SPECIAL TRACK

Urban Issues in Central & South America and the Caribbean

URBAN AFFFAIRS ASSOCIATION 46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
San Diego March 16-19, 2016

Call for Participation

Track Co-Chairs:
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Central and South America, along with the Caribbean Islands, face unique urban challenges. From being the center of “economic miracles” in the 1950’s through the so-called “lost decade” in the 1980s, this global region is now showing signs of economic recovery. At the same time this global region has faced challenges, from mainly dictator regimes in the mid last century to more democratic regimes at the beginning of the twenty-first century, and now a possible backlash represented by neoliberal governments. In these countries, where poverty and wealth are juxtaposed in urban spaces, hyper-urbanization has exacerbated income inequality and uneven development. The informal sector in the cities is part of everyday life. To address these issues, several policies have been implemented with mixed results, like incremental construction, microbusiness development, and reforms in the social welfare system. Government officials, policy makers, planners, and NGOs have encountered political, fiscal, social and cultural barriers in the struggle to improve living conditions for the majority within urban areas. In response to these challenges, innovative policies and experiments have been launched in metropolitan and local governance, coordinated urban-rural development, regional planning, new town development, sustainable and carbon-neutral urbanization, and other proposed solutions to urban problems. On the other end of the spectrum a number of exclusionary and segregating policies have also been adopted in several cities (sometimes adopting the “livable city” discourse). We must ask ourselves--what urban researchers, planners, and practitioners can do to minimize their impacts and make our cities better places for all. The lessons and outcomes of these initiatives are of critical importance to the people and leaders of these regions, but equally of interest and concern to the rest of the global policy community.

The Urban Affairs Association (UAA) is North America’s leading urban policy research association engaged in understanding emerging issues and looking for feasible solutions from a multidisciplinary perspective. For more than forty years the UAA has brought together social scientists, public administrators, planners, and others interested in urban affairs to exchange information, experiences, and ideas on the most important urban issues. In light of the growing importance of Central/South America and the Caribbean Islands, and the proximity of the conference location in San Diego, the 2016 UAA conference will include a Special Track on Urban Issues in Central/South America & the Caribbean Islands.
Proposed themes in this track include, but are not limited to:

- Government and governance: public services, equity, financing local governments
- Housing: housing quality, financing, role of the states and markets, substandard settlements
- Labor force: employment, underemployment, informality and salaries and labor condition
- Microfinancing: microbusinesses and entrepreneurship, access to multipurpose credit
- Poverty: income inequality, income distribution, social policies.
- Gender: rights and discrimination, access to employment and services, women’s movement
- Migration: urban-urban migration, mega-cities, slums and living condition, urban violence
- Public spaces: use of public-private spaces, place-making, role of public sector
- Cities and the environment: pollution, air and water, vulnerability, preparedness for disasters
- The role of mega-projects, exclusionary policies, segregated spaces.
- Livable cities: what are they and for whom; the discourse and living in practice.
- Urban transformation: natural resources and illegality.

The UAA encourages empirical and theoretical papers on urbanization processes, governance, public administration, planning, urban design, rural-urban migration, immigration, inclusion/exclusion, and related topics of importance to cities and metropolitan areas. Policy related papers on housing, health, education, employment, welfare/family security, transportation, economic development, infrastructure, environmental protection, historic preservation, provision of social services and other topics are all appropriate. Papers on developed and emerging urban agglomerations and on newly created centralities are of particular interest. We encourage the participation of all professionals (from public, private, nonprofit sectors) committed to sustainable and equitable urban development as we seek innovative policies and solutions.

ABSTRACT/PROPOSAL SUBMISSION SITE OPENS: June 1, 2015 ***All abstracts are submitted online at the UAA website. Please read all submission and conference policy guidelines before submitting your proposal or abstract.

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT/PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 1, 2015

WEBSITE OF THE EVENT: www.urbanaffairsassociation.org

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