



# **International Development Interest Group (IDIG)**

ORIENTATION- FALL 2020

# **A little bit about IDIG**

The International Development Interest Group (IDIG) is a Rutgers Graduate Student Organization aiming to generate interest in urban planning and policy within the international sphere.

IDIG functions as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information, as well as a platform for collaborative work around various themes and geographies of relevance in planning and policy work.

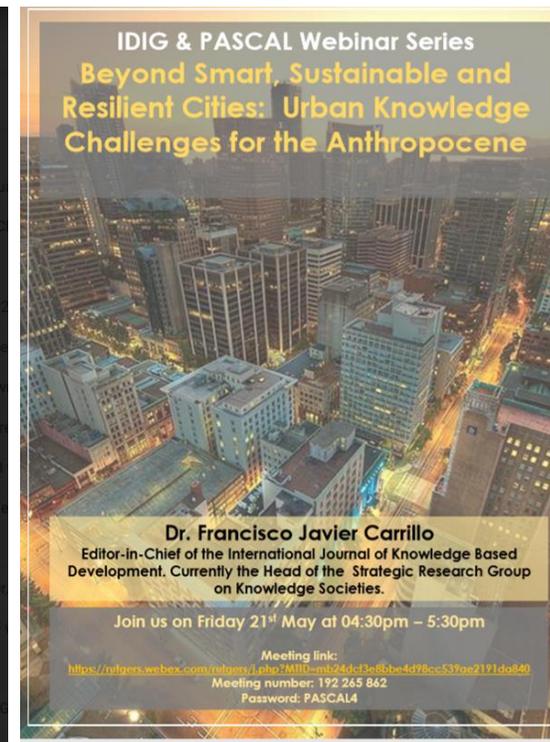
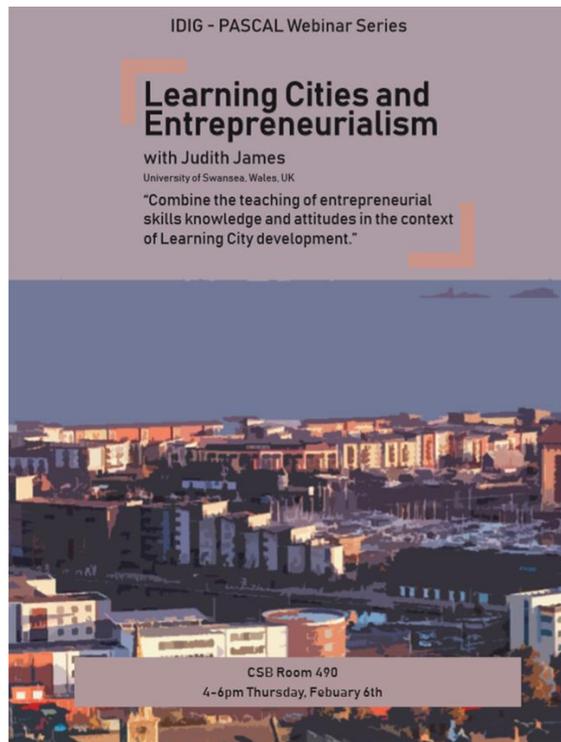
# Past events

In the past few years IDIG has reached the Bloustein School and the larger Rutgers community with speaker events ranging from conferences, to roundtable discussions and webinars. Some of the thematic that we explored through these discussions were:

Entrepreneurialism in cities, local economic development, climate action in cities, planning theory, international organizations, fostering inclusive societies to name a few

# PASCAL- IDIG Webinar series (Spring 2020)

For Spring 2020, the International Development Interest Group (IDIG) partnered with the PASCAL International Observatory, a global alliance of researchers, policy analysts, decision makers and locally engaged practitioners from government, higher education, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector to organise a three part webinar series across different research areas.



# Dormer Window series, Fall 2019 - roundtable discussions

In Fall 2019 IDIG invited researchers and practitioners for discussions on themes like international organizations and exploring planning theory through 'Antinomies in Planning'



Roundtable with Dr. Gerd Drosesse on new ways of thinking of **membership in international organizations**. **Dr. Drosesse** was the Acting General Counsel of the Green Climate Fund and assisted the World Green Economy Organization as General Counsel in its transition to a new type of intergovernmental organization

# Dormer Window series, Fall 2019 - roundtable discussions



Discussion on the **'Antinomies in Planning, Philosophy of Holism and Holistic Planning'** with **Dr. Wang Hongyang**. The discussion explored antinomies in planning (such as on the one hand "planning cannot be everything" but on the other "planning has to be everything") which will demonstrate not only the inadequacy of those turns but also the seemingly insolvable barriers for proper solutions. Dr. Wang is a Fulbright Fellow at the Center for Place, Culture & Politics/Ph.D. Program in Anthropology, The Graduate Center, CUNY.

# d i s p l a c e d

*Displaced from home/ at home* is a workshop exploring the urban implications of, and solutions for, influxes of large numbers of forcefully uprooted people internationally and the challenges faced by those experiencing gentrification and urban changes domestically. How can cities balance fostering inclusive societies while addressing basic needs of diverse groups of displaced persons worldwide?

This event took the form of a workshop exploring the ideas and research around 'displacement' in urban areas.

## Speakers and Sessions



**Håvard Breivik- Architect, Member - Norwegian Refugee Council's emergency standby roster, NORCAP**

Mr. Breivik is an architect and member of the Norwegian Refugee Council's emergency standby roster, NORCAP. With close to a decade of experience of crisis response, humanitarian relief, and development efforts, Håvard has been deployed to United Nations agencies in Haiti, Nepal, Macedonia, Hungary, and the UN HQ in New York. Håvard is currently the Secretariat Coordinator of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises. He is also responsible for the master's course *In Transit* at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO), while serving on the NORCAP roster. He holds a master's degree in Architecture from AHO's Institute of Urbanism and Landscape.



**Tooma Zaghoul- Research Coordinator at UPenn**

Mr. Zaghoul currently serves as a research coordinator on immigration at the School of Social Policy and Practice in the University of Pennsylvania. He studied Architectural Engineering at the Hashemite University before receiving his Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2018. He has studied and co-authored multiple publications addressing planning topics ranging from public transportation and urban landmarks to political sitings and open spaces. He has also taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Zaghoul's research tackles questions central to social justice and urban resilience in refugee and immigration arenas.



**Zaire Z. Dinzey-Flores- Associate Professor at Rutgers University**

Dr. Dinzey-Flores' research focuses on understanding how urban space mediates community life and race, class, and social inequality. She uses an interdisciplinary lens (sociology, urban planning, public policy), mixed-method approaches, and often a comparative Caribbean-U.S. framework, to investigate the processes that cement the built environment and unequally distribute power. She is particularly interested in housing and urban residential (housing and neighborhood) design: the underlying logics and policies that drive design, how design is interpreted, used, and experienced, and the consequences for inequality among communities and residents of cities.



**Piyushimita (Vonu) Thakuriah- Dean at Bloustein School, Rutgers University**

Dr. Thakuriah is Dean of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. She was most recently the Ch2m chair of Transport and professor of Urban Studies and an affiliated professor at the School of Engineering in the University of Glasgow, UK. Dr. Thakuriah is the founding director and principal investigator of the Urban Big Data Centre (UBDC) funded by Economic and Social Research Council of Research Councils UK, where she led a large-scale nationwide urban data infrastructure. Dr. Thakuriah's research interests are on smart, socially just and sustainable transport. She is more broadly interested in urban informatics, or the analytics of emerging sources of "big data" to understand complex urban problems.



# Looking forward

For Fall 2020 we have a few things lined up and are open for suggestions from the new recruits and member as well.

- Regular informal meeting sessions for discussions on topics concerning International development
- Continuation of the PASCAL- IDIG webinar series
- Organizing the themed event, details of which will be coming forth. Current suggestions for themes include Land finance, Ideas of home etc.

# We are recruiting!

- Creative Director (for social media, graphic design)
- Event Coordinator (for outreach and event organization)
- Secretary (for treasury, logistics, emails, documentations, etc.)

Those interested can also be members of IDIG

Please fill out the interest form below:

<https://forms.gle/wieSvYes4ew1wBn8A>

Please contact Niru at [nirupama.vidyarthi@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:nirupama.vidyarthi@scarletmail.rutgers.edu) or Jiajia at [jz763@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:jz763@scarletmail.rutgers.edu) for more information