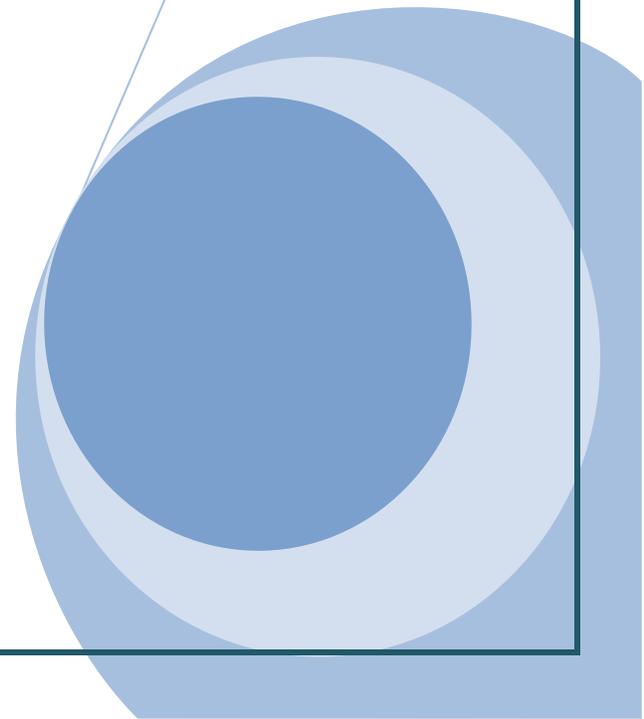
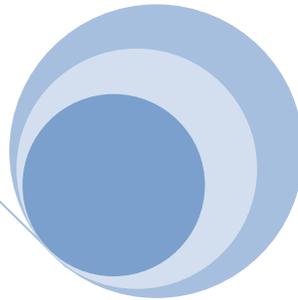
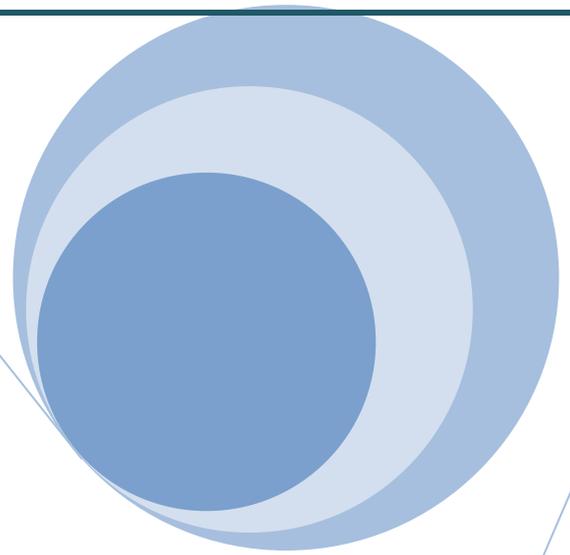


Online Conference
**TRANSFORMING
PERIURBAN FUTURES**

18 – 19 January 2022

CONCEPT AND SCHEDULE



CONCEPT NOTE

The aim of this conference is to provoke discussions on pathways for sustainable transformations of periurban areas. Thus, it aims at exchanging on the complex nature and vulnerabilities of these areas. These analyses are the basis for discussing the need for specific policies for periurban spaces, which have a very specific character.

Currently, in India periurban spaces are experiencing the highest pace of transformation. Urban centres as engines of growth have become the focus of policy, investments, opportunities, migration, and resource demand. The rapid expansion of these large cities brings with it an expanding need for resources. As core cities become increasingly congested, much of the new urban growth takes place at the margins or the peripheries of the cities^{i ii iii}. The periurban space makes for a unique contested resource space with mixed urban and rural characteristics, functional linkages with the city, and reciprocal flows of people, resources, and services. Urban actors, land uses, services often compete with rural livelihoods, land uses, and institutions for periurban resources^{iv}. In the binaries of urban and rural categories in planning and policy, the unique complex character of the periurban is easily overlooked^{vii}. They fulfill important tasks within the respective larger urban agglomerations and need recognition as a separate type of spaces and a conceptualization beyond “urban to be”.

As cities expand, their future sustainability will be closely determined by how sustainably periurban spaces develop and transform towards ecologically and socially sustainable outcomes. The urbanization process manifests on the periurban space transforming it, being “simultaneously sustained and imperilled by the urban dynamics”^{viii}. The periurban space presents a transitioning socioecological space which offers both obstacles and opportunities for transformation to sustainability. These areas are characterised by complementariness, segmentation, heterogeneity, where both opportunities and exclusions are created^{ix}. The marginalisation and vulnerabilities created in the process of periurbanisation are well documented in literature. However potential directions and initiatives towards creating sustainable periurban futures have received significantly lesser focus.

The two-day online conference will pull together voices and perspectives from multiple sectors and stakeholders –government, academia, international development sector, and the grassroot civil society, - in order to understand both common and contested solutions and directions towards sustainable periurban futures. Understanding of periurban transformations will emanate from the four core themes –

- Water
- Gender
- Governance
- Disaster management

The two-day online conference is co-organized and supported by local, national and international organizations, including School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal; South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS), Hyderabad; University of Cologne; and Delft University of Technology.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Time	Session Details
DAY 1: 18th January 2021	
02:00 -03:30 pm (IST)	Opening Plenary: PERIURBAN TRANSFORMATIONS
9:30 – 11:00 am (CET)	
	Thematic Parallel Session 1: PERIURBAN WATER RESOURCES Concept: Periurbanisation in most cases results in changing and increasing pressures on water as a resource. First, in situ more water is needed, because water related activities increase. These are often conflicting and result in struggles over the scarce resource for different purposes – irrigation water, input for industrial processes and drinking water. Additionally, the growing urban centres demand more water and release grey or waste water into the periurban. Thus, specific periurban waterscapes emerge. New and old rules, new and existing infrastructures and external and internal actors create a landscape waterscape in which changing flows and qualities of water reflect the different demands, rules and regulations, and power structures. This session seeks to explore, how periurban waterscapes can be transformed in a sustainable manner.
04:00-05:30 pm (IST)	Thematic Parallel Session 2: GENDER IN THE PERIURBAN Concept: Gender relations are determined not only through social structures, but also through physical and spatial resource relations. Urban growth processes manifest on the periurban through rapid superimposition of new urban landscapes on the old rural ones, with an accompanying export of resources to the city core and increasing urban and industrial pollution of the decreasing stock of resources. Hegemonic geographical and resource spaces that are produced from these economic processes reflect and reproduce persistent social and gender relations. The unique social and political pressures and milieu of the periurban space mediate this co-production of space, resource, and gender. This session intends to understand the changing processes of production and reproduction of gender relations in the periurban context, emerging gendered vulnerabilities and opportunities, and pathways for transformations in gender relations in periurban spaces.
11:30-01:00 pm (CET)	



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Time	Session Details
DAY 2: 19th January 2022	
	Thematic Parallel Session 3: GOVERNANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE
	<p>Concept: Periurban areas are highly dynamic in nature and are not well-served in the traditional governance classification of urban and rural institutions. This is closely linked to the governance of infrastructures, as infrastructures typically represent collective goods and services. The dynamic context-specific and spatially distinct trajectories of the different periurban areas mean that simply creating a new third category for governance and planning is not necessarily a panacea. This session on “Periurban Governance and Infrastructure” will discuss and compare how different periurban areas, for different domains and challenges, develop new and promising governance arrangements, with a particular focus on infrastructure provision and management. The underlying question is how to develop and nurture new governance arrangements that can support a periurban transformation towards a sustainable future.</p>
02:00 -03:30 pm (IST)	
	Thematic Parallel Session 4: DISASTER AND RESILIENCE
	<p>Concept: Rising water stress and the increasing occurrence of urban flooding in last one decade calls for understanding the resilience of different systems to cope up or recover from these. The periurban areas being rich in natural resources plays an important role in minimizing the urban flooding risks and addressing the water stress related concerns. The dynamics of growing pressures on scarce resources such as land and water in periurban areas is adversely affecting the inherent resilience provided not only to local dwellers but also to the densely populated urban areas. This session on ‘Disaster and Resilience to water’ will focus on ecosystem services of peri urban areas and their role in enhancing community resilience to water stress and urban flooding. The deliberations will contribute to understanding the community resilience from the perspective of ‘static resources’ that acts as a buffer to reduce vulnerabilities and the qualities of ‘local dwellers’ that adapt and thrive in response to growing environmental challenges in the peri urban areas.</p>
9:30 – 11:00 am (CET)	
	Closing Plenary: PATHWAYS FOR TRANSFORMING PERIURBAN FUTURES
04:00-05:30 pm (IST)	
11:30-01:00 pm (CET)	



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- ⁱ UNDESA. (2014). World urbanization prospects. 2014 revision. Highlights. New York.
- ⁱⁱ Kundu, A., & Saraswati, L. R. (2016). Changing Patterns of Migration in India: A Perspective on Urban Exclusion. In International Handbook of Migration and Population Distribution (pp. 311-332). Springer, Dordrecht.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Sheng, Y. K. (2018). Peri-urban transformations in Southeast Asia. In Routledge Handbook of Urbanization in Southeast Asia (pp. 31-42). Routledge.
- ^{iv} Dupont, V. (2007). Conflicting stakes and governance in the peripheries of large Indian metropolises—An introduction. *Cities*, 24(2), 89-94.
- ^v Allen, A. (2003). Environmental planning and management of the peri-urban interface: perspectives on an emerging field. *Environment and urbanization*, 15(1), 135-148.
- ^{vi} Simon, D. (2008). Urban environments: issues on the peri-urban fringe. *Annual review of environment and resources*, 33, 167-185.
- ^{vii} Mehta, L., & Karpouzoglou, T. (2015). Limits of policy and planning in peri-urban waterscapes: the case of Ghaziabad, Delhi, India. *Habitat International*, 48, 159-168.
- ^{viii} Freidberg, S (2001) Gardening on the Edge: The Social Conditions of Unsustainability on an African Urban Periphery, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 91:2, 349-369
- ^{ix} Marshall, F., & Dolley, J. (2019). Transformative innovation in peri-urban Asia. *Research Policy*, 48(4), 983-992.

