



Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs

ISSN 2475-6164 (online)

www.ijcua.com

Editorial Note

Socio-Economic Dimensions of Urban Resilience and Transformation: Bridging Inequalities in Contemporary Cities

We are delighted to present Volume 8, Issue 2 (2024) of the *Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs*, an international, peer-reviewed, open-access journal published biannually by Alanya University. In keeping with the journal's aims and scope, this issue brings together a diverse collection of scholarly works that examine the complex interplay of social, economic, and environmental factors shaping contemporary urban landscapes. In an era marked by rapid urbanization and intensifying inequalities, these articles collectively address challenges related to Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities, Territorial Dynamics, and Urban Transformations.

As cities evolve, we must scrutinize the ways in which architecture, planning, and governance can promote more inclusive, resilient, and just urban environments. The 17 articles presented here explore critical topics such as the socio-economic ramifications of mobility infrastructure, the privacy needs of communities in public housing, the role of mass transit in facilitating equitable development, and how spatial attributes influence public life and gender inclusivity. They also delve into regeneration strategies, tactics to revitalize marginalized spaces, the socio-economic dimensions of retail landscapes, the planning of green infrastructure, and the mitigation of urban heat islands. Each contribution provides valuable insights that can inform policies, encourage interdisciplinary dialogue, and inspire practical solutions to address inequality, bolster resilience, ensure resource distribution, and preserve cultural identity.

These studies come from a variety of contexts—ranging from Beirut and Ibadan to Dhaka, Ahmedabad, Istanbul, Chattogram, Agra, and beyond—reflecting both the global relevance and local specificity of our core themes. Taken together, they deepen our understanding of how socio-economic considerations guide planning decisions, influence urban design, and shape everyday experiences. We hope these contributions prompt further inquiry and cooperation among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. Their findings not only advance theoretical knowledge but also suggest pathways toward more economically viable, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable urban futures.

Section A: Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities

The article “Adapting Mobility Infrastructure to the Needs of a Liveable City: The Case of Beirut Street Markets” by Youssef Askar and Taher Abdel-Ghani addresses how Beirut's informal street markets could restructure the city's car-centric infrastructure to foster walkability and enhance social vibrancy. By employing a parametric system that assigns market and pedestrian areas to suitable streets, their research shows how prioritizing human-scale accessibility can help reshape transportation networks and create more liveable, sustainable places. This focus on ensuring that everyday citizens benefit from public spaces resonates strongly with the journal's emphasis on Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-5>

In “How Socio-Economic and Cultural Factors Shape Privacy in Ibadan’s Public Housing Estates,” Funmilayo Lanrewaju Amao, Rokhsaneh Rahbarianyazd, and Oluronke Omolola Odunjo investigate how residents’ socio-economic and cultural backgrounds influence privacy regulation in public housing. Their mixed-methods analysis reveals that personal space, territoriality, and cultural traditions directly impact quality of life. By illuminating how privacy needs vary across communities, the authors offer insights for designing housing that respects cultural sensibilities, thereby advancing discussions on citizenship rights, responsibilities, and social equity.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/jjcua.2024.v8n2-10>

Examining Dhaka’s first MRT system, particularly in the Mirpur area, Shahriar Iqbal Raj, Inmaculada Mohino, and Farjana Khatun present “Socio-Economic Impact of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) System in Dhaka: A Case Study of Mirpur Stations.” They show how modern transit interventions influence job-housing balance, mobility, and economic development, underscoring the necessity of legislative reforms and infrastructural support for transit-oriented development. By enhancing access to public transport and mitigating inequalities, this research aligns with the journal’s focus on improving urban resilience and citizen well-being.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/jjcua.2024.v8n2-9>

In “People, Places, and Perceptions: Assessing Spatial Quality Attributes of Urban Third-Place With Projective Survey,” Upendra Vinay Joshi and Snehal Nagarsheth identify key attributes—spatial layout, furniture design, opportunities for interaction—that shape user experiences in urban “third places.” By using projective surveys, they uncover how design elements influence inclusivity, comfort, and sociability. This insight into human-centered urban design resonates with the journal’s aim to strengthen citizenship rights and responsibilities by fostering more equitable and socially vibrant public realms.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/jjcua.2024.v8n2-13>

The article “Can Urban Design Foster Greater Inclusivity for Women in Public Spaces?” by Nimmy Benny, Sharat Sunder R, Prajitha T K, and Manoj Kumar Kini examines the barriers limiting women’s access to safe, accessible, and welcoming public environments. Through detailed analyses and a proposed theoretical framework, they provide guidelines for creating gender-sensitive, inclusive public spaces. Their findings underscore how shaping urban design to meet women’s needs fosters broader civic participation and inclusivity, directly supporting the journal’s agenda on citizenship and equity.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/jjcua.2024.v8n2-16>

Section B: Territorial Dynamics

In “How Urbanization Drives Socio-Spatial Conflicts in Coastal Land Reclamation?” Khilda Nur, Andrew Butt, Serene Ho, and Mittul Vahanvati analyze reclamation projects in Indonesian cities to reveal how political, economic, and cultural factors shape conflicting interests. Their work shows that coastal interventions must be sensitive to local contexts to prevent escalating tensions and uneven territorial development. By highlighting these complex territorial dynamics, the study advances understanding of fair resource distribution and equitable urban growth.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/jjcua.2024.v8n2-1>

Güllü Bozdoğan and Tan Kamil Gürer’s research, “The Morphological Impact of Restructuring Routes: Atatürk Boulevard’s Palimpsest Phenomenon,” explores how Istanbul’s historic urban fabric has been reshaped by the construction of a modern boulevard. Their typomorphological analysis reveals both economic gains and cultural losses. This nuanced understanding of territorial dynamics emphasizes the importance of reconciling modern infrastructure demands with heritage preservation, ensuring spatial transformations remain contextually grounded and equitable.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/jjcua.2024.v8n2-3>

By comparing Skikda and Tébessa in “Comparative Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of Urban Sprawl in Algerian Cities Skikda and Tébessa (1985-2024) Using GIS and Landsat Imagery,” Lounis Ibtissem, Leulmi Lamia, Gherzouli Iazhar, and Lazri Youcef highlight how geography, industrialization, and policy can lead to differing urban expansion patterns. Their analysis illustrates that sprawl is not uniform; it is shaped by unique territorial conditions. This insight informs customized planning interventions that can mitigate inequalities and promote balanced territorial development. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-7>

In “District-based Rental Value Coefficients for Shopping Mall Development in Istanbul,” Fatma Bengü Yoğurtçu and Almula Köksal examine rental value variations across city districts, providing investors and planners with a clearer understanding of how socio-economic and territorial factors influence the commercial real estate market. By guiding investment decisions, their study helps ensure that territorial growth in retail respects local contexts and supports more equitable economic development. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-11>

Focusing on Ahmedabad, Mohik Acharya’s “Countering Urban Redundancy with a Multipronged Strategy: Lessons from Ashram Road, Ahmedabad” uses a Multi-Criteria Decision-Making Analysis to identify strategies that reinvigorate underutilized urban cores. By integrating redevelopment, adaptive reuse, and policy interventions, the author demonstrates that balanced approaches can preserve historical value while generating economic vitality, thus advancing equitable territorial restructuring. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-12>

Section C: Urban Transformations

In “The Role of Users’ Socio-spatial Behaviour in Fostering Sustainable Retail District Projects in Bahrain,” Afaf Ebrahim Mohamed and Najla Allani show that understanding consumer patterns and preferences is key to designing socially sustainable retail environments. By linking human behavior to spatial configurations, they underscore that successful urban transformations depend on engaging users, ensuring inclusivity, and meeting community needs. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-2>

Shahed Alhadyan, Mohammad AlRahahleh, and Mysaa Khwaileh, in “A Tactical Urbanism and Economic Inclusivity: Evaluating the Impact of Spacena Project in a Marginalized Urban Area,” demonstrate how low-cost, small-scale urban interventions can empower marginalized groups and foster economic opportunities. By showcasing the “Spacena” project as a model for inclusive urban furniture, they highlight how tactical urbanism can spur bottom-up transformations that enhance social cohesion and equity. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-4>

Examining the Chaktai commercial area in Chattogram, Bangladesh, Sarah Binte Haque, Moumita Roy, and Zereen Afroz Tanha propose “Urban Regeneration Strategies for Enhancing Livability.” Their investigation into congestion, inadequate open spaces, and environmental stressors reveals a need for integrated solutions—traffic management, mixed-use planning, and green interventions. Such measures advance urban transformations by improving living conditions and promoting social and economic vitality. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-6>

In “Mapping the Discourse: Scientometric Analysis of Affordable Housing Research Trends,” Nor Suzylah Sohaimi, Nur Aili Hanim Hanafiah, Azhani Abd Manaf, and Tülay Zıvalı conduct a bibliometric review to identify key contributors, networks, and thematic clusters in affordable

housing scholarship. Their analysis informs the direction of future research and policy, ensuring that urban transformations prioritize affordability, equity, and community well-being. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-8>

By focusing on Agra, Uttam Kumar Roy and Deeksha Sharma’s “Economic Implications and Public Readiness for Urban Green Space Development in Agra: A Strategic Evaluation in the City of Taj” underscores that successful green space initiatives must integrate public participation, policy support, and financial feasibility. Their findings confirm that incorporating stakeholders’ voices leads to more resilient and inclusive urban transformations. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-14>

In “Evaluating Urban Heat Island Mitigation Strategies in Rajshahi, Using ENVI-Met: A Remote Sensing Approach,” Nafis Sadat, Hameem Sheikh, and Md Asaduzzaman demonstrate how green roofs and street planting can reduce local temperatures and improve thermal comfort. By quantifying the cooling benefits, they provide evidence-based recommendations for integrating green infrastructure, thereby guiding urban transformations that counter climate challenges while enhancing social well-being. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-15>

Finally, Olufunmilola Adetayo Obakin, Samuel Kehinde Afolami, and Oluwafemi Kehinde Akande, in “Causative Factors of Abandoned Urban Housing Projects and Strategies for Revitalization in Ibadan, Nigeria,” reveal the need for regulatory frameworks and adaptive reuse policies to address abandoned housing developments. By highlighting sustainable revitalization strategies, they show how thoughtful urban transformations can ensure that existing assets are leveraged, improving both aesthetics and socio-economic resilience. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2024.v8n2-17>

Collectively, the articles in this issue exemplify a multidisciplinary and solution-oriented approach to contemporary urban challenges. From ensuring inclusive public spaces and equitable infrastructure provision to managing coastal territory, guiding urban regeneration, integrating environmental strategies, and learning from tactical urbanism, they offer holistic perspectives on fostering socially just and economically resilient urban communities. We trust these scholarly contributions will inspire further research, practical application, and meaningful policy-making, guiding us toward cities that truly serve all citizens.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hourakhsh A. Nia
Editor-in-Chief,
Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs
Department of Architecture
Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences
Alanya University, Alanya, Turkey
www.ijcua.com