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DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
SEMINAR

CO-ORGANISED WITH MSSC IN GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY PROGRAMME



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Local Policy Actors and Global Policies: Using Circulating Models for Coalition Building in Latin American Cities

ABSTRACT

Research on policy mobilities has tended to focus on what moves (policy models, templates) and who moves them (consultants, international organisations), with less attention paid to the relational politics of grounding dominant ideas in local policymaking. The ‘demand side’ at the end of the mobilisation process (local authorities and policy actors) is usually depicted as passive and having stable interests. This assumption is problematic as it can reinforce taken-for-granted power asymmetries in the flow of urban policy ideas, particularly in cases where cities in the Global North are presented as ‘exporting sites’ for a Global South audience of ‘importing sites’. Drawing on the concept of policy ideas as ‘coalition magnets’, this paper demonstrates how local policies are relationally produced by cosmopolitan policy actors on the ‘demand side’ who strategically mobilise circulating ideas as a tool for coalition building. It provides a relational comparative study of Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro’s policy processes and urban outcomes in mobilising the Barcelona model of urban regeneration and strategic planning, drawing on evidence from interviews, document analysis and the biographies of key actors. It demonstrates the strategic importance of mobile policies for emerging political actors who employ them as a ‘coalition magnet’ to build support for their governments.

LANGUAGE

English

DATE

28 Jan 2021 (Thu)

TIME

4:30 – 6:00 pm (GMT+8)

ZOOM MEETING

ID: 973 6037 5790

[https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/
97360375790](https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/97360375790)

(no password required)

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Gabriel Silvestre is Lecturer of Urban Studies and Planning and director of the programme MSc Cities and Global Development at University of Sheffield. He received his PhD in Planning Studies from University College London. His research focuses on the broad theme of circulating urban ideas, which includes the historical analysis of planning as a discipline and practice in Latin American cities, the contemporary mobility of policy models and how actors mobilize ideas to shape the policy process. His work on the circulation of policy knowledge between Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona has been published in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

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