

Care as a key concept in contemporary urban studies
El cuidado como concepto clave en estudios urbanos contemporáneos

Opening event

[USF Seminar Series “Women's urban care practices through the lens of public social capital. A Dialogue between Latin America and Europe”](#)

Interdisciplinary Center for Development Studies, [Cider, Universidad de los Andes](#) (Bogotá, Colombia), [Georg-Simmel Centre for Metropolitan Studies](#), Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany).

With the support of the Urban Studies Foundation.

October 19-20, 2023

Online

The economic and health crises triggered by the pandemic have drawn global attention to vulnerabilities in cities and the importance of caregiving practices. Most studies on care in cities have focused primarily on homes (Federici 1975, 2012). While care may take place within the confines of a residence, many things that we do outside a residence consist of taking care of ourselves, others, and the environment. Our seminar series aims to discuss and conceptualize the urban care practices of women in Europe and Latin America through the lens of social capital in public life, that is, how they use the city as a site of resources for their care practices through urban infrastructure and fluid encounters (Blokland 2017).

The first seminar will take place online on October 19-20, 2023. The seminar will open on the first day with a public lecture by Gautam Bhan and an introduction by the Seminar Series organizing team. This event will introduce care as a key concept in contemporary urban studies. On the second day, a closed workshop will take place in which the selected participants, a team of 12 senior and young scholars from Latin America and Europe, will discuss comparative research methods and work towards a special issue for the *Urban Studies* journal.

Program details

Day 1: Opening event- public lecture by Gautam Bhan

October 19, 2023

09:30 (Bogotá), 16:30 (Berlin), 20:00 (New Delhi)

Online: Registration link <https://cider.uniandes.edu.co/es/boletines/eventos/Care-key-concept-urban-studies>

Operationalising Social Protection in the Global South

Drawing on a set of empirical cases collectively produced by researchers at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore, this lecture turns to a specific part of any urban social contract: the design and operation of social protection systems. Within this, it argues that operational modes of delivering social protection need specific attention within scholarly debates, especially in their complexities within the spatial and economic informality that marks cities of the global south. Put simply: how we deliver both existing and new entitlements is as important as deciding what entitlements

urban residents should be entitled to. These have a particular impact on women in informal employment, especially in India, where the empirical cases of the talk will draw from. I offer four main operational concerns that mark the delivery of social protection to informal workers in urban India: (a) residence as an operational barrier; (b) workplaces as sites of delivery; (c) working with worker organisations as delivery infrastructures; and (d) building systems of recognition and registration of informal workers.



Bio:

Gautam **Bhan** is Associate Dean, School of Human Development, as well as Senior Lead, Academics and Research, School of Human Development at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. He holds a PhD in City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley.

At IIHS, Gautam teaches, researches and writes on the politics of urban poverty and inequality, urban and planning theory, housing, and identity and social practice. He anchors IIHS' work as a Centre for Excellence with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, as well as a knowledge partner to urban movements for housing rights. As part of the School of Human Development at IIHS, he also leads work on urban welfare regimes, social protection and informal work. New projects include work on child health outcomes for the children of informal workers in domestic work and construction, as well as advocacy work on urban social protection regimes.

He is widely published. Most recently, he is the author of *In the Public's Interest: Evictions, Citizenship and Inequality in Contemporary Delhi* (University of Georgia Press 2017; Orient Blackswan 2017) and co-editor (with Smita Srinivasan and Vanessa Watson) of the *Routledge Companion to Planning in the Global South* (Routledge 2018).

Day 2: closed event- "Comparative research and methods: A dialogue between Latin America & Europe on care and the city"

October 20, 2023, 11:00 (Bogotá), 13:00 (Buenos Aires), 18:00 (Berlín)

- Participant introductions
- Workshop: proposing a Special Issue in *Urban Studies* Journal.