

**Call for Papers (CfP) RC21 Conference. New Delhi - September 18-21, 2019**  
**Panel 01: "Re-imagining Urban Politics through a Comparative Lens"**

The urban, in recent years, has emerged as a site for both cultural assertion and economic restructuring. Studying urban politics in such a context, requires us, to navigate through the intersecting transversals of collective action (Leitner et al 2008). Therefore, in the light of this year's RC21 Conference's call for appreciating 'emerging ontologies' and 'new forms of urbanity', this panel aims at a radical re-imagination of urban politics through a comparative lens. However, given the fact, that a blueprint for comparative urbanism is still underway (Robinson 2016), we need to prise open the silos of 'area studies' (without losing its epistemological essence) and instead adopt a 'critical area studies' approach that prescribes 'deep listening' (Koch 2016).

This panel shall contribute to such an endeavour by working both with and beyond 'productively relational concepts' (Robinson and Roy 2016), that wedge open the asymmetries of power relations beyond territorial limits. We encourage submissions, that use empirical case-studies from cities, located anywhere in world, but make an attempt to creatively push the boundaries of the newly emergent concepts in urban studies – viz., 'advanced marginality' in the French *banlieue* (Wacquant 2008), 'subaltern urbanism' in America (Schindler 2013), 'quiet encroachment of the ordinary' in the Middle East (Bayat 2010), 'occupancy urbanism' in South Asia (Benjamin 2008) or for that matter, the promise of 'people as infrastructure' in Africa (Simone 2004) and 'insurgent citizenship' in Latin America (Holston 2008) -- beyond the foci of their immediate geographical locus.

Questions for consideration include but are not limited to:

- # How are socio-territorial struggles entwined with the vectors of neo-liberal capitalism?
- # How does the spatiality of urban politics reinvent the repertoire of identity politics?
- # How do such processes of de-territorialisation/ re-territorialisation influence the emergent contours of participatory urban citizenship?

We would especially encourage, Early Career Researchers (ECRs), activists, practitioners and professionals, apart from academics to submit either/both theoretically driven and/or empirically grounded pieces of work. Apart from the interdisciplinary flair and conceptual innovation, the commitment to engage with comparative case studies, that transcend regional typifications, would be some of the most important criteria, which would be used for the ranking of abstracts.

All contributions need to be submitted as a **single MS-Word Document** and should include 1) a **title** 2) up to **5 keywords**, and 3) a **300-word abstract**, to either/both the conveners on the following e-mail id(s): [amitzefbonn@gmail.com](mailto:amitzefbonn@gmail.com) and [mail.adityamohanty@gmail.com](mailto:mail.adityamohanty@gmail.com). You also need to **CC** your **submissions** to [rc21delhi@gmail.com](mailto:rc21delhi@gmail.com)

**Deadline: 20th January 2019**

Regards

**Amit Kumar**

(Doctoral Scholar, Centre for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany)

**Aditya Mohanty**

(Doctoral Scholar, Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society, and Rule of Law (CISRUL), University of Aberdeen, UK)