

Transformative space making for urban sustainability

*Panel session at the event [Pathways to sustainability: knowledge, politics and power](#)
8 December 2021 at 13.00-15.00 UTC*

Speakers: Sayan Das, Uma Dey Sarkar, Bertha Hernández, Jonathan Dolley, Pritpal Randhawa, Beatriz Ruizpalacios

Over the past 15 years, STEPS initiatives have been exploring emergent scenarios, institutional and regulatory arrangements, as well as forms of citizen action and environmental urbanism which will help in providing healthy, secure livelihoods for urban and peri-urban residents.

In this session we discuss insights from this work in terms of future priorities for scholar activists and transdisciplinary action research in understanding and supporting potentially transformative urban development pathways.

The focus will be on the politics of knowledge, and the barriers and opportunities for embedding transdisciplinary action research in university settings. Contextual as well as research approach diversities reveal a varied set of experiences and challenges.

Specifically we ask:

- What tools and approaches to transdisciplinary research help to reveal framings and power dynamics, bring together formal and informal knowledges, and have potential to help democratise city region planning processes?
- What have we learnt about approaches to the role of transdisciplinary research in transformative alliance building across in urban/ising contexts?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for embedding transdisciplinary research for urban sustainability transformations in University contexts?

While participants engage with these issues, we would also invite them to think about a future Network on Pathways to Urban Sustainability.

Speakers

Presentation will be made by STEPS Summer School alumni (**Sayan Das, Uma Dey Sarkar, Bertha Hernández**) and researchers (**Jonathan Dolley, Pritpal Randhawa, Beatriz Ruizpalacios**) involved in projects across four sites in peri-urban Mexico City, Ghaziabad and Gurgaon in the national Capital Region of Delhi, India, and Wuhan in China.

Chair: tbc

Convenors: Fiona Marshall (SPRU, University of Sussex) and Ritu Priya (JNU-TRCSS).