



**Penn is a leading global urban university with expert voices in urban research.**

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is a leading urban university and global leader in connecting research to real-world concerns. Three centers at Penn—the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, the Penn Institute for Urban Research, and Perry World House—are partnering to explore the issues critical to building sustainable urban places around the globe and to generate the interdisciplinary approach necessary to implement the *New Urban Agenda* and the SDGs.



**Kleinman Center for Energy Policy**

Housed within Penn's School of Design, the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy creates the conditions for policy innovation that support a just and efficient transition to sustainable energy. The Kleinman Center's research agenda guides its projects, events, student courses, and written work, resulting in timely and impactful research that attracts and engages critical stakeholders across energy sectors.



**Penn Institute for Urban Research**

The Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR) is a university-wide body that informs urban decision-making and public policy on issues of sustainable urban growth and development based on multi-disciplinary research, instruction, and outreach. Affiliated with all 12 schools of the University of Pennsylvania and with the world of practice, Penn IUR fosters collaboration among scholars and policymakers across disciplines.



**Perry World House**

Perry World House (PWH) is a global policy research center committed to advancing interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research on the world's most urgent challenges. It leverages the range of expertise found across the university to develop innovative policy proposals in collaboration with leading policymakers and practitioners from around the world. PWH serves as a dynamic hub for global inquiry and engagement at Penn.

For more information and to read the full paper series, visit:

**wuf9.upenn.edu**

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# LOCALIZING GLOBAL AGREEMENTS

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

**Kleinman Center for Energy Policy**  
**Penn Institute for Urban Research**  
**Perry World House**

**WORLD URBAN FORUM 9 EXHIBITION BROCHURE**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
February 7–13, 2018



# PENN: CURRENT RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

## A PAPER SERIES

Three centers at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) partnered to assemble research papers on topics central to implementation of the *New Urban Agenda* and the SDGs. Together, the paper series, “Penn: Current Research on Sustainable Urban Development,” illustrates the interdisciplinary approach necessary for local implementation of these global agreements. Collectively, the papers reinforce the idea that cities are an important fulcrum of sustainable development.

Philadelphia skyline photo by B. Krist for Visit Philadelphia™

COP 22 Climate Talks photo by Takver, via Wikipedia

### MORE THAN WINDOW DRESSING? STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN UN GLOBAL AGREEMENTS: AN EXPLORATION OF ARRANGEMENTS TO MOVE TOWARD PLURALISTIC GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Eugénie Birch, Penn Institute for Urban Research

Eugénie Birch explores the role of stakeholders and partnerships in the United Nations, asking: How can stakeholders participate effectively in the deliberations, standard-setting, and policy guidance of the global governance system as represented by the UN? She examines the history of stakeholders’ roles and partnership agreements in the UN, lays out the current landscape of stakeholder and partnership arrangements as expressed in recent global agreements, and explores the evolution of pluralistic governance within the UN system.

### THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF CLIMATE GOVERNANCE: THE RISE OF CITIES AS GLOBAL ACTORS AND POLICY IMPLEMENTERS

William Burke-White, Perry World House & Laura Barron, Penn Institute for Urban Research

A range of sub-state actors, notably cities, have begun to take more significant actions in response to the climate challenge. William Burke-White and Laura Barron explore the political dynamics and implications presented by this greater engagement of sub-state actors, concluding that, despite limitations, cities have significant and often under-appreciated potential to advance climate policy both through the generation of political pressures and through more effective implementation of climate policies at the local level.

### CLIMATE JUSTICE AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

Daniel Aldana Cohen, School of Arts and Sciences

The two great challenges facing cities worldwide in the decades to come are inequality and climate change. While many people assume that actions to redress these challenges are in tension and must be balanced, Daniel Aldana Cohen draws on case studies of low-carbon policy and water scarcity in São Paulo to argue that the best way to prevent ecological breakdown is to democratically pursue climate policies that reduce social inequality.

### PUTTING ENERGY INTO IMPLEMENTATION: CHALLENGES TO SUBNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN SDG 7

Mark Alan Hughes & Cornelia Colijn, Kleinman Center for Energy Policy

Mark Alan Hughes and Cornelia Colijn explore the limits of subnational capacity to implement the goals of the *New Urban Agenda* and the SDGs. They parse the misalignment between global goals and local goals, and the misalignment between local proxies for national goals and local capacities to achieve those goals. They present examples of limited capacities (constitutional, statutory, political) in subnational governments that raise cautions about over-reliance on local actors to achieve critical national and global goals.

### ACHIEVING A WIN-WIN: TWEAKING THE U.S. DIVERSITY VISA (DV) LOTTERY PROGRAM TO MAXIMIZE IMMIGRANTS’ POTENTIAL AND IMPROVE IMMIGRANT QUALITY

Onoso Imoagene, School of Arts and Sciences

Onoso Imoagene reports on a study of how winning the U.S. diversity visa (DV) lottery impacted migrants from Ghana and Nigeria both before and after migration to the United States. She discusses why people move from Africa, examining the role the DV program plays in migration and proposing modifications that would improve overall quality of DV migrants and facilitate their incorporation into American society, which should benefit the United States, sending countries, and DV migrants and their families.

### CONSUBANISM: SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AS IF CULTURE AND THE INHERITED ENVIRONMENT REALLY MATTERED

Randall Mason, School of Design

While the SDGs and *New Urban Agenda* embed conservation of heritage among the concerns addressed by new global norms, matters of cultural value, urban design, and valorizing culture are marginal in the framework. Meanwhile, cultural conflicts, recognition of cultural difference, and uses of culture as a resource for development urgently require attention. Randall Mason frames an argument for re-centering frameworks for sustainable urban development around inherited environments and the cultural functions attached to them.

### SPACES OF COLLECTIVE REPRESENTATION: URBAN GROWTH, DEMOCRACY, AND POLITICAL INCLUSION

Lisa Mitchell, School of Arts and Sciences

Lisa Mitchell demonstrates that public space needs to be understood within specific historical, cultural, and socio-political contexts. Using Hyderabad’s recent rapid growth as an example, she argues that ensuring the availability and accessibility of public space—not just as green or open spaces providing access to fresh air, but also as sites for non-violent political performance, expression, and representation—can ensure that lawmakers hear voices that they might otherwise ignore.

### A CASE FOR STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE-BASED UNDERSTANDING OF REFUGEE INTEGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

Anne C. Richard & Katelyn Leader, Perry World House

Anne C. Richard and Katelyn Leader explore the challenges of evidence-based learning on refugee integration in the United States, highlighting two areas of particular weakness. The first is the failure to systematically collect disaggregated and longitudinal data on refugee integration. The second is the dearth of monitoring and evaluation of programs that support refugee integration. The authors explore the reasons for these weaknesses and present several approaches to addressing these challenges.

### THE ECOLOGICAL WISDOM OF PLAN-MAKING

Frederick Steiner, School of Design

As our species becomes more urban, our relationships with natural systems will continue to change. Overarching challenges and questions include: Will we continue to deplete ecosystem services as we expand our urban footprints? Or, will we learn how to enhance and create ecosystem services through city planning and urban design? Frederick Steiner argues that the planning process can help humanity to adapt to these challenges and uses the Austin, Texas (U.S.A.) comprehensive planning process to illustrate the process.

### HOTSPOT CITIES: IDENTIFYING PERI-URBAN CONFLICT ZONES IN THE WORLD’S BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS

Richard Weller, Chieh Huang, Zuzanna Drozd, Nanxi Dong, School of Design & Sara Padgett Kjaersgaard, University of New South Wales

Richard Weller, Chieh Huang, Sara Padgett Kjaersgaard, Zuzanna Drozd, and Nanxi Dong report on a study analyzing: land use in the world’s 36 biodiversity hotspots to reveal conflicts between protected areas and other uses; 423 cities in the hotspots to identify the degree to which their forecast 2030 peri-urban growth is in direct conflict with remnant habitat and endangered species; and 33 of the biggest and fastest-growing of these cities to ascertain the degree to which their local planning cultures include ecosystem and biodiversity values.

