Rethinking Cities in the Global South
Urban Violence, Social Inequality and Spatial Justice

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PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

18 JANUARY 2016:

• 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – Arrival of guests and registration

19 JANUARY 2016:

• 7:00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. – Field Visits

  Field tours planned in collaboration with local organisations to showcase projects, spaces, people’s efforts and socio-spatial transformations in and around Mumbai.

• 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – Registration

• 3:30 P.M. Onward – INAUGURATION CEREMONY and WELCOME ADDRESS, and;

  OPENING PLENARY –Being Urban in the Global South: Issues and Challenges

  This plenary seeks to reflect on how we can reimagine and resituate the Global South especially with respect to the experience and empirics of urbanisation. It reflects on critical questions such as what constitutes the global south as a strategic geopolitical concept, what the distinctive trajectories of urbanisation within the global south today are, and furthermore, is there a need for newer ways of theorising the urban challenge of the global south?

  Speakers: S Parasuraman, Patrick Bond, Carlos Vainer

20 JANUARY 2016:

• 9:00 A.M. to 10.45 A.M. – PAPER PRESENTATIONS (4 Parallel Sessions)

Encountering Spectacle in Rio

An Exception tide- Shock Planning and Space Injustice
Breno Camara

Mega-projects, real estate development and resistance against eviction: The case of Vila Autódromo in Olympic Rio de Janeiro

Fabricio Leal de Oliveira, Giselle Tanaka, Renato Cosentino

Mega-events and the right to housing: the case of the Olympic Park in Rio de Janeiro

Mariana Gomes Peixoto Medeiros

Urban Memory and Violent Erasures

The Festival, the ‘Mohalla’ and the City: communal violence and urban politics in late colonial Delhi

Deepasri Baul

“Caught in the Middle: Indian memories of the 1949 Racial Riots in Durban

Goolam Vahed (Invited Paper)

The Sacred Urban: Marginalisation and Sufi Shrines in Lahore

Amen Jaffer

Making the Tactical City

Slums in Caracas: towards the creation of its social and cultural knowledge throughout cartography

Amanda Marquez

3 cases of collectivisation

Sitaram Shelar

From Coping to Resistance: Analysing Responses to Urban Violence in Lyari, Karachi

Nida Kirmani

Invited Panel: Intersecting Networks of the Old and New: Financialisation and Technology in the Urban

Anjali Mohan

Lawrence Liang (TBC)

Rahul Varman
**11.15 A.M. to 1.00 P.M. – CURATED PLENARY: Readings from Four Cities in the Global South**

The plenary is conceptualised as critically important in laying out the complexities of theorising cities in the global south and the multiple contestations that simultaneously produce and fragment cities. The papers in this panel are part of on-going work by the presenters that argues that cities of the global south are experiencing substantial changes in forms of collective life. They present inter-connected explorations of these new forms in different geographies of the global south. Each builds on a geography that the author is intimately familiar with— Delhi, Johannesburg, Sao Paulo, and Jakarta—and speaks across it, seeking patterns in which to understand rapidly changing urbanisms through reading their everyday life.

*Speakers: Gautam Bhan, Kelly Gillespie, Teresa Caldeira, Abdoumaliq Simone*

**2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. – PAPER PRESENTATIONS (3 Parallel Sessions)**

### Squatter Settlements and Agency in the Neoliberal City

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<td>Enclaves of Violence: The Case of Squatter Settlements in Visakhapatnam</td>
<td><strong>Indivar Jonnalagada</strong></td>
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<td>Positioning Women's Lived Experience in Restructuring the Urban</td>
<td><strong>Marina Joseph</strong></td>
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<td>Slum Dwellers of Patna and urban restructuring</td>
<td><strong>Sheema Fatima</strong></td>
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<td>Towards more socio-spatial justice in Indian cities? The challenges of communication and participation in slum resettlement and rehabilitation projects</td>
<td><strong>Véronique Dupont</strong></td>
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**Invited Panel: Theory's Southward Turn- I**

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<td><strong>Kushal Deb</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Solomon Benjamin</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Karen Coelho</strong></td>
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**Invited Panel: Reimagining Democratic Politics in the Urban**

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<td><strong>Bharati Sharma</strong></td>
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4.15 P.M. to 6.15 P.M. – PLENARY: Urban Violence, Spatial Justice and the City (IDRC Safe and Inclusive Cities)

This plenary brings together the work of the cross-regional project partners as part of a three-year collaborative research “People, Places and Infrastructure: Countering Urban Violence and Promoting Peace in Mumbai, Rio and Durban”. The research is funded by the International Development Research Centre, IDRC as part of their Safe and Inclusive Cities project.

Speakers: IDRC-SAIC project teams from
- Centre for Urban Policy and Governance (CUPG) at the School of Habitat Studies, in Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
- Instituto de Pesquisa e Planejamento Urbano e Regional (IPPUR), Rio de Janeiro
- University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban

6.30 P.M. to 8.30 P.M. – FILM SCREENING ‘DiverCity Mumbai’- A curated set of films from the School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS (click here for movie details)

21 JANUARY 2016:

9:00 A.M. to 10.45 A.M. – PAPER PRESENTATIONS (4 Parallel Sessions)

**Theory’s Southward Turn- II**

- The conditions of urban violence, social cohesion and violence prevention in a city in the global south. A case study of Khayelitsha township, South Africa
  
  **Vanessa Barolsky**

- Some Questions for Urbanists Of The “Global South”
  
  **Hussain Indorewala**

- Rethinking Urban Theory from the Bottom Up: ‘Subaltern Urbanism’, Spatial Justice, and Political Possibility in Cities in the Global South
  
  **Malav Kanuga**

**Privatisation, Governance and the Reconfiguration of the State**

- Reconsidering China’s Private Neighborhoods: Democratic Governance or Decentralized Control? Efficiency or Citizenship?
  
  **Guo Chen**

- Efficiency or Citizenship? Governing Cities through Companies in Punjab
  
  **Imdad Hussain**

- “Smart Citizens for Smart Cities”: State, Middle Classness and the Disciplining of India’s Cities
  
  **Ipshita Basu**
Infrastructure, (Im)Mobility and the City

Pluralizing Power in Delhi’s Everyday Waterscape: Rampur Camp and Urban Water as a ‘Political Assemblage’

Yaffa Truelove

Citylines - Coexistence and conflict

Nirali Joshi

Violence, social inequality and mobility in urban settlements: a longitudinal study of low-income housing and households in Pereira, Colombia

Katherine Gough

Invited Panel: Climate Change and Urban Adaptation

Tejal Kanitkar

T. Jayaraman

TBC

11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M. – PAPER PRESENTATIONS (4 Parallel Sessions)

Planning and Exclusion

Urban Planning, Governance and Everyday Conflict and Violence in a Muslim Locality on the Peripheries of Ahmedabad

Renu Desai, Shachi Sanghvi

The poverty of planning

Malini Krishnankutty

Plans and counter plans: Instruments of Resistance and Alternatives to the Neo-liberal city

Shweta Wagh

Rule by exception? Industrial townships in India

Ashima Sood

Invited Panel: The Politics of Land, Planning and Power on the Urbanising Peripheries

Ulka Mahajan

TBC

Partha Mukhopadhyay (TBC)

Piloting Incremental Change

Public employment programmes, social and civic cohesion, and violence prevention
Jasmina Brankovic
Evaluation of transition services on pro-social attitudes and behaviours of young dropouts and offenders in urban Maharashtra

Jaideep Gupte, Jean-Pierre Tranchant
The Parcham project

Sabah Khan (Invited Paper)
Community Land Reserve A Permanent Solution for Distributed Urban Low Income Housing

Shirish Patel (Invited Paper)

Xenophobia, Othering and Discourses of Violence

Xenophobia in South Africa: a Failed Economic Policy
China Ngubane

Charting ethnic violence through the Lens of Heritage: Engaging with the Indo-Chinese Population of Kolkata
Rishika Mukhopadhyaya

The criminalisation of the Bengali-Muslims in Jaipur after the 2008 bomb blast: Examining state-led violence in the everyday lives of the community
Kanchan Gandhi

Safety on Durban's Golden Mile through crime statistics
Shanta Singh

2.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. – PAPER PRESENTATIONS (3 Parallel Sessions)

Public Space, Street Vending and Urban Regulation

Public Space and Street Vending: A Case Study of Bhadra Plaza, Ahmedabad
Shachi Shah

Rethinking Spatial Justice through Conflicts: The Case of the Occupation of Public Spaces by Street Vendors in Mumbai
Lola Sales

Who owns the sidewalk? Analysing Spatial Reorganization in the Pondy Bazaar Street Market, Chennai
Padmapriya Govindarajan

Understanding urban informality, informals and the state
Akriti Bhatia
The Making and Unmaking of Mumbai: the role of state, market and urban violence

Presented by Centre for Urban Policy and Governance Team, TISS, Mumbai

Feminising the City

Reclaiming public places – gender inclusive urban planning and design

Team OLAKH

Exploring Social Inequality, Spatial Injustice and Urban Violence: The Case of Ahmedabad

Ananya Choudhury, Rachita Chauhan

Sujata Khandekar (Invited Paper)

Nandita Shah (Invited Paper)

- 4.15 P.M. to 6.15 P.M. – PLENARY: The State In/And the City
  This plenary seeks to reflect on how we understand the nature, role and transformations of the local state as it exists today, the possibilities for its democratisation as well as its continued relevance in today’s globalising world. It will explore, both empirically and theoretically, the contours and possibilities of struggles for democratisation of the local state and where they can lead us in our quest for more just and sustainable cities.
  
  Speakers: Ravikant Joshi, Tikender Panwar, Ashwin Desai, Thomas Isaac (TBC)

- 6.30 P.M. to 8.30 P.M. – FILM SCREENING ‘DiverCity Mumbai’ - A curated set of films from the School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS (click here for movie details)

22 JANUARY 2016:

- 9:00 A.M. to 10.45 A.M. – PAPER PRESENTATIONS (3 Parallel Sessions)

  Comparisons – North South

  Southern Sanitation Syndromes in Comparative Perspective: Regimes of Urban Hygiene Durban, South Africa and Chicago’s South Side 1945-1960
  Kathryn J. Oberdeck

  Rethinking the right to the city from the global South: Ordinary urban condition and the actual right to the city in Accra, Cape Town and Rio de Janeiro
  Marianne Morange, Francesca Pilo’, Amandine Spire

  Flush toilet movement in Contemporary India: ‘Modernization’ and the Struggle against Social Inequality
  Yui Masuki

  The Resistant Body

  The Hope of Dead Materiality: Rethinking Violence and Resistance in Urban Spaces
Ayesha Omer
Threat and Anxiety; Prosthetic Urban Space and Mechanisms of Terror in the Mumbai “Terror” Attacks

Arif Hayat Nairang
Planned Cities, Real Cities: Prostitution and the Production of a Critical Urban Narrative

Soraya Silveira Simões
Urban Nature and Questions of Justice
From sheep rearing to “Science City”: Science promotion as a violent and hegemonic project

Leo Saldanha, Bhargavi Rao
Denial of Spatial Justice: Building of the BB&CI Railway(1855-1870)

Madhumita Bandyopadhyay
Environmental Justice and Indian Cities

Geetanjoy Sahu (Invited Paper)

11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M. – PAPER PRESENTATIONS (4 Parallel Sessions)

Duban Panel
From Informal to low income human settlements case of Mt Moriah Durban

Sultan Khan
Displacement as violence – the struggle for Warwick Market in Durban

Brij Maharaj

Dunlop protest in Cato Manor

Bandile Mdlalese

People, Places and Infrastructure: Is violence a means to spatial justice and results from spatial transformation in Cato Manor?

Thandokuhle Manzi

Geographies of Segregation, Violence, and Resistance
Violating urbanscapes: Spatializing violence in urban villages of Delhi

Kriti Kanaujia

Everyday Forms of Urban Violence in a North East Frontier City: The case of Aizawl in Mizoram
Migrants, Vigilants and Violence: The Making of New Urban Spaces in Mumbai

Ritambhara Hebbar, Mahuya Bandhyopadhyay

Geographies of space and violence in Inanda

Nirmala Gopal

Infrastructure, Marketisation and the Challenge to Democracy

Predatory Infrastructures: Citizens, democracy and the “revenge politics” of exclusion in society

Vinay Baindur

Emerging Policy Imperatives in Urban Infrastructure Sector: A Note on Rail-Based Mass Rapid Transit System in Bangalore

Meenakshi Sinha

Durban’s port-petrochemical complex as a site of economic and environmental violence

Patrick Bond

Pranjal Deekshit (Invited Paper)

Foregrounding Work and Workers in the Urban

While you are dreaming the city is fulfilling its dream

Shruthi Parthasarathy, Durgesh Solanki

Urban Imaginations, Transformation and the Question of Justice

Priyanka Nupur

Milind Ranade (Invited Paper)

Gautam Mody (Invited Paper)

2.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. – PLENARY: Urban futures
The Plenary seeks to reflect on current modes of future making, and speculate on how we could move towards a genuinely democratic way of being and becoming urban that is actively steered by the marginalised.

Speakers: Raquel Rolnik, Sandeep Virmani, Medha Patkar (TBC), Anant Maringanti

4.00 P.M. to 4.15 P.M. – CLOSING NOTE

4.30 P.M. to 6.30 P.M. – ROUNDTABLE: Building an Urban Agenda for the South
The Round table on south-south networking aims to bring together some of the important strands discussed during the Conference, collaborations for future projects, and build pressure groups to ideate and take forward a transformative urban agenda.

INVITEES ONLY

6.30 P.M. to 8.30 P.M. – CULTURAL PROGRAMME
23 JANUARY 2016:

- 9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. – POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: Radical Planning in the Global South

This workshop aims at providing a forum for exchange and mutual learning across practitioners of radical planning to share their highly contextualised experiences. It also aims to go beyond the sharing of experiences to a discussion of critical questions linked to radical planning. Is radical planning a paradigm, a methodology of practice, a philosophy, a praxis? What are its variants? What are its epistemological, methodological moorings? How do they differ from conventional planning or market led planning? What is radical in radical planning? What are the possibilities in planning for moving towards more just cities?

Speakers:

(Morning) 9:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Exchange of experiences- Arvind Unni, Desmond D’sa, Dunu Roy, Champaka Rajagopal, Fabricio Leal Oliviera

(Afternoon) 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.: Towards an Epistemology for Radical Planning - Faranak Miraftab, Darshini Mahadevia, Edgar Ribiero

Also, 20-23 JANUARY: CURATED EXHIBITION
Centre for Urban Policy and Governance (CUPG), School of Habitat Studies, TISS is extremely happy to share with you the details of its upcoming International Conference titled “RETHINKING CITIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: URBAN VIOLENCE, SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND SPATIAL JUSTICE” being held in Mumbai from 19TH – 23RD JANUARY 2016 (http://saicinternationalconference.tumblr.com/). The Conference is being hosted by CUPG in partnership with Instituto de Pesquisa e Planejamento Urbano e Regional, Rio and University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban as the culmination of a three year research on “People, Places and Infrastructure: Countering Urban Violence and Promoting Peace in Mumbai, Rio and Durban” funded by the IDRC as part of their Safe And Inclusive Cities project.

The Conference aims to address the question of urbanisation in the global south by providing a platform to discuss the varied and unique experiences of urbanisation that are being experienced and created by different cities of the global south. It will also include voices from the ground to highlight the lived experience of this urbanisation. We anticipate an audience comprising of academics, students, community activists, trade unions, political activists, urban practitioners, state actors, planners, engineers, architects, policy makers, and NGOs who are engaged in research, advocacy, campaigns and movements to promote social and spatial justice in cities situated in the global south. Spread over a total of five days, the Conference promises to be an exciting event. There will be paper presentations and panel discussions, plenaries, masterclasses and roundtables. The organisers also hope to enliven the conference venue through poster and photography exhibitions, and local music.

Some highlights of the programme are:
- **FIELD TOURS** planned in collaboration with local organisations to showcase projects, spaces, people's efforts and socio-spatial transformations in and around Mumbai.
- **PLENARY SESSIONS** with internationally and nationally acclaimed academics and practitioners in the urban domain, with special focus on leading theorists and practitioners from Brazil and South Africa and India.

**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS ACROSS PLENARIES INCLUDE**
- S. PARASURAMAN (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai),
- PATRICK BOND (Universities of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and KwaZulu-Natal, Durban),
- CARLOS VAINER (Instituto de Pesquisa e Planejamento Urbano e Regional, Rio),
- TERESA CALDEIRA (University of California, Berkeley),
- KELLY GILLESPIE (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg),
- ABDOU MALIQ SIMONE (Max Planck Institute),
- GAUTAM BHAN (Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore),
- ASHWIN DESAI (University of Johannesburg, South Africa),
- THOMAS ISAAC (CPM MLA Alappuzha, Kerela),
- RAQUEL ROLNIK (University of São Paulo),
- SANDEEP VIRMANI (Hunnarshala Foundation, Bhuj),
- ANANT MARINGANTI (Hyderabad Urban Lab).

**ROUND TABLE ON SOUTH-SOUTH NETWORKING** to bring together some of the important strands discussed during the conference, seek collaborations for future projects and build pressure groups to ideate and take forward a transformative urban agenda.

**RADICAL PLANNING WORKSHOP** focusing on skills and practices and sharing of outcomes of bottom up and participatory approaches to urban planning and governance.

Confirmed speakers include:
• ARVIND UNNI (YUVA, Mumbai),
• FABRICIO LEAL OLIVIERA (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro),
• CHAMPAKA RAJAGOPAL (Egis India),
• DARSHINI MAHADEVIA (CEPT University),
• FARANAK MIRAFTAB (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign),
• DUNU ROY (Hazards Centre),
• DESMOND D’SA (South Durban Community Environmental Alliance),
• EDGAR RIBEIRO (ex-Chief Planner, Govt. Of India)

**CURATED FILM SCREENINGS** of contemporary documentaries on urban issues

**PHOTO AND MIXED-MEDIA EXHIBITIONS** of work by students, research scholars, project outputs etc. that focus on the urban, particularly on what it means to be urban in the global south.

**MASTER CLASSES** with a few selected academics and urban professionals geared primarily towards enhancing the knowledge and skills of students and practitioners.

**CULTURAL PROGRAMMES**

All registration details are available at


Students and faculty from TISS interested in participating in the Conference are requested to contact [cupg.tiss@gmail.com](mailto:cupg.tiss@gmail.com)

We hope to see you at the Conference in January 2016!
SPEAKERS LIST

S. Parasuraman is the Director, TISS, since 2004. He has over 25 years of experience as a teacher, trainer, activist, administrator and development worker, with strong foundations in critical thinking, and conceptual and analytical skills. He has a Master’s Degree in Anthropology from the University of Poona, Pune and a Ph.D. in Demography from the University of Mumbai, Mumbai. He has also been conferred Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) by the Assam University. He has held key positions in international organisations: as Asia Regional Policy Coordinator, ActionAid Asia; Senior Advisor to the Commission, and Team Leader of the Secretariat; World Commission on Dams; and as Programme Director, Oxfam GB, India Programme. Currently, he is Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India. Dr. Parasuraman has been associated with the Narmada Movement from 1987 and was a member of the Indian Prime Minister’s Committee to review the Tehri Hydroelectric Project. He has also been (i) Key member of the ‘Practioners Forum on Human Rights in Development’ (facilitated by the UNHCHR), involving UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and NGOs with Asia regional offices based in Bangkok; and (ii) Key member of an NGO network engaged in advocacy with the Asian Development Bank. He was awarded the Bharat Shreshta Acharya Award 2012 by MIT, Pune. Prof. Parasuraman has over 50 publications in the form of articles in international and national journals, books and research reports.

Patrick Bond combines political economy and political ecology in his research and applied work. He is distinguished professor of political economy at the University of the Witwatersrand School of Governance and also (through April 2016), senior professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal School of Built Environment and Development Studies where since 2004 he has directed the Centre for Civil Society. He formerly held an assistant professorship at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Patrick earned his doctorate in economic geography under the supervision of David Harvey at Johns Hopkins (1985-92), following studies at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Finance (Philadelphia, 1983-85) and an undergraduate economics degree at Swarthmore College (Philadelphia, 1979-83). He was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1961, was raised in the US states of Alabama and Maryland, and since 1989 has been a resident of Southern Africa. Patrick’s recent books include: BRICS: An anti-capitalist critique (edited with Ana Garcia, Aakar Books and Jacana Media 2015); South Africa – Present as History (with John Saul for Jacana Media and James Currey Press, 2014); Elite Transition: From Apartheid to Neoliberalism in South Africa (Pluto Press and the University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2014)

Carlos Vainer is an economist and Sociologist, and a Professor at the Institute of Urban and Regional Planning and Research at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (IPPUR/UFRJ), where he also chairs the Forum of Science and Culture and Undergraduate Program on Public Management for Social and Economic Development. He leads the Research Laboratory State, Labor, Territory and Nature (ETTERN) and coordinates the Social and Environmental Observatory on Dams, the Network of Observatories of Urban Conflicts and the Experimental Program on Contested Planning.
**Darshini Mahadevia** is Professor and Dean of Faculty of Planning, CEPT University, with over 20 years teaching and numerous research and publications. After completing her Bachelors in Architecture and Masters in Urban and Regional Planning, she completed her PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has been a visiting fellow at various international universities and has collaborated for research with many national and international academic institutions/ universities in India, Europe, China. She specializes in the research on urban development policies, including housing policy, urban poverty, human and gender development.

**Anant Maringanti** is the director of Hyderabad Urban Lab, a multi-disciplinary research programme run by the Right to the City Foundation. A geographer with a PhD from University of Minnesota, he has taught graduate and undergraduate courses at the National University of Singapore, University of Hyderabad and the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Hyderabad. His research and teaching interests center on questions of urbanization and globalization from the South Asian vantage point. He is widely published in national and international academic journals on social movements, politics of development and urbanization. As an evolving experiment in urban research, Hyderabad Urban Lab, has been developing collaborative projects involving media professionals, planners, technologists, academic researchers and legal professionals. These broad based collaborations are key to deepening our understanding of the very large informal economies that underpin contemporary cities.

**Somsook Boonyabancha**, Secretary general of Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, a coalition of organizations working on urban poor housing development in Asia. She was the former Director of Community Organizations Development Institute in Thailand. She was born in 1951 in Thailand and have her background study in Architecture from Chulalongkiri University in Thailand and from the Housing and Urbanization Course in Copenhagen, Denmark during 1977-1978. She has been working extensively on urban poor housing development and slum upgrading in Thailand and in countries in Asia in the past 30 years (since 1977). Her particular expertise and development orientation on community driven, community led development in wide scale change process in urban community housing, community welfare, rural community land and housing development, etc. At present, she is working on ACHR’s current regional program on Asian Coalition for Community Action to support city-wide community-led upgrading and development in Asian cities. The program achieved city-wide development change in 220 Asian cities in 19 countries by end of 2014.

**Tikender Singh Panwar** built the students movement in the Himalayas on the issues of education for all. The thrust was laid on quality education for the marginalised sections especially the Dalits and the girl child. He led a strong peasant movement under the banner of Himachal Kisan Sabha on the major issues of remunerative prices, protecting the agriculture from the menace of wild animals and for alternative paradigm in agriculture. Presently he is the directly elected deputy Mayor of Shimla city. The city has been able to create a vision with the development plan that speaks about inclusive growth, greater planned social infrastructure and in making not just the city but the citizens resilient. Environment and ecology happens to be the major area of concern and it is because of this reason that the forest cover is being enhanced in the city with people’s participation. A model for democratic decentralisation is being developed by strengthening the ward sabhas and empowering the ward committees. He was also a
member of the national task force in the country to review the 74th constitutional which speaks about decentralised governance.

**Bridgemohan Maharaj** is Senior Professor in geography at the University of KwaZulu-Natal who has received widespread recognition for his research on urban politics, segregation, local economic development, xenophobia and human rights, migration and diasporas, religion, philanthropy and development, and has published over 130 scholarly papers as well as five co-edited book collections.

**Gautam Bhan** teaches at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. His work focuses on the politics of poverty and inequality in Indian cities, southern urban theory, and urban welfare regimes. He is most recently the author of In the Public’s Interest: Evictions, Citizenship and Inequality in Contemporary Delhi (Orient Blackswan, 2016). He also writes on kafila.org. He is on the Editorial Committee of Urbanisation and the Editorial Board of Environment and Planning D: Society and Space.

**Raquel Rolnik** is a professor architect and urban planner, with over 35 years of scholarship and practical experience in planning, urban land policy and housing issues. Based in São Paulo, she is a professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo and is the author of several books and articles on the urban and housing issues. In her career, she has held various government positions including Director of the Planning Department of the city of São Paulo (1989-1992) and National Secretary for Urban Programs of the Brazilian Ministry of Cities (2003-2007) as well as NGO activities, such as Urban Policy Coordinator of the Polis Institute (1997-2002). She has advised national and local governments on urban policy reform and institutional development as well as acted as a consultant for countries and international cooperation agencies. From May 2008, Ms. Raquel Rolnik was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council as UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing for a six years mandate, ending June 2014.

**Faranak Miraftab** is Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. As an urban scholar of globalization she is interested in the global and local development processes and contingencies involved in the formation of the city and citizens’ struggles to establish dignified livelihood. Her interdisciplinary ethnographic work crosses planning, geography and transnational studies and is empirically based in cities of Latin America, Africa and North America. She was named as a 2014-17 University Scholar, a prestigious award bestowed on faculty at the University of Illinois campuses. Her most recent book Global Heartland: Displaced Labor; Transnational Lives and Local Placemaking. (January 2016, Indiana University press) has been subject of a documentary movie and a community-based theater production.

**Sandeep Virmani** is an architect and environmentalist and one of the founding members of Hunnarshala Foundation, an organisation that facilitates self-sustaining housing for the poor, favours artisans’ involvements in mainstreaming buildings and promotes local eco-friendly and cost-effective materials and technologies. Sandeep also coordinates the work of Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan, a network of development NGOs in Kutch working on policy, capacity building and natural resources.