COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

June 5th - June 7th 2014
at the Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Forschung Berlin
CONFERENCE REPORT

COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

June 5th – June 7th 2014
at the Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Forschung
Martin Luther Straße 105, Room 546, 10825 Berlin

International Symposium
Organized by GLOBUS- Global Urban Studies Institute and the State Office for Development Cooperation of Berlin

in cooperation with
TRINET Global and TRIALOG e.V.
The U-CARE Program sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation

ARCHIMED VERLAG
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Responsible for the organization and contents:

GLOBUS
Global Urban Studies Institute
Grimmstraße 12B
10967 BERLIN
Tel +49 30 9560 9575
www.globus.eu.com
http://urbanviolence.org

Director: Prof. Dr. Kosta Mathéy
Deputy Director: Dipl.-Ing. Silvia Matuk
U-care project manager: Nicholas Kasang, M.Sc.

GLOBUS is an institute
of the International Academy Berlin
at Freie Universität Berlin
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International Conference  
Berlin, June 5th - 7th 2014  

COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

Organized by GLOBUS – The Global Urban Studies Institute - at the Freie Universität Berlin in collaboration with the Volkswagen Foundation and the Berlin State Office for Development Cooperation

Introduction

Contemporary urbanization worldwide has been increasingly accompanied by the occurrence of urban violence. The coalescence of this violence, and the fear it precipitates, exacerbates the unequal spatial, societal, political, or economic structures, intrinsic to many societies. Moreover, such occurrences reiterate forced displacement, exclusion of disadvantaged groups, the denial of basic human rights, and the loss of social identity. Therefore, such insecurity undermines the very foundations of the economic and social development that are offered by concurrent urbanization, and has a strong inhibitory affect on sustainable urban development.

To address the phenomenon of urban violence, many theories and strategies have emerged to confront the multiple expressions of insecurity in specific localities. Apart from policing and physical amendments, various types of social interventions – including the upgrading of infrastructure, community watches, or the provision of health and educational services to affected populations – have been argued to achieve greater prevention success. Accordingly, many experts agree that a comprehensive and integrated approach affords the greatest capacity to attain sustainable results and consequently suggest greater deployment of community and societal strategies.

In conjunction with the conclusion of a 5-year research project on community violence prevention in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Global Urban Studies Institute (GLOBUS) at the Freie Universität Berlin organized the Community Based Urban Violence Prevention (U-CARE) International Conference from June 5th – 7th 2014, in Berlin, Germany. The conference highlighted the findings of U-CARE scholars pertaining to communal/collective strategies of violence prevention in Cameroon, Kenya, and South Africa. Moreover, the event afforded the presentation of similar and contrasting experiences of community based violence prevention from diverse countries including Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador, India, and Germany.

The U-CARE conference was an international forum which provided a platform for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to discuss and disseminate progressive, flexible, resilient, and community-friendly solutions to urban violence. The workshop welcomed academia, government, industry, and participating individuals from the regions listed above, as well as many more. It afforded participants the opportunity to share fresh ideas, inspiring challenges, and novel approaches in the context of community security in public spaces. Furthermore, it initiated a discussion which will continue between relevant actors working within this field and ultimately result in the publication of a book on the topic.

Conference Topics
The predominant topics discussed during the conference included:

- Communal/collective strategies for violence prevention;
- Community policing and opportunities for collaboration with municipal security institutions;
- Encouraging and sustaining community participation;
- Neighborhood based prevention and peace building strategies;
- Community management of spatial amendment to the built environment;
- And the role of soft technologies in community based violence prevention;

Discussion was achieved through a series of question and answer sessions after each individual presentation on June 5\textsuperscript{th} and June 6\textsuperscript{th}, which afforded participants the opportunity to gain greater understanding of the presentations’ content. An excursion to various prevention initiatives in Berlin on June 7\textsuperscript{th}(detail further below) likewise communicated the practical application of prevention in the German capital.

The following report provides both an internal (by the GLOBUS) and external description of the event as well as key findings derived from the presentations and accompanying discussions. The conference program, copies of individual presentations, and a participants list is also incorporated into this document.
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

Organized by GLOBUS - Global Urban Studies Institute
Venue: Martin Luther Straße 105, Room 546, 10825 Berlin, (U-Bahn Rathaus Schöneberg: U4)

PROGRAMME
THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2014

09:00 Registration

10:00 Opening and Welcome address
Prof. Dr. Kosta Mathéy; Dipl.-Ing. Silvia Matuk, GLOBUS Institute, Germany.
Joann Picard of the Senate of Berlin and TriNet Global Consortium, Germany

10:30 -13:30 Community based strategies in Sub Sahara Africa: Case studies
Moderation: Roland Ziss, SUM Consult

- **Douala**: Christophe Sados, Prof. Dr. Kengne Fodouop Université de Yaoundé, Cameroon: Community Strategies for Crime Prevention in Douala, Cameroon

- **Nairobi**: Romanus Opiyo, Prof. Dr. Winnie Mitullah Nairobi University, Kenya: The Interaction between Land Transformation and Crime Incidences in Dandora Settlement, Nairobi, Kenya

- **Johannesburg**: Dr. Obvious Katsaura, Prof. Dr. Alan Mabin, Wits University, South Africa: Ethnopolitics, Fear, and Safety in a Johannesburg Neighbourhood

13:30 -14:15 Lunch break

Moderation: Bettina Hamman, TU Berlin Urban Management Program

14:15-15:15 Dr. Fatima M. Al-Namari, Petra University, Amman

Targeting Adolescence Vandalism in a Refugee Camp: A Community Based Initiative from Talbije Camp, Jordan

15:15 -16:00 Coffee break

Moderation: Dipl. Ing. Joanna Kotowski, SUM Consult, Germany

15:30- 16:30 Carlos Andres Restrepo, Julieth Sánchez Betancur, AEQUUS, Colombia
Means to Overcome the Invisible Frontiers in the Barrio: Youth Initiative in Itagui, Colombia (Spanish with simultaneous English translation)

16:30- 17:30 M.Phil. Luz Amparo Sánchez, Campo Programático Derecho a la Ciudad y al Territorio de Corporación Región, Colombia:
Meanings and Practices of Nonviolence: Learning amongst the Urban Warfare of Comuna 13, Medellín (Spanish with simultaneous English translation)

17:30-19:00 Reception
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

PROGRAMME DAY TWO
FRIDAY 6 JUNE

9:00 Coffee

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Kosta Mathéy, GLOBUS Institute, Germany

9:30- 10:30 Dipl. Ing. Joanna Kotowski, SUM Consult, Germany
Contribution of the FUNDASAL Integrated Upgrading Approach to Violence Prevention in San Salvador: Results of an Impact Evaluation

10:30- 11:30 Dr. Wim Savenije,
Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Argentina
Youth as Key Actors in the Prevention of Violence

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

Moderation: M.Sc. Nicholas Kasang, GLOBUS Institute, Germany

12:00-13:00 Dr. Verónica Martínez-Solares, Proyectos Estratégicos, Mexico
State and Community Responses to Drug-Related Violence in Mexico

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Winnie Mitullah, University of Nairobi, Kenya:

14:00 -15:00 M.A. Nathalie Hirschman, University of Applied Sciences of the State Police of Brandenburg, Germany:
Potential and Limits of Cooperative Policing in the City

15:00- 16:00 Dr. Reza Masoudi Nejad, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Germany:
Religious Procession as a Mediator for Social Conciliation: Building Communal Harmony in Dharavi after the 1992 Mumbai Riot

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Peter Gotsch, Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany

16:30- 17:30 Dr. Barbara Holtmann, Social Transformation System, South Africa:
Embracing the Complexity of Community Safety Challenges

17:30 -18:30
Short presentation of additional conference papers

18:30 Concluding remarks and perspectives for research and policies

SATURDAY 7 JUNE

9:15 to 16:00
Tour to prevention hotspots in Berlin Tempelhof, Wedding and Berlin-Kreuzberg

Evening option: 19th Carnival of Cultures Berlin's urban party
(with a parade of 80 nationalities on Sunday June 8th)
Conference Synopsis

The *Community Based Urban Violence Prevention: Strategies and Experiences* international conference commenced on June 5th with a presentation of the Global Urban Studies (GLOBUS) Institute as well as an introduction to the Community Based Urban Violence Prevention (U-CARE) program by GLOBUS director Prof. Dr. Kosta Mathéy. Dr. Mathéy highlighted the engagement of the GLOBUS Institute in violence prevention research with a short synopsis of the U-CARE program, which has investigated violence prevention opportunities since 2008. Following this introductory presentation, Dipl.-Ing. Silvia Matuk, also representing GLOBUS, spoke the Spanish language welcome address. Joann Picard of the Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Forschung (Berlin’s Senate for Business, Technology, and Research) presented the Senate’s engagement with sustainable development and international cooperation through the TriNET Global initiative. TriNet Global works to connect operators in business, the sciences, and management to improve knowledge of development cooperation and encourage collaboration between the public and private sectors; strengthen fair trade and fair procurement; and better integrate development and sustainability issues into higher education. The Senate also hosted the GLOBUS Institute for the event.

Author: Nichoolas Kasang
Following these introductory presentations, the research of U-CARE scholars over the past five years was shared with conference participants. Christophe Sados Touonsi and Prof. Dr. Kenge Fodouop of the Université de Yaoundé (Cameroon) presented their findings on community based strategies for violence prevention in Douala, Cameroon (the complete presentation can be found later in this document). The experience of Nairobi, Kenya, was subsequently presented, as Dr. Romanus O. Opiyo of the University of Nairobi expounded on the interaction between land transformation and crime incidences in the Dandora settlement of Kenya’s capital. The third presentation communicated the South African experience from a perspective that is often overlooked when discussing crime and violence in one of Sub-Saharan Africa’s biggest countries. Dr. Obvious Katsaura of the University of the Witwatersrand shared his research on ethnopolitics, fear, and safety in a Johannesburg neighborhood, with further commentary provided by Prof. Dr. Alan Mabin of the University of the Pretoria.

The afternoon session began with a presentation of the Jordanian experience of violence prevention in refugee camps, with Dr. Fatima Al-Namari of the University of Petra presenting her work on the prevention of vandalism and petty crime through initiatives engaging youth in the Talbije refugee camp. Continuing with the theme of youth violence prevention, two presentations from Colombia detailed adolescent engagement in one of South America’s longest standing conflicts (if not one of the longest standing domestic conflicts internationally). Carlos Andres Restrepo and Julieth Sánchez Betancur of the youth group Grupo AEQUUS presented their work with other adolescents in the Medellinian community of Itagüí. Following this presentation Luz Amparo Sánchez of the Campo Programático Derecho a la Ciudad y al Territorio de Corporación Región shared experiences and lessons learned from the urban
conflict which took place between government forces and paramilitaries in Comuna 13 of Colombia’s second largest city, Medellín. These experiences were particularly poignant, as the conflict between the government and paramilitaries took the lives of many innocent individuals; thus strong community and social networks have been required to deal with this violent loss of life.

The second day of the conference commenced with a presentation of the experiences of the FUNDASAL urban upgrading project by Joanna Kotowski-Ziss of SUM Consult (Germany). The presentation highlighted the integrated upgrading approach taken by the project to prevent violence in the San Salvadorian community where the project was realized. In a similar vein, Dr. Wim Savenije of the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) presented youth as a key component of violence prevention, also utilizing the experience of El Salvador as an example.

Remaining in the región, Dr. Verónica Martínez-Solares of the Proyectos Estratégicos (Mexico) shared the Mexican experience with the dual, and often conflicting, state and community responses to drug related violence in Mexico. Nathalie Hirschman of the University of Applied Sciences of the State Police of Brandenburg (Germany) presented on a similar topic during the afternoon session, discussing the value (or perhaps lack thereof) of visible police presence in the German states of Baden-Württemberg and Hessen.

The afternoon session continued with a presentation by Dr. Reza Masoudi Nejad of the Zentrum Moderner Orient, based in Berlin, Germany. Dr. Masoudi Nejad’s piece focused on the reorganization of the Muharram and Ganpati religious processions in Mumbai, India. Following one of the most violent confrontations between Muslim protestors, police, and Hindus after the destruction of the Babri Masjid in 1992, local communities in Mumbai rearranged the Hindu and Muslim processions into the same route to not only establish but also maintain communal harmony in Dharavi (the biggest slum of Asia). Thus, the presentation directly highlighted local communal initiatives to prevent violence.

Following the presentation of Dr. Masoudi Nejad, Dr. Barbara Holtmann of the Social Transformation System (South Africa) shared her work on embracing the complexity of community safety challenges. This presentation and accompanying discussion where then proceeded by a discussion panel which deliberated on the validity of existing prevention activities in Cairo, Delhi, Hanoi, Kampala, Lima, Cape Town, and Medellín. Participants of the discussion panel included Alana Livesey of Plan International (Canada), Dr. Mercy Brown-Luthango of the African Centre for Cities (South Africa), and Joaquin Salazar of the University of Lucerne (Switzerland). Proceeding this session, final conclusions and prospective for further research were presented to participants by Dr. Mathéy and Dipl.-Ing. Silvia Matuk of the GLOBUS Institute.

Tour Synopsis

On June 7th a tour was organized by the GLOBUS Institute to share local German experiences of violence/conflict prevention with foreign participants. The tour began at Berlin’s former airfield, Tempelhofer Feld, where participants were introduced to the history of the space by Klaus Teschner of Miseror Aachen (Germany), as well as provided with the current context of the park. Participants learned about the contemporary conflict over the space and likewise heard how the larger Berlin community was able to resolve the conflict and determine the future use of the site through a collective and democratic process.
After the visit to Tempelhofer Feld, the tour continued to Berlin’s Kreuzberg area for a visit to the community initiative, the Prinzessinnengarten. A local Non-Governmental Organization, Nomadisch Grün (Nomadic Green), launched the Prinzessinnengärten (Princess gardens) as a pilot project in the summer of 2009 at a site which had been a wasteland for over half a century. Since this time, the garden has become a community staple for people of different ages, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. The aim of this portion of the tour was again to introduce foreign participants to the methods through which Berlin’s inhabitants manage and resolve conflict between divergent uses and spatial needs.

Following the visit to the Prinzessinnengarten, the tour traveled to Wedding in the northwest of the city to visit an initiative which was organized by the community in collaboration with the Berlin city government. The square Leopoldplatz was likewise a conflicted space where local residents and a group of people utilizing the space to consume alcohol publicly did not agree over the space’s ideal use. Many residents complained to the city government that the congregation of individuals consuming alcohol publicly was unsafe, unsanitary, and highly undesirable. However, instead of merely relocating the established group to another space (and thus, largely not addressing the issue at hand) the Berlin government initiated an integrated process that brought residents and individuals from the drinking “scene” into discussion. Through the ensuing discussions, conflict was again mediated through the establishment of rules for public consumption\(^2\) and the development of a space where individuals from the drinking “scene” could consume without overtly disturbing local residents. Within this process, social and spatial measures were employed to change the space physically, but also address some of the underlying issues that were affecting the community at large.

In Wedding the tour continued with a visit to the police station 36 in Soldiner Kiez, where the group met with Yousef Ayoub of the Kiezbezogener Netzwerkaufbau (KbNa) and Sergeant Carste Prenzil of the police unit 36. Mr. Ayoub is the organizer of the KbNa, a local initiative which brings troubled youth and policemen together for sport and fitness training. The initiative, which has been active since 2009, has been very successful in reducing violence between the police and local youth, which began escalating at the beginning of the 2000s.

\(^2\) For example public consumption was not allowed in front of the church/kindergarten which also occupied the square; public urination was to be strictly prohibited; and the clean-up of bottles was to be done by individuals from the drinking “scene”.

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For his work, Mr. Ayoub has been recognized by both the Berlin and German governments; furthermore, the Embassy of the United States of America has likewise awarded Mr. Ayoub and the KbNa funding on account of their work. After presenting the KbNa and the orientation of their work to the group at the local police station, Mr. Ayoub and Sergeant Prenzil then led the group on a tour of the neighborhood to display some of the areas where the work of the KbNa has been particularly useful.

To conclude the tour, the group visited Görlitzer Park in Berlin’s Kreuzberg neighborhood to again experience a space of conflict. The park, which is a converted rail yard, has been the topic of much debate in Berlin over the last few months. The space has long been a location where individuals could buy and consume marijuana without problems from the police. However, the recent discovery of cocaine and heroin in a children’s playground at the park has lead to demands for more police there. Others have petitioned the Berlin city government to establish a coffeeshop where marijuana could be sold legally (in order to dissuade the trade of drugs). To date, no legislation has been enacted; nevertheless, participants were introduced to this space to experience how the local government, as well as residents, have dealt and continue to deal with the situation.
Conferencia Internacional
Community Based Urban Violence Prevention

Memoria expres por: Luz Amparo Sánchez. Corporación REGIÓN. (Medellín- Colombia)
Silvia Matuk. Global Urban Studies Institute (GLOBUS)

Conferencia Internacional, Berlín, Junio 5-7 de 2014
Reunidos en Berlín durante los días 5 a 7 de junio, convocados por el doctor Kosta Mathéy, y Silvia Matuk, de GLOBUS (Global Urban Studies), y con la asistencia de europeos, africanos y latinoamericanos, intercambiamos durante estos días, en torno a las estrategias y experiencias de prevención de la violencia.

Las memorias del evento académico, permitirán volver sobre los aspectos tratados, pero de lo que nos ocupamos aquí, a manera de memoria exprés, es del componente experiencia, el cual permitió a los asistentes aprender de la ciudad de Berlín, mientras recorrimos sus calles, sus barrios, observamos los gestos arquitectónicos, penetramos en sus parques, y realizamos una reunión con actores involucrados en un caso ejemplar de mediación no violenta de conflictos en el barrio de “Soldiner Kiez”.

La guía del recorrido ilustró sobre aspectos urbanísticos, arquitectónicos, históricos y culturales, con la palabra del profesor Kosta Mathey, director de Global Urban Studies Institute International Academy (INA) at the Free University of Berlín y Klaus Teschner, quien facilitó la comunicación con los participantes de habla castellana y procedentes de América Latina; continente y problemática de la cual es conocedor.

Kosta Mathey y Klaus Teschner, nos acercaron al conocimiento del uso, disfrute y prácticas por el derecho a la ciudad en Berlín, y a una experiencia de mediación no violenta de conflictos comunitarios, en las cuales nos detenemos a continuación.

El recorrido en mención resulta de gran utilidad, en particular y como lo expresaron los procedentes de Medellín (Colombia), es la oportunidad para el análisis comparativo de conflictos urbanos muy similares, y también para nutrirnos de experiencias significativas de mediación de conflictos, tema de interés en muchos ámbitos de la dinámica comunitaria local, teniendo en cuenta las respectivas particularidades en un contexto global.
El recorrido en bus y a pie, permitió la observación panorámica y el estacionamiento en lugares de la ciudad.

1. La antigua pista de aterrizaje del aeropuerto y decisión sobre el destino de un territorio significativo de la ciudad¹.

De gran interés nos resultó visitar el lugar y conocer la decisión sobre el futuro uso de la zona de la antigua pista de aterrizaje del aeropuerto, para que esta se mantenga en su totalidad como parque. Conocimos el significado de dicha conquista recientemente obtenida- el 25 de mayo del presente año-, pues allí se superponen hitos de referencia colectiva correspondientes a diferentes periodos históricos, uno de estos; el uso como campo de trabajos forzados tal como lo ratifican las placas del memorial al sufrimiento de las víctimas del régimen nazi, allí expuestas, su papel fundamental como única vía de acceso de los aliados a Berlín oeste durante el bloqueo soviético de 1948 y de otra parte, el valor patrimonial del aeropuerto, así reconocido seis años atrás.

Sobre la reciente decisión de mayo: “Un 64,5% de los electores votó a favor de que el aeropuerto, en plena ciudad y con un peso simbólico muy importante, siga tal y como quedó en 2008, cuando dejó de funcionar y se convirtió en un gigantesco parque al que la gente va a disfrutar de múltiples maneras. De la iniciativa ciudadana “100% Tempelhofer Feld” había surgido la recopilación de las 185.328 firmas que finalmente fueron consideradas válidas (11.211 más de las necesarias para la petición de referéndum).

¹ Para la construcción de esta memoria, también se consultó, el 9 de junio de 2014 la página:
http://www.alemaniaparati.diplo.de/Vertretung/mexiko-dz/es/02-AlemaniaparaViajeros/Berl_C3 ADn/TempelhofQuedaLibre.html
Desde la alcaldía se defendía la necesidad de contar con nuevos espacios para dar cabida a los cerca de 50.000 nuevos residentes que recibe la ciudad al año”. Según aclararon los profesores, de la totalidad de las viviendas previstas, el proyecto daba prelación a la vivienda para sectores medios y altos. Quiere decir que la disputa por el espacio, es una realidad en el mundo, pero también las posibilidades de incidir en el futuro de las ciudades.

Para visitantes como los participantes del seminario, procedentes de Colombia, este hecho fue muy impactante, pues se consideraba que este tipo de problemáticas sólo se presentaba en aquel país, pero además es significativo, porque “nos da confianza en que si es posible ganar el espacio para el disfrute colectivo, la preservación de la memoria histórica y el valor patrimonial”.

Comprendimos también, el peso de la decisión final, pues posiblemente desde la apuesta inmobiliaria y de mercado, no se tenía en cuenta el significado del aeropuerto de Tempelhof, que después de estar activo entre 1923 y 2008, fue propuesto como Patrimonio de la Humanidad de la UNESCO y calificado en 2004 por Sir Norman Foster “la madre de todos los aeropuertos” (en su proclamación de defensa frente a su clausura), cerró oficialmente sus puertas y pistas el 31 de octubre de 2008”

2. **La visita a un jardín alternativo y colectivo.**

Sólo estando en un lugar alternativo como este jardín, puede configurarse una idea del conjunto de apuestas en juego. En primer lugar, es el derecho a mantener el contacto físico y vital con la tierra. También la satisfacción de sembrar, ver crecer y cosechar las plántulas que reciben el riego, la visita, el mantenimiento de quienes se han juntado en este propósito. Lo asombroso es que esto sucede en la ciudad, haciendo uso de terrenos abandonados, en los que adicionalmente se hace un uso creativo de materiales no reciclables, así por ejemplo en la fotografía, se aprovechan los tubos de PVC, para la siembra de fresas.
Como si fuera poco, hay allí un aporte al conocimiento también colectivo, una señalización de las plantas indica muy bien su nombre y uso, y por todo lo anterior, desde el proyecto mismo y su realización cotidiana es también espacio vital de socialización. Otro hecho esperanzador para compartir con las comunidades que luchan por el derecho a la ciudad en Colombia.

3. Visita al Barrio de “Soldiner Kiez”. Berlín, Sábado 7 de junio de 2014

El Barrio de “Soldiner Kiez” (Superficie: 70,84 ha) cuenta con aproximadamente 20 000 habitantes, alrededor del 35% de los habitantes tienen menos de 25. Al origen, su núcleo histórico fue un asentamiento fundado en 1782, llamado “Colonia detrás del pozo sano”.

El paisaje urbano de hoy está dominado por dos edificios de la época, así como los nuevos edificios de los años 1970 y 1980. Otro edificio importante es la Iglesia de San Esteban, su campanario, con 80 metros de altura, se eleva sobre el barrio. Construida en la década de 1920, una ex estación marca la entrada al barrio en el cruce del tráfico entre la avenida Prince y la calle Oslo. En el año 2007, una parte del barrio fue también área de reurbanización.

La composición de su población es 1/3 inmigrantes nuevos, 1/3 migrantes segunda generación (hijos de inmigrantes nacidos en Alemania) y 1/3 alemanes de extractos pobres. Se caracteriza por su alta tasa de desempleo, especialmente entre los jóvenes.

Aproximadamente el 60 por ciento de los residentes son de origen extranjero, la mayoría proviene de Turquía, seguido de los inmigrantes procedentes de la antigua Yugoslavia, Polonia y de los países árabes. Muchos niños crecen en familias donde no se habla casi nada de alemán en casa.

Se consideraba como un barrio violento y conflictivo, y la gente que provenía de estos lugares especialmente los jóvenes, eran estigmatizados, dificultando su aceptación en otros lugares, principalmente cuando se trataba de búsqueda de trabajo y de inserción social.
En este barrio se han desarrollado iniciativas destinadas a mejorar la imagen del barrio al exterior y a mejorar las relaciones existentes en su interior, tratando de integrar las diferentes comunidades que lo conforman, a través del arte, la cultura, acciones cívicas, actividades económicas, de protección de la salud, de lucha contra la violencia familiar, cursos de lengua, creación de espacios de debate, edición de un periódico comunal etc. Entre ellas cabe destacar (sobre el tema que nos concierne), la formación de mediadores en 2003, donde 36 ciudadanos fueron capacitados en la mediación de conflictos vecinales.

Se partió de la idea según la cual, un barrio donde los vecinos se conocen, se tienen mayores garantías de protección contra el robo, así mismo se han desarrollado ideas originales, para calmar la violencia y lograr un acercamiento entre organizaciones e individuos con ideas diametralmente opuestas, entre quienes prevalecía “el miedo al otro” y rechazo al diálogo.

¿Cómo se está logrando transformar la relación existente entre los jóvenes del barrio y la policía que controla el orden público? ¿A través de qué mecanismos? esta fue la experiencia compartida durante nuestra visita.
Reunidos en el cuarto piso, en la sala oficial de la Estación de Policía del Barrio de Soldiner, en un salón amplio, bien iluminado, con una gran mesa recompuesta, bajo la mirada del Presidente y la Primera Ministra, afichados en el muro, el jefe de la policía Sr. Carsten Prenzil y el líder de la juventud Sr. Ousef Ayoub (de origen palestino), nos explicaron, cada uno desde su punto de vista, como era la situación al inicio y cómo lograron establecer un diálogo.

Los anfitriones Sr. Yousef Ayoub líder de los jóvenes y Sr. Carste Prenzil jefe de la Policía
Participantes del Seminario recibidos en la Sala de reuniones de la Policía de Soliner, Berlín.

Nuestra delegación conformada mayoritariamente de participantes africanos y latinoamericanos, sobrepasando las barreras lingüísticas que suponían una triple traducción, escuchó con mucha atención esta experiencia y hubo reacciones y preguntas muy pertinentes.

Nos explicaron que el proyecto de colaboración entre los jóvenes del Barrio y la Policía, tuvo su origen allí y ahora se está aplicando en 20 lugares más.

Al inicio, el hecho que detonó la preocupación y la necesidad de intervención, fue la agresión a un joven policía, quien recibió una barra de hierro lanzada desde el techo de un edificio que le secionó la carótida y casi muere a raíz de este ataque. El jefe de la policía (Carste Prenzil) ordenó a 5 de sus policías que fueran a controlar documentos, procedimiento frente al cual se negaron. La policía tenía miedo de la reacción de la población; luego el mismo jefe con un refuerzo de 10 policías fue personalmente a efectuar el control, ratificando la tensión del ambiente. La población también tenía miedo de lo que podría suceder y fue un líder de los jóvenes (Yousef Ayoub) que se acercó al local de la Policía y propuso el diálogo.

Yousef explicó que él había nacido allí, que toda su juventud la paso en el barrio, que conocía bien a los jóvenes y que siempre habían tenido miedo de la policía con la que solo se encontraban en situaciones conflictivas y represivas.

Es así que ambas partes decidieron escucharse, y los lugares de diálogo se diversificaron; se reunieron en clubes de jóvenes, colegios, locales sociales, iglesias, etc. y comenzaron a surgir otras actividades: Partidos de futbol entre un equipo de la policía y un equipo de jóvenes, luego conformaron equipos mixtos, pero también, montaron piezas de teatro que representan diferentes situaciones y las reacciones que existían y hasta se hicieron juegos de roles donde los mismos
jóvenes representaban la actuación de los policías, con los policías como público. Todo esto les ayudó a conocerse mejor.

Con estos contactos directos se logró cambio de actitud de los jóvenes hacia la policía, ahora cuando hay un problema en el barrio los jóvenes ayudan y la policía es vista con simpatía, y hasta hay jóvenes que vienen al local de la policía para que les ayude a redactar sus CV de trabajo.

Surgieron muchas preguntas en la sala, a partir de lo narrado, pero también de la experiencia en cada país de origen de los participantes del seminario. Una de las respuestas más interesantes estuvo relacionada con el hecho de que el proceso no era de un individuo, sino que representaba un grupo organizado donde había muchos jóvenes y era justo, lo que le daba legitimidad para negociar.

A la pregunta: ¿Qué hacer en otros países, donde la policía es corrupta y viola los derechos fundamentales de la población? Yousef respondió que el conocer al otro siempre ayuda, que es necesario buscar los sujetos dispuestos a la mediación y que solo se puede negociar si se tiene la representación de una fuerza organizada, ello es lo que le da legitimidad.

Dejamos el local de la policía, acompañados de nuestros dos anfitriones y seguimos en bus hasta llegar a una zona del barrio en la que era apreciable la diversidad cultural y también el compromiso común y las relaciones de diálogo entre los vecinos y la policía.
Termínanos nuestro recorrido agradeciendo la experiencia transmitida. Algunos de los participantes tomaron los datos para establecer comunicación y diálogos ampliados con los grupos de trabajo en los países de origen, dado el interés común en la mediación pacífica de conflictos. Seguimos a un parque donde nos esperaba una fiesta popular y una parrilla, con opción de carne o de salchicha en pan. ¡Buen cierre de la jornada de reflexión e intercambio académico con aplicabilidad social a nuestros entornos locales!
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

Organized by GLOBUS – The Global Urban Studies Institute - at the Freie Universität Berlin in collaboration with the Volkswagen Foundation and the Berlin State Office for Development Cooperation

Presentation Title

Community Strategies for Crime Prevention in Douala, Cameroon

Christophe Sados Touonsi, Université de Yaoundé, Cameroon

Presentation Abstract

Faced with rising crime, the inhabitants of Douala, Cameroon, attempt to ensure security on their own. Indeed, the criminal and condemnable acts of bandits, gangs and other burglars instigate a multitude of strategies for prevention and control.

The people of Cameroon's economic capital act in such a manner because the police and justice systems have abdicated their role of securing people and property. Indeed, these two bodies have lost all credibility. Since the end of the 1970s, the prevention of insecurity in Douala is passed from the sphere of the state to that of the population (Benit-Gbaffou, 2006). Security is increasingly provided by non-state services: informal security actors are numerous and enjoy the local approval and genuine efficiency (Baker, 2010). The inability of the State and Justice to produce security has indeed led the inhabitants of many popular areas or those areas of mid-class and affluent neighborhoods in the city of Douala to develop strategies for prevention to monitor public spaces, secure homes, and regulate conflicts between inhabitants. Thus in the absence of effective public safety services, the slum dwellers and the urban elites, each in turn, seek to find ways to protect themselves, thus opening the door to the privatization of security.

However, income disparity and logistics introduce differentiation in approaches and practices for the prevention of insecurity. Given this situation, the central question of this study is whether the strategies of local communities in Douala can successfully reduce crime in the city? To answer this question this piece will describe the state of crime in Douala, present strategies implemented by communities and individuals neighborhoods to deter crime, and then verify the effectiveness of vigilance committees in the districts studied.

Presenter Profile – Christophe Sados Touonsi

Christophe Sados Touonsi is a doctoral candidate at the Université de Yaoundé in Cameroon. Since 2008 he has been a participating researcher for the Community Based Urban Violence Prevention Program (U-CARE) at the Global Urban Studies Institute (GLOBUS).
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

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Presentation Title

The Interaction between Land Transformation and Crime Incidences in Dandora Settlement, Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Romanus O. Opiyo, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Presentation Abstract

Studies have shown that variations in land use, like variations in housing types and density, are part of the fundamental fabric of neighbourhoods. They shape the quality of life for residents and contribute to local reputations, housing market values, and of course, local crime rates and prevention strategies.

This study relied on a quasi-experimental research design which was informed by the types of land use and subsequent changes in land use in relation to crime incidence in the area; the impact of land use on crime incidence and coping strategies was likewise appraised for this work. The study utilized secondary data and a series of interviews with residents and focus groups. Multi-criteria analysis approach was adopted in data analysis and discussion of the findings.

The study findings indicate that the unregulated land use transformation serves to weaken the wider community cohesion and heighten socio-cultural and spatial segregation of residents. The study findings give credence to routine activity and social disorganization theories which are used to operationalize multi-contextual theory. This is based on the fact that transformation in Dandora is facilitating anonymity of space use and weakening social capital. The study findings shows that there are great opportunities of addressing crime through land use planning and hence recommends mainstreaming of urban safety in planning, design and implementation of neighborhood development.

Presenter Profile – Dr. Romanus O. Opiyo

Dr. Romanus Opiyo is a lecturer, in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Opiyo has been involved in both national and international research dealing with transportation, climate change, environmental planning, and issues of urban youth and sports.
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

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Presentation Title

Ethnopolitics, Fear, and Safety in a Johannesburg Neighbourhood

Dr. Obvious Katsaura, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Presentation Abstract

This chapter, focusing on a cosmopolitan urban context of a Johannesburg neighborhood, examines otherising and counter otherising dynamics in the field of community safety governance. The study examines the extent to which fear of crime and violence in Johannesburg is also cast as a fear of supposed strangers, especially in contexts of existence in super-diverse contexts. It is the contention of the author that fear of the unknown, unpredictable and the strange – of crime and violence – and of the unfamiliar social agent or “the foreigner” percolates community organization for safety governance, shaping imaginations or representation of crime and violence; as well as associated ethnonational prejudices and stereotypes. Ethnopolitics, as explored in this chapter within a context of dynamics of community safety activism and governance, is an expression of “urbanisms of fear”.

From an empirical grounding in Johannesburg’s inner-city neighborhood of Yeoville, this piece examines the socio-political contradictions associated with community organization for safety governance. Yeoville is of interest because of its pan-African outlook - being a host to an African immigrant and South African population (Palomares and Quiminal 2012). This chapter argues that the field of community security governance generates a socio-political space in which various ethno-national groups mobilize, take positions, and jostle for recognition or protection. This work examines two elements: i) the representations and manifestations of the politics of ethno-national otherness and othering in the community security field; and ii) associated counter-otherisation discourses, practices, and strategies

Presenter Profile – Dr. Obvious Katsaura

Dr. Obvious Katsaura teaches in the Department of Sociology at University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. His current research interests lie more broadly in Urban and Regional Sociology, with a focus on violence and urban safety, urban politics and governance, religion and African urbanisms, and urban ethnonational diversity. He is currently (2014 – 2016) engaged in postdoctoral research funded by the Volkswagen Foundation; focusing on the mediatory role of religion, magic and ritual in contexts of fear of violence in Johannesburg. Most of his other research has so far focused on the city of Johannesburg, South Africa.
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

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Presentation Title

Targeting Adolescence Vandalism in a Refugee Camp: A Community-Based Initiative from Talbiyeh Camp, Jordan

Dr. Fatima Mayada Al-Nammari, University of Petra, Jordan

Presentation Abstract

The objective of this paper is to present and analyze a case study on how urban space can support a local community in addressing violence by adolescence. The paper presents an initiative in Talbiyeh Palestinian Refugee Camp that attempted to address vandalism among adolescence through a multi-step program that was implemented in the period 2009-2010. The initiative is part of the Talbiyeh Camp Improvement Project, a community-based slum upgrading approach that was initiated in the camp in 2008. As locals identified vandalism as an important risk facing urban spaces in the camp, the project worked with a local NGO, the Women’s Programs Center (WPC), to develop this initiative to be managed and implemented by WPC volunteers. This enquiry uses ethnographic methods based on the author’s personal involvement as the project manager, in addition to interviews and focus groups, to understand the dynamics of the initiative and its outcome in order to generate lessons learned for similar situations.

Presenter Profile - Dr. Fatima Mayada Al-Nammari

Dr. Al-Nammari is an Assistant Professor at the University of Petra, Jordan, and an Honorary Research Associate at the University College London. Dr. Al-Nammari is experienced in integrated urban planning and international development, heritage conservation, and urban studies. She has conducted research on urban disaster management and recovery. Her professional and academic experiences span several countries, with the United Nations and other global organizations. Additionally, Dr. Al-Nammari has received several honors and awards, and published and presented in many professional and academic forums.
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

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Presentation Title

Means to Overcome the Invisible Frontiers in the Barrio: Youth Initiative in Itagüí, Colombia

Carlos Andres Restrepo & Julieth Sánchez Betancur, Grupo AEQUUS, Colombia

Presentation Abstract

As part of a policy developed by the National Government of Colombia, a maximum security prison was constructed in 1990 in the municipality of Itagüí (in the state of Antioquia, Colombia). This process was done without the consultation of the local population. Moreover, this construction precipitated violence in the territory, as it brought “legal” and “illegal” users of the space into conflict. Resultantly, physical violence, murder, persecution of social leaders, disappearance, and threats increased, which consequently caused stigmatization of the neighborhood. Local youth predominantly suffered from this stigmatization and were accordingly recruited directly or indirectly into the conflict.

Presenter Profile - Carlos Andres Restrepo & Julieth Sánchez Betancur

In the year 2011, a youth group called Grupo AEQUUS was created to combat the different expressions of violence in Itagüí. The proposal of the group is to optimize the different skills of some young people from the neighborhood and utilize their local and interdisciplinary knowledge to foster alternatives to combat violence. Much of this work is done through educational processes, which seek to deter new youth from joining criminal groups. Other work focuses on facilitating safe public space, where inhabitants can circulate without fear of violation, or the indifference of their neighbors. Such indifference legitimizes the reproduction of illegal forms of control of the territory and its inhabitants.
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Presentation Title

Meanings and Practices of Nonviolence: Learning amongst the Urban Warfare of Comuna 13, Medellín, Colombia

M. Phil Luz Amparo Sánchez Medina, Campo Programático Derecho a la Ciudad y al territorio de Corporación Región, Colombia

Presentation Abstract

Different studies on the repetitive cycles of violence and terror in the informal community of Comuna 13 in Medellín provide insights into the construction of the local social fabric, where the population responds in different ways to armed actors.

Both immediate and long-term responses of the local population translate into discourses and practices of active nonviolence. The most durable responses, which assist in the generation of new spaces, are initiated by victims, women, and youth. These responses constitute a reference of memory, which is a form of resistance and non-violence in the city.

Presenter Profile - Luz Amparo Sánchez Medina

Luz Amparo Sánchez Medina is a Colombian anthropologist with a Masters in Philosophy. She is the program coordinator for the initiative Right to the City of the Corporación Región, a Colombian NGO investigating fear, forced internal displacement, and memory in the context of Colombia’s second largest city, Medellín.
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

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Presentation Title

Contribution of the FUNDASAL Integrated Upgrading Approach to Violence Prevention in San Salvador: Results of an Impact Evaluation

Joanna Kotowski-Ziss, SUM Consult, Germany

Presentation Abstract

Multi-sector approaches suggest to focus urban upgrading strategies on violence prevention by combining three principal intervention levels: improvement of the physical environment, social and community work, and strengthening of the local governance. Since 2003, FUNDASAL, a Salvadorian NGO, has been working in different settlements of the metropolitan area of San Salvador at these levels. Although not explicitly foreseen in the original project concept, prevention of crime and violence has become a major issue during implementation, particularly in the context of increasing youth gang violence. In 2012, an evaluation was carried out on behalf of the German financial cooperation with the aim of identifying the contribution of these several interventions to violence prevention and to strengthening of peaceful neighborhood cohabitation.

The evaluators identified three principal areas which most likely contributed to the reduction of insecurity at settlement level:

- Infrastructural works planned and implemented in a participatory manner;
- Social organization of community groups and their involvement in socio-educative initiatives, particularly focusing children, young people and women;
- Direct participation of organized community groups in infrastructure implementation (“ayuda mutua”).

The presentation will explain the particular approach of FUNDASAL, show the existing gaps when more explicitly focusing on peaceful cohabitation and urban security and safety, and display the recommendations for future urban upgrading interventions aimed at violence prevention in Central America.

Presenter Profile – Joanna Kotowski-Ziss

Joanna Kotowski-Ziss is partner of SUM Consult and a social and urban development expert with more than 20 years of experience in 24 different countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. Throughout her work Mrs. Kotowski-Ziss has specialized in slum and squatter settlement upgrading, violence prevention, community development, and youth promotion, as well as monitoring and evaluation systems. In Namibia, Eritrea, India, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia and Kosovo, she has guided interdisciplinary groups of local experts and conducted large socio-economic surveys. Currently she is part of the consultant team to the violence prevention through urban upgrading and youth promotion program in Honduras (CONVIVIR).
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

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Presentation Title

Youth as Key Actors in the Prevention of Violence

Wim Savenije, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Argentina

Presentation Abstract

Youth is often linked to the manifestations of violence and crime in Latin American cities. It is also recognized that young people are most victimized by other youth groups (such as street and drug dealing gangs). Beyond these images of youth as perpetrators and victims, this presentation wants to rescue the possibilities for young people to actively participate in the prevention of violence and crime in neighbourhoods with high levels of insecurity.

In this presentation, the potential to engage young people in social prevention efforts in their communities is highlighted. To this end, it focusses on the idea of social prevention of violence and crime and presents some experiences of young people who have worked creatively to reduce insecurity in their communities. These kinds of initiatives are not only beneficial to the community itself but can offer new meanings to the participants and promote the social integration of young people. It also can encourage their social and personal development. The experience of the project PROJOVENES II - INJUVE in El Salvador is presented as an example.

Presenter Profile – Wim Savenije

Wim Savenije is researcher and lecturer at the department of Social and Political Anthropology at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)-Argentina. His areas of interest are street gangs or ‘maras’ in Central America, the relationship between the security forces (police and military) and communities with high levels of insecurity, the dynamic relation between marginalization, social exclusion and the incidence of violence, and the possibility of employing social prevention strategies to diminish violence and delinquency at neighbourhood level. He has extensive field experience in the various countries of the region. His current research focuses on 1.) the efforts of security forces to alleviate the insecurity caused by the street gangs in urban neighbourhoods; 2.) how growing up and living in neighbourhoods with high level of insecurity affects the lives of ordinary youths; and 3.) how social prevention initiatives can change the lives of youth at risk.
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

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Presentation Title

State and Community Responses to Drug-Related Violence in Mexico

Dr. Veronica Martinez-Solares, Proyectos Estrategicos Consultoria, Mexico

Presentation Abstract

In the last decade, Mexico has moved from being a country of moderate violence and limited drug issues to a country which has experienced huge loss of life and injuries associated with street violence, violence against women, kidnapping, enforced and involuntary disappearances, extortion, and other serious and complex crimes. However, until the end of 2013, victimization was not on the national policy agenda, nor is it effectively featured in the public debate. For Mexico, in order to effectively tackle drug-related violence, it is crucial to understand the experiences of victimization as well as to recognize victims as strategic actors in the recovery of their communities’ and the country’s social fabric as a whole.

Using a qualitative research methodology by documenting the victims and communities realities and describing federal, local and community responses to drug-related violence, the presented research project aims to contribute to develop more effective policies for victims and the prevention of victimization by identifying: (a) how the violent conflict, related to drug trafficking and the state response has impacted individuals and communities in six municipalities with high presence of organized crime; (b) the logic behind the state’s response or strategies to dealing with victims; (c) the mechanisms through which the state has sought to mitigate the impact of violence; (d) community responses to both state violence and violence of cartels; and (e) the impact of these strategies on the legitimacy and effectiveness of the state. Despite some effective responses, critical elements for reducing violence are citizen participation of community and business leaders in local security strategies. Nonetheless, key challenges remain: how to institutionalize such state-society collaboration and trust building efforts, how to vet and purify public authorities, and how to improve police and judicial investigation and due process.

Presenter Profile - Dr. Veronica Martinez-Solares

Veronica Martinez-Solares is the research director at the Governance, Security and Justice initiative in Proyectos Estrategicos Consultoria, funded by the International Development Research Centre, as well as a member of Board of Directors in the International Organization for Victim Assistance. Since 1992, she has worked on criminal justice issues in Mexico. Her extensive experience has led to her invited participation in important international human rights projects. She has been a visiting researcher at the University of Ottawa and the National Policing Improvement Agency (UK), and visiting scholar at the University of Cambridge.
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

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Presentation Title

Potential and Limits of Cooperative Policing in the City

M.A. Nathalie Hirschmann, University of Applied Sciences of the State Police Brandenburg, Germany

Presentation Abstract

The general framework of community security has strongly changed in recent years: citizens, the public, and industry demand more security and especially a visible presence of actors that produce security and order. Against the background of different jurisdictions, the constitution of the security market has shifted.

A subproject of the joint research project “Kooperative Sicherheitspolitik in der Stadt – KoSiPol” (engl. Cooperative Security Policy in the City) dealt with the aspect of “Polizierende Präsenz” in German cities, which stands for the visual appearance, the concepts and profiling effects of organizations and individuals in the context of security production and maintenance in public, semi-public and private space. Hirschmann & Groß (2013) investigated the Freiwilliger Polizeidienst in Hessen and Baden-Württemberg (Germany), a model of the Stadtpolizei, and a form of cooperation between the police and the private security sector next to (traditional) police forces since they occasionally perform policing types of action.

Quantitative as well as qualitative data collection and analysis methods were used to examine the competence structure of these stakeholders regarding the security production, the supposed citizen’s perception, the danger prevention and law enforcement, the nature and binding character of interconnectedness, as well as the reciprocal acceptance and perception. The results show amongst others that the exclusive on-the-street-presence of these stakeholders is of no crucial importance in order to strengthen citizens’ feeling of overall security. Furthermore, the knowledge of the sphere of activity, decision-making structures and a common sense of (shared) responsibility between cooperating stakeholders is relatively low. The cooperation depends much on the personal commitment of the involved parties. These, as well as further findings and practical recommendations will be presented at the conference.

Presenter Profile – Nathalie Hirschmann

Nathalie Hirschmann was a research assistant with the “KoSiPol” research subproject titled “Polizierende Präsenz”, which was jointly funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in the context of the Research Program for Civil Security. Currently she is a research assistant with the University of Applied Sciences of the State Police of Brandenburg in the capacity of the research project COMparative POlice Studies In The EU (COMPOSITE). Since 2010 she has been pursuing her doctorate in the faculty of Economic and Social Sciences at the University of Potsdam, Germany.
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION:
STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

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Presentation Title

Religious Procession as a Mediator for Social Conciliation: Building Communal Harmony in Dharavi after the 1992 Mumbai Riot

Dr. Reza Masoudi Nejad, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Germany

Presentation Abstract

Religious rituals integrate the believers and construct a symbolic boundary between them and outsiders. As procession is all about crossing borders and boundaries, it usually causes tension and violence among diverse religious and ethnic communities. Although this seems to be extensively evidenced by endless examples of Hindu-Muslim conflict in the modern history of India, this paper looks at the case of Dharavi in Mumbai, illuminating that religious procession can be a mediator for socio-religious conciliation as well.

The demolition of the Babri Masjid by Hindu protesters in the late 1992 sparked riots all over India. One of the most violent confrontations between Muslim protestors, police, and Hindus took place in Mumbai and lasted for a couple of months; the official death toll exceeded 800 (mostly Muslims). However, after the riot, the two communities rearranged the Muharram and Ganpati processions into the same route to not only establish but also maintain communal harmony in Dharavi (the biggest slum of Asia). This paper is aimed at discussing the entwining of the two processions. The case of Dharavi reveals that it is not religious rituals that create violence, per se. While Hindu nationalist parties tried to invent Hindu identity through a process of eliminating others during the last century in India, common people reverse the process, astonishingly by intertwining the Muharram and Ganpati processions in Dharavi. By doing so, people of Dharavi challenged the conventional narration that religious rituals always inflame the tension between communities. They initiated an intimacy between communities based on the paradigm of multiculturalism that has a long background in Indian culture.

Presenter Profile – Dr. Reza Masoudi Nejad

Dr. Masoudi Nejad is an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at Zentrum Moderner Orient (Berlin). He is an urbanist, interested in the interaction between society and space with a focus on the broad idea of ritual. He received his PhD from the University College London (2009) then was a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (MPI-MMG), Germany (2009-11). His doctoral dissertation, The Rite of Urban Passage, focused on exploring the social dynamics through the spatial transformation of religious processions in Iranian cities since the 1920s. His project at MPI-MMG, Rituals and Socio-Spatial Negotiations in Mega-Cities, was aimed at exploring rituals in public spaces as one of the mediums by which diverse ethnicities practice social division, intimacy, and integration in Mumbai, India.
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES

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Presentation Title

Embracing the Complexity of Community Safety Challenges

Dr. Barbara Holtmann, Social Transformation System, South Africa

Presentation Abstract

Using a case study of the “Best Life for Every Child” project in the inner city of Johannesburg, the presentation will discuss the way in which the Social Transformation System (STS), a research-based methodology, can brings together existing knowledge into an inclusive, participative process of integrative planning and implementation for community safety plans. STS is based on the principle that safety challenges are complex and multi-sectorial and cannot be solved alone, or by isolated interventions, yet coordinated approaches often fail and are not sustainable. The STS thus promotes innovative, collaborative interventions. The Social Transformation System (STS) offers a process of collective introspection in which it is safe to embrace the complexity of these challenges. It promotes the vision of systemic transformation through collaborative actions, agreed value attached to thematic interventions, the alignment of mandates, strengths and capacities for the achievement of shared objectives. It allows for participative rapid assessment to benchmark current status, develop and manage action plans.

The project demonstrates and provides a context for community safety as a need for transformation, motivating change as a process that must take a range of stakeholders closer to “what it looks like when it’s fixed”, a comprehensive vision of an ideal future state of safety. Many voices, often representing conflicting needs are offered resonance in this process, within clearly defined boundaries of what is and what is not negotiable in the context of local strategic direction. This must be for instance aligned to a local government strategy, as well as to community development goals. All must somehow be incorporated into the strategy. As each participant identifies the link between mandate and outcomes, data is populated into an online software tool that enables transparency and consistency for all users. This tool supports the transformation process and promotes recruitment of new stakeholders as the need arises. All participants are equipped to be change agents, with alignment to clearly defined natural teams or groupings and remain focused on their individual parts of the strategy, while understanding their contribution to the bigger picture.

Presenter Profile – Dr. Barbara Holtmann

Dr. Holtmann is the developer of a systems model and methodology that enables clarity of purpose where there are many diverse stakeholder views and inputs into a particular setting. This home grown 100% South African process highlights issues essential to sustainability and provides a platform for more effective planning and goal setting.
Dentro de las conclusiones, notas, aportes para investigaciones futuras, reflexiones de políticas públicas y recomendaciones generales, se destacan los siguientes puntos:

1. Frente a la violencia se han identificado diferentes causas y escalas de la misma, lo cual llama la atención sobre la necesidad de una respuesta diferencial y en contexto, desde un enfoque multisectorial.

2. Muchas de las experiencias que se han expuesto señalan la importancia de recuperar y fortalecer el tejido social, como una premisa importante en la prevención de la violencia.

3. Las intervenciones en los espacios públicos, las respuestas comunitarias y de los actores institucionales, apuestan por el reconocimiento de las dimensiones: espacial, social, cultural e intersubjetivas de la violencia.

4. Los diferentes acercamientos realizados, reconocen como condición fundamental para la transformación duradera de las causas de la violencia, el papel de las comunidades y actores sociales que por su rol juegan un papel central, en particular: jóvenes, mujeres y victimas.

5. Aquellas intervenciones propias y/o apropiadas por las comunidades son las que garantizan procesos sostenibles y duraderos.

6. A través de iniciativas culturales, artísticas, religiosas, deportivas, educativas o simplemente ocupando la calle se generan nuevos terrenos de oportunidad para la convivencia.

7. Con independencia de los diversos orígenes de las formas de violencia en los casos de estudio presentados, existen actores comunes de donde se deduce la importancia de continuar intercambiando ideas y experiencias como un proceso de aprendizaje común entre los diferentes sectores: públicos, privados, económicos, académicos y sociales.

Berlín 6 de junio de 2014

Este texto surgió de un intercambio de ideas durante COMMUNITY BASED URBAN VIOLENCE PREVENTION, STRATEGIES & EXPERIENCES entre:

- Luz Amparo Sánchez, Corporación Región, Medellín Colombia
- Verónica Martínez, Proyectos Estratégicos Consultoría, México DF, México
- Silvia Matuk, Global Urban Studies Institute, Berlín, Alemania

Considerando que sintetizaba las ideas transversales de las exposiciones y que reflejaban el espíritu de intercambio del evento, fueron aceptadas por los participantes como conclusiones del mismo.
CONCLUDING REMARKS – ENGLISH TRANSLATION

In place of attempting a comprehensive conclusion of the event we want to share some notes and observations and general recommendations for future research and policies:

1. Appraising violence has enabled us to identify different causes and levels. Such diversity reiterates the necessity for differentiating forms and causes and adopts a multi-sector approach.
2. The violence prevention strategies and experiences presented call attention to the importance of recovering or strengthening social capital/social cohesion within local communities.
3. The diversity of discussed prevention initiatives in public spaces, community based responses and interventions by institutional actors exemplify the different dimensions of violence: spatial, social, cultural, and between individual persons and characters.
4. All these approaches recognize the role of communities and social actors as fundamental for the prevention of violence. Furthermore, groups of particular importance include youth, women, and victims.
5. Interventions developed or appropriated by the communities where violence predominates guarantee long-term and sustainable processes of prevention.
6. Violence prevention and peaceful community coexistence are fostered through cultural, art, education, religion, and sport interventions/programs. Initiatives that encourage populating public space deserve spatial attention; moreover, such programs often also facilitate enhanced appropriation of the street.
7. There are several origins of violence according to the study cases presented. They have common risk factors too. This is a window of opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences as a learning process between the public, private, economic, academic, and social sectors, amongst others.

Berlin. 6th of June 2014

These observations result from an exchange of ideas between

- Luz Amparo Sánchez, Corporación Región, Medellín Colombia
- Verónica Martínez, Proyectos Estratégicos Consultoría, México DF, Mexico
- Silvia Matuk, Global Urban Studies Institute, Berlín, Germany

at the conclusion of the international symposium on ‘Community Based Urban Violence Prevention’, held in Berlin from 5th to 7th of June 2014. They attempt to reflect the spirit of the event, its presentations and the discussion at the end of the individual presentation and in between them as well. The observations have been share with all participants in the course of the closing session.
Photo Appendix

Conference Proceedings
Photo Appendix

Berlin City Tour
# Community Based Urban Violence Prevention: Strategies and Experiences

International Conference, June 5th-7th Berlin, Germany
Hosted by the Global Urban Studies Institute (GLOBUS)
International Academy at the Freie Universität Berlin

## Conference Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>City</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fatima</td>
<td>Al-Namari</td>
<td>University of Petra</td>
<td>Amman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fatima_nammari@yahoo.com">fatima_nammari@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eros</td>
<td>Banaj</td>
<td>Institute of Cultural Diplomacy</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:erosban91@hotmail.co.uk">erosban91@hotmail.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabine</td>
<td>Bode</td>
<td>planB</td>
<td>Düsseldorf</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bode_sabine@t-online.de">bode_sabine@t-online.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina</td>
<td>Boschmann</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ninabosch1@aol.com">ninabosch1@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy</td>
<td>Brown-Luthango</td>
<td>University of Cape Town</td>
<td>Cape Town</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mercy.brown-luthango@uct.ac.za">mercy.brown-luthango@uct.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vimbai</td>
<td>Chiwuswa</td>
<td>Internationale Akademie für innovative Pädagogik, Psychologie und Ökonomie gGmbH</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vimbaic@yahoo.com">vimbaic@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janel L.</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Alice Salomon Hochshule Berlin</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cranredberry@gmail.com">cranredberry@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umut</td>
<td>Duyar-Kienast</td>
<td>Alice Salomon Hochshule Berlin</td>
<td>Kassel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:umut-duyar@web.de">umut-duyar@web.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hassan</td>
<td>El-Mouelhi</td>
<td>Technical University Berlin</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hassan_mouelhi@hotmail.com">hassan_mouelhi@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paula</td>
<td>Saldaña</td>
<td>Hafen City University Hamburg</td>
<td>Hamburg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulasaldanafernandez@gmail.com">paulasaldanafernandez@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloria</td>
<td>Gaviria</td>
<td>Technical University Berlin</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gaviriagloria@gmail.com">gaviriagloria@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elettra</td>
<td>Griesi</td>
<td>Humboldt University Berlin</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:griesielettra@googlemail.com">griesielettra@googlemail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathalie</td>
<td>Hirschmann</td>
<td>University of Applied Sciences of the State Police of Brandenburg</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nathalie.hirschmann@fhpolbb.de">nathalie.hirschmann@fhpolbb.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara</td>
<td>Holtmann</td>
<td>Phone: 0027 11 7267947</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bm.holtmann@gmail.com">bm.holtmann@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfgang</td>
<td>Kahl</td>
<td>Stiftung Deutsches Forum für Kriminalprävention (DFK)</td>
<td>Bonn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Wolfgang.Kahl@bmi.bund.de">Wolfgang.Kahl@bmi.bund.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas</td>
<td>Kasang</td>
<td>GLOBUS Institute</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:u-care-globus@ina-bund.de">u-care-globus@ina-bund.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Obvious</td>
<td>Katsaura</td>
<td>University of the Witwatersrand</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:okatsaura@gmail.com">okatsaura@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Fodououp</td>
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<td>Université de Yaoundé</td>
<td>Yaoundé</td>
<td><a href="mailto:foduoupkengnee@gmail.com">foduoupkengnee@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salma</td>
<td>Khamis</td>
<td>Technical University of Berlin</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:salmakhamis@gmail.com">salmakhamis@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerhard</td>
<td>Kienast</td>
<td>University of Kassel</td>
<td>Kassel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kienast@uni-kassel.de">kienast@uni-kassel.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cibele</td>
<td>Kojima de Paula</td>
<td>Hafen City University</td>
<td>Hamburg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cibele.kbr@gmail.com">cibele.kbr@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanna</td>
<td>Kotowski-Ziss</td>
<td>SUM Consult</td>
<td>Wiesbaden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joannakotowski@sumconsult.de">joannakotowski@sumconsult.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniela</td>
<td>Langen</td>
<td>KfW</td>
<td>Frankfurt am Main</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Daniela.Langen@kfw.de">Daniela.Langen@kfw.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astrid</td>
<td>Ley</td>
<td>Technical University Berlin</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.ley@gmx.net">a.ley@gmx.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alana</td>
<td>Livesey</td>
<td>Plan International</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Alana.Livesey@plan-international.org">Alana.Livesey@plan-international.org</a></td>
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<td>Sylvia Lu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sylvialu1@gmail.com">sylvialu1@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Alan Mabin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alan@alanmabin.org">alan@alanmabin.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Veronica Martinez-Solares</td>
<td><a href="mailto:solaresvero@hotmail.com">solaresvero@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reza Masoudi Nejad</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Reza.Masoudi@zmo.de">Reza.Masoudi@zmo.de</a></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Kosta Mathéy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kosta.mathey@gmail.com">Kosta.mathey@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Silvia Matuk</td>
<td><a href="mailto:silviamatuk2@gmail.com">silviamatuk2@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Winnie Mitullah</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mitullahwinnie@gmail.com">mitullahwinnie@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gitahi Nyawira</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gitahinyawira@yahoo.com">gitahinyawira@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Romanus Opiyo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:romanop2000@gmail.com">romanop2000@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Héctor Peñaranda</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hector.penaranda@ash-berlin.eu">hector.penaranda@ash-berlin.eu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Pranse</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pranse@bgz-berlin.de">pranse@bgz-berlin.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stefani Reich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stefani.reich@senwtf.berlin.de">stefani.reich@senwtf.berlin.de</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlos Restrepo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carlosandrestrepo0525@gmail.com">carlosandrestrepo0525@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elena Reyes Bernal</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elena.reyesb@gmail.com">elena.reyesb@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ulrike Richter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ulrike.richter@giz.de">ulrike.richter@giz.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clara Rodríguez Area</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clara.rguez.area@gmail.com">clara.rguez.area@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Mascha Rohner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mascha.rohner@gmx.de">mascha.rohner@gmx.de</a></td>
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<td>Nicole Rudner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nicole.rudner@t-online.de">nicole.rudner@t-online.de</a></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Christophe Sados Touonsi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:csados@hotmail.com">csados@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joaquin Salazar</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joaquin.salazar@unil.ch">joaquin.salazar@unil.ch</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Luz Sánchez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:luzamsa59@gmail.com">luzamsa59@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Julieth Sánchez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leimanjulieth@gmail.com">leimanjulieth@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wim Savenije</td>
<td><a href="mailto:w.savenije@flacso.org.sv">w.savenije@flacso.org.sv</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oliver Schetter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oschetter@gmx.net">oschetter@gmx.net</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leona Schmidt-Roßleben</td>
<td>leona.schmidt-roß<a href="mailto:leben@giz.de">leben@giz.de</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Seewald</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kate.Seewald@actionaid.org">Kate.Seewald@actionaid.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Antony Ssembatya</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tonymakayu@gmail.com">tonymakayu@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antje Wenhöchner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.wenhoefer@gmx.de">a.wenhoefer@gmx.de</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Zafar</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sandra.zafar@plan-deutschland.de">Sandra.zafar@plan-deutschland.de</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roland Ziss</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Roland.ziss@sumconsult.de">Roland.ziss@sumconsult.de</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lea Zorić</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lea.zoric@giz.de">lea.zoric@giz.de</a></td>
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