



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

**Urban Challenges  
and Sustainable Technological Revolution**



## Special Session Proposal

### ***Then, now and future: Questions from the urban Global South***

Sk Mafizul Haque

Department of Geography, University of Calcutta  
35, B. C. Road, Kolkata - 700019  
Email: mafi\_haque@yahoo.co.in  
Contact: +91- 9434 897 192

Swasti Vardhan Mishra

Department of Geography, Rabindra Bharati University  
Emerald Bower Campus, 56A, BT Road,  
Kolkata – 700050  
Email: swastivardhanmishra@gmail.com  
Contact: +91- 9883 786 897

Pritam Ghosh

Department of Geography, Ramsaday College,  
College Road, Amta,  
Howrah, West Bengal 711401  
Email: mr.ghosh.pritam@gmail.com  
Contact: +91- 7980 236 093

### **Abstract**

Global South has attained renewed traction at the turn of the century (Nagendra et al., 2018). A large swath of countries in Asia, Latin America, Oceania and Africa are collectively called Global South. Apart from many fundamental peculiarities associated with it, the global south also inhabits a quintessential urban world. The ever-expanding urban frontier with unmanageable megacities (Davis, 2006) is juxtaposed to the celebratory zeal to sustain the vagaries of state and market forces (de Soto, 2001). The

region's incessant fight with the challenging brown agenda is in simultaneity with the everyday life of communities that create value out of waste. Despite the deteriorating ecosystem, we can see the proliferating and market-oriented shift in ecosystem services at a very nuanced scale.

With a more profound role in the global economy of global south countries like India, China, Brazil, and South Africa, the gaze here has shifted from superficial macro to intensely read/studied micro scale. The question we pose here intertwines itself with the circulating grand narratives and the everyday negotiations – In a quest for urban informality, the local bureaucratic engagement that sustains one form of informality while negating the other (Roy, 2008); in an ever-engrossing divide between urban and rural, the global south boasts of innumerable moments when urban is made, unmade and remade (Roy, 2016); and, urban planning incognizant of the interface between 'survival and governing' (Watson, 2009). Apart from the quotidian processes and people that make up the global south urban, we also wish to look into the idiosyncrasies of urban health, urban hazards and pollutions and more pertinently urban metabolism. There stands little doubt that these are global concerns but we wish to look for juxtapositions of studies from global south and global north. It would render a fertile territory where comparison would ensure a sustainable urban future (Robinson, 2002).

However, we seldom mean only a geographical territory when we refer to the global south. We are attentive to the circumstances and processes that make some spaces southern in the global north and northern in the global south. By that, we mean the myriad forms of subjugation that induce people and spaces across the divide. We propose to accept papers that talk across this divide and locate/read/study the global south from anywhere.

We propose the following sub-themes as part of our proposal:

1. Urban Poverty and Informality
2. Urban Health & Wellbeing
3. Urban Ecosystem Services
4. Urban Resilience
5. Urban Morphology
6. Urban Governance and Planning
7. Urban Political Ecology
8. Future Megacities
9. Urban Heritage: Challenges and Conservation

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