

RETHINKING **PRECARIOUS** **NEIGHBORHOODS**

works, paths and interventions

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Paris, 8th and 9th June 2015

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Why this conference ?

The French Development Agency for Development supports low-income or informal settlements rehabilitation projects in several developing countries. AFD wishes to interact with the academic world so as to deepen its knowledge on theoretical and practical studies and actions on this topic, and the issues related to it. The political stances, just like the researches and studies on informal neighborhoods have gained a renewed interest since the Habitat II conference in 1996. Yet, things must be put into perspective in order to understand the origin and the inputs of the founders of this multidisciplinary specialty. The alarmist evocations give way to demagogical stands, but the urgent situation, together with a catastrophizing vision of the “city-planet” should not take over a reasoned approach, based on an established and coherent corpus and on a filiation with the founders and successive contributors of this thought.

Objectives of the conference

Reread the pioneer research works

Surprisingly, the pioneer works about low-income settlements (most often quoted as informal) neighborhoods are scarcely disseminated within the field of public policies analysis, in France, in Europe or in countries hosting large informal urbanization. Yet, the researches of John Turner, John Habraken and Lisa Peattie or their contemporaries (end of the 60s) in Peru and in other Latin American countries are critical on an historical and epistemological point of view.

The conceptualization in terms of « self-help », the process-based approach of urban development as the attention brought to the original urban fabric as well as the pioneers' trajectories are partly forgotten today. Yet, they bear a great wealth of knowledge on these neighborhoods and more generally on the very rapid urbanization processes. The participatory approaches, especially pointed out starting from the 1960s, should also be re-explored considering their extremely clarifying avant-garde dimension. More broadly, all of these works must be re-read in the light of the major changes of the Southern cities since the 1970s, under the double effect of metropolization and internationalization.

Observing the exchange of ideas in the academic world and between the academic world and the international institutions

Besides, it would be relevant to carefully consider the various exchanges between these research trends and the way they have been (sometimes) nourishing one another, with a northern and Latin-American tradition; a French tradition more oriented towards Western Africa and approaches through law and land rights, etc. With the globalization of the thought on informality and illegal settlements under the renewed influence of the international institutions, how are the previous trends taken into consideration? How is the current knowledge produced? How is field data collected? How is the diversity of urban situations encompassed? How do researches from India or from long-time “subalternized” countries bring a “fresh” look at this reality, already old but constantly evolving? How do researchers access to data and knowledge on these sensitive fields? Which are the grey areas of these approaches? The academic traditions, the studies sphere and the pre-operational approaches will be analyzed jointly and distinctly.

Low-income and unrecognized neighborhoods, land rights issues and production of alternative paths

This conference broaches the components of research on squatter settlements and unrecognized or clandestine subdivisions by particularly emphasizing the land rights issue. Opportunity will be given to researchers from various generations to show how the land rights dimension was used as a relevant perspective to grasp the urban growth from a grassroots perspective. Moreover, they will highlight the way the debate on tenure security and legalization interacted with the intervention proposals for a quarter of a century. They will also explore the links between regularization and anti-eviction claims. Finally, part of the presentations will explore numerous initiatives carrying social innovation in the various world regions at stake (Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Arab world with an opening on western urban situations), revealing new research and action directions, and to rethink the paths of the social and urban recognition.

Agnès Deboulet, December 2014.



8TH JUNE

HISTORY AND DYNAMICS OF THE THOUGHT ON PIONEER NEIGHBORHOODS

8h30 *Registrations and coffee*

9h15 Welcome speech

Philippe Bach, Director of the National School of Architecture of Paris Val de Seine

Françoise Rivière, Research and Development (AFD)

Anne Odic, Local Authorities and Urban Development (AFD)

9h45 General Introduction

Agnès Deboulet (University Paris 8, Lavue) *Towards a critical history of thought and interventions on precarious neighborhoods?*

10h - 13h History and construction of the thought on the “informal” or precarious housing

■ **Yves Cabannes** (DPU, London) « 1976 – 1996, from Vancouver to Istanbul : from « Building Communities » to « Comunidades » in Brazil »

■ **Alan Gilbert** (UCL, London) *Informality, renting and housing in the global South*

■ **Janice Perlman** (Megacities, New York) *The Metamorphoses of Marginality: Concepts and Consequences*

■ **Rafaël Soares Gonçalves** (Puc, Rio de Janeiro) *The favelas of Rio de Janeiro : at the margins of the city, at the margins of history?*

Discussants : **João Sette Whitaker Ferreira** (Universidade de São Paulo), **Renaud Colombier** (GRET)

13h - 14h *Lunch break*

14h - 17h30 The land tenure security, attempts, failures and analyses

■ **Alain Durand-Lasserre** (CNRS) *Land regularization : for what and for whom ?*

■ **Edesio Fernandes** (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge USA) *Regularization of informal settlements in Latin America : paradigms, disputes and a general assessment*

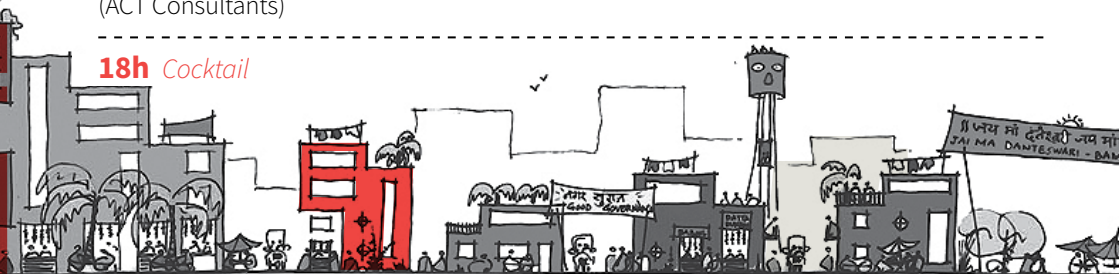
■ **Eric Denis** (CNRS, Géographie-Cités) *Under the radar : The routine of regularization in provincial South India* *Coffee Break*

■ **Clara Salazar** (Colegio de Mexico) *Property regularization in Mexico : from clarity to confusion*

■ **Valérie Clerc** (IRD, Paris) *Land as a multidimensional nexus in the treatment of informal neighborhoods*

Discussants : **Mélanie Lombard** (University of Manchester), **Jean-François Tribillon** (ACT Consultants)

18h *Cocktail*



9TH JUNE

INNOVATIONS AND ALTERNATIVES FOR RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

8h30 *Coffee*

9h30 - 13h Rethinking the city and town planning via precarious housing

- **Solomon Benjamin** (Indian Institute of Technology, Madras) *Land versus Housing as Political Space: To come full circle from the 1970s?*
- **Diana Mitlin** (IIED, London) *Responding to spatial informality – the observable strategies of local government and civil society, and a suggested interpretation*
- **Mona Fawaz** (American University of Beyrouth) *Exception as the Rule: Planning Practices in Beirut (Lebanon)* *Coffee Break*
- **Mansour Tall** (Onu-Habitat, Dakar) *The rehabilitation of slums in West Africa : processes, paths and challenges*
- **Lorena Zarate** (Habitat International Coalition, Mexico) *From Habitat II to Habitat III – What challenges and recommendations for urban policies?*

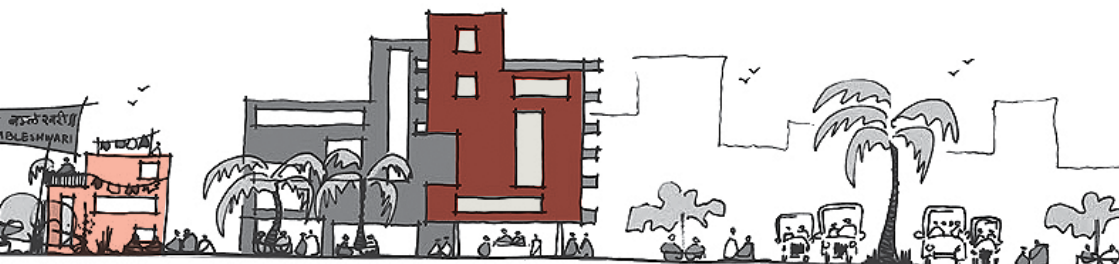
Discussants : **Armelle Choplin** (IFU, École d'Urbanisme de Paris), **Philippe Zourgane** (Ensa-Paris Val de Seine)

13h - 14h *Lunch break*

14h - 17h30 Other visions, new pedagogies

- **Kareem Ibrahim** (Tadamun, Cairo) *Beyond labelling : urban inequalities in Egypt*
- **Véronique Dupont** (IRD, Cessma) *The challenges of communication and participation in slum rehabilitation projects – perspectives from Delhi and other Indian metropolises*
- **David Satterthwaite** (IIED, London) *Finding a place in the city, low-income housing sub-markets revisited* *Coffee Break*
- **Kosta Mathey** (Global Urban Studies Institute, Berlin) *Why should upgrading help to reduce violence in precarious settlements?*
- **Barbara Lipietz** (DPU, London) *Pedagogy for 'real change': the DPU/ACHR partnership*

Conclusion and perspectives : **Agnès Deboulet** (University Paris 8, Lavue), **Irène Salenson** (Research and Development-AFD), **Tommaso Vitale** (Sciences Po Paris)



CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

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Yves Cabannes (DPU, Londres)
Valérie Clerc (IRD, Paris)
Agnès Deboulet (University Paris 8, Lavue)
Eric Denis (CNRS, Géographie-Cités)
Véronique Dupont (IRD, Cessma)
Alain Durand-Lasserre (CNRS, Sciences Po Bordeaux)
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Mansour Tall (ONU Habitat, Dakar)
Lorena Zarate (Habitat International Coalition)
Philippe Zourgane (Ensa-Paris Val de Seine)

Discutants

Armelle Choplin (IFU-École d'Urbanisme de Paris)
Renaud Colombier (GRET)
Agnès Deboulet (University Paris 8, Lavue)
Mélanie Lombard (University of Manchester)
Irène Salenson (Research and Development-AFD)
João Sette Whitaker Ferreira (Universidade de São Paulo)
Jean-François Tribillon (ACT Consultants)
Tommaso Vitale (Sciences Po Paris)

Propos introductifs

Philippe Bach (Ensa-Paris Val de Seine)
Françoise Rivière (Research and Development-AFD)
Anne Odic (Local Authorities and Urban Development-AFD)

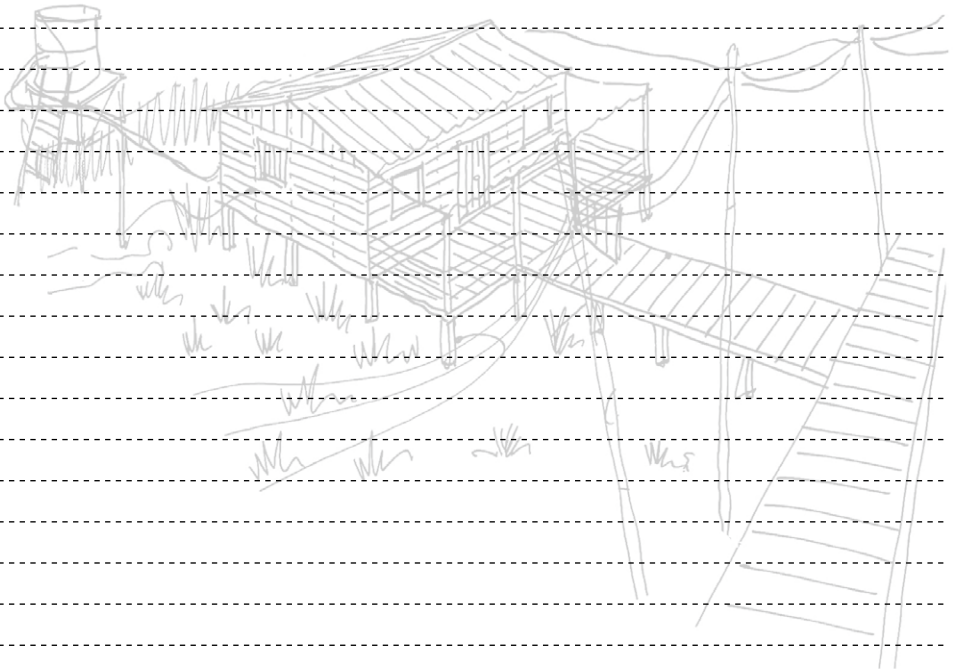
Scientific Coordination : Agnès Deboulet (University Paris 8, Lavue), special thanks to Armelle Choplin (IFU-École d'Urbanisme de Paris)

Organization : Irène Salenson (AFD), Merrill Sinéus (Centre SUD)

Communication/graphics : Merrill Sinéus (Centre SUD)

Conference secretariat : Yaneira Wilson Wetter (Lavue), Dickel Schweitzer (AFD)

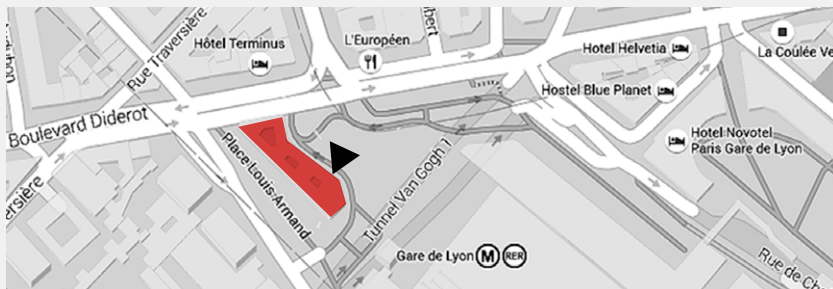
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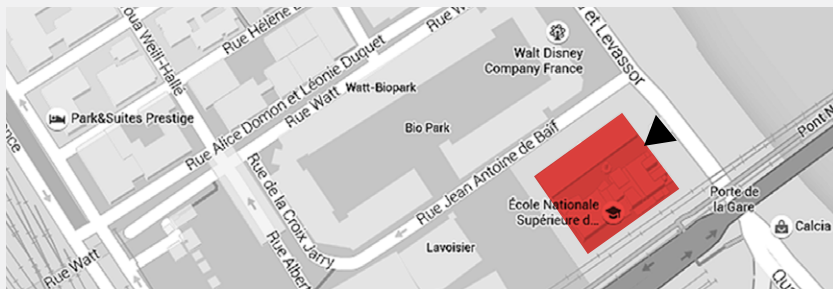
The conference is organized by Laboratoire Architecture, Ville, Urbanisme, Environnement (LAVUE, CNRS-UMR 7218), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Centre SUD (Situations Urbaines de Développement), with the help of École d'Urbanisme de Paris and Cities Are Back In Town (Sciences Po Paris).

Informations and venue

► **the 8th** at the Agence Française de Développement Building LE MISTRAL, 3 place Louis Armand, 75012 Paris



► **the 9th** at the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris Val de Seine 3-15 quai Panhard et Levassor, 75013 PARIS, AUDITORIUM 310



Working languages : English, French, translated
More information and registration on the website :
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