



Contributors



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



María Antonieta Beltrán is social psychologist, researcher and international consultant. Her interests focus, at one hand, on the different forms of violence experienced by people living in social exclusion and, at the other, on gender identity differences, gender stereotypes and (violent) practices allowed to man and woman in different contexts. Her research work is situated principally in popular neighborhoods in Latin America. She has studied violence and abuse against children and woman, violence perpetrated by woman, attitudes towards the use of firearms, social prevention practices directed at youth, and education and work opportunities for excluded young people. Her actual research centers on the relationship between gang members and their female relatives, and on the constructions of gender identity of female gang members in El Salvador. She has been associated with the Institute of Public Opinion (IUDOP) of the José Simeón Cañas (UCA) and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) - El Salvador.



Anne-Kristin Borszik studied sociology, anthropology and German literature at Hamburg University, Catholic University Lisbon and Freie Universität Berlin and graduated in 2004 with a master thesis on political music from Guinea-Bissau. Thereafter, she worked at Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and at Fundação Assistência Médica Internacional (AMI), both located in Lisbon. In 2007, she joined a collaborative research project on “Local Strategies of Conflict Management in Guinea-Bissau”, funded by Volkswagen Stiftung between 2006 and 2012 and located at Bayreuth University and INEP (Bissau). In 2014, she received her PhD, based on a study of interaction in dispute settlement in eastern Guinea-Bissau



Barbara Holtmann is the developer of a systems model and methodology that enables clarity of purpose where there are many diverse stakeholder views and inputs into a particular setting. This home grown 100% South African process highlights issues essential to sustainability and provides a platform for more effective planning and goal setting.



Emma Holtmann holds an MPhil in African Studies and an LLB. Emma practiced as an attorney in Johannesburg before shifting her focus to community safety and development work. She now works with the Social Transformation System (STS), facilitating capacity building, and mentoring users through strategic action planning and implementation processes. Emma has managed the development of a web-based application that supports the vision, stakeholder mapping and management of complex community problem solving and she conducts research to ensure that indicators used for benchmarking and impact assessment are current and reflect relevant empirical works.

Nicholas Kasang is an urban and regional planner and former project coordinator of the Community Based Urban Violence Prevention Program (U-CARE) at the Global Urban Studies Institute. His work and research focus on the integration of social components into spatial violence prevention initiatives in developing metropolises of Latin America and Africa. Within this focal point, the contemporary situations of the Venezuelan capital, Caracas, and the South African State have received particular attention. Mr. Kasang has collaborated with UN-HABITAT and the GIZ, among others, in appraising and developing violence prevention programs for various international contexts. He has been published in Brazil, Germany, and South Africa.



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



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



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



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





Kosta Mathéy Prof. with PhD in Applied Social Sciences and registered architect in Britain and the Commonwealth was founder of two M.Sc. programs on Urban Development Planning at the University of Technology in Darmstadt, and the Vietnamese German University in Ho Chi Minh City. He also is or has been teaching at Universities in Cuba, Brazil, Colombia, Oman, and Nigeria. He elaborated the concept for the Violence Prevention through Upgrading Program in Khayelitsha, Cape Town and directed the Community Based Urban Violence Prevention research program (U-CARE) 2008-14. Currently he is director of the Global Urban Studies Institute at the International Academy n Berlin. He is author or editor of 7 books and more than 100 articles in edited books and scientific journals.



Silvia Matuk is a graduated architect (ENSAPLV- Paris), and completed a second study in sociology and political economy (Sorbonne - Paris 8). She is a researcher and analyst on processes of peace building, after the armed conflict in El Salvador, and other violent urban settings. Since more than 20 years, she has been working as coordinator and consultant to international projects focusing on low cost housing, community-based development programs, ecological and sustainable architecture, and vernacular heritage, in Latin America (in Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, México, Peru and Venezuela) as well as in several Chinese provinces, in cooperation with Tianjin University. She is founding Member of GEOdomus International (International Organization for Geo-architecture and Human Habitat) in Barcelona, and GLOBUS (Global Urban Studies Institute) in Berlin. She is co-author of several reports and books, including also Construire pour la paix (UNESCO-NU Habitat II).



Caroline Moser is an urban social anthropologist and social policy specialist with more than forty years' experience in academic research, teaching and training. She conducted extensive research on urban violence, most recently as the principal investigator of a four city project on 'Understanding the tipping points of urban conflict'. Caroline Moser has worked as a lecturer in academic university departments at the LSE, London and New School, the Development Planning Unit of UCL; in the World Bank, where she researched the impact of structural adjustment on the urban poor; in policy-related research think-tanks, the Overseas Development Institute, London and Brookings Institution, Washington. Until 2012 she was Professor of Urban Development and Director of the Global Urban Research Centre in the University of Manchester.



Romanus O. Opiyo is a lecturer, in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Nairobi, Kenya. He has been engaged in coordinating undergraduate planning research project since the year 2006. He has published in the area of participatory planning, planning for Information and Communication Technology (ICTs) facilities for informal sector and sustainable planning for informal settlements. Romanus was a beneficiary of the Volkswagen foundation PhD scholarship through U-CARE program. He has been involved in both National and International researches touching in the areas of urban violence, transportation, climate change, environmental planning and issues of urban youth and sports. He has also consulted for both National and International organizations on myriad of issues such as urban and regional security and development challenges. Romanus is a volunteer board member of St. Joseph Technical institute Nyang'oma school for the deaf.

Carlos Andrés Restrepo, sociologist graduated from the University of Antioquia in Medellín (Colombia). Acts as general coordinator of its member of the Citizen's Round table for Peace in Itagüí. In 2004 he was awarded honorary mention for his graduation thesis in education and sociology and proposed for the title of the youngest City Changer in Itagüí in the category of social work.



Christophe Sados Touonsi is a lecturer and doctoral candidate at the Université de Yaoundé in Cameroon, Department of Geography. Since 2008 he has been a participating researcher for the Community Based Urban Violence Prevention Program (U-CARE) at the Global Urban Studies Institute (GLOBUS).



Leiman Julieth Sánchez Betancur Student of sanitation engineering at the University of Antioquia, and coordinator of the environmental section of AEQUUS group. Founding member of the environmental research group Aliados con el Planeta at the School of Environment within the Faculty of Engineering, University of Antioquia. She also organizes educational meetings with the youth and children of the neighbourhood (storytelling, spatial problem analysis), and with craftspeople for the knowledge exchange about environmentally save materials. Julieth also is author of essays uniting her political and poetical thoughts on ways to improve the social reality of her neighbourhood and to create better living conditions in the same.



Luz Amparo Sánchez Anthropologist, Antioquia University, Masters Candidate in Contemporary Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy Antioquia University. Researcher Corporación Región, City and territory rights Field Coordinator, for the same institution. Coauthor of various texts and articles published in academic magazines around fear, memory and forced displacement. Co-reporter of the investigation: The invisible traces of the war. Forced displacement in District 13 for the National Center of Historic Memory report. National Commission of Reparation and Reconciliation.



Wim Savenije is researcher and lecturer with the department of Social and Political Anthropology at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) in Argentina. His areas of interest are violent youth groups and the transnational street gangs or 'maras' in Central America, the relationship between the security forces and communities with high levels of insecurity, the dynamic relation between marginalization, social exclusion and the incidence of violence, and the possibility of employing social prevention strategies to diminish violence and delinquency at neighbourhood level. The topics of his PhD are the dynamics of social and auto exclusion fomented by the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and the Eighteen Street Gang (Barrio 18), and student gangs in Central America. He has extensive field experience in the various countries of the region. His current research focuses on 1. the continuing development of the 'maras' and the relationship with the often make-shift security policies in the Central American region; 2. the efforts of security forces (police and military) to alleviate the insecurity caused by the street gangs in urban neighbourhoods; 3. how growing up and living in neighbourhoods with high level of insecurity affects the lives of ordinary (no-gang) youths; and 4. how initiatives focusing on the social prevention of violence can influence the lives of youth at risk.





Qin Shao is Professor of History at The College of New Jersey and former fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, Harvard University and at the International Research Center on Work and Lifecycle in Global History, Humboldt University. She is the author of *Shanghai Gone: Domicide and Defiance in a Chinese Megacity* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2013), *Culturing Modernity: the Nantong Model, 1890-1930* (Stanford University Press, 2004), and articles in major international scholarly journals. Shao's research has been awarded other fellowships, including the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has presented her research at the University of Oxford and the Harvard Law School, among other institutes. Shao's recent work has focused on the human dimension of rapid urbanization in post- Mao China, especially on such issues as mental health, dignity, property rights, and grass-roots resistance. She is working on a new project about the impact of politically imposed and enforced physical displacement under Mao.



Heidrun Zinecker Habilitation (2004) and PhD (1987) at University of Leipzig, political scientist, since 2008 Professor for International Relations at University of Leipzig, Germany. Research on violence, transition to democracy, peace making and peace building, learning and regionalism. Fieldwork in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia and México. Visiting fellow at Universidad de la Habana, Universidad Nacional Bogotá, St. Antony's College of the University of Oxford, Universidad Complutense Madrid, Universidad Academia de Humanismo Cristiano in Santiago de Chile, University of Texas, University of California in Santa Barbara and Uniwersytet Jagiellonski in Krakow. Among other relevant publications, author of *Gewalt im Frieden. Formen und Ursachen der Gewaltkriminalität in Zentralamerika* (forthcoming).

