

Dr Andrea Rigon, SFHEA, Associate Professor

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London

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Areas of expertise

poverty and inequalities, urban development, slum-upgrading, participatory planning, public participation, participatory methods, social diversity, informal settlements, social innovation, urban land tenure, urban conflict, social protection, sustainable livelihoods, mass displacement/forced migration in cities, NGOs and humanitarian organisations, higher education.

Skills

- **facilitate and mentor collaborative processes to design and establish new sustainable institutions, programmes, and frameworks** to address intractable challenges in complex contexts, with a diverse and large number of stakeholders
- bring together **different stakeholders**, including local communities, local and central governments, elected politicians, built environment professionals, NGOs, academia, media and private sector.
- active listener able to **quickly identify client's needs** and develop appropriate tailored solutions
- design and facilitate creative and **participatory development of organisational and programme strategies**, theories of change, evaluation frameworks, learning processes
- **policy-oriented research** and advocacy, **evidence gathering** for policy making
- design and deliver **participatory research, participatory learning and participatory decision-making** processes

Country Experience

Kenya, Sierra Leone, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Italy, Liberia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of Ireland, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Regional expertise of **Sub-Saharan Africa** and **Latin America**.

Selected Clients

DFID, UN-Habitat, ICF International, Comic Relief, CAFOD, Caritas Africa, IPSIA (ACLI Institute for Peace, Development, Innovation), Alphasights.

Languages

English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese (spoken, read only), French (spoken, read only)

Profile Summary

- 15+ years of international experience in the international development and urban development sectors working for international NGOs, academia, and consulting for the United Nations, international donors and government.
- Driven by a passion for impact and setting up new sustainable processes, programmes, institutions by focusing on effective project management:
 - founded and established an urban research centre in Sierra Leone in the post-Ebola context
 - opened the Kenya office of the IPSIA NGO
 - first chair of the board of innovative UK charity CatalyticAction working with refugee and host populations in the Middle East, helped to set up all internal processes and strategy.
 - developed a new professional training course for African professionals with over 2,500 joiners
 - a new programme of dissertation fellowships where students do their dissertation in partnership with external organisations including development NGOs, foundations, consultancies.
- Worked for over 7 years at the Bartlett Development Planning Unit, #1 faculty globally according to the most recognised university ranking: QS World University Ranking, within one of the universities consistently in the top 10 worldwide.
- Invited to deliver more than 15 talks in four languages in six different countries in addition to presenting my work in 18 conferences.

Education / Qualifications

2018	Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA).
2013	PhD in Sociology, Trinity College, Dublin. Institute for International Integration Studies and Department of Sociology.
2008	MSc in Globalisation & Development, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.
2005	BA in Development Studies, University of Pavia (Italy), 110/110 cum laude

Selected Professional History

Current position-	Associate Professor, the Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London (UCL); Programme Leader, MSc Social Development Practice; Director of Studies (2017-19); Teaching Fellow (2012-14)
2012-14	Research Coordinator/Participate Policy and Advocacy Manager, CAFOD and Beyond 2015; Consultant, CAFOD
Nov 2010-Feb 2011	Consultant, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Safer Cities Programme, Nairobi, Kenya
2009-11	Research Associate, Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi
2005-2007	Kenya Country Coordinator; Project Manager (2005-6); IPSIA NGO, Nairobi.

Selected Grants/Projects

2019-20	<i>Empowering communities through participatory design of social infrastructures in areas affected by mass displacement. Principal Investigator.</i> Funder: Grand Challenges Research Fund. Budget: £97,459 (Lebanon).
2018-19	<i>Bringing Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to Life. Principal Investigator.</i> Funder: CAFOD. Budget: £125,000 (Liberia, Zambia, Kenya, Sierra Leone). This project involves supporting civil society and governments in African countries to reflect on the national implementation of the global Agenda 2030.
2017-19	<i>Public services and vulnerability in the Lebanese context of large-scale displacement. Co-Investigator.</i> Grand Challenges Research Fund, British Academy. Budget: £300,000. (Lebanon).
2017-22	<i>RELIEF: Refugees, Education, Learning, Information Technology, and Entrepreneurship for the Future. Named Collaborator.</i> Funder: GCRF, ESRC. Budget: £4,959,260. (Lebanon).
2015-18	<i>Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC). Co-Project Director, Co-Principal Investigator and Co-Founder.</i> Funder: DFID/Comic Relief. Budget: £933,638 (Sierra Leone). The project involves a partnership with Njala University for the setting up of a research centre bringing together all major urban stakeholders in Freetown in order to develop research capacity and conduct world leading research, leading to equitable urban development in Sierra Leone.
2016-17	<i>Refugee self-reliance and humanitarian action in urban markets. Co-Principal Investigator.</i> Funder: Save the Children & DPU. Budget: £114,500. (Lebanon, India, Greece).
2016	<i>Knowledge production in urban infrastructure: lessons from and to Sierra Leonean informal settlements. Principal Investigator.</i> Funder: EPSRC. Budget: £7,400. (UK).
2014	<i>Wellbeing and citizenship in Urban Nigeria. Principal Investigator.</i> Funder: UK Department for International Development (DFID). Budget: £57,500. (Nigeria). Research Programme: Urbanisation Research Nigeria (URN), led by ICF International.
2012-13	<i>COMPASS 2015. Principal Investigator.</i> Funder: CAFOD & DFID through Participate Programme. Budget: £150,000 (multi-country: Bolivia, Philippines, Uganda, Zimbabwe). The final report was the outcome of a one-year participatory research project to get the views of communities living in extreme poverty about their priorities for a new global development agenda. The project involved leading 43 researchers and was translated into French and Spanish and launched at the 2013 United Nations General Assembly to contribute to the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prizes, Awards and Other Appointments

2016-now	Chair of Board of Catalytic Action , a UK Charity www.catalyticaction.org
2017-now	Board member, Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Freetown. Besides founding and building this centre, I am now supporting it as board member.
2019	UCL Team Education Award
2018	Provost's Award for Public Engagement , UCL, for my work in Sierra Leone
2018	UCL Education Award , to recognise my work in education at UCL.

Publications available here: <https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=ARIGO50>