



REPORTING FORMAT FOR PARTNERS

Networking – Side – Training events

City Changer Room – Urban Library – Agora – One UN events

Deadline: 30 April 2014

Please send via email: wuf@unhabitat.org

Reporting Format for Partners
(Networking Events, Side Events, Training Events, City Changer Room, One UN Room, Urban Library, and Agora Room)

Name of Reporters:	Clara Irazábal and Gregory Scruggs
Event title/number:	NE54 – North-South Dialogue in Urban Planning Research and Practice
Date:	April 9, 2014
Venue:	Yellow Pavilion, Room 8
Time:	2:00-4:00 pm
Name of Organizing Institution(s):	Latin Lab, Columbia University GSAPP
Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:	New York City, USA
Approximate number of participants:	50

Summary of the Event (max: 300 words):

The networking event covered several experiences in transnational academic urban planning studios and professional urban planning practice. These included academic planning studios in Medellín, Colombia led by the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Medellín, Columbia University, and the University of Barcelona; as well as in East Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago led by Columbia University. It also included a professional planning project in Cali, Colombia led by Project for Public Spaces, based in New York. The event’s purpose was to share ideas about how the involvement of global north institutions such as universities and NGOs with projects in global south cities can be executed equitably and with benefits not only to the initiating actors from the global north, but also to partners in the global south. The relevant focus areas of the networking event were urban planning and design as well as research and capacity development. Gender, youth, and human rights were cross-cutting issues, as these academic studios were led by women professors and a young woman community activist represented the community response. A graduate student participated in the panel, offering a student perspective on the advantages and challenges of these transnational engagements. Students are at the core of these academic studios, which thus involves youth, and the planning issues addressed in these oftentimes-disadvantaged communities include human rights such as security (gang violence prevention) and equitable distribution of urban services and resources.





Summary of the Discussion (max: total 500 words):

1. Outline of the discussion/debates

The first project discussed was the joint academic urban planning studio undertaken by the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Medellín, Columbia University, and the University of Barcelona in 2013 to address planning issues in Medellín's Comuna 8. Two of the professors involved, Drs. Catalina Ortiz and Clara Irazábal discussed their research and pedagogic goals with the project and a community activist, Rubyselen Ortiz Sánchez, who collaborated closely with them, gave a response. She articulated the benefits of such a project as a platform for raising concerns with the municipality of Medellín over planned interventions such as the city's greenbelt (*Jardín Circunvalar*), which would potentially have an adverse impact on Comuna 8.

Dr. Irazábal also presented a broad overview of the work of the Latin Lab at Columbia University GSAPP, which engages in many academic urban planning studios, and highlighted some recent experiences in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Talca, Chile, alongside the Medellín studio. She concluded by addressing the most recent Latin Lab studio, in East Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Gregory Scruggs, who is a teaching assistant for the Trinidad studio, then continued into more detail about the specifics of that community and the students' engagement with the project. He discussed some of the concerns that arose during the March 2014 field visit to Trinidad and in particular community feedback with regards to the students' presence. Specifically, he explained the community's assertion that if students are going to present case studies from countries like Brazil and Colombia as relevant to the local context in Trinidad, why are there not also Brazilian and Colombian universities engaged in such planning studios rather than just American (as in the case of Columbia) or Swiss (as in the case of ETH Zurich, another university that recently conducted a planning studio in the same community) ones?

Finally, Dan LaTorre from Project for Public Spaces (PPS) discussed the challenges in working transnationally on a green linear park for Cali, Colombia. He covered the specifics of community engagement inherent in the PPS methodology and highlighted some of the technology that has facilitated their work, including software developed by Kenyan firm Ushahidi, an example that highlights the potential for south-south technology transfer.

In the period of open discussion that followed, one of the most provocative questions to emerge was when and how universities in the global south might engage in studios to study the global north, and not just the other way around.

2. Major emerging issues and position documents/declarations towards:

With regards to Habitat III, the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and an overall New Urban Agenda, this panel emphasized the important role that academic institutions can play in creating and developing relationships internationally to strengthen planning institutions and community voices in response to urban challenges. It also questioned the old paradigm of the global north treating the





global south as a kind of “field site” to be studied, in the hopes of creating a new, more equitable paradigm where institutions and communities in the global north and south engage each other on equal footing.

3. Recommendations made during the discussion
(e.g. policy direction, good/best practices, resource mobilization, innovative funding mechanism, etc.)

Funders that support academic urban planning studios should consider supporting global south universities in addition to global north universities.

Global north institutions should seek, whenever possible, to partner with local institutions, whether community groups or other universities, to encourage dialogue between visiting and local students.

4. Building partnerships, network and synergies with UN-Habitat
(e.g. agreements or Memorandum of Understanding committed/signed, amounts and number of pledged contributions and partnerships/networks, etc.)

Clara Irazábal, the event’s main organizer, is the Director of the Latin Lab and a Professor of Urban Planning at Columbia University, New York. She has already collaborated with UN-Habitat on a number of initiatives in/about Latin America. Based in New York, the partnership between the Latin Lab and UN-Habitat could easily be strengthened. In addition, both Columbia University and its Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation have offices in Rio de Janeiro and Santiago de Chile, where also the UN has an important institutional presence. Collaborative projects could also be supported in those cities and their regions through that institutional presence and facilities.

Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:

Full name (Mr/Ms):	Dr. Clara Irazábal
Nationality:	Venezuelan and USA (dual)
Organization/Institution:	Latin Lab, Columbia University GSAPP
Time:	
Position:	Latin Lab Director and Assistant Professor of Urban Planning, Columbia University GSAPP
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Mr. Gregory Scruggs
Nationality:	USA
Organization/Institution:	Columbia University
Time:	
Position:	Research Associate, Latin Lab, Columbia University GSAPP and M.A. Candidate, Columbia University GSAS
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Dr. Catalina Ortiz Arciniegas
Nationality:	Colombian
Organization/Institution:	National University of Colombia
Time:	
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Ms. Rubyselen Ortiz Sánchez
Nationality:	Colombian
Organization/Institution:	Corporación Cultural Diáfora
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Mr. Dan LaTorre
Nationality:	USA and Colombian (dual)
Organization/Institution:	Project for Public Spaces
Time:	
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UN-Habitat Thematic areas

URBAN LAND, LEGISLATION & GOVERNANCE

Land & GLTN, Urban Legislation, Urban and Community Management & Governance, Safety

URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN

Regional & Metropolitan Planning, City Extensions & Enlargements, Market Town & Intermediate City Planning

URBAN ECONOMY

Urban & Municipal Finance, Urban Productivity, Youth and Job Creation

URBAN BASIC SERVICES

Water & Sanitation, Urban Energy, Urban Mobility, Urban Waste Management

HOUSING & SLUM UPGRADING

Housing, Slum Upgrading, Shelter Rehabilitation

RISK REDUCTION & REHABILITATION

Urban Risk Reduction, Infrastructure Rehabilitation, Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation, Resilience

RESEARCH & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Global Urban Observatory, Flagship Reports, Capacity Development





Cross-cutting issues:

GENDER

YOUTH

HUMAN RIGHTS

