

N-AERUS

Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South

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	Tuesday 10/27/2026		Wednesday 10/28/2026		Thursday 10/29/2026
Location	**ISS (The Hague)**		**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	**Break**	**Break**	**Break**	**Break**	**Break**
15:45 - 17:15	**N-AERUS Meet & Greet**		**Housing Affordability, Decency and Security** (link)	**Rethinking Roofs Competition** (link)	**Closing Round Table: The Role of Partnerships** (link)

IHS	ISS	ITC

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 (online) by Reynaldo Hinojosa-Contreras
2. **Borrowed but Filtered: Park(ing) Day Shanghai and Its Politics of Partnerships**
   Presented (recording) by Ran Ai
3. **Operationalising the WEFE Nexus**
   Presented (online) 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 (online) by Novita Rohmana Putri
2. **The Rate of Adoption of Low Impact Development Concepts in SSA Cities**
   Presented (online) by Helene Francis
3. **Tackling Urban Loss and Damage: Cooperation for Knowledge Production, Visibility and Advocacy**
   Presented (online) 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 (online) by Mahak Agrawal
2. **The Permanence Observatory: Co-producing Spatial Evidence for Housing Rights**
   Presented by (in-person) Monika Kuffer and Jota Samper

3. IDEAtlas: An Open and User-Centric AI Toolkit
   Presented by (in-person) Bedru Tareke
4. Governing Urban Heat Data through Spatial Knowledge Partnerships in Noida
   Presented by (online) Abhishek Kumar Srivastava

Track B: Knowledge Exchange, Capacity Building and Urban Partnerships

Location: Room 3.39 & Microsoft Teams

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

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 (in-person) by Ana Polgár
2. Multisensory Spatial Memory in Madurai
   Presented (online) by Urvi S. Shanbhag
3. From Project-Based Cooperation to Institutional Partnerships
   Presented (online) by Ana Mafalda Madureira
4. Reconfigured Heritage: Spatial Legibility and Fragmentation in Diyarbakır Suriçi
   Presented (online) by Berfin Eren
5. Constructive Skepticism as Everyday Urban Democracy: Circulating Knowledge through Bottom-up Indonesia's Digital Democratic Innovations
   Presented (online) by Nurul Dwi Purwanti

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

Block 4, 15:45-17:15

N-AERUS Meet & Greet

Location: Atrium

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 (in-person) by Anthony Boanada-Fuchs
2. **De-commodifying Housing and Institutionalizing Community Agency through PPCP in India**
   Presented (online) by Manav Khaire
3. **Institutional Partnership Structures in Iran's Large-Scale Housing Programs**
   Presented (online) by Ehsan Moayedi
4. **Land Value Capture and Housing Policy in São Paulo**
   Presented (in-person) by Thais Cshunderlick

Track B: Decolonising Planning and Community Knowledge

Location: Classroom 3 & Microsoft Teams

1. **Unlearning Colonial Planning in African Cities**
   Presented (in-person) by Alexander Jachnow
2. **Beyond the Workshop Table: Reimagining Urban Partnerships through Community Knowledge**
   Presented (online) by Ngonidzashe Walter Karasambudzi
3. **Learning In Situ: Decolonizing Graduate Education Through Territorial Partnerships**
   Presented (in-person) by Satya Maia Patchineelam
4. **Beyond Collaboration: Urban Partnership Intelligence as a New Paradigm**
   Presented (online) 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 (online) by Giselle Aguirre
2. **Politics of Space: Whose Land, Whose City?**
   Presented (online) by Amey M. Ghosalkar

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

Track B: Climate Resilience and Community Adaptation

Location: Classroom 3 & Microsoft Teams

1. **Building Housing Resilience through On-Site Upgrading**
   Presented (online) by Juan Du
2. **Participatory Mapping and Assessment of Extreme Climate Impacts**
   Presented (in-person) by Surabhi Mehrotra
3. **From Beneficiaries to Knowledge Producers: Community-Enabled Climate Adaptation**
   Presented (online) by Samrddhi Mittal
4. **Climate Risk, Informal Housing and Partnerships for Just Adaptation**
   Presented (online) 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 (in-person) by Ying Liu
2. **Resilient Cities, Vulnerable Territories**
   Presented (online) by Bruna de Souza Santos
3. **North-South Partnerships for Re-imagining the Future of African Cities**
   Presented (in-person) by Blake Robinson
4. **Inclusive Urban Development via Partnership: A Systematic Literature Review**
   Presented (online) by Parsa Arbab
5. **Exploring the Role of Street Network Configuration in Economic Agglomeration**
   Presented (in-person) by Yu Zhou

Track B: Housing Rights and Institutional Frameworks

Location: Classroom 3 & Microsoft Teams

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

2. Generic Futures: Home-Making, Reconstruction and the Politics of Surplus Populations
   Presented (in-person) by Anna Mazzolini
3. Proximity Without Production: Caste and the Absence of Social Infrastructure
   Presented (online) by Rincy Simon
4. Landscape Artifices in the Reconfiguration of Persistent Socio-Spatial Inequality
   Presented (in-person) 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 (in-person) by Mathewos W. Gebreyesus
2. Formal Rigidity, Informal Vulnerability
   Presented (in-person) by Biniam Tekle Biru
3. Beyond Payment Affordability: Decency-Sensitive Housing Diagnostics
   Presented (in-person) by Biniam Tekle Biru
4. Do Climate-Induced Disasters Widen Urban Housing Inequality in Bangladesh?
   Presented (online) by Nayeem Shahriar

Track B: Rethinking Roofs Competition

Location: Classroom 3 & Microsoft Teams

1. Rethinking Roofs Global Competition
   Presented (in-person) by Satya Patchineelam and Anthony Boanada-Fuchs
2. 1st Place Winner for his project titled: "Clip-on Cool Layers – A Community-driven retrofit for affordable urban cooling."
   Presented (online) by Bravin Vulimwa
3. Borrowed Sky: Collective Roofscapes as Thermal Commons in Informal Settlements
   Presented (in-person) 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 (in-person) by Dr Chigozie Azunna
2. **From Cluster Coordination to Area-Based Humanitarian Response: Addressing Urban Displacement in Post-War Tigray, Ethiopia**
   Presented (online) by Samuel Bekele Jote and Laura Colini
3. **Humanitarian Space and Humanitarian Politics in Shelter and Settlement Responses in Tigray, Ethiopia**
   Presented (online) 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 (online) by Jannatul Ferdous
5. **Whose Water Counts? Partnership Governance of Water and Nutrition in Protracted Urban Displacement, Kurdistan Region of Iraq**
   Presented (online) by Nma Dhahir

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 (in-person) by Manuela Gutierrez Garcia
2. **Urban Development and Heritage Conservation in Historic Jeddah**
   Presented (in-person) by Alkothar Almodhi
3. **Heritage and Community Resilience: Negotiating Post-Earthquake Recovery in Kathmandu**
   Presented (online) by Urmi Sengupta

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 (online) by Mohan Kumar Bera
2. **Planning for Inclusive Urban Streets**
   Presented (online) by Shivangi Tripathi
3. **Beyond the Politics of Optics**
   Presented (online) by Pooja Chichkar
4. **Reflecting on the Past to Build a Better Future**
   Presented (online) by Geoffrey Payne
5. **Negotiating the State: Citizens, Tax Bureaucracy, and Development Partnerships**
   Presented (in-person) by Noor Mohammad Hashmat

Closing Round Table, 15:45-17:15

The Role of Partnerships

Location: Room A (4.01) & Microsoft Teams

Other events related to Urban October

Reclaiming Our Home: Urban Transitions in Africa

Book presentation, panel discussion and photography exhibition

Location: International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Aula B
Date: 28 October, 15:00-17:30

African cities are undergoing profound transformations, shaped by rapid urbanization, climate change, economic developments and shifting social dynamics. But what do these changes mean for the people who call these cities home? And how can local communities reclaim urban spaces and shape more inclusive and sustainable futures?

Professor Shuaib Lwasa (ISS) and Dr Mandipa Bongiwe Ndlovu (Leiden University) will explore these questions at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, drawing on their recently published co-edited book, Urban Transitions in Africa: Opportunities and Complexities . Drawing on insights from the book, they will explore the complexities of urban transformations across Africa and the opportunities these present for more inclusive and sustainable futures. Following the presentation, a panel conversation will bring together diverse perspectives to discuss what it means to reclaim urban space in practice, and whose voices and experiences shape the future of African cities.

The event can also be followed online. Please register to receive the link. Learn more here.

IHS Urban Research Day: The polycrisis in cities: local recipes for global challenges

Date: passed

On 8 October, the IHS Urban Research Day 2026 brought together researchers, practitioners, and students to discuss how cities can respond to the growing urban polycrisis. Organised as part of Urban October, this year's event centred on the theme “The polycrisis in cities: local recipes for global challenges”, showcasing research that examines how interconnected challenges such as climate change, inequality, governance fragmentation and urbanisation are reshaping cities across the world. Across four thematic sessions, presenters explored new frameworks, practical interventions and governance approaches aimed at building more resilient, equitable and liveable urban futures. The day

concluded with a panel discussion reflecting on how community knowledge, research and global commitments can be translated into meaningful action.

Organising institutions

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