



ICLD Local Democracy Academy

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Book of Abstracts



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1. Human Rights Cities as a response to exclusion

1.1. The housing condition of displaced persons in the midst of the pandemic: the case of Gaziantep, Turkey

By Merve Akdemir Kurfalı, Bilkent University

Even though covid-19 has been affecting everybody in these days, it has sharpened the difference of the living conditions among the city-dwellers. Since we have started to spend more time in our houses, their quality gets more and more important. It has influenced from people's health to their professional or academic success due to work or study at home. This new situation makes vulnerable people in the cities more open to every risk. This urgent issue has forced us to think about the right to housing. In this paper, I just focused on displaced persons and tried to find out how they experience in this process. I interviewed with 41 displaced persons located in Gaziantep, the city on Turkey's south-eastern border. The disadvantageous position of the displaced persons in the labour market force them to live in houses with bad conditions or small houses. Even though housing was displaced people's prior need and problem, it has gotten of vital importance in the middle of a pandemic. While the seriousness of the coronavirus led local governments to act according to everybody's favour, they cannot give special attention to displaced people. In this policy brief, I will discuss what kind of formal support local authorities could implement for displaced persons by interrelating their experience and the right to housing.

1.2. Mainstreaming migrant rights. A comparative approach of migration governance in Lisbon and Barcelona

By Cláudia Araújo, FCSH - UNL

This chapter analyses migration and integration governance in two cities in the European Union: Lisbon and Barcelona. It demonstrates that both cities' strategies are based on mainstreaming, imbedding migrant integration across various policy areas, involving services targeted at the entire population and multiple policy actors, both institutional, private and – most particularly – civil society, with the reliance on CSOs being higher in Lisbon, as the city's strategy is based on downgrading migrant service providing to the third sector. Being that mainstreaming is also based on coordination between different policy levels, a clear difference stands out – while Lisbon leadership closely follows national government's and European Union's policy, Barcelona stands in clear opposition not only with central and regional governments, but also with the EU. This opposition has, in recent years, been constructed by employing a rights-enhancing language that creates a positive discursive space for the promotion of migrant rights. Further, gender became a fundamental dimension in urban migration governance in the Catalan city, starting from a feminist interpretation of the presence of migrant women in the reproductive sector and evolving into an effort to gender mainstreaming the municipality's policies and practices, while Lisbon adopts a "gender-downgrading" strategy, as it leaves to local CSOs the creation and implementation of a gender-sensitive migrant integration strategy. It concludes by exploring the contradictions between institutional policy making and the needs and desires of migrants themselves, even when these are clearly expressed in public avenues leading to local policy making.

Key words: Lisbon, Barcelona, City governance, Migration governance, Gender

1.3. The Rights of Children with disabilities in Urban Mozambique

By Saide Jamal, Universidade Save

How do Human Right-based city responds to the social exclusion through social transformation and emancipation? This study shows the case from Maxixe in Mozambique to explore the citizens' response to the needs of the children with disabilities. Citizens deliberates in assemblies the realization of economic, social and cultural rights necessary for the full exercise of civil and political rights (UCLG 2011). Citizen participation in urban affairs is an integral part of local democracy. It entails processes through which citizens discuss public policies, social and economic issues, including environmental concerns (Chigbu 2018). From a local perspective, this study applies the transnational models of citizen participation conceived by Sintomer et al. (2012) and combine it with Sherry Arnstein's (1969) typology of citizen participation in urban affairs. Despite the significant improvement in the living conditions of the children with disabilities, Maxixe still has a long way to go to solve social exclusion.

Key words: human rights cities, social exclusion, children with disabilities, citizen participation, Mozambique

1.4. Human Rights Through Local Eyes

By Kristi Heather Kenyon, University of Winnipeg

Human rights are often described as international norms, and yet, in practice in each of our lives, all rights are local and personal. In each of our communities human rights are vested with meaning that emerges from and responds to that place, history and culture. Focusing on human rights advocacy groups in South Africa and Botswana, I employ semi-structured interviews and photo elicitation, to ask two simple, yet critical questions. What do human rights mean to you? How does your understanding shape human rights work in your communities? My research suggests that such groups hold important insights not only for the on-the-ground practice of human rights, which is the core of their work, but also in contributing conceptually to how we think about human rights. Paying attention to the ways that advocacy groups define and articulate human rights can help invigorate human rights discourse, tie it to locally-relevant forms of legitimacy, and reflect the contextual meaning it has in people's lives. This focus can help shift us away from stale binaries of homogeneous universalism versus cultural relativism, highlighting the ways in which a local and culturally-embedded perspective can promote rather than hinder human rights protection. A critical dimension of locally-embedded understandings of human rights that is often overlooked is the role of cities and municipalities. In this exploratory brief I bring together my research with city-led models of human rights engagement and codification, examining this path to meaningful human rights localization.

1.5. Neighbourhood curriculum: on the importance of recognising locally available resources for navigating the survival at the margins of citizenship in the Balkans in times of pandemic

By Predrag Milić

This policy brief offers a practical and feasible action plan for how to preserve and enhance the provision of public education in deprived suburban neighbourhoods in Serbia in times of pandemic. Based on critical insights and empirical evidence collected in the past year at the urban periphery of Belgrade, the brief suggests a shift in perceiving public schools in deprived suburban neighbourhoods from being perilous places for virus spreading to places from where to monitor and control the spread of the virus.

Governmental decision to terminate the operation of public schools in general in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is worsening the position of marginalised suburban communities throughout Serbia as schools are often the only public social infrastructure in these areas. In response to this withering away of the state in times of great urgency, this brief calls for keeping the schools of such areas open as voluntary schools. Furthermore, it proposes turning these last refuges of public provision into information hubs, offering context-specific and public-health relevant and approved information to marginalised communities of these areas who are otherwise deprived of them. The attempt of this brief is to achieve a more context specific response to the pandemic which paradoxically and controversially to the general narrative of distance learning justifies the existence of public schools in times of pandemic. To follow it would be a brave new direction towards strengthening marginalised communities and saving more lives.

1.6. Achieving Gender Equal Municipalities: The Plight of Women in Local Government in Botswana

By Dorothy Mpabanga, University of Botswana and Mmilana Mongwa, University of Botswana

Achieving gender equal in municipalities has been on many country's agenda for many decades but with very little success. Botswana is one of the developing countries in Southern Africa who has found the route to achieving gender equal local government very difficult as it has not been easy for the country to achieve this objective. Achieving gender equal municipalities has been the greatest challenge for both developed and developing countries with a few exceptions. This paper therefore aims to explore the concept of gender equal municipalities in the context of Botswana by using a mixed research approach of semi-structured and interviews to purposively selected respondents. In addition, documented analysis will be used to investigate and determine strategies developed over the years to address the issue of gender equal local governments, including regional and international protocols entered into between Botswana and other countries with the sole objective of achieving gender equal local government structures. In addition, the paper will explore impediments to achieving gender equal municipalities. Finally, the paper will draw up lesson for Botswana and other countries, including lessons for policy makers and researchers. The study will suggest ways to promote gender equal municipalities as well as develop a framework that would help address the plight of women in local government structures in Botswana.

2. Covid-19 and Vulnerability

2.1. Poverty on the rise: Victims of Covid-19 lockdown in the informal sector of Gweru, Zimbabwe.

By Beauty Dzawanda, Midlands State University and Mark Matsa, Midlands State University.

It is generally acknowledged that the informal sector is the biggest employer in Zimbabwe. Any negative impact to this sector can lead to poverty amongst many households and affect the achievement of some Sustainable Development Goals. This paper examined how Covid-19 pandemic lockdown affected people operating in the informal sector. The paper is anchored on the legalist theory of informality that helped to explain the link between the government and informality. The research employed a qualitative research design because it sought to answer what caused people operating in this sector to become victims of the Covid-19 lockdown. In-depth interviews were used to collect data from individuals participating in the informal sector. A total of 30 individuals were selected from different sectors of the informal sector that

included informal cross border trade, informal transport, forex traders, hair dressers and street vendors. Results revealed that people participating in the informal sector were greatly affected by the Covid-19 lockdown. Many lost their jobs and it was very difficult to survive during this pandemic. The government took advantage of the lockdown period to introduce a lot of restrictions on the informal sector that greatly affected their operations. The paper concludes that Covid-19 lockdown created a lot of victims in the informal sector and greatly affected traders operations and livelihoods. The study recommends that the government should introduce measures that are favourable to register the informal sector so that it operates without too many restrictions.

Key words: Covid-19 pandemic, lock down, informal sector, victims

2.2. Covid-19 as a model for post-gentrification urban change: the case of San Lorenzo district in Rome

By Luca Alteri, Sapienza University of Rome and Alessandro Barile, Sapienza University of Rome

NO ABSTRACT – Only policy brief

2.3. Effects of COVID 19 lockdowns on local government democracy in poorly structured government systems in Southern Africa

By Maxwell Hauruvi, Midlands State University

Local government and democracy are inseparable. This is tied to the need for accountability, community participation and transparency in the delivery of public goods and services. Local government democracy in the context of Southern Africa has been strained by the oxymoron of poor federal-local relations where the central governments have too much bearing on sub-national units. The lack of well-defined relations and honest practices in intergovernmental relations has always hindered an already poor system of governance. In Zimbabwe for instance, the central government has unfettered powers characterised by abject interference by the central government into the administrative processes of local authorities. In the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic, these fragile relations have further worsened. Urban and local authorities (municipalities) have been hit by *inter alia*, poor revenue base resulting from constrained economic activities. Additionally, the quasi-centralised government system implied that national government had a heavy-hand in the imposing of the COVID 19 lockdowns and restrictions to business activities. It further affected community participation processes in local government. While the pandemic restrictions have been touted as effective, central governments in Southern African countries used a blanket approach without a case-by-case analysis of local situations since some local authorities were at low risk. On the contrary, a game-changer would be when the restrictions were done locally in fully decentralised units with autonomy to tailor-make own lockdown models. This paper focusses on local government democracy and efficacy in the COVID 19 era, comparatively analysing its effects in various parts of the world.

2.4. Why Local Governments Matter in the Management of COVID-19?

By Gireesan Krishnapisharoti, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

Local Government (LG) is the most important political institution to realize community based disaster preparedness by ensuring active involvement of all key stakeholders. And it is in a better position to understand the socio-economic vulnerability of the disasters with differential impacts on its population. However, the very existence of LGIs has been nearly ignored in the National Policy as well as

state policies on Disaster Management in India. Though the National Policy on DM (2009) and different State Policies have been formulated much later than the constitutional amendment of empowering LGs as 'Institutions of Self Government', they were not considered during the process of policy making in the country. And the concept of 'Co-operative Federalism' has been neglected in the policy formulation.

Considering the spatial parameters, understanding of the vulnerable areas and sections of community, practice of participatory vigilance mechanism, co-ordinating the functions of different players etc., the significance of empowering LGs needs no special mention. The Policy brief will look into the dynamics and dimensions of the LGs while optimally utilizing the resources, services and facilities in effectively combating COVID-19 in line with the 'principles of autonomy and subsidiarity', despite the policy support. The policy brief will enable the key players to analyse the extent of devolution of 'functions, funds, functionaries and freedom' while effectively combating the pandemic at the operational level. This will result in redefining the sharing of functions and responsibilities among different 'spheres of Government' with the LGs playing a central role during the pandemic.

2.5. The Effects of COVID-19 on Local Government Democracy and the Role of Local Government **Sessoion 2 Vulnerability only abstract so far**

By Bashi Mothusi University of Botswana and Prof Dorothy Mpabanga University of Botswana

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected countries and governments globally particularly in the delivery of health care and other socio-economic support services designed to assist citizens cope with the effects of the virus. The objective of this paper is to investigate the effects of the corona virus on local democracy and the important role played by local government. The study will be exploratory in nature and will use a quantitative and qualitative approach based on semi-structured questionnaires administered to purposively sampled respondents. The main research questions will entail the important role played by local government and the challenges they face in delivery of socio-economic services during the corona pandemic. Furthermore, the study will investigate the effects of COVID-19 on local democracy to enhance participation and in sustaining the delivery of health and other socio-economic support services during the pandemic. The study will draw lessons from Botswana and other countries, including lessons for policy makers and other researchers. Finally, the paper will suggest measures the effects of COVID-19 on local democracy and enhance the role played by local government in fighting the pandemic.

3. Covid 19 and participation

3.1. Transformation of interaction between the local government and active citizens under the pandemic: initiatives of active citizens in Russia during the pandemic

By Ekaterina Lesnikovskaya, Irkutsk State University

The pandemic created significant disruptions and has put an enormous pressure on local governments to regulate the situation. The quality of interrelation and interaction between different sectors – the state, business, and civil society – has been challenged. On the other hand, the pandemic has created specific opportunities for quality transformation of interaction between local governments and active citizens. The way local authorities and local businesses as well as local authorities and active citizens communicate and partner is not easily changed, but under the shock and stress of the pandemic the changes are faster and more profound. Disruptions brought by the pandemic weaken rigid institutional frames; they allow transforming of operation of a local government and its interaction with the community.

We have observed that there are specific transformations that are already taking place in the area of interaction between active citizens and local governments, between local governments and businesses. A unique feature of these transformations is that grassroots initiatives and active citizens' response to current challenges propel local governments to take action. We have studied a row of initiatives that have been undertaken by citizens with an active social position such as delivering lunches to hospitals and helping to organize doctors' visits to homes. We have concluded that under the circumstances, citizens' initiatives are becoming more integrated into institutional organization, into the operation of local governments. These prompt initiatives (we define them as "task initiatives") tend to influence local governments' decisions and work more quickly and more profoundly.

3.2. COVID-19 WhatsAppers: building networks of hope from the margins

By Sérgio Barbosa, University of Coimbra

The working notion of WhatsAppers is based on three pillars that integrates digital sociology, in combination with medias studies and digital activism. It was initially designed as a creative way to foster social change from different kinds of political action led by unrepresented leftist group perspective and since its early launching in 2016, WhatsAppers have acquired a pro-active role on networks of solidarity and programs aiming local level organization. Nevertheless, WhatsAppers engaged mostly in Global South countries, when compared to other Western countries. Embedded into a resistance from the margins, this policy brief analyses the role played by a specific group "UnidosContraOGolpe" in the first datafied pandemic in Brazil. The data was collected from March to July of 2020 while enhancing a common agenda for digital care, a dynamic of hope that contributes to operationalize digital resistance in times of COVID-19 pandemic.

Key words: WhatsAppers; Digital Sociology; networks of solidarity; digital care; local level.

3.3. Pressures and possibilities: New forms of mobilization for active citizenry amid Covid-19 in a South African municipality.

By Hanna Nel, University of Johannesburg; Johannah Keikelame, University of Cape Town; Sadi Motsuenyane, University of Stellenbosch; Conrad Jardine, Gauteng Province Department of Cooperative Governance; Brianne Peters, St. Francis Xavier University; Julien Landry, St. Francis Xavier University; Bettina von Lieres, University of Toronto.

The Covid-19 pandemic has worsened the situation of marginalized groups in South Africa as a result of lack of accountability in delivery of essential municipal services. The Emfuleni local municipality has been selected as a study site to explore the pandemic's impact on the lives of citizens residing in the area. In this policy brief, we share findings from the first phase of our collaborative research project, which uses a participatory action research approach. Given the restrictions on face-to-face meetings, WhatsApp focus group discussion was used as an alternative data collection method. Thirty participants residing in Emfuleni were selected to participate in these group discussions. Participatory thematic analysis of the WhatsApp discussion data reveals several factors including corruption, that affect citizen's access to essential municipal services. Findings further show that, despite the pandemics' disruptions, emerging livelihood pressures created opportunities for citizens to find innovative local solutions for self-sustenance. These innovative efforts show the need for new forms of citizen mobilization to realize the assets that citizens have and use for self-preservation. There is therefore a dire need for transformative approaches to reinforce these innovative citizen-driven efforts to address social accountability and promote local democratic vitality.

3.4. Digital Technologies: Windows for Inclusion, Engagement and Participation for a Post-Covid World?

By Conrad John Masabo, Dar es Salaam University College of Education

The recent advancement in technology and the widespread in digital ICT's use have permitted ordinary people, groups and parties to voice their opinions more openly and vigorously, making a shift from representative to participatory democracy possible. The internet and its use in particular has made quite big changes in politics as the internet's networking possibilities are creating opportunities for citizens to be active engaging participants in democratic processes. In short, the digital technologies have reified political life by creating an interconnected web of relations among people and things. It has influenced almost every aspect of politics, and its presence in politics is ubiquitous to future of world characterized by COVID-19 as one of the most efficient platforms for enhancing local democracy in the Post-Covid World. This paper therefore, maps digital technologies opportunities have in enhancing local democracy in Tanzania.

Keywords: Digital Technologies, Engagement, Local Democracy, Inclusion, Participation

3.5. Political confrontations within the national and local levels around Covid 19 in Colombia. Beyond the pandemic managing?

By Clara Rocío Rodríguez Pico, National University of Colombia

Several confrontations between the national level, header by the president Iván Duque, and the local governments have been produced around the Covid 19 managing in Colombia. In this regard, the role played by the Bogota mayor, Claudia López, is relevant because she has shown her disagreement with the central policies and their effects on the local autonomy. Political confrontations within both levels had not been unusual in the past, since the electoral behavior from capital citizenship is frequently different from the national one. When this happens, the city local authority tends to act as a counterweight against the central policies, expressing oppositions about topics engaging both territorial entities.

This is what is happening right now, with a right-wing president and a central left-wing mayor representing parties that had been opponents. In this context, it is pertinent to analyze their points of view regarding the impact and management of the pandemic and the way their political differences are resolved. Moreover, in addition to this objective, this research aims to assess if another two variables have played a role: 1) The fact that the mayor is the first woman elected to this position and identifies as a lesbian, raises the question about whether it has been any kind of political gender violence against her postures; 2) Taking into account that the mayor office of Bogotá has been seen as a presidential platform and that López might be a future presidential candidate (she ran as vice-president in the last election), it would be interesting to exam if her postures against the pandemic national management go beyond the city level projecting to the nationwide, therefore it might be interpreted as motivated by personal political aspirations.

4. Local governments pathways towards the SDGs

4.1. Public transport development in Russia: top-down initiative or bottom-up requirements

By Olga Demushina, Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration

Over the last decades, a lot of studies identify the influence of the sustainable transport on the quality of citizens' life. Russia faces significant challenges in transport infrastructure development as it was created in the Soviet period and does not satisfy the current conditions and requirements. Traffic congestion, air

pollution, long commuting time, numerous traffic accidents are considered to be the most crucial challenges in all big cities in Russia. Governments are trying to solve these problems by public transport expansion, enhancing its attractiveness and reducing the number of cars on the roads. However, governments encounter the motorists' resistance and unwillingness to renounce the comfort of their cars.

The resulting situation creates social tensions and gives rise to conflicts. Engaging citizens in public transport agenda planning and involving them into discussion could be a good possibility to reduce the resistance and find compromise solutions.

This study aims to explore, evaluate and compare different approaches to public transport concepts development.

In this study, a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods to gather data will be used: analysis of public transport development policy and measures introduced by governments; statistical data analysis concerning the number and modes of public transport in the selected cities; modes and tools of decision-making (governmental decision, public hearing, online voting, citizens' initiatives, apps etc.); content analysis of citizens' proposals, comments on government policies and the government officials' reactions at the websites and platforms offered by governments.

4.2. City to City Peer Learning to Accelerate Localization of SDGs and NUA in world cities within the global Covid-19 Situation

By Michael Oloko¹, Stephen Agong¹, Sandra Valencia², David Simon³, Leah Wambugu⁴, Stephen Ojiambo⁵, Tom Ogolla⁶, Beatrice Okero⁷

¹Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology and Kisumu Local Interaction Platform, ²Chalmers University of Technology, ³Royal Holloway, University of London (UK), ⁴Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), ⁵State Department of Planning (Kenya), ⁶County Government of Kisumu, Kenya, ⁷Civil Society Network (Kisumu, Kenya)

Since 2015, Mistra Urban Futures (MUF), a research centre on urban sustainability based in Gothenburg has been undertaking international comparative knowledge co-production research activities; to test the relevance and feasibility of measuring the proposed targets and indicators for SDG11 across five cities; Cape Town, Kisumu, Greater Manchester and Gothenburg, and Bangalore in 2015, and to monitor and analyse the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the NUA, focusing more on the urban goal (SDG 11) from 2017 to 2019 in seven cities; Sheffield (United Kingdom, Cape Town (South Africa), Kisumu (Kenya), Gothenburg (Sweden), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Malmö (Sweden) and Shimla (India). The findings presented unique practical lessons, challenges as well as opportunities that can contribute towards renewed momentum for the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 and also respond to emerging global Covid-19 situation. The design of the MUF international comparative knowledge co-production network of city platforms in four continents noted the difficulties the cities have in engaging with these global agenda as well as potential areas for improvements, but also identified innovative practices that, through knowledge co-production processes, formed the basis for city-to-city peer learning and reinforced internal SDGs localization processes. This article therefore recommends upscaling of three facts that have potential to accelerate the SDGs and NUA implementation processes over the next decade. These include; promotion of international comparative knowledge co-production network of city platforms, strengthening of vertical multi-level institutional collaborations for cascading processes from national to sub national (local) levels, and embedding of researchers within government departments for capacity building and performance of specific tasks related to issues of global concern, e.g. monitoring, evaluation and regular reporting on the SDGs' targets and indicators, as well as co-producing strategies of dealing with effects of Covid-19.

Key words: SDGs, Localization, Knowledge co-production, City peer learning

4.3. Youth like social conglomerate and the potential of the local power as mechanisms for optimizing the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean

By Rosmel Rodríguez, Municipal Hall of Marco de Canaveses

Towards where should Sustainable Development Goals be oriented to locate effective and efficient paths for the commitment of the desired purposes? From what approach can land, population and culture be considered to shape a binding future for sustainable purposes? This reflection will be approached, from the ground up: Combining youth as a social conglomerate and the potential of the local universe as mechanisms for optimizing the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean. This research aims to link elements of social integration, taking advantage of the potential of the environment and deepening the impact of the SDGs in various social groups, both vulnerable sectors and social groups that generate a triple positive impact: Empowerment, relevance and social development.

We will demonstrate how the local view, through the municipal approach, generates enclaves of social development through participation and the strengthening of individual / collective capacities; We will show how youth is a driving force for the consolidation of the SDGs as a civilizing culture of social organization, assembling each aspect in models of continental consolidation, through the SDGs: Showing the efforts of intergovernmental organizations and local implementation initiatives for their glocal connection. We are talking about a Latin American context where uncertainty and instability exacerbate the problems of inequality, inequity, and over abundance of poverty. Just as there are continental antecedents to adaptation of Goals, such as African Union and OECD projects, contributing with glocal experiences that can help present a new perspective of sustainable development with an empowered present for a sustainable tomorrow.

4.4. Negotiating Sustainable Urban Development of Informal Settlements in Invited Spaces: The Case of Mukuru Kayaba Informal Settlement, Nairobi County

By Ruth Murumba, Moi University

This paper examines the importance of informal settlements in driving the future sustainable development in African cities. Literature exists on the marginalisation these communities face and the ‘poverty penalty’ they grapple with. In terms of access to services, they face a stubbornly existing gap that seems to widen instead of reducing. Various organisations have initiated programmes and projects to assist in lifting living standards but there are still serious hurdles. Developments such as the promulgation of the new constitution which has embedded in it the Bill of Rights are a key platform for participatory development. Coupled with the development of attendant legislation such as the Public Participation Bill (2018), provide an opportunity for the highlighting and nuancing of the needs of the urban poor for sustainable development. However, it remains to be seen how these created spaces act as spaces for constructive engagement for marginalised informal settlements. Using the Mukuru Kayaba informal settlement as a case study, this paper examines the significance of urban initiatives taking into account the nuanced needs of subaltern communities which have a profound effect on sustainable urban development.

Key words: Informality; Inclusion; Invited Spaces; Sustainability; Sustainable Development

4.5. Socio-technical principles for Designing Complementary Currencies

By Juan Ocampo, Lund School of Economics and Management

Having access to credits and exchange mechanisms has been linked to reduction of poverty, income inequality, and personal wellbeing. A grassroots innovation that aims to fulfil these needs are Complementary Currencies (CC). Broadly speaking, CC can be defined as an agreement within a community to use something standardised as a medium of exchange with the objective of incentivising pre-defined social, economic, or environmental behaviours (Lietaer, 1999; Blanc, 2018). The flexibility of CC and the transparency that digital technologies (e.g. Blockchain) permits, opens the opportunity to design CC with special purposes. The development of CC requires a proper understanding of the social, technological, and mathematical design principles of therefore, and focusing in these three components, this policy paper aims to present some design cases of CC around the world and provide computer-based simulations of their performance.

Key words: Complementary currency; Agent-Based Modeling, Relational Economics

4.6. Sustainable human settlements and democratic planning practice

Chadzimula Molebatsi, University of Botswana

The research revolves around the search for sustainable and just human settlements founded on the principles and ethos of democratic governance. The enquiry is made against a backdrop of an expansionary global market economic system driving and shaping the growth and expansion of human settlement. Out of this global market economy emerge human settlements accompanied by massive deprivations and inequalities in terms of access to resources required for decent lives for the majority of the populations. An increasingly shared view among the search for just human settlements scholarship is that transformation can be realized within the existing capitalist system. We argue that there remain within the country's normative development planning framework and liberal democratic political system, opportunities for sustainable and just human settlements. This policy brief proposes three interrelated pathways towards the realisation of sustainable and just human settlements. These are (i) utilisation of sanctioned spaces of participation, (ii) shifting from expert-centred knowledge production to co-production models of enquiry and practices, and (iii) capitalizing on multilateral agreements to leverage changes in human settlements governance.

5. Inclusive Local Governments: creating a new social contract

5.1. Citizens' engagement at the crossroads for a public urban space: adjustments and deviations

By Isabel Ferreira, University of Coimbra; Beatriz Caitana University of Coimbra and Nathalie Nunes, University of Coimbra

The aim of this paper is to explore the challenges of institutionalizing participatory processes within municipal contexts in the frame of the EU-funded project URBiNAT1 aimed at inclusive urban regeneration. Participation in URBiNAT is framed as a co-creation process going beyond the usual practice of urban planning, by working within a co-creation framework involving citizens, municipal officials and technicians, researchers, local partners and stakeholders. The participatory process is embedded in all the stages of the process: co-diagnostic, co-design, co-implementation and co-monitoring. The objective is for citizens to implement their own solutions, according to their needs, challenges, specificities and ambitions. It encourages their ownership through active involvement in all stages. Much effort has been invested in opening room for their engagement in the co-diagnostic and co-design stages, which were tailored to the

participatory culture of each city, in particular in Porto - Portugal, case of the present research. However, the level of influence in the municipal decision-making process is still not stabilized, namely the commitment of including negotiation, consensus building and deliberation through a strategy of municipal roadmap, operationalized in different ways according to the ambition of each city. Redirecting the co-creation energy and efforts to institutional changes that allow the consolidation of channels of participation is the challenge that we would like to discuss at the Local Democracy Academy: What are the technical and political obstacles and opportunities? How to give more visibility and voice to municipal decision makers and technicians in the process of reforming representative democracy? What can we expect as benefits of shifting from a project-oriented participation towards a public policy of participation?

5.2. Symbolism or Inclusion? Sanctuary Policies, Immigrant Communities, and Partisanship

By Benjamin Gonzalez O'Brien, San Diego State University and Loren Collingwood, University of New Mexico

While there is a growing body of literature on sanctuary policies, there has been little research to date on whether these policies become law due to local need, or whether it is instead partisan divisions that drive cities to take a stance on immigration policy. In this paper, we examine the factors that play a role in the passage of local sanctuary resolutions between 2001 and 2020 to determine if drivers have differed in the pre and post-Trump period. Sanctuary city proponents argue that these policies encourage cooperation between local law enforcement and greater inclusiveness of local immigrant communities. If cities do pass sanctuary policies in the interest of cooperation between law enforcement and immigrant communities, as well as greater inclusion, we would expect that sanctuary localities would have larger Latino or foreign-born populations, or a growth in the size of these groups, prior to the resolution's passage. If instead these policies are passed in the interests of partisan symbolism, we would expect to see more policies passed in localities with small Latino or foreign-born populations but that are more ideologically to the left, based on partisan alignment on the issue of sanctuary, particularly in the post-Trump period. We expect that prior to Trump's candidacy in 2015, sanctuary policies were largely passed for functional reasons, i.e. in cities with large Latino and/or foreign-born communities, but post-Trump local partisanship will play a larger role in decision to become a sanctuary city.

5.3. Improving local health services through integrated governance: Exploratory data from Senegal

By Sarah Frazer, Research Triangle Institute (RTI International) Eric Johnson, RTI International and Anna Wetterberg, RTI International

There is robust evidence that better governance is linked to improved service delivery. Democracies provide better access to education than autocratic regimes and also achieve better health outcomes (Wang et al. 2015). Democratic local governance also matters. Community-monitored service agreements can significantly improve primary health-care center utilization (Björkman & Svensson 2009, Donato & Garcia Mosqueira 2019). Interventions to improve corruption, teacher absenteeism, and accountability have demonstrated positive impacts on student learning (Glewwe & Muralidharan 2016).

However, important questions remain about the specific contributions of governance to sectoral improvements and what mechanisms communities, local governments, and development practitioners can trust to deliver improvements. Using March 2020 survey data from 110 *Collectivités Territoriales* in Senegal, we explore the effects of integrating governance and health sector programs on (a) funding for health

services, (b) functioning of health governance bodies, and (c) health service outcomes. Preliminary analysis indicates that integrated governance strengthens commune-level health governance bodies and improves access to and quality of service delivery. However, it does not improve facility-level health governance and has no effect on funding. In addition to illuminating practical approaches for improving service delivery, these data provide a pre-pandemic baseline for health service delivery and governance. Later stages of this mixed-methods study will deepen analysis of these patterns using qualitative techniques, as well as gather a second wave of survey data to gauge change as the pandemic progressed.

5.4. Whose voice matters for what? Inclusion in local decision-making in Kenya and Lebanon

By Hanna Leonardsson, University of Gothenburg and Jean-Bosco Habyarimana, University of Gothenburg

While long-standing debates in the field of development have promoted participatory and inclusive approaches, post-conflict contexts offer additional challenges through continued divisions along former warring lines. Although literature on local peacebuilding argue for the inclusion of local communities to ground peace and development within the communities affected by the conflict, recent research shows that local levels often mirror national political divides, enabling some local communities to have a say in local decision-making, while excluding others. Taking into consideration that political divides also penetrate the local level, we investigate local inclusion in municipal decision-making in Kenya and Lebanon to explore the challenges and opportunities that exist in post-conflict recovery. The methodology adopted for this research is a mixed-methods approach in which we complement quantitative data with qualitative data. Due to travel restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, the research project has employed local assistants to collect survey data from local government officials as well as civil society actors. Additionally, we use qualitative material from previous interviews, literature reviews and, if the situation allows, future interviews in the field, to discuss the results. This draft policy brief offers insights into the field of local inclusion in post-conflict contexts, data collection methods and tentative results.

Key words: post-conflict societies, inclusion, participation, peacebuilding, democracy, local governments

5.5. Operationalizing participatory legal frameworks for vulnerable groups in local democracies: Lessons beyond theory

By Bernard Chazovachii, Great Zimbabwe University; Cowen Dziva, Great Zimbabwe University; Mavis T Macheke and Josiah Taru, Great Zimbabwe University

The inclusion and full participation of vulnerable groups of the society is a prerequisite for consolidation of local democracy. However, the voices of many vulnerable groups of the society especially women, children and youth, the elderly, cultural minorities, and differently abled persons continue to be marginalized from local democracy due to weak laws and other barriers. It emerged from our review of literature and key informant interviews that the existing laws governing local governance in Zimbabwe do not go an extra mile to provide for definitive inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in local democracy. This is compounded by inadequacies of vulnerable groups of the society, including limited knowledge about governance issues, more so on their rights and obligations as citizens, low education, poverty, and limited access to assistive devices for differently abled persons to effectively partake in matters shaping their lives. The plights of the different categories of vulnerable groups are exacerbated by the unanticipated COVID-19 pandemic. There is therefore need for legal and policy reform, followed by capacity building of stakeholders, and widespread awareness raising on the rights and responsibilities of vulnerable groups and the service providers in local democracy. For legal reforms, the

option is to add specific legal binding clauses in the Constitution, Electoral Act and local governance laws that reserve quotas and speak to the inclusion of vulnerable groups in local governance. Furthermore, there is need for administrative reform of key institutions in local democracy to prioritise, and reach out to vulnerable groups with accessible information and provide for their fundamental needs. The varied non-state organisations for vulnerable groups of the society are implored to lobby, advocate and provide information, and other critical resources needed to overcome persisting poverty, attitudinal, accessibility and communication challenges that hinder the inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in local democratisation process.

Key words: Local democracy, vulnerable groups, capacity building, inclusion, participation

5.6. Morality Policies and the Prospect for Inclusive Citizenship in Decentralized Indonesia: A Study of West Java

By Wawan Mas'udi, Universitas Gadjah Mada and Ayu Diasti, Universitas Gadjah Mada

This project aims at explaining why cities have become exclusive against minorities, while others stay relatively inclusive by carrying a comparative study on policy-making processes in four cities in West Java, Indonesia. West Java demands particular attention not only due to the fact that it has the largest population and voters, but also because it hosts several cities that have turned hostile against marginalized communities, especially the LGBTQ and faith-based minority groups. Exclusionary policies against these groups are often framed as “morality policies” and this research identifies the factors that encourage local governments to (or dissuade them from) adopting exclusionary, “morality-framed” policies against minorities. This situation demands further explanation therefore this project intends to understand the logics behind “exclusionary” (or “inclusionary”) policy-making processes in four cities in West Java with the aim to:

- map out existing policies and their effects on the citizenship status of vulnerable groups in each city, especially the LGBTQ and faith-based minority groups.
- identify the specific factors that may provide incentives for local government in each city to adopt or avoid exclusionary policies against the minorities.
- utilize the findings as a basis to advocate for more inclusive cities that can guarantee a wider space for collaboration with the minorities.

Given the province’s centrality to Indonesian democracy, such knowledge is important as it will also help to determine the necessary elements of inclusive cities where minorities should be treated as equal citizens, which is beneficial for the country future democratization.

6. Climate action in local governments

6.1. Lessons of the Citizens’ Assembly on Climate Change in Budapest

By Daniel Oross, Center for Social Sciences, Institute for Political Sciences

Including citizens perspectives on climate change into the strategy of cities is crucial because cities and urban areas can accelerate and upscale climate action. In order to provide a local climate strategy that offers a clear guidance for cities it is essential to work with citizens to make sure their views are heard, and develop strategies that fit with people’s lives and aspirations. The policy brief presents principles and outputs of the Citizens Assembly on Climate Change organized by DemNet and Sortition Foundation in cooperation with the Budapest City Council.

Held in September 2020, 50 randomly selected citizens of Budapest learnt from politicians, experts and leaders of different NGOs about climate change and how the Municipality of Budapest can address it. Participants took time to discuss this with one another, and then made recommendations about what should happen. The Assembly provided an unprecedented opportunity for the public to contribute to climate change debate, and to influence the action of the City Council.

The case study provides empirical evidence to the question how an inclusive local government can address the problems of climate change in cooperation with NGOs and randomly selected citizens. Based on qualitative and quantitative data collected during the event the policy brief brings evidence about the extent of changes in participants' attitudes and knowledge about climate change. Finally, based on interviews with policy makers the policy brief also reflects on the question how and to what extent the proposals of the citizens got included into the climate strategy of the city.

6.2. Local carbon budgets for rapid climate mitigation

By Martin Wetterstedt, Uppsala university and Anneli Ekblom, Uppsala University

IPCCs carbon budgets show the relationship between total amount of carbon emissions and global temperature increase by 2100. Using a published method the carbon budget can be divided to nations, counties and municipalities in a "fair" way in line with the Paris agreement. In Sweden this work, financed partly as commissioned research, has been carried out since 2017 in line with the original application for Manchester. The resulting rate of emissions reductions of 12 or 15 % p.a. are significantly more challenging than current Swedish national targets corresponding to 5-8 % p.a.

The aim of the research project was to 1) communicate the notion of the global carbon budget and the cumulative behaviour of CO₂ emission in a concrete way to the local policy level, and 2) make it possible for the local level to set targets in line with the Paris agreement and to 3) communicate the need for rapid transition (12/15 % p.a.) coming as a consequence.

For this, local reports were prepared and sometimes seminars held. Local interest groups such as Fridays for Future sometimes spurred local government to commission the reports. As an outcome of these "system interventions", a couple of municipalities have substantially increased their mitigation targets and reframed them as cumulative challenges. Steps have also been taken to link them to core planning and the monetary budget. We argue that carbon budgets provide a more science based policy foundation than the often used point year targets and that it rightfully put stronger emphasis on short term emissions reductions.

6.3. Local Democracy and Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture in Botswana: A New Institutional Economics Perspective.

By Kgolagano Mpejane, KGM Consulting and Dorothy Mpabanga, University of Botswana

The study assesses how local governance influences the adoption of smart climate agriculture policy as a mitigation strategy against the impacts of climate change on farming in Botswana. Local authority is ubiquitous in rural development, however agriculture as verified by low and declining agricultural productivity is affected by the impacts of climate change. Inefficiency and centralised decision making by the central government increase transaction costs of implementing practices that mitigate the effects of

increasing temperatures, unreliable rainfalls, heat wave and outbreaks of pests and diseases. Often, local government is sidelined in climate change issues despite the capacity to make credible commitments and reduce information asymmetry which is critical in formulating and implementing smart climate agricultural policy. The study will analyze the content of local government meeting minutes and climate change policy documents in local government offices in 4 districts in Botswana. The data collected will be used to assess how decentralised climate change policy formulation and incentivizing of local authorities improves the adoption of climate smart agricultural technologies. Lessons will be drawn from Botswana will be of interest to policy makers and researchers in other countries. Finally, the results will be used to develop a framework that could be applied for inclusivity in combating climate change and adopting climate smart agricultural technologies in the context of a developing country like Botswana.

6.4. Local democracy, policy legitimacy for climate action planning and the forest-land-water nexus in rural areas

By Cristian Alarcon Ferrari, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

This paper discusses the potential and barriers of local democracy for policy legitimacy in climate action within the context of the forest-land-water nexus in rural areas. In doing so, the paper uses empirical findings and insights from research in rural areas of Chile, Sweden and the US. The paper has three parts. The first part offers a brief summary of key issues for climate action planning in contexts where forestry, agricultural and urban development lead to conflicting objectives for forest, land and water use. The second part discusses how national-level implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG13) about climate action interplays with local-level environmental decision making and it discusses the links between climate policy legitimacy, SDG 13 and conflicting goals for forest, land and water use in rural contexts. The third part shows and elaborates on how local democratic innovations can influence policy paths for better, faster and more legitimate planning for climate change action in rural settings.

6.5. Flooding and climate politics in Indonesia

By Yogi Setya Permana, Indonesia Institute of Sciences

Indonesia is experiencing severe problems with climate-related disasters in line with the current global situation. Hydro-meteorological disaster is the most common type of disaster in Indonesia in the last two decades, and flooding is the main feature. Therefore, flooding control is a crucial climate change adaptation agenda for Indonesia. Government has conducted various flood management policies with emphasis on high-cost technical intervention. They implemented interventions through physical infrastructure that are commonly used as a technical strategy of flood control. However, the result is varied in terms of success across the regions. Despite the similar technical intervention, the outcome could be different. Some regions show impressive progress, but many remain stagnated. It leads to a question, what explains the varied level of success of Indonesian cities in dealing with flooding?

As an anthropogenic disaster, flooding is not merely caused by natural factors but also human actions. Flooding entangles natural causes with broader social phenomena such as political inequality and power relation. Meanwhile, most of the local-global studies on flooding rely on technocratic explanation. With using sub-national comparison design in four Indonesian cities, this study finds perspective that offers an alternative for the mainstream, primarily 'technocratic' approaches to flooding control and climate adaptation as well in Indonesia, which tends to neglect power dimension and social dynamics. This study

seeks to contribute to the scholarly debate on flooding and climate adaptation as well in Indonesia, Southeast Asia and beyond.

6.6. Global Planning Aid: Trainin Barefoot Placemakers

By Cliff Hague, PAS and Petra Biberbach, PAS

To achieve SDG 11 requires a dramatic rethink about how we plan and design places and who does it. Global Planning Aid (GPA) recognises that in the poorest and rapidly urbanising countries the quantitative and qualitative gaps that exist in professional capacity in relation to the needs of residents will not disappear by 2030. GPA proposes to train barefoot placemakers, by working through established local NGOs and using the know-how of volunteer professionals, capitalising on the potential of digital technologies and mobile phones. Train people to become local trainers, able to undertake ‘tactical urbanism’ – the kind of incremental, feasible local interventions that fit the place and local needs. Basic things like proper footpaths or street lighting can save lives.

A pilot project is planned in Banjul, capital of The Gambia. It has the backing of the mayor, The Gambia’s first woman mayor, and of a leading local NGO. PAS, a social enterprise based in Edinburgh, will run the scheme, using its experience of training and managing volunteers. A simple tool, the Place Standard, will be used. The International Society of City and Regional Planners will provide volunteer mentors. The basis of the project is in place but the challenge is to find some modest financial support, either from charities or through corporate social responsibility. It holds the promise of action research and scaling up what works.

7. Governing with integrity and transparency

7.1. Political will to combat corruption: reviewing and renewing conceptualization and measurement

By Marcia Grimes, University of Gothenburg; Oksana Huss, Leiden University and Oleksandra Keudel, Free University of Berlin

Pervasive corruption presents a challenge to scholars, practitioners and activists. The importance of political will for the success of anti-corruption reforms is widely cited, but our understanding of why political will arises (or fails to do so) is lacking. The proposed brief presents the findings of a review of literature and policy papers on political will as it relates to anti-corruption efforts. The brief covers both how political will has been conceptualized and characterized in the literature, as well the individual level factors, contextual conditions and political forces conducive to its emergence and endurance. Most definitions note the importance of commitment to change, though some authors note that this commitment must exist among key actors (individuals in top positions of authority), or a ‘sufficient’ set of actors, others maintain it must exist the state in its entirety, or all of society. In terms of how political will may be observed, many authors put forth key observable actions that indicate the existence of political will. This approach has two shortcomings. First, if political will is to serve as an analytical construct, it must be observable separate from the outcomes it is expected to generate. Second, it is by now well-known that many policy actions in the form of enacting laws and creating bodies have little actual effect on corruption as they are commonly underenforced where corruption is prevalent. The brief ends with an attempt to conceptualize and operationalize political will in a way that address these problems.

7.2. Through inclusion and transparency, to equity and quality: Improvement of the local budget processes in North Macedonia

By Dragan Tevdovski, University Sts. Cyril and Methodius; Branimir Jovanovic, ZMAI Association of Young Analysts and Researchers and Viktor Mitevski, ZMAI Association of Young Analysts and Researchers

We investigate how equitable, inclusive, transparent and accountable Budget processes are at local government level in North Macedonia. We base our assessment on legal procedures, citizen surveys, focus groups and fieldwork with local administration staff, civil society and representatives of marginalized groups of citizens in four municipalities. We find out that citizens are somewhat included in the preparation of the local budgets, but less in the adoption, and very rarely in the execution. We find that there is some transparency regarding the initial local budgets, but much less regarding their realization. We find evidence in support of the three main research hypothesis: (i) Greater transparency leads to greater citizen satisfaction with the quality of local services, especially for marginalized groups; (ii) Greater inclusion leads to greater citizen satisfaction with the preparation and realization of local budgets, especially for marginalized groups; (iii) Greater openness of local governments leads to greater transparency and inclusion of citizens in budgetary processes. In order to promote competition for improvement of these processes at local level, we are creating an index for assessing municipalities with respect to equity, inclusion, transparency and accountability. At the same time, we are developing a web platform for easy engagement of citizens during the whole budget process. At the end, we propose recommendations for improvement of the budget processes at local level which includes: implementation of the best European inclusion and transparency practices and introduction of the midterm budget planning and smoothing of the budget calendar between central and local governments.

7.3. Addressing transparency and accountability among local authorities: Lessons from an academic-practitioner collaboration

By Cheyanne Scharbatke-Church, Fletcher School, Tufts University; Diana Chigas, Fletcher School, Tufts University; Freddy Sahinguvu, The Hague Academy for Local Governance and Katie Whipkey, CARE Netherlands

There is increasing recognition that social norms can undermine accountability amongst civil servants—from corruption and patronage to unresponsiveness in service delivery and self-serving policy making. This brief summarizes the lessons of a collaborative learning effort between the Fletcher School, CARE Netherlands, the Hague Academy for Local Governance and local partners in Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi about how to shift social norms affecting accountability and transparency amongst local authorities.

The brief synthesizes lessons from the literature on social norms change together with experience of CARE's "Every Voice Counts" program, which aimed to improve authorities' responsiveness and accountability to *all* members of their communities—especially women and youth:

- Several kinds of social norms combine in unique ways to drive unaccountable behavior by local authorities in fulfillment of their duties, affecting both the effectiveness of behavior change interventions and their sustainability.
- "The devil is in the detail." Social norms change utilizes many tactics common to all behavior change approaches—such as dialogue, role models, media campaigns, community scorecards—but the way they are implemented affects their effectiveness in changing social norms in local government.

- CARE's deep experience in gender norms offers valuable lessons for addressing social norms driving transparency and accountability. However, there are differences between gender and social norms that need to be considered in designing social norms change for transparency and accountability.

The brief will include program reflection framework designed to help practitioners think critically and strategically about whether and how their programs are focused on social norms change.

7.4. Exploring public procurement reforms in rural local authorities in Zimbabwe

By Paradzai Munyede, Rushinga Rural District Council

The role of public procurement in aiding the attainment of a good local governance system that promotes local democracy has eluded most scholarly and policy inquiry in rural Zimbabwe. In rural district councils (RDC), public procurement is a central activity through which funds are expended to provide services expected by marginalised communities. Before the introduction of the new procurement legislation in 2018, Zimbabwe used to operate a centralised, corrupt, chaotic, and inefficient system which stifled socio-economic development in rural Zimbabwe. However, the ushering in of the new public procurement reforms was a welcome development as it advocated for the decentralising of procurement function to institutions like rural district councils.

This study found out that the reforms were necessary, however, most RDCs staff members lacked appropriate training required to implement the new reforms. It was also observed that the new reforms placed an additional burden on RDCs by directing them to submit monthly and quarterly returns to the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ). The new procurement reforms also requires the adoption of e-procurement in order to promote efficiency and reduce corruption, but the RDCs lack appropriate infrastructure to implement the reforms. It was recommended that the procurement policy must be reviewed to reflect the following, a fully devolved system in line with constitutional provisions. To close the skills gap, collaborations with institutions of higher learning and councils must be established. Government must prioritise policies which promote investment in ICT infrastructure in RDCs.

7.5. The Role of Social Norms in Fighting Corruption in Local Governments: A Case Study of the School System of Cau Giay in Hanoi

By Andreas Mattsson, Lund University and Måns Svensson, Lund University

No abstract available

8. Covid 19 and Local Democracy

8.1. Role and challenges of local governments in pandemic COVID 19 : Lessons learnt from India

By Yogesh Kumar, Samarthan-Centre for Development Support and Shrdha Kumar, Samarthan-Centre for Development Support.

More than 8.0 million Indians have been in the grip of or have survived COVID-19 in the last 7 months. India introduced severe lockdown in the end of March, 2020 for more than six weeks, cutting off all possible means of transportation and imposed stringent restrictions. The poorest of the poor, who were dependent on daily wage earnings, suffered the most. Besides, pregnant women, ailing elderly people and small businesses suffered the most. Local Governments were the closest governments that responded to the crisis in rural area in absence of functioning administrative machinery.

This was a critical time when the leadership of local governments demonstrated sensitivity to support the poor and returnee migrants who reached back home in distress and pain in absence of any transport and other support. The local Governments, called “ Gram Panchayats” in India, functioned effectively to address the disaster of the pandemic by food distribution, awareness building, establishing quarantine centres etc. There were several challenges that the local governments faced in serving the communities with limited resources, unclear instructions and inadequate workforce.

Samarthan, a civil society organisation, had worked with the local governments closely in more than 5000 villages in India over the last 7 months. Role of the local government and their challenges were experienced during the support provided by the volunteers and facilitators. These experiences are being documented as an action research project. The findings of the action research will be presented in the ICLD 2020: Local Democracy Academy, drawing policy prescriptions and elements of replication to evolve the role of the local Governments in managing such pandemic.

8.2. The Dynamics of Sustainability Devolution in a Unitary System: The Case of COVID19 in Metro Manila

By Ronald Castillo, University of Santo Tomas and Karl Andrew Ramos, University of Santo Tomas

The current spread of the Covid19 Pandemic raises new ideas on the dynamics of governance, democracy, decentralization and disaster risk reduction and management. A local democracy concern in the Philippines is the power dynamics between the national and local governments in terms of handling such a situation. The Philippines is a unitary state with devolution of powers through decentralization where the national and the local governments jockey politically for roles during the pandemic. The onset of community quarantine showed this clash when President Rodrigo Duterte issued statements limiting local government actions and instead pushed for these institutions to fall in line under the national government, a maneuver posing a threat to local democracy. Using Elazar’s theory on self-rule balanced with shared-rule, this research studies the case of Manila as a metropolis plagued not just by a virus but also by systemic glitches in the national-local dynamics. Through a neo-institutionalist lens, this qualitative case study identifies local government institutions as actors capable of innovative actions facing the trials of a pandemic. Focusing on the two model cities Manila and Pasig within the metropolis, the researchers traced the actions and relationships of these actors in terms of access, information, and resource sharing. Expected findings are structural arrangements that empower local democracy in the two models. Through the these, the author intends to create policy brief detailing a local democracy map to supplement the national government’s disaster risk reduction and management framework.

Key words: Devolution, DRRM, National Government, Local Government, Institutional Mapping

8.3. Local democracy in health emergency: local governments (LGs) and community response to COVID-19 in Bangladesh

By Mohammad Chowdhury, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology

This paper analyzes how local governments along with local communities have responded to the health emergency during the pandemic COVID-19. We conducted both content analysis and in-depth interviews to gather data. While government followed a regulatory approach to enforce lockdown and health measures, we found that an inclusive and resilient community model may be more effective as a soft measure. We

found that LGs have become the focal point in response to the pandemic, which includes ensuring testing for the people with suspected cases, ensuring quarantine, social distancing, wearing masks, relief work and essential supplies for people under lockdown. They have worked closely with the civil administration, law enforcement agencies and health workers. Moreover, they assisted people with cooperation from the local communities through some innovative and timely initiatives including ready oxygen anytime, funeral team, free common kitchen, disinfectant channel, hand washing and sanitization in public places. These efforts were not beyond shortcomings, which include overlapping and duplication for lack of coordination, widespread corruption, dependence on central government for funds and peoples' misconception about pandemic. The effectiveness of any measure during crisis or emergency depends on its inclusiveness and how people understand and accept the measure. We suggest some strategies to strengthen local democracy during emergency including localization of response, making local government financially and organizationally stronger, and developing an inclusive, effective, and efficient coordination system.

8.4. Local Governments in South West Nigeria and the Local Lockdown Amidst International COVID-19 Pandemic: Issues and Challenges

By Mashood Omotosho, Obafemi Awolowo University

This study attempts to shed light on the impact of the COVID-19 on local public health, the unprecedented socioeconomic challenges of Covid-19 pandemic at the rural areas and the extent to which the pandemic disrupts local democratic processes in some of the local government areas in the South West Nigeria. It will also examine the dynamics and strategies of the local governments towards mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the role of the external actors towards sustainable governance to strengthen the resilience of the local communities amidst COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic no doubt had profound effect on local public health, an unprecedented impact on local social economic development of the rural areas. In some contexts, the COVID-19 pandemic undermines local public order, stagnation of local economic growth and large sections of the rural areas during the total lockdown and social distancing measures. Therefore, we recommend that local governments in conjunction with the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 in Nigeria should fortify the resilience of local government cooperation and international solidarity on the repercussion of the COVID-19 pandemic. This study will rely on primary and secondary sources, but more importantly I will strive to use a range of methodological techniques in order to balance the strengths and weaknesses of particular approaches to the issue of the COVID-19 on local government administration in the South West Nigeria.

8.5. No grand speeches in the distance mode?

By Helena Iacobaeus, Linköping University

The purpose of this paper is to shed light on implications of covid-19 on a local democracy level. In order to do so, I have interviewed local political advisers, a professional group with unique insight in the inner workings of local politics. This study is based on recent interviews with political advisers at the municipal and regional levels in eastern Sweden.

The findings are analysed through the emergent imperative, an approach that describes digital organisational change as a dynamic phenomenon that is difficult to predict. For example, it highlights the way actors deal with discrepancies between the content of their work and what is possible to do using the technology offered.

The major findings of the study are that the pandemic has affected both the political agenda and the ways of organising local politics. Although there are challenges in digitalising the municipal and regional offices, a rapid digitalisation is even more complex for elected representatives. The political advisers describe how they deal with discrepancies between the available technical solutions and the rules on how the representatives should be able to vote and to be heard and seen by each other during council meetings. According to them, digital meetings have resulted in a changed way of practising politics where it is harder to speak up and to hold "grand speeches". However, some opposite effects can also be noted; a few council members are more active in a digital format.

8.6. Pandemics meet democracy. Experimental evidence from the COVID-19 crisis in Spain

By Francesc Amat, University of Barcelona; Andreu Arenas, University of Barcelona & IEB; Albert Falcó-Gimeno, University of Barcelona and Jordi Muñoz, University of Barcelona

The COVID-19 outbreak poses an unprecedented challenge for contemporary democracies. Despite the global scale of the problem, the response has been mainly national, and global coordination has been so far extremely weak. All over the world governments are making use of exceptional powers to enforce lockdowns, often sacrificing civil liberties and profoundly altering the pre-existing power balance, which nurtures fears of an authoritarian turn. Relief packages to mitigate the economic consequences of the lockdowns are being discussed, and there is little doubt that the forthcoming recession will have important distributive consequences. In this paper we study citizens' responses to these democratic dilemmas. We present results from a set of survey experiments run in Spain from March 20 to March 28, together with longitudinal evidence from a panel survey fielded right before and after the virus outbreak. Our findings reveal a strong preference for a national as opposed to a European/international response. The national bias is much stronger for the COVID-19 crisis than for other global problems, such as climate change or international terrorism. We also find widespread demand for strong leadership, willingness to give up individual freedom, and a sharp increase in support for technocratic governance. As such, we document the initial switch in mass public preferences towards technocratic and authoritarian government caused by the pandemic. We discuss to what extent this crisis may contribute to a shift towards a new, self-enforcing political equilibrium.