



MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

CO-PRODUCTION IN ACTION:
TOWARDS REALISING JUST CITIES



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FOREWORD

Thomas Rosswall

CHAIR, BOARD OF
MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

The world faces many challenges – challenges which can become opportunities if we base decisions on the best available knowledge. The knowledge-gathering process must include dialogues involving all sectors of society. Political processes are important, but not sufficient, to address major issues such as urbanisation and the development of fair, green and accessible cities. Politicians should base decisions not only on scientific, but also on other types of knowledge and experiences. It is no longer enough to rely on science-policy platforms and processes, but necessary to develop transdisciplinary approaches that involve the major players in society in defining problems, carrying out and disseminating research, and implementing the results. Through such a process, policies can become wiser, more evidence-based – ‘owned’ by both civil society and the private sector. Many talk about the need for transdisciplinary approaches, but most only pay lip-service to the idea at best.

Mistra Urban Futures is an excellent example of a transdisciplinary research programme moving from concept to implementation. It is based on transdisciplinary research on cities in both the Global North and South. But it is more than a set of individual initiatives. It engages not only at the local level but also globally, for example with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable – discussed in Chapters 2 and 4 of this book. In particular, Mistra Urban Futures has initiated research on the indicators that will measure development of the ten targets for SDG 11. Thus, the programme bridges local transdisciplinary approaches with the global, expressed in the UN's *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in an outstanding way.

This book describes the process of establishing Mistra Urban Futures, how it has helped develop the concept of transdisciplinary research in practice, and the challenges it has encountered to date. On behalf of the Board, I congratulate Mistra Urban Futures on its achievements and welcome this publication which describes in accessible terms for diverse audiences how science, carried out in an inclusive way, can help us achieve sustainable urban developments.

CO-PRODUCTION IN ACTION: TOWARDS REALISING JUST CITIES

Henrietta Palmer
David Simon

Some years ago, in several cities on different continents, groups of people started to organise themselves differently – beyond their institutional frameworks – to create knowledge about how cities possibly could evolve in the future using co-production approaches. They began to share their insights across continents, learning from each other what particular local contexts could offer. These knowledge-transferring group of people grew into the unique international collaboration that is Mistra Urban Futures.

If you are interested in how urban change can work towards realising a more just society in a world as challenged and challenging as ours, this book will take you one step in that direction. Its contributors share their stories of how they developed, and are constantly reworking, their methods for addressing the complexities of the urban environment. This book will not give you the answers to what could be a sustainable solution to a specific urban problem, but it will take you into a discussion of how possibly to create new knowledge for difficult emerging urban challenges.

More and more frequently it is said that complex urban issues need a transdisciplinary approach – in other words, bringing academic and other researchers and stakeholders together in joint teams. However, this is a challenging way of doing research. Challenging for the collaborating institutions bound by traditional formal plans and work descriptions. Challenging for research agendas that are not able to address a multi-stakeholder approach, and above all, challenging for participants who need to step out of both institutional and individual comfort zones.

So, this is also a book for people who are curious about transdisciplinary research – what new knowledge it could offer society and how to go about it. It captures the voices of those who have made discoveries – as well as mistakes – while exploring what transdisciplinary research and co-production might mean, as they embarked on new ways of learning and working.

Along with more traditional causes, the effects of climate change and geopolitical conflicts are forcing more and more people from the places they call home into unknown territories. Over 65 million – the highest number ever recorded – are currently on the move across the planet. Most, inevitably, will settle in towns

and cities, and contribute to their ongoing transformation. However, the dynamics underlying today's urban transformations seem to perpetuate an already unequal world. With this book, Mistra Urban Futures seeks to contribute to the emerging field of transdisciplinary urban research with the potential to open new pathways towards more just cities. It is also the starting point for Mistra Urban Futures' new comparative research agenda of framing sustainability with the dimension of urban justice.

This book is composed of six chapters – each produced collaboratively, often building upon previous co-produced research, reports or policy briefs. In Chapter 1, Mistra Urban Futures as a research centre is explained – how it came about, its visions, how it works, is constructed and funded. In Chapter 2, the local platforms comprising Mistra Urban Futures discuss together the reasons for their respective institutional partnerships and what have they learned so far in terms of how to organise around new transdisciplinary knowledge production. Chapter 3 addresses our transdisciplinary approach to co-production from the perspectives and experiences of all stakeholders involved. In Chapter 4 we look at sustainable urbanisation in practice through a selection of the work done to date, and end by setting out the Centre's new agenda of how to *Realise Just Cities*. Chapter 5 picks up this challenge and provides us with some background regarding the literature on just cities, as well as a discussion of what urban justice might imply at each of the local platforms. In Chapter 6 the Mistra Urban Futures PhD students meet in a fictional conversation about what it is like to be engaged in collaborative projects or co-produced research during their doctoral studies. Finally, we end with a comprehensive list of Mistra Urban Futures' projects to date.

Ultimately, this publication acts as a bridge between the first phase of Mistra Urban Futures' research and development, focused within the specific contexts of each platform, and our new challenge of carrying out comparative urban research through co-production across our platforms. Drawing on the lessons of experience and good practice, we will work to advance and actively contribute to urban transition processes and the realisation of just and sustainable cities now and for the future.

JUST URBAN RESEARCH?

Beth Perry

Coalitions and movements, campaigns and debate
 Are needed to challenge the market and state.
 Responsibility:
 Holding those to account who wield power and influence,
 Resources to flaunt.
 Grassroots action alone can't work on its own –
 We must speak back to power to shift the tone and
 content of policy;
 Get inside the hive mind,
 See how it ticks,
 And through knowledge then find
 Pathways to transform;
 Different ways of seeing,
 Modes of collaboration,
 Not individual me-ing.

In interviews, focus groups, out on the street
 The same things come back from the people we meet.
 We hear change is needed; the themes are the same.
 Nomenclature morphs but what's in a name?
 Let's find common ground with values that matter –
 One thousand flowers bloom whilst communities scatter.
 Top down, bottom up, different but the same –
 Each side all too focused with playing their game.
 Rival sides of the fence that make us overlook that,
 sometimes, at least
 It's the same book we're writing;
 Same things we are citing;
 Same problems to fix in this complex mix;
 This fractured world in which insults are hurled
 Across the divide between them and us,
 Local and global,
 As if we weren't all standing here on the same planet.

These issues concern structure, practice and forms
 But leave to one side the question of norms.
 We don't want consensus but passion and vim.
 We don't have to sing the exact same hymn.
 But what is the heart of a collective endeavour linking global
 and local, state citizen together?

Step back from bureaucracy in the committee.
 Let's pay attention to the 'Right to the City'!
 Justice in procedures, increasing distribution,
 Diversity, difference, tolerance, recognition.
 Signs of hope blossom;
 Excitement abounds that there are alternatives
 doing the rounds:
 Sharing, learning, circularity,
 Degrowth, participation
 Increase in popularity.
 Micro-finance, crowd-sourced greening
 Give sustainability back its meaning.
 Biospheric vertical farming
 Make industrial landscapes charming.

Asset-based development through community hubs,
 Whether cafés, health centres, allotments or pubs.
 Arts-based action for social cohesion
 Transforming places through cultural infusion.
 Releasing individuals' inherent creativity
 By boosting their ideas in a tide of festivity.

A spectrum of initiatives in search of the 'real' –
Prefiguring the ways we might re-make the deal
Between power and people, people and planet.

Social, ecological, spatial –
Let's bring down bastions of palatial ignorance
Which construct the world as divisible,
Leaving possibilities and hope invisible.
Resilience, inclusiveness and valuing community:
Such things demand justice with impunity.

So far so good, but what happens now?
Course of action determined, the question is how?
If pathways seem fixed, huge efforts required,
Let's find new ways to get inspired –
Not carrots or sticks with targets to measure
But social innovation to merge purpose with pleasure.

Skills and expertise, an engaged university,
Connected epistemological diversity.
Respecting boundaries, avoiding co-optation
Whilst making space for reflexive cogitation.
Call it what you will: co-creation, co-production;
Feedback loops between theory and action.
Looking for the gaps, interstitial cracks,
Where understanding flourishes through learning to the max.

Complex problems, wicked issues: integration needed
Between our siloed worlds; a search for wisdom seeded.
Evidence-led policy, not policy-led evidence –
We need critique with constructive benevolence.

To make this work needs funding innovations
Challenging the rules and changing expectations.
At the univer-city coalface – no chance of getting bored
In making complex partnerships – high risk but high reward.
So thanks to our funders for matters financial –
From Mistra Urban Futures support has been substantial.
Research Councils UK, Connected Communities
Making local culture matter with creative intermediaries.
Now ESRC is joining the game:
With 'Urban Transformations' they add their name.

Let's direct research towards this vision
Forging impact with excellence to underpin the mission.
Governance, justice, co-production –
A transformative triad with global traction
Research and practice, the punchline's unsurprising
What we need is a collective uprising.

Animated version:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSm_VGE_IPc

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES: A NEW SPACE FOR KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

KESUNU LOCAL INTERACTION PLATFORM (KLIP) ECOTOURISM 4
JULY 25th - 27th 2013

ECOTOURISM IN THE DIGITAL CENTURY



Sustainable Stories

MISTRA **URBAN FUTURES**
KESUNU LOCAL INTERACTION PLATFORM (KLIP)



MARKET PLACES PROTOTYPES
Knowledge Transfer Prog



Converting Water Hyacinth
Approach



**JAM &
JUSTICE**

Co-producing Urban
Governance for Social I

MISTRA Urban Futures
KESUNU LOCAL INTERACTION PLATFORM

Stadsnära
Hur skapar vi för



KOMMERSEN 2.0

KULTURANALYTISKT PLANERINGSUNDERLAG
NORRA MASTHUGGET

1

**STATE/
SOCIETY
SYNERGY**

in Philippi, Cape Town

programme

**SOCIAL
RESEARCH &
REFLEXIVITY**

CONTENT,
CONSEQUENCE
AND CONTEXT

to Briquettes: A Beach Community Based



matproduktion
utsättningar för lokal mat?

Active Naturally programme
Salford

FunkTek

Funktek forskningsrapport

ALLA
VILL GÅ
PÅ MUSEUM

ING IN THE RIVER CITY
THINKING PLACE AND PROCESS



MISTRA
**URBAN
FUTURES**

gramme

1 MISTRA URBAN FUTURES: A NEW SPACE FOR KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Principal author: Mikael Cullberg

Mistra Urban Futures is an international Centre which actively addresses one of today's key societal challenges: how can sustainable urban development be achieved? The Centre aims to contribute towards making a real difference to people's lives in cities and the urban environment. We are a space for debate, exchange and collaboration, for co-producing and sharing knowledge, through cooperation between research institutions, local and regional government and other public bodies, civil society and business.

Our objective is to tackle challenges where Mistra Urban Futures can make a distinctive contribution through local and international comparative research. The Centre's overarching aim is to generate new knowledge and understanding through its *Local Interaction Platforms* or LIPs. There are currently five local interaction platforms: one in the United Kingdom (Sheffield–Manchester, formerly Greater Manchester),¹ one in South Africa (Cape Town), one in Kenya (Kisumu) and two in Sweden (Gothenburg and Skåne, the country's southernmost region, centred on Malmö and Lund).

At the *Local Interaction Platforms*, multi-stakeholder teams work as a group throughout the research process. We bring together cross-sector actors from research, practice and governance who co-produce knowledge and understanding that promote a transition to *Just Cities* – cities which are accessible, green and fair. *Local Interaction Platforms* provide a space outside established structures

1) At the time of writing, the Sheffield-Manchester LIP was still being reformulated within the Mistra Urban Futures family. Authors and interviewees refer throughout the publication to its predecessor, *Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform* (GMLIP).

2) Abrahamsson, H. 2013 *Power and Dialogue in Just and Socially Sustainable Swedish Cities*, a concept paper for the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions and for the research network 'Social Sustainability and Social Disintegration in Scandinavian Cities' (SSSDSC) at the Universities of Copenhagen, Malmö, Gothenburg, Oslo and Bergen, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, 2013.

and hierarchies where participants can address the issues and challenges within and between cities, to promote the transition towards the Centre's objective of *Realising Just Cities* – the theme of Mistra Urban Futures' first annual conference in September 2016.

Co-production means both learning *from* one another and learning *with* one another – not a single method, but rather an approach that can be implemented in many different ways depending on a specific context. This approach will be explored in detail throughout this publication, especially in Chapters 3 and 6. Our knowledge co-production is built on communicative, organisational and financial cooperation that goes beyond individual knowledge creation processes and projects.

WHY DOES SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT MATTER?

The majority of the world's population now lives in areas defined as urban. Forecasts estimate that the global urban population will have doubled within the next 30 to 40 years. By then another 3.2 billion people will have become urbanised. But the geography of poverty will change. The mass of the world's poor will no longer live in the rural areas of poor countries. While many will remain in poverty, to a far greater extent they will live in the cities of middle- and high-income nations. Urbanisation is intensifying and the number of people living in inadequate housing will soon reach 1,000 million. Such uneven development creates new social tensions between different communities and authorities.

Globalisation, migration and urbanisation – interlinked and mutually reinforcing – are having a significant impact on the transformation of societies and cities.² The process of globalisation is making the world increasingly interconnected in many dimensions. Developments in communications and transport systems are contributing to rising individual mobility. People are in transit, on the move, and a growing number experience their daily lives in many places at once. Migration has become increasingly critical at all geographical scales, but particularly in urban

environments as migrants arrive seeking new opportunities. At the same time, their vulnerability to the oppression, exploitation and lack of respect for human rights that tend to follow in the wake of migration is growing, too.

THE GLOBAL IN THE LOCAL

The complexity and new patterns of conflict that characterise current societal transformations take shape and are articulated at the local level. This process has changed the role of the nation state, which has opened new room for action in local political decision-making. The growing presence of the global in local contexts has brought issues of democracy, opportunities for political participation and co-production to the fore.

In the Global North, the uneven trajectory of development, made worse by globalisation, has acquired a significant influence on the possibilities for justice and social sustainability, though to a different extent than elsewhere in the world. Cities are playing an ever greater role in the global and national governance necessary for sustainable development. Meanwhile, growing income and health gaps mean that cities are in danger of experiencing increasing internal fractures and becoming arenas for social conflict.

Urban challenges are complex and cut across multiple sectors, disciplines and cultures which need to find responses and solutions through co-operation and collaboration. Despite this, challenges are still managed within traditional organisational structures in local government, regional agencies, research institutions and universities. It is fair to say that society is still not structured to handle these challenges. It fails to stimulate wide-ranging interdisciplinary, collaborative cross-sector co-operation. The established expert-driven model where professionals create supposedly objective facts or truths which are subsequently used to support decision-making and action is also insufficient. Knowledge must be drawn upon from both research and practice.

THE MISTRA URBAN FUTURES STORY

In 2008 *Mistra*, the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, issued an open call to Swedish universities to form a consortium with non-university partners to develop proposals to create a full-scale research centre for sustainable urban development. The new centre would be based in Sweden, but have a number of local platforms in different parts of the world. This motivated the formation of the *Gothenburg Consortium* of seven partners which, alongside universities and research institutions, included public authorities at local, metropolitan and regional levels and went on to win the *Mistra* bid in 2009. The new *Mistra Urban Futures* Centre was hosted at Chalmers University of Technology, one of the consortium members. Soon after, *Sida*, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, joined the initiative as a co-funder for urban research in Africa. *Mistra* committed its support to *Mistra Urban Futures* for ten years from 2010, conditional on a mid-term review and matched funding from the partners of the Centre.

While developing its call for a centre on sustainable urban development, *Mistra* had invited members of the University of Salford's *Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures* (SURF) in the UK to be part of the process. SURF's excellent and relevant inter-disciplinary research and practice helped shape the development of the Centre. Subsequent exchange visits with Gothenburg Consortium partners formed the basis of a lasting collaboration. In the early phase of the *Mistra Urban Futures* Centre, SURF initiated an international comparative project, *Governance and Policy for Sustainability* (GAPS), and in 2011 the Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform (GMLIP) was established.

EVOLVING AND EXPANDING

Now that two platforms had begun to be established in Europe, a search began for locations outside the Global North to create similar platforms. Researchers and students from Chalmers University of Technology had

been working in the rapidly-growing port city of Kisumu, Kenya, on the shores of Lake Victoria, since 2006.

The support of the *Kisumu Action Team* (KAT), a civil society stakeholder group established by the City of Kisumu, meant a solid local anchoring for the platform in the city. Elsewhere on the continent, in South Africa, Sida had been funding programmes at the University of Cape Town for several years. Sida proposed that the university's newly established *African Centre for Cities* (ACC) be the base for a LIP concerned with urban issues at local and regional level in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Efforts were made, as well, to establish a LIP in China. Chalmers University and Tongji University in Shanghai already had an existing agreement for a dual masters degree in architecture studies when Mistra Urban Futures was established, while the City of Gothenburg and Shanghai had sister-city arrangements in place. Shanghai seemed the obvious location, then, for a LIP and, along with Gothenburg, Kisumu and Greater Manchester, was part of the application to Mistra's original call for proposals. However, attempts to set up a LIP in Shanghai were later abandoned. Several reasons lie behind this failure, but at its core lies the institutional difficulty of undertaking transdisciplinary co-production in the Chinese context.

While in Gothenburg the Consortium and its associated partners were established as a group from the start, the evolution of the LIPs in Greater Manchester and Cape Town took place over two phases. The first step developed strong local platforms at the universities, encompassing collaboration and knowledge sharing through joint meetings, initiating the international, cross-LIP pilot project, *Governance and Policy for Sustainability* mentioned above, and collaboration on co-production. The second step focused on bringing about a deeper collaboration with the city authorities. The Kisumu LIP, on the other hand, was built on an established relationship with the city authorities and other local actors.

BEGINNING TO WORK WITH CO-PRODUCTION

The early days of Mistra Urban Futures in Gothenburg saw the start of five pilot projects to test different ways of working with co-production. Spirits were positive and many were curious about the new Centre and the idea that 'everyone is a knowledge producer'. But this interest raised expectations and put pressure on the participating researchers and staff of the Centre. The size and complexity of the operation were also underestimated, which led to diverse and somewhat disparate ideas of the Centre's role and priorities, a disconnect highlighted in an independent start-up review in 2011.

The experiences from the pilot projects in Gothenburg, the activities in Greater Manchester and Cape Town and the start-up review informed Mistra Urban Futures' Strategic Plan for 2012–2015. Focusing on fair, green and dense cities, it aimed to represent different aspects of sustainable urban development practice and research, and encompass the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, environmental, and economic – applied to urban challenges. In addition, the programme was based on the principle of the co-production of knowledge packaged and disseminated in user-friendly ways. With hindsight, the plan was overly ambitious – and difficult to live up to!

PARTNERSHIPS AND CREATING NEW SPACES

However, outcome studies carried out at all LIPs in 2014 found that Mistra Urban Futures had successfully operated as a facilitator of networking and interaction and demonstrated its potential to generate further positive impacts. Increased engagement among partners and stakeholders was reported from all the platforms, while individual and institutional learning had been significant through Mistra Urban Futures' programmes. The embedded researchers and city officials in Cape Town, the PhD students in Kisumu, and the practitioners and policy-makers in Gothenburg and Manchester all found the opportunity valuable for learning through access to new research questions, practical experience, reflection and exchange of knowledge.

Across these very different cities, Mistra Urban Futures has also contributed to creating new spaces for institutional learning and transforming the existing structures and processes of universities and other partner organisations.

Through Mistra Urban Futures, new partnerships have been built at five LIPs, described in more detail below. Working methods, processes and structures have been adapted in response to feedback and knowledge gained during the evaluation process. All the LIPs had similar experiences with co-production: it takes time and requires careful management of the expectations of all parties involved, experiences described more fully in Chapter 3. Other lessons learned include the need for extended partnerships and a more focused thematic approach. The key results and learnings from projects are presented in Chapter 4.

A NEW FRAMEWORK: REALISING JUST CITIES

In 2015 a new strategic concept – an international collaborative framework – was defined for Mistra Urban Futures. Its overarching aim was a commitment to work towards *Realising Just Cities* – cities that are accessible, green and fair, three core characteristics of sustainable cities explored at length in the Centre’s flagship book, *Rethinking Sustainable Cities*. The concept of *Realising Just Cities* is intended both as a provocation across research and practice, and a contested set of ideas to engage debate: ‘What do just cities look like in different urban contexts?’ and ‘How might just cities be realised in different urban contexts?’ The hope is that organising knowledge in urban areas around Mistra Urban Futures’ Local Interaction Platforms and practising co-production and comparative urban research will actively contribute towards the realisation of just cities. Just how we proceed with this new agenda at Mistra Urban Futures is explored in Chapter 5.

WHO WE ARE:

LOCAL INTERACTION PLATFORMS

A distinctive feature of Mistra Urban Futures is its international network of local platforms established to extend understanding of the very different urban sustainability challenges and approaches to knowledge co-production in the Global North and Global South. These platforms create a base for making an impact locally as well as globally. Each *Local Interaction Platform* contributes to common goals and uses co-production methods in research that respond to local priorities and contexts.

The beginning of Mistra Urban Futures’ activities saw the establishment of the Gothenburg, Cape Town, Greater Manchester and Kisumu *Local Interaction Platforms*. More recently we expanded our partnerships in Sweden with the establishment of a platform in Skåne, and extended our UK base to include the Sheffield city-region, transforming the Greater Manchester LIP into the Sheffield–Manchester LIP. The activities and structures of these Local Interaction Platforms are described below.

GOTHENBURG

LOCAL INTERACTION PLATFORM (GOLIP)

The Gothenburg region, which consists of thirteen municipalities joined in a regional association, had a population approaching one million inhabitants by the end of 2015. The commuting area, or labour market region, comprises another seven municipalities with a population of over a quarter of a million people. This can be compared to the 2.2 million population of Greater Stockholm. The largest municipality is the City of Gothenburg, with 548,000 inhabitants. While the inner urbanised area spreads across four municipalities, a large part of the thirteen municipalities is rural – even substantial parts within the boundaries of the City of Gothenburg.

Critical urban challenges in the Gothenburg city-region identified and defined by academic and non-academic partners include segregation and social polarisation, climate change and insufficient infrastructure. On the governance side can be added a fragmented city-regional level, with several parallel public authorities. The opportunities include significant public land ownership, an independent municipal level with its own resources, long-standing collaborations between the public and private sectors and academia, and a well-established city-regional collaboration on planning and urban development.

The main threat to socially sustainable development is the challenge of increased polarisation (or segregation). The lack of varied types of housing in the different urban districts is one of a number of reasons for the growth of polarisation. Gothenburg faces comparatively large problems from segregation, mainly segregation between areas. For people born in Sweden the chances of having a foreign-born neighbour are 16%, but for someone born abroad, they are 39%. From 1992 to 2011, the average individual income per year in the richest district increased by SEK 314,000, whereas it decreased by SEK 10,000 in the poorest part of town. Life expectancy for women

is 7.5 years longer and for men 9.1 years longer in affluent areas compared to the most deprived.³

The *Gothenburg Local Interaction Platform* has been able to offer an environment for both initiating projects and networks, and for communicating results and findings. Major research themes include social integration connected to governance and spatial form; sustainable urban lifestyles, wellbeing and climate change, urban station communities, urban–rural connections and urban agriculture, with culture and heritage in sustainable urban development evolving as a promising new research area.

GOLIP

Partnership

City of Gothenburg
Gothenburg Region Association of Municipalities
Region Västra Götaland
County Administration of Västra Götaland
Chalmers University of Technology (host)
University of Gothenburg
IVL Swedish Environment Institute
SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden
Swedish Transport Administration
White Arkitekter

Governance structure

The Platform Director and Co-ordinator, supported by the Centre secretariat, collaborate closely with representatives (co-ordinators) of all ten partners in planning and developing the platform. Co-ordinators dedicate a substantial part of their time to the Platform. Project leaders of some 20 projects meet regularly with LIP leadership and secretariat.

Budget 2016

Total SEK 30m, of which 23m is cash and 7m in-kind contributions. Of the cash funding, 14m is provided by Mistra Foundation and the ten partners and 9m is external funds.

3) Ed. Lundquist, Å. with Bergsten, J., Forsberg, M., Kulin, L., Lilled, L. and Molin, P. *Rapport 2014: "Skillnader i livsvillkor och hälsa i Göteborg"*, Social Resursförvaltning, City of Gothenburg.

CAPE TOWN

LOCAL INTERACTION PLATFORM (CTLIP)

Cape Town, the second largest city in South Africa, has a population of about four million people. There are high levels of poverty and inequality, with an estimated 220,000 households living in informal dwellings without adequate access to basic services. In addition, Cape Town is located in an environmentally sensitive region that is particularly at risk in terms of climate change and resource constraints.

The African Centre for Cities (ACC) was established in 2007 as an urban research institute at the University of Cape Town, with a mission to facilitate critical urban research on the Global South from an African perspective. The following year ACC launched its *CityLab Programme* to work with the City of Cape Town, Western Cape Provincial Government and other stakeholders on co-producing policy-relevant research and research-informed policies for the Cape Town city-region. As a result of its experience in knowledge co-production, in 2010 Mistra Urban Futures invited ACC to join and anchor a *Cape Town Local Interaction Platform (CTLIP)*. ACC continues to anchor CTLIP and has memoranda of understanding with the City of Cape Town and Western Cape Provincial Government regarding collaboration in the platform.

The *CityLab Programme* was one of the core elements of CTLIP at the start of the Mistra Urban Futures programme. In 2012, another major initiative, the *Knowledge Transfer Programme*, began. The first phase embedded four ACC researchers in different departments across the City of Cape Town administration for three years. Using a knowledge co-production approach, researchers worked on key issues of urban sustainability. In turn, six city officials per year came to ACC to document and disseminate their practical knowledge and experiences related to these priorities, receiving guidance and support in writing and publishing their accounts of policy development.

A third aspect of CTLIP's activities focused on contributing to poverty reduction in Africa through facilitating the development of urban research centres across

the continent and disseminating urban policy knowledge of relevance to Africa through the *UrbanAfrica.Net* web portal. Its next phase hopes to continue with these three core activities, but to reshape and restructure them around the themes of socio-spatial, socio-cultural and socio-ecological transformation.

CTLIP

Partnership

African Centre for Cities (ACC) at University of Cape Town (host)
City of Cape Town
Western Cape Provincial Government

Governance structure

The CTLIP Director, Co-ordinator and core researchers work for ACC. There is a Project Steering Committee for the Knowledge Transfer Programme, composed of two members from ACC and two from the City of Cape Town. Regular meetings take place between the ACC and the Western Cape Provincial Government.

Budget 2016

Total SEK 7.6m, of which 7m is cash and SEK 600,000 is local in-kind funding. Of the cash funding, SEK 1.5m is provided by Mistra, SEK 2.2m by Sida and SEK 3.3m by local co-funding.

SHEFFIELD–MANCHESTER

LOCAL INTERACTION PLATFORM (SMLIP)

What began as the *Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform* (GMLIP) grew from the long-standing relationships, networks and intellectual lineage of the research centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF) at the University of Salford in Greater Manchester.

The GMLIP programme focused on how addressing urban sustainability challenges in the city-region required different forms of knowledge and skills. At the time, regional governance structures were being dismantled and local authority budgets reduced in the context of austerity and public sector reform. The development of GMLIP therefore needed to be approached step-by-step, sensitive to changing political, economic and social issues. In 2012 a large pilot study, *Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena*, brought together many stakeholders, identified issues and developed co-production projects.

In 2013 a *Greater Manchester Partners* (GMP) group was formed, bringing together the leads of projects, designed to bridge between academia and practice and local partners were brought into the consortium. Initially projects were carried out bilaterally with each partner in association with SURF. But by 2014 GMLIP began to submit collaborative bids and successfully secured funding from the UK Research Councils for its first joint project involving all key actors. This aligned with a new and dynamic context as Greater Manchester became the first city-region outside London to sign a devolution agreement with central government.

Throughout 2013–2015 GMLIP engaged with debates about the roles of universities as agents of urban transformation and the potential of co-production and collaborated with like-minded academics in different UK institutions. The University of Sheffield's Faculty of Social Sciences, in particular, were working with a set of interests around co-production, urban integration and transformation. While continuing to build on the partnerships and legacies of GMLIP's work, a new experiment in

the social organisation of knowledge is now beginning with the widening of GMLIP to form the *Sheffield–Manchester Local Interaction Platform* (SMLIP). The core themes of urban governance, urban knowledge and urban change, discussed in Chapter 4, are central to the work programme of the SMLIP, drawing on prestigious UK Research Council funded projects.

SMLIP (FORMERLY GMLIP)

Partnerships

The Urban Institute and the Sheffield Methods Institute in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Sheffield, UK (host)
Association of Greater Manchester Authorities
Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation
Greater Manchester Universities
Creative Concern

Governance structure

The SMLIP Director, International Methodological Advisor, Co-ordinator and core researchers work in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Sheffield and constitute the Programme Team. The Sheffield–Manchester LIP is a platform for sharing knowledge, learning and co-ordinating with all stakeholders.

Budget 2016

Total SEK 9.5m of which SEK 7.5m is cash and 2m is local in-kind funding. Of the cash funding, 3.5m is provided by the Mistra Urban Futures consortium and 4m is external funds.

KISUMU

LOCAL INTERACTION PLATFORM (KLIP)

Kisumu in western Kenya is situated on the shores of Lake Victoria, Africa's largest and the world's second largest freshwater lake. The third largest city in Kenya, Kisumu has a population of more than 500,000, but is expanding fast. Infrastructure development and service expansion have not matched the rapid population growth and there are high levels of poverty and environmental degradation.

Kisumu Local Interaction Platform (KLIP) in Kenya thus works in a different environment from the LIPs in Europe. Yet the concept of knowledge co-production is seen as a valuable tool in developing the economy and the wellbeing of citizens, the city and the county in a sustainable way.

Key development challenges in Kisumu are urban safety, poverty reduction, social sustainability, the empowerment of youth and women, and environmental conservation and protection. As in many other cities, urban population growth is leading to increased pressure on natural and other resources.

To date, two key themes at KLIP have been Ecotourism and Marketplaces. Each encompasses the need for capacity building, knowledge production, networking, sharing and participation. Various projects have been generated within these themes, which are carried out in collaboration with local partners and stakeholders.

Kisumu Local Interaction Platform initially operated under the umbrella of the Kisumu Action Team (KAT), a group established by Kisumu Municipal Council in 2008. The platform has since been transformed into the KLIP Trust, a permanent knowledge centre which represents a broad circle of stakeholders including residents, the public and private sectors, civil society and academia. Activities at KLIP are funded by Sida and are increasingly receiving in-kind contributions from local partners.

KLIP

Partnership

Two public universities, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology and Maseno University; private sector stakeholders, City of Kisumu (represented in the trustee board by the City Manager), County Government of Kisumu; and the community under the umbrella of the public sector.

Governance structure

KLIP operates as a trust with a maximum of nine board members provided for in the trust deed but currently operating with six trustees. The trust oversees the overall operations and approves expenditures. The secretariat runs the daily operations of the institution and has five staff members headed by the director and assisted by the co-ordinator. The other members are an accountant, office administrator and the Principal Investigator for the Consuming Urban Poverty programme, which is run in collaboration with CTLIP.

Budget 2016

Contributions in kind for this financial year SEK 501,800 and funding from Sida through Mistra Urban Futures SEK 3.7m. The Consuming Urban Urban Poverty project had funding of USD \$103,200 while contributions in kind total USD \$10,400.

SKÅNE

LOCAL INTERACTION PLATFORM (SKLIP)

In 2016 a fifth LIP, *Skåne Local Interaction Platform*, was established in southern Sweden, a region that incorporates the cities of Malmö, Lund and Helsingborg. After a long period of industrial restructuring and economic crisis in the 1970s and 1980s, the region has experienced a dramatic economic revitalisation over the past 15 years, driven by its major cities and increased integration between Sweden and Denmark. While the region still faces huge challenges, these have become incentives for creating innovative and vibrant environments.

Malmö, Lund and Helsingborg are frontrunners in implementation and practice in creating smart sustainable cities, and Lund and Malmö have financed national innovation platforms in this sphere, with collaboration between academia and other stakeholders at local and regional level. SKLIP is built upon areas of strength in Skåne and draws on the experiences of close collaboration between researchers and practitioners in projects in the region and the co-production of knowledge with multiple societal actors engaged.

The research and development projects at SKLIP fit with and contribute to Mistra Urban Futures' overall goals as well as the other LIPs in Gothenburg, Sheffield–Manchester, Kisumu and Cape Town. Lund University is a long-time member, and Malmö University recently became a member, of *The Southern African–Nordic Centre* (SANORD), a partnership of higher education institutions in the Nordic countries and Southern Africa. The City of Malmö has also established collaborative initiatives with stakeholders in Cape Town, which will be further developed in collaboration with CTLIP.

SKLIP

Partnership

University of Malmö

University of Lund

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

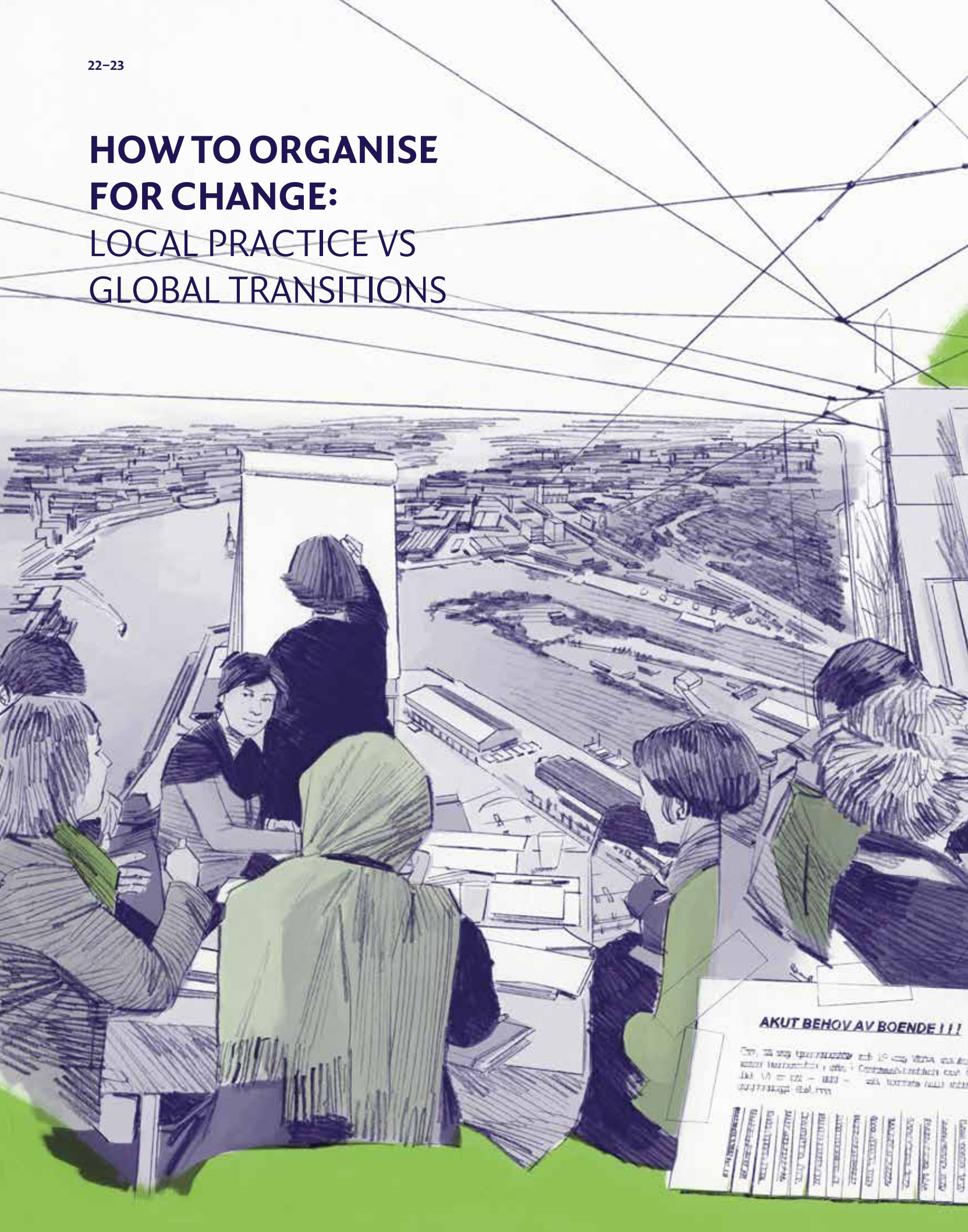
City of Malmö

Region Skåne

Governance structure / Budget 2016

To be established during 2016.

HOW TO ORGANISE FOR CHANGE: LOCAL PRACTICE VS GLOBAL TRANSITIONS



AKUT BEHOV AV BOENDE I LI

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det vi er ute - det er en viktig del av
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EVALUATION,
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The language
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TODAY

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new world

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2 HOW TO ORGANISE FOR CHANGE: LOCAL PRACTICE VS GLOBAL TRANSITIONS

Principal author: Ylva Norén Bretzer

Local Interaction Platforms (LIPs) are core tools in Mistra Urban Futures' vision of *Realising Just Cities*. But how can a *Local Interaction Platform* (LIP) be defined? What conditions must be in place before setting up a LIP? This chapter investigates what LIPs are and how they came to be established. It examines, too, the importance of the LIPs approach in the light of the United Nations' 2016 *Sustainable Development Agenda* which expects governments to establish national frameworks for achievement of its *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) and that *all* stakeholders – governments, academia, civil society and the private sector, and others – contribute to realising the agenda. With their transdisciplinary approach and focus on co-producing knowledge, LIPs have become a key methodology for realising *Sustainable Development Goal 11* – just and sustainable cities.

Four LIP directors – Stephen Agong from Kisumu, Mikael Cullberg from Gothenburg, Beth Perry from Greater Manchester and Warren Smit from Cape Town – together with the director of Mistra Urban Futures, David Simon, dig deeper into what the Local Interaction Platforms really represent. They share their personal views on LIPs and discuss what roles LIPs play in Mistra Urban Futures' mission. We uncover what is meant by *platform* and *interaction*, and how to achieve *active intermediation*. Finally we explore what lessons have been learned so far from working through LIPs. The chapter is based on an interview session with Ylva Norén Bretzer in March 2016.

**How can a Local Interaction Platform (LIP) be defined?
What conditions must be in place before setting up a LIP?
With their transdisciplinary approach and focus on co-producing knowledge, LIPs have become a key approach in the search for realising sustainable urban development.**

While it might be argued that some academic disciplines can be produced anywhere, independent of location, research on the defining global challenges of our time like climate change, rapid population growth and the urban explosion, must be seen through a local lens. Increasingly *place* and *context* demand to be recognised and considered when framing research problems and finding solutions – solutions that can only be found through the active collaboration of multiple stakeholders.

In the traditional research landscape, LIPs might seem an unconventional way of carrying out research. True or not, academics are sometimes perceived as set apart from society – working enclosed in their institutions, producing articles aimed at a small group of peers in their own disciplines. Elsewhere, in the public sector and in business, practitioners do as they are directed by their managers, working to implement policies and tasks made by the decision-makers above them. Then there is ‘civil society’: the NGOs, voluntary organisations and the local communities themselves.

Yet, a global revolution has started in the way knowledge is produced and transferred by academia and how it used in society. Under the umbrella of Mistra Urban Futures’ LIPs, scientists, researchers, civil servants, practitioners from many fields, as well as community activists and campaigners, are brought together to formulate research and policy needs side by side, mixing their professional and life competencies and sharing a common research process where results are expected to be put into practice.

A RESEARCH PARADIGM CHALLENGED

The conventional role of the expert-driven model of knowledge production is increasingly being questioned. Critical voices argue for the increased social relevance of research outputs, especially in these precarious times of climate change, environmental degradation and a rapidly increasing world population. Science, they maintain, should be stepping out of the academy to participate in the societal management of these global *grand challenges*. Its role (at least in part) is to collaborate across different sectors to solve problems, to communicate in ways which decision- and policy-makers understand, and to come up with robust solutions to urgent real life problems.

These collaborative transformations have been taking place internationally over a number of years. Just one example of the power of such inclusive cross-sector initiatives is the very different results of the Climate Change Summits in 2009 and 2015. The expected outcome of the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit (COP15) in 2009 was a binding legal document – a document which failed to appear as the states at the negotiating table could not agree. A very different strategy preceded the 2015 summit in Paris (COP21), where proposals from cities and local communities, which incorporated inputs from business, academic experts and NGOs, paved the way for the commitments on which nation states managed to agree.

Attention was now focused on the value of this collaborative approach which invited wider society and multiple stakeholders to participate in forming policy. Sometimes labelled *collaborative governance*, the process is seen as less hierarchical, more directed on finding broadly agreed solutions to real world problems and oriented towards action. It provided a creative and cross-cutting forum where traditional arenas, often locked in a ‘silo mentality’, can interact directly with other sectors and stakeholders in the same space.

»The establishment of the platform came at a time when Kisumu was going through a lot of dynamics, we had just experienced post-elections violence. And this brought academia together with the public sector, the private sector, civil society, as well as the informal sector, to work together.« STEPHEN AGONG, KLIP

Collaborative governance offers a process for shaping dialogues between government, academia, business, NGOs, and communities with knowledge and expertise, at local, national and international levels. It is a fundamental way of working for Mistra Urban Futures through its LIPs.

REALISING JUST CITIES

As we talk about relevance, there are urgent issues for the world community to deal with: climate change, huge population growth, an explosive expansion of cities accompanied by the increasing degradation of the environment. We must all find ways to co-ordinate the resources we have to solve the challenges at hand. Never before has there been such an urgent need for collaboration across the silo mentalities of the twentieth century, when resources seemed to be endless. In the twenty-first century, no government, scientist, company or individual can solve these enormous challenges alone.

In 2016 the seventeen *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) of the United Nations' *Agenda for Sustainable Development* came into force. The new SDGs call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet: ending poverty is to go hand-in-hand with strategies to build economic growth and address a range of social needs, while tackling climate change and environmental degradation. Goal Number 11 undertakes to *make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*.

Governments are expected to take ownership of the agenda and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the SDGs. *All* stakeholders: governments,

the private sector, academia, civil society, and others, are expected to contribute to realisation of the new agenda and multi-stakeholder partnerships have been recognised as an important way to mobilise stakeholders around the agenda.

LIPs are just such strategic fora for cross-sector dialogue, co-operation, knowledge exchange and action which brings together stakeholders from city officials, entrepreneurs and academics, to hotel owners and tour guides.

WHY LIPS MUST BE LOCAL

Some scholars argue that we urgently need to reconceptualise relations across geographical scales – recalibrating the importance of the neighbourhood, city, region, state and continent. Scale is critical to addressing the complex urban problems faced around the world. We cannot treat the enormous challenges of sustainable urban development with one-size-fits-all solutions. Rather, solutions need to match the local mix of problems as they emerge – or even better, deal with them *before* they emerge.

Problems and problem-solving need to take place in real time and within local contexts. What is on the agenda in European or North American metropolitan areas is not the same as in the rapidly growing cities of Africa and Asia.

Establishing LIPs is seen by Mistra Urban Futures both as a tool for dealing with these challenges in sustainable urban development in the present and as an investment to counter future risks. So, what is a Local Interaction Platform? Let us turn to four LIP directors from Mistra Urban Futures platforms in Cape Town, Gothenburg, Kisumu and Greater Manchester, to find out more.

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FIELD:

MORE ABOUT LOCAL INTERACTION PLATFORMS

When asked ‘What is a Local Interaction Platform?’, four LIP directors give four different but partly overlapping definitions.

Stephen Agong, director of Kisumu LIP, responded that ‘The establishment of the platform ... came at a time when Kisumu was going through a lot of dynamics, we had just experienced post-elections violence ... And this brought academia together with the public sector, the private sector, civil society, as well as the informal sector, to work together. ... I would say that the Local Interaction Platform is a space and an opportunity for these stakeholders to come and share ideas, knowledge, challenges, experiences and even solutions that can drive sustainable urban development.’

The answer given by Warren Smit, director of Cape Town LIP, was that a LIP is ‘a kind of multilateral partnership; it’s a set of relationships between different organisations across a range of sectors in the city; and specifically it is about co-producing context specific knowledge on sustainable urban issues.’

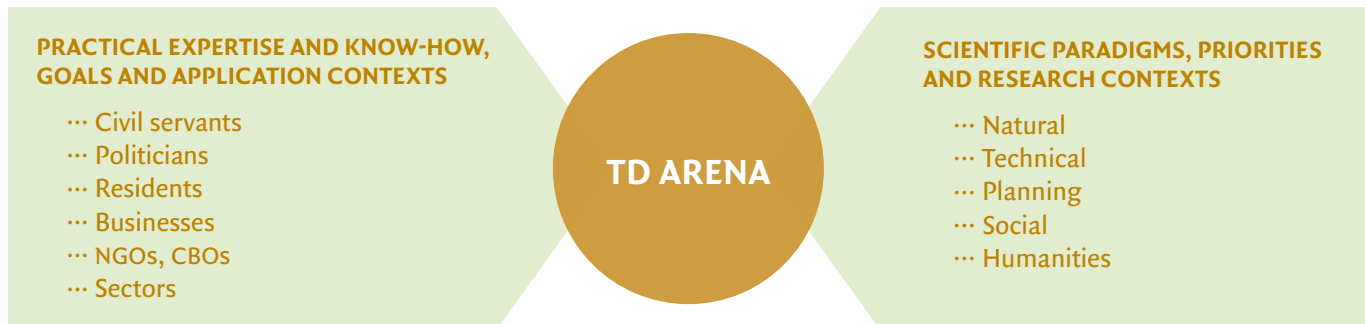
While the local contexts for starting a LIP were very different, both directors emphasise the interaction across different organisations and sectors, in close connection to the local context.

COMMITMENT AND TRUST

Beth Perry, director of Greater Manchester LIP, gave a vivid description of local conditions when GMLIP began: ‘We had just had a new government, all our regional organisations were being restructured, the people that we talked to did not know if they were going to have a post in three months’ time, or not: how could I get a clear commitment?’

So while an understanding of the local situation is crucial when establishing a LIP, the directors also pointed to the role of commitment – and trust. If we dig a bit deeper, how does *commitment* and *trust* matter for establishing Local Interaction Platforms?

Mikael Cullberg, director of Gothenburg LIP, went on: ‘I think that the experience that we have had recently with Stockholm, and with Skåne, shows that you need a commitment, a willingness, a drive from a number of partners to be present when you start forming a LIP. So, you need a top-level commitment, you need champions, but you also need the commitment from the organisations themselves. They really need to want to do this. Because it does mean doing things differently. The commitment also means devoting resources, funding people in a different way compared to commissioned research, or, doing projects together.’



The transdisciplinary (TD) arena for joint knowledge production.

»You need a top-level commitment, you need champions, but you also need the commitment from the organisations themselves. They really need to want to do this. Because it does mean to do things differently.« MIKAEL CULLBERG, GOLIP

Mikael is referring to the establishment of the LIP in Skåne (SKLIP), which more or less emerged out of the local partners' own initiative because of previous experience with inter-institutional partnerships, while efforts to start a LIP in Stockholm have so far not materialised – despite the strategic desire of Mistra Urban Futures in Gothenburg to start a local platform in Stockholm, the capital city of Sweden.

Mikael continues, '... for us it is important that it is a structured and long-term elaboration between main stakeholders and partners, and it is about addressing challenges that the stakeholders have identified together ... it is a space in which we allow this to happen, outside the ordinary processes that take place within each partner.'

This emphasises the long-term commitments necessary from both funding partners and other stakeholders. Long-term commitments that build on trust are necessary both for implementing projects and for participants to adapt to the collaborative methods of the LIP and to interact and feed results into practice.

Adding to the discussion, Stephen Agong remarks that commitment '... is paramount to get a Local Interaction Platform set up, especially in a coherent manner. If there are any formal or informal partnerships in place, it is much easier to run such a process, as opposed to when there is no support from any foundation, it would be impossible to run a Local Interaction Platform, from the point of view of Kisumu.'

This underlines how crucial local initiative and willingness to collaborate are for setting up a LIP. Beth Perry agrees, saying there is 'fundamentally a need to have the preconditions in place' in order for a platform to be established successfully.

All agree that this is possibly a reason why the LIP initiative in Shanghai failed. Sustained efforts to establish a Shanghai LIP were ultimately in vain because of complex institutional politics and the difficulty in undertaking substantive co-production in the Chinese context. This was an important lesson for Mistra Urban Futures on the conditions which need to be in place before establishing a new LIP. And what model to follow...

Mikael Cullberg points out '... my impression through the history of Mistra Urban Futures is that there were tendencies from Gothenburg to want to impose 'the Gothenburg Model' onto the other LIPs. And those tendencies, I think, were extremely ill founded, because Sweden is a very strange society, very different from most of the rest of the world ... and we cannot expect others to be like us.'

He continues, 'another very Swedish tendency – you see this in the European collaborations – if we see things being done differently than US, then THEY are doing it wrong, because we have already solved the problem. And we fail to recognise that the size of our problems is so much smaller.'

Taken together, all four LIP directors point out that building on local initiatives and trust are necessary preconditions for establishing a LIP in order to let it grow further for the stakeholders involved. Rolling out a uniform model might lead to failure. Rather, the LIPs need to be shaped from local circumstances and by key stakeholders.

VISIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Another dimension was emphasised by Beth Perry: 'you need to have people that are really committed and that are almost missionary for the vision, in order to persuade. Because it is a persuasive task. That speaks to another

precondition – readiness to learn, to risk, to be uncertain, flexible and to be challenged. It is quite uncomfortable for a number of partners, and if you don't have that mentality, you are not going to find a fertile ground for the LIP. The ground has to be fertile before the LIPs can grow, and probably the seeds have been in the ground for ten to fifteen years beforehand.'

A strategic selection needs to take place, then, when choosing participants to represent stakeholders at the LIP. Long-term well-developed relationships are critical, as is a low turnover of group members. In Greater Manchester, LIP partners had already been involved in a number of efforts to connect research and practice before the formation of the LIP. So the initiative there did indeed grow on fertile and receptive ground.

Warren Smit nodded and added that from his experience: 'I think in our case we have had a long history of relationships with the City of Cape Town. For a long number of years we have had a history of trying to co-produce knowledge, before there was a Mistra Urban Futures, but it took about two years of negotiations with the city before we got the LIP set up ...'

»... in our case we have had a long history of relationships with the City of Cape Town. For a long number of years we have had a history of trying to co-produce knowledge, before there was a Mistra Urban Futures.« WARREN SMIT, CTLIP

So the common feature of the existing LIPs has been a mutual striving from all parties involved towards collaboration, building on efforts that had taken place before the LIP initiative from Mistra Urban Futures arrived. Beyond that, in order to build the trust needed for building a successful LIP, there must be convinced campaigners for the benefits of participation in the platform, most usefully at the top levels of stakeholder organisations.

WHAT IS MEANT BY PLATFORM AND INTERACTION?

As we discussed the question 'What is a Local Interaction Platform', participants were forced to consider further what is meant by *platform* and *interaction*.

One clue was given by Beth Perry: 'I would focus on the word 'platform', as platforms are really interesting ways of organising knowledge to meet complex challenges in the twenty-first century ... The main purpose of the platform is to interact: to interact between universities and non-academic stakeholders, to interact between citizens and policy-makers and politicians, but also to interact around local issues that are globally important. ... Linking global issues to local centres of excellence to network between the platforms – this is a distinctive feature of Mistra Urban Futures.'

Beth's response adds the research policy perspective here, as she discusses the LIPs as alternatives to traditional research programmes. She emphasises the importance of *interaction* across different sectors of society, which was a clear feature of the description from Kisumu as well.

And what does this *interaction* really mean? Beth Perry expands: '... for me I think interaction precedes the co-production process ... co-production is what you do,

but in order to make it work you have to interact. It is the intangibility, the informality in these networks ... how that then creates fertility for co-production to actually mean something ... A second aspect is the commitment to change and to transform. Actual transformation was really important when the Centre was set up. And I think that all of our platforms are agents of change, and that they are pro-actively seeking a particular kind of change by

bringing people together in the platforms and projects, under the vision that we now call *Realising Just Cities*.’

As the *platform* itself can be interpreted as a locally challenge-oriented research programme, combining the expertise of the practice and research environments, interaction across the different stakeholders needs to take place for the co-production process to be successful.

Beth Perry mentions the role of *active intermediation*, a concept developed with and championed by Tim May at the GMLIP. What does active intermediation mean in the context of the LIPs? How do you achieve active intermediation?

Beth explains what this meant when framing the Greater Manchester LIP: ‘... this notion of intermediation is absolutely critical ... private sector and economic interests

projects, and disseminates co-produced knowledge. This resembles the role of the LIP in Gothenburg.

However, how LIPs function is context specific, and in Kisumu and Cape Town, the university cannot be as prominent an actor and has a lower profile. Stephen Agong explains the context in Kisumu: ‘The Kisumu Local Interaction Platform Trust was initiated to create a neutral, independent board it would have been very difficult to persuade the partners to come to one of the participating universities for meetings. They would have thought it was a university-driven agenda there ... the wisdom here was to create a new meeting-ground, and that won the confidence of all the key stakeholders The Kisumu Action Team originally was a separate committee from Kisumu City itself ... and it was recommended that it should be regis-

»... this notion of intermediation is absolutely critical ... private sector and economic interests were really quite well represented in the existing urban government structures, but the voluntary sector and civil society were missing. « BETH PERRY, GMLIP

were really quite well represented in the existing urban government structures, but the voluntary sector and civil society were missing. The opportunity for us was around filling that gap and creating a space to bring them in ... In Greater Manchester this is how we have framed our LIP, with the university as a catalyst for active intermediation.’

Here it is clear that the active intermediary role which University of Salford took in Greater Manchester is articulated as offering the LIP as a transformative common ground, where expectations of relevance from practitioners and other stakeholders met directly with researchers. Active intermediation is understood as a bridge between sectors, organisations and actors, which can identify challenges, gaps and strengths. A bridge which identifies possible funders for activities, nurtures co-production

tered as an independent organisation. That helped us to move forward, and we had all the support of the stakeholders as we moved on.’

While the Kisumu LIP was set up as an independent trust, the organisational form best suited to its local context, nevertheless, their goal is still to provide that intermediary space where stakeholders can meet – just like the LIP in Greater Manchester.

In Cape Town, the LIP also needs to work carefully, as relationships among the different stakeholders can be conflictual. Instead, another mechanism has been developed, where researchers are embedded in the city government, which was crucial for the LIP to be realised in Cape Town – this is described in more detail in Chapter 3.

SUMMING UP LIPS

States are no longer capable of solving the grand challenges alone. They can set goals and make agreements, but when, for example, it comes to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 11 of making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (see Chapter 4), solutions need to be found and implemented by real actors on the ground at local level. Only the cities themselves and their different stakeholders know what the local challenges are, or will be.

Place and *context* must now be part of the matrix when we set out to meet the grand global challenges. States need to collaborate with academia, local government, business, NGOs and local communities. Public administrations at all levels need to be complemented by collaborative governance structures that connect localities with regional, national and international perspectives.

LIPs perform just such complementary and intermediary functions, through locally-formulated research programmes responding to local challenges in dialogue with multiple stakeholders in research and practice.

The political scientists Chris Ansell and Alison Gash have extensively researched the preconditions for *collaborative governance*. Their findings look very similar to those we have uncovered in the interviews at Mistra Urban Futures: the importance of a prior history, the importance of dialogue and building trust, of shared commitments and visions. But Ansell and Gash also point out the risks: how the promises of collaborative governance rewards could be hijacked by powerful stakeholders who are able to manipulate the process; public agencies which lack real commitment to collaboration, leading to distrust that corrodes good faith and joint knowledge production. These negative issues are discussed and reflected on regularly at the LIPs and at the Mistra Urban Futures Centre.

As they are described here, LIPs form bridges on which different organisations can meet, identify challenges, actors, gaps and strengths, and initiate fruitful projects in order to deal with the challenges to come, or mitigate the magnitude of challenges as they arrive.

In addition, LIPs do not form similar and replicable patterns of organisation at their different locations. Reliant

on champions who support the overall transformative mission and vision, LIPs inherently depend on actors and organisations which agree with these ambitions. It is likely that more stakeholders will connect to the LIPs over time, if their processes are perceived as legitimate and fruitful.

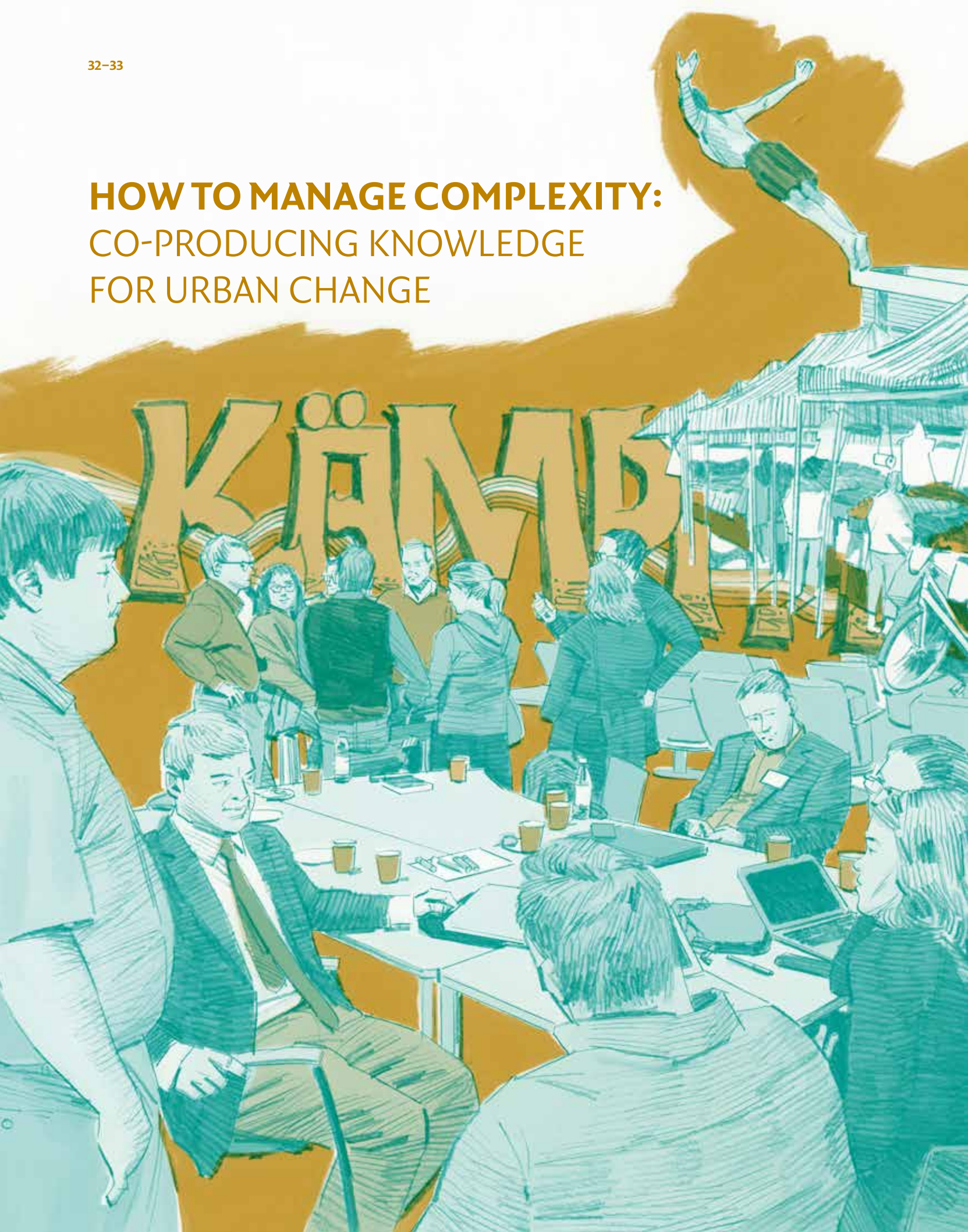
This chapter began by discussing relevance as a critical factor in the LIP approach. How do the LIPs prove that they contribute with sustainable alternative pathways to the traditional ways of managing science or cities?

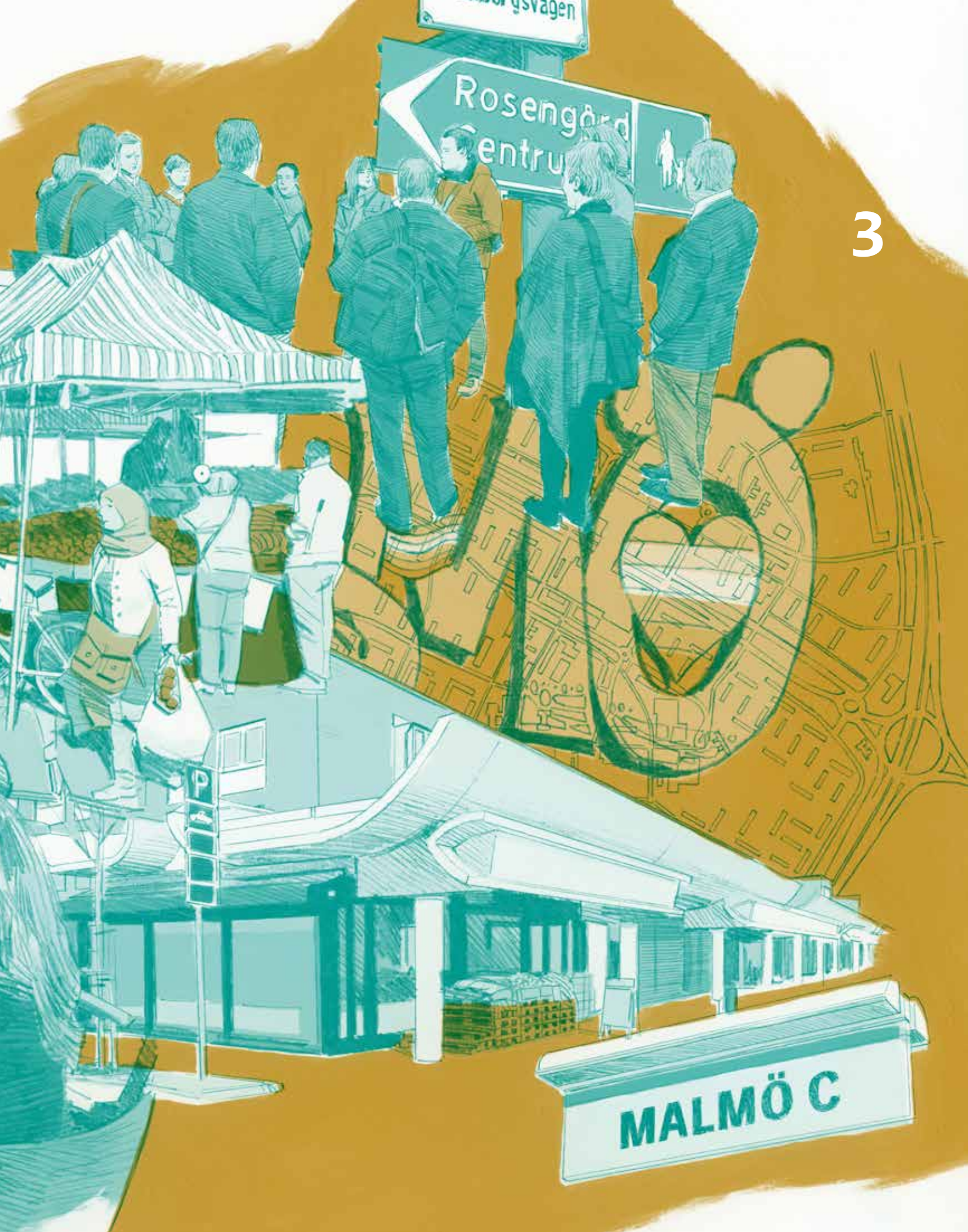
Living up to these sometimes intangible expectations is something Mistra Urban Futures will always need to negotiate, even as its experience and knowledge grows. We might consider LIPs in terms of the field of innovation, where investing in long-term research takes commitment and trust from governments and business in expectations of the social value and economic benefits which might result. We could say that Mistra Urban Futures is pursuing a similar path of innovation in the field of sustainable urban development.

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HOW TO MANAGE COMPLEXITY: CO-PRODUCING KNOWLEDGE FOR URBAN CHANGE





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3 HOW TO MANAGE COMPLEXITY: CO-PRODUCING KNOWLEDGE FOR URBAN CHANGE

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Co-production has emerged at all Mistra Urban Futures' Local Interaction Platforms (LIPs) as a rewarding approach for addressing complex problems in achieving sustainable urban development. Drawing on interviews with LIP directors and core staff members and on evaluations of projects and other activities from the first five years of Mistra Urban Futures, this chapter shows that the needs of cities and their respective challenges and governance structures had a crucial impact on why co-production emerged in their particular contexts.

Interviews were carried out with Mikael Cullberg, director of GOLIP; Beth Perry, director of GMLIP; Magnus Johansson, director of SKLIP; Zarina Patel, researcher at the University of Cape Town and former director of CTLIP; Michael Oloko, researcher at KLIP; and Helen Arvidsson, researcher at Gothenburg University (complementing with information from KLIP). Two evaluation reports on GOLIP by Hansson and Polk & Hansson have been also used for this chapter.

Co-production has emerged as a rewarding approach for addressing the complex problems of sustainable urban development being grappled with in all the cities where Local Interaction Platforms are located. This innovative form of collaborative urban research contributes to creating workable solutions.

Looking at Mistra Urban Futures' Local Interaction Platforms, we find that local contexts have played a large part in shaping how co-production was defined, how it was carried out and – importantly – how co-production processes have contributed to sustainable change in addressing local challenges. City officials and urban stakeholders in all the LIP cities are grappling with the complexity of multiple issues related to increasing urban sustainability. In common, too, are the long histories of different types of interaction and collaboration between governmental bodies, business, civil society and academics across the cities.

Many of these interactions have emerged in response to numerous factors: pressing economic limitations and social problems, lack of capacity to deliver basic social services, inadequate political mandates, the increasing fragmentation of both knowledge and governance organisations, and the growing complexity and interconnectedness of local and global socio-environmental problems. All these challenges point to the need to develop more innovative forms of urban research that can better grasp such multidimensionality and contribute to creating workable solutions to the problems being faced in cities across the world today.

Knowledge co-production refers to collaboratively based processes where different actors and interest groups come together with researchers to share and create knowledge that can be used to address the sustainability challenges being faced today, and increase the research capacity to contribute to societal problem-solving in the future.

THE NEED FOR CO-PRODUCTION

The motivations behind co-production at all the cities where Mistra Urban Futures has been working stem from different combinations of political and academic needs, as well as practical considerations. In Gothenburg, for example, Chalmers University of Technology had been actively engaging with different types of collaborations through science parks and knowledge clusters, in what has been termed *the knowledge triangle* – strategies to integrate research, education and innovation around strategic knowledge areas. City and regional bodies had also created a number of inter-organisational networks and agencies to establish broader capacity and co-ordination at decision-making and administrative levels. As Mikael Cullberg, platform director in Gothenburg, explains: 'We wanted to be able to do our jobs better, to inform the decision-making process and be a better civil service agency, in planning, and with urban development.'

There was a great need for closer collaboration at different decision-making levels and across organisational borders that historically were cut off from one another institutionally and administratively. There was a general sense of the need for a different kind of knowledge to what traditional planning processes could provide. In Malmö, base of Skåne LIP (SKLIP), the demand for different types of co-production grew out of both the needs of public administrations to involve researchers as dialogue partners (especially around social sustainability challenges), and the needs of a group of researchers and designers engaging in participatory design and co-design with civil society groups which started from a more activist approach.

In Greater Manchester, co-production is the latest manifestation of a long-standing political agenda focused on how to increase the impact and perceived value of research. During the 2000s, efforts to create innovation ecosystems in cities were ramped up in a desire to realise the benefits of a knowledge-based economy. These efforts were primarily focused on business innovation and the commercialisation of scientific knowledge from universities to bring about economic gain. Prior initiatives in

Greater Manchester included *Manchester: Knowledge Capital*, *Manchester Science City* and the *Innovation Investment Fund* as the city-region aimed to harness the potential of science and innovation.

Yet scholars and practitioners were becoming increasingly aware of the limits of this approach. There was a need to think differently about the engagement of the university in societal development, to move from *knowledge transfer* to *knowledge exchange* between different actors, and to question the linear model in science-policy relations. For the *Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF)* at the University of Salford, a terminology was developed around research-practice relationships that

it is now common parlance in academic, policy and practice arenas in the UK, linked to recognition of the complexity of urban issues in the context of the restructuring of local government, welfare reform and austerity.

In South Africa, the needs of transitioning to a democratic society created unique and close relationships between academia and state organisations. The period following the fall of apartheid was characterised by rapid and radical policy change to reorient policy to the needs of all in society and to align with global processes. Academics played an important role in this transition with their continued research into processes which until then

»... we wanted to produce knowledge that was both excellent and relevant and provide a space to allow people to think differently.« TIM MAY, GMLIP

included active intermediation and other types of active work at the interfaces and boundaries between research and practice.

As Tim May, International Methodological Advisor at the GMLIP explains: ‘... we wanted to produce knowledge that was both excellent and relevant and provide a space to allow people to think differently.’ This shaped the intellectual and policy context for the development of new approaches into the 2010s. The need to integrate different types of knowledge from from different disciplines (like the social sciences and humanities) and sectors (such as the voluntary sector), became central in efforts to address wider issues of social equity and environmental sustainability.

Co-production became an explicit discourse, introduced locally in part through initiatives such as *Mistra Urban Futures*, but also through nationally-funded programmes such as the UK Research Councils’ *Connected Communities* programme and, more recently, *Urban Transformations*. The roots of ‘co-production’ as a discourse are various and

were peripheral to the functions of the state. Academics have since played a key role as advisors, consultants, and as members of expert panels and commissions in policy reform over the past two decades.

The emergence of co-production in Cape Town is based on these long-term relationships between the city and university. While these relationships developed from a one-way flow of knowledge, where academics worked in an advisory and consultancy capacity, they were gradually transformed into more informed, emergent, reflective, and engaged ways of working together.

Momentum around co-production of knowledge between the University of Cape Town (UCT) and the City of Cape Town increased significantly through the establishment of the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at UCT in 2007 as one of the university’s ‘signature themes’ which provide a framework for multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinary research.

Much of the work of the ACC is conducted through co-production, where practitioners and researchers

participate in the entire knowledge production process, from joint problem formulation and knowledge generation to co-authoring of policy briefs and academic articles, in arrangements that include the fluid movement of researchers and research partners into and out of one another's institutional spaces. The assumption is that given the complexity and contested nature of urban challenges, viable solutions require a plurality of values. These two-way flows of information and more in-depth partnerships are the basis upon which the Cape Town LIP (CTLIP) was developed.

In Kisumu, Kenya, rapid population growth (especially in informal settlements) makes urban issues complex and rife with conflict. Formal city structures cannot adequately deal with the challenges of explosive urban development. The fast growing informal sector is also complex, with many stakeholders interacting in unique ways. There was, and is, a great need to come up with solutions that are accepted by stakeholders with competing interests. Different types of dialogue and participatory processes have been used to engage civil society organisations, and to combat conflicts between interest groups.

Within this setting, co-production in Kisumu grew out of a long-term relationship with Chalmers, through different educational activities engaged directly with civil society, and through the precedents set by the *Kisumu Action Team* (KAT). KAT was a city-initiated commission which started in 2003 that included the city council and government, and representatives from industry, universities, business, and civil society. At KAT, and later Kisumu LIP (KLIP), co-production, based first on participatory processes and later on research projects and other activities, was seen as a way of creating a collective understanding, promoting learning processes for diverse stakeholders, and together conceptualising possible solutions to address pressing social needs without undermining environmental quality.

As we have seen in all the platform examples, co-production emerged from a web of different factors. In each case, pre-existing institutional settings, funding

contexts, and political and social conditions were all important in shaping how and why co-production found traction and was developed in the Local Interaction Platforms.

WHAT DOES CO-PRODUCTION MEAN AT MISTRA URBAN FUTURES?

Co-production is interpreted and applied in a wide variety of ways, not only across the platforms, but also by different individuals and within projects and activities at each respective platform. What all of these approaches have in common is a focus on learning, change, reflection and on creating different ways of relating to one another and working together.

Here directors and core staff from the different LIPs reflect on their experiences with co-production, how co-production is described at their platform and some defining characteristics that have emerged. More examples of co-production from all the LIPs can be found on the *Mistra Urban Futures'* website and publications.

'In Gothenburg, co-production at its best enables knowledge from different backgrounds to work together, 'for real', where officials and researchers actually sit down and work together ... You understand the reality behind the documents and the facade that you see from outside. As an official, it's important to get that outside view on what you do, to have to answer difficult questions. It's the close collaboration, the real interactions over time, with a charge to make a real imprint.' MIKAEL CULLBERG, DIRECTOR OF GOLIP

'In Manchester, co-production isn't seen as a method, it's seen as an art form that represents the highest manifestation of mature relationships between researchers and practitioners. ... Co-production is a mindset. It's a mature relationship. ... It is similar to kids playing. Kids don't actually play together until they've played along side each other for a long time. Co-production is also preceded by parallel play. Co-production isn't a method or a process; it's an outcome. What's fundamentally new is the way that

co-production is being used to justify certain types of relationships and practices’. BETH PERRY, DIRECTOR OF GMLIP

‘Co-production is close to social learning. It’s a social learning process, where all participants learn something.’
MAGNUS JOHANSSON, DIRECTOR OF SKLIP

‘Co-production promotes and provides a platform for stakeholder interactions, exchange of ideas, sharing of knowledge from different disciplines and experiences, stakeholder learning, together conceptualising and developing solutions to specific challenges, enhancing research capacity and capacity building of young academics at both local and international fronts. ... It is a whole package ranging from idea generation, problem identification, to design and implementation.’ MICHAEL OLOKO, RESEARCHER AND CORE STAFF KLIP

‘The defining characteristic is that co-production is directed by context and the players involved. There is no master plan; you make it up as you go along according to the needs of the partners and in response to the emerging findings and changing contexts. Clear goals about what you want to achieve are critical ... Flexibility, having people who are hybrids, being responsive to context, and being reflexive are all crucial for creating and maintaining successful co-production relationships.’ ZARINA PATEL, RESEARCHER AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF CTLIP

So, as we have seen, when the directors and core staff of the different LIPs were asked to explain what co-production means in their cities, they did not define co-production as a research approach or as a specific way of working together. What they *did* talk about was how co-production created opportunities for new ways of thinking, relating and acting together.

It wasn’t only that co-production created opportunities for working differently, it promoted, and in some cases, even forced, individuals with different professional mandates and personal identities to interact with one

another. Co-production, then, is about creating new types of relationships and doing things differently *together*. The most commonly used descriptions of co-production include references to insight, learning, and building in-depth, inter-organisational and cross sector relationships and partnerships.

KEY CHALLENGES TO KNOWLEDGE CO-PRODUCTION

Across the different Local Interaction Platforms, creating new relationships and ways of working together across institutional and practice-based borders came up against a number of challenges and problems. Perhaps the most important challenges of co-production come from bringing together not only diverse individuals, but the institutional and cultural practices they bring along with them – the different ‘rules of the game’, the mind-sets about how things should be understood and done, as well as professional and political mandates, and ways of communicating. Difficulties with co-production can also emerge from the specific urban sustainability challenges at each city, the depth and severity of their social and environmental manifestations, and how national, regional and local governance and administration are organised to deal with them.

In Gothenburg, deregulation and new public management in the 1980s and 1990s brought an emphasis on delivering services effectively to ‘customers’ at the lowest possible cost. With such an institutional focus and high workloads, GOLIP director Mikael Cullberg explains how some of the participating civil servants experienced ‘the mind-sets of their institutional practices as very cut and dried with little time for reflection and analysis.’ Confronting such mind-sets and institutional cultures with researchers asking questions that often complicated issues instead of simplifying them, led to a great deal of initial frustration and miscommunication in many projects and processes in Gothenburg.

The restructuring of city and county governments in Kisumu in 2013 grew out of the enactment of the Kenya Constitution 2010, which resulted in devolved governance, putting additional demands on the co-production

processes. This included the need not only to navigate researcher-practitioner boundaries, but also to learn about the mandates and organisational structures of other public actors, as well as set up networks and establish strong relationships within the new governance structures.

A high turnover of senior city officials and staff in Kisumu accentuated the need to institutionalise projects and strengthen institutional capacity and memory at both city and county levels. Given the changes in city and county governance in Kisumu, co-production processes meant dealing with potential conflicts between the city and county governor's offices. The lack of such inter-institutional knowledge and networks was experienced as one of the most important obstacles for co-production processes at all of the platforms.

In Greater Manchester and Cape Town, institutional challenges were also discussed in terms of institutional integrity. This included finding a balance between compromising with and adapting to new research partners, and respecting and maintaining the integrity of the participating institutional cultures and mandates.

As Zarina Patel expressed it: 'It's like a fruit salad ... even though you are working together, you are always dealing with different institutional cultures ... different fruits ... you can't change institutional cultures, the different knowledge bases have to remain intact ... Academics do what they do and city officials do what they do, and you need to respect the different contributions to make a good salad, not change them into another fruit.'

One of the main challenges for maintaining such integrity is how to maximise learning without minimising difference. Co-production processes have to recognise the different skills of the participants and maximise them without trying to turn one into the other. Recognising the attributes of the different participants and keeping institutional integrity, while at the same time building trust through common goals and language, is one of the most important challenges of co-production experienced in Cape Town.

In Greater Manchester, Beth Perry reflects that generating 'institutional empathy' was one of the critical

challenges: 'That means understanding what the different pressures are on organisations that are trying to develop cities and working in partnership to make the best of often very difficult situations.'

BALANCING CHOICES: COMPROMISE OR CRITIQUE?

Finding a balance between different institutional cultures also brings up issues of intellectual freedom, critical voice and the risk of co-option. Academics are trained to be critical. However, there needs to be a balance in saying what you want, protecting your partners, and not being co-opted.

Beth Perry observes: 'The question of co-option is crucial. Do we avoid asking, and answering the difficult questions? Do we risk propping up existing elites under a veneer of democracy?'

Critique can be framed in constructive ways to bring about positive change, but it is a long process to understand this 'intellectual project of critique'. To do it well, participants need to understand the different intellectual practices, of the city, academics and other involved groups.

As Zarina Patel explains: 'There are certain things you might not be able to say, you have to keep it within boundaries that are safe for the partnerships. This can mean that academics must compromise, and city officials also might have problems understanding what the intellectual purpose is. ... What does academic critique mean? ... The city officials also worried that if they were critical, this might cause problems for them or their organisations. This raises issues of ethics and anonymity.'

In Kisumu, institutional challenges included mismatches between the Kenyan and Swedish university systems, which had a negative impact on the collaboration among the core group of PhD students who were central to the co-production projects at KLIP, an issue explored more fully in Chapter 6.

Institutional challenges were also highly evident when it came to dissemination of results. This includes taking into account both political timing and how results were communicated. Political timing is clearly an essential part

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of co-production processes. There are certain times in the electoral, policy and planning cycles when possibilities for change are greater and blockages less established. In Gothenburg, as well as in the other LIP cities described above, the uptake of project results was based not only on their being formulated and presented in accessible forms and relevant fora, but were also highly dependent upon their timing in decision-making processes and their ideological position in relation to political agendas.

Projects more closely aligned with the political agenda of their respective organisations received more traction, while project results that were more critical were marginalised. Synchronising research results and processes to the timelines and agendas of the participating institutions is thus crucial, though not always possible, as political timing and openness cannot always be predicted or exposed.

TIME, FUNDING AND LEADERSHIP

Beyond the institutional problems described above, all the Local Interaction Platforms experienced three principal challenges: *time*, *funding* and *leadership*.

Time

Lack of *time* was one of the most important issues raised as problematic at all the LIPs. Bringing together stakeholders which had previously operated independently from one another and creating new ways of working and mobilising the local community and local government are all time-consuming processes. ‘We made a video diary for our stakeholders to reflect on co-production,’ says Beth

Perry, ‘the question of time and the different paces of life between academia and other sectors was one of the key points mentioned.’

In Gothenburg projects, members experienced co-production processes as inherently slow. Several remarked that they had not expected that establishing relationships and formulating projects would take so much time. Allocating sufficient time is essential to ensuring that key participants can engage in all phases of the co-production process.

A specific challenge noted in an evaluation of LIPs’ projects was how to deal with the temporal needs of different phases of project activities to guarantee that enough time was left to produce results (like writing and publishing articles and policy reports) within the time frame and funding span of the project. Since co-production processes initially require investing time in building trust, it was especially important that time was allocated for this investment to pay off in terms of publications and other outputs. Lack of time is thus a factor that needs to be carefully considered in different phases of co-production projects and activities.

Time is also a crucial factor in how learning is experienced in co-production processes. As all the LIPs discovered, co-production gives a certain freedom for participants from rigidly-governed organisations to engage more freely with issues of interest to their work. Co-production allows the ‘rules of the game’ to be suspended, where participants are not constrained by their own institutional practices.

In many cases, LIP projects relieved participants of part of their ordinary work assignments. In Gothenburg, for example, group members who had more time during their participation in GOLIP projects were particularly enthusiastic about the possibilities for learning and broadening their perspectives. Here, individual openness and commitment were strongly linked to in-depth learning, and in-depth learning is directly linked to the time allocated for participation. Given the demands of co-production processes, it is important that participants are committed to the problem in focus, that they are open and prepared to learn new ways of communicating and working together, and that they have sufficient time to engage in the project.

Funding

The second practical challenge was connected to *funding*. Commitments to long-term funding are crucial for co-production. Crossing institutional boundaries is challenging. But uncertainty around funding streams and distribution of resources is another obstacle that can undermine local trust. One of the most important reasons behind time pressures is the lack of consistent and long-term funding, especially for the non-academic participants. This undermines both establishing trust in cross-institutional relationships, and ensuring consistent practitioner participation. Too little time for practitioners to engage in projects has proved a significant constraint.

Funding is also crucial for researcher participation. Year-on-year contracts and short-term planning horizons undermine the ability of researchers to prioritise and participate in Mistra Urban Futures projects, as well as their incentives to do so. The reliance on co-financing may inadvertently favour larger established organisations over smaller ones, especially as community organisations cannot ‘co-produce’ unless there is real money on the table. To this extent, notes Beth Perry, ‘there is a trade off between the ideals of co-production and realities of co-financing, especially given the power differentials between universities and community partners.’

Leadership

The third practical challenge for co-production processes is *leadership*. What types of leadership are needed for co-production processes in view of the challenges outlined above? All the platform directors agree that dealing with the challenges and difficulties connected to co-production demands transparency across and within Mistra Urban Futures, good management routines that create a stable and legitimate platform for building relationships and limit reporting, and communication tailored to the different actors and stakeholder groups involved at the Centre. Leadership, whether at LIPs or Centre level, needs to give clear direction and decision-making, as well as respect the integrity of the mandate and boundaries between universities, public bodies and professional and civic organisations and business interests.

In Greater Manchester, Beth Perry describes co-production as needing *curating leadership*, which to her means ‘holding the vision, setting directions and facilitating, allowing flexibility and autonomy whilst maintaining the values needed on which successful co-production can be built.’

As Mikael Cullberg explains: ‘We need to know what’s happening, but without annoying people, we need to manage and communicate without suffocating. We need to let it be messy and slow, and still show the overall structure and results, to be able to communicate what we do, to make it work on a larger scale.’

Good leadership also means creating and managing identities within the Centre and its Local Interaction Platforms. However, this is not an easy task since the Centre means different things to different stakeholders and partners. In Gothenburg it may mean a project or Consortium, in Greater Manchester and Cape Town work has so far been led by the research institutes (SURF and ACC) and all their collaborative processes and projects. In Kisumu, it may be KLIP or a number of PhD projects and other types of city activities and collaborations.

The Centre and LIPs’ leadership have to be able to manage these multiple identities that come from the

mandates, institutional identities and needs of the involved stakeholder and researcher groups. This requires what is described in Chapter 2 as *active intermediation* – a constant process of negotiation and translation at the boundaries between research and practice.

HOW HAS CO-PRODUCTION PROMOTED CHANGE?

Platform leaders and project participants can give many examples of how projects and processes have changed policy and/or practice in their regions and beyond. Some of the impacts on local government that can be attributed to Mistra Urban Futures’ activities include changes in the local political and administrative agenda, in changed policies and budget allocations, enduring changes in individuals, stronger intra- and inter-agency knowledge, and more in-depth connections and relationships across and within organisations.

In other cases, it is difficult to attribute change directly to the LIPs’ projects and activities. Even though many Mistra Urban Futures’ projects are on the frontline of collaborative research on urban sustainability, it is hard to distinguish such impacts from more general trends. The issue of how to capture the diverse impacts and outcomes of the Centre, while delivering excellent research outputs, is a challenge the Centre continues to grapple with.

As Tim May observes: ‘There is a tremendous difference between capacity and capability. The Centre was set up to have a transformative capability. There has been a huge amount achieved with not a lot of resources, but how can we capture it?’

It is impossible to predict if and how new insights, knowledge and learning from projects will impact future practice and policy.

Zarina Patel notes further: ‘People have grown immensely in this process, but this doesn’t mean that the city has changed – it’s not just about urban change – we have changed city officials who are more confident ... We need to re-think questions of impact.’

How then has co-production as a key approach and a way of creating new types of relationships and partner-

ships had an impact on the cities where Mistra Urban Futures’ LIPs are located, their research organisations and the individual participants? As noted above, one of the most important aspects of co-production processes is their focus on building and maintaining new relationships and partnerships across institutional and practice-based boundaries. This has had important consequences for how the organisations involved in Centre activities interact with one another.

In Gothenburg, one of the most important results is that it is now much easier for partner organisations to approach each other. This has provided a different way of interaction that is not only about formal decision-making at institutional level, but about engaging on an individual basis. In this space individuals from very different institutions and organisational structures can meet and talk about the more general aspects of what they do, especially those coming from regional agencies and the governor’s office. The Mistra Urban Futures Centre has clearly contributed to making these interactions possible and more efficient.

An added benefit of these informal contacts is that it also creates a space for experimentation. Especially when activities are held outside the participant’s institutions, for example in Centre or Local Interaction Platform offices, co-production represents a *safe space* to experiment and build new relationships.

As Zarina Patel describes it: ‘Urban experimentation suspends the “rules of the game” so that local governments and academics are freed up to do things in a different way. You have an opportunity to reinvent the way you do things, in a way that has safety nets – funding – and is part of a bigger process – the Centre.’

There are many examples of creating such fora for co-production, including the *CityLabs* in Cape Town, the *Community Hubs* in Greater Manchester, and *Research Circles* in Malmö. All of these represent the creation of semi-informal fora and meeting places.

In Kisumu, through bringing together different stakeholder groups, the projects co-produced by KLIP were able to create more informed ideas and design processes to

support different local civic organisations. This included identifying challenges for alternative livelihood opportunities in key sectors critical to the livelihoods of local residents. Co-production also contributed to a transformation in market dynamics by bringing in and offering practical support to entrepreneurial activities that promoted motivation and self-sufficiency. Such support meant that traders and artisans did not have to devote as

for example, the scope and scale of interactions between the city government and national government were enhanced, and the diversity of stakeholders in the green economy increased.

These improvements in governance quality and reach would have been difficult to achieve by City officials alone. They were made possible through the input of individual researchers. Similarly, involving practitioners in co-author-

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much of their financial resources to research and product development since their PhD student collaborators did this together with them.

The various activities in Kisumu also brought stakeholders together in regular interactive meetings and workshops. The KLIP days and 'fish nights' were a meeting place to co-produce culture and improve business that narrowed gaps, eased co-ordination, and increased joint ownership across sectors and actors. Providing opportunities for practitioners and policy makers to participate in research work and directly linking university research and industry to review and implement research findings, led to developing ideas, conceptualisations and solutions to local challenges that are accepted, owned and clearly understood by all stakeholders.

In Cape Town, while managing actions and improving practice were important, a key outcome that emerged was the value of the reflective space created through the partnerships. The CTLIP researchers embedded in City departments over long periods of time helped catalyse and support new policy directions and promote more robust policy responses at the local level. In the case of energy,

ring publications on policy relevant work has resulted in individual practitioners both increasing their exposure to academic literature and concepts, and situating their work in a global context. The focus on relationships created new combinations of knowledge, built upon different knowledge sources, and put together knowledge that would not have otherwise been assembled in that particular setting.

The most important enduring and valuable outcome of the *Knowledge Transfer Programme* (KTP) in Cape Town was identified at a final workshop as the relationships that had been established between the embedded PhD students and City officials. These relationships resulted in lasting changes in the individuals involved – both researchers and practitioners. The embedded researchers felt their work in the local authority had made them realise more significant and relevant academic questions. They learned important lessons about city processes by accessing the deep knowledge and experience of local officials and gained an understanding of the context within which decisions were made.

As Zarina Patel summarises: “Learning the city” through co-production is a different way of learning. There is

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profound depth to the knowledge that researchers can access through these long-term relationships. This is far different from doing a one-hour interview with different civil servants. As academics, we learn different things.'

Similar findings can be found in Greater Manchester. While concrete results were achieved – such as the setting up of a sustainability portal for the city-region, *Platform* (www.onthepatform.org.uk) – a key outcome was creating space and time for reflection. The cross-LIPs project, *Governance and Policy for Sustainability (GAPS)*, enabled an academic team to work closely with officials in the Greater Manchester *Low Carbon Hub* who valued the 'cross-mentoring' and 'check and challenge' roles as much as any specific outcomes.

Learning spaces in the city were created for intra- as well as cross-sector collaboration. In work with the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation, a series of *Action Learning Sets* were set up to create safe spaces for community hubs to work through their own issues and challenges, while efforts were made to integrate the social and economic dimensions of sustainability through dialogue, challenge and engagement. The impacts were also felt by researchers themselves.

Beth Perry explains: 'You are part of a shifting paradigm ... I can't say we've changed anything structurally, or identified a new policy. I can point to individuals and new possibilities for them. There are clear individual, institutional and inter-relational effects.'

For academics in Kisumu, co-production is seen in part as a paradigm shift. It has changed the relationships

between universities and other local actors. Academic findings are being 'interrogated by practitioners'. As Michael Oloko observes: 'The Kisumu platform works in a way that enables more actors to come in outside of academia. The goal is to not only serve academic purposes, but this is problematic since this isn't how academia works. ... Previously research in the universities focused on academia alone.'

In Kisumu, the collaboration between the PhD students at the two platforms in Kisumu and Gothenburg and their guidance by both local and international supervisors has also ensured delivery of products with high international standards.

However, many academics, as well as many practitioners, also experience co-production as something of a no-man's land. You are not enough of an academic, and not enough of a practitioner. Co-production has a fundamental impact on research, but it also slows down the ability to produce academic texts. Another crucial question for research organisations is intellectual freedom and the need for theoretically-driven research. The focus on societal change can place too much emphasis on impact. University and research institutions also carry out basic and curiosity driven research. While not necessarily directly related to societal impact in the short term, basic and long-term research are central for scientific development and the foundation of the ability of science to contribute to societal change in the future.

IN CONCLUSION

As noted earlier in this chapter, co-production has developed across a wide variety of urban contexts in cities that are faced with different types of sustainability-related challenges. Despite the sometimes extreme differences in the conditions and particular challenges of the Local Interaction Platform cities, creating new partnerships and fora for working together across organisations, mandates and interests has resonated strongly at all of the platforms. With such results it is tempting to try and up-scale or replicate co-production.

Yet one of the most important conclusions that can be drawn from the interviews with platform directors and core staff is that there is no 'best practice'. As this chapter has shown, co-production means different things at the different platforms, as well as for different researchers and practitioners. This diversity is part of its strength. As Zarina Patel remarks: 'One of the findings is that the model is no model! You can't replicate it. You can't teach someone how to do co-production, you have to have the right combination of people.'

Co-production is always anchored in a specific context and develops organically through a combination of individuals, organisations and urban settings. It is crucial to be open to different ways of co-producing knowledge, processes, activities, relationships and partnerships together. There can be co-production to develop ideas, do a project, or produce a book, an exhibition or a film. There is a whole range of activities and results that can be part of such processes.

The SKLIP director in Malmö, Magnus Johansson, suggests, for example, the need to: 'Establish on-going meeting places where you can develop relationships – good relations that can lead to identifying people who are interested. Establish a network and an arena for on-going discussions that can lead to projects. We have urban drinks, breakfast meetings, etc. An infrastructure for relations is a stable ground for developing co-production projects. Maintain this infrastructure; invite people from the city to give lectures. You need these kinds of relations. You need

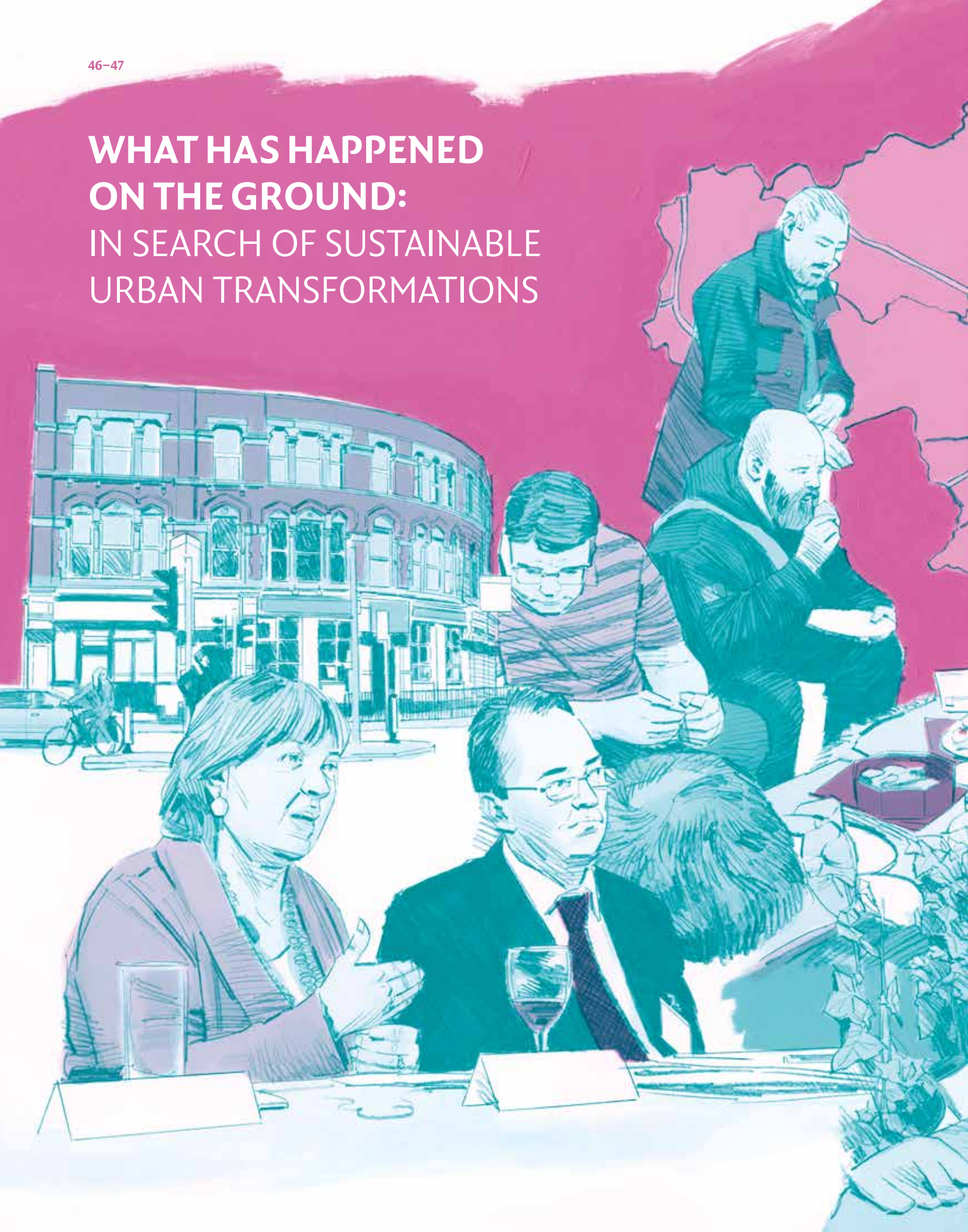
a family, a network of co-production to create an on-going dialogue.'

Co-production is a dynamic and organic process – to some extent, a continuing 'work in progress'. It is a constantly evolving process that brings together different types of knowledge and experiences and creates a safe space for learning, reflection and experimentation about the urban challenges we are facing today.

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WHAT HAS HAPPENED ON THE GROUND: IN SEARCH OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS



← A57 M'cr city centre, Denton
(M67) Hyde, Sheffield

Ring Road (N & W)
Ashton-u-Lyne, Oldham M60 ↑
Leeds (M62), Bury (M66)

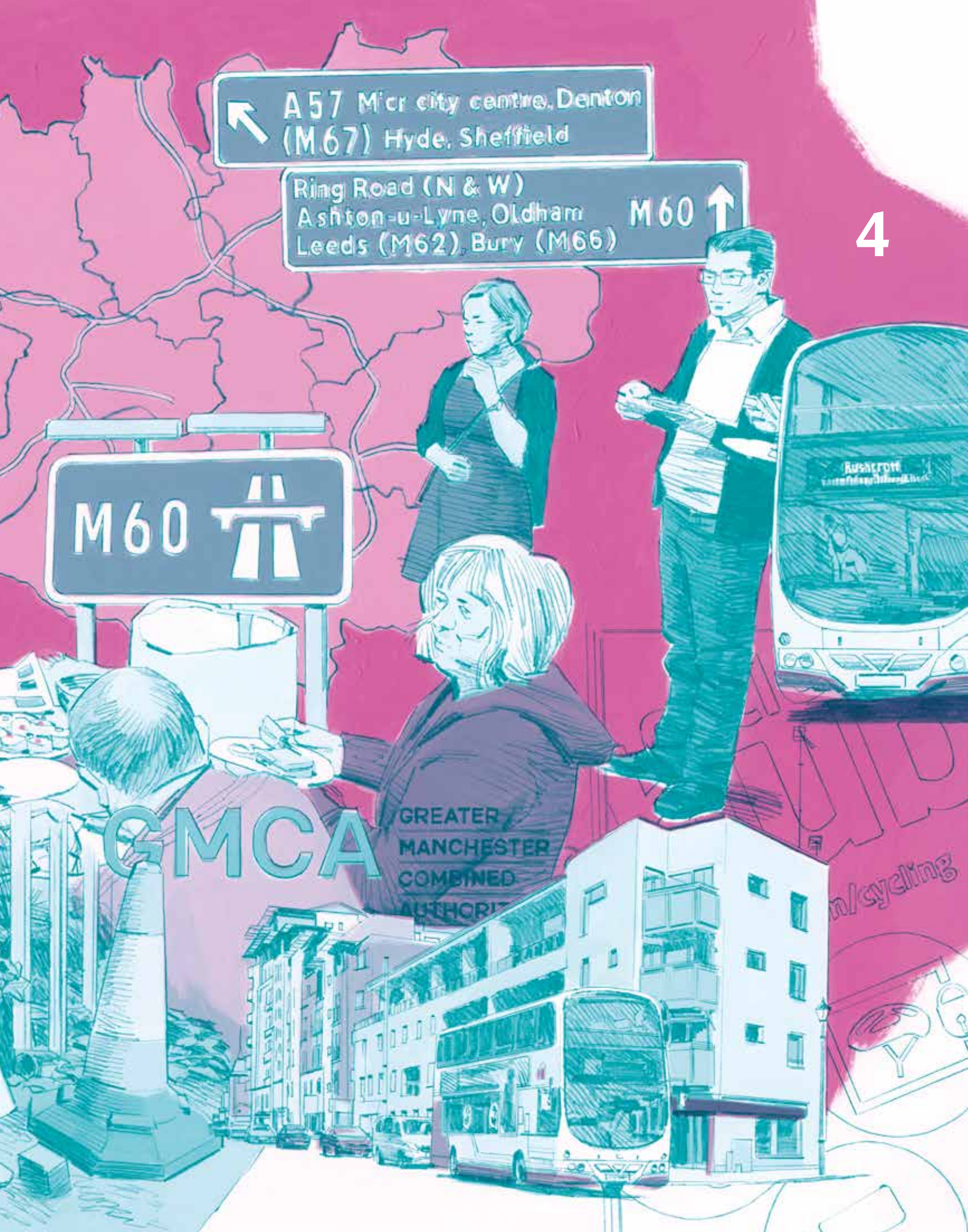
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4 WHAT HAS HAPPENED ON THE GROUND: IN SEARCH OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

Lead author: Beth Perry

Mistra Urban Futures' distinctive approach is based on the two pillars we have examined so far – the design of Local Interaction Platforms (LIPs) underpinned by a commitment to co-production. But why do these matter? Fundamentally we believe that new ways of organising and producing knowledge are required to address the 'wicked' problems that face our cities in the twenty-first century and seem resistant to resolution. In this chapter we present the results of a self-directed reflective workshop by the four LIP Directors at that time – Stephen Agong, Mikael Cullberg, Zarina Patel and Beth Perry – held in August 2015 to identify common issues and themes across our diverse project portfolio.

This chapter has been compiled and written by Beth Perry, Mikael Cullberg and Jan Riise with inputs from across the different LIPs. It offers only a taste of the rich and varied portfolio of work that has been carried out and should be read alongside the Progress Report, Annual Reports and Project Reports from 2010–2015 available on the Mistra Urban Futures website.

With a distinctive approach based on working through its Local Interaction Platforms, Mistra Urban Futures' work is underpinned by a commitment to co-production. We explore why this matters when trying to address the complex and seemingly intractable problems which face cities in the twenty-first century.

'WICKED' ISSUES, COMPLEX PROBLEMS

The much-cited Brundtland Report of 1987 (*Our Common Future*) offered a widely accepted definition of sustainability which encompasses two dimensions: first, that development is sustainable if it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; second, that development should be balanced between economic and social systems and environmental conditions – the so-called 'triple bottom line'. Yet the term 'sustainability' itself is not without its problems. There has been concern for some time that sustainability has become an excuse for 'business as usual', mobilised to support a variety of world-views and ideological positions. Critics argue that 'sustainability' is empty of political content while others dismiss it as 'purely rhetorical', 'unrealistic' or 'impossible'. Others have pointed to the need for greater nuance in framing the relationship between the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainability and that cultural dimensions are underplayed.

However, the danger is that abandoning sustainability as a vision for integrated urban development leaves a vacuum in which piecemeal concepts and policy silos are reinforced. While contested and ambiguous, the discourse of sustainability has wide appeal and traction within different knowledge communities. Proponents see this vagueness as 'constructively ambiguous': as John Robinson wrote in 2004, 'the lack of definitional precision of the term sustainable development may represent an important political opportunity'. Put simply, sustainability is good to think with.

By focussing on the values of accessible, green and fair cities, the work of Mistra Urban Futures underpins

sustainable urban development with a normative vision, without losing sight of the broader critical issues. This agenda is outlined in more detail in *Rethinking Sustainable Cities*, edited by Mistra Urban Futures' Director, David Simon.

What does this mean in practice? The contexts and challenges for each LIP vary; they differ in size, scale and geographical locations. Aligning with local priorities, securing match funding, varied organisational structures, financing arrangements and distinctive approaches to co-production have all meant that differences have emerged between the LIPs in the foci for their projects.

UNDERSTANDING CHALLENGES AND CONTEXTS

A common reference point across all of the LIPs was the international pilot project, *Governance and Policy for Sustainability* (GAPS), which ran from 2012–2015. This aimed to be a comparative review of challenges and transition pathways across all the LIPs, to share contextual knowledge about the issues and framing conditions in each city-region.

What do different policies for sustainable urban development look like in different countries? How do different stakeholders and communities influence policy formulation? By looking at policies and governance, the project mapped the challenges cities are facing, what solutions can be developed and how policies can be more effective through the inclusion of local and other forms of knowledge. The work aimed to bring together the 'what' of knowledge with the 'how' of formulating and implementing urban policies for sustainable futures.

'This was a perfect example of the Mistra Urban Futures ethos in practice', said Beth Perry, Director of Greater Manchester LIP. 'We had city-regional and local authority representatives, PhD students and representatives of community groups discussing concrete steps to develop a more inclusive and democratic governance system in Greater Manchester.'

Through work with the Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub and Social Action Research Foundation,

a number of suggestions were developed, including re-orienting policies to remove barriers to action from the bottom up, catalysing political action and enhancing the role of research partnerships in linking community and policy priorities. These concerns directly shaped future work: ‘It was very pleasing to see all project partners wanting to continue to work together to turn the proposals into reality’, Beth concluded.

In Gothenburg, the GAPS project focused on the process to form a city-regional sustainability vision. This was based

Hulthén, former Mayor of Gothenburg. ‘This enables crucial knowledge transfer to many different actors in the city.’ At the same time, Anneli emphasised social sustainability as an important focus for the future, including ‘equality, housing segregation, democracy and dialogue, not least with young citizens’.

In Cape Town, embedded PhD researchers in the City of Cape Town authority focused on policy trajectories in key areas, chosen to reflect a wider understanding of the challenges to sustainable urban development pathways:

»Mistra Urban Futures is a hub for knowledge, making it easier for us as politicians to add sustainable urban development to the political agenda. This enables crucial knowledge transfer to many different actors in the city.«

ANNELI HULTHÉN, FORMER MAYOR OF GOTHENBURG

on the idea that it is possible to combine economic growth, environmental sustainability and social cohesion by focusing on barriers to economic activity and on expansion of the local labour market. A ‘weak’ sustainability perspective within dominant policy arenas contrasted with an alternative critical vision. This alternative vision was not as organisationally coherent, but was more aligned with the ideals of accessible, green and fair cities.

The project highlighted the paradoxes in a growth-oriented agenda and the need for both environmental sustainability and social cohesion. A central conclusion was that the Gothenburg Region should look for ways to achieve greater sharing of powers to tackle specific problems. New fora for dialogue within and between public organisations and interaction with civil society may be of major significance to the development of the Gothenburg Region.

‘Mistra Urban Futures is a hub for knowledge, making it easier for us as politicians to add sustainable urban development to the political agenda,’ said Anneli

the *Economic Growth Strategy (EGS)*, *City Development Strategy (CDS)* and *Climate Adaptation Plans of Action (CAPAS)*, the *Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP)*, the *Spatial Development Framework (SDF)* and the *Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Policy (IMEP) Review*.

The City of Cape Town has changed immensely over the post-apartheid years, not only structurally, but also in terms of the changes in mandate and the increasing roles the authority has to fulfil. Understanding the authority’s mandates in context was important, particularly in the light of the country’s apartheid past, severe levels of inequality and the imperative for growth and development through investment and tourism.

One central finding, which resonates across the entire Mistra Urban Futures portfolio, was the need for more spaces for interaction between officials, politicians and stakeholders. The CTLIP concluded that this would assist in promoting the ‘whole organisation’ approach that the City of Cape Town aspires to and may help to shift some

of the competing rationalities that exist between different departments.

Across all the LIPs, other common themes emerged in the international pilot project. Among these were: tactical manoeuvring on the part of sustainability enthusiasts to hold onto long-term aspirations while shaping and remoulding their agendas to fit with shorter term shifts in city priorities; the image and attractiveness of the city; and the need for a shared space, dialogue and ‘shop window’ for sustainability. Most importantly, as Steve Connor from Creative Concern at GMLIP wrote in his report from one of the project workshops on the web portal, *Platform*, in each of the cities: ‘there is a profound gap between policy commitments and practice on the ground, and between the distinctive aims set for sustainability against broader city goals, which may cause tensions, for example around unfettered economic development, or the relaxation of planning and threat of urban sprawl.’

COMMON MESSAGES

There were two comparative projects which involved all the LIPs: *Governance and Policy for Sustainability (GAPS)* and the *Urban Sustainable Development Goal* work in 2015. Yet between 2010 and 2015 some seventy other projects and processes were initiated and carried out across our different LIPs. Some were large and lasted for several years with numerous partners and many researchers and practitioners involved; others were small, with only a few people involved. But size and scope do not count for everything. In some cases, what started as small pilot projects formed the basis for funding applications for more substantial activities.

In August 2015 the LIP Directors met over three intensive days in Gothenburg to address this question, taking a valuable opportunity for reflection and comparison following the intensity of the set-up period and mid-term review. A process was co-designed to facilitate learning about the common messages emerging from the wide portfolio of LIPs projects. First, the Directors worked independently from one another to establish a baseline

of activities, questions and themes drawing on their holistic overview and understanding of projects. In a second step, the LIP Directors worked collectively to cluster these themes and develop a shared understanding of existing and potential processes in the different LIPs around which comparative projects could develop.

A guiding thread was the Centre’s original *Strategic Plan*, produced to provide a framework and orientation for Mistra Urban Futures as it was developing. Here the twin goals were to examine:

- ▶ mechanisms and processes of governance, power and knowledge, and
- ▶ principles and practices for sustainability transformations

So what did we do and what have we learnt about these twin goals?

URBAN GOVERNANCE

The interaction and close relationships between local authorities and research are signature characteristics of Mistra Urban Futures. These span a whole range of perspectives and are connected to the governance of a city or a region. Governance relates to the structures and practices for co-ordination, steering and control within city-regions. Across all the LIPs common issues were identified that limit the realisation of sustainable urbanisation that is accessible, green and fair. These included, for instance, who is involved in decision-making; who sets the agenda; the fragmentation of the knowledge base; cultures of risk, administration and innovation; the role and value attributed to intermediary organisations, especially in the third sector, and the degree of autonomy over a city-region’s own affairs (in relation to central government, for instance).

Participatory and inclusive decision-making processes, where all voices can be heard and influence outcomes, are crucial but underdeveloped in all our city-regions.

For Mistra Urban Futures, combining theoretical and empirical knowledge can help develop context-relevant governance solutions. Through our portfolio of projects, each LIP has modestly set about improving relationships and processes amongst governance stakeholders in order to ensure effective and inclusive decision-making and urban management practices.

In Greater Manchester, a jointly designed and delivered project between researchers and the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) highlighted the critical role played by community hubs as intermediaries in urban governance. The GMLIP instigated peer-to-peer learning and action learning sets to support community hubs and developed a strategic partnership and venture with GMCVO for future work on the role of civil society in urban governance.

In work with the Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub, a central question was how a city-region engages with 2.7 million people on sustainability? The multi-level and multi-actor nature of urban governance can leave it unclear about who is responsible for engaging citizens; this gets missed out in complex systems of steering and co-ordination. Greater priority is often given to existing institutional stakeholders. Efforts to develop both offline and online engagement fora and communication tools were piloted to address these challenges. One example is the creation of a sustainability web portal *Platform* (ontheplatform.org.uk), ‘a way to discuss sustainability in an informal space’ (Steve Connor, Creative Concern).

In Gothenburg, the relatively central area of Kvillebäcken was re-developed and funding was secured for the city to implement innovative ideas to make the city district more ecologically, socially and economically sustainable, as part of the *RiverCity Vision*. However, innovative ideas that looked good on paper proved difficult to implement, sometimes due to time-consuming processes, sometimes due to lack of understanding of the actual value as perceived by citizens (see Brorström in Further Reading).

A further Gothenburg project, *Knowledge about and Approaches to Fair and Socially Sustainable Cities* (KAIROS),

focused on the social dimension of sustainability and the way in which globalisation, migration and urbanisation characterise our time and place new demands on participation and co-creation. It concluded that a profound transformation needs to be co-created across and within different levels in society. The project reported seven steps to change how citizens and other urban stakeholders can build a fairer and more socially sustainable society. These include mental shifts from:

- ▶ **Negative to positive security:** developing a more inclusive and co-created city, focusing not only on negative security (control) but also positive security (social capital and trust).
- ▶ **A market-oriented growth mind-set to a welfare-oriented development one:** focused on the connection between public health and societal development.
- ▶ **Control to co-creation in the education system:** for schools and with children and young people, helping them learn about and live democratically, moving from social control to social interaction.
- ▶ **Citizens as objects to active subjects:** opening up civil society to include organisations but also social movements, networks and engaged citizens.
- ▶ **Invitation to dialogue to a co-creative democracy:** forming a new local social contract.
- ▶ **Customer benefit to broader public value:** about the need for a new mode of governance and a more co-creative leadership in the public sector.
- ▶ **Formal rights to real rights:** focusing on equity not only in opportunity but also in outcome, addressing structural discrimination and supporting structures for real outcome changes.

‘In Greek, KAIROS means something like “the time is now”’, explained Hans Abrahamsson, leader of the project at the University of Gothenburg’s School of Global Studies. ‘What we experience in Sweden is that the complexity of societal challenges has escalated to such levels where the interest and political will to create changes towards social sustainability have created a golden opportunity to make a difference’, he concluded.

As part of the Cape Town LIP’s innovative Knowledge Transfer Programme, Saul Roux, a PhD student at the University of Cape Town, spent part of his time as a researcher embedded at the City’s Environmental Resource Management Department. There he could comment on strategies and policies, something which the city administration found very helpful. ‘This ensures that the local government, and the city-scale voice in particular, is heard’, commented Sarah Ward, Head of Energy and Climate Change in the Environmental Resource Management Department. ‘It should be for management staff as well’, she continued. ‘Managers don’t get time to think or to download everything going on in their brains and it often gets lost.’

In Kisumu, urban governance is a central cross-cutting issue fundamental to challenging power in and achieving urban justice. When asked, Alfred Otom and Stephen Agong elaborate: ‘a well-structured symbiotic relationship among the outlined stakeholders is required to realise justice in a city where no one feels prejudiced. Urban governance also involves tracing of social issues affecting society and the effectiveness of measures to address them, thereby acting as a key indicator for gauging justice in the city.’ Like the other LIPs, a challenge has been to establish constructive discussion spaces for different partners together – one example from Kisumu being to enhance access to water and sanitation services in marketplaces.

These examples highlight a common finding across all of our LIPs: that intermediary spaces in the cities and regions are needed to bring knowledge and action together. Greater Manchester and Gothenburg have both had projects on these themes, the *Univer-City* and SEiSMiC

(*Societal Engagement in Science, Mutual learning in Cities*) projects, which look at new experiments in the social organisation of knowledge in urban areas. The relationships between universities and cities need to be rethought to create more learning spaces. Reflexive learning plays a key role in the professional development of urban practitioners and enables different forms of expertise in urban decision-making to be used and valued.

URBAN KNOWLEDGE

The knowledge base for urban decision-making is fragmented, whether it comes to climate change mitigation and adaptation or to citizens’ participation in local decisions and community development. The organisation of knowledge in traditional academic fields and across multiple ‘lay’ communities creates significant challenges in terms of accessibility and usefulness.

Frequently only certain kinds of evidence are seen to be useful in informing policy; data are political and held in multiple organisations, making it often hard to access. This means there is a narrow understanding of what constitutes evidence for public policy at the urban level. This is an area where Mistra Urban Futures’ outcome studies and mid-term evaluation suggest we have had an impact: in contributing knowledge for public policy and capacity-building via networks and partnerships in our respective areas.

In early 2015 a comparative project across all the LIPs sought to improve and update the draft indicators that can be tracked on a regular basis to monitor growth and development in the city, with the objective of improving service delivery and accessibility and overall urban sustainability. This short applied project formed part of the process to develop targets and indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 11 on cities (the Urban SDG) of the seventeen SDGs adopted for 2016–2030 by the United Nations.

In each city, Mistra Urban Futures’ researchers and/or subcontracted consultants worked with local authority staff and others to assess how easily it could report on the required data, what additional collection or analysis would

be required, and how meaningful the various targets and indicators were to the respective local authorities. The results contributed directly to modifications in the final targets and indicators, while several of the local authorities found the knowledge generation process valuable in terms of learning how to cope with reporting on the Urban SDGs from 2016 onwards.

While the project grew out of the Centre's new Director's involvement in the Urban SDG Campaign, it provided Mistra Urban Futures with its first opportunity to experiment with a fully comparative project working to a uniform design. It yielded valuable lessons on how

accessible information about African cities have also been central parts of the Cape Town LIP's activities. Using online technologies to generate and share information on African cities has proven important, for example, the *UrbanAfrica.net* web portal.

The *CityLab* programme has also sought to find different ways to co-produce knowledge with different stakeholders. CityLabs have been held on different topics, but each included the development of new policies, a number of collaborative research projects, various co-produced publications and knowledge-sharing events. The *CityLab* programme was started in 2008 at the African Centre

»This ensures that the local government, and the city-scale voice in particular, is heard ... It should be for management staff as well – managers don't get time to think or to download everything going on in their brains and it often gets lost.«

SARAH WARD, HEAD OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, CITY OF CAPE TOWN

locally different forms of co-production could nevertheless provide the required outputs, and on how Mistra Urban Futures could use its unique network of LIPs to contribute to global knowledge agendas on urban sustainability. During the coming years, the Centre plans to build on this pilot project to undertake a multi-year comparative monitoring and evaluation project through each LIP on how each city actually reports on and responds to the incentives provided by the targets and indicators.

In Cape Town, the *Knowledge Transfer Programme* built trust between City officials and researchers, not least through the embedded researchers working at City departments for long periods. Meanwhile City officials spent time at the *African Centre for Cities*, which led to a number of scientific articles co-authored by City officials and researchers. Strengthening links between different African urban researchers and finding new ways to produce and disseminate credible and

for Cities and was a perfect fit for Mistra Urban Futures. Themes have included urban regeneration, integrated human settlements and flooding and, more recently, topics such as housing, healthy cities and urban violence (www.africancentreforcities.net).

In Kisumu, meeting the challenge of over-reliance by poor communities on fishing activities around the shores of Lake Victoria has meant needing to improve the quality and coherence of data and other information that are necessary for improved service provision in the city. At the same time, drawing on local knowledges and training people from the local community on the sustainable utilisation of natural resources all formed part of the *Tour Guiding and Tourism* projects. The aim was to support capacity building and offer alternative and diversified livelihoods to young people and women to reduce crime and other social tensions.

Collaboration with researchers in Gothenburg has been important as well. Helena Hansson was a PhD student and industrial designer working with the Kisumu LIP: ‘We have set up projects where local people are making crafts out of recycled waste. At Dunga Beach, a small fishing village, a research project started organising the craft community. Now there are communities that could learn from each other.’

In Greater Manchester, two key issues were identified: ‘How do we meld grass roots experience and innovative practice with the more traditional forms of knowledge to inform policy and governance?’ Mark Atherton, Director of Environment at the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities, asked: ‘What kind of knowledge does it take to govern sustainability at the urban level?’ The first issue draws attention to the low visibility of citizen knowledge in shaping urban decision-making, while the second concerns the inadequacy of mechanisms for harnessing university expertise to inform public policy.

The Greater Manchester LIP created a range of opportunities to plug academics into climate change strategy implementation planning, for instance, through the Greater Manchester *Low Carbon Research Forum*, but Beth Perry concludes that ‘It is difficult to develop structural solutions to cultural problems: you cannot “fix” knowledge exchange between academics and public policy except through long-term relationships.’

At Gothenburg LIP, a range of projects developed knowledge to inform practice. The *Wellbeing In Sustainable Environments* (WISE) and *Urban Station Communities* projects, for example, produced modelling tools that are now used in the city-region, not least by the City of Gothenburg and the National Transport Agency. Reports were written directly for other authorities and agencies, such as for the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The project, *Business in Sustainable Urban Development* (BISUD), was carried out to solve practical issues identified by practitioners, resulting in strategies for energy efficiency, with spin-offs at the Swedish Energy Agency and their co-operation platform.

As with projects across all the LIPs, it is difficult to attribute change directly to a single project, particularly as the Mistra Urban Futures projects tend to be part of a broader ecology of collaborative research on urban sustainability in each urban context. Despite this, many projects have reported that changing mindsets and discourses through co-producing knowledge is an important outcome. Anneli Hulthén, the then Mayor and Chair of the Executive Committee of the City of Gothenburg elaborated in 2014: ‘The advantages are obvious ... the most important is exchange, with employees of the city working close to the research and researchers working close to the city.’

Other perspectives and questions are now on the planning and policy-making agenda. Important and significant impacts have been seen on, for example, the *Gothenburg Climate Strategy and the Regional Climate Strategy* by the WISE project. The projects have also had an impact on education. Project results have been used in teaching sustainable development at the School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg, and at the introduction of the Sustainability Days at Chalmers University of Technology. Project reports from KAIROS have also been used as course material at the Department of Social Work at the University of Gothenburg.

Similar themes can be seen at the other LIPs. In Kisumu, for instance, the identification of the problem of water hyacinths choking Lake Victoria has led to their use in handicrafts and simultaneously raised awareness amongst policy-makers of the need for species control.

URBAN CHANGE

With the growth in population, expansion of city boundaries and advancement of technology, we need a paradigm shift in conducting urban affairs rather than being bound to old structures, some of which have become obsolete or redundant. But cities are complex and are changing rapidly. We need to understand these transformative dynamics and trends, or we will end up creating solutions for a world that no longer exists.

At the same time, it is necessary to keep in mind that not all changes are desirable or positive. There are strong pressures on each of our different cities for particular growth-oriented strategies which give preference to particular development trajectories. Pathways must be visualised and reflections on the future implications of current changes are crucial to move towards a shared vision.

A change towards more sustainable lifestyles has a particular place in discussions regarding urban sustainability. Mistra Urban Futures is the umbrella for several projects investigating various dimensions within the field. The WISE project in Gothenburg gained considerable attention for its conclusions that the lifestyle changes required by most people with average and above-average incomes would not lead to a decrease in wellbeing. A toolbox for measuring and assessing lifestyle changes, such as travel patterns and food consumption, was created by a project also linked to the United Nations' work on sustainable lifestyles (*IOYFP*, a ten-year framework plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production).

The *Cities as Value Networks* (CAVN) project at GOLIP found that, somewhat diverging from the city's own narrative, plans and ambitions, the growth of the urban area has taken place primarily in the outer city districts, rather than the centre, and, in particular, in municipalities surrounding the city. Such issues are echoed in Greater Manchester, as Eamonn Boylan, the Chief Executive of Stockport Council, wrote in 2012: 'We still must press very hard to encourage diversification of tenure and the creation of local choices in our most vulnerable places, where we still face the greatest problems of deprivation, poor attainment, low life expectancy, highest levels of dependency and crime, if we are to avoid the same problems of dysfunctionality emerging in new places.'

Studying urban development from a spatial angle, the *Divided City – Shared City* project reported on the problems and challenges of actually 'translating' visions into the spatial layout, physical expressions and architecture of the city. Urban planning is an important factor in promoting employment and integration, but it has not

often been used strategically to reduce segregation and to create more equal living conditions.

Spatial configurations have social consequences – the challenge then is to translate intentions into practice. Another challenge is to direct investments to the parts of the city or region where they are most needed to realise sustainable development. More knowledge and better methods are needed to ensure that urban change actually leads to reduced spatial inequality. We need to understand better how to build cities, and how to communicate with developers, inhabitants and other stakeholders. And, of course, how better to handle opposing forces and interests.

Similar tensions can be seen in Greater Manchester in terms of the dynamics and contradictions between spatial, economic, ecological and social drivers for urban transformation. In 2012 a series of *Perspective Essays* was written by politicians, policy-makers and practitioners in Greater Manchester, revealing the wide variety of drivers and goals for urban development.

Sir Richard Leese, the Leader of Manchester City Council, noted that: 'There is often a misconceived tension between physical re-development and soft, people-centred programmes. Successful growth strategies need both working together in tandem.' For others, such as Alex Whinnom of the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation, the emphasis needs to be on inclusive governance: 'If Greater Manchester is to be a sustainable city it needs to address a number of key challenges, the biggest of which is to involve all citizens in discussing and developing a shared perspective of what sustainability means – what it might look like, why it is important and how it can be achieved.'

The Biospheric Foundation in East Salford, a unique urban socio-ecological experiment, was selected by the Greater Manchester LIP as the subject and site for reflexive analysis. A co-produced case analysis between practitioners and researchers revealed the limits to experimentation as a driver of urban change. In South Africa, there are many successful examples of participatory community development initiatives taking place that need to be built on to

roll out integrated area-wide development programmes.

The Philippi *CityLab* in Cape Town worked with issues of democracy and state/ society synergies on the local level. After three years of deliberations, academics and practitioners considered the necessary conditions for sustainable development in low-income neighbourhoods in cities of the South. Insights were provided into the complexities and challenges of local development through the lens of Philippi, an area consisting partially of dense informal settlements and new subsidised housing projects, and partially of a historically important urban smallholder farming area in Cape Town that has experienced much encroachment

John Steve Okumu, a former fisherman who is now one of the tour guides at Dunga Beach, reported in 2014 that ‘Now Dunga Beach is a place with different businesses. The tour guides link the tourists and the local community people ... soon we can move on our own ... it is better for someone to show you how to fish than give you fish every day.’

Projects have also considered the role of culture as a fourth dimension of sustainability and a facilitator or catalyst of transitions processes towards improved urban sustainability. For instance, in Kisumu the development of a prototype eco-lodge for community-based tourism at

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how to fish than give you fish every day.« JOHN STEVE OKUMU,

FORMER FISHERMAN TURNED TOUR GUIDE AT DUNGA BEACH

by industry and informal housing. The main conclusion was that sustainable and equitable local development and urban change depend on state-society synergies, which in turn rest on democratic, capacitated and accountable institutions at both community and state levels.

Kisumu serves as an example where urban change is closely linked to poverty reduction through improved livelihoods. Strategies for marketing local products and services are necessary for better returns on investment. In order to overcome the overreliance on local markets that leads to high supply, low demand and low prices, strategic objectives for national and international markets are seen as necessary. This means that the growth and development of a city like Kisumu is dependent on adequate personnel resources. The Mistra Urban Futures PhD researchers connected to the *Market Places* and *Ecotourism* projects have provided capacity building and helped facilitate both research and service delivery.

Miyandhe and preservation of cultural heritage sites have led to a focus on the actual quality of the road infrastructure for sustainable development. The *Public Culture CityLab* in Cape Town concentrated on exploring the interrelated fields of public art, the creative economy, heritage and cities, and culture-led development. In Greater Manchester, pilot work around culture and environmental sustainability with the Manchester Arts and Sustainability Team was undertaken. In Gothenburg, projects have examined processes of cultural densification and cultural value in the city. This led to a joint application for a new project led by Professor Tony Whyton on cultural heritage called *Cultural Heritage and Improvised Music in European Festivals* (CHIME), involving Gothenburg and Greater Manchester within a wider consortium of partners looking at cultural activities as carriers of new ideas.

REALISING JUST CITIES THROUGH CO-PRODUCTION

The lenses of urban governance, urban knowledge and urban change provide critical windows onto a diverse and varied project portfolio. Three priorities for Mistra Urban Futures moving forward are to:

- ▶ **improve relationships and processes amongst governance stakeholders to ensure participation in decision-making and urban management practices;**
- ▶ **innovate in the social organisation of different knowledges and practices within cities required to value and harness multiple forms of expertise, and**
- ▶ **understand and seek to influence the dynamics, drivers, practices and barriers to urban change processes for accessible, green and fair cities.**

But what kinds of transformations are needed? What are the principles and practices which need to be supported? The existing portfolio of Mistra Urban Futures projects clusters around three sets of transformative activities for co-producing knowledge at the socio-ecological-spatial-cultural nexus.

Socio-ecological transformations: work is needed on the bidirectional impacts between cities and their social and biophysical environments, linked to issues of urban ecological sustainability. Across the LIPs there is an interest in understanding urban metabolism and ecosystem services, and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and more effective environmental management; promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, including issues such as promoting the green economy, energy governance and increasing the use of renewable energy; understanding urban food systems, increasing urban food security and addressing food poverty; exploring the interface between economic, social and ecological sustainability, such as ecotourism, the greening of cities and the use of the natural environment for recreation; and understanding linkages between urban and rural areas.

Socio-spatial transformations: work is needed in relation to the built environment and spatial form of cities. This includes considering access to land, infrastructure, housing, public services and built institutions; how to create denser mixed-used urban environments through urban planning and the implementation of catalytic projects; increasing accessibility through improving urban transport systems and promoting transit-oriented development; and understanding existing patterns of socio-spatial segregation and finding ways of facilitating socio-spatial integration.

Socio-cultural transformations: this dimension is often neglected, so work is needed to centre the importance of urban life and human development in cities. Cross-LIP collaborations are converging around the need to promote more diverse and inclusive urban societies; preserve and enhance tangible and intangible cultural heritage in urban environments; explore the role of the humanities, arts and culture in sustainable urban development and as mechanisms for urban transformation; improve urban health and wellbeing; and promote social inclusion, including gender mainstreaming, strengthening local democracy, supporting cultural diversity and the role of civil society.

The outcome of the LIP Directors' meeting in August 2015 set the direction for the future of Mistra Urban Futures in the coming years. Building on the LIP model and ethos of co-production, the outcome was a flexible, internationally comparative yet locally relevant framework. Called *Realising Just Cities*, this framework focuses on the development of transformative research activities, co-produced between academics and practitioners, using the socio-ecological-spatial-cultural nexus as a means to make visible the challenges and opportunities in rethinking processes of urban governance, knowledge and change.

Articles and reports on all projects referred to in this text can be found on the Mistra Urban Futures website. The Further Reading list gives only a selection of this substantial body of material.

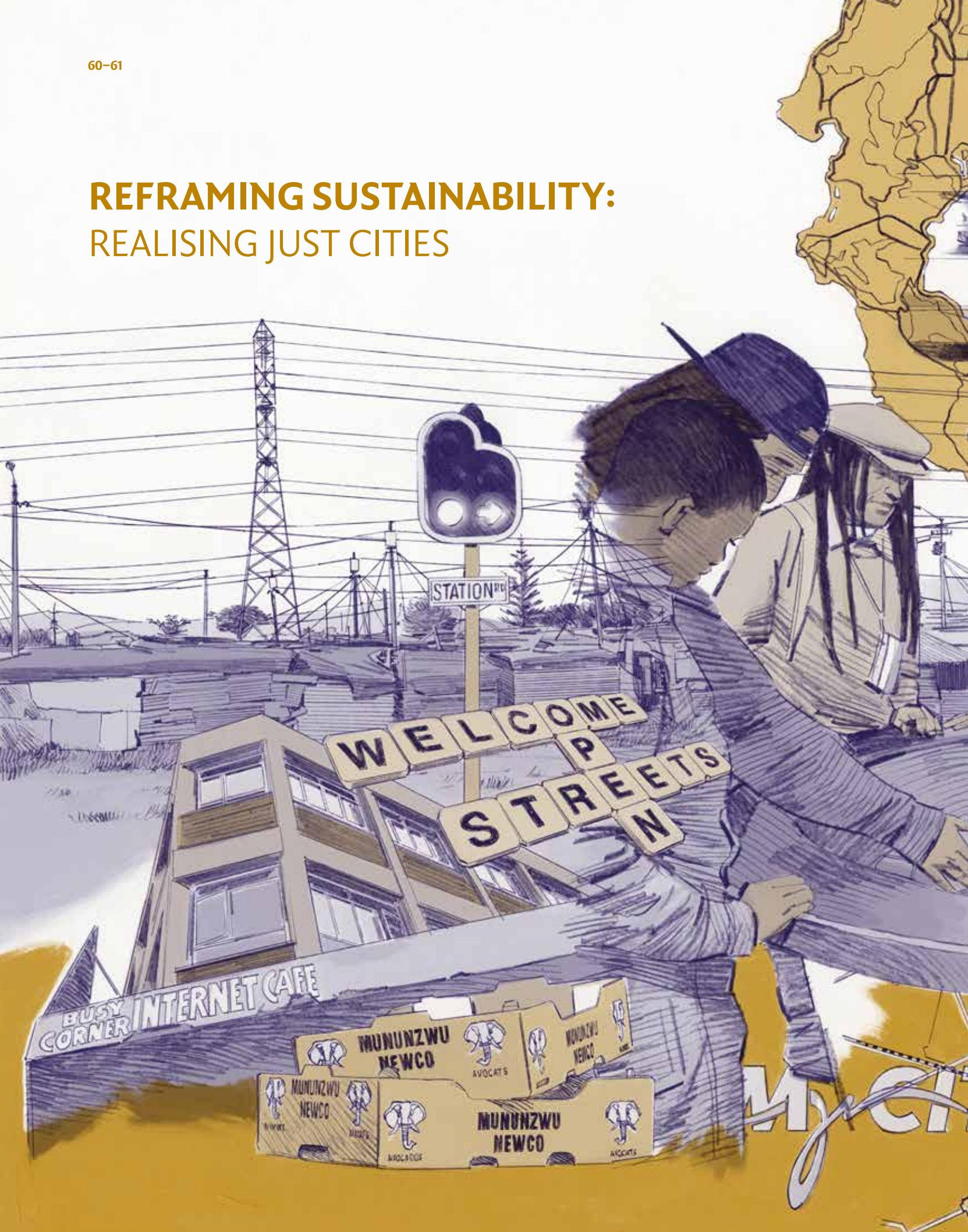
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REFRAMING SUSTAINABILITY: REALISING JUST CITIES





5 REFRAMING SUSTAINABILITY: REALISING JUST CITIES

Principal authors: Rike Sitas and Warren Smit

Across the world it is increasingly being recognised that cities face a range of complex challenges. As explored elsewhere in this book, much of Mistra Urban Futures' work so far has been to investigate co-production as a strategy to address complex urban issues. Recognising ongoing injustices in cities everywhere and drawing on the reflections of the Local Interaction Platform Directors, the coming years of Mistra Urban Futures are guided by the framework of *Realising Just Cities*. As John Friedmann wrote in 2002 in *The Prospect of Cities*, 'If injustice is to be corrected ... we will need the concrete imagery of utopian thinking to propose steps that would bring us a little closer to a more just world.' The two key questions we hope to answer are: What do just cities look like in different urban contexts? And how might just cities be realised?

This chapter was written by Warren Smit and Rike Sitas of the Cape Town LIP. Part of the chapter is based on exploratory inputs from each of the Mistra Urban Futures Local Interaction Platform cities, documenting various workshops and pilot interviews with a range of stakeholders, undertaken by Chido Muzondo (Cape Town), Alfred Otom and Stephen Agong (Kisumu), Louise Marix Evans (Greater Manchester) and Leif Eriksson, Hans Abrahamsson and Sanna Isemo (Gothenburg).

What do just cities look like in different urban contexts? And how might just cities be realised? Workshops, interviews and research from Mistra Urban Futures' Local Interaction Platforms uncover how ideas of the just city are understood by different stakeholders in different places – and the strategies which might help tackle complex urban problems.

In this chapter we examine the concept of just cities and consider what it means in the different contexts of Mistra Urban Futures' Local Interaction Platforms around the world. Looking briefly at what has been written about justice and injustice in cities, we then turn to our initial findings from engaging with various stakeholders about what *they* saw as key issues in their cities and strategies for realising just cities. Finally, we reflect on the outcomes of the process. How are ideas of the just city understood by different stakeholders in different places? And how can we go about developing and implementing strategies to help us achieve just cities?

WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF JUST CITIES?

It is useful to reflect on what has been written about the concept of *just cities*. For centuries scholars have written about aspects of justice and injustice in societies and economies. The injustices associated with urbanisation and industrialisation in the nineteenth century were most visible in cities. In 1844, Friedrich Engels documented the appalling living conditions of the working class in Manchester in his *The Condition of the Working Class in England*.

Studies such as these gave rise to concepts such as *social justice* and *distributive justice* in the work of scholars like the British philosopher and economist John Stuart Mill. Social justice can be defined as being about a fair and just relationship between individuals and society more broadly, while distributive justice relates to a specific aspect of social justice – what is distributed, between whom they are distributed, and what is the ideal distribution. Mill wrote in 1863 that 'Society should treat all equally

well.' Thinking on issues of social and distributive justice generally focused on the national scale, and not on the urban scale. Although it was obvious that injustices were widespread in cities, this was seen usually as an outcome of national economies and policies.

During the 1960s, cities became a key site of the struggle against injustice. In 1973, drawing on his work in Baltimore, the geographer, David Harvey, applied the concepts of social and distributive justice to cities in his book *Social Justice and the City*. Harvey used the term *territorial justice* to examine the spatial and geographical dimensions of justice. Since then, the term *spatial justice* has become more usual. The concept of spatial justice was proposed by Gordon Pirie in 1983, and has been elaborated on by a number of scholars, most notably in Ed Soja's 2010 publication called *Seeking Spatial Justice*. Spatial justice essentially is the spatial or geographical aspects of justice, and concerns the fair and equitable spatial distribution of resources and the opportunities to use them.

The notion of the *right to the city* is closely linked to spatial justice and attempts to achieve just cities. In his 1968 book, *The Right to the City*, Henri Lefebvre said that:

The right to the city, complemented by the right to difference and the right to information, should modify, concretize and make more practical the rights of the citizen as an urban dweller (*citadin*) and user of multiple services. It would affirm, on the one hand, the right of users to make known their ideas on the space and time of their activities in the urban area; it would also cover the right to the use of the center, a privileged place, instead of being dispersed and stuck into ghettos.

Lefebvre saw the right to the city as having two key dimensions: the right to participate in decision-making and the right to appropriation, that is to physically access, occupy and use urban space. This essentially implies that the social value of urban space be prioritised over its economic and financial value.

»How are ideas of the just city understood by different stakeholders in different places? And how can we go about developing and implementing strategies to help us achieve just cities?«

The right to the city has found traction in recent discussions around the commons. The notion of the commons stems from the idea of shared environmental resources such as air and water, and has been extended to include the social and cultural commons. According to Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri in *Commonwealth* in 2011, the city itself is the ultimate commons. Although contested, the overarching idea is that there are certain things and thoughts that should be collective or common to everyone, and this has become a rallying point for many social and spatial justice activists.

Closely related to the notion of spatial justice is the idea of environmental justice. The urban environmental justice movement began in the 1970s in the United States, in cities where negative environmental externalities (such as toxic waste, solid waste and air pollution) were highly unevenly distributed racially. In the words of Robert D. Bullard, writing in 1993, ‘Some communities are routinely poisoned while the government looks the other way.’

While some take the view that just cities can be achieved only through a radical upheaval of the current social and economic order, others believe that there are interventions which can be put in place immediately to make cities more just. The most comprehensive exploration of how we can try to make cities more just in practice is *The Just City*, by Susan Fainstein in 2010. Although focused on wealthier cities in the Global North, Fainstein sees injustice as ‘actions that disadvantage those who already have less or are excluded from entitlements enjoyed by others who are no more deserving’, such as ‘Taking away housing, employment or access to public space from the politically or economically weak.’ By contrast, she defines the just city as ‘a city in which public investment and regulations

produce equitable outcomes rather than support those already well off.’

Fainstein defines the three key dimensions of urban justice as *equity, diversity and democracy*. *Equity* is ‘the distribution of material and non-material benefits derived from public policy in such a way that it does not favour those who are already better off’, and can be achieved through interventions such as inclusionary housing, regulations to prevent gentrification, and providing affordable public transport. *Diversity* is the integration of races, classes and land uses, which can be achieved through interventions such as zoning schemes that allow for a range of uses, through the provision of a range of public spaces, and targeted assistance to groups historically discriminated against in accessing housing, education and employment. *Democracy* is defined as all people’s interests being represented, which Fainstein believes can be achieved through interventions such as ensuring participatory planning and budgeting processes at local and citywide scale to ensure that all interests are fairly represented.

An important complement to Fainstein’s analysis is Amartya Sen’s 1985 work on capabilities – that equal access to opportunities is meaningless without developing the capabilities of people to be able to make use of these opportunities. Fainstein notes that the objectives of equity, diversity and democracy may be in conflict, both internally and with each other, and there usually need to be trade-offs.

Over the past few decades, the *right to the city* and the concepts of spatial and environmental justice have been used in various ways by a wide variety of groups, including social movements and NGOs. The concept of the right to the city has particularly resonated in, and been taken up in, the Global South. Susan Parnell and Sophie Oldfield’s

edited volume, *The Routledge Handbook on Cities of the Global South* in 2014, draws together a wide range of voices from across the Global South, many of which draw on notions of the *just, fair, and good* city, often in relation to the *right to the city*.

One of the earliest examples of the explicit use of the right to the city as a theoretical and political framework was the formulation in 1995 of the *World Charter for the Right to the City* by Habitat International Coalition (this was eventually officially adopted at the World Social Forum in 2005). A number of aspects of this have been adopted by some governments, such as the 2001 City Statute in Brazil. UN-Habitat also adopted the right to the city concept in its *State of the World's Cities 2010: Bridging the Urban Divide*. The right to the city has largely been championed by academics and activists in the Global South. In 2010 Edgar Pieterse explored the relationship of these rights to the developmental state, while more recently in 2015 Cirolia, Smit and Duminy explored the right to the city in relation to housing.

In addition, the *New Urban Agenda* adopted by the UN at the Habitat III summit in Quito in October 2016 to guide international efforts to promote sustainable urban development over the next twenty years, incorporates a holistic approach within which urban spatial, social and environmental justice are embedded.

Mistra Urban Futures is conscious of the Northern-derived nature of most of these concepts and its book, *Realising Just Cities*, examines how three core components of urban sustainability, namely accessibility, greenness and fairness, can be framed to have universal applicability. The chapter on fair cities by Susan Parnell is of particular relevance here.

EXAMINING THE CONCEPT OF THE 'JUST CITY' IN THE MISTRA URBAN FUTURES CITIES

In order not to take for granted the global relevance of the concept of the just city, an important step in adopting a focus on *realising just cities* is to test its relevance in the different Northern and Southern cities where

Mistra Urban Futures works through its Local Interaction Platforms. To take this forward, in May 2016, Mistra Urban Futures undertook a series of workshops and pilot interviews in the different cities. The stakeholders involved included members of civil society (such as NGOs, community associations, social movements, trade unions), local and regional government (mayors, councillors, and/or other elected politicians and officials) and the private sector (chambers of commerce, business improvement districts, large corporations, large property owners, organisations representing informal businesses).

The questions discussed included:

- ▶ **What do the concepts of just, fair and equitable cities mean to you?**
- ▶ **Do you think that making your city more just, fair and equitable is an important objective?**
- ▶ **Do you think your city is currently just, fair and equitable? How was this achieved or how is it being achieved?**
- ▶ **If no, what are the key issues of injustice, unfairness and inequity in your city, and the key obstacles to achieving justice, fairness and equality?**
- ▶ **How do you think these issues can be addressed and obstacles overcome to make your city more just, fair and equitable?**
- ▶ **Are you aware of any key initiatives that are trying to make your city more just, fair and equitable?**

METHODOLOGY

Local Interaction Platforms

Co-creation

Comparative urban research

TRACKS

Socio-ecological transformations

Socio-spatial transformations

Socio-cultural transformations

CORE PROCESSES

Urban change

Urban knowledge

Urban governance

REALISING JUST CITIES

ACCESSIBLE GREEN FAIR

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK

We organise urban knowledge around Local Interaction Platforms in different continental regions, practising co-creation and comparative urban research. We have identified three sets of cross-cutting Core Processes that are essential for working towards the realisation of just (i.e., accessible, green and fair) cities in different contexts, and on which reflection, comparison, analysis and learning will be conducted: *urban change*, *urban knowledge* and *urban governance*. Key substantive areas for research and practice have been identified as

TRACKS – Transformative Research Activities through Co-producing Knowledge. The TRACKS contribute to, and are informed by, the Core Processes as each TRACK can be considered as including and intersecting with processes of change, knowledge production/ management and governance. Three TRACKS are our priorities: *socio-ecological*, *socio-spatial* and *socio-cultural transformations*. There is overlap between the TRACKS, hence they are to be seen as organisational principles rather than discrete or disconnected spheres.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Here we explore the notion of the *just city* by drawing on the research Mistra Urban Futures conducted in each city. We start by unpacking the varied ways in which the terminology around just cities surfaces in different contexts. We go on to reveal some of the core issues related to injustice in each of the cities and end with some examples of how just cities are being realised.

Just cities terminology

The workshops, interviews and research yielded some interesting commonalities and differences in the terminology surrounding issues of just cities. While Fainstein's conceptions of justice as equity, diversity and democracy are evident, the terminology is not always used in the same ways in different contexts or by different stakeholders.

In Cape Town and Kisumu, the terms *social justice* and *spatial justice* are widely used to refer to broader urban issues, and the concepts of *fairness* and *equality* are also often used. In Greater Manchester, however, a desk-based review revealed a largely criminological use of the term *justice* on official websites, with the exception of work within Mistra Urban Futures itself and elsewhere in academia. The words *fairness* and *equity* are used in Greater Manchester, but *equality* is the term that most commonly emerged in relation to issues of the just city in the research conducted thus far.

Equality means something slightly different from, and narrower than, equity – for example, in 2011 Carolyn Stephens suggested that equality refers to the distribution of outcomes among different social groups, whereas equity refers more broadly to the distribution of power, resources and outcomes among different social groups. A similar hesitance about the term *just city* emerged in Greater Manchester, where some felt the term *justice* is too strong and would be better positioned as fairness. This may come from an association of *justice* with the idea of punishment as opposed to a system of redress as is imagined in Cape Town and Kisumu. But the notion of fairness came with its own critiques within the interviews, where there was

a concern that it implies 'you get what you deserve' which further disadvantages the urban poor.

The pilot work in Greater Manchester revealed recurring terms such as access, self-sufficiency and providing enabling environments. One concern with such terminology is that it places responsibility on individuals who may have very different social and economic circumstances. While seen as more politically acceptable to those in official positions, these 'softer' terms do not take into account the myriad power relations at play that may hinder the reality of access or self-sufficiency for many people.

Those community organisations interviewed align values and sentiments at the core of their actions which can be interpreted within the context of the just city, but they do not necessarily explicitly use the terminology of just cities. Instead, a preference was found for expressing localised issues around the notion of a 'better quality of life'. On the other hand, there are other groups, such as advocacy, campaigning or activist organisations who have embraced the concept of just cities, which can be most evidently seen in manifestos for change, moral calls for action and in the endeavour to redress inequality through 'levelling the playing field'.

In Gothenburg, different terminology is used: the Swedish word *rättvisa* can mean justice, fairness, equity and equality. Equality in this context refers to equal opportunities, fairness refers to the capacity of people to make the most of the opportunities, and justice refers to the power dynamics that shape equality and fairness. For just cities, *rättvisa* as justice is the active levelling of the playing field to ensure that equality and fairness are enabled. Because *social justice* and *spatial justice* are not terms commonly used in Gothenburg, respondents had different reactions to whether the term *just city* captures current needs adequately. Although there was a sentiment that justice is important, the introduction of new terms was not always seen as the most productive way to address urban issues. The research showed that *rättvisa* is already an all-encompassing term.

»Preliminary research suggests that leveraging the notion of the just city can be a meaningful agent for change through its ability to identify unequal power relations in the process of seeking social, economic and spatial transformation.«

Despite this contested use of terminology across the cities, there is a general recognition that just, fair and equitable cities are important, but how this is prioritised may shift in different contexts at different times. In Greater Manchester the term *just city* may not be used in official accounts, but the general sentiment can be found in the aspirations of the policy-makers, business representatives, think tanks and community organisations interviewed.

For Kisumu and Cape Town, the urgency of achieving just cities may be more apparent, given the differing levels of poverty and inequality in comparison to the cities in the Global North, as well as the histories of colonisation, racial discrimination and segregation. In particular, apartheid South Africa was an extremely unjust society with highly unjust cities. Many of these injustices have continued to exist into the post-apartheid period.

While many aspects of South African life have been made more just, spatial and environmental injustices associated with the spatial form of South African cities and towns are still very starkly apparent. As a result, a number of social movements in South Africa have mobilised around the concepts of the right to the city, spatial justice and environmental justice. Particularly noteworthy examples are the *Right to the City* campaign of Abahlali baseMjondolo and the Environmental Justice Networking Forum. Many government policies have adopted principles such as the need to restructure cities to be fairer and more equitable, but in practice this has not had much impact.

In Cape Town, therefore, the notions of social and spatial justice are inextricably linked to redress from colonial and apartheid inequality that entrenched the majority of citizens in unequal relation to the wealthy minority. The term has found traction in social movements, as is

evident in the name of the Social Justice Coalition in Cape Town, a network of organisations advocating for housing, education and access to basic services under the banner of social justice. Ndifuna Ukwazi, a recently established organisation, has an explicit focus on spatial justice and the right to the city, with its *Reclaim the City* campaign.

While the just cities terminology is well established in these circles and appears in some policy documents, as in Greater Manchester, it is not the everyday terminology of public officials. The most prevalent language in official documentation relates rather to equality and integration. Public officials share similar concerns that are revealed in the strategic plans of cities even if they are not evident in their use of language.

There is a general consensus that cities are in urgent need of transformation, but how injustice can be recognised and how justice can be realised is more complicated in practice. The preliminary research in Gothenburg suggests that leveraging the notion of the *just city* can be a meaningful agent for change through its ability to identify unequal power relations in the process of seeking social, economic and spatial transformation.

Substantive issues of injustice

Here we unpack some of the key issues of injustice in the cities where Mistra Urban Futures is based. The cities may have different material realities, and levels of poverty are considerably higher in Kisumu and Cape Town, yet there are also a number of shared injustices linked to exclusion.

In Kisumu, five key issues hinder the realisation of a more just city. First, there has been a failure to protect and maintain public spaces, denying safe social spaces for residents. Second, poor infrastructure and development

has meant inadequate and unequal urban development that restricts the everyday lives and livelihoods of residents. Third, the voices of vulnerable community members have been neglected, and this is most evident in the lack of adequate representation of youth, women, and especially female children in decision-making processes. Fourth, institutional maladministration has led to cartels and vigilantes controlling important amenities; undue political processes can derail attempts at fairness; and discrimination and nepotism are counter to notions of equality in the *just city*. Finally, under-developed social welfare schemes are not able to adequately support marginalised people, and in particular, the elderly.

Although Cape Town shares some socio-economic challenges with Kisumu, the key issues in the former are

of residents unable to access sufficient food for their needs.

The City of Cape Town's *Spatial Development Framework* commits to 'just and equitable redress' in order to 'transform the apartheid city'. City officials have identified transport as one of the key issues, and there has been an accelerated interest in transit-oriented development as a means to address the social, economic and spatial injustices. Cape Town and Kisumu shared a concern about the disjuncture between policy and implementation. Regardless of how progressive policies may be, they may be unimplementable, due to constraints like inadequate financial resources and lack of political will.

In Greater Manchester, official strategies are concerned with reducing budget deficits. Although this is contested territory, the strategies are seen by some to allow spaces

»Although there is an overall commitment from key stakeholders in each of the cities to realise more just cities, it is also recognised that there are tensions and trade-offs.«

slightly different. One of the primary challenges is linked to access to land and housing, as large numbers of households live in informal settlements and other types of inadequate housing. Cape Town is still a racially segregated city and although some integration is evident along the main transport corridors, the city is still spatially organised according to colonial and apartheid urban planning.

Little has been done so far to transform this to ensure equitable access to jobs, amenities and services. This is linked to the challenge of high levels of unemployment (particularly amongst the youth), inequitable access to employment, and a weak education system. Safety is a fundamental issue for many residents, as Cape Town is ranked as one of the most violent cities in the world, with particularly high levels of gang violence. One of the hotly contested topics at the moment, and one that inhibits a 'just' Cape Town, is food insecurity, with a large proportion

for innovation and collaboration to emerge. In looking how to balance economic growth and social and environmental factors, six main challenges were identified by the interviewees in the pilot study. The first challenge involves tackling inequalities linked to health, income and housing. The second involves addressing spatial and geographical inequalities where neighbourhoods are developing at different rates, leaving a rift between affluent and poor areas. The third relates to alleviating poverty and, in particular, food and fuel poverty. The fourth is linked to housing, which in the private rental sector can be in poor condition, insecure and expensive. There is also a problem with homelessness. The final challenge involves addressing low wage, low skilled and insecure employment.

Even though Gothenburg has higher standards of living for the majority of residents than the other Mistra Urban Futures cities, there is widespread agreement that it is not

»To realise a just Kisumu we need to ‘empower citizens and promote active stakeholder participation and involvement at all levels of local governance’.« INTERVIEW, KISUMU, 2016

yet a fair and *just city* due to structural injustices visible in class divisions and in segregation where some areas are deemed ‘discriminated urban districts’. These districts are marked by diminishing public spaces and infrastructure being dismantled, which has become the basis for youth activism. Addressing issues of inequitable access to the city (participation in decision-making as well as physical access), housing, healthcare and education have been highlighted by the respondents in the initial research as the most important issues to address to ensure a ‘just’ Gothenburg.

Although there is an overall commitment from key stakeholders in each of the cities to realise more *just cities*, it is also recognised that there are tensions and trade-offs. Shared across the cities was the tension between economic, social and environmental development. One perspective is that economic growth is essential to providing social benefits. Others point to perpetuating inequality as evidence that the idea that money will ‘trickle down’, and eventually flow where it is needed, is optimistic at best. Increasingly there has been a focus on supporting local, often community-led initiatives. These pro-local and pro-social perspectives draw on examples that focus on empowering and entrusting local people and initiatives that are working towards urban sustainability that is not reliant on investment intensive approaches.

In Cape Town, questions were raised about the incompatible logics of the property market and social and spatial justice. The allegation is that high property prices in the centre prevent social and economic integration and maintain the spatialised divisions entrenched during apartheid. The City of Cape Town’s *Spatial Development Framework* seeks to address this but there are competing pressures from different interest groups such as ratepayers’ associations seeking to protect property prices and social

movements pushing for more centrally located affordable housing.

Despite differences in use of terminology and some different contextual realities, there are still vital similarities, specifically related to concerns about segregated neighbourhoods, which were expressed in each of the city’s research findings. Cape Town is largely segregated along apartheid lines. Kisumu faces challenges with differential development in different neighbourhoods. Gothenburg has marginalised migrant communities cut off from social infrastructure, and Greater Manchester shares neighbourhood area inequalities based on income. These spatial inequalities are linked to complex socio-cultural and economic inequalities. These similarities point to a common concern for socially responsive urban development and spatial transformation.

Realising the just city

Although there is an overwhelming commitment to achieving more just cities, even if there are differences in terminology, *how* to do this is more complicated. Here we investigate some examples from the different cities where this idea is being explored. The findings have been clustered around: governance and policy, litigation, strengthening civil society, public engagement, spatial transformation and social transformation.

Governance and decision-making processes were highlighted in all four cities. Addressing issues of governance could rectify Kisumu’s concerns about maladministration and nepotism. Kisumu’s research revealed a commitment to promoting public participation processes as a response to this. In Greater Manchester action research supported by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Mistra Urban Futures

(the *Jam and Justice* project) is seeking to test and learn from co-produced inclusive governance projects and bottom-up collaborative governance. Similarly, much of the work of the *Knowledge Transfer Programme* in Cape Town was about attempting to develop new tools of governance. Related to governance, **policy** is another terrain where innovation can occur. The *Governance and Policy for Sustainability* (GAPS) project worked to explore this in relationship to sustainability.

Litigation has also proven a successful path to furthering issues of justice. For example, the work of Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) in engaging with the legal system has pushed a more progressive agenda around street trade and waste pickers. This shows how informal workers

as either top-down or bottom-up. The Philippi *CityLab* in Cape Town, which focused on experiments in urban sustainability, revealed that a middle ground – a state-society synergy – is possibly a better way of speaking about and ‘doing’ urban development. Gothenburg’s *Knowledge about and Approaches to Fair and Socially Sustainable Cities* (KAIROS) project used similar strategies to support active citizenship centralised around issues of sustainability.

The previous points all suggest that new kinds of **partnerships** are necessary. These include a wide configuration of public-private-academic-activist constellations. The Mistra Urban Futures’ Local Interaction Platforms are good examples of where these partnerships are being explored, but there are also other examples.

All of these interventions can start fostering the kinds

»Everyone having access to the same opportunities. No one being marginalised from education, decision-making structures or good homes.« INTERVIEW, GREATER MANCHESTER, 2016

in various cities were able to secure rights to the city – such as the right to trade and not have goods confiscated – through litigation. These engagements set precedents for cities across the globe. The Habitat III *New Urban Agenda* could offer global commitments to underpin these kinds of endeavours.

One way to re-think relationships between cities and service delivery is to take localisation more seriously through **strengthening civil society**. Each city has identified a wide range of activist, advocacy and community-based organisations that are working towards alleviating injustice, albeit on a small and localised scale. Finding ways of empowering these offers an alternative in-road to alleviate the impact of injustice.

Public engagement is commonly seen through public participation processes, many of which have been criticised. It is too easy to pit the state against civil society. Often the discussion about public engagement is simplistically seen

of **spatial transformation** so necessary in all cities.

For Kisumu, a priority is urban upgrading – primarily in public spaces such as parks, streets and pavements. For Gothenburg and Greater Manchester, the priorities are connecting and making neighbourhoods more equitable, in a context where material infrastructure is important but not as big a priority as social and economic integration.

In Cape Town, both physical upgrading and socio-economic integration are priorities – many neighbourhoods are in urgent need of upgrading, which has sparked experiments with in situ informal settlement upgrading as an alternative to relocation and continued sprawl on the urban periphery. It is also crucial to find ways to connect segregated neighbourhoods.

The Two Rivers Urban Park has become an important test site for thinking through these issues, as it is a green belt surrounded by Cape Town’s oldest black African township¹ (Langa), the affluent previously white neighbourhood of

Pinelands, and the previously coloured neighbourhood of Athlone. Having functioned as a buffer zone between race-based segregation, the urban park now offers an opportunity to foster social, economic, spatial and environmental integration in close proximity to the city centre.

Inextricably linked to spatial transformation is **social transformation**. Although these have traditionally been dealt with separately, urbanists are making increasingly convincing arguments why social justice has to be linked to spatial justice. What this ultimately means is that social divisions (such as those linked to gender, race, class, ethnicity and sexual orientation) are inextricably spatial and need to be addressed simultaneously. Although different cities may take some similar conceptual approaches, there are diverse contextual realities bound up in local specificity. Power and politics play out in different ways. A deep knowledge of each city and issues of injustice is required in order to enable locally appropriate strategies for realising just cities.

Perhaps one way to think about it is as a respondent from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa pointed out: it is often the ‘thresholds of potential concerns that offer spaces of possibility conducive to realising more just cities’ – in other words, instead of seeing conflict as crisis, it is more productive to see these moments as brimming with potential for better forms of urbanism. These thresholds bubble up in different ways in different cities: for example, in contested claims over pockets of state-owned land in Cape Town; in street upgrading in Kisumu; in poorly maintained rental stock in Greater Manchester; and in marginalised migrant communities in Gothenburg.

IN CONCLUSION

The concept of a just city is a relevant one; however, there are different understandings of what this means for different stakeholders and in different contexts. Similarly, the strategies for realising just cities will need to be different in each context. We have only just begun scratching the surface of opinions and views. Moving forward, Mistra Urban Futures’ research will be working collaboratively in and across various cities to help understand better what just cities mean in different contexts and how we can work toward making the concept a reality.

1) In South African terminology, a ‘township’ is a low-income residential area. ‘Black African’, ‘coloured’ and ‘white’ are apartheid-era racial terms. Despite being deeply problematic, they are still officially used in South Africa. Black African refers to ‘descendants of the groups of Bantu-speaking, iron-working cultivators who had begun to settle the northern and eastern parts of Southern Africa between 300 and 400 AD’; coloured refers to ‘an ethnically and culturally heterogeneous group of people descended from the indigenous Khoi and San people, the slave population, and the progeny of sexual contacts between these groups – and Bantu-speaking people – with European settlers’; and white refers to ‘descendants of European settlers or more recent immigrants of European stock’ (Wilkinson, P. 2000, 197).

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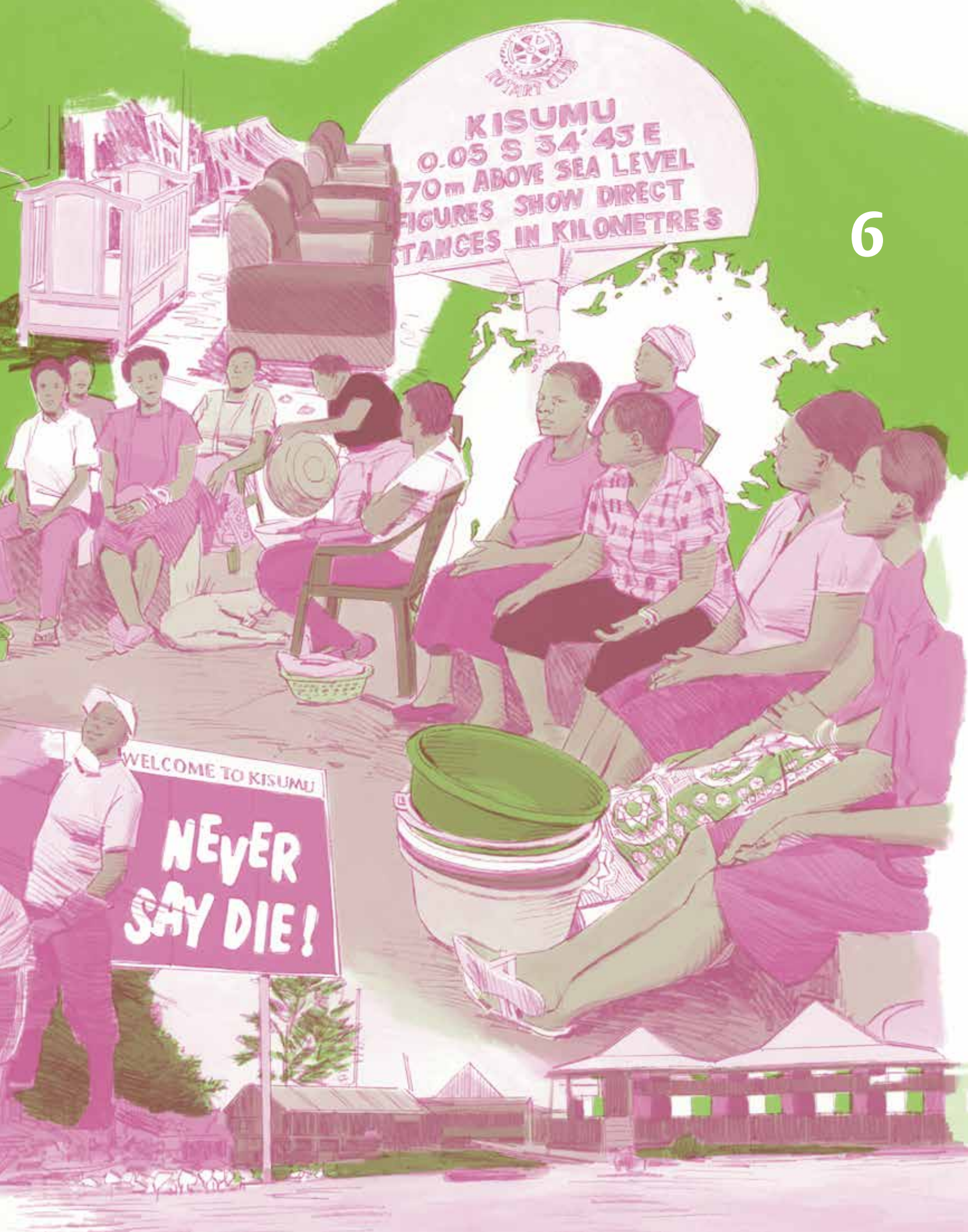
COLLABORATIVE PHDs: NEW APPROACHES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES





KISUMU
0.05 S 34'45 E
70m ABOVE SEA LEVEL
FIGURES SHOW DIRECT
STANCES IN KILOMETRES

6



WELCOME TO KISUMU
**NEVER
SAY DIE!**

6 COLLABORATIVE PHDs: NEW APPROACHES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Principal authors: Eva Maria Jernsand and Helena Kraff

Collaborative PhDs can be demanding and complex, yet ultimately rewarding. In this chapter we explore some of the issues that can emerge when collaborative PhDs investigate problems in sustainable urban development not only across disciplinary borders, or between academia and practice, but across diverse cultural backgrounds. Challenges include the need to take on multiple roles, and varying preconditions between PhD students from different academic institutions or cultures. We examine how such collaborations are opportunities for widening horizons and understandings, revealing how insights from researchers and practitioners from multiple disciplines and sectors make it possible to achieve a more holistic perspective. The chapter hopes to open up the nature of working in a truly transdisciplinary manner. There is a vital need for scholars to be able to participate in fora like Mistra Urban Futures' Local Interaction Platforms (LIPs) where they can discuss and exchange experiences with others, both in and outside academia – whether civic officials, community groups or practitioners – who have embraced the concept of collaboration.

Those who have contributed their experiences to this chapter are Sigrid Laurel Östlund, Franklin Mwangi, Isabel Ordoñez, Frankline Otiende, Dan Silver, Anna Taylor and Joshua Wanga. The interviews were arranged by and the chapter put together by Helena Kraff and Eva Maria Jernsand, with additional editorial inputs from the contributors. The chapter is written as a conversation between four PhD students, one from each of the four LIPs. Interviewees' names have been changed to anonymise responses.

Collaborative PhDs are opportunities for widening horizons and enriching understanding of what sustainable urban development means in practice. There is a vital need for scholars to have access to fora where they can exchange experiences and discuss solutions to complex problems with cross-sector stakeholders who have embraced the idea of collaboration.

This chapter is based on interviews with seven doctoral students from four of the *Local Interaction Platforms* (LIPs) of Mistra Urban Futures. To capture the themes that came out of the interviews, the chapter is written as a conversation between four doctoral students, one from each of the four LIPs. All have worked in a highly collaborative manner, although the forms of collaboration have varied. Some have collaborated mainly with practitioners such as architects, craftspeople, local tour guides and/or various types of civil officials and state employees. A few projects have also included collaboration with residents and community members. Some have collaborated with scholars from other academic fields, others have been the only researcher in their project group. The projects and subjects researched have themselves been diverse and span waste management, energy, climate change adaptation, ecotourism, community development and social policy. In the context of this chapter, a collaborative PhD means that students have worked across disciplines and/or across the borders between academy and practice.

The interviews focused on the PhD students' personal experiences of working in a collaborative way and how this affected their PhD studies and their view of research. The aim of this chapter is to provide insights into the challenges and opportunities that can emerge during a collaborative PhD project, with the hope that it will offer guidance for future PhD students about to embark on their own collaborative journey. It also explores the type of support that collaborative projects would benefit from.

COLLABORATION – A HIGHLY REWARDING WAY OF WORKING ...

The first annual Mistra Urban Futures conference in Gothenburg has just drawn to a close. Kennedy from Kisumu, Caroline from Cape Town, Michael from Greater Manchester and Gabriella from Gothenburg have gathered at Mistra Urban Futures' head office for one last chat before they all return to their respective LIPs to finalise their PhDs. During the conference they have found a common denominator in their respective will to work collaboratively while carrying out their research. They have taken this rare opportunity, when they are all in the same place at the same time, to share and discuss their experiences with each other.

Gabriella opens the office door and lets the others in. 'Does anyone want some coffee?'

'Or perhaps some tea?' Kennedy suggests with a smile. 'I know from working with other PhD students from Gothenburg that your coffee is far too strong for me.'

'Sure,' says Gabriella, 'there might even be some Kenyan tea!'

They get their drinks and sit down in the lounge area. The interior reflects Mistra Urban Futures' focus on sustainability, as well as the different national cultures of the four LIPs.

Michael has recently finished a successful series of workshops with a group of community members. He is feeling particularly positive about collaboration and wants to find out if the others share his state of mind.

'What are your personal reasons for working collaboratively in your projects?' he asks.

'Well, for me, this was the only way to do research,' Gabriella answers. 'Because, you see, you get a much deeper insight and understanding of something if you are involved in the practical work. I mean, when you are actually there doing the drawing, taking part in important discussions, and making decisions collaboratively. It wouldn't have

been appealing if I were merely an observer. Just listening in on meetings is not enough, you have to be part of the actual process. I want to be a collaborator, since it makes the work so much richer. Working in a real project makes it possible for theory and practice to feed into each other, providing you with a lot of food for thought.'

'Yes, exactly,' Michael agrees. 'You get different answers, other types of answers, compared to what you would get in a non-collaborative and more traditional way of researching. You can get information that is a lot more in-depth when you collaborate for a longer period of time with people, as opposed to just meeting them once to conduct a one-hour interview. It gives a richer research output.'

Caroline nods. 'Yes, there are certain types of information that people would never think of sharing with you when you first meet. It's the same thing with your own questions. After having worked alongside people for some time in my project, I found myself asking about things and for documents I wouldn't have thought to ask – or even known about – when I first met them.'

Kennedy makes it clear that he is on the same page, agreeing that working collaboratively 'opens your eyes to so many new things that you did not think of before, when you were working only within your own field, in an academic setting. I have learned so much and I am still learning.'

'Also,' Gabriella interjects, 'one of the first things I did was to talk to practitioners experienced in the field. This gave me enough contacts to pave the way for my entire project.'

'Yes, one thing I have learnt is that practitioners are the actual experts,' Kennedy continues. 'Everybody's an expert in their own areas of operation, and everyone can realise their potential if they are given the opportunity. I would consider them as part of the project team.'

'Practitioners and members of society really do play an important part,' Michael adds. 'If the research agenda is open for all participants to formulate, then it's possible for everybody to gain something. Some of the people I've worked with have said that they became more confident

through participating in the process, and that it made them interested in being part of similar projects in the future. They have mentioned that this was a deeper kind of research, where they were able to talk about their views and experiences in a way that wouldn't have been possible, for example, through a survey.'

Caroline agrees. 'This type of research is also beneficial for practitioners, since you can gradually share findings from the research with them and incorporate new findings and insights into practice throughout the research process, as opposed to me coming with my 300-page finished thesis after a couple of years, all written up very densely and academically and say, "See what you can do with this"'

'Yes,' Gabriella says. 'I think the beauty of collaborative processes is that they are never static. They change along the way. It's like a process of discovery.'

THE BEAUTY OF COLLABORATING

'But what about collaborating with other PhD students that come from other academic disciplines?' she asks Kennedy. 'You mentioned earlier that you have worked with PhD students from Gothenburg. What has that experience been like?'

'Well,' Kennedy responds, 'we are a group of Kenyan and Swedish PhD students from three different universities, with different disciplinary backgrounds, including urban planning, architecture, design, marketing and ecology. This has improved my thesis, enabling me to look outside my own discipline. It has also made it possible to meet with my PhD colleagues' supervisors, which further enriched the feedback that I got on my project. This broadened my understanding of my own field in relation to the larger experience I was having, and it motivated me to adjust my dissertation objectives. The transdisciplinary approach has also helped me to explore several research methods to use, theories to apply, and approaches to pursue. So my thesis is more holistic now than it was, say, two or three years ago.'

'So, you have been in Gothenburg during your PhD?' asks Gabriella.

‘Yes,’ Kennedy continues, ‘it was a great way for me to experience and learn from a different academic culture than what I was used to from Kisumu. ... I gained insights into the academic system in Sweden, which helped me to better understand the way my colleagues from Gothenburg work. It also gave me access to research materials through the university library system, something that is limited in Kenya.’

‘That sounds like a great opportunity,’ Caroline says. ‘I was also lucky enough to belong to a group of PhD students, although we didn’t collaborate on the same project and had quite different topics. We made sure, however, to meet up about once a month to discuss how

‘Interesting. And what about the collaboration with practitioners?’ Caroline asks.

‘Well,’ Kennedy replies, ‘I was able to meet the various types of practitioners that the other PhD students were working with, such as craftsmen, fishmongers and environmentalists. These groups proved to be important since they could provide me with their knowledge and perspectives on my area of work. Being in a group also meant that we could be more responsive to people’s needs, and that we were able to see issues from more than one perspective, thanks to our different backgrounds.’

Gabriella, who has also worked with practitioners, follows: ‘In my case, I got the opportunity to be part of a

»Just listening in on meetings is not enough – you have to be part of the actual process. Working in a real project makes it possible for theory and practice to feed into each other.«

our respective projects were proceeding, what we were learning, what opportunities we could see, and what challenges we were encountering. It was a way to support and learn from each other, which was important as we were all in new and unfamiliar arrangements. But perhaps you experienced more benefits, Kennedy, since your group actually worked together?’

‘Definitely,’ says Kennedy. ‘There are many things that wouldn’t have been possible if I had been working on a project on my own. For example, it made writing papers easier, since we all had some specific strengths when it came to the writing process. The collaborative work has also affected my teaching positively. I can see now that while I am teaching – that there are quite a number of things that I have to consider beyond my own field, because one single field can’t work in isolation, at least not if you are trying to tackle issues such as sustainable development.’

gathering of people from several different projects who exchanged knowledge and experiences with each other. This gave me the chance to work with researchers and practitioners from various fields. It really opened up my network, and it led to several new forms of collaboration.’

‘That sounds like a good way to get people to collaborate,’ Kennedy agrees. ‘For the projects in Kisumu, one actor that has been crucial to involve is the public authorities, especially in terms of implementation. Luckily, the ideas and findings that we as PhD students have presented in Kisumu have found their way into the strategic development plan of the county. This is partly because the communication has not only been between researchers and public authorities, but also between the public authorities and the practitioners in the communities we have worked with. This collaboration and sharing of knowledge between various types of stakeholders is necessary if we are to succeed in making the city a sustainable place, and I think KLIP plays a crucial role here.’

... AND SOME OF THE CHALLENGES

Gabriella concludes that collaborating has a lot of advantages. ‘Although, I don’t know about you, but I have also found it to be extremely challenging ... You know, it can get really overwhelming, and it is easy to lose sense of what exactly it is that you are doing, and why you are doing it. Perhaps this feeling of not being fully in control is especially present when you are at the beginning of your PhD studies, when you are trying to figure out what research is all about, and what kind of contribution it is that you can make.’

‘Also,’ Gabriella adds, ‘it gets even trickier if your supervisors are not used to this way of conducting research, and don’t understand the role of a collaborative researcher. One of my supervisors actually advised me not work in this way.’

Kennedy looks relieved. ‘I’m so glad you mentioned this. On top of that, add collaboration with other researchers, and the fact that you need to create a common understanding within a group of people, which in my case included different disciplinary and cultural backgrounds, it becomes very hard to manage. I remember that I was a bit stressed during the initial stages of working with my group. There was a sense of urgency, and that things needed to start happening straight away.’

THE QUESTION OF TIME ...

‘What was needed here was time, I think.’ Kennedy continues. ‘People need to first be able to get a grasp of what transdisciplinary research means, and how it relates to their own discipline and individual research interests. You also need time to create an understanding of the other disciplines’ working modes. It isn’t until you have got past those stages that you can come together as a group to start formulating a common objective, which of course also needs to be allowed to take time. There can be major differences in disciplinary, institutional and cultural modes, and fusing them in a collaborative manner is not something you can do in a hurry.’

‘Absolutely,’ Michael agrees. ‘Collaborative research is, to say the least, time-consuming. And it is difficult to communicate what your objectives are to others in a clear way at the start. But, I also think that in these kinds of collaborative projects, it has to be somewhat open-ended in the beginning. You can’t always give people a straight answer in terms of what exactly it is that you will be doing, nor what the results will be, which of course can become very confusing for all parties involved.’

‘I see your point,’ Gabriella says thoughtfully. ‘It’s a constant juggling act of being both open and concrete at the same time. Again, on the question of time, I have experienced it as challenging to match timings between the practical project and the more academic parts of my research. Sometimes the project runs faster, and sometimes it’s the other way around. Then, of course, there is the challenge of finding time to work with the practical aspects while at the same time doing other things, such as writing articles.’

‘I actually felt the need to put less time into working on my thesis, just to have the time to manage the project! You know, all of that extra work that comes with setting up a project, finding funds and collaborators. All these are issues that are not really connected to my thesis. I actually ended up spending my vacation doing this type of extra work.’

‘Yeah, it has often felt as though you are being pulled in two directions,’ Caroline agrees, ‘where you need to figure out how to be useful and relevant in the project, while you also need to be academically rigorous, be connected to theory and go through all the required steps in your PhD education.’

‘It is quite challenging to work in both of those frameworks, to have a foot in each camp. If you are positioned like me and my colleagues have been, as embedded researchers working in local government, it is easy to get lost in the contextual and practical details of your case and in day-to-day activities and lose sight of the more theoretical questions and developments.’

»I was able to meet the various types of practitioners, such as craftsmen, fishmongers and environmentalists. Being in a group meant we could be more responsive to people's needs, and that we were able to see issues from more than one perspective.«

'But then again,' Gabriella points out, 'being a PhD student is a luxury if you compare it to some of the stakeholders on the practitioners' side. I get paid to reflect on things, whereas practitioners have little time for reflection.'

'True,' Caroline agrees. 'You have this luxury of time at the university, where you can set your own agenda to a large extent. But as a collaborative researcher, you also get an understanding and empathy for the practitioners' workload. For civil servants, things can change very rapidly. New projects can come about, a politician makes a demand, a policy gets introduced and needs to be implemented... you name it. This, of course, affects you as a researcher as well, since your partners will often need or want some kind of results quicker than the research process tends to generate answers.'

... AND UNEVEN PLAYING FIELDS

Kennedy notes the issues of time distribution between researchers and practitioners, but he also points out the challenges posed by the varied academic backgrounds of the researchers.

'PhD students from different academic cultures also have problems related to how they can spend their time ... My Swedish colleagues could go out in the field almost immediately, whereas I and the other PhD students from Kenya needed to spend the initial stages formulating our research plan, objectives and concepts and then getting it accepted before we could proceed to the field. There are so many checks and balances that we have to clear!'

'Also, in Kenya, PhD students often have a heavy teaching load, as well as needing to finish our PhD in approximately three years, whereas in Sweden you have four or five years.

These technical issues make it tricky to work in a practical project together. Apart from that, the geographical distance, and the fact that we only spent short periods of time together in the same physical location hindered us from working together properly. We did communicate a lot via Skype, but there were often network issues that limited the quality of the conversations.'

'So, there are definitely some major challenges with collaborative work,' Gabriella concludes. 'Now that you have almost gone through your whole PhD period, what would you say is needed to tackle these challenges? We have talked a bit about time, but is there anything else?'

SUPPORT, STRUCTURE AND KNOWING THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE

'Well, the first things that come to my mind' says Kennedy, 'are support and structure. Being able to get good support is crucial when you are dealing with transdisciplinary research, isn't it? Because it is so complex, and as you said before, Gabriella, it is easy to get lost. But I guess that this is also a way of working that is foreign to many supervisors, which is perhaps why there is also a need for support and training for *them*. I mean, it is hard to supervise someone if you don't have a full understanding of the approach and requirements yourself. I guess what I'm getting at is that all PhD supervisors need to have a close connection to Mistra Urban Futures and the knowledge that is there.'

'Exactly,' Michael chips in. 'There is a huge amount of experience in the Centre and out in the Platforms that is really valuable for researchers to learn from.'

'I guess the amount of support needed is also connected to the discipline of the PhD student,' Gabriella says.

‘There are fields where practice-based and collaborative research are already well accepted and where most researchers have experience of working in that way. Working collaboratively isn’t considered strange if you want to do research in design, for example, while in architecture – even though it relates to design – this way of working is not as common.’

‘You’re probably right, Gabriella, but even if practice-based research is accepted, there is still the issue of needing to write for two different purposes,’ Caroline interjects.

‘Absolutely,’ agrees Gabriella, ‘that is challenging. In my project we produced a hundred-page report which I wrote with two practitioners. It isn’t an academic article,

TIME AGAIN ...

‘Well,’ Kennedy replies, ‘I think all PhD students in a group need to be given the same requirements in terms of how much time they can spend on their PhD, and everybody’s time schedules need to be synchronised to some extent. Our group would have benefited from spending longer periods of time together at the same place, not only two or three weeks at a time, as was the case. These short time frames somehow destabilised the research and it is too easy for you to go back into your own disciplinary cocoon after these short weeks. I believe that a period of at least six months together in the initial stages would have made a huge difference. Also, I would say that a sandwich programme would be appropriate here.’

»Being able to get good support is crucial
when you are dealing with transdisciplinary research.
Because it is so complex, it is easy to get lost.«

but I spent a lot of hours on it. I showed it to my tutors and they said “Oh, this is great! Now, write an article”!’

Caroline understands the problem. ‘Yes, there are many things you need to write twice, but at the same time you learn two styles of writing, which I find useful. I guess, the advantages and challenges of collaborative research are very much related to each other. They are in a way two sides of the same coin.’

‘I think one thing that might help PhD students to manage these different roles would be to arrange meetings between the PhD student, their supervisor, a representative from Mistra Urban Futures and a partner from the practitioners’ side. Then one could discuss the different types of demands being placed on you and get guidance on how to deal with them.’

‘Good point,’ Michael agrees, and asks: ‘Another thing we’ve talked about is the issue of time. How can that be dealt with?’

‘What’s a sandwich programme?’ asks Michael.

‘It means, for example, that a Kenyan PhD student spends about three months in a row in Sweden every year of their studies. It allows them to take part in the academic system in a deeper way and they could have their own Swedish supervisors. It would help the PhD student group to spend more time together and it would enable an equal exchange between the different countries. When we are in Sweden, we get equal access to library services, for instance. As I mentioned earlier, access to such services is something we really need to get when we are in Kenya as well.’

‘I would add to that,’ Gabriella interjects. ‘Access to time also needs to be considered for practitioners in the project, as well. For instance, if reflection time for practitioners was included in the budget, they could, for example, be given time to write a process diary. I suggested that in my project

and everybody was excited about the idea, but when it comes down to it, the fact remains that people simply didn't have the time. It's too much to ask.'

EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES

'Well, if you ask me,' Michael says, 'I think this conference has been a good starting point, and it could be followed up by some sort of exchange or mentoring system, where people from the different LIPs and projects are matched together. It would be really interesting, for example, to get input on your own project from the perspective of someone from one of the other Platforms.'

'Yes, it has been a good start, and getting this international perspective is amazing,' Caroline remarks. 'It would be great if PhD students from all the LIPs could meet for a workshop once a year where we could find out how the different cities are working with collaboration, discuss advantages, pinpoint challenges that are of a similar nature in the different places, and share possible ways to tackle these.'

'Absolutely!' agrees Gabriella. 'It's really uplifting to be around people who are working in similar ways as yourself and who have an understanding of the challenges you are experiencing. I remember a couple of months back when we had one of the first proper gatherings of PhD students who are connected to GOLIP. I was so grateful to hear an experienced researcher and a PhD student talk about transdisciplinary research and what they have learned from it. Just to be presented with the fact that this is a normal research setup and that other people are also finding it tricky to juggle their dual roles. It was like, "Oh, my God, it is accepted! It's official that other researchers do this. This is great. I'm not going to die alone. It will be fine!"'

'I have also experienced such talks,' Kennedy says with a smile, 'and I think it is crucial that they come at the initial stages of your PhD studies, as it did for me. This helped me a lot. There were so many grey areas in the beginning. Listening to an experienced researcher in the field gave me some much-needed anchoring. Although, if such talks

are to be of strategic use, then they need to be incorporated into a regular training and educational programme, with support all the way, from the stage when you come up with concepts until you finalise your work.'

'There are definitely many challenges that need to be addressed,' continues Kennedy, 'but if someone asked me if I would advise future PhD students to work in this way, I would say "yes, absolutely", because in the end, as you say, Gabriella, I would not have wanted to have done it in any other way'.

'I couldn't agree more,' says Michael, looking at his watch. 'But you know what, I need to get going or I'll miss my plane! I hope to see you again next year, though, when the conference takes place in Kisumu – if not sooner.'

'Let's keep in touch,' Caroline agrees. 'I feel there is still a lot to learn from our collective experiences. Having these kinds of conversations is very enriching, and discussing it with you all helps me process my thoughts and recognise what I've learned.'

'Yes, and I would love to have some genuine Kenyan tea in Kisumu next year!' says Gabriella.

PROJECTS

CTLIP / GMLIP / GOLIP / KLIP

- Governance and Policy for Sustainable Cities (GAPS)
- Testing the UN's Urban Sustainable Development Goal
- Modes, Co-producing Knowledge for Sustainable Cities

CTLIP (Cape Town Local Interaction Platform)

- Africa Regional Peer Learning, Knowledge and Dissemination Programme
- Africa Urban Dissemination Portal: Urban Reporting Project (UrbanAfrica.net)
- African Urban Research Initiative (AURI)
- CityLab Programme
- Communication and Engagement
- Contributing to Urban Debates in South Africa
- Core Processes
- Governing Food Systems to Alleviate Poverty in Secondary Cities in Africa
- Knowledge Transfer Programme
- Socio-cultural Transformations
- Socio-ecological Transformations
- Socio-spatial Transformations

GMLIP (Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform)

- #digitalbiospheric: Putting Food Banks out of Business
- Comparing Urban Futures
- Creative Urban Environments
- Jam and Justice: Co-producing Urban Governance for Social Innovation
- Mapping the Urban Knowledge Arena
- Platform – a Digital Portal for Sustainability
- Realising the Potential of Community Assets
- Remaking the Material Fabric of Greater Manchester
- SIRCUS Salford Interdisciplinary Research Connecting Urban Society
- Univer-City
- Urban Food: Evidence, Practice and Policy
- Values and Learning in Urban Environments
- Whose Knowledge Matters? Competing and Contesting Knowledge Claims in 21st Century Cities
- Working with the Low Carbon Hub

GOLIP (Gothenburg Local Interaction Platform)

- Business in Sustainable Urban Development (BISUD)
- Cities as Value Networks (CAVN)
- Comparing Planning Systems (PhD)
- Culture and Heritage in Sustainable Urban Development
- Divided City – Shared City
- eGovernance
- Formative Evaluation Innovation Platforms
- Formative Evaluation of the Implementation of the River City Vision
- From Waste to Resources (PhD)
- FUNKTEK – Co-creative Museum Development
- Go:smart
- Gothenburg Innovation Platform
- Green Production
- Sustainable Consumption (Film)
- Impact of Participation
- Industry and Commerce in Regional Planning
- Interplace
- Knowledge about and Approaches to Fair and Socially Sustainable Cities (KAIROS)
- Knowledge agenda for Sustainable Urban Development
- Urban Cultures – Case Kommersen Flea Market
- Impact on Air Quality of Densification
- Mixed City, Active Frontages (PhD)
- Pilot 1 Multilevel Governance
- Pilot 2 Climate Adapted Built Structure
- Pilot 3 Learning City
- Pilot 4 Business-driven Sustainable Urban Development
- Pilot 5 Urban Games
- Planning in dialogue – Dialogue in planning (PhD)
- Planning Methods for Sustainable Local and Regional Development
- Proactive and Integrated Climate Change in Resource Planning (PRINCIP)
- Regenerative Placemaking (PhD)
- SENDsmart
- Safe Efficient Vehicle Solutions (SEVS)
- Social Sustainability in Urban Planning and Development
- Socially Sustainable Neighbourhood Transformation – Indicators and Tools
- Societal Engagement in Science, Mutual learning in Cities (SEiSMiC)
- Sustainability Policy in the Gothenburg Region
- Sustainable Lifestyles – Tools and Methods
- 3K, Kvillebäcken, Krokslätt & Kongahälla (Formative evaluation)
- Urban Foodscapes (PhD)

- Urban Metabolism
- Urban Station Communities
- URBAN-NEXUS
- Urban-rural Gothenburg
- Urban Food
- Urban Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (URBES)
- Valuation of Ecosystem Services provided by Urban Greenery
- Well-being in Sustainable Cities (WISE)
- Where Architecture meets Planning – Where the Plan meets the People
- Gothenburg East Hospital – the Sustainable Hospital District

KLIP (Kisumu Local Interaction Platform)

- Urban Archaeology and Heritage with Focus on Kisumu
- Solar Powered Urban Agriculture
- Co-generation of Energy in Urban Setting
- Strengthening the Local Authorities with Focus on Governance
- Prototyping on Tour Guides at Dunga Beach
- Prototyping on Eco-lodge at Miyadhe Beach
- Branding of Sacred and Pre-historic Sites in Kisumu
- Utilization of Water Hyacinth in the Development of Fibre Technology
- Markets' Institutional Arrangement and Systems
- Core-processes: Urban Governance, Knowledge and Challenges
- Ecotourism: With 11 PhDs on Various Topics
- Market Places: With 12 PhDs on Various Topics
- Socio-ecological Transformations
- Socio-spatial Transformations
- Socio-cultural Transformations

GMLIP/ GOLIP

- Cultural Heritage and Improvised Music in European Festivals (CHIME)

GOLIP/ KLIP

- Collaborations on Ecotourism and Market Places (Several PhDs at GOLIP and KLIP)

KLIP/ CTLIP

- Governing Food Systems to Alleviate Poverty in Secondary Cities in Africa

BIOGRAPHIES OF CONTRIBUTORS

HANS ABRAHAMSSON is Associate Professor of Peace and Development Studies at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg and former Guest Professor in Global Political Studies at Malmö University. His research interests include the global political economy and its implication for local social sustainability. At present he is co-leader of a transdisciplinary research project on fair and socially sustainable cities (KAIROS) within the framework of Mistra Urban Futures.

HELEN ARFVIDSSON is a researcher at Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, as well as a lecturer at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg. She holds a PhD in Politics and International Studies from the Open University, UK, and her research interests span the fields of international relations, critical security studies, and urban governance. Helen has previously worked in South Africa with labour unions on HIV/ AIDS policy and on urban development and youth policy in Gothenburg.

PROF. STEPHEN GAYA AGONG is Director of Kisumu Local Interaction Platform (KLIP) and Vice-Chancellor, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Kisumu. Stephen is a horticulturalist and leader with over thirty years of university teaching, research and community outreach. His wide experience in sustainable urban development, management and leadership arises from his chairmanship of Kisumu Action Team (KAT) that evolved into KLIP. He has initiated and supervised projects at community level towards socio-economic development and livelihood improvement. He has long experience in research and policy with exposure to national, regional and international research programmes.

MIKAEL CULLBERG is Director of Gothenburg Local Interaction Platform (GOLIP) at Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University of Technology. He is an economist and linguist (English and French) with a civil service background. This includes, most recently, a post as Senior Adviser to the Governor of Västra Götaland and before that, Desk Officer at the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance and Environment and, briefly, at the Prime Minister's Office, Principal Officer at the National Fisheries Agency, Desk Officer at the National Agricultural Agency and, over the last fifteen years, Secretary to four different Government Commissions and Inquiries. Mikael has worked within the EU policy process, with international development cooperation, in the national budgetary process, with Civil Service reform, as an international and protocol officer, and with investigatory work.

LEIF ERIKSSON is a researcher and senior lecturer at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg. He has a PhD in peace and development research and has a background in the fields of international political economy, international relations, international conflict resolution and critical development studies. He first became involved in the work of Mistra Urban Futures while carrying out research on social sustainability in relation to socially vulnerable EU migrants in the City of Gothenburg.

SANNA ISEMO is currently a master's student in human rights at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg. She first became involved with the work of Mistra Urban Futures as part of an internship for the research project KAIROS. She has a background in human resource management, with a special focus on gender equality and diversity issues.

EVA MARIA JERNSAND is a PhD candidate in marketing at the School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg. She is about to finalize her PhD on which she has been working in a transdisciplinary manner in close collaboration with the Kisumu Local Interaction Platform (KLIP), local practitioners and residents of Dunga Beach by Lake Victoria, Kenya. Her thesis is concerned with participatory approaches to destination development.

MAGNUS JOHANSSON is Director of the Skåne Local Interaction Platform (SKLIP). He has a PhD in pedagogy and currently works as Assistant Professor in Environmental Science at the Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University. He is involved in several collaborative projects with stakeholders outside the university. His research centres on collaborative planning, collaborative management of urban commons and collaborative learning processes in urban development. He has worked as an on-going evaluator of urban developmental projects in Malmö and the Gothenburg region.

HELENA KRAFF is a PhD candidate in Design at the Academy of Design and Craft, University of Gothenburg. Her project is closely connected to the Kisumu Local Interaction Platform (KLIP), where she has worked with ecotourism development in collaboration with other PhD students, local tourism stakeholders and members of the community. Her thesis focuses on participatory methods and ethical challenges of participation.

SIGRID LAUREL ÖSTLUND is a PhD candidate at the Department of Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg. Her research aims to assist in the advancement of sustainable spatial design through developing Regenerative Design theory and practice. She has studied and worked, both practically and academically, in the USA, Spain and Sweden. She has been involved in projects spanning public participation, research, strategic planning and education, to the construction and design of furniture, models and houses.

LOUISE MARIX EVANS is co-Director of Quantum Strategy & Technology, a sustainability consultancy based in the North of England. Louise has a human rights and humanitarian background from her work at Amnesty International and the landmine charity Mines Advisory Group. She has worked in the climate change and sustainability field for over fifteen years and has a strong track record of research, evaluation, stakeholder engagement, project delivery and communications across the public, private and voluntary sectors in the UK and abroad. Louise conducted the Impact Study for the GMLIP and the UN Urban Sustainable Development Goal's data collection pilot in Greater Manchester for Mistra Urban Futures.

PROF. TIM MAY is Professor of Social Science Methodology at Sheffield Methods Institute, University of Sheffield. Until August 2016, he was at the Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures, University of Salford. His interests, reflected in his research and publications, are on the relationship between knowledge, reflexivity and practice. He has worked with many funders at national and international levels and examined the relations between knowledge generation and reception, policy formulation, implementation, organisational actions and outcomes. The roles of leadership, communication and coordination all feature in his work, along with concerns over the future of the university as a distinctive site of knowledge production and active intermediaries and urban knowledge arenas in achieving societal transformation.

FRANKLIN MWANGO is a PhD candidate at Maseno University, near Kisumu, who is carrying out his PhD studies through the Kisumu Local Interaction (KLIP) programme's theme: Marketplaces. The focus of his research is on planning and designing the marketplace in consideration of renewable energy systems. His study site is Dunga Beach in Kisumu where he has worked in a transdisciplinary nature with local craftsmen, PhD colleagues and various practitioners. His main research interest is on sustainable architecture education through stakeholder involvement.

DR YLVA NORÉN BRETZER is a senior lecturer at the School of Public Administration, University of Gothenburg, where she teaches Urban Sustainability courses, and public administration generally. She has a background in political science and is an expert on institutional trust. She has also a great interest in transdisciplinary processes and has led a cross-disciplinary project on energy efficiency. She is the author and editor of a number of books on these topics.

DR MICHAEL OLOKO is currently a senior lecturer and Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Kisumu. His current research interests include environmental engineering, integrated water resources management (IWRM), renewable energy technology, urban agriculture and waste management. He has participated in and led research initiatives in urban areas including Kisumu (Kenya), Managua (Nicaragua) and São Paulo (Brazil) on waste management, urban agriculture and/or water resources management. He is also involved in international research collaborations funded by international organizations, such as SERVIR/RCMRD, Swedish-ICLD, LVBC.

ALFRED OMONDI OTOM is the Kisumu Local Interaction Platform (KLIP) research project co-ordinator, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Kisumu. He previously worked as an intern at the Intergovernmental Development on Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), where he was seconded to the United Nations Office in Nairobi under the UNESCO-PEER UNON project for Somalia. He has also worked as a research assistant for the Drought and Early Warning Forecasting project.

ISABEL ORDOÑEZ is a PhD candidate in Design and Human Factors at the Department of Product and Production Development, Chalmers University of Technology. She is a Chilean industrial designer specialising in design for sustainability. Her PhD research is focused in closing the material loop in society by improving municipal solid waste handling using design and participation. Her research is carried out in collaboration with a housing company and local authorities responsible for waste handling in Gothenburg.

FRANKLINE OTIENDE is a PhD candidate at the School of Spatial Planning and Natural Resources Management, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Kisumu. Frankline has just finalised his doctoral study. As a student sponsored by Kisumu Local Interaction Platform (KLIP), his transdisciplinary

work involving practitioners, community members and other PhD students was based at Dunga Beach studying how provider value perceptions can be utilised in improving experiential value co-creation, tourism offerings development and classification.

PROF. HENRIETTA PALMER is Deputy Scientific Director at Mistra Urban Futures, Gothenburg. She is an architect and Professor of Urban Design at Chalmers University of Technology. The basis of her work is from architectural practice in Sweden and Spain working with architectural and urban projects of all scales. From 2005 to 2015 she was Professor of Architecture at the Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm, where she initiated and developed the post-master's programme, *Resources*, as a unique interdisciplinary research space on the challenges of our urban futures, with a particular focus on the cities of the Global South and their spatial becoming. Her current research focuses on urban transformation processes, migration and the visual language of change.

DR ZARINA PATEL is senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town, and is a former director of the Cape Town Local Interaction Platform (CTLIP). The political dimensions of policy and governance arrangements in pursuit of urban sustainable development has been a key focus of Zarina's research. Her publications have contributed to debates on the role of institutions, governance and decision-making and the implications these hold for achieving environmental justice. Central to her research is the uncovering of ways in which power is exercised through the use of specific and multiple knowledges and the range of value-based assumptions held by decision makers.

PROF. BETH PERRY is Director of the Sheffield-Manchester Local Interaction Platform (formerly GMLIP). She has a Professorial Fellowship in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Sheffield. Until August 2016, she was at the Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF), University of Salford. She is an interdisciplinary urbanist whose work focuses on co-producing urban transformations and developing pathways to more just sustainable urban futures. She currently leads a number of research projects funded by the UK Research Councils including *Jam and Justice: Coproducing Urban Governance for Social Innovation* and *Whose Knowledge Matters? Competing and Contesting Knowledge Claims within 21st Century Cities*. Her current writing projects, with Professor Tim May, focus on reflexive social scientific knowledge production and the changing relationships between cities and knowledge.

PROF. MERRITT POLK is currently Head of Department at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg. Her research areas include gender, sustainable transport, sustainable urban development and transdisciplinary methods for researcher-practitioner collaboration. Since the 1990s Merritt has worked extensively with practitioners in the field of gender mainstreaming and sustainable transport. She has also done research on sustainable urban planning with a focus on multilevel stakeholder processes and the framing and implementation of sustainable development. Her most recent research is on transdisciplinarity methods for sustainable urban development based at Mistra Urban Futures, where she has focused on developing and testing methods for co-producing knowledge at the Gothenburg LIP, as well as analysing and evaluating project learning, processes and outcomes.

JAN RIISE is Manager for Engagement at Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg. He holds a BA in Urban and Regional Planning and has for three decades been working at the interface between science, society and industry, most of the time as director of his own company. He has served as president and director of the European Science Events Association, and has worked with the University of Gothenburg, Lund University, Chalmers University of Technology, the Swedish Research Council and the European Commission among others, in areas related to outreach, science festivals, science centres and museums and science communication in general.

GRAHAM SAMUELS is a freelance illustrator originally from the UK, but now living and working in Stockholm. He studied illustration at Kingston University, near London, and at Konstfack in Stockholm. Over the past fifteen years he has illustrated for a wide range of magazines both in Sweden and around the world, as well as for clothing brands, record labels, galleries, theatres companies, TV programmes, food packaging, advertising agencies and publishers.

DAN SILVER is a PhD candidate at the School of Social Science, University of Manchester, working on the politics of poverty and evaluation. He is also co-director of the Social Action & Research Foundation, a participatory research organisation which has collaborated with the Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform (GMLIP), where he has supported discussions on co-production. His thesis concerns participatory approaches to evaluation.

PROF. DAVID SIMON is Director of Mistra Urban Futures and Guest Professor, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg and Professor of Development Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London. He is an interdisciplinary social scientist with abiding interests in and numerous publications on the intersections of theory, policy and practice in urbanisation and urbanism, development studies and sustainability. For the last decade his research has focused mainly on urban climate change challenges and urban greening strategies, especially in Africa, and on the dynamics of peri-urban areas and urban regions in theory and practice. His research experience spans many parts of Africa, Asia and Europe. He is editor of and a contributor to Mistra Urban Futures' flagship book, *Rethinking Sustainable Cities*, published in autumn 2016.

DR RIKE SITAS is a Research Fellow at the University of Cape Town. Straddling the academic world of urban studies and creative practice, Rike is fascinated by the intersection of culture and cities, and more specifically on the role of art in urban life. Her research explores the idea of an affective urbanism by looking at the role public-facing art can play in producing knowledge about the city. Linked to this is exploring the impact of the creative economy and cultural policy. A large part of this focus means unpacking the notions of public space and public life in Southern cityness.

DR WARREN SMIT is Director of the Cape Town Local Interaction Platform (CTLIP), University of Cape Town. His research interests revolve around urban planning and urban management in cities of the Global South. He is interested, as well, in urban policy discourses, such as how ideas emerge, are adopted and adapted, and used to construct problems and solutions, and then turned into policies and practices. An important strand of his work is how to create policy-relevant knowledge around understanding and achieving more equitable cities and urban governance – how decisions are made, and the relation of this to institutional structures and policies.

ANNA TAYLOR is a PhD candidate at the Environmental and Geographical Science Department and African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town. Her PhD research considers how climate adaptation at city scale can be understood as processes of decision-making within local government. She has conducted the study through directly engaging in the work of the City of Cape Town local government as an embedded researcher, made possible by the Cape Town Local Interaction Platform (CTLIP)

HELEN WALASEK is a freelance editor, writer and researcher based in London, specialising in ESL editing. She is the author of *Bosnia and the Destruction of Cultural Heritage* (Routledge 2015) and is an expert on cultural heritage in conflict. She was Deputy Director of Bosnia-Herzegovina Heritage Rescue (BHHR) for which she worked 1994–1998, and an Associate of the Bosnian Institute, London, 1998–2007.

JOSHUA WANGA is a PhD candidate at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOUST), Kisumu, working on a PhD in Planning. His research focus is on sustainable tourism destination development through stakeholder involvement. His project is connected to the Kisumu Local Interaction Platform (KLIP), where he has worked with tourism stakeholders to co-create experiences and products that enrich the touristic experience at Dunga, Kisumu.

EVA WILSSON is a graphic designer with a MFA in graphic design and runs her own design practice, Design Eva Wilsson, in Stockholm. She studied graphic design at the London College of Communication, London, and started her design career in Amsterdam, before setting up her own design company in Stockholm. With typography as common denominator, Eva designs postage stamps, books and visual identities. Half her working week is spent teaching typography at design schools, universities and companies.



MISTRA
**URBAN
FUTURES**

