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Network-Association
of European
Researchers
on Urbanisation
in the South

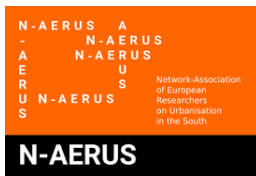
N-AERUS

23rd N-AERUS Conference 2026

The role of partnerships in
development: knowledge,
power, and urban futures

27-29 October 2026

Organised by: Institute for Housing and Urban
Development Studies, International Institute of
Social Studies, and University of Twente



Welcome

Dear participants and presenters,

Welcome to the 23rd N-AERUS Conference 2026!

This year's conference invites us to examine how collaborations shape urban knowledge, policy, and practice amidst shifting institutional landscapes and persistent power asymmetries. As cities confront interconnected challenges such as climate change, socio-economic inequality, migration, and governance transformations, partnerships across academia, government, civil society, and local communities have become increasingly important. Hosted in a unique hybrid and multi-locational format across the Global North and Global South, the conference provides a platform for inclusive, trans-disciplinary dialogue on urban transformations, housing and resilience, governance and development, spatial knowledge and technology, and education and capacity-building partnerships.

We encourage you to actively participate in the discussions, engage with colleagues from diverse disciplines and regions, and explore opportunities for future collaboration. On behalf of the organising committee, we wish you an inspiring, thought-provoking, and productive conference.

The N-AERUS Organising Committee

If you have any questions about the programme or you would like to get in touch with us please feel free to email us at naerus.2026@gmail.com.

Overview

Date		10/27/2026		10/28/2026		10/29/2026
Location	ISS (The Hague) / USP (Online)			IHS (Rotterdam)		ISS (The Hague)
Room	Room 1.31	Room 3.39	Classroom 1&2	Classroom 3	Room 4.01	
NL 9:15 - 10:45	Epistemic Challenges in Spatial Knowledge (link)	Community Knowledge, Water Governance and Climate Innovation (link)	Housing Production and Alternative Housing Models (link)	Decolonising Planning and Community Knowledge (link)	Humanitarian Governance, Displacement and Urban Partnerships (link)	
10:45 - 11:15	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	
11:15 - 12:45	Spatial Data, AI and Urban Knowledge Partnerships (link)	Knowledge Exchange, Capacity Building and Urban Partnerships (link)	Informality, Land and Urban Governance (link)	Climate Resilience and Community Adaptation (link)	Governance, Land, Power and Urban Transformation (link)	
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
13:45 - 15:15	Participatory and Community-Based Spatial Knowledge (link)	Housing Rights and Institutional Frameworks (link)	Urban Futures, Informality and Inclusive Urban Development (link)	Housing Rights, Inclusion and Displacement (link)	Participation, Civic Engagement and Urban Governance (link)	
15:15 - 15:45	Networking	Networking	Break and Networking	Break and Networking	Break and Networking	
15:45 - 17:15			Housing Affordability, Decency and Security (link)	Rethinking Roofs Competition (link)	Closing Round Table: The Role of Partnerships (link)	

IHS	ISS	ITC
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Programme

Tuesday, 27 October hosted at Institute for International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

Block 1, 09:15-10:45

Track A: Epistemic Challenges in Spatial Knowledge

Location: Room 1.31 and [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **When Are Cities Comparable?**
Presented by Reynaldo Hinojosa-Contreras
2. **Borrowed but Filtered: Park(ing) Day Shanghai and Its Politics of Partnerships**
Presented by Ran Ai
3. **Operationalising the WEFE Nexus**
Presented by Daphne Gondhalekar

Track B: Community Knowledge, Water Governance and Climate Innovation

Location: Room 3.39 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

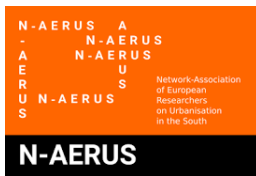
1. **Seeing the Unseen: Community Knowledge in Peri-Urban Water Governance in Sleman**
Presented by Novita Rohmana Putri
2. **The Rate of Adoption of Low Impact Development Concepts in SSA Cities**
Presented by Helene Francis
3. **Tackling Urban Loss and Damage: Cooperation for Knowledge Production, Visibility and Advocacy**
Presented by Franziska Laue

Block 2, 11:15-12:45

Track A: Spatial Data, AI and Urban Knowledge Partnerships

Location: Room 1.31 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Mapping Power: Data Centres, Climate Intelligence, and the Politics of Spatial Knowledge**
Presented by Mahak Agrawal
2. **The Permanence Observatory: Co-producing Spatial Evidence for Housing Rights**
Presented by Jota Samper



3. **IDEAtlas: An Open and User-Centric AI Toolkit**
Presented by Monika Kuffer
4. **Governing Urban Heat Data through Spatial Knowledge Partnerships in Noida**
Presented by Abhishek Kumar Srivastava

Track B: Knowledge Exchange, Capacity Building and Urban Partnerships

Location: Room 3.39 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Challenges and Benefits of Collaborations Between Universities and City Planning Departments**
Presented by Wolfgang Scholz
2. **Nurturing Voluntary, Meaningful and Enduring Urban Reform Coalitions**
Presented by Shuaib Lwasa
3. **The Role of Partnerships in Urban Greening**
Presented by Fikre Kura Gizaw
4. **Global Agendas and Lived Realities: In Search for Urban Contact Zones**
Presented by Ute Vees
5. **Foreign Aid and Skills in Developing Countries: Towards a Holistic Framework of National Skills Development**
Presented by Jamelia Harris

Block 3, 13:45-15:15

Track A: Participatory and Community-Based Spatial Knowledge

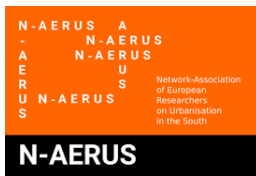
Location: Room 1.31 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Seeing Through Satellites, Streets and Stories**
Presented by Ana Polgár
2. **Multisensory Spatial Memory in Madurai**
Presented by Urvi S. Shanbhag
3. **From Project-Based Cooperation to Institutional Partnerships**
Presented by Ana Mafalda Madureira
4. **Reconfigured Heritage: Spatial Legibility and Fragmentation in Diyarbakır Suriçi**
Presented by Berfin Eren

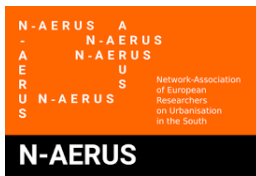
Track B: Housing Rights and Institutional Frameworks

Location: Room 3.39 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **From Camps to Cities: Refugees' Right to Adequate Housing in Ethiopia**
Presented by Laura Colini



2. **Building ICESCR Article 11 Reporting Capacity**
Presented by Madhvi Mehta
3. **Partnerships for Housing Security and Urban Resilience**
Presented by Juliet Chika Chinemelu
4. **Impact of Urbanisation on Housing in India**
Presented by Geeta Nair



Wednesday, 28 October hosted at Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS)

Block 5, 09:15-10:45

Track A: Housing Production and Alternative Housing Models

Location: Classroom 1+2 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Can Affordable Housing Be Delivered Without Large Subsidies?**
Presented by Anthony Boanada-Fuchs
2. **De-commodifying Housing and Institutionalizing Community Agency through PPCP in India**
Presented by Manav Khaire
3. **Institutional Partnership Structures in Iran's Large-Scale Housing Programs**
Presented by Ehsan Moayed
4. **Land Value Capture and Housing Policy in São Paulo**
Presented by Thais Cshunderlick

Track B: Decolonising Planning and Community Knowledge

Location: Classroom 3 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Unlearning Colonial Planning in African Cities**
Presented by Alexander Jachnow
2. **Beyond the Workshop Table: Reimagining Urban Partnerships through Community Knowledge**
Presented by Ngonidzashe Walter Karasambudzi
3. **Learning In Situ: Decolonizing Graduate Education Through Territorial Partnerships**
Presented by Satya Maia Patchineelam
4. **Beyond Collaboration: Urban Partnership Intelligence as a New Paradigm**
Presented by Eric Njeru

Block 6, 11:15-12:45

Track A: Informality, Land and Urban Governance

Location: Classroom 1+2 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Stakeholder Relations and the Crisis of Approach in Buenos Aires**
Presented by Giselle Aguirre
2. **Politics of Space: Whose Land, Whose City?**
Presented by Amey M. Ghosalkar

3. **Shifting Co-production: Basic Service Provision in Buenos Aires Informal Settlements**
Presented by Furio Viotti
4. **When Imagined Partnerships Produce Speculation: Trust, Power and the Politics of Land Pooling in Delhi**
Presented by Vipul Kumar

Track B: Climate Resilience and Community Adaptation

Location: Classroom 3 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Building Housing Resilience through On-Site Upgrading**
Presented by Juan Du
2. **Participatory Mapping and Assessment of Extreme Climate Impacts**
Presented by Surabhi Mehrotra
3. **From Beneficiaries to Knowledge Producers: Community-Enabled Climate Adaptation**
Presented by Samriddhi Mittal
4. **Climate Risk, Informal Housing and Partnerships for Just Adaptation**
Presented by Andrea Rignon

Block 7, 13:45-15:15

Track A: Urban Futures, Informality and Inclusive Urban Development

Location: Classroom 1+2 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Governing Waiting Lands**
Presented by Ying Liu
2. **Resilient Cities, Vulnerable Territories**
Presented by Bruna de Souza Santos
3. **North-South Partnerships for Re-imagining the Future of African Cities**
Presented by Blake Robinson
4. **Inclusive Urban Development via Partnership: A Systematic Literature Review**
Presented by Parsa Arbab
5. **Exploring the Role of Street Network Configuration in Economic Agglomeration**
Presented by Yu Zhou

Track B: Housing Rights and Institutional Frameworks

Location: Classroom 3 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Inclusion as Innovation in Privatized China**
Presented by Colleen Chiu-Shee

2. **Generic Futures: Home-Making, Reconstruction and the Politics of Surplus Populations**
Presented by Anna Mazzolini
3. **Proximity Without Production: Caste and the Absence of Social Infrastructure**
Presented by Rincy Simon
4. **Landscape Artifices in the Reconfiguration of Persistent Socio-Spatial Inequality**
Presented by Mariano Scheinsohn

Block 8, 15:45-17:45

Track A: Housing Affordability, Decency and Security

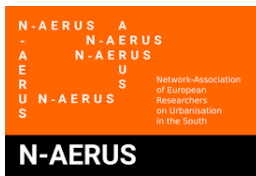
Location: Classroom 1+2 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **The Urban Redevelopment Continuum Challenges in Securing Tenure Rights in Ethiopia**
Presented by Mathewos W. Gebreyesus
2. **Formal Rigidity, Informal Vulnerability**
Presented by Biniam Tekle Biru
3. **Beyond Payment Affordability: Decency-Sensitive Housing Diagnostics**
Presented by Biniam Tekle Biru
4. **Do Climate-Induced Disasters Widen Urban Housing Inequality in Bangladesh?**
Presented by Nayeem Shahriar

Track B: Rethinking Roofs Competition

Location: Classroom 3 & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **1st Place in the Rethinking Roofs Global Competition for his project titled: "Clip-on Cool Layers – A Community-driven retrofit for affordable urban cooling."**
Presented by Bravin Vulimwa
2. **Borrowed Sky: Collective Roofscapes as Thermal Commons in Informal Settlements**
Presented by Yusra Gul



Thursday, 28 October hosted at Institute for International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

Block 9, 09:15-10:45

Humanitarian Governance, Displacement and Urban Partnerships

Location: Room A (4.01) & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Afrophobia, Xenophobia and Humanitarianism in South Africa**
Presented by Dr Chigozie Azunna
2. **From Cluster Coordination to Area-Based Humanitarian Response: Addressing Urban Displacement in Post-War Tigray, Ethiopia**
Presented by Samuel Bekele Jote
3. **Humanitarian Space and Humanitarian Politics in Shelter and Settlement Responses in Tigray, Ethiopia**
Presented by Samuel Bekele Jote
4. **From Humanitarian Assistance to Partnership-Based Urban Governance: Rethinking Knowledge, Power, and Refugee Inclusion in the Rohingya Response of Bangladesh**
Presented by Jannatul Ferdous
5. **Whose Water Counts? Partnership Governance of Water and Nutrition in Protracted Urban Displacement, Kurdistan Region of Iraq**
Presented by Nma Dahir

Block 10, 11:15-12:45

Governance, Land, Power and Urban Transformation

Location: Room A (4.01) & [Microsoft Teams](#)

1. **Bridging the Gap Between Science, Policy, and Practice for Climate Adaptation and Environmental Health**
Presented by Manuela Gutierrez Garcia
2. **Urban Development and Heritage Conservation in Historic Jeddah**
Presented by Alkothar Almodhi
3. **Heritage and Community Resilience: Negotiating Post-Earthquake Recovery in Kathmandu**
Presented by Urmi Sengupta
4. **Constructive Skepticism as Everyday Urban Democracy: Circulating Knowledge through Bottom-up Indonesia's Digital Democratic Innovations**
Presented by Nurul Dwi Purwanti

Block 11, 13:45-15:15

Participation, Civic Engagement and Urban Governance

Location: Room A (4.01) & [Microsoft Teams](#)

- 1. Exploring Civic Engagement in Waste Management: A Case Study of a Village Panchayat in Goa**
Presented by Mohan Kumar Bera
- 2. Planning for Inclusive Urban Streets**
Presented by Shivangi Tripathi
- 3. Beyond the Politics of Optics**
Presented by Pooja Chichkar
- 4. Reflecting on the Past to Build a Better Future**
Presented by Geoffrey Payne
- 5. Negotiating the State: Citizens, Tax Bureaucracy, and Development Partnerships**
Presented by Noor Mohammad Hashmat

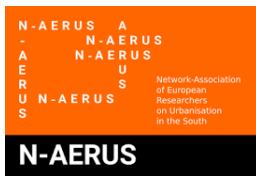
Closing Round Table, 15:45-17:15

The Role of Partnerships

Location: Room A (4.01) & [Microsoft Teams](#)

Speakers (all t.b.c.)

- Alexander Jachnow / Anna Mazzollini (N-AERUS)
- Andrea Rignon / Wolfgang Scholz (N-AERUS)
- One IHS expert (David Dodman / Blake Robinson) (IHS)
- One ISS expert (Shuaib (ISS)
- One ITC expert (Monika Kuffer (ITC)
ev. also Geoffrey Payne



Other events related to Urban October

IHS Urban Research Day

The polycrisis in cities: local recipes for global challenges

Date: passed

Held as part of [UN-Habitat's Urban October initiative](#), this year's Urban Research Day focused on impact-oriented urban research tackling the interconnected global crises facing our world. This event serves as a collaborative platform to explore how urban research can provide meaningful insights, policy interventions, and local practices to counter these systemic shocks.

Urban Transitions

Towards Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Cities

Location: International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

Date: 28 October

Organising institutions

IHS

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Urban Development Studies (IHS)
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