

Development, Citizenship and the City

Over decades, the ‘Global South’ has featured as an obvious ‘hot-spot’ for development interventions and ‘neatly crafted’ development blueprints from the ‘Global North’. The various approaches intended to sustain outcomes of development programs and ensure a trickle-down of socio-economic opportunities to the citizenry in the Global South, however, continually miss a fundamental prerequisite for bringing development to countries of the Global South: i.e. lack of precise and effective strategies for improving the socio-economic conditions of ‘citizens’ in that part of the world. Insights from anthropology literature on resource access (see Berry 2009; Boni 2006; Lund 2011) show that formulating development initiatives for certain target groups or persons a given polity in many areas of the Global South fundamentally require clearly defined **entitlements** to productive resources, business opportunities, protection of **property rights** and the existence of state-sanctioned regulations setting conditions that determine eligibility criteria for claiming and accessing certain privileges based on history, location as well as on identity, membership and status in a group or society. This can be further extended to include claims by particular groups for essential services or basic human needs such as shack dweller movements in Africa, Asia & Latin America, that have taken up the dictum of “the right to the city” to support their struggle for housing, infrastructure and property or for political representation.

There is still another dimension which require ‘citizens’ to act in concert to demand accountable governance and in a similar vein submit themselves to the ‘positive’ visions of the state for an effective delivery of essential services and creation of economic opportunities for improving the socio-economic well-being of the citizenry. The necessity to draw a line of distinction between persons/groups based on privileges of identity to access productive resources, the possibility to successfully press on the privileges of identity to make claims from the state (or legitimate state institutions) and the obligation to act as ‘responsible citizens’ of a state in the development process brings to the fore the inextricable connection between development and citizenship. Struggles around citizenship have implications for development patterns and vice versa and thus warrant academic debate/research.

Therefore citizenship research can be framed by the central question on how citizenship is mediated between lived experiences and formal entitlements in order to map out, confine, extend and enact the boundaries of belonging to a polity (see Isin 2008). “Geographies of citizenship” are then influenced by distinctive historical, territorial, philosophical, cultural traditions and trajectories (see Desforges, Jones & Woods 2006). The multiplicity of citizenship also signals its contestation by different groups in society, further driving the contingencies and the evolution of citizenship over space and time in the Global South (as well as in the Global North). The concept of citizenship then inevitably occupies a center-stage when analyzing development issues in Africa, Asia and South America.

The rise of **social movements** in many areas of the Global South, particularly in Latin America, denote citizens' quest for achieving just development through recognition, redistribution and accountability. Framing political and social movements in terms of recognition highlights the relational character of morality and justice (Taylor 1992; Honneth 1995). Justice is then not primarily concerned with how many goods a person should have but rather with what kind of standing vis-à-vis other persons she deserves (Young, 1990). It can be argued that only recognition and redistribution taken together would allow for the right kind of justice – i.e. the ideal of 'participatory parity' that guarantees equal participation for all subjects in public life (Fraser 2003, 36). Defining and enforcing privileges of citizenship require a nuanced analysis of the specific characteristics of states and political systems, territorialities, histories, cultural and political identities, and extents to which citizens in civil society can 'manoeuvre' to advance and secure their rights, deepen participation in all spheres of life and demand accountable governance (Thompson & Tapscott, 2010).

In the thematic field '**cities and citizenship**' (Holston & Appadurai 1996) focused on the Global South, both Working Groups find their strong common interest in the joint workshop: 2017 marked the 50-years jubilee of Henri Lefebvre's *Right to the City*, his "cry and demand" Andy Merrifield denoted, for a more participatory, democratic and just life in a global urban society. Harvey (2003) understands the *right to the city* not just as free access into an artefact that already exists, but he explicitly stresses the right to change it. Private property rights and the struggle for profit rates and capital accumulation are major causes for unequal, unjust and in the end contested spaces in cities. „(...) a different right to the city must be asserted politically. Derivative rights (like the right to be treated with dignity) should become fundamental and fundamental rights (of private property and the profit rate) should become derivative“ (Harvey 2003, 939).

In recent years, using hybrid media environments to voice opinions, denounce corruption and abuses or to negotiate (political) identities got of utmost importance for activists and social movements in the Global South resulting in new forms of '**digital citizenship**'. Blogging, social networks and digital storytelling are used for mobilisation, organisation and discussion. Citizens are increasingly becoming analysts themselves and provide first-hand and real-time information for digital activism. The place of digital citizenship and digital participatory activities in contemporary spaces of power relations and their interactions with traditional physical activism are, nonetheless, still debated.

In general, the conundrum that arises here is how so-called 'full-right-bearing citizens' of countries in the Global South can legitimately and successfully claim the privileges of citizenship – i.e. political representation, social justice and access to productive resources/ opportunities – to create, enhance and sustain development opportunities especially in this highly globalized (urban) world in the 21st century characterized by movement of goods, services, capital and the **(im-)mobilities** of people, governmentalised by **biopolitics of citizenship**. This is particularly striking in many areas of the Global South currently serving as hot-spots of foreign direct investments but characterized by poor definition and implementation of privileges of citizenship, histories of disenfranchisement and authoritarianism (Robins et al., 2008) as well as the difficulty to draw and secure national boundaries.

Hence, we want to adress the following thematic areas in our workshop:

- Property rights, entitlements and citizenship
- Social movements and citizenship
- Cities and citizenship
- Digital citizenship
- (Im-)mobilities and biopolitics of citizenship

Key Notes (working titles):

- Prof. Dr. Christian Lund (Copenhagen) – “*Property Rights and Citizenship*”
- Prof. Dr. Fred Krueger (Erlangen) – „*The Right to the African City*“
- Dr. Antje Daniel (Bayreuth) – “*Social Movements and Urban Resistance in the Global South*”

Format:

- Thematic sessions with conceptual and empirical inputs
- Plenary sessions & discussions of theoretical concepts (based on a delivered digital reader)

Program:

- Start: 25.10. 16.00 pm & End: 27.10. 1.00 pm

Call for papers and registration:

- Submission of abstracts (max. 250 words) until 15.06.2018 to Sozialgeographie@uni-bayreuth.de
- Online-registration dead-line on 30.09.2018

Invitations:

- Developing Areas Research Group (DARG) & Urban Geography Research Group (UGRG) – Royal Geographical Society
- Geographies of Development Specialities Group & Urban Geography Speciality Group – Association of American Geographers (AAG) and others....