

Proposal for
IGU THEMATIC CONFERENCE – MEXICO
20th to 23th of August 2023

Urban Transformations: Towards Resilient Cities

ORGANIZATION

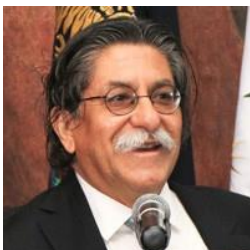
This Thematic conference will be organized by the following commissions

- C20.42 Urban Commission: Re-Thinking cities and the urban: from the global to the local
- C20.15: Commission on Geography of Governance
- C20.17: Commission on Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change
- C20.18: Commission on GeoHeritage
- C20.30: Commission on Latin American Studies
- C20.37: Commission on Population Geography

Local organisers



Manuel Suárez holds a degree in Political Science and Public Administration from the Facultad de Estudios Superiores Acatlán. He holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of California, Berkeley. He also holds a PhD in Geography from UNAM. He is currently director of the Institute of Geography, a position he will hold for the period 2016-2020. His work as a researcher has focused on urban structure and transport, which has led him to collaborate in various projects with academia and several government agencies. He is a tutor in the postgraduate course in Urban Planning, as well as a tutor and professor in the postgraduate course in Geography at the University.



Javier Delgado holds a degree in Architecture from the Faculty of Architecture of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He holds a Master's degree in Research and Teaching in Urban Planning and a PhD in Urban Planning, both from the Faculty of Architecture of the UNAM. He did a research stay from January to June 1993 at the Groupe de Recherche sur l'Amérique Latine at the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail, France, under the direction of Claude Bataillon. His main lines of research are: Urban and Regional Structure, National Urban System and Urban-Regional Interface. He is currently director of the University Programme of City Studies at UNAM.

PRESENTATION

With a view from both developed and developing contexts, the meeting of six IGU Commissions in Mexico will offer an excellent opportunity to talk about two main streams of knowledge – resilience and governance – in contemporary cities and other human settlements. The idea is to bring together distinct geographical specialties such as local and urban governance, history, demography, urban studies and ecology, to encourage common efforts towards new research on cities.

Resilience, recently adapted for cities by the UN-Habitat New Urban Agenda (2016) is an old concept that defines “the persistence of systems and of their ability to absorb change and disturbance and still maintain the same relationships between populations or state variables” (Holling, 1973: 14). Although it was at first interpreted as an alternative to a wasteful way of living, nowadays it has been substituted by an optimistic hope that cities may survive through a capacity to overcome risks, and that cities that could be viewed as “the problem” of the global warming, could also be seen as the “solution”.

As for sustainability, there has been a legitimate fascination from diverse academic approaches that have fed urban studies. This issue was stimulated by the United Nation Environmental Programme since the 1970's decade, and got a strong outlining start with the Declaration for Habitat I in Vancouver in 1977. Since then over its main concern focussed on rapid and sprawling urban growth that threat natural, economic and social life of cities that jeopardize sustainability.

In Mexico, close to thirty cities and sites have been declared as heritage sites and many others as mixture of natural and historical heritage, which have translated to urban public policies and other instruments to manage these historic districts. Local and Urban Governance, is a concept with an important academic tradition in Geography, mainly since the 1980's, well reflected in the establishment by the IGU of its first Study Group on this field in 1984, promoted to the status of Commission in 1988, focused on the analysis of the relations between territorial institutions and spatial processes.

Since cities have been largely threatened in different Braudelian historical times and facing also the most recent risks issued from a predatory way of living, this meeting will confront experiences in a comparative global context. It will focus on specific and generic properties, the social, economic and environmental issues they pose, and to evaluate the utility of political and societal solutions to their problems, while trying to answer the following questions: Is local and urban governance processes a key dimension to understand the current and past urban conditions and dynamics? Can local and urban governance processes be a driver of policy changes towards sustainable urban development? Can resilient cities be a real response to a global threat? How can this be promoted through our six commissions in the 2023 meeting?

Sub-thematic sessions

Cities as resilient system: between processes and actions

Organizer: Javier Delgado, Manuel Suarez y Ana Valle, UNAM

The persistence of a city is often a succession of transformations facing different shocks (natural, war, rapid increase). Urban transition processes have been faced through policies of adaptations. processes and actions offer lessons for the actual issues of cities' resilience for their ability to adapt their conditions to the new challenges of global climate change. The level of study can be at local scale for one city, as well as at the level of systems of cities at regional, national or wider scales.

Local and Urban Governance: lessons from the past and prospects for resilient and sustainable development in a time of global emergencies and transitions

Organizer: Carlos Nunes Silva, University of Lisbon

Local government social, economic and environmental policies have been in the past key drivers in urban transition processes and in the fight against extreme events in all regions of the world. This sub-thematic session, proposed by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance, aims to examine and discuss lessons from the past, successes and failures in the field of local and urban governance, and prospects for the future, namely in what concerns the challenges associated with globalization, the Covid-19 pandemic, and climate change, as well as to explore innovative approaches on how local and urban government can fulfil its role in the implementation of the principles and goals of the current global sustainable development agendas, such as the Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda.

Papers may address issues related to one of the following themes, or other issues related to other aspects of local and urban governance, focusing on lessons from the past and/or on innovative approaches:

- Local government reforms and the impact on the implementation of sustainable development agendas
- Local governance and the Covid-19 Pandemic: the policy responses and the post-pandemic recovery approaches
- Local governance responses to Climate Emergency: strategies, plans, actions, outcomes
- Citizen participation and co-creation in local and urban governance

Tourism as a driver of urban change in post-pandemic cities

Organizer: Julie Wilson, Open University of Catalonia (UOC).

Tourism has more than ever become a socio-political issue in many urban contexts. Contemporary urban change is shaped by many factors following the Covid-19 pandemic, not least by tourism, impacting upon places that must coexist with tourism activity; from shifting effects on property markets to issues of the right to the city, socio-spatial inequalities and community tensions. Furthermore, platform mediated tourism rentals and other manifestations of the platform economy can contribute to tourism's dispersion into neighbourhoods without prior tourism trajectories. As a result, perceptions of overtourism can cause local irritation, leading to a need to find new management solutions to regulate the growing flow of visitors. As such, an understanding the dynamics of urban tourism and local responses it generates is pivotal for understanding urban

transformations in a broader context. This sub-theme of the conference explores this and other urban tourism-related dynamics, with a special emphasis on the potential for regenerative and resilience-thinking approaches to urban tourism conflicts and issues in a post-pandemic context.

From urban geodiversity to Geotourism: Themes, links and interactions

Organizer: Dongying Wei, Beijing Normal University

Urban geodiversity may simply refer to non-living nature within urban areas, but it can also be considered a factor influencing urban development. In addition, urban geodiversity includes buildings, monuments, and other elements that are not necessarily part of geoheritage, but may represent an important element of promoting and disseminating information about the Earth's surface. Urban geodiversity is also important source of tourism, and the National Geographic Society defines Geotourism as "tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place—its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents."

The idea is that all elements of a place's geographical character work together to create an experience that is richer than the sum of its parts, appealing to visitors with diverse interests. Geotourism builds on a destination's "sense of place," to emphasize the distinctiveness of its locale and benefit visitors and residents alike. Inherent in this approach is that geotourism is a vehicle to foster geoconservation and an understanding of geoheritage.

The study aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of urban geodiversity and Geotourism from local to international level.

Migration and the Resilience of Cities

Organizer: Brenda Yeoh, National University of Singapore

Urbanward migrations have long been a compelling force in the growth and diversity of cities. In recent decades, migration has become even more visible as part of globalizing cities with substantial care deficits associated with population ageing, or experiencing a shortage of industrial labor. At the same time, cities which are highly dependent on migrant labour are susceptible to disruption and stress in times of pandemic conditions, political emergencies and other global and local crises. This session invites papers focusing on urbanward migration and migrants' productive and reproductive work in the city in both ordinary times and under conditions of crisis. We welcome papers focusing on transition, transformation, continuity and change on the following topics: (a) multiple pathways that migrants use to gain a place in the city, including labor migration, education migration and marriage migration in the light of changing border controls; (b) urban policies governing migrants' integration (or non-integration) into the city; and (c) migrants' roles in and contributions to the resilience of cities in ordinary times and under crisis.

Public policies "up to down" and "bottom up" in the face of climate change

Organizers: Adrián Flores (México), José Becera (Venezuela) Juan Manuel Delgado (Perú)

Cities have faced different adaptation processes over time. Public policies against climate change formulated from international organizations such as UN-Habitat constitute a new challenge for cities. We propose to analyse the different types of social and environmental impacts of climate

change on cities, in relation to public policies formulated from above (top down) and from below (bottom up) to face this global process. The central question of the panel is how is climate change used to advance global agendas at the urban level? To what extent are the solutions contrasted from below, with the solutions proposed from above?

Possible Keynote Speakers



Michael Smith, Arizona State University.
Archeology of Teotihuacan and science of cities



Anna Trono, University of Salento
Urban governance and urban heritage

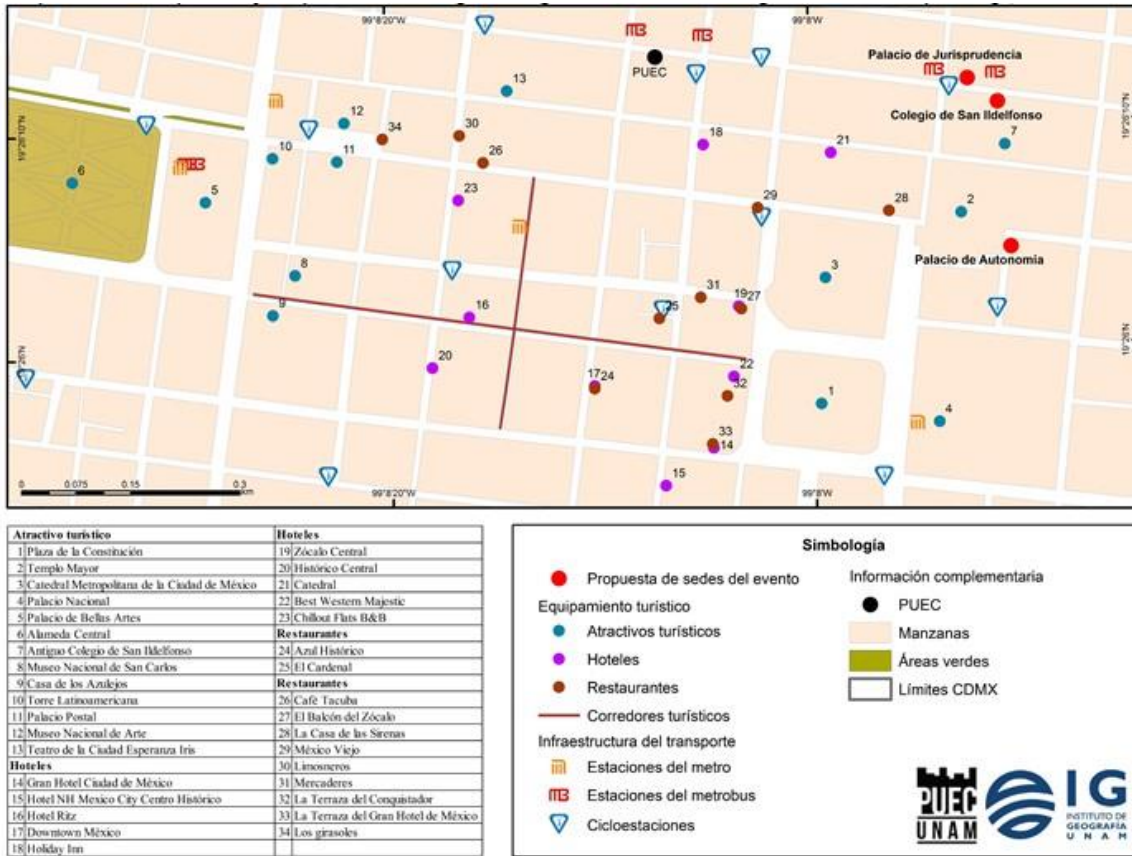
Schedule Proposal

	Sunday 20	Monday 21	Tuesday 22	Wednesday 23	Thursday 24	Friday 25
9.00-10.00		Registration	Registration	Registration	Post-conference Fieldtrip	Post-conference Fieldtrip
10.00-10.30		Inauguration	Session	Session		
10.30-11.00		Keynote speaker				
11.00-11.30		Coffe Break	Coffe Break	Coffe Break		
11.30-12.00						
12.00-12.30		Sessions	Session	Session		
12.30-13.00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
13.00-13.30						
13.30-14.30		Sessions	City Walk	Keynote speaker		
14.30-15.00				Coffe Break		
15.00-15.30				Sessions		
15.30-16.00						
16.00-16.30		Sessions		Close ceremony		
16.30-17.00						
17.00-17.30						
17.30-18.00	IGU Urban Geography Meeting					
18.00-18.30	Welcome Cocktail					
18.30						
19.30				Gala dinner		

Practical organization:

Venue

The sessions will take place in several buildings depending on the number of participants. All of them are in the city centre (see map)



Main façade of the Palace of Autonomy



Source: UNAM Foundation (2018)

Old School of Jurisprudence



Source: UNAM Foundation (2018)

Old Escuela de San Ildefonso



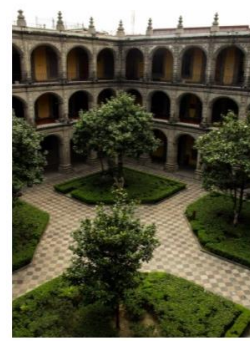
Source: UNAM Foundation (2018)

Access Courtyards, School of San Ildefonso



Source: UNAM Foundation (2018)

Main Courtyard, School of San Ildefonso



Source: UNAM Foundation (2018)

20th August. City Centre

Welcome cocktail: Keynote from the city government & Javier Delgado (UNAM University)

21st UNAM

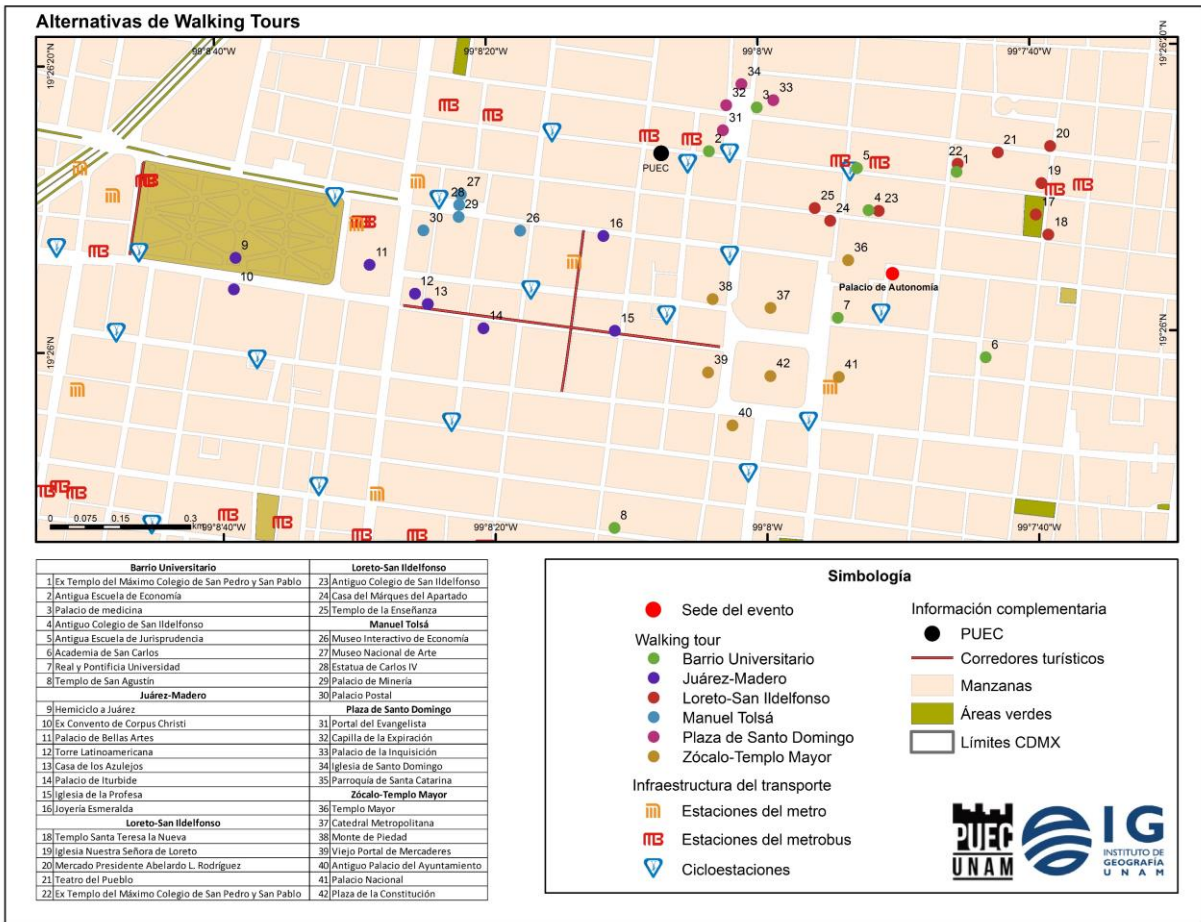
Opening Ceremony: Chair IGU Urban Geography Commission, Manuel Suárez, General Secretary, Humanities Coordinator

22th August. Tour around City Centre

The Historic City Center of Mexico City

- Largest in Latin America
- Cultural Heritage of Humanity on 11 December 1987 by UNESCO
- 9.362 buildings, 37% of which are protected
- 500 million tourist overnight
- 47 hotels
- 101 restaurants
- Transportation options: subway (Metro), Metrobus, taxis and bicycle rental





24th & 25th August. Two daily post conference fieldtrips

Visit to Taxco (1 day)



Visit to Teotihuacan (1 day)



Registration Fees

- Academic: 380 US \$
- Students: 150 US \$
- Gala Dinner: 30 US \$

Possible Support

IGU Urban Geography Commission: 1'000 US \$

Accommodation

Executive	Standard	Economic price
<p>Gran Hotel Ciudad de México granhoteldelaciudademexico.com.mx Av. 16 de Septiembre #82, Col. Centro, Ciudad de México de Luxe room. 1 King size bed: 164 US \$ (\$3,605 MX)</p>	<p>Hotel Best Western Mayestic hotelmajestic.com.mx Madero 73, Col. Centro, Ciudad de México Standard room, twin beds, no smokers 62 US \$, \$1,360 MX Suite 1 King size bed, no smokers 122 US \$, \$2,696 MX</p>	<p>Hostal Amigo hostelamigo.com Isabel la Católica 61-A, Col. Centro, Ciudad de México Double standard room, shared bathroom, 28 US \$, \$623 MX Suite, private bathroom, queen size bed 37 US \$, \$815 MX</p>
<p>Hotel Zócalo Central centralhoteles.com Cinco de Mayo 61, Col. Centro, Ciudad de México Senior room 114 US \$ (\$2,506 MX)</p>	<p>Hotel Punto Mx hotelespuntomx.com República de Uruguay No. 47, Col. Centro, Ciudad de México De Luxe room, 2 double beds 92 US \$, \$2,021 MX</p>	<p>Hostel Mundo Joven Catedral mundojovenhostels.com República de Guatemala No. 4, Col. Centro, Ciudad de México Shared dormitory, mixed dormitory, private bathroom, three single bunk beds 14 US \$, \$302 MX</p>
<p>NH Collection Mexico City CDMX 6000 www.nh.hotels.com.mx Palma 42, Col. Centro, Ciudad de México Premium room 1 bed King size or twin beds (63US \$) \$1,380 MX Superior room 1 bed King size or twin beds (55 US \$) \$1,219 MX Breakfast: (13 US \$) \$289 MX</p>	<p>Hotel Roble hotelroble.com República de Uruguay 109, Col. Centro, Ciudad de México Double room, 1 double bed 37 US \$, \$813 MX Room for 4 persons, 2 double beds 47 US \$, \$1,047 MX</p>	<p>Hotel Juárez hoteljuarez.com.mx 1ª Cerrada de 5 de Mayo No. 17, Col. Centro, Ciudad de México Standard room for two persons (double bed) 21 US \$, \$460 MX</p>

Timing

- November 2022: Call for papers with deadline January 2023
- February to March 2023: Reviews
- April 2023: Sending acceptance of papers and opening of registration
- June 2023: Program published
- August 2023: The meeting

Chairs of the commissions involved

C20.17 Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change	Julie Wilson, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain jwilson2@uoc.edu
C20.18 Geoheritage	Dongying Wei, College of Geography, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 100875, China weidy@bnu.edu.cn
C20.30 Latin American and Caribbean Studies	Juan Manuel Delgado, National University of San Marcos, Faculty of Social Sciences, José Carlos Mariátegui Pavilion, University City – Lima, Perú juanmanueldelgado@gmail.com
C20.37 Population Geography	Darren Smith, School Director of Academic Staffing, Geography and Environment, Loughborough University London, U2 19, Brockington UK D.P.Smith@lboro.ac.uk
C20.42 Urban Commission: Re-Thinking cities and the urban: from the global to the local	Maria Jose Piñeira-Mantiñán, University of Santiago de Compostela, Pza. Universidade 1. Santiago de Compostela, Spain mariajose.pineira@usc.es
C20.15 Geography of Governance	Carlos Nunes Silva , Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Cidade Universitária, Rua Branca Edmée Marques, 1600-276 Lisbon, Portugal cs@campus.ul.pt