with Bangladesh among the most vulnerable nations. Coastal communities in southwestern Bangladesh face threats from rising sea levels, cyclones, and river erosion, leading to frequent home relocations. This study examines the architectural and spatial evolution of homes as adaptive responses to these coastal challenges.

Through diachronic analysis, the research explores how homes are designed to be dismantled, relocated, and reassembled to adapt to environmental pressures. Framed within non-place and empty geography, the study highlights their transient nature, reflecting the fluid lives of displaced populations. Despite their impermanence, these homes showcase resilience through adaptability.

The findings reveal how the spatial and material configurations align with displacement realities, offering insights into coastal communities' resourcefulness. The study situates these homes within broader migration narratives, presenting them as dynamic responses to environmental displacement, not fixed structures. This research contributes to migration and non-place geographies, emphasizing the need for adaptive housing solutions for displaced populations.

Keywords: coastal homes, adaptive responses, dynamic coastal conditions, displacement, relocation

CASE STUDY



Empowering Dreams Through Education: Somaiya's Journey of Resilience and Transformation

Under the CODEC–UNICEF Education Project

Quazi Wafiq Alam

Director - Program & Knowledge Management
Community Development Centre (CODEC)

Somaiya, an 11-year-old Grade 3 student at the Baganbilas Learning Centre (FID-31012837) in Camp-24, symbolises resilience and hope. Displaced from Kullabil Village, Maungdaw Township in Myanmar, and now living in Camp-24, Leda, Block B-4, Somaiya has overcome immense personal and social challenges to pursue her right to education.

Born with spinal and physical disabilities, she faced early scepticism from her parents about the value of formal education. But through persistent outreach by the CODEC–UNICEF Education Project and the committed teachers at Baganbilas, her family was sensitised and empowered to support her learning journey.

Somaiya was officially enrolled on March 17, 2022. With a Disability Volunteer assigned to assist her daily, she found a safe, inclusive space where she could learn and grow. Starting with no literacy skills, she has since made remarkable academic progress and now reads and writes confidently—an achievement she gratefully attributes to her teachers, volunteer, and determination.

Beyond academics, Somaiya has embraced values of safeguarding, gender equality, and inclusion. Her parents, once hesitant, now proudly support her education and celebrate her transformation.

Somaiya's journey—captured under FCN 263200 and Progress ID B37-00017232—is a testament to the transformative power of inclusive education. From a hesitant beginning to becoming a confident leader in her class, she exemplifies what is possible when children are allowed to thrive.

Reclaiming Childhood: Umme Habiba's Path to Learning and Hope

Under the CODEC–UNICEF Education Project

Quazi Wafiq Alam

Director - Program & Knowledge Management
Community Development Centre (CODEC)

In 2017, the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya in Myanmar forced hundreds of thousands to flee, with nearly one million now living in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Among the most affected are children, many of whom have been cut off from formal education.

To address this, the Community Development Centre (CODEC), in partnership with UNICEF, launched the CODEC-UNICEF Education Project, providing quality education from Kindergarten to Grade 10 across multiple camps. The initiative is restoring literacy, hope, and a sense of belonging. One such story is that of 8-year-old Umme Habiba, born in Maungdaw, Myanmar. Displaced by violence, her family fled to Bangladesh with little exposure to formal education. Persuaded by CODEC-UNICEF outreach, her parents enrolled her in the Pankouri Learning Centre at Camp-27. Now in Grade 3, Habiba is thriving.

"I feel so good about studying at CODEC's Pankouri LC," she says. "I can read all 6 of my books. I like my teachers because they help me to read and write. I like my friends too."

Her parents, once hesitant, are now proud. Habiba dreams of becoming a teacher and is determined to uplift her community through education.

Her journey is one of thousands made possible by the CODEC-UNICEF Education Project and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), which helps Rohingya children reclaim their futures—one classroom at a time.

THE SURVIVAL ENVELOP: Folding the modular veil sanctuaries for Rohingya Refugees within the limits to grow

**Tarana Tabassum (1), Dr Sheikh Serajul Hakim (2) and
Md Sadiquzzaman (3)**

(1) Gopalganj Science and Technology University (GSTU) Gopalganj,

(2) Khulna University (KU) Khulna, Bangladesh; and (3) Khulna University (KU) Khulna, Bangladesh

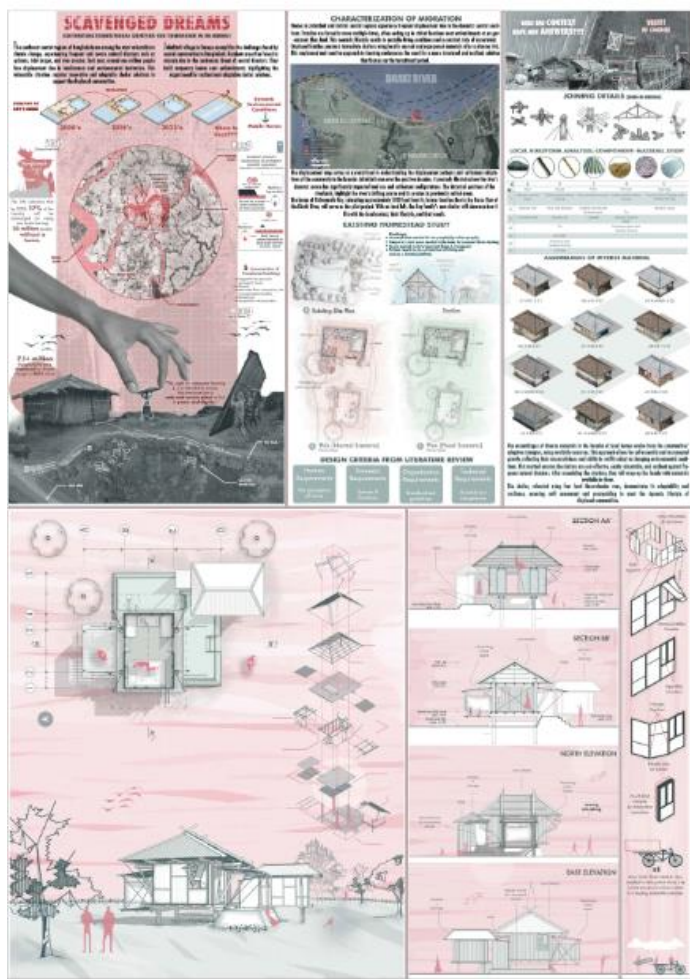


DESIGN IDEAS ON MIGRANT SHELTERS

SCAVENGED DREAMS: Cultivating Transitional Shelters for Tomorrow in Jaliakhali

Md. Zahidur Rahman (1); Dr. Sheikh Serajul Hakim (2); and Md. Sadiquzzaman (3)

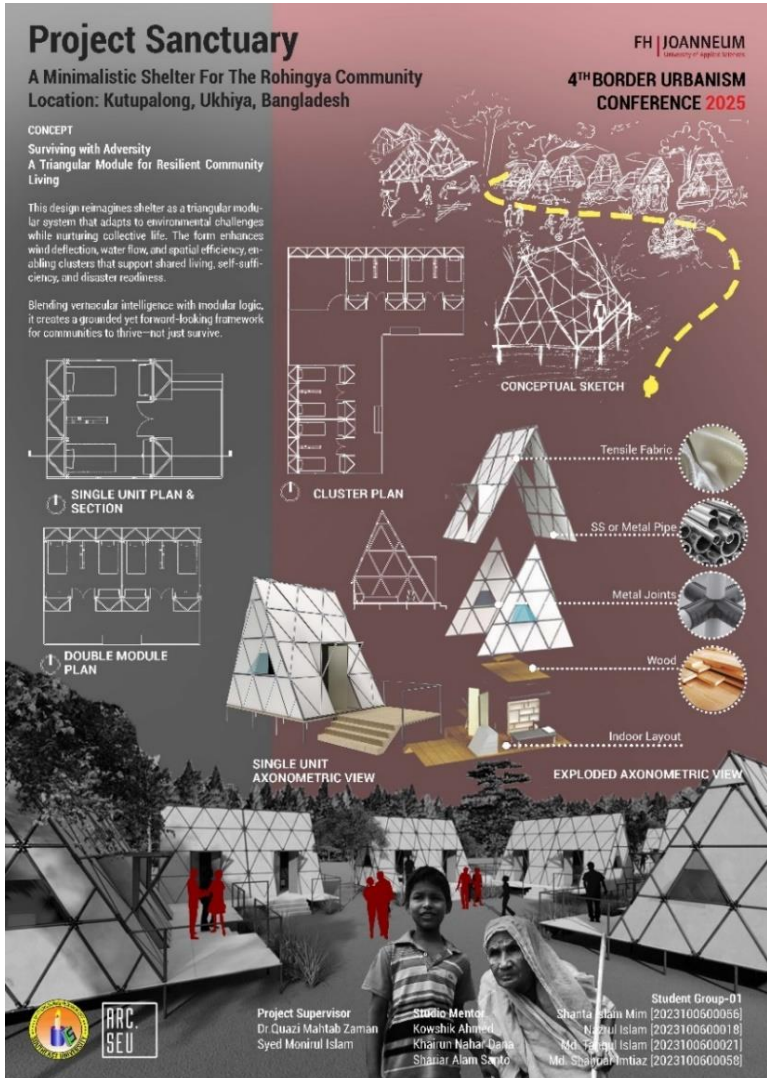
- (1) Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) Dhaka, (2) Khulna University (KU) Khulna and (3) Khulna University (KU) Khulna, Bangladesh



DESIGN IDEAS ON MIGRANT SHELTERS

Project Sanctuary

Department of Architecture
Southeast University
Dhaka, Bangladesh



DESIGN IDEAS ON MIGRANT SHELTERS

Project Sanctuary

Department of Architecture
Southeast University
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Project Sanctuary

A Minimalistic Shelter For The Rohingya Community

Location: Kutupalong, Ukhiya, Bangladesh

CONCEPT

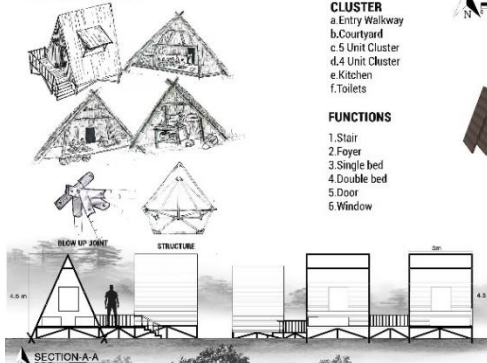
TriNest

An Eco-Friendly Triangular Shelter for Resilience and Comfort

TriNest offers a quick-to-assemble, affordable, and sustainable shelter designed with a triangular form that ensures structural stability and efficient use of materials. Built with eco-conscious methods, it integrates solar panels and rainwater harvesting to support off-grid living.

This shelter provides displaced families and communities with a safe, durable, and dignified space—perfect for refugee camps, disaster relief, and rural housing—combining environmental responsibility with practical comfort.

CONCEPTUAL SKETCHES

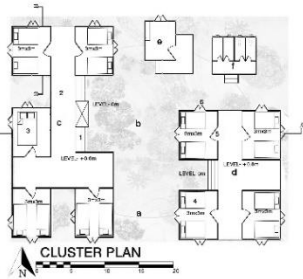


CLUSTER

- a. Entry Walkway
- b. Courtyard
- c. 5 Unit Cluster
- d. 4 Unit Cluster
- e. Kitchen
- f. Toilets

FUNCTIONS

- 1. Stair
- 2. Foyer
- 3. Single bed
- 4. Double bed
- 5. Door
- 6. Window



FH | JOANNEUM
University of Applied Sciences

4TH BORDER URBANISM
CONFERENCE 2025



ARC.
SEU

Project Supervisor
Dr. Quazi Mahtab Zaman
Syed Monirul Islam

Studio Member
Kowshik Ahmed
Khairun Nahar Dana
Shariar Alam Santo

Student Group-02
Oasim Akram Topon
[2023100600012]
Bannya Sarkar
[2023100600032]
Jannatul Nayima

BORDER URBANISM RESEARCH CENTRE ACCOLADES



香港城市設計學會
Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design

HKIUD Urban Design Awards 2023

Merit Award

for the Research / Publication
Category

is awarded in recognition of excellence in
urban design to

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Wilson'.

Barry WILSON HKIUD
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sunnie Lau'.

Sunnie LAU HKIUD
Hon. Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benny Chan'.

Benny CHAN HKIUD
Chairperson, Awards Organising Committee

23 October 2024

Dr Quazi Mahtab Zaman

**Chair, Border Urbanism
Research Centre**

**Scott Sutherland School of
Architecture & Built
Environment**

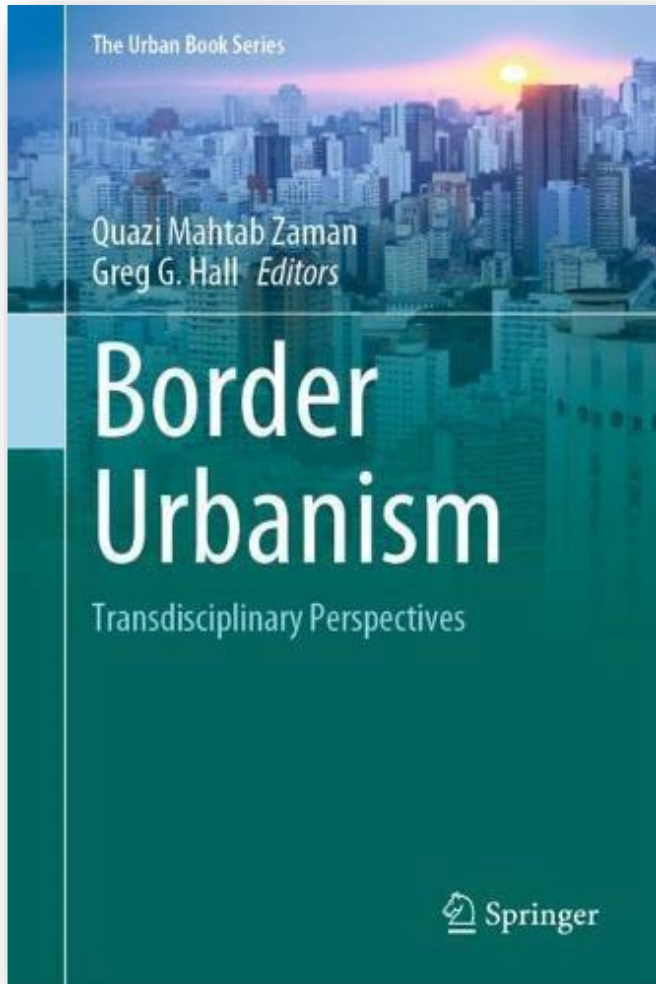
**Robert Gordon University
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK**

Research/Publication

Border Urbanism

**FIRST VOLUME OF
BORDER URBANISM BOOK**

from the first conference in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 2018



DESIGN IDEAS ON MIGRANT SHELTERS

Border Urbanism Design Competition: Project Sanctuary,

Department of Architecture, Southeast University, Bangladesh –

Faculty and Students in the Jury of the projects 2024-25.



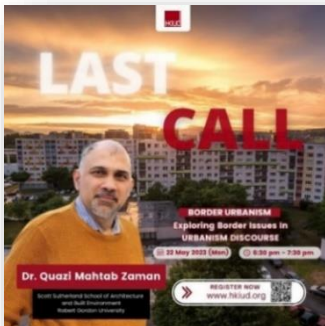
SECOND BURC CONFERENCE, MALAGA, SPAIN 2019

Keynote Speakers and Convenors



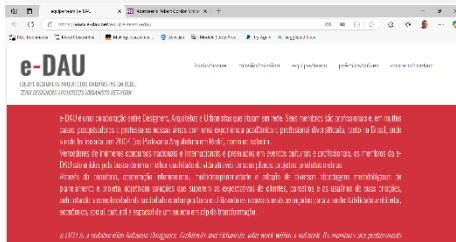

FIRST BURC CONFERENCE ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND, 2018

*Keynote Speakers and Convenors, Aberdeen City Council
Reception*



*Joint seminar with
Professor Bruno Padovano, São Paulo, on the Bering Strait Peace
Project*


Collaboration between Budapest (Dr Vilmos Katona) and Brazil and Bangladesh , 2022

Dr Quazi Mahtab Zaman
 PhD Architecture and Urbanism
 Architecture and Urban Design Discipline
 Scott Sutherland School of Architecture
 & Built Environment
 Robert Gordon University
 Aberdeen, UK

Seminar on
**BORDER
 URBANISM**

3rd July | 3:30PM
 AHSANULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
 AND TECHNOLOGY (JURY ROOM)

Organized by

 Seminar & Workshop Organizing Committee
 Department of Architecture
 AUST

**BORDER
 URBANISM:**
 Displacement, Hostility
 and Technology.



Dr. Quazi Zaman
 Vice-Presidente Internacional e-DAU

27/05/2023
 às 11h30

ID da reunião: 891 6293 1041
 Senha de acesso: e-dau
 @rede.edau

e DAU LIVE

**TECHNOLOGY
 AND FORCED
 MIGRATION**



Dr. Iris Altenberger
 International Director e-DAU

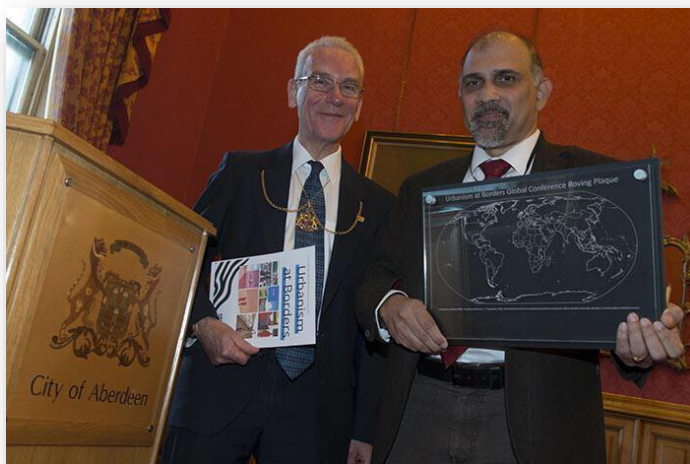
June 24, 2023
 10h30 AM
 Brazilian time

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 @rede.edau

e DAU LIVE



Aberdeen Ambassador Award for Border Urban Initiatives



Border Urbanism Research Centre Framework and Constitution

Border Urbanism Research Centre (BURC): Ethos and Research Principles

BURC explores cities' spatial, political, cultural, and ecological dimensions shaped by national, regional, or socio-political borders. It adopts a transdisciplinary, community-engaged, and justice-driven approach to rethink border spaces.

Ethos

- **Transdisciplinary Collaboration**
Bridging disciplines to interrogate and reimagine border urbanism.
- **Equity and Inclusion**
Centring marginalised voices—migrants, Indigenous peoples, and informal communities.
- **Critical Spatial Practice**
Challenging dominant urban narratives through spatial justice frameworks.
- **Contextual Responsiveness**
Grounding research in local histories, geographies, and lived realities.
- **Ethical Engagement**
Prioritising co-produced knowledge and respectful partnerships.

Research Principles

- **Border as Method**
Using the border as a lens to examine exclusion, hybridity, and resilience.
- **Multi-Scalar Analysis**
Studying dynamics from the individual to the global scale.
- **Tangible and Intangible Borders**
Addressing both physical and invisible boundaries shaping urban life.
- **Design as Inquiry**
Leveraging design, mapping, and participatory tools to investigate complexity.
- **Sustainability and Resilience**
Advancing equitable, climate-responsive development in border zones.
- **Temporal Depth**
Integrating historical research with future scenario planning.
- **Public-Facing Research**
Producing accessible, actionable knowledge for broad audiences.

BURC: How the Organisation Achieves Its Goals

BURC, focusing on issues like migration, displacement, climate change, and fragile settlements, executes its mission through strategic activities:

1. **Meetings and Conferences**
Purpose: Facilitate discussions on migration, borders, and climate impacts.
How: Organise workshops, roundtables, and conferences to bring together experts, policymakers, and affected communities. These events promote knowledge exchange and problem-solving.
2. **Research and Publications**
Purpose: Produce knowledge to understand forced migration and climate-induced displacement better.
How: Conduct research in collaboration with academic institutions and NGOs, publishing white papers, policy briefs, and case studies to inform global discussions.
3. **Public Awareness and Advocacy**
Purpose: Raise awareness and advocate for better policies on forced migration and climate change.
How: Use media campaigns, public forums, and storytelling to highlight the struggles of displaced populations and advocate for sustainable solutions.
4. **Collaborations and Partnerships**
Purpose: Ground efforts in diverse perspectives and strengthen responses.
How: Partner with governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and local groups to create coordinated, impactful solutions to migration and displacement issues.
5. **Training and Capacity Building**
Purpose: Equip individuals and organisations to tackle migration challenges.
How: Offer training programs on border management, climate adaptation, humanitarian law, and mental health support to enhance local and governmental responses.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation**
Purpose: Assess the effectiveness of policies and interventions.
How: Track migration trends and climate impacts using quantitative data and qualitative feedback to refine strategies and recommend improvements.
7. **Publications and Report Distribution**
Purpose: Make research accessible and promote informed discussions.

How: Distribute annual reports, policy papers, and research findings to policymakers, academics, and the public.

By combining these activities, BURC addresses the complex issues of migration, climate change, and fragile settlements while ensuring broad knowledge sharing and impactful solutions.

BURC: The Benefits of the Organisation's Purpose

The Border Urbanism Research Centre (BURC) explores the intersection of urbanisation, migration, and border politics in cities near national boundaries. Its work offers numerous benefits in both academic and policy domains.

1. **Deepening Understanding of Border Dynamics**
BURC provides insights into how borders shape urban spaces, serving as microcosms for global trends like migration, security, and identity. This helps to understand borders as complex zones of political, social, and economic interaction.
2. **Supporting Inclusive Urban Planning**
By studying border cities, BURC aids urban planners in developing inclusive policies for marginalised populations, such as migrants and refugees, addressing unique infrastructure, health, and social integration challenges.
3. **Facilitating Cross-Border Cooperation**
BURC fosters cross-border exchanges, promoting better international collaboration in areas like trade, culture, and governance, which is vital in today's globalized world.
4. **Promoting Research and Education**
The centre contributes to academic discourse by creating interdisciplinary research opportunities, publishing findings, and providing education and training in urban studies, political science, and related fields.
5. **Addressing Migration and Refugee Crises**
BURC informs migration policy by studying border cities and key entry points for migrants and refugees. Its research shapes humane, sustainable migration policies and helps local governments manage migration effectively.
6. **Enhancing Security and Safety**
BURC's research identifies the social and economic drivers of insecurity in border regions, contributing to practical, human-rights-respecting security policies in cities facing cross-border crime and trafficking.

7. **Contributing to Global Discourses on Border Control**
The centre engages in critical debates about border militarisation and advocates for more ethical, humane approaches to border security, emphasising human dignity over strict enforcement.
8. **Building Resilient Communities**
BURC supports creating resilient urban communities in border areas by promoting social cohesion, cultural exchange, and economic growth. This ensures that these cities can withstand migration pressures and other challenges.

Conclusion

BURC plays a crucial role in addressing the complex issues of borders, migration, and urbanisation. Its research shapes policies, fosters cooperation, and builds resilient communities, making border cities more inclusive, just, and adaptable to future challenges.

BURC: Criteria for Beneficiaries and Supported Work

The Border Urbanism Research Centre (BURC) uses the following criteria to decide who it benefits and what work it supports:

Geographical and Cultural Relevance

- Focus on border regions impacted by migration, refugee settlement, and economic shifts.
- Support projects addressing cultural dynamics and promoting inclusion in diverse border communities.
- Inclusivity and Social Justice
- Prioritises work for marginalised communities, such as migrants, refugees, and Indigenous groups.
- Supports initiatives that address systemic inequalities and elevate voices from excluded border communities.

Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Research

- Encourages cross-disciplinary research in urban studies, sociology, economics, and more.
- Supports collaboration between academia, NGOs, governments, and grassroots organisations.

Sustainability and Resilience

- Supports environmental projects, including climate change adaptation and sustainable urban design.
- Promotes adaptable urban solutions for border regions with fluctuating populations and political instability.

Policy Impact and Advocacy

- Focus on work influencing policy on border governance, migration, and human rights.
- Supports advocacy for fair treatment of border communities and equitable border governance systems.

Innovation and Critical Thought

- Encourages novel approaches to border urbanism and challenges traditional urban planning models.
- Supports research rethinking the role of borders in urban development and exploring community-driven solutions.

Community Engagement and Participation

- Prioritises participatory research, involving border communities in decision-making.
- Supports projects that build local capacity and resilience through education and skill development.

Academic Rigour and Methodology

- Supports evidence-based research using ethnography, statistical analysis, and GIS methodologies.
- Encourages long-term thinking, focusing on sustainable solutions for border cities.

Diversity of Perspectives and Approaches

- Values both local context-specific and global comparative research.
- Prioritises underrepresented perspectives, including those of women, Indigenous peoples, and migrants.

Alignment with Organisational Vision

- Beneficiaries must align with BURC's core mission of fostering inclusive, sustainable, and just urban development in border regions.
- Supports projects that advance knowledge, innovative solutions, and equitable cross-border policies.

BURC's criteria balance the needs of marginalised communities, the demands of urban planning, and the intellectual rigour necessary to address the challenges of border cities.

BURC: Criteria for Grant Selection

The Border Urbanism Research Centre (BURC) will consider the following criteria when selecting individuals or organisations for grants:

Relevance to Research Focus

- Projects addressing urban issues in border areas (e.g., migration, security, economic disparity).
- Interdisciplinary approaches combining urban planning, sociology, and geography.

Innovation and Originality

- Research offering new perspectives or methods on border urbanism.
- Exploration of under-researched or emerging issues in border contexts.

Feasibility and Impact

- Practical impact on policy or urban planning.
- Clear, achievable outcomes with realistic timelines and budgets.

Social Relevance

- Projects involving or benefiting border communities, primarily through participatory research.
- Addressing social, economic, or political inequalities affecting marginalised groups.

Track Record and Experience

- Proven expertise in urban studies or border research.
- Collaborative projects with academic institutions, NGOs, or community organisations.

Sustainability

- Long-term impact potential and sustainability in funding or engagement.
- Focus on environmental and social sustainability in border regions.

Alignment with BURC's Mission

- Projects that align with BURC's strategic goals (e.g., promoting equitable urban development or fostering cross-border collaborations).
- Research in areas of interest to BURC, such as specific border regions or urban centres.

Diversity and Inclusion

- Inclusion of diverse voices, especially those from underrepresented groups.
- Consideration of gender, race, and identity in border urbanism research.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- Collaborative research across disciplines, institutions, and stakeholders.
- Projects that connect global issues with local experiences.

Budget and Financial Viability

- Well-justified, realistic budgets demonstrating effective use of funds.
- Cost-effectiveness in achieving project goals.

Research Methodology

- Clear, rigorous methodology with robust data collection and analysis.
- Ethical considerations, especially when working with vulnerable populations.

These criteria ensure that BURC supports impactful, sustainable, and inclusive research that is aligned with its mission.

BURC: Member Benefits

Members of the Border Urbanism Research Centre (BURC) gain access to various opportunities to enhance collaboration, professional development, and engagement with cutting-edge research. Benefits include:

Access to Research Resources

- Exclusive publications, reports, and databases on border urbanism.
- Tools like GIS software for studying borders and urban spaces.

Collaborative Opportunities

- Networking with experts, policymakers, and researchers.
- Participation in interdisciplinary projects and research seminars.

Professional Development

- Discounts or exclusive access to conferences and academic events.
- Opportunities to publish research and develop new skills.

Funding and Grants

- Access to research grants, fellowships, and collaborative funding opportunities.

Public and Policy Engagement

- Involvement in policy-related work and public outreach to raise awareness on urbanism and border issues.

Academic Recognition

- Enhanced academic and professional profile through association with BURC.
- Potential for awards or fellowships for outstanding contributions.

Global and Interdisciplinary Exposure

- Opportunities to collaborate on international projects and engage across disciplines like geography, sociology, and politics.

Collaborative Research Environment

- Intellectual stimulation and constructive feedback from peers.
- Partnerships with other research institutions for additional collaboration.

Increased Visibility

- Exposure through publications, media, and public content, boosting the member's profile.

These benefits help members advance their careers, contribute to global research, and deepen their expertise in border urbanism and related fields.

BURC: Why Are Benefits Limited to Members?

The benefits at BURC are typically reserved for members due to several key reasons:

Resource Allocation

Limited resources like funding, data, and event space are managed more effectively by prioritising members.

Membership Fees

- Fees support operations such as research, events, and project funding, making benefits for members a fair exchange for their contributions.

Exclusive Knowledge Sharing

Restricting benefits ensures that research and discussions remain focused and relevant to those actively contributing to BURC's mission.

Networking Opportunities

- Exclusive events allow members to engage meaningfully with experts and peers, fostering targeted, high-quality connections.

Data Privacy and Sensitivity

- Sensitive data or research is protected by limiting access, ensuring it's shared only when vetted or ready for release.

Incentive to Join

- Exclusive benefits create added value for membership, encouraging growth and sustainability for BURC.

Funding and Project Involvement

- Members gain priority access to research projects and funding opportunities, incentivizing active participation.

These factors help BURC maintain a focused, collaborative environment, supporting members while ensuring the centre runs smoothly.

BURC: Who Can Be a Member?

BURC membership is open to various individuals and organisations aligned with its mission. Eligible members may include:

Academics and Scholars

- Researchers in urban studies, geography, sociology, political science, or related fields, particularly those focusing on borders, migration, and urbanism. Graduate students and postdocs may also be eligible.

Practitioners and Professionals

- Urban planners, architects, policymakers, and NGO workers focused on border regions, migration, and cross-border relations.

Organizations and Institutions

- Research institutes, universities, think tanks, and NGOs working on border issues, migration, and urban resilience.

Independent Researchers or Consultants

- Experts not affiliated with large institutions but with a strong portfolio in border studies or urban research.

Students and Early Career Professionals

- Students (especially in relevant fields) and early-career professionals in urbanism, geography, or related disciplines. Discounted rates may apply.

International Members

- Researchers and professionals working on border issues globally, or collaborators from other countries, for specific projects.

Supporters or Advocates

- Individuals passionate about border urbanism, including advocates and activists.

Application Process

Applicants must submit an application form detailing their background and research interests. Depending on the category, recommendations and membership fees may apply. Some centres offer fellowships or residencies for focused research.

BURC: Needs Addressed in Overseas Locations

BURC aims to tackle critical urban and border-related issues globally, particularly in regions where borders affect migration, urban development, and societal dynamics. Key areas include:

Cross-Border Migration and Refugee Crises

- Need: Managing migration flows due to conflict, climate change, and inequality.
- How BURC Helps: Research and policy recommendations for migration integration and border community resilience.

Urban Resilience in Border Cities

- Need: Economic disparities, infrastructure strain, and social tensions in border cities.
- How BURC Helps: Urban planning research for resilient infrastructure and community-building strategies.

Transnational Urbanisation

- Need: Urban areas spanning multiple countries create planning and governance challenges.
- How BURC Helps: Research on managing shared resources and cross-border governance frameworks.

Economic Development and Cross-Border Trade

- Need: Barriers to trade and economic growth in border regions.
- How BURC Helps: Strategies to optimise trade, improve infrastructure, and facilitate economic collaboration.

Border Security and Surveillance Technology

- Need: Security issues and overuse of surveillance technologies.
- How BURC Helps: Research on balancing security with human rights and effective border management.

Cultural Integration and Identity

- Need: Tensions over cultural identity in border regions.
- How BURC Helps: Promoting intercultural dialogue and integration strategies for border communities.

Environmental Sustainability at Borders

- Need: Shared ecosystems and environmental degradation.
- How BURC Helps: Proposing sustainable urban solutions and cross-border environmental management.

Health Systems and Pandemics

- Need: Coordinating public health responses across borders during crises.
- How BURC Helps: Research on cross-border health strategies and crisis management.

Legal and Policy Frameworks for Border Management

- Need: Fragmented legal frameworks in border regions.
- How BURC Helps: Developing equitable, collaborative legal frameworks for border management.

Social Justice and Equity

- Need: Marginalised groups facing systemic inequalities in border zones.
- How BURC Helps: Research to reduce inequality and promote policies supporting vulnerable communities.

Education and Capacity Building

- Need: Limited access to education and research facilities in border regions.
- How BURC Helps: Collaborative programs to build local knowledge and strengthen regional capacity.

Urban Informality and Slum Development

- Need: Rapid urbanisation leading to informal settlements.
- How BURC Helps: Research and policy solutions for integrating informal areas into urban planning.

Conclusion: BURC leverages its global platform to address these challenges through research, policy development, and cross-border collaborations, promoting sustainable and inclusive urban growth.

BURC: How It Will Address Key Needs

BURC will leverage research, collaborations, and expertise to address border-related challenges globally. Here's how:

Cross-Border Migration and Refugee Crises

- Approach: Conduct comparative research on migration patterns and socio-economic impacts. Produce policy briefs on migrant integration, urban planning, and housing.

Urban Resilience in Border Cities

- Approach: Research border city resilience to political, economic, and environmental shocks. Offer workshops and create cross-border cooperative models for infrastructure and social cohesion.

Transnational Urbanization

- Approach: Study urban development across multiple borders. Promote collaborative governance and integrated urban planning for cross-border cities.

Border Security and Surveillance Technology

- Approach: Research the ethics and effectiveness of border security technologies. Develop cross-border security protocols and raise public awareness of the balance between privacy and security.

Cultural Integration and Identity

- Approach: Collaborate on community-based research into cultural identity challenges. Facilitate cross-border cultural exchanges and advocate for inclusive policies promoting social cohesion.

Environmental Sustainability at Borders

- Approach: Develop frameworks for cross-border environmental governance. Promote sustainable urban solutions and climate resilience strategies in border regions.

Health Systems and Pandemics

- Approach: Assist in developing cross-border health protocols and conduct joint health research. Offer training programs for healthcare workers to handle transnational health crises.

Legal and Policy Frameworks for Border Management

- Approach: Research border management laws and recommend reforms. Facilitate cross-border policy dialogues and advocate for human rights protection in border zones.

Social Justice and Equity

- Approach: Research inequalities in border regions and partner on community-led initiatives. Advocate for policies addressing social justice and inclusion, focusing on marginalised groups.

Education and Capacity Building

- Approach: Provide training and educational programs for professionals and community leaders. Develop a global research network and promote public outreach to raise awareness of border urbanism.

Urban Informality and Slum Development

- Approach: Research the causes and impacts of informal settlements. Collaborate on policies integrating informal areas into urban planning and supporting community empowerment in slum areas.

BURC's combined research, advocacy, and capacity-building efforts will promote sustainable, inclusive urban development and solutions in border regions.

BURC: Identifying Needs and Evidence Used

BURC identifies border regions' needs through research, data analysis, and collaboration. Here's how:

Field Research & Data Collection

- **Methods:** Fieldwork, surveys, interviews, and workshops with local communities, governments, and stakeholders to gather qualitative data on migration, social cohesion, and urban issues.
- **Tools:** GIS mapping to analyse urban growth, infrastructure, and resource distribution in border areas.

Case Studies & Comparative Research

- **Examples:** Studying cities like Tijuana-San Diego and Hong Kong-Shenzhen to understand cross-border urbanisation and governance.
- **Ethnography:** In-depth studies of communities' experiences with migration and integration.

Policy Analysis

- **Evaluation:** Review border management policies, immigration laws, and urban planning frameworks to assess their impact.
- **Focus Areas:** Immigration, security, cross-border trade, and their effects on urban development.

International Collaboration & Expert Consultations

- **Partnerships:** Ongoing dialogues with local governments, NGOs, and international bodies like UNHCR and IOM.
- **Networks:** Collaboration with global research networks and advisory panels to refine strategies.

Secondary Data & Global Reports

- **Sources:** Reports from the World Bank, UN, and NGOs on migration, urbanisation, and border dynamics.
- **Data Use:** Census data, human rights reports, and migration trends to inform research.

Community Engagement & Participatory Research

- **Methods:** Participatory Action Research (PAR) with local communities to ensure their needs and knowledge are integrated into the research.
- **Engagement:** Stakeholder forums and town halls to gather insights and build trust.

Longitudinal Studies & Trend Analysis

- **Tracking:** Monitoring long-term changes in migration, infrastructure, and social dynamics.
- **Planning:** Scenario planning to anticipate future challenges, such as climate change or policy shifts.

Technology & Innovation

- **Tools:** Use Big Data, AI, satellite imagery, and remote sensing to analyse urbanisation, migration, and environmental changes in border regions.

Conclusion: BURC uses a blend of field research, case studies, policy analysis, global data, and community-driven methods to develop practical, sustainable solutions for the challenges faced by border regions.

BURC: Deciding on Overseas Activities and Funding

When organising overseas activities, BURC follows a strategic process based on key factors:

Research Objectives & Global Relevance

- **Alignment:** Activities must align with BURC's core themes, like border urbanism, migration, and cross-border economies.
- **Global Impact:** BURC prioritises regions with especially relevant border issues, such as migration crises or border policy challenges.

Target Audience & Collaboration

- **Academic & Professional Networks:** BURC considers areas with a strong interest in border studies, including local universities and governmental bodies.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborations with local organisations help share costs and expand reach.
- **Demand:** Surveys and assessments gauge interest in specific topics or regions.

Geopolitical & Cultural Context

- **Key Regions:** Events often occur in regions with pressing border issues (e.g., U.S.-Mexico, EU external borders).
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** BURC tailors events to the local context, ensuring relevance and positive reception.

Funding Sources

- **Institutional Funding:** BURC allocates part of its operational budget for travel, accommodation, and logistics.
- **Grants & Sponsorships:** Funds come from research grants, international bodies, and sponsorships from academic or governmental institutions.
- **Local Partnerships:** Collaborations with local entities help reduce costs.
- **Registration Fees & Crowdfunding:** Fees and donations can also contribute to event funding.

Logistics & Practicality

- **Accessibility:** BURC evaluates travel feasibility, visa requirements, safety, and the convenience of the destination.
- **Local Infrastructure:** The availability of suitable venues and technology support is key to event success.

Impact & Outreach

- **Regional Influence:** Conferences help strengthen BURC's connections in key regions and foster long-term collaborations.
- **Sustainability:** BURC considers the long-term impact on local academic communities and ongoing research partnerships.

Funding Model Example:

Grants from international institutions, local sponsorships, and collaborative funding with research partners help support these activities.

Conclusion: BURC's decisions on overseas activities involve aligning with research priorities, assessing regional impact, and ensuring financial and logistical support. Funding is sourced from institutional funds, grants, sponsorships, and local partnerships.

BURC: Selecting Volunteers/Staff for Overseas Activities and Managing Risks

BURC takes a strategic approach to selecting volunteers and staff for overseas work and managing potential risks. This ensures safety, aligns with organisational goals, and complies with legal and ethical standards.

Selection of Volunteers and Staff

- **Role Descriptions & Expectations:** Detailed position descriptions specify required skills, such as expertise in urban studies, migration, or political science. Applicants should be passionate about working in border regions and familiar with the challenges of politically sensitive areas.
- **Application & Interview Process:** Candidates undergo interviews, reference checks, and assessments of skills, experience, and motivation, focusing on cultural adaptability and regional knowledge.
- **Competence & Cultural Sensitivity:** BURC prioritises candidates with regional expertise or those willing to undergo cultural immersion training. Specific skills, like knowledge of immigration law or urban planning in conflict zones, may be required.
- **Training & Capacity Building:** Volunteers or staff receive pre-deployment training on border policies, human rights, safety protocols, and emergency response strategies.

Risk Management

- **Risk Assessment & Mitigation:** BURC conducts thorough risk assessments, considering factors like political instability, security threats, health risks, and infrastructure. They may avoid high-risk areas or partner with local organisations to reduce exposure.
- **Health & Safety Protocols:** Volunteers are covered by international medical insurance, receive necessary vaccinations, and are briefed on health precautions like sanitation and food safety. Emergency evacuation plans are in place.
- **Security Measures:** Security protocols include collaboration with local organisations and consultants to assess safety. Staff are equipped with mobile communication tools (e.g., satellite phones) and emergency contact systems.

- **Contingency Plans:** BURC has emergency plans for natural disasters, civil unrest, or other crises. Staff and volunteers are trained on evacuation procedures and where to find safe zones.
- **Continuous Monitoring & Support:** Regular check-ins ensure the well-being of staff and volunteers. On-the-ground coordinators offer additional support as needed.
- **Post-Activity Debrief:** Staff and volunteers debrief after assignments to assess challenges and provide feedback for improving future activities.

BURC's approach balances the organisation's mission with the duty of care to ensure safe, effective operations in potentially volatile environments.

BURC: Procedures for Identifying and Verifying Donors and Managing Donation Conditions

Donor Identification

- **Due Diligence:** Trustees conduct background checks on donors to ensure legitimacy, reviewing financial history and affiliations.
- **Source Transparency:** Donors must provide proof of fund origin to prevent unethical sources like money laundering.
- **Documentation:** All donations are recorded, including donor details, amount, and date, ensuring financial transparency.

Verification of Donations

- **Audit & Accounting:** Donations are tracked through proper accounting processes, with independent audits for compliance with laws and ethical standards.
- **Confirmation:** Significant donations, including signed agreements or declarations, may require formal verification.

Conditions on Donations

- **Reviewing Conditions:** Trustees assess any restrictions to ensure they align with the Centre's mission (e.g., specific project funding or acknowledgements).
- **Ethical Evaluation:** Donations with conditions that could conflict with academic independence or research integrity are carefully evaluated.
- **Legal Compliance:** Trustees ensure conditions align with legal and ethical standards, avoiding potential conflicts with academic freedom.
- **Periodic Review:** Long-term donations are periodically reviewed to ensure continued alignment with the Centre's goals.

Public Transparency and Reporting

- **Disclosure:** The Centre's annual reports or financial statements disclose major donors and their conditions to maintain public trust.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Trustees consult with stakeholders to ensure donations and their conditions serve the Centre's best interests.

Conflict of Interest Management

- Policies: Trustees follow formal policies to avoid conflicts of interest, recusing themselves from decisions with personal or financial ties to the donor.
- Advisory Boards: An independent advisory board may be consulted for large or controversial donations in sensitive cases.

These procedures ensure BURC operates with integrity, maintaining transparency, independence, and adherence to ethical standards.

BURC: Grant Providers

The Border Urbanism Research Centre (BURC) likely receives grants from various sources, depending on the focus of its research. Key potential providers include:

Government Agencies

- National Bodies: Research councils like the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the U.S. or the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) in the U.K. often fund urban studies.
- Local Governments: Regional or city governments may support border-focused urban research.

International Organisations

- European Union (EU): Programs like Horizon Europe or Interreg fund cross-border research.
- United Nations (UN): UN-Habitat offers funding for urban development in border regions.

Private Foundations & Think Tanks

- Ford Foundation: Supports global urban and community-based research.
- Open Society Foundations: Funds work on migration and the impacts of borders.
- MacArthur Foundation: Focuses on urban issues, particularly in conflict or migration zones.

Academic Institutions

- Universities or academic consortia may provide grants, often through partnerships with governments, industry, or international bodies.

These funding sources help BURC advance its research on urbanism and borders.

The Border Urbanism Research Centre (BURC) is a self-funded, donor-funded, collaborative, voluntary organisation dedicated to advancing scholarly discourse and empirical research on critical issues surrounding borders, displacement, migration, transient settlement, and the socio-cultural narratives that emerge from these phenomena. Through an interdisciplinary lens, BURC seeks to foster a deeper understanding of the complex realities individuals and communities face navigating the dynamics of forced migration, movement and resettlement.

As part of its commitment to academic engagement and knowledge dissemination, BURC hosts a major international conference every two years. These gatherings serve as a platform for researchers, practitioners, policymakers, social scientists and artists to share insights, challenge assumptions, and explore innovative responses to the challenges and opportunities presented by border and migration studies.

This book of abstracts offers an overview of the diverse range of topics and contributions featured at our conference. It guides readers to explore the intellectual scope and thematic priorities that shape BURC's initiatives and scholarly activities. Visit our website at [Home](#) | [Urbanism at Borders: Global Research Group](#)



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