MEDELLÍN URBAN INNOVATION

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

FEBRUARY 2017: EDINBURGH, UK
APRIL 2017: MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA
The #MUI Medellín Urban Innovation project exhibition was held in Edinburgh, UK from February 13-24 in the School of Architecture and Landscaping at the University of Edinburgh, and in Medellín, Colombia from April 20-30 at Casa Pascasia.

It aims to describe and socialize both the aims and objectives of the project and the processes of interaction between academics and communities that have been carried out with regards to the questions that the #MUI project seeks to explore.

This catalogue is a compilation of the material that has been exhibited for this purpose.
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Harnessing innovation in city development for social equity and wellbeing - a critical proposal to build on Medellín’s experience as a model for Colombian future cities.

Medellín Urban Innovation (#MUI) is a research collaboration between academic and non-academic institutions in the United Kingdom and in Colombia. It is a two-year project that received a Newton Institutional Links Grant from the British Council. The aim of the project is to evaluate through scoping research and knowledge exchange, to what extent urban
innovation in Medellín (Colombia) has helped increase social equity and well-being in the city.

The project is led by Dr Soledad García Ferrari, a Senior Lecturer at Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (ESALA) at the University of Edinburgh in collaboration with Dr Harry Smith, an Associate Professor at the School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society (EGIS) at Heriot-Watt University. Key partners in the research international collaboration are: Escuela del Hábitat, Universidad Nacional de Colombia Sede Medellín (UNAL); Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (UPB); and Universidad Santo Tomás (UST). In addition, the project includes a range of activities such as seminars, workshops, focus groups, interviews, etc., which engage with a wider audience of academics and particularly non-academic groups.
INTRODUCTION: MEDELLÍN CITY CONTEXT


Medellín is also the capital of the Metropolitan region of Aburrá valley (Área Metropolitana del Valle de Aburrá). This is a political and administrative region that unites 10 municipalities of the sub-region: Caldas, La Estrella, Sabaneta, Envigado, Itagüí, Bello, Copacabana, Girardota, and Barbosa. According to the national census in 2005, the city had 2.4 million inhabitants but the overall metropolitan region reaches up to 3.3 million.

The municipality of Medellín consists of both urban and rural areas. The rural area is divided into 5 corregimientos (areas with population below that of a municipality), which are further divided into veredas (similar to a hamlet). Altogether there are 54 hamlets, which are land identified as having a more rural quality. The urban municipality is divided differently. There are six large zonas (zones), which between them hold 16 comunas (comunes). Comunes are subsequently divided into barrios (neighbourhoods), of which there are 249 in total.

The city of Medellín was founded in 1675 as a gold-mining town and trading centre. Its spatial origins are similar to those of most Spanish colonial cities of the 16th century, where a grid system
forms of city planning and management and was acclaimed as the most innovative city in the world by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) in 2013.

This decision was made on the basis that Medellín had achieved a significant urban transformation through its infrastructural projects that demonstrated both innovation and leadership:

Few cities have transformed the way that Medellín, Colombia’s second largest city, has in the past 20 years. Medellín’s homicide rate has plunged, nearly 80% from 1991 to 2010. The city built public libraries, parks, and schools in poor hillside neighbourhoods and constructed a series of transportation links from there to its commercial and industrial centres. The links include a metro cable...
car system and escalators up steep hills, reducing commutation times, spurring private investment, and promoting social equity as well as environmental sustainability (Wall Street Journal and Urban Land Institute, accessed online: http://online.wsj.com/ad/cityoftheyear).

The Urban Land Institute prize was awarded on the basis of Medellín’s innovation in procurement and institutions – such as the public-private partnerships with the Urban Development Agency (Empresa de Desarrollo Urbano – EDU) and Public Companies of Medellín (Empresas Públicas de Medellín – EPM) – as much as for its physical projects and participatory strategies.

THIS AWARD GAVE MEDELLÍN A WELCOME PRESENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AND CREATED IMPETUS

FOR FURTHER CHANGE AT A LOCAL LEVEL. HOSTING THE WORLD URBAN FORUM IN 2014 ALLOWED IT TO SHOWCASE ITS APPROACH, KEY ELEMENTS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN: CREATION OF INNOVATIVE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE LINKING POORER PERIPHERAL DISTRICTS TO THE CITY CENTRE; CULTURE-LED REGENERATION; STRONG SUPPORT OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FROM THE LOCAL BUSINESS SECTOR; AND A SUCCESSFUL MUNICIPALLY-OWNED
Utilities Company.

However, an initial appraisal of the implementation of this planning approach by the research team showed that: the city is spreading outwards without services and employment being provided; new low-income developments are replicating high-rise models which failed worldwide; there is limited intervention in the existing informal areas, many being in highly vulnerable locations where the level of risk is likely to increase with climate change; development has little regard for topography, ecological and environmental considerations; investment in accessible and good quality public space is restricted to particular areas; and the quality of the public realm does not always support health and wellbeing of the ageing population.

This project explores the institutional and socio-economic context in which Medellín has achieved the internationally recognized status of an ‘innovative city’, and questions innovation as a concept and the agendas it is linked to. It questions to what extent social equity, environmental sustainability and citizen empowerment have been promoted through urban innovation as per the ULI claims when it conferred the prize. In addressing this question, the investigation revealed four broad thematic areas that require further study in order to achieve a critical understanding of urban innovation and its effect on Medellín as a ‘model’ city for Latin America and beyond. The project has engaged in an exploration of these four themes in order to identify and shape further in-depth research projects that can provide conclusive analysis of these issues.
AIMS, OBJECTIVES & PROJECT STRUCTURE

HARNESSING URBAN INNOVATION IN MEDELLÍN IS A TWO-AND-A-HALF YEAR PROJECT ENQUIRING TO WHAT EXTENT URBAN INNOVATION IN MEDELLÍN (COLOMBIA) HAS HELPED INCREASE SOCIAL EQUITY AND WELL-BEING IN THE CITY AND IDENTIFYING MEANS TO IMPROVE THIS.

The research is undertaken collaboratively through a knowledge exchange partnership with universities based in the UK and Colombia. This exploratory research is the principal means through which institutional links between the participating institutions will be strengthened, and it is undertaken with a view to developing longer-term research projects on the basis of initial scoping studies which will be completed during the project.

The project is financed through a British Council Newton-Caldas Institutional Links Grant, which is part of the UK’s official development assistance programme.

Institutional Links provides grants for the development of research and innovation collaborations between the UK and partner countries. The grants are intended to provide small-scale seed funding to:

- start and develop collaborations between academic groups, departments and institutions in partner countries and the UK
- support the exchange of expertise and research knowledge
- establish local hubs for UK-partner country activities.

Institutional Links grants facilitate research which tackles local development needs and challenges such as extreme weather conditions, access to affordable health care, food and energy security.
https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/institutional-links

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the research and capacity-building programme underway is to identify means to make Medellín a more socially equitable and environmentally sustainable city. This key aim is being addressed through meeting the following objectives:

1. Identify policy, institutional and socio-economic constraints and barriers that have led to the existing issues in the development of the city as well as other issues that may arise as a result of the currently ongoing study of the POT.

2. Identify instruments in the current planning legislation and guidance that would allow the urban development issues to be addressed.

3. Identify and engage the appropriate stakeholders and forms of partnership that may implement pilot projects in each of the areas of concern, as well as champion the roll-out of initiatives that may result from such pilot projects.

4. Conduct issue-specific scoping studies into: city centre renewal including management of heritage and cultural values; environmentally and socially appropriate location and form of new developments; appropriate forms of housing with mixed income levels and communal spaces; public realm improvement, accessibility and connectivity; and informal area upgrading and social integration.

5. Build capacity in Colombian and UK universities through the upskilling of existing and new staff on the themes structuring this proposal and strengthening of their research infrastructures in conservation, landscape architecture, housing, and urban design and planning.

PROGRAMME

The project comprises two interlinked components:

1. A research programme composed of specific scoping studies to meet objectives 1 to 4, which is being carried out in partnership between the partner universities in Colombia and the UK, with specific partners in both countries taking the lead for each of the following work packages:
   - **THEME 01**: Housing and habitat;
   - **THEME 02**: Public realm, green infrastructure and wellbeing;
   - **THEME 03**: Heritage and cultural values - identity and memory;
**THEME 04:** Mobility and transport infrastructure

2. A knowledge exchange and training programme open to Colombian practitioners, policy makers and students based on the themes above. This has taken place throughout the project but has been delivered principally through four key intense workshops in Medellín: each two-week long workshop being led by Principal Investigators in association with leaders of each theme in Colombia and the UK.

**TIMESCALE**

The programme is running for 2 years, with the following milestones:

**JUNE 2015**
Project start

**AUGUST 24-28, 2015**
Introductory Workshop, Medellín

**APRIL 11-23, 2016**
Workshop 1
Theme 01 ‘Housing and habitat’
Theme 03 ‘Heritage and cultural values’

**AUGUST 22-SEPTEMBER 02, 2016**
Workshop 2
Theme 02: ‘Public realm and wellbeing’
Theme 04: ‘Mobility and socio-economic integration’

**APRIL 2017**
Synthesis/Concluding Workshop

**AUGUST 2017**
Final presentation of all scoping studies
Final Report
# MUI - Medellín Urban Innovation

Medellín: A model for future cities?

This research project asks how and to what extent urban innovation in Medellín is contributing to an improvement to social equity and welfare in the city.

**Research Questions defined for each theme:**

**Theme 01 Housing & Habitat:**
In the context of the processes of peace building towards coexistence, what is the impact of urban policies on the habitat conditions of the most vulnerable sectors in the city of Medellín?

**Theme 02 Public Space, Infrastructure & Wellbeing:**
To what extent have the ‘innovative’ city planning approaches and new emerging creative practices included public participation and collaboration in the definition of cultural values and shared spaces in the city of Medellín?

**Theme 03 Cultural Values & Heritage:**
To what extent and in what way have the processes and strategies for the provision of public space (from the perspective of its creation, management and perception) contributed to socio-economic and environmental integration in Medellín?

**Theme 04 Mobility and Socio-Spatial Integration:**
What has been the impact of the innovative mobility strategies on quality of life and social equity?

**Fieldwork Visit 1:**
Introductory Week

Research Questions defined for each theme:

**Fieldwork Visit 2:**
Themes 01 and 03

Activities, Stakeholder Engagement & Community Consultation.

- Two-day conference
- Walk
- Archival Search
- Interviews
- Seminar
- Focus Group + Interviews
- Walk
- Archival Search

**Fieldwork Visit 3:**
Themes 02 and 04

Activities, Stakeholder Engagement & Community Consultation.

- Two-day workshop
- Walk + Interviews
- MA student ‘live project’
- Round Table
- Walk + Interviews

**Fieldwork Visit 4:**
Conclusions

Synthesis and Concluding Workshop

**Start June 2015**

**Knowledge Co-Creation Loop**

**Finish August 2017**

**Global Challenges Funding Opportunities**

1. Building Resilience: NERC/AHRC/ESRC
2. Internal Displacement (2): AHRC Refugees, AHRC Area Call
3. Habitability on the urban edge of the Aburrá Valley
4. Analysis of social housing formal typologies
5. Continuation of work on Tenements
6. Perception of Public Space
7. From Valley to City
8. Collectives and Heritage of the Intangible
9. Material Heritage
10. Cultural Heritage: Balance between conservation and innovation
11. Ayacucho Tram Corridor
12. Future mobility corridors: Carrera 80
This research project asks how and to what extent urban innovation in Medellín is contributing to an improvement in social equity and welfare in the city.

**Theme 01 Housing & Habitat:**
- Two-day conference
- Walk
- Archival Search
- Interviews
- Seminar
- Focus Group + Interviews
- Walk
- Archival Search

**Theme 02 Public Space, Infrastructure & Wellbeing:**
- Two-day workshop
- Walk + Interviews
- MA student ‘live project’

**Theme 03 Cultural Values & Heritage:**
- Round Table
- Walk + Interviews

**Theme 04 Mobility and Socio-Spatial Integration:**
View from Barrio Trece de Noviembre
Comuna 8, Medellín
PROJECT TEAM & INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

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#MUI Team Synthesis Meeting, Visit 3
August 2016, Medellín
AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST
STUDIED THEMES
01

HOUSING & HABITAT
The theme on Housing and Habitat was led by Harry Smith and Françoise Coupé. The overarching question formulated at the outset of the project for the theme was:

**IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PROCESSES OF PEACE BUILDING TOWARDS COEXISTENCE, WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF URBAN POLICIES ON THE HABITAT CONDITIONS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTORS IN THE CITY OF MEDELLÍN?**

This Research Question was examined with a focus on four sub-themes, identified by Smith and Coupé:

1. Evaluation of previous policies and programmes (PRIMED, ISVIMED, etc.)
2. Risk management and habitat
3. Social production of housing & habitat
4. Housing and habitat in the post-conflict scenario

These four sub-themes were discussed as part of a two-day conference within a research week held in April 2016. The main purpose of this research week and what we referred to as a ‘training programme’ in the public announcement, was to identify how and to what extent Medellín is a city with greater social equity and a higher level of wellbeing. In the invitation, booklets and project posters, we specified the aims and objectives of this seminar as to:

- Identify policy, institutional and socio-economic constraints and barriers that have led to the issues identified earlier in the development of the city.
- Identify instruments in the current planning legislation and guidance that would could help address the problems faced in achieving the objectives of Medellín’s Land Use Plan.
- Identify and engage the appropriate stakeholders and forms of partnership that may implement pilot projects.
CONFERENCE

Theme 1 Conference: Housing and Habitat
20-21 April 2016, Casa Barrientos, Medellín
Medellín Urban Innovation

Medellín: ¿Una ciudad modelo para el futuro?

¿Cómo y hasta qué punto la innovación urbana en Medellín contribuye a una nueva relación social y a un mejor bienestar de los ciudadanos?
• Conduct issue-specific scoping studies on the following topics: environmentally and socially appropriate location and form for new developments; appropriate forms of housing with mixed income levels and communal spaces.

The timing of the two-day conference was particularly relevant because the Municipal Development Plan for Medellín (Plan de Desarrollo Municipal de Medellín – PDM) that was being prepared by the city council, was out for consultation at that time. The seminar thus provided an ideal platform for contributions to the consultation process of the said plan, and all speakers were specifically asked to address it. Key conclusions emerged from the conference and these subsequently informed the scoping studies. These critical findings are:

On **PREVIOUS POLICIES**, there was debate around land management and territorial planning, these being seen to have limited use without appropriate community planning, because the community can help inform social demand. On **RISK MANAGEMENT**, it was advocated that Medellín, in general, does not understand, or is not ‘conscious’ of risk, whilst others argued that urban renewal should be more of a strategy for risk mitigation or management. Within this debate, Carlos Velásquez presented work undertaken in Comuna 8, emphasizing the importance of the neighbourhood scale in terms of urban renewal and risk, and claiming that collaborative work between community and academia can help generate technical proposals. On **SOCIAL PRODUCTION OF HOUSING AND HABITAT**, a key presentation was made by Françoise Coupé, who introduced her previous work on informal rental in tenements, prompting an urgent call to acknowledge their important role in housing provision. She claimed it was vital to recognize and provide policy support to improve the conditions in tenements, without formalizing them. Lastly, the discussion on the **POST-CONFLICT**, was led by Maria Clara Echeverría, who spoke of the importance of recognizing the diversity of emerging conflicts in relation to habitat and the territory in the stages of post-agreement and post-conflict. She claimed that research was missing in relation to peace and territory and that the peace process provides an opportunity to embrace the post-conflict in a central and cross-sectorial way within the Development Plan (Plan de Desarrollo).

The research week around the housing and habitat theme was qualitatively very rich in terms of the oral histories and differing viewpoints that were recorded. The week included the two-day conference, a series of semi-structured interviews, informal team walks as well as formal ‘walking and talking’ routes undertaken with experts. This theme generated three scoping studies, as well as three substantial research proposals which were submitted in mid-2016 and early 2017, thus superseding the need
to undertake the first proposed scoping study: *Housing displaced communities in post-conflict Colombia*, submitted to Global Challenges Research Fund ESRC/AHRC Forced Displacement call 2016 (unsuccessful); *Resilience or resistance? Negotiated mitigation of landslide risks in informal settlements in Medellin*, submitted to GCRF NERC/AHRC/ESRC Resilience Foundation Awards (successful); and *Internal displacement in tropical Latin America: co-creating more equal, sustainable and culturally enriched pathways for migrant integration*, submitted to the AHRC GCRF Area-Focused Network Plus Call (decision pending).
Interview with Judy Elena Echeverria, Moravia Founder
13 April 2016, Barrio Moravia, Medellín
Areas with conditions of risk due to torrential flooding

Metrocable System

Tram Lines

Metroplus Articulated Bus System

Medellín Metro System

Areas with unmitigable risk due to torrential flooding

Areas with conditions of risk due to landslides

Areas with unmitigable risk due to landslides

Examined Comunas

Examined Barrios

Location of internally displaced population in Medellín

Areas of research interest
Interview with Carlos Velásquez, communal activist, Comuna 8 Pacífico
17 April 2016, Comuna 8, Medellín
Scoping Study 1:
Inhabiting the Urban Edge of the Aburrá Valley

The city is growing outwards and occupying environmentally unstable/hazardous terrain. Objectives of a study in this area would cover the following issues:

- To understand the dynamics of insertion in the territory, gaining knowledge of the ‘informal’ processes taking place. How do people arrive in these areas, and what are the characteristics of the individuals and groups that reach them? Is it possible to train ‘barefoot planners’ within the community who can help settle this territory in safe ways?
- To understand socio-economic relationships, for example, the relationships between the displaced and migrants who arrive, and groups (including armed groups) that control the territory.
- To study the capacity and sustainability of habitat on the urban edge, based on its demographic and geomorphological limits, and explore the extent to which communities can cope with environmental risks in this area. Soft and hard technologies can be explored.

The methodology of this scoping study can be an action-research exercise to work with an existing community in order to appropriately address these issues. These could include:

- In collaboration with a community, to develop instruments that allow them to evaluate and occupy the territory in a safe way, for example with Comuna 8.
- Understanding narratives, including those of the inhabitants in the communes as well as political and normative narratives. With this understanding, to enter the territory, to dialogue, to listen, and to learn to reflect on these knowledges, in order to develop planning tools based on these narratives. This approach would be carried out through qualitative field work gathering oral histories. This could support a negotiated process
aimed at the co-production of urban ‘spaces’.

- Analysis of the carrying capacity of the urban edge, from a point of view that combines the environmental with the sociological.
A possible method to address these questions could be a case study analysis of one or two ‘citadel-type’ projects built in the last five years. The approach could range from socio-economic issues (through surveys, interviews, etc.) to the technological (through technical and design studies). It should be noted that through the Development Plan, the Social Institute for Housing and Habitat of Medellín (ISVIMED) has been asked to create a fund to study construction pathologies in order to improve living conditions in Medellín. This proposed research can also link to past and ongoing investigations on this subject by other potential partners.
Housing high-rise typology
April 2016, Medellín
La metodología para este estudio de alcance se basaría en las investigaciones cuantitativas y cualitativas ya realizadas por Françoise Coupé. En relación con el objetivo específico de experimentación de modelos, la metodología se ampliaría para incluir la implementación de proyectos piloto de inquilinatos. Esta última posibilidad requeriría la cooperación de actores en los sectores privado y público que tuvieran la capacidad de llevar a cabo tales proyectos piloto. La envergadura y duración de esta última posibilidad quizá se saldrían de lo que es posible en un estudio de alcance dentro del periodo del proyecto #MUI, pero podría plantearse como una actividad a más largo plazo.

Existe una proporción considerable de la población de Medellín que se aloja en inquilinatos que no son legales ni operan dentro de un marco establecido. Se propone continuar el trabajo iniciado por Françoise Coupé de análisis de este fenómeno, pasando además a experimentar con la implementación de un modelo de inquilinato legitimado. Esto podría incluir los siguientes objetivos:

- Experimentar con un modelo de inquilinato en el sector privado y otro en el sector público, tomando inspiración de experiencias tales como las casas comunitarias (modelo indígena) y los falansterios criollos.
- Entender hasta qué punto los inquilinatos son un producto del mercado informal y de qué maneras pueden garantizarse las condiciones de habitabilidad dentro de la informalidad.
- Evaluar hasta qué punto se está extendiendo el fenómeno del inquilinato a los estratos menos pobres.
Exhibition ‘Piso Piloto’
Medellín-Barcelona
PUBLIC SPACE, INFRASTRUCTURE & WELLBEING
Álvarez shared with the UK-MUI team an exhibition the MSc course in Urban Studies and Landscape had prepared, in the context of the work developed through the MUI project, as an initial approach to addressing the above question. The exhibition’s principal aim was to explore the process of change generated since a Presidential Committee was established in 1991 to define the pathway for Medellín’s urban transformation. This process catalysed a renewed integration of stakeholders and community actors within the city. By using the Council’s recommendations as a starting point, the exhibition asked “Is Medellín the city that we have planned?”.

To address the question, Álvarez’s teaching team and students focused on five specific urban transformations, through different regeneration programmes in the city – in public space, green infrastructure, and social wellbeing – and analysed each process as well as their legacy in 2015, investigating uses and perceptions.

This exhibition was an inspiration for the MUI team, and Torres-Campos together
Workshop Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (UPB)
Postgraduate Urban Studies Students
25-26 August 2016
with Woolrych agreed on continuing the 
research collaboration on this theme to 
include Álvarez’s Master students. This 
was well received by Álvarez, who had 
a new cohort of Master students that 
would be studying a transversal section 
of the city as an ecological corridor.

The research for this theme has 
therefore been ongoing since April 
2016 and is now focused on a series of 
events in the way other themes have 
been researched. The next cohort of 
Master students were introduced to their 
course in July 2016 with a Live Project 
brief following MUI’s research questions 
on this theme and using the Santa Elena 
waterway as an ecological corridor within 
which to study ‘PUBLIC SPACE, 
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE 
AND WELLBEING’. The 
students’ first task was to undertake 
a short exercise of urban narratives, 
perception and public space and their 
findings were presented, discussed 
and debated during the MUI team’s 
fieldwork visit in August 2016, during a 
two-day workshop, which was to include community, public sector and tertiary 
sector participation, in order to explore 
narratives and perceptions of public 
space.

The outcome of this two-day workshop 
resulted in a series of different strategies 
to develop the scoping studies. On the 
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE 
and ecological corridor, Álvarez’s 
students continued the project with a 
desk-based analysis of the physical and 
political dimensions of their case study in 
Santa Elena. On the WELLBEING 
aspect of the theme, the workshop 
reinforced the need to conduct photo-
elicitation as a process of narrative 
collection. This methodology is used in 
a scoping study identified through this 
workshop, called Perception of Public 
Space within urban regeneration: Policy 
and Practice. In addition, a further 
scoping study has been identified 
through the process and will be led 
by Torres-Campos and Crane, using 
Anthropocene as a lens through which 
the processes undergone by the city 
of Medellín are critically viewed and 
categorised, examining how these 
changes have determined the growth 
of PUBLIC SPACE in the wider 
Aburrá Valley.
Walk through New Tram Route
Starting from Ayacucho towards Santa Elena Stream Basin
27 August 2016
Walk through Forthcoming Tram Corridor
Carrera 80 Corridor
31 August 2016
SCOPING STUDY 1:
PERCEPTION OF PUBLIC SPACE WITHIN URBAN REGENERATION: POLICY AND PRACTICE

Under the banner of Innovation, Medellin has undergone major urban regeneration. The changes in the Corridor of Ayacucho have meaningful geo-physical, environmental and social implications. The purpose of this project is to establish in what ways the processes and strategies for the provision of public space have transformed understandings and perceptions of public spaces in the neighbourhoods of Medellin. Urban renewal programmes have the potential to generate rapid transformation, both in terms of physical landscape and changes to the social fabric within communities. Understanding the process and impact of such initiatives is important for developing an evidence based on the impact of urban renewal programmes and for identifying gaps, challenges and recommendations for future policy and practice.

The objectives of this study would be to understand:

1. What are the physical features through which public space is understood? Geophysical features (rivers, topography, climate) and physical features (parks and green spaces, community infrastructure, civic squares, micro-spaces) – form and function.

2. In what ways is public space understood in urban regeneration policy and practice?

3. How has the transformation of public space impacted the well-being of local residents?

4. What are the gaps and synergies between professional and resident notions of public space? What are the implication of this for urban regeneration practices?

The methodology used to develop this scoping study may encompass research methods from distinct, yet relatable areas of practice and academia: geography, architecture, landscape architecture and structural engineering.

The following table presents possible methods in relation to the aforementioned sub-questions:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SUB-QUESTION</strong></th>
<th><strong>METHOD(S)</strong></th>
<th><strong>EXPECTED OUTCOME(S)</strong></th>
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</table>
| 1. What are the physical features through which public space is understood? | - Physical surveys  
- Mapping typologies of public space  
- Sociotope | Physical mapping of public space |
| 2. In what ways is public space understood in urban regen policy and practice? | - Policy review  
- Neighbourhood plans and interventions  
- Experiences/ perceptions of urban regen professionals | Technical mapping of public space |
| 3. How has the transformation of public space impacted the well-being of local residents? | - Photo-elicitation | Experiential mapping of public space |
| 4. What are the gaps and synergies between professional and resident notions of public space? What are the implications for regen practice? | - Analysis of the data from questions 1-3 | Recommendations for urban regen policy/practice |
Ayacucho tram corridor
August 2016, Medellín
FROM VALLEY TO CITY: MEDELLÍN’S ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICIES IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

The Aburrá Valley exists as one of the most prominent geomorphologic features in the wider region of Antioquia. By staging the creation of the first metropolitan area in 1980, the narrow, deep valley also assisted the superimposition of a new political-administrative identity to an existing set of territorial conditions. In contemporary interpretations and readings of the city, it becomes important, then, to define meaningful methods and tools able to link, on the one hand, geology, dynamic environmental conditions and shifting landscape units with, on the other hand, innovation branding, patterns of urban growth, neoliberalist capitalism and relationships of power conducive to vulnerabilities and inequalities.

In this scoping study, the Anthropocene — an informal way to describe a contemporary planetary situation where humans have become the dominant geological force altering the planet — is used as a lens to analyse some of the massive environmental, social, cultural, economic and political changes happening in Medellín over the last three decades. During this period, the city witnessed formidable urban expansion, which has ultimately resulted in the infusion of a fast, intense and diffuse city into the geological uniqueness of the valley.

Through critical appraisal and categorisation of fundamental environmental planning policies and their intrinsic relationship with notorious social dimensions in the city, this study gestures towards more informed interpretations of the role of innovation in future planning scenarios. Since processes of change in Medellín have addressed symbolic and physical dimensions within areas of socio-economic deprivation and environmental risk through planning and governance mechanisms, we anticipate that innovation may be understood as an underlying attitude with which specific strategies are devised to restore a fractured society.

Finally, we will reflect on the potential of utilising the area of the Quebrada de Santa Elena — a landscape unit
corresponding to a water basin with strategic value as a transition from urban city centre to peri-urban areas of informal expansion —, along with the newly built tram system (Ayacucho Corridor) and the future connections of Metro Cable, to further study and test relationships of power, physical structure and emotional reaction between existing environmental planning policies and innovation.

Main sub-questions we wish to address:

1. What is the future of planning and, more specifically, of environmental planning policies within the emerging awareness of Anthropocenic planetary macro-changes?
2. What is the role of innovation in Medellín’s future planning scenarios?
3. What can planning add to the discussion around geo-bio-techno-social issues and preoccupations in the Anthropocene?
View of Medellín from Camino de la Vida
Metropolitan Greenbelt
Cerro Pan de Azucar, Medellín
HERITAGE & CULTURAL VALUES
The theme on Heritage and Cultural Values was led by Penny Travlou and Beatriz Jaramillo. The overarching question formulated at the outset of the project for the theme was:

To what extent have the ‘innovative’ city planning approaches and new emerging creative practices included public participation and collaboration in the definition of cultural values and shared spaces in the city of Medellín?

After an introductory visit conducted in August 2015, when the research questions were established amongst the entire team, it was evident that this theme would have to be examined through two different perspectives: the institutional and tangible together with the non-institutional, grassroots and intangible. As a consequence of this introductory meeting, two sub-questions were incorporated, which were:

1. The institutional perspective centred on the tangible: To what extent have the normative and innovative practices in the city allowed for citizen participation in the creation of cultural values and spaces throughout the city of Medellín?

2. The non-institutional perspective centred on the non-tangible: To what extent have the ‘innovative’ city planning approaches and new emerging creative practices included public participation and collaboration in the definition of cultural values and shared spaces in the city of Medellín?

Both perspectives were explored during a two-week research fieldtrip in April 2016, dedicated to activities surrounding both approaches to the theme of Heritage and Cultural Values. During the
Focus Group with Grassroots Organisations
La Corporación Platohedro,
11 April 2016, Medellín
Focus Group with Grassroots Organisations
La Corporación Platohedro,
11 April 2016, Medellín
second week, a set of activities which was referred to as a ‘seminar’, focused on the exploration of this theme through a variety of events, which included interviews, walks, presentations and discussions. The aims and objectives of this week-long series of activities were to:

- Share knowledge about existing heritage policies and emerging grassroots collectives in Medellín
- Debate the tangible and intangible to obtain a diversity of perspectives on the topic
- Identify contributions that could be made to the consultation process of the Development Plan for Medellín
- Identify future research needs dedicated to the theme of ‘Cultural Values and Heritage’ in the context of the peace process and post-conflict (central objective of the MUI Project)

For the first perspective, Jaramillo led a **SEMINAR** structured around three sub-themes: firstly, existing policy on heritage; secondly, on the conceptual and methodological understanding of the theme from a professional and academic perspective; and lastly, on the experiential, which was illustrated with a guided group walk at the end of the seminar.

For the second perspective, Travlou held a **FOCUS GROUP** at Platóhedro, a community arts organisation. The participants were selected by Travlou based on their approach to working in support of peer-to-peer learning, collaborative practices and bottom-up ethos and were mainly off the mainstream radar of institutional organisations; working as not-for-profit art collectives and/or start-ups within a grassroots capacity.

Travlou dedicated a preliminary week to individual and informal conversations with each collective, explaining the project and inviting them to participate in the focus group. The activities carried out and conclusions discussed that emerged from both the seminar and the focus group have subsequently informed the development of the scoping studies. These critical findings are as follows:

**On THE INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE**, the team was able to identify and engage with appropriate official stakeholders. Through this discussion, contentious issues surrounding Medellín’s city centre renewal including its management of heritage and cultural values became evident. This led to a call by Jaramillo to host an international symposium on cultural heritage that was held between October 20th-22nd 2016 in Parque Arví, a large park on the perimeter of Medellín.

**On THE NON-INSTITUTIONAL AND GRASSROOTS PERSPECTIVE**, a strong working relationship emerged between Travlou and the collectives, which is expected
to continue. The focus group was not considered a ‘case study’ for #MUI but a means to co-produce knowledge jointly sharing results freely.

For Heritage and Cultural Values, the juxtaposition of the two very different perspectives made policy identification easier to understand. The focus group with collectives on the grassroots perspective, particularly, sustained a heated discussion regarding socio-economic constraints that was otherwise lacking in the institutional perspective. Interestingly, a third perspective emerged by the end of our fieldwork, led by Luis Fernando González, that focuses on **The Process of the Grassroots Becoming Institutional.**
Seminar Heritage and Cultural Values
Casa de la Cultura y de la Cooperación de Confiar
13 April 2016, Medellín

SEMINAR
Site of National Cultural Heritage

Metrocable System

Tram Lines

Metroplus Articulated Bus System

Site of Municipal Cultural Heritage

Areas of influence around National Cultural Heritage sites

Areas of influence of Municipal Cultural Heritage sites

Grassroots collectives

Linkages of cultural collaborations within collectives
1. **Casa Tres Patios**: a centre for contemporary arts in Medellin that supports diverse forms of artistic expression and creativity through artist residencies, workshops, exhibitions. [http://www.casatrespatios.org/](http://www.casatrespatios.org/)

2. **La Corporacion Platohedro**: a collaborative creative platform dedicated to artistic experimentation, free culture, peer learning and self-expression for the promotion of the commons and the indigenous traditions of Buen Vivir and Buen Conocer. [http://www.platohedro.org/](http://www.platohedro.org/)

3. **Proyecto NN**: a collective of young architects, urbanists and urban activists with the aim to create a network of activities/projects for urban commons and co-creation of the city. [http://www.proyectonn.com/](http://www.proyectonn.com/)

4. **Cartografía Sonoras**: a community-led project with school children to investigate, explore and narrate through sounds their neighbourhoods. [https://www.facebook.com/cartografias.sonoras](https://www.facebook.com/cartografias.sonoras)

5. **Un/Loquer**: a hackerspace and common workspace to create and share rare things with technology. [http://unloquer.org/](http://unloquer.org/)
Walk through Medellín city centre
14 April 2016, Medellín.
The Grassroots Perspective Based on the Non-Tangible

There are various local grassroots groups operating in Medellín and collectively creating new cultural values within the city. A selection of these groups has been identified through a focus group session which took place within the MUI research.

The aim of this scoping study is to create a platform that will help these groups communicate their interests to the formal sector institutions. In order to do so, we propose to ask the group during the dialogue and construction of trust: ‘what would you like us to do with your work within the network that you think you are missing?’

The objectives of this scoping study are rooted in further understanding the creation of the network and how it mobilises within the city:

- How they understand the making of cultural values;
- How they produce new heritage;
- How are the ideas of innovation and cultural values related? Are they in synergy or are they working against each other?

Considering the importance of co-creation of Heritage and Cultural Values, the outcome would be to create a long-term dialogue with the participants in the focus group – and establish trust that overcomes the existing mistrust against academic institutions as hierarchical and colonial producers of knowledge.

**Keywords:**

- Social Innovation
- Creativity
- Co-creation
- Collaboration
- Peer production
- Sharing

- Commons
- Buen Vivir
- Imaginary perception
- The symbolic
- Cultural values
- Digital innovation
**CORPORACION PLATOHEDRÓ**
A non-profit that functions as a collaborative creative platform. Since 2004, Platohedro has been working towards creation and artistic experimentation, ongoing research on free culture and peer-to-peer training. Their approach is based on Buen Vivir and Buen Conocer concepts.

**PROYECTO NN**
A free and open source project that aims at building a network for the exchange of ideas, knowledge and information on a common theme: the construction of city.

**CARTOGRAFIAS SONORAS**
A collaborative project for documenting, archiving and analysing the soundscape generated in different areas of Medellín. CS looks at the city as an open laboratory and workshop for social practices.

**THE IMATERIAL/ NON-TANGIBLE/ GRASSROOTS**

**UN/LOQUER**
A hackerspace for free and open source culture and biohacking.

**CASA TRES PATIOS**
A non-profit contemporary art centre dedicated to experimentation and investigation of contemporary art and artistic practices.
SCOPING STUDY 2: NON-TANGIBLE HERITAGE TRANSFORMING TANGIBLE HERITAGE

Ongoing grassroots collectives are operating within the immaterial and non-tangible arena of networks, imaginary perception, the symbolic and the memory of a city. Eventually these non-tangibles are filtered or transferred to become the material and institutional habitat.

The objective of this scoping study is to record the process of transferral and address areas of cultural values, such as:
- How it becomes part of habitat & landscape;
- How it affects wellbeing.

The methodology of this scoping study would be to work with the focus group participants (See Scoping Study 1) and the Centre for Research on People’s Habitat (Centro de Estudios del Hábitat Popular, CEHAP) at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Medellín, through a series of further focus groups and workshop discussions involving the collectives identified.
In the context of the innovative city, the team leading Heritage and Cultural Values theme expressed research interests in identifying how national and local regulation has contributed to a substantial change in Medellín’s heritage, proposing the following objectives for further study:

- From the perspective of historical heritage, what are the cultural influences that contributed to creating expressions of heritage in the city?
- How have national regulations related to heritage protection been applied in the city and what have their contributions been?
- How has cultural heritage been disseminated and how has this affected urban development?
- How has training on cultural heritage been managed and what has been its impact on citizens?
04

MOBILITY AND SOCIO-SPATIAL INTEGRATION
The Mobility and Socio-spatial Integration theme was led by Soledad García Ferrari and Françoise Coupé. The overarching question formulated at the outset of the project for the theme was:

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF THE INNOVATIVE MOBILITY STRATEGIES ON QUALITY OF LIFE AND SOCIAL EQUITY?**

When the MUI project began, the mass transportation strategies that had been implemented in Medellín since the 1990s were being acclaimed internationally as major contributors to urban innovation. When the prize was awarded for most Innovative City in 2013 by the Urban Land Institute, their statement made special mention of Medellín’s unique mobility strategies.

The acclaim was not unfounded. Metro de Medellín is the only rail-based mass transportation system in Colombia. The metro first became operational in 1995. It was financed through a Private Public Partnership (PPP) led by the Mayor’s office. The metro continues to be operated through a private company called Metro de Medellín. Amongst its infrastructure and services, Metro de Medellín manages four different types of lines: an overground rail metro (mostly elevated); a metrocable system; a bus rapid system; and a tramway. The Metro de Medellín has, since 1995 when it began operation, endorsed a social programme called ‘Cultura Medellín’ that promotes cultural, educational and sustainability-orientated projects. Cultural Metro was established as a way of introducing – together with the physical infrastructure – an accompanying programme that would teach residents about civic behaviour in public spaces and caring for the transport infrastructure. The MUI team thus approached the theme as an enquiry into mobility together with socio-spatial integration.

The focus of this theme emerged from the most recent amendment to the
Mobility Round Table
Facultad de Minas (Faculty of Mines) Universidad Nacional de Colombia (UNAL)
21 August 2016, Medellín
Escala Metropolitana - Conectividad
Ejes de conexión transversal
Land Use Plan (Plano de Ordenamiento Territorial – POT) in 2014 that prioritises transversal ‘mobility corridors’ across the Aburrá Valley. Land Use strategies have emphasised the nature of the areas adjacent to the actual mobility link, generating proposals that engage with public space, quality of the environment, cycling routes, green infrastructure, etc. which affect access and use of spaces in the city and therefore wellbeing and quality of life of its inhabitants. MUI has been concerned with the links between the proposed spaces associated to mobility networks and the way these have actually achieved socio-spatial integration.

Since the POT 2014 clearly correlates mobility corridors with the ecological structure of Medellín, the activities for this theme were undertaken in close collaboration with activities for Theme 02, ‘Public Space Green Infrastructure and Wellbeing’, using the Santa Elena water course as a starting point for further investigation.

The ‘mobility corridors’ generated through the extended infrastructure network are therefore understood as both public space and as alternatives to the urban connectivity of the city. Two similar scoping studies have been formulated within the theme of mobility and social-spatial integration. The first focuses on the ‘mobility corridors’ of the SANTA ELENA STREAM BASIN, where a new tram route was opened in 2015. Another scoping study uses an undeveloped route as a baseline. The corridor of THE FUTURE TRAM ALONG THE CARRERA 80 is a mobility corridor where a tram route is planned but work has not yet begun.
Sistema de Metrocable
Agosto de 2016, Medellín
Walk through New Tram Route
Starting from Ayacucho towards Santa Elena Stream Basin
27 August 2016
Walk through Forthcoming Tram Corridor
Carrera 80 Corridor
31 August 2016
SCOPING STUDY 1: EXISTING TRAM CORRIDOR: AYACUCHO

The existing tram, along Ayacucho road, one of the corridors that intersects Santa Elena Stream, is the specific focus of this scoping study. The overall aim of this study is to understand the selected area through an analysis which articulates a variety of variables, from physical to social structures. The study of this section could aid the analysis of other areas of the city that will be going through a similar process of transformation in the future. This would contribute to addressing the following overarching question to be explored in the long term: how are these transport strategies dealing with economic and social demands in formal and informal areas ensuring upgrading and integration?

The specific question that this scoping study would address towards this is: what initial socio-economic impacts has the implementation of the tram in the Ayacucho corridor had in selected sections of the route?

The objectives of this study will be to understand:

1. The institutional context, the Land Use Plan (POT) and areas of strategic intervention, including the Macroproject for the Santa Elena Stream
2. The geographical context of the Ayacucho corridor and its environmental and physical characteristics as well as the complexities of the social fabric.
3. How the large scale mobility corridor has affected the life of residents in the area, including how the corridor is experienced and how it has changed the experiences of residents.

**OBJECTIVE 1** will be met through a literature review on institutional policies surrounding mobility strategies, identifying the instruments for development, including consultation.

**OBJECTIVE 2** will be achieved through identifying a specific area along Ayacucho corridor, which will be the focus of a survey in plan and section as well as the opportunity to identify the variety of housing models existing in the area.
OBJECTIVE 3 will be carried out through a photo-elicitation methodology, with the aim of identifying residents’ perceptions of the recent transformation.
A corridor undertaking significant transformation in Medellín is Carrera 80, not only due to the implementation of a new tram route but also as the result of an overarching shift in the character and structure of the area. Carrera 80 at present is a wide commercial road with parking bays at both sides and a line of very mature trees in the centre. Buildings tend to be low rise, from two to four storeys high. Commercial activity dominates the ground floors with housing located on upper levels. Building plots are wide, allowing for a variety of commercial purposes, such as garages, event venues, furniture companies, workshops, as well as other small scale shops, i.e. bookshops, cafes, etc. An initial study has identified different users: those that own the property and hold their own business, those that rent commercial premises and those that live in the upper level flats (both owners and tenants). The area also offers opportunities for job seekers.

The plans for transformation of this area express a structural shift from individual businesses to providing larger scale shopping centres, high-rise housing and chain hotels. The footpath would be reduced to allow for the new tram and the central line of trees is in danger of removal. Property values have significantly increased since the proposals were made public and rental values have also been affected by this increase. This has created land speculation, with business owners becoming increasingly interested in selling their properties, affecting those renting premises as well as those renting housing.

In the context of this forthcoming transformation and understanding the concept of ‘mobility corridor’ as both public space and as alternative to the urban connectivity of the city, this study’s overarching aim is to capture and record this process of change in the urban environment, from the perspective of those
Current profile of Carrera 80
August 2016, Medellín
INHABITING THE AREAS ALONG THE CORRIDOR.

The study has the following objectives:

- To understand the objectives of the strategic intervention in Carrera 80 and the institutional context in which this is proposed and regulated.
- To understand the socio-political and physical context of the Carrera 80 ‘mobility corridor’ identifying the complex variety of inhabitants and users in the area.
- To follow the transformation of Carrera 80 through including participation of a number of inhabitants and users in the area, whose choices will be monitored through the process, in order to identify how the urban transformation affects their relationship with the city considering location of their place to work, home and transport mobility choices.
Residents and workers at Carrera 80
August 2016, Medellín
METHODS FOR INTERACTION
METHOD 1:

CONFERENCE

THEME 01: ‘HOUSING & HABITAT’
LED BY FRANÇOISE COUPÉ AND HARRY SMITH
The theme Housing and Habitat was studied during two days in the framework of the following research question:

**IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PROCESSES OF PEACE BUILDING TOWARDS COEXISTENCE, WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF URBAN POLICIES ON THE HABITAT CONDITIONS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTORS IN THE CITY OF MEDELLÍN?**

This Research Question has been examined with a focus on the following four sub-themes, which were identified through initial activities coordinated by the Theme 01 leaders Smith and Coupé:

1. Evaluation of previous policies and programmes (PRIMED, ISVIMED, etc.)
2. Risk management and habitat
3. Social production of housing & habitat
4. Housing and habitat in the post-conflict scenario

These four sub-themes were discussed as part of a two-day conference in Casa Barrientos, a well-preserved old house in the town centre. Each sub-theme was treated as a half-day block. Speakers for each theme presented their viewpoint in a 30 minute presentation, followed by 15 minutes for discussion. Each sub-theme hosted three to four speakers with a concluding discussion tying the sub-theme back to the overarching research question. This concluding session for each sub-theme had a designated moderator that was part of the #MUI team, who guided the concluding conversation towards identifying future studies that could be realised on the Housing & Habitat theme within the context of the peace process and the post-conflict (a central objective of the #MUI project). The selection of speakers was predominately made by the theme leader based in Medellín, Françoise Coupé, who has both the local knowledge and local contacts to enable this.

The Conference for this theme was held on April 20th and 21st 2016, during a particularly relevant week because the Municipal Development Plan for Medellín (Plan de Desarrollo Municipal de Medellín – PDM) that was being prepared by the municipality, was in the process of public consultation at that time. The seminar thus provided an ideal platform for contributions to the consultation process of said plan. With this objective, the speakers were invited to provide a critical and constructive vision of the plan in their presentations, within the perspective of each of the sub-themes of the conference.
# Programme

## Day 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00 - 12.00</td>
<td><strong>Analysis of Existing Housing &amp; Habitat Policies:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.00 - 12.00</td>
<td>Presentation of the Conference: the MUI Project &amp; the Municipal Development Plan (Plan Municipal de Desarrollo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:15</td>
<td>Luis Fernando González: The management of ISVIMED</td>
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<td>9:15 - 10:00</td>
<td>Pedro Pablo Peláez: Housing production from the 4 strategies to the 100,000 houses: The case of Medellín</td>
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<td>10:00 - 10:45</td>
<td>Oscar Montoya, Manager for the Department of Housing &amp; Habitat at EDU</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 - 11:45</td>
<td>Nora Mesa: Land management, social housing and sustainable habitat</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 - 12:30</td>
<td>Discussion and conclusions, moderated by Soledad Garcia Ferrari</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00 - 4.00</td>
<td><strong>Risk Management</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00 - 2:30</td>
<td>Elizabeth Arboleda and Humberto Caballero: Risk management in the Aburrá Valley</td>
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<td>2:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>Isabel Cristina Torres: Strategies for risk management</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 - 3:30</td>
<td>Carlos Velásquez: Challenges of the Plan for Comune 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 - 4:00</td>
<td>Discussion and conclusions, moderated by Françoise Coupé</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 - 6:00</td>
<td><strong>Guided Walk about the Influence of Urban Interventions on Housing</strong></td>
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## Day 2:

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00 - 11:30</td>
<td><strong>Social Production of Housing and Habitat</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.00 - 8:45</td>
<td>Rafael Mayo: The social construction of habitat</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:30</td>
<td>Juan Carlos Ceballos: The model of ciudadela and social networks in public space</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:45</td>
<td>Françoise Coupé: The tenements as a way of inhabiting the city</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 - 12:00</td>
<td>Discussion and conclusions, moderated by Harry Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00 - 5.00</td>
<td><strong>Housing and Habitat and the Post-Conflict</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00 - 2:45</td>
<td>María Clara Echeverría: Universidad Nacional de Colombia’s Think- tank on Habitat, City and Territory: Peace and Post-agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 - 3:30</td>
<td>Carlos Montoya: Public-private alliances for the development of land in the metropolitan Valley of Aburrá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 - 4:00</td>
<td>Discussion and conclusions, moderated by Luis Fernando González Escobar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 - 5:00</td>
<td>Conclusions on the Housing and Habitat Theme, moderated by Françoise Coupé &amp; Harry Smith</td>
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METHOD 2: WORKSHOP

THEME 02: ‘PUBLIC SPACE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WELLBEING’
LED BY DIANA ÁLVAREZ, TIAGO TORRES-CAMPOS AND RYAN WOOLRYCH
The theme ‘Public Space, Green Infrastructure and Wellbeing’, was studied during three days in the framework of the following research question:

**TO WHAT EXTENT AND IN WHAT WAY HAVE THE PROCESSES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC SPACE (FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ITS CREATION, MANAGEMENT AND PERCEPTION) CONTRIBUTED TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION IN MEDELLÍN?**

This research question was examined in collaboration with Urban Studies and Landscape Masters Students from the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (UPB), where Diana Álvarez leads a cohort of students using a critical approach to the city’s recent development as a learning method.

Through team discussions, photo-elicitation was agreed as a key method of engaging the students with fieldwork, and providing the #MUI team first-hand data on narratives from residents. Photo-elicitation is a method that uses visual images to elicit comments, stories and understandings from participants. In simple terms, photo-elicitation uses imagery as a stimulus for discussion and the development of participant narratives. It involves conducting interviews in which participants discuss photographs that they have collected with the researcher as a basis to invoke comments, memory and discussion.

The two-day workshop that took place in Medellín in August 2016 was structured around presentations from students on their fieldwork, which included site surveys, initial understanding of local narratives, and included presentations from the #MUI team on their understanding and experience of the theme.

During the first day, the workshop centred on a series of sessions between the students and the #MUI team, while the second day was structured around a more open session with guests from relevant organizations who could contribute to the debate on the topics identified on the first day.

**PROGRAMME**

**WORKSHOP ON DAY 1 (DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS):**

- **PART 1:** ‘Perception of the small scales of the city’: Students presented the physical data collected and initial
narratives collated from participants.

- **PART 2:** ‘Sharing stories’: The initial aim of this section of the workshop was for the students to share individual stories with other residents in order to find points in common. However the workshop focused on identifying main ideas emerging from residents’ narratives and students’s observations with the #MUI team.

- **PART 3:** ‘Individual stories in the context of the city?’: in the last part of the workshop, we hosted a session dedicated to knowledge exchange and sharing dialogues with key stakeholders. The objective was to understand the motivations and intentions of those responsible for bringing about change. The students had identified key questions that emerged from their work presented the previous day and had prepared these questions for the stakeholders. In this part we encouraged the students to make their stories “visible” through videos and a model they had prepared. Having the model in the room made the narratives spatial in the context of the city.

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**WORKSHOP ON DAY 2 (DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS): REFLECTION**

- **REFLECTION:** in the morning the students were encouraged to take part in an exercise of reflecting on the activities undertaken with the residents and discussions taken place at the workshops. The #MUI team led the dialogue during this reflection.

- **URBAN SKETCHING:** students were asked to initiate a process of sketching residents’ stories. The main goal of this activity was to understand how the stories could become lenses through which the students start to develop a critical understanding of public space, green-infrastructure and the notion of well-being. The discussion was broad at the stage of the workshop, but students have continued developing knowledge on residents’ narratives.
METHOD 3:

FOCUS GROUP

THEME 03: ‘HERITAGE & CULTURAL VALUES’
LED BY PENNY TRAVLOU AND BEATRIZ JARAMILLO
The overarching question for this theme, which was defined since the beginning of the project is:

**TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE THE ‘INNOVATIVE’ CITY PLANNING APPROACHES AND NEW EMERGING CREATIVE PRACTICES INCLUDED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION IN THE DEFINITION OF CULTURAL VALUES AND SHARED SPACES IN THE CITY OF MEDELLIN?**

This research was examined through two different perspectives that currently exist in Medellin: the institutional and tangible together with the non-institutional, grassroots and intangible.

1. The institutional perspective centred on the tangible: To what extent have the normative and innovative practices in the city allowed for citizen participation in the creation of cultural values and spaces throughout the city of Medellin?

2. The non-institutional perspective centred on the non-tangible: To what extent have the ‘innovative’ city planning approaches and new emerging creative practices included public participation and collaboration in the definition of cultural values and shared spaces in the city of Medellin?

For the second perspective, Travlou engaged local grassroots organisations in a focus group that were invited to participate in the focus group. The participants were selected by Travlou based on their approach to working in support of peer-to-peer collaboration. The groups selected by Travlou were mainly off the mainstream radar of institutional organisations, and were instead working as NGOs, collectives or start-ups within a grassroots capacity, focused on community-based and oriented arts and cultural activities. The purpose of the focus group was to explore the non-institutional (grassroots) perspective by means of a private discussion. Travlou led the focus group at Platohedro, a non-profit collaborative platform for artistic and cultural creation, research and self-training.

Representatives of the following groups attended the focus group:

- Lina Mejía, Platohedro
- Fabio Barone, Un / loquer
- Omar Unan, Fundación Confiar
- Tony Evanko, Casa Tres Patios
- Yuliana Rodriguez, Education Coordinator at Platohedro
- Camilo Cantor, Cartografías Sonoras

The members of the research team that were present were:

- Harry Smith, University of Heriot-Watt
- Penny Travlou, University of Edinburgh
The focus group established a dynamic day and generated debate and new ideas. This took place on April 11, 2016.

Smith and García-Ferrari began the focus group with a brief introduction of the #MUI project and explained the objectives of the Newton Institutional Links Grant, which was necessary to provide context to the project and guide the group. Travlou continued the presentation and explained how she understood heritage and cultural values and why popular knowledge (bottom-up) was - in her view - more relevant and useful than analysing and understanding institutional policies and regulations.

PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; MUI team presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:10</td>
<td>Theme presentation &amp; focus Workshop participants’ introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:20</td>
<td>Discussion about participants: who they are; with whom they work; what they do; how they do it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30</td>
<td>Explore keywords &amp; discussion (post-it notes session)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30</td>
<td>Magna Libre Project: What can we do? How can we do it?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Presentation of space</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td>Closing and synthesis</td>
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METHOD 4 : SEMINAR

THEME 03: ‘HERITAGE & CULTURAL VALUES’
LED BY PENNY TRAVLOU AND BEATRIZ JARAMILLO
The research question that was agreed from the beginning of the project for this topic is:

TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE THE ‘INNOVATIVE’ CITY PLANNING APPROACHES AND NEW EMERGING CREATIVE PRACTICES INCLUDED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION IN THE DEFINITION OF CULTURAL VALUES AND SHARED SPACES IN THE CITY OF MEDELLIN?

This research was approached through two different perspectives that currently exist in Medellín: the institutional and tangible together with the non-institutional, grassroots and intangible.

1. The institutional perspective centred on the tangible: To what extent have the normative and innovative practices in the city allowed for citizen participation in the creation of cultural values and spaces throughout the city of Medellín?

2. The non-institutional perspective centred on the non-tangible: To what extent have the ‘innovative’ city planning approaches and new emerging creative practices included public participation and collaboration in the definition of cultural values and shared spaces in the city of Medellín?

For the first perspective, Jaramillo led the research with a day-long seminar with invited speakers. By relying on guest speakers, Jaramillo wanted to present the institutional perspective on what heritage and cultural values are.

The day was structured around three sub-themes:

1. Existing policy on heritage
2. The conceptual and methodological understanding of the theme
3. The experiential (illustrated with a walk at the end of the seminar)

This event was open to the public and was carried out in the Casa de la Cultura and the Corporación Confiar, a heritage building located in the center of the city. The seminar was structured around the three thematic areas presented previously, each with two or three presenters. After each presentation, a 15-minute discussion was held. At the end of the day, an hour of reflection was devoted to identifying how different perspectives (institutional and tangible, non-institutional and intangible) could be linked to answer the main thematic question and identify areas for future scope studies. As a guide, the research team used three indicators: (1) what do we know? (2) what do we need to know?, And (3) how can we know?
PROGRAMME

8:00- 8:30  INTRODUCTION
8:00 -8:10  Introduction to the project #MUI, by Soledad García Ferrari & Harry Smith
8:10 - 8:30  Introduction & conclusion of the Focus Group conducted regarding the ‘non-institutional’, by Penny Travlou

8.30 - 10.30  POLICY ON HERITAGE
8:30- 9:00  Presentation from the Landscape & Heritage Agency (Agencia del Paisaje, el Patrimonio y Gestión para alianzas público-privadas - APP), by Manuela Sierra
9:00- 9:15  Discussion
9:15- 9:45  Presentation by the Urban Development Agency (Empresa de Desarrollo Urbano EDU) regarding the Integral Urban Projects (Planes Urbanos Integrales -PUI), by César Hernández & John Octavio Ortiz
9:45- 10:00  Discussion

10.30-12.00  THE CONCEPTUAL AND METHODOLOGICAL
10:30- 11:00  Presentation about the concept of heritage, by León Restrepo and Lucelly Torres
11:00-11:15  Discussion
11:15-11:45  Presentation about teaching heritage, by Adolfo Arboleda and Pedro Pablo Lalinde
11:45-12:00  Discussion
1:30- 3:00  THE EXPERIENCE
1:30-2:00  Presentation about the network of music schools (Red de escuelas de Música), by Juanita Eslava
2:00-2:15  Discussion
2:15-2:45  Presentation about the Berrio Park ‘Constructed and de-constructed memory’, by Alexandra Rios and Pedro Pablo Lalinde
2:45-3:00  Discussion

3:00 - 4:00  REFLECTION
3:00-4:00  A reflection on the previous presentations followed by a discussion on the two perspectives on heritage and cultural values, Beatriz Jaramillo and Penny Travlou. We concluded with: What do we know? What do we need to know? How can we know it?

4:30- 6:30  GUIDED WALK
A walk from Berrío Square (Parque Berrío), through the Museum of Antioquia, until ‘la Alpujarra’, was led by Alexandra Ríos
METHOD 5:

ROUND TABLE

THEME 04: ‘MOBILITY AND SOCIO-SPATIAL INTEGRATION’
LED BY SOLEDAD GARCIA FERRARI Y FRANÇOISE COUPÉ
The theme ‘Mobility and socio-spatial integration’ was studied during two days in the framework of the following research question:

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF THE INNOVATIVE MOBILITY STRATEGIES ON QUALITY OF LIFE AND SOCIAL EQUITY?**

This research question was discussed in a ‘round table’ format, in an informal setting. The #MUI team met together with a pre-selected group of experts – both academics and public officials working in the Planning Department of the City Council.

The round table was held during the course of a morning at the Facultad de Minas, which is the Engineering Faculty of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia Sede Medellín, and is where the key academic experts working with transport infrastructure are based. These were:

- Ivan Sarmiento, leader of the ‘Grupo de Movilidad’ at the Facultad de Minas
- Juan Carlos Sarmiento, an economist within the same research group
- Laura Agudelo, a civil engineering lecturer at the Facultad de Minas
- Angela Beatriz Mejía, lecturer at the Facultad de Minas
- Diego González, lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture
- Françoise Coupé, Professor Emeritus at the School of Habitat within the Faculty of Architecture
- From the Planning Department at the City Council, the round table included Geronimo Cifuentes and Sandra Cortes.

The #MUI team members that were present included Soledad Garcia Ferrari, Tiago Torres Campos, Ryan Woolrych, Harry Smith and Helena Rivera.

The format of a round table lent itself for a very precise and focused discussion. Perhaps because this theme was the last one to be explored by the #MUI team, the focus of the scoping study had already been identified through all the previous fieldwork. Coupé and Garcia Ferrari used the opportunity to propose a scoping study that went beyond an academic exercise and could have real impact on the community, which was the reason for inviting the planning department to the round table. Coupé introduced the project to the Medellín group, emphasising that this project – and the opportunity of discussing a real problem in a focus group – was different from other studies, because:

**“THE DIFFERENCE WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IS THAT THEY DEFINE THE PROPOSAL AND WE ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. IN THIS INSTANCE WITH #MUI”**
WE ARE BEING INCLUDED IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION OF THE PROJECT, WHICH IS AN APPROACH THAT WE PREFER AND SUITS OUR NEEDS MORE” (Coupé).

Whilst the research question was already established, the round table allowed each participant to identify the approach they found most useful, and to highlight an area with the biggest knowledge gap that they wanted to address in a collaborative proposal. Consensus for a scoping study was easily identified and a consensus was reached regarding the next steps..
METHOD 6:
WALKS, VISITS &
INTERVIEWS
Site visits and the deliberate act of walking through the city of Medellín have been a fundamental aspect of this project. These have taken different forms and have been conducted throughout all fieldwork visits.

We have undertaken guided walks, led by key experts (a). We have also made team derives, walking through areas of thematic interest, that link directly to one of the project themes (b). There have also been specific transect walks undertaken with a particular focus for a scoping study (c).

Other walks have been undertaken together with interviewees, because the experience of spatial navigation provides prompts for a ‘walk and talk’ method that aides semi-structured interviews (d).

In addition, semi-structured interviews with key informants from community, NGO and government sectors were also held independently from walks:

- Cesar Hernandez - EDU
- Felipe Velez Roa - Director of Planning
- Maria del Pilar Restrepo Mesa - Metropolitan Area, Valle de Aburrá
- Carlos Montoya - Former director PRIMED Neighbourhood improvement programme
- Sergio Restrepo - Director Pablo Tobón Theatre

Finally, we have also used the route of a walk to identify the location where we hold short interviews. This was the case along a mobility corridor that will undergo dramatic urban change in the next five years with a new tram line (2016-2019), but which has not yet started. The team walked along Carrera 80 interviewing and gathering contact data of local shopkeepers, residents and street-sellers. This walk will be repeated in April 2017 and June 2017, and the actors will be followed up to record how change may have affected their livelihood and quality of life.

Walks led by experts (a):
- Urban renewal (slum upgrading) programme ‘Juan Bobo’, with Françoise Coupé
- Heritage and Cultural values in the historic city centre: A walk from Berrio Square, past the Museum of Antioquia, until ‘La Alpujarra’, led by Alexandra Ríos
- Walk through ‘Noroccidental’ Integrated Urban Project (PUI), led by John Octavio Ortiz Lopera from the Urban Development Agency (EDU)
- Comuna 8, where housing and habitat exist in a high risk area prone to landslides, with Françoise Coupé and Carlos Velásquez
- The new tram route with Mauricio Jaramillo, a tree specialist that acts as consultant to EDU

Walks specifically linked to the project themes (b):
- Pajarito Housing development, Theme 01
- Parque Lineal, Quebrada La Presidente from PUI, theme 02
- Plaza Botero hosting the Proyecto NN installation, Theme 03
- Carrera 80, theme 04
- Ruta tranvía (starting from Ayacucho), theme 02 and 04
- Parque Biblioteca Belén, theme 02

Specific transect walks undertaken with a particular focus for a scoping study (c):
- Comuna 8, for Risk and Resilience
- Ruta tranvía, for ‘from Valley to City’
- Carrera 80, for ‘mobility and socio-spatial Integration’
- Casa Pascasia, for ‘From grassroots to institutional’

Interviews conducted through a ‘walk and talk’ method:
- Judy Elena Echeverría, from Centro Cultural de Moravia to her house through Moravia
- Carlos Velásquez, from Comuna 8 public square to the community centre
The Medellín Urban Innovation #MUI research project has provided a platform for the interaction and exchange of knowledge between academics and other professionals in Medellín, Colombia and Edinburgh in the United Kingdom. The activities carried out during the project focused on the four themes introduced through this publication: Housing and Habitat; Heritage and Cultural Values; Public Space, Green Infrastructure and Well-being; And Socio-spatial mobility and integration.

The most successful aspect of the project so far has been the co-creation of knowledge in each of these thematic areas, integrating the perspectives of all the participants involved in the project, and trying to relate the questions posed by the research team.
to the development of local policies or revision of existing regulations, such as the Municipal Development Plan, for which the activities of the #MUI project provided a series of relevant comments.

During the last stage of this first phase of cooperation between both countries, it is relevant for the research team to develop opportunities focused on the concretion of the different scoping studies identified during the project, as well as the development of proposals that emphasize the impact of this process of Exchange and determine the following steps in the identification of specific topics that can lead future research, based on collaborative activities.