



NATURE IN THE CITY ANNUAL EVENT 2025

Urban Nature at the Margins:
Contested Climate Adaptation Governance in Urban Informality

10 and 11 December 2025 | Sciences Po
1 Place Saint Thomas, 75007 Paris

Attendance at this event is limited to authors of accepted papers, except for the roundtable discussion, which is open to the general public. External attendees are asked to register [here](#).

Wednesday, December 10

REGISTRATION	8.30-9.00
<p>Sciences Po 1, Place Sainth Thomas Meeting point: Entrance Hall</p>	
WELCOME INTRODUCTION	9:00-9:30 Room B001 St Thomas Campus
<p>Francesca Ferlicca (Sciences Po, Urban School) Ilaria Milazzo (Sciences Po, Urban School, Executive Dean)</p>	
OPENING KEYNOTE	09:30-11:00 Room B001 St Thomas Campus
<p>Title: Nature-based Solutions in African Cities: Weighing Up Space, Safety, and the Legitimacy of Land Uses</p> <p>Anna Taylor (University of Capetown and African Centre for Cities) Chair: Francesca Ferlicca (Sciences Po, Urban School) Discussant: Manisha Anantharaman (Sciences Po, CSO)</p>	
COFFEE BREAK	11:00-11:30 Caf��teria St Thomas Campus

PANEL 1

Competing Theorisation of Urban Nature in Marginal Spaces (I)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Joe Mulligan and Mathews Wakhungu (Kounkuey Design Initiative and KTH Royal Institute of Technology), “Rivers and People - new future and foresight methods for tackling competing land uses and politics in hazardous riverine neighbourhoods”</p> <p>2. Dasha Moschonas and Bruna Ferreira Montuori (University College London), “Co-creation of knowledge for capturing uncertain and dynamic environmental practices in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam”</p> <p>3. Ana Polgar (University of British Columbia), “Mapping the Gaps: Nature-based Solutions and Climate Risk in Rapidly Urbanizing Watersheds”</p> | <p>11:30-13:00
Room B001
St Thomas Campus</p> |
|---|---|

Chair: Eric Verdeil (Sciences Po, CERI)

LUNCH

13:00-14:15
Cafétéria
St Thomas Campus

MEETING WITH THE ARTISTS AND EXHIBITION VISIT

Edge of the City: Perspectives by Nina Berman and Ismail Alaoui Fdili

14:15-15:00
Cafétéria
St Thomas Campus

PANEL 2

Competing Theorisation of Urban Nature in Marginal Spaces (II)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Maike Hamann (University of Exeter), “Negotiating informality and urban resilience: Implications for equity”</p> <p>2. Erich Wolff and Loan Diep (Utrecht University, New York University), “Exploring urban nature ‘at the edge’: comparing concepts of nature-based solutions in marginal spaces between policy and practice in Brazil”</p> <p>3. Jordana Ramalho, Bruna Ferreira Montuori and Pascale Hofmann (University College London), “Lexicons of Nature-based Solutions: Insights from nature-people initiatives in East African informal settlements”</p> <p>4. Rita Lambert (University College London), “Environmental Justice and the Politics of Containment in Marginalised Territories”</p> | <p>15:00-16:30
Room B001
St Thomas Campus</p> |
|--|---|

Chair: Alvaro Artigas Pereira (Sciences Po, CEE)

COFFEE BREAK

16:30-17:00
Cafétéria
St Thomas Campus

PANEL 3

The Nexus Between Environmental Risk and Urban Informality and Discontinuous and Fragmented Climate Adaptation Governance

-
- 1. **Noah Valentin Weichgrebe and Ruchira Paul** (University of Cambridge, Cities Forum), “Informality as an Asset: Strengthening Climate Resilience in Municipal Waste Systems in Manila”

17:00-18:30
Room B001
St Thomas Campus
 - 2. **Luana Braz Villanova** (University of Vale do Paraiba & Trinity College Dublin), “Environmental Justice and Participatory Governance in Urban Nature-Based Solutions: Critical Reflections from Brazil to the Global South”
 - 3. **Hillary Birch** (York University), “The two waters are not the same: governing water quality between fragmentation and consolidation in Lusaka, Zambia”

Chair: Patrick le Galès (Sciences Po, CEE)

COCKTAIL

18:30-20:00
Cafétéria
St Thomas Campus

Thursday, December 11

SITE VISIT

Site visit to Quartier Python-Duvernois (20th arrondissement)
With Caroline Wajsfelner, Head of Urban Projects, Paris City Hall
Translation by Antoine Tisserant (Sciences Po, Urban School)
Meeting point: Pharmacie Porte de Bagnolet, next to Métro Porte de Bagnolet.

09:15-11:30
Pharmacie Porte de Bagnolet
6 Pl. de la Porte de Bagnolet
75020 Paris

LUNCH BREAK (ON YOUR OWN)

11.30 - 13:00

Participants will need approximately 40 minutes to return to the Sciences Po campus after the site visit. See [Google Maps](#) for details.

PANEL 4

Discontinuous and Fragmented Climate Adaptation Governance

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Pascale Hofmann, Joe Mulligan and Jordana Ramalho (University College London), “Coping with climate change at the margins: gendered and intersectional experiences of community-led climate action in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi”</p> <p>2. Georgina Andre (SUEZ Consulting), “From fragmented governance to actionable frameworks: mainstreaming nature-based solutions for climate adaptation in Kenyan secondary cities”</p> <p>3. Elena Marie Ensenado (Erasmus University Rotterdam), “From policy experimentation to institutional mainstreaming: tracing the pathways of nature-based solutions in cities”</p> | <p>14:00- 15:15
Room K.027
St Thomas Campus</p> |
|---|---|

Chair: Roberto Rodriguez (Sciences Po, LIEPP)

PANEL 5

Environmental Justice: Knowledge and Power in Climate Action

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Janneke Den Dekker-Arlain, Danick Trouwloo, Katinka Wijsman and Niki Frantzeskaki (Utrecht university), “Towards a decolonial praxis for nature-based solutions: scenario planning to cultivate alternative decolonial nature futures in Curaçao”</p> <p>2. Rita Lambert and Pascale Hofmann (University College London), “Imagining Bio-Urban Justice: Learning from Bogotá’s Transformative Practices”</p> <p>3. Melandri Steenkamp, Ernita van Wyk, Bongwiwe Simka, Mulesa Lumina and Angela van der Berg (ICLEI Africa), “Addressing human rights in urban natural asset governance in two West African Cities: a legal and practice perspective”</p> <p>4. Miquel Rossello Xamena (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), “Houses That Do Not Exist: A Participatory Planning Framework for Tourism-Driven Informalities in the Mediterranean”</p> | <p>15:30 - 17:00
Room K.027
St Thomas Campus</p> |
|--|--|

Chair: Agnès Deboulet (Université Paris 8)

COFFEE BREAK

17:00 – 17.30
Cafétéria
St Thomas Campus

ROUNDTABLE

From Research to Action: Translating Urban Nature Knowledge into Equitable Climate Policy

- Marie Hanagata (OECD)
- Julie Greenwalt (Cities Alliance)
- Anna Walnycki (IIED)
- Niki Frantzeskaki (Utrecht University)
- Vicente Ugalde (Colmex)

17:30-19.00
 Amphiteatre Erignac
 13 Rue de l'Université

Chair: Francesca Ferlicca (Sciences Po, Urban School)

The roundtable is open to the general public. Please register [here](#).

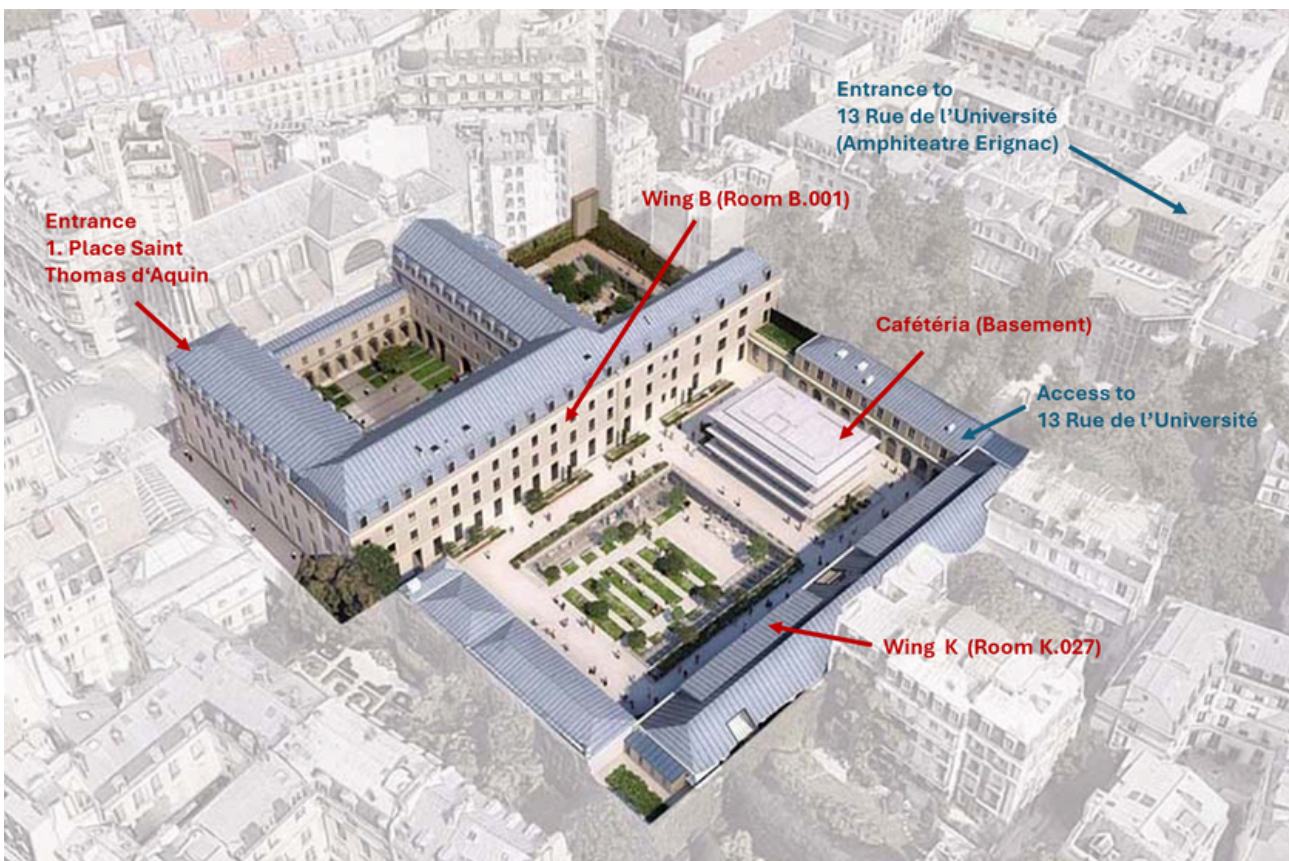
Practical Information

Venue Address

Registration: 1, Place Saint-Thomas d'Aquin, 75007
 Conferences: 1, Place Saint-Thomas d'Aquin, 75007
 Roundtable discussion: 13 Rue de l'Université, 75007

Site Visit Address

Pharmacie Porte de Bagnolet, 6 Pl. de la Porte de Bagnolet
 Itinerary back to campus (approx. 40 min): Metro Porte de Bagnolet (Line 3) → transfer at Réaumur-Sébastopol (Line 4) → Metro Saint-Germain-des-Prés. See [Google Maps](#) for details.



SITE VISIT

Quartier Python-Duvernois in the 20th arrondissement, a nature-focused project in a working-class neighbourhood.

OPENING KEYNOTE

Anna Taylor

University of Capetown and African Centre for cities

Anna Taylor is a senior researcher at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa, affiliated with the African Climate and Development Initiative and the African Centre for Cities. Trained in human geography and environmental science, her socially engaged scholarship is positioned at the nexus of climate change, cities and water, focussing on processes of adapting to climate risks, especially in African urban contexts. Anna teaches on two UCT Masters programmes – the Masters in Climate Change and Development and the Masters in Sustainable Urban Practice – and supervises postgraduate students researching various urban climate change issues.

Using transdisciplinary approaches, including practices of embedded research and facilitating Learning Labs, Anna co-produces knowledge on climate risks and resilience. Her current research is exploring urban groundwater governance and stewardship arrangements, relational agency and adaptive pathways.



Anna has been supporting South Africa's Presidential Climate Commission to operationalise a Climate Resilient Development Pathways (CRDPs) approach. This has included developing CRDPs guidance, as well as facilitating peer-to-peer learning to build climate resilience at the provincial and municipal scales. Anna has also been supporting the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) prepare South Africa's second Nationally Determined Contribution to meet the Paris Agreement of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Anna completed her PhD entitled '*Urban climate adaptation as a process of organisational decision making*' in 2017, working as an embedded researcher in the Cape Town city government as part of the Swedish-funded Mistra Urban Futures (M-UF) programme. Anna then went on to coordinate a team of seven embedded researchers working between the local university and city government in six cities across southern Africa – Windhoek, Lusaka, Maputo, Harare, Durban and Cape Town – as part of the Future Resilience of African Cities and Lands (FRACTAL) project.

Prior to joining UCT in 2011, Anna worked for the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), based at the SEI Oxford centre in the UK, supporting applied research and capacity strengthening on multi-stressor vulnerability assessment, risk communication and adaptation planning. Her work at SEI Oxford involved projects with large NGOs, notably WWF-UK and Oxfam, supporting the mainstreaming of climate adaptation in their work, as well as establishing the weADAPT platform.

ROUNDTABLE

Marie Hanagata (OECD)

Marie Hanagata is a Policy Analyst at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) where she actively contributes to the work of Decarbonising Building in Cities and Regions and Urban Policies and Sustainable Development. Her role involves providing support to national and subnational policymakers on topics related to the zero-carbon transition in cities, energy efficiency in buildings, building circularity, urban resilience, and nature-positive urban growth. Before joining the OECD, she worked in the housing and construction industry, where she specialised in life-cycle assessment of buildings and construction materials. Before joining the OECD, she worked in the Decarbonising Buildings Division at Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd., where she conducted research on life-cycle assessments of buildings in the Japanese context and provided consulting services to housing and manufacturing companies on implementing such assessments.



Julie Greenwalt (Cities Alliance)

Julie Greenwalt is an international climate change consultant who has been working on sustainable development and climate change for over fifteen years. She has a focus on climate change adaptation policies, nature-based solutions, and community-led climate action in cities. She has experience in a wide range of countries including: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Uganda and Yemen. She is currently the Chief Technical Advisor for National Adaptation Plans in Ghana and Malawi and the Senior Climate Advisor for Cities Alliance/UNOPS. She has done consulting work for the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, IISD, GGGI, the Nature Conservancy, UN-Habitat, Oxfam, Save the Children and UNEP on developing and implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation projects with a focus on projects. She has previously worked for the Global Center on Adaptation, Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat, UNEP and UNDP.

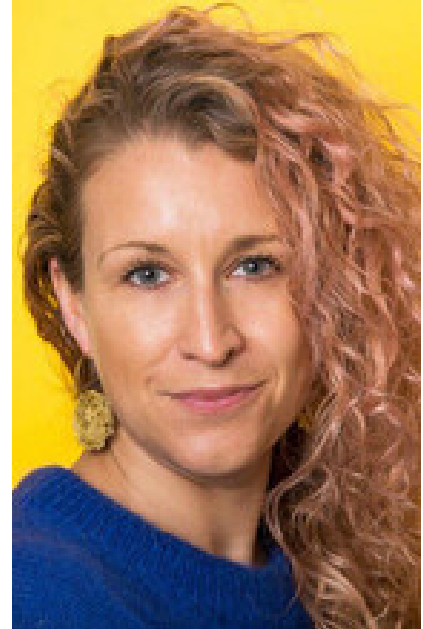


ROUNDTABLE

Anna Walnycki (IIED)

Anna Walnycki leads the International Institute for Environment and Development's (IIED) work on informal urbanisation, climate change, and inequality. She focuses on strengthening local knowledge and capacity through improved climate impact data and on demonstrating the social and environmental benefits of low-carbon upgrading to support replication across cities.

Her work promotes inclusive urban governance, bringing together diverse partners to test transformative approaches through initiatives such as urban labs. She also builds the financial case for equitable climate action that combines emission reductions with the upgrading of informal settlements. Anna leads IIED's role in the IKI-funded Transformative Urban Coalitions programme (with DIE, UNU, WRI, and partners in Latin America) and the British Academy-funded Grassroots Insights into Urban Risk project (with CCI in Tanzania). With over a decade of experience in Africa and Latin America, she advances mitigation-focused climate actions that also tackle urban inequalities.



Niki Frantzeskaki (Utrecht University)

Niki Frantzeskaki is Chair Professor of Regional and Metropolitan Governance and Planning at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Her expertise lies in urban transitions and transformations, focusing on governance and planning for climate change adaptation, mitigation, sustainability, and resilience. She also researches nature-based solutions that strengthen climate resilience and promote just urban futures.

Niki has extensive international research experience, with ongoing projects in Australia, Canada, and the United States. She was recognised as a Highly Cited Researcher by Clarivate Analytics in 2020 and 2021, placing her among the top 1% of researchers globally in the cross-field of social sciences and ecology.

Before joining Utrecht University, she was Research Professor and Director of the Centre for Urban Transitions at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne (2019–2021), and Associate Professor at the Dutch Research Institute for Transitions, Erasmus University Rotterdam (2010–2019). She has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles and four books on urban sustainability transitions.



ROUNDTABLE

Vicente Ugalde (Colmex)

Vicente Ugalde is Research Professor at the Centre for Demographic, Urban, and Environmental Studies at El Colegio de México, where he teaches courses on Urban Policies and Governance. He holds an M.A. in Urban Studies (2000) from El Colegio de México and a Ph.D. in Law (2006) from Université Panthéon-Assas. He has been a visiting researcher at several international institutions, including CEE Sciences Po (Paris), Université de Montréal, and CITERES at Université de Tours. His primary research focuses on environmental policy in Mexico, with particular attention to hazardous waste regulation and urban environmental policies. More recently, Professor Ugalde's work has expanded in two directions: first, toward the sociology of legal processes, with an emphasis on legal decision-making in the regulation of urban and environmental issues; and second, toward a comparative study of governance modes and urban development in major cities such as Paris, London, São Paulo, and Mexico City. He has also contributed to academic publishing, serving on the editorial boards of *Revista Espacialidades* (2014–2022), *Revista Administración Pública* (2009–2011), *CIESAS* (2015–2017), and *El Colegio de México* (2019–2025).



MEETING WITH ARTISTS AND ART EXHIBITION

Edge of the City: Perspectives by Nina Berman and Ismail Alaoui Fdili

Edge of the City brings together the works of Nina Berman and Ismail Alaoui Fdili, two artists exploring the fragile balance between destruction and regeneration in urban environments. Presented as part of Nature in the City Annual Event 2025, the exhibition reflects on urban margins as sites where human action and environmental transformation intersect, and where the consequences of development and care are made visible.

In the Bronx Gardens series, Nina Berman documents community gardens that have transformed abandoned lots in the Bronx into vibrant green sanctuaries. Her images highlight acts of collective care that redefine the possibilities of urban life.

In contrast, Ismail Alaoui Fdili's Under Destruction series focuses on the erasure of natural and cultural landscapes by construction and development. By printing his photographs on salvaged wall fragments, he turns traces of destruction into material witnesses of urban change and memory.

Together, their works reveal the city's margins as spaces of transformation — where human intervention and environmental forces coexist, and where the tensions between decay, regeneration, and memory shape the evolving urban landscape.

MEETING WITH ARTISTS AND ART EXHIBITION

Edge of the City: Perspectives by Nina Berman and Ismail Alaoui Fdili

Nina Berman / Bronx Gardens series

Nina Berman is a documentary photographer, filmmaker, journalist and educator. Her work explores American politics, militarism, environmental issues and post violence trauma. She started her photographic career in 1988 as an independent photographer working on assignment for the world's major magazines. She covered a range of issues, from women under siege during war in Bosnia and Afghanistan, to domestic issues of criminal justice, reproductive rights, and political process.



She will be exhibiting a selection from the Bronx Gardens series. Community gardens in The Bronx provide crucial spaces for residents to relax, socialize, grow healthy food and take refuge from the noise and stress of the city. Many gardens were once abandoned lots and dump sites until community members, often led by one visionary person, transformed the spaces into the vibrant green commons they are today. The Bronx, especially the South Bronx where most of these gardens are located, has historically been the poorest of New York City's five boroughs. Decades of disinvestment along with high levels of pollutants from industries and concentrated highway systems, has meant that Bronx residents, who are overwhelming Black and Hispanic, suffer from health disparities including the highest childhood asthma rates in the country. These gardens, and adjacent ecological interventions such as roof top bee keeping, are powerful examples of reclamation against a history of racialized capitalism and its eco-destructive logic.

Ismail Alaoui Fdili / Under Destruction series

Ismail Alaoui Fdili is a Moroccan artist born in 1992 in Casablanca, Morocco. A graduate of isdaT in Toulouse and ENSAPC in Cergy, he went on to pursue film studies at École Kourtrajmé under the mentorship of Ladj Ly. His work focuses on the margins and on people living in the space between social inclusion and exclusion. His playgrounds are transitional spaces such as landfills and parking lots.



He will be exhibiting a selection from the Under Destruction series. Under Destruction focuses on the destruction of natural spaces by construction sites. This series of photographs was taken in various places where this destruction has radically reshaped the landscape. Shot in countries such as Cambodia, Morocco, the Philippines, and Senegal, these images were later reworked to emphasize both the transformation of the landscape and the presence — or absence — of the workers themselves. After salvaging the walls of a cultural squat in Seine-Saint-Denis, demolished to make way for a real-estate development, the artist decided to silkscreen these photographs onto those wall fragments and present them as artifacts — witnesses to a present already in the process of becoming the past.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Manisha Anantharaman (Sciences Po, CSO)
Alvaro Artigas Pereira (Sciences Po, CEE)
Agnès Deboulet (Université Paris 8)
Francesca Ferlicca, (Sciences Po, Urban School)
Patrick Le Galès (Sciences Po, CEE)
Eric Verdeil (Sciences Po, CERI)
Tommaso Vitale (Sciences Po, CEE, Dean of the Urban School)

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Coordinator:
Francesca Ferlicca (Sciences Po, Urban School, Rachel L. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow)
Ebou Ceesay (Sciences Po, Urban School, Master in Governing the Large Metropolis)
Bertrand Vallet (Sciences Po, Urban School, Head of the Urban School LAB and Academic Director of the Urban Planning Master's Program)

LOCAL PARTNERS:

Urban School, Sciences Po
Institute for the Arts and Creation, Sciences Po

With the generous support of the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation and the Rachel L. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

SCIENCES PO URBAN SCHOOL



[LinkedIn](#)



[Instagram](#)



[E-Mail Newsletter](#)

