

# Dr Andrea Rigon

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU)

Country experience: Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Nigeria, Bolivia, Brazil, Lebanon, Liberia, Philippines, Zimbabwe

## Education / Qualifications

2018	Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA). I was the only one holding this qualification in my department and one of only four people with the qualification in the Bartlett Faculty when I was awarded it (Oct 2018).
2013	PhD in Sociology, Trinity College, Dublin. Institute for International Integration Studies and Department of Sociology. External Examiner: Prof Carole Rakodi.
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

## Professional History

Oct 2019-	Associate Professor, the Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London
2017-2019	DPU Director of Studies (Departmental Tutor)
Feb 2017-Jan 2018	Acting Programme Leader, MSc Social Development Practice
Sep 2014-now	Lecturer, the Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London
Oct 2013-Mar 2014	Consultant, CAFOD
2012-2013	Research Coordinator/Participate Policy and Advocacy Manager, CAFOD and Beyond 2015
Jun 2012-Aug 2014	Teaching Fellow (20% FTE, 100% FTE since April 2014), the Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London
Nov 2010-Feb 2011	Consultant, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Safer Cities Programme, Nairobi, Kenya
2009-2011	Research Associate, Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi
2008	Intern for Rewrite the Future, International Save the Children Alliance, Secretariat London
2006-2007	Kenya Country Coordinator, IPSIA NGO, Nairobi
2005-2006	Project Manager, IPSIA NGO, Nairobi

## Other Appointments and Affiliations

- 2016-now **Chair of Board of Catalytic Action**, a UK Charity founded by former DPU students. [www.catalyticaction.org](http://www.catalyticaction.org)
- Years of research on participatory approaches have been used to advise and mentor participatory planning processes in Lebanon to work with Syrian refugees and host communities. This involved travelling to Lebanon and visit Catalytic Action projects in the Beqaa Valley.
  - Shared my skills of running organisations and my networks of non-governmental organisations to support this new start-up of UCL alumni
  - Catalytic Action is a key partner in the implementation of the UCL Institute for Global Prosperity RELIEF project.
- 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.
- 2015-now **Member of the Coordinating Group for Refugee and Forced Migrant Access to UCL** (Refuge in a Moving World) formed by 5 UCL staff which convenes the student-staff meetings on this topic and coordinated by Prof Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh.
- Chaired the working group on scholarships and negotiated directly with Prof Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost Education and Student Affairs, and managed to institutionalise through admission the possibility for students affected by displacement to get exempted from application fee.
  - Contributed to proposal for support for students affected by forced migration, including creation of forced migration champions, endorsed by Dame Nicola Brewer (UCL Vice-Provost International).
- 2014-now **External Examiner for two postgraduate programmes at Oxford Brookes University:** Introduction to Humanitarian Response; Advanced Humanitarian Operations Training; Working in the Humanitarian Context; and MA in Humanitarian Action and Conflict. Helped the approval of new modules and the transition of one programme from PG Cert to full MA. One programme delivered in multiple countries in both English and French.
- 2012-now Member, Development Studies Association
- 2012-17 Member, International Sociological Association
- **Peer reviewer** for the following academic journals: World Development, Urban Studies, Cities, Habitat International, Disasters, Progress in Planning, Development in Practice, Journal of Development Studies, Local Government Studies, Community Development Journal, Urban Research and Practice, Urbanisation, Journal of Humanitarian Affairs, Social Inclusion.
  - **Reviewer of research grant proposals** for: Economic and Social Research Council UK; UK Research and Innovation, Grand Challenge Research Fund; Israel Science Foundation, Centers of Excellence Programme.
  - **Reviewer of book proposals and manuscripts** for Springer and Routledge, including reviewing a proposal for a new edition.

## Prizes, Awards and Other Honours

- 2019 **UCL Team Education Award**, to recognise the work of my team in promoting planning education for African cities.
- 2019 International Centenary Pop-up Workshop, the Bartlett, £2,115. (with Hanna Baumann)
- 2018 **Provost's Award for Public Engagement**, UCL Culture, for my work in Sierra Leone
- 2018 **UCL Education Award**, to recognise my work in education at UCL and particularly the development of Dissertation Fellowships (see below under Teaching)

- 2018 Nominated to the Provost's "man allies" initiative supporting gender equality at UCL
- 2018 Santander Research Catalyst Award for travel to Brazil, £1,990
- 2015 Unsung Heroes of UCL, Nomination for Random Acts of Kindness, UCL
- 2012 International Sociological Association Scholarship to participate in the International PhD Laboratory of the International Sociological Association in Taipei
- 2011 European Sociological Association PhD Workshop, Geneva (this had a 12% success rate)
- 2009 Theory and Philosophy Summer School - Full scholarship for attendance, University of Cork
- 2009-12 Irish Research Council for the Humanities & Social Science (IRCHSS) Postgraduate Scholarship. Awarded most competitive and prestigious postgraduate scholarship in Ireland to carry out my PhD. More than **€66,000** (€48,000 stipend + PhD fees)
- 2008-09 Trinity College Postgraduate Award, one year scholarship
- 2005 Development Prize in the course 'Economics of Less Developed Countries' by Prof PJ Drudy, Trinity College

## Grants

The total value of the research projects in which I have been involved with a leading role exceeds **£1.7 million**.

- 2019-20 *Empowering communities through participatory design of social infrastructures in areas affected by mass displacement. **Principal Investigator***. Funder (External): Grand Challenge Research Fund. Budget: **£97,459 (Lebanon)**
- 2018-19 *Bringing Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to Life. **Principal Investigator***. Funder (External): CAFOD. Budget: **£125,000** (UCL fees £23,500) (**Liberia, Zambia, Kenya, Sierra Leone**).
- 2017-19 *Public services and vulnerability in the Lebanese context of large-scale displacement. **Co-Investigator***. PI: Prof Henrietta Moore. Funder (External): Grand Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), British Academy. Budget: **£300,000. (Lebanon)**.
- 2017-22 *RELIEF: Refugees, Education, Learning, Information Technology, and Entrepreneurship for the Future. **Named Collaborator***. PI: Prof Henrietta Moore. Funder (External): GCRF, ESRC. Budget: **£4,959,260. (Lebanon)**.
- 2015-18 *Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC). **Co-Project Director, Co-Principal Investigator and Co-Founder*** (with Dr Alexandre Apsan Frediani and Sierra Leonean partners Dr Joseph Macarthy and Mr Braima Koroma). Funder (External): DFID/Comic Relief. Budget: **£933,638** (of which competitive grant: £830,776). (**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, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), government institutions, local communities in order to develop research capacity and conduct world leading research, leading to equitable urban development in Sierra Leone. The project is implemented in the context of Sierra Leone which is at the 179<sup>th</sup> place out of 188 countries for the lowest Human Development Index. The establishment of the centre has also provided a platform for a number of other UCL and external research projects (e.g. Urban ARK; Future Health Systems, Urban Humanitarian Response) (see below under Enterprise\External Engagement).

- 2016-17 *Refugee self-reliance and humanitarian action in urban markets. Co-Principal Investigator.* Funder (External & Internal): Save the Children & DPU. Budget: **£114,500.** (Lebanon, India, Greece).
- 2016 *Knowledge production in urban infrastructure: lessons from and to Sierra Leonean informal settlements. Principal Investigator.* Funder (External): EPSRC. Budget: **£7,400.** (UK).
- 2014 *Wellbeing and citizenship in Urban Nigeria. Principal Investigator.* Funder (External): UK Department for International Development (DFID). Budget: **£57,500.** (Nigeria). Research Programme: Urbanisation Research Nigeria (URN), led by ICF International.
- 2012-13 *COMPASS 2015. Principal Investigator.* Funder (External): CAFOD & DFID through Participate Programme. Budget: **£150,000** (multi-country: **Bolivia, Philippines, Uganda, Zimbabwe**).

A number of grants were awarded to IPSIA NGO while I was working for them in Kenya.

## Invited Talks

- 2019 **Urban Poverty and Development Planning**, Opportunities and Urban Poverty, Canning House, 11 December.
- 2019 **Urban Livelihoods and the City Economy**, Urban Transformations in Sierra Leone, Lessons from SLURC's research in Freetown, British Council, Freetown, Sierra Leone, 19 June.
- 2019 **Recognising diversity in participatory urban infrastructure interventions.** Symposium: Vulnerability, Infrastructure, and Displacement: the role of public services in Lebanese spaces of migration London, 13 June.
- 2019 **MOOC: Development & planning in African cities.** KNOW learning exchange Learning exchange session on Massive Open Online Courses, Senate House, 28 March.
- 2019 **Diversidad social y conflictos en procesos de transformación urbana. Nairobi, Freetown, y Bar Elias.** Urban: Centro de Estudios Urbanos y Ambientales, EAFIT, Medellin, Colombia, 25 February.
- 2018 **Public Engagement through a Massive Open Online Course: training professionals on development & planning in African cities.** CAM Plus Comms Forum, University College London, 29 October.
- 2018 **Extractivismo urbano** (Urban extractivism), CEAPI (Centro de Estudios y Acción por la Igualdad), World Social Forum 2018, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, 16 March.
- 2018 **Lutas e Práticas Coletivas pelo Direito à Cidade: exemplos da Africa** (Collective struggles and practices for the right to the city: examples from Africa), **Thematic table: Lutas e Práticas coletivas do Direito à Cidade: Neoliberalismo Urbano ou Vida em Comum**, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil, 14 March.
- 2017 **Building institutions and relationships to enable knowledge to achieve social and environmental justice**, 30:30 Talk, DPU, UCL, 13 December.
- 2017 **Insights from first RELIEF scoping visit to Lebanon**, Panel: Migration, Education and International Development, Centre for Education and International Development Symposium, UCL Institute of Education, 15 June.
- 2017 **Evictions, market-led displacement, gentrification & the right to the city. Case studies and reflections from action-research**, invited by a collective of architects and urban researchers, The Mansion, Beirut, 14 April.

- 2016 **Good and ethical practice in ODA research**, BEAMS School Seminar: Research, Official Development Assistance, and the Global Challenges Research Fund, UCL, 8 June.
- 2015 **Researching local conflict: is co-production always possible?**, Practising Ethical Research in the Urban Global South, Practising Ethics in Built Environment Research Conference, UCL, 30 June.
- 2015 **Migration and Urbanisation: Addressing the Policy Gap in Development Cooperation** invited by the Swiss Development Agency and ETH Zurich during the 12th annual IMISCOE conference, University of Geneva, Switzerland, 26 June.
- 2014 **The privatisation of urban planning**, Development Planning Unit, London, 21 November.
- 2014 **Citizenship and well-being in Nigerian Cities: What is our role?**, DPU breakfast series, 13 November.
- 2014 **NVIVO Masterclass for PhD students**, Department of Sociology, Trinity College, Dublin, 3 April.
- 2012 **Struggle for land and housing: participation and capture in a Kenyan slum**, Seminar Series, Department of Anthropology, University College London, 26 November.
- 2010 **Bridging the Urban Divide: Social Inclusiveness in KSUP – Reducing Inequalities in Korogocho**, Roundtable on the Korogocho Slum Upgrading Programme at the presence of several ministries of the Government of Kenya, the United Nations, and the Government of Italy. Nairobi, Hilton Hotel, 10 March.

### Declined invitations

- 2015 Invitation to Speak and teach at the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) for the Professional Certificate Course in Social Development, London.

### Academic Supervision

- Mr Andrew Knight (2017, PhD) The Humanitarian Arena in Jordan and Greece. With Prof Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh. 1<sup>st</sup> supervisor.
- Rawya Khodor (2019, PhD) Donors-NGOs relationship in Lebanon. 1<sup>st</sup> supervisor.
- Mr Bruno Chichizola Ramírez (2015, PhD) Buen vivir and the capability approach: A study of indigenous cosmovision and its utility for development planning. With Dr Alexandre Apsan Frediani (upgraded). 2<sup>nd</sup> supervisor.
- Ms Fanny Froehlich (2015, PhD) The Construction of Gender in Development Work of International NGOs and Local Initiatives in Ghana. Understanding Normative Frameworks through studying Life Realities. With Mr Julian Walker (upgraded). 2<sup>nd</sup> supervisor.
- Ms Mara Torres Pinedo (2017, PhD) Human Mobility in Disaster Risk Management Networks. The role of DRM networks in shaping vulnerability of forced migrant populations to disaster risk. The cases of Bogotá and Mexico City. With Prof Henrietta Moore. 2<sup>nd</sup> supervisor.
- Ms Jing Zhang (2017, PhD), China's Economic Engagements in Sub-Saharan Africa through Special Economic Zones. With Prof Le-Yin Zhang. 2<sup>nd</sup> supervisor.

### PhD Examination

Examiner, PhD upgrading panels:

- Dr Katarina Soltesova (UCL Engineering) (MPhil-EngD transfer) (2014)
- Dr Pascale Hoffmann (UCL Engineering) (MPhil-EngD transfer) (2015)
- Ms Catalina de la Cruz Pincetti (UCL Institute of the Americas) (2015)
- Mr Harsh Jatkar (DPU) (2017)
- Ms Mara Torres Pinedo (UCL Institute for Global Prosperity) (2018)

## MSc Dissertations

In the past 7 years at UCL I have **supervised more than 45 MSc dissertations** from the DPU and the Department of History, and some of them have been published.

## Research Career Summary

The total budget of my research projects exceeds **£1.7 million**, the large majority of which as a **Principal Investigator** or **Co-Principal Investigator**. My research work focuses on how power relations affect the participation of different people and social groups in decision making processes that have an impact on their lives. My research involves micro-analysis of power relations and diversity issues, including how social identities (gender, class, ethnicity, age, etc.) play out in such decision making processes. My work analyses social and political conflicts and explores tensions between the individual and the collective. My research vision is to further theorise these processes in urban contexts through a sustained programme of research and publications.

I have been looking at self-organised, spontaneous collective action processes of 'organic' participation as well as 'externally' designed processes in which participation of certain people is sought and managed by external agents (e.g. non-governmental organisations, local government, etc.). I am particularly interested in how the participation of residents is managed within urban development projects, particularly in informal settlements, and what are the effects on in/equality and social exclusion. This interest emerged after two years working in informal settlements in Nairobi (Kenya) and being increasingly frustrated with the participatory practices implemented by development actors which excluded and displaced specific groups within the settlement. Therefore a lot of my work has focused on intra-community inequalities and ways to approach them, particularly in the informal low-income settlements of African cities.

I have also analysed processes of citizen participation at various scales from neighbourhood to global levels and have engaged in participatory action-research processes in several countries to contribute to local and global processes such as the definition of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

A related theme in my work is the tension between policy and practice, between ideologies of participation, inclusivity, horizontality, etc. and practices that contradict them. I explore these tensions through the ethnographic study of the practices of development organisations and social movements, with a focus on internal power relations and knowledge production. I have analysed these issues in the internal governance of social movements such as the World Social Forum (#33 cross-reference with publications list), in the participation of citizens in several policymaking spaces (#46, 47), and in government-led participatory slum-upgrading projects (#31, 32, 34). I have conducted research in Kenya, Bolivia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Brazil.

My ongoing research includes a longitudinal study of **participation and conflict in the implementation of slum-upgrading projects** where I am particularly interested in the upgrading of informal settlements in the context of pre-existing conflict, particularly around land. A core part of my work has focused on negotiation of individual and collective land titling to achieve security of tenure for poor urban dwellers. This has led to a number of single-authored publications on top-ranking journals including Urban Studies (#32), Development and Change (#34), and Environment and Urbanization (#31).

In the past three years, I have been implementing a **£933,638** project to establish an urban research centre in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, in partnership with Njala University. Through the centre, I have been part of a number of research activities, including as a **co-Principal Investigator** in a project on **Urban Livelihoods in Freetown's Informal Settlements** to develop a more detailed understanding of the existing livelihood strategies of women and men living in informal settlements, by focusing on a number of typical livelihood sectors in which informal settlement residents engage (#44).

A recently-completed project is **Refugee Self-reliance and Humanitarian Action in Urban Markets** in partnership with the Humanitarian Advisory Team at NGO Save the Children UK, which involved the co-hiring of a Research Associate between the two organisations, which I was line managing. The project focused on the linkages between urban, humanitarian and forced migration scholarships and produced an edited book (#1). The core issue of the relation between host and refugee communities has been further explored in the British Academy GCRF-funded project, **Public services and vulnerability in the Lebanese context of large-scale displacement** in which I am a co-Investigator, leading a **participatory spatial intervention** to reduce

vulnerability and conflict between host and refugee communities in the city of Bar Elias. The project developed innovations in participatory design and participatory research methods with a focus on incorporating a diversity lens to explore intra-communities inequalities in a context characterised by social tensions based on different intersecting dimensions of people's identity. The project also aimed to develop new methodological approaches to work with diversity through participatory design. This is a project linked to the £5 million RELIEF Centre of which I am a named collaborator. A policy-oriented project was the DFID-funded **Well-being and citizenship of urban Nigerians**, exploring how the well-being of urban citizens is understood in Nigeria, and identifying key trends affecting urban well-being (#30, 45).

The past five years have focused on applied research and external engagement, including building research capacity. In the next five years, I am planning to systematise the learning and theorise the processes I have been involved, dedicating more time to academic writing and working on edited collections. I am working on an edited collection on diversity and inequalities in urban development and one on the political economy of humanitarian organisations. Moreover, I am planning to translate into academic papers the learning from the process of building partnerships between higher education institutions and other actors in Sierra Leone.

## Teaching Career Summary

My teaching activities, summarised below, involve a number of responsibilities. Since 2008, I have been **teaching in Higher Education in the Republic of Ireland, UK, Italy, Sierra Leone and Brazil**. The diversity of approaches and teaching cultures has helped me to adapt to DPU **hyper-diverse student body**. My teaching builds on my experience and research interests, and it also reflects my search for bridges between development organisations, particularly NGOs, and academia. Since joining UCL, I developed the curriculum for two postgraduate modules which heavily draw upon my research as well as work experience in international development. In 2018, I have been awarded a **Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy** for my leadership role in teaching. I was also conferred a **UCL Education Award** for the development of the Dissertation Fellowship programme (see below).

- 2015-now **Establishing Teaching in Urban Development Planning in Sierra Leone** by founding a Research and Higher Education centre and work with colleagues across the globe to build the capacity of local academics to deliver planning courses. These specifically target urban professionals to fill a gap and achieve impact. These included trainings on urban risk, gender, livelihoods, and planning.
- 2018 Delivered course for urban professionals in Sierra Leone on Development and Planning in African cities with Dr Joseph Macarthy (see below under Enterprise\External Engagement).
- 2018 Developed a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Development and Planning in African cities with Dr Joseph Macarthy (see below under Enterprise\External Engagement).
- 2018 **Supported Federal University of São Paulo to develop pedagogical offer and MSc in Cities**. Three days sharing the learning from the 6 MSc at DPU/UCL, and their practice component in partnership with communities. Helped the development and later reviewed their proposal.
- 2012-now **Social Diversity, Inequality and Poverty** (30 Credits): This module explores the theoretical debates that link diverse social identities and power relations, and the competing models of equity and justice that attempt to reconcile them. It examines the implications of these debates for social development. The module also deals with different understandings, definitions and ways of measuring poverty and inequality and the implications for development policy and practice.
- 2014-now **NGOs and Social Transformation** (15 Credits): I established this module as a result of multiple engagements with Development NGOs. The module hosts panels of NGO practitioners (more than 10 NGO practitioners every year) to discuss contemporary challenges and thus becomes a space of reflection and mutual learning. The module engages with an emerging body of literature in critical development studies and anthropology of development, which reflexively analyses the practices and politics of development organisations and their staff. In doing so, it covers different theoretical approaches to NGOs, and analytical models of social change.

- 2014-17 **Conceived, developed, tested, expanded and mainstreamed a new departmental-wide programme of Dissertation Fellowships**, where postgraduate students do their dissertation on a topic relevant to an external development partner or research project. The programme has already benefited 68 students. The programme is based on connected curriculum and I received a **UCL Education Award** to recognise the value of this programme. I passed the implementation of the programme to a colleague.
- 2017-19 **Invited Lecturer**, MSc in Sustainable Engineering Management for International Development, Swansea University and Prince's Foundation for Building Community.
- 2017 **Creating the supporting materials and leading activities for MSc dissertations**, serving 200+ students each year. It included preparing comprehensive guidelines, Moodle page, and FAQs to guide students but also ensure consistent support across the 40+ supervisors (many on 10-20% FTE or less).
- 2015-now **Fieldtrip teaching and mentoring in Kenya and Brazil**. Every year I accompany the MSc Social Development Practice students on a 3-week fieldtrip overseas working with local communities.
- 2015 **Invited Lecturer**, Master's in Human Development & Food Security, Faculty of Economics, University of Roma Tre.
- 2013-18 **Guest Lecturer** in the DPU postgraduate modules: Social Policy and Citizenship, Social Development Practice, and Doctoral Seminar.
- 2011-12 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Sociology, Trinity College, Dublin.  
3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate course 'Globalisation and Development'
  - Module I: **Globalisation and Development**
  - Module II: **Global Culture and Local Knowledge**
- 2008-09 **Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer**, Department of Sociology, Trinity College, Dublin.  
3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate course 'Themes in Sociological Enquiry'
  - Module I: **Globalisation**
  - Module II: **Home and Migration**
- 2008 **Lecturer**, postgraduate programme for '**Peace Mediators**' promoted by the European Union and the Regional Government of Sardinia in Cagliari, Italy.  
Subjects covered: Urbanisation in Africa, Intercultural Communication, East African Culture, Development Cooperation in Conflict Zones (32 hours of teaching).
- 2008 **Tutor** in Nairobi, Kenya, during the internships with the NGO IPSIA (ACLI Institute for Peace Development and Innovation) for the students of the 'Peace Mediators' Programme.

## Enterprise\External Engagement

All my research activities are linked to external engagement. My area of expertise is very applied and I came to UCL with the aim to contribute to DPU's mission of building the capacity of national governments, local authorities, NGOs, aid agencies and businesses working towards socially just and sustainable development. This required an original approach to public engagement. The project that best exemplifies my external engagement is the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) which I co-founded in 2014 (see above under Grants) to engage a wide range of urban stakeholders in the promotion of equitable urban development in one of the most difficult contexts in the world, and for which I was awarded a **UCL Provost's Award for Public Engagement**. In this context, the relationships between urban stakeholders particularly government and communities living in informal settlements are characterised by mistrust and conflict.

I set out to found a new institution which brokered collaborative relationships amongst urban stakeholders. I did this through a wide range of activities to build capacity of local actors, co-produce knowledge, disseminate the knowledge to those who need it, and build partnerships for urban equitable development. This included



training programmes aimed at government staff, community members, NGO professionals, and researchers. Last year alone (2017) SLURC trained 361 women and men. The course *Development and Planning in African cities* (see below) was developed to train and foster interactions between African urban professionals, civil servants, and civil society leaders, reaching hundreds of people. SLURC also works very closely with a consortium of NGOs implementing projects in slum communities by providing them with the research capacity they need to build effective development programmes.

I organised a delegation of Sierra Leonean officials in Quito, Ecuador, at Habitat III, a global United Nations conference that takes place every 20 years. The delegation included the Mayor of Freetown (the Capital of Sierra Leone). I created opportunities for networking, advocacy, and looked for development partners. I organised meetings with the EU, UN-Habitat, and other African governments in which the plights of Freetown were put on the political agenda. Another important activity was the organisation of a network of Freetown Change makers made up of fifteen key individuals from government, civil society, academia, and media selected on the basis of their future role in transforming the city. They travelled to Cape Town (South Africa) for an intense programme of visits to the city and regional governments, NGOs, and community projects and reflected about how these experiences could be relevant for Sierra Leone.

SLURC worked as a platform enabling international researchers to co-produce knowledge with local researchers and thus to conduct research in what is a difficult research environment. SLURC provided access to communities and local researchers thus enabling ethical research directed towards the needs of the urban poor. SLURC allowed a two-way process in which local communities were listened to by academics and policy-makers, and influenced the research agenda in the country. Today, several international multi-million research projects involve SLURC and the communities with whom SLURC work as key partners. UCL's Vice-Provost International, Dame Nicola Brewer, has praised SLURC indicating it as a "brilliant case" and an ideal model of global public engagement.

My external engagement includes the mentoring of Bartlett alumni in the process of founding the UK charity Catalytic Action (see above under Other Appointments and Affiliations), which implements participatory design interventions for refugees and host communities in the Middle East. I am the chair of the Board of Trustees and collaborate with their activities. This external engagement is having a positive impact on UCL and they are highly involved in the implementation of the Bartlett flagship project RELIEF.

I have a strong engagement with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in international development and humanitarian settings, hosting a dozen of them in my postgraduate module *NGOs and Social Transformation* each year. This network was also deployed to build the mutually beneficial Dissertation Fellowship programme (see above under Teaching). I developed a new model for NGO-University collaboration by co-hiring a researcher with Save the Children, which led to a unique research project and policy-relevant publications (#1, 24). I worked in policy and advocacy research to influence the most important development agenda of the next decade: the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I have just signed a contract to conduct participatory research into the implementation of the SDGs in Africa. Prior to joining UCL, I was also a consultant for United Nations Human Settlements Programme assessing a programme to make cities safer.

- 2018      **Developed Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).** *Development and planning in African Cities: Exploring theories, policies and practices from Sierra Leone*, developed with Dr Joseph Macarthy, Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre, and with contributions from global experts. We had **over 2,500 participants** from **119 countries**. The course has been disseminated through the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa).
- 2018      **Development and Planning in African cities.** Course by DPU and SLURC for civil servants, urban professionals and academics, Freetown (Sierra Leone), 11-16 June.
- 2017-18    Supervising two MSc students to conduct **research on a new model of resettling refugees in the UK** through community sponsorship. Produced two reports in partnership with Citizens UK and the Foundation for Community Sponsorship of Refugees (#42, 43).
- 2014      **Invited speaker to the International Council of the International Minority Rights Group (MRG)** in a panel alongside Prof David Satterthwaite to discuss the issue of minorities' rights in the urban context and presenting on **citizenship and indigeneity in Nigerian cities**. MRG International Council Session, 10 October.

- 2014 Invited to be part of the Workshop ID100 led by Bond and the University of Sheffield at the Wellcome Trust to identify research questions relevant for post-2015 development policy and practice, 19 May. This led to the publication of a brief article “NGO-academics knowledge co-production” with Julian Walker and Alexandre Apsan Frediani on how the DPU approaches NGO-academics collaboration (# 40).
- 2013 **Presented results of my research in side event at United Nations General Assembly**, translated research outcomes in advocacy messages for the United Nations in order to influence the Sustainable Development Goals. Obtained appreciation for my report by the current Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Amina Mohammed. I was later commissioned to produce another report on how people living in poverty could participate to policy-making processes.
- 2009-10 Coordinated the work of an advocacy campaign “Stop Dumping Death on Us” to close the biggest dumpsite in East Africa and establish a proper solid waste management system in Nairobi.

## Media

- 2019 Interview: “Diversidad social y participación ciudadana, claves del desarrollo urbano”, EAFIT Noticias, 25 February.
- 2018 Documentary: Participatory Spatial Intervention. British Academy, UCL, Catalytic Action.
- 2017 Radio interview on Bartlett/UFBA work. Radio in Suburbio Ferroviario in Salvador, Brazil.
- 2017 Radio Interview on mudslides in Freetown. Radio Popolare, Italy.
- 2015 Radio Interview on the impact of the Ebola outbreak on Sierra Leone. Radio Popolare, Italy.
- 2014 Radio interview on Sierra Leone urban challenges and the role of research. Radio Njala University, Sierra Leone.
- 2009 I wrote daily articles from the World Social Forum in Belem (Brazil) for the Italian Newspaper l’Unità founded by Antonio Gramsci, 28 January-2 February.

## Institutional Citizenship

### Services to the DPU

- 2017-now **DPU Director of Studies** (Departmental Tutor)  
 Since 2017, I have been the DPU Director of Studies, overseeing all the teaching and learning activities, including admissions, chairing Departmental Teaching Committee, deputy chair of Student-Staff Consultative Committee, making all decision on Suspension of Regulations and Extenuating Circumstances. I review documentation of all new modules and programmes, and the preparation of departmental reports such as the UCL's Annual Student Experience Review (ASER). In particular, I supported a colleague new to UCL to get the new programme MSc Health in Urban Development approved.
- 2017-now Member of DPU Director’s Advisory Group
- 2014-17 DPU Careers Tutor  
 Developed a DPU **Careers Programme for 200+ students** every year to connect programme learning with professional practice, inspiring them from the beginning with ideas from alumni and staff on the pathways available. Lunchtime series with professionals (including employers of our alumni) allowed students to reflect on how their learning translates into transferable skills for specific sectors. The programme ends with a networking space for students to get personal mentoring from alumni and align their study/dissertation towards their future lives. Programme praised by management and programme leaders, institutionalised, and passed it on to other staff who are now running it. Also developed the Dissertation fellowships programme, mentioned above under teaching.
- 2017-18 Panel member of the Otto Koenigsberger Scholarship (OKS).

Member of at least 10 recruitment panels for academic and professional services staff.

## Services to the Bartlett

2017-now Member, Faculty Teaching Committee

2017-now Member, Faculty Postgraduate Programme Committee

2014-17 Member, Bartlett Library Committee

## Services to the College

2018 Part of the Provost's "man allies" initiative supporting gender equality at UCL (see above under Prizes, Awards, Honours)

2015-now Member of the Coordinating Group for Refugee and Forced Migrant Access to UCL (see above under Other Appointments and Affiliations)

## Languages

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

## Five Most Significant Publications

- Rigon, A. (2017). Intra-settlement politics and conflict in enumerations. *Environment and Urbanization*, 29(2), pp. 581-596. doi:10.1177/0956247817700339 Impact factor: 2.254 Altmetric Attention Score: 16 (top 7% of all research outputs tracked by Altmetric).

I am particularly proud of this paper because it directly criticises the main argument promoted by the journal in which it was published by problematising community enumerations and how they can exclude some of the most fragile residents of informal settlements. The paper demonstrates a complex politics of counting and numbers in informal settlements and how participatory enumerations can potentially lead to the displacement of many residents. In order to get the paper published I had to engage in several discussions with editors and reviewers who were promoting a different view on such processes.

- Rigon, A. (2014). Building Local Governance: Participation and Elite Capture in Slum-upgrading in Kenya. *Development and Change*, 45 (2), pp. 257-283. doi:10.1111/dech.12078 44 citations, impact factor: 1.526

This paper reveals how, by failing to recognise diversity and intra-community inequalities, participatory processes are captured by local elites and exacerbate pre-existing inequalities. The paper makes a compelling argument about the management of participation in urban interventions, which has been widely cited and acknowledged. In a different form, the contents of this paper have been shared with policy audiences.

- Fiori, J. and Rigon, A. (Eds.), (2017). Making Lives: Refugee Self-Reliance and Humanitarian Action in Cities. London: Save the Children.

This book was co-edited with Juliano Fiori, the Head of the Humanitarian Affairs Team at Save the Children, and was the outcome of a one-year collaborative project between DPU/UCL and Save the Children, where we experimented a novel approach to co-hire a research associate/humanitarian adviser working for both Save the Children and UCL. This allowed an academic project which was also able to contribute to a reflection inside one of the largest humanitarian organisations. The book is based on original research in India, Greece and Lebanon.

- Rigon, A., Koroma, B., Macarthy, J., Apsan Frediani, A. (2018). The Politics of Urban Management and Planning in African Cities. In Binns, T., Lynch, K., Nel, E. (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of African Development*. pp. 415-425, New York: Routledge.

This publication translates over 10 years of research and teaching into a pedagogical resource for students and tutors globally. It is the result of a multi-year process of reflection with colleagues in Sierra Leone to shift

the boundaries of planning thinking about African cities. The chapter contains cutting-edge thinking about African cities which we hope will change academic discourse as well as teaching on the subject. The chapter has already been used as the basis for a course in development planning in African cities for civil servants, urban professionals, civil society leaders and academics held in Freetown, which has also become a Massive Open Online Course with the same name produced as a collaboration between UCL and Njala University (see under Enterprise\External Engagement).

- Rigon, A. (2013). Setting the Post-2015 Development Compass: Voices from the Ground. London: CAFOD. (pp. 1-78).

This report is 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 in four countries: Bolivia, Philippines, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. The report 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. Research findings were used by the largest global civil society platform on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Beyond 2015, to advocate for the new agenda. On behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed, sent a thank you letter for the contribution this report made to the negotiation of the SDGs.

## Publications list

### Book

1. Fiori, J., **Rigon**, A. (Eds.), (2017). Making Lives: Refugee Self-Reliance and Humanitarian Action in Cities. London: Save the Children.

### Book Chapters

2. **Rigon**, A., Koroma, B., Macarthy, J., Apsan Frediani, A. (2018). The politics of urban management and planning in African cities. In Binns, T., Lynch, K., Nel, E. (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of African Development*. pp. 415-425, New York: Routledge.
3. **Rigon**, A. (2015). The effects of donors' ownership and participatory policy ideas on local power structures: A case study of informal settlements in Nairobi. In eds Charnoz, O, Diaz Pedregal, Virginie, Kolata A L, *Local Politics, Global Impacts: Steps to a Multi-Disciplinary Analysis of Scales*. pp. 205-222, Farnham: Ashgate.
4. Van Dijk, L., Abah, S., Burns, D., Cortez Ruiz, C., Frecheville, N., Kofi Annan, J., Narayanan P., **Rigon** A., Setchell, C. (2014). Linking Community Participatory Research to Global Policymaking: Lessons Learned. In Shahrokh, T., Wheeler, J. (Eds.), *Knowledge from the Margins: An anthology from a global network on participatory practice and policy influence*. pp. 46-52, Brighton: IDS.

### Conference Papers

5. **Rigon**, A. 2018, Diversity, Power and Slum-upgrading, Development Studies Association Conference: Global Inequalities, Manchester, 27 June.
6. **Rigon**, A. and Apsan Frediani, A. 2018, Partnering with higher education institutions for social and environmental justice in the global South: lessons from the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre, CEID Annual Conference on 'Higher Education and International Development', Institute of Education, 19 June.
7. **Rigon**, A., Koroma, B. & Walker J. 2018, Beyond formal and informal sector: an analysis of the livelihoods of informal settlement residents in Freetown, International Urban Conference, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, 1 February.
8. **Rigon**, A. 2015, Relational well-being and citizenship in urban Nigeria, Development Studies Association Conference, University of Bath, 7 September.
9. **Rigon**, A. 2014 Well-being and citizenship in urban Nigeria, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of Urban and Regional Planning (ICURP14), Urban Agenda for Africa: realities, challenges, potentials. University of Lagos, Nigeria, 14 October.
10. **Rigon**, A. 2012 Institutionalising patronage politics? Community governance in the implementation of a participatory urban development project in Nairobi, International Sociological Association Forum, *Social Justice and Democratization*, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, 3 August.
11. **Rigon**, A. 2012 Livelihood strategies' destruction and elite capture: an ethnography of a participatory slum-upgrading programme in a Nairobi informal settlement, European Association of Social Anthropologists Conference, *Uncertainty and Disquiet*, Paris, 11 July.
12. **Rigon**, A. 2012 Social exclusion through community participation in urban regeneration programmes: a case study from Kenya, *Rethinking Urban Inclusion: Spaces, Mobilisations, Interventions*, University of Coimbra, Portugal, 29 June.

13. **Rigon, A.** 2012 The effects of donor's ownership and participatory policies on local power structures: a case study of a slum-upgrading programme in Kenya, *Local Politics, Global Impacts: Steps to a Multi-Disciplinary Analysis of Scales*, the University of Chicago and the French Development Agency, Paris, 15 June.
14. **Rigon, A.** 2012 Livelihoods at risk: A case study of participatory community regeneration in urban Kenya, *Sociological Association of Ireland Conference*, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, 13 May.
15. **Rigon, A.** 2011 The "tyranny of structurelessness": unequal power relations in the governance of the World Social Forum process, *New agendas in social movement studies*, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, 26 November.
16. **Rigon, A.** 2011 'Slums are the solution': livelihood strategies and the politics of the "best practice". An ethnography of a slum-upgrading programme in Kenya, 5th Symposium of the Ghent Africa Platform, *(r)Urban Africa: multidisciplinary approaches to the African city*, University of Ghent, Belgium, 2 December.
17. **Rigon, A.** 2011 The institutionalisation of inequalities in participatory urban governance: the case of a slum-upgrading programme in Nairobi, Development Studies Association / EADI Conference, *Rethinking Development in an Age of Scarcity and Uncertainty*, York, 20 September.
18. **Rigon, A.** 2011 The institutionalisation of inequalities in participatory urban governance in Nairobi, European Sociological Association Conference *Social Relations in Turbulent Times*, Geneva, 10 September.
19. **Rigon, A.** 2011 Institutionalising power imbalances through community participation: landlords/tenants conflict in the development of informal settlements in Nairobi, *British Sociological Association Conference*, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, 8 April.
20. **Rigon, A.** 2011 Institutionalising power imbalances through community participation: landlords/tenants conflict in Nairobi, *Sociology Research Seminar*, Trinity College, 26 January.
21. **Rigon, A.** 2010 Institutionalising power imbalances through community participation: landlords/tenants conflict in the development of informal settlements in Nairobi, *IDS seminar*, Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya, 25 November.
22. **Rigon, A.** 2010 White Migrant Workers in Kenya: X-pats or Illegal Migrants?, *Conference: Migrants, Identity and the City*, Regent's College, London, 24 September.
23. **Rigon, A.** 2009 Transforming Institutions: the Politics of Debt Relief in Kenya, Anthropological Association of Ireland Conference *Memory, identity and belonging in an interconnected world*, Queen's University, Belfast, 1 May.

### Digital Resource

24. Carpi, E., **Rigon, A.**, Boano, C., Johnson, C., Espada, F., Fiori, J., Dicker, S. (2017). A framework for the analysis of refugee self-reliance and humanitarian action in urban markets. [Digital scholarly resource].

### Internet Publications/Policy Briefs

25. **Rigon, A.** (2017). Degrowth politics and policies for Degrowth. [Digital scholarly resource]. Retrieved from: <https://www.degrowth.de/en/2017/03/degrowth-politics-and-policies-for-degrowth>
26. Allen, A., Koroma, B., Osuteye, E., **Rigon, A.** (2017). Urban risk in Freetown's informal settlements: making the invisible visible. Policy Brief, SLURC, Freetown [Digital scholarly resource]. Retrieved from: [https://www.urbanark.org/sites/default/files/resources/UrbanArk\\_briefing\\_6\\_web%5B1%5D.pdf](https://www.urbanark.org/sites/default/files/resources/UrbanArk_briefing_6_web%5B1%5D.pdf)

27. **Rigon, A.** (2016). Anthropocene and social diversity: an important research agenda. [Digital scholarly resource]. Retrieved from: <http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/dpublog/2016/05/19/anthropocene-and-social-diversity-an-important-research-agenda>
28. **Rigon, A.** (2013). Changing indicators to change the world: evidence from the ground. [Digital scholarly resource]. Retrieved from: <http://cafodpolicy.wordpress.com/2013/04/05/changing-indicators-to-change-the-world-evidence-from-the-ground>
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## Journal Articles

- Rigon, A., Dabaj, J., Baumann, H.** (2019) Recognising Diversity in Participatory Urban Interventions. *Jadaliyya*, Dec 2019, Arab Studies Institute.
- Mintchev, N., Baumann, H., Moore, H., **Rigon, A., Dabaj, J.**, (2019) Towards a shared prosperity: co-designing solutions in Lebanon's spaces of displacement. *Journal of the British Academy*, 7 (S2) pp. 109-135. [10.5871/jba/007s2.109](https://doi.org/10.5871/jba/007s2.109)
30. **Rigon, A.** (2018). An analysis of well-being in urban Nigeria. *Development in Practice*, 28(2), 195-207. doi:10.1080/09614524.2018.1421618
  31. **Rigon, A.** (2017). Intra-settlement politics and conflict in enumerations. *Environment and Urbanization*, 29(2), 581-596. doi:10.1177/0956247817700339
  32. **Rigon, A.** (2016). Collective or individual titles? Conflict over tenure regularisation in a Kenyan informal settlement. *Urban Studies*, 53(13), 2758-2778. doi:10.1177/0042098015602658
  33. **Rigon, A.** (2015). Unequal power relations in the governance of the World Social Forum process: an analysis of the practices of the Nairobi Forum. *Interface: a journal for and about social movements*, 7(2), 75-97.
  34. **Rigon, A.** (2014). Building Local Governance: Participation and Elite Capture in Slum-upgrading in Kenya. *Development and Change*, 45(2), 257-283. doi:10.1111/dech.12078
  35. **Rigon, A.** (2013). Fragmentation and Democratic Transformations in Kenya: Ethnicity as an Outcome Rather Than a Cause (1992-2013). *ISPI Studies*, (170), 1-10.
  36. **Rigon, A.** (2013). The real data revolution: The participation of the poorest people. *Outreach*, 68th General Assembly (4), 4.
  37. **Rigon, A.** (2012). Knowledge from the margins in the post-2015 process. *Maitreyee*, 21.
  38. **Rigon, A.** (2010). White Migrant Workers in Kenya: X-pats or Illegal Migrants?. *The African Executive*, (257).

39. **Rigon, A.** (2006) I diritti umani tra universalismo e relativismo (Human Rights between Universalism and Relativism), *Jura Gentium - Journal of Philosophy of International Law and Global Politics*, Volume II, issue 1, 2006. Available online: <http://www.juragentium.org/topics/wlgo/it/rigon.htm>

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40. **Rigon, A., Walker, J., Apsan Frediani, A.** (2014). NGO-academics knowledge co-production. *The Networker*, Issue 109, p. 27, London: Bond.
41. **Rigon, A.** (2009). Daily articles from the World Social Forum 2009 for the Italian Newspaper l'Unità founded by Antonio Gramsci 28 January-2 February.

## Research Reports

- Nussey, C., **Rigon, A.**, (2019), Bringing Agenda 2030 to life. Regional Sustainable Development Report. CARITAS Africa: Nairobi.
- Nussey C., **Rigon, A.**, (2019), Bringing Agenda 2030 to Life. Kenya Sustainable Development Report CARITAS Kenya: Nairobi.
- Nussey, C, **Rigon, A.**, (2019), Bringing Agenda 2030 to Life. Liberia Sustainable Development Report. National Commission for Justice, Peace and Caritas: Monrovia.
- Nussey, C., **Rigon, A.**, (2019), Bringing Agenda 2030 to life. Sierra Leone Sustainable Development Report. CARITAS Sierra Leone: Freetown.
- Nussey, C., **Rigon, A.**, (2019), Bringing Agenda 2030 to life. Zambia Sustainable Development Report. CARITAS Zambia: Lusaka.
42. Alraie, M., Collins, H., **Rigon, A.** (2018). A comparison of community sponsorship and government-led resettlement of refugees in the UK. Key Findings. London: Bartlett Development Planning Unit.
43. Mahdi, A., Hannah, C., **Rigon, A.** (2018). A comparison of community sponsorship and government-led resettlement of refugees in the UK: Perspectives from newcomers and host communities. London: Bartlett Development Planning Unit.
44. Koroma, B., **Rigon, A.**, Walker, J., Sellu A. S. (2018), Urban livelihoods in Freetown's Informal Settlements. Freetown: SLURC.
45. **Rigon, A.**, Abah, S., Dangoji, S., Walker, J., Apsan Frediani, A., Ogunleye, O.J., Hirst, L. (2015). Well-being and citizenship in urban Nigeria. London: ICF International.
46. **Rigon, A.** (2014). Participation of people living in poverty in policy- making: Lessons for implementation of post-2015. London: CAFOD.
47. **Rigon, A.** (2013). Setting the post-2015 development compass: voices from the ground. pp. 1-78, London: CAFOD.

## Thesis

48. **Rigon, A.** (2013), Co-producing Development: Participation, Power and Conflict in the Upgrading of Informal Settlements in Nairobi. (Doctoral Dissertation). Trinity College Dublin.



## Working/Discussion Papers

49. **Rigon, A.,** Macarthy, J., Koroma, B., Walker, J., Apsan Frediani, A. (2017). Partnering with higher education institutions for social and environmental justice in the global South: lessons from the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre. London: DPU.
50. **Rigon, A.** (2010). 20 years of “sweat and blood”: lessons from the constitutional review process in Kenya. Milan: ISPI.
51. **Rigon, A.** (2010). Transforming Institutions: The Politics of Debt Relief in Kenya. Dublin: Institute for International Integration Studies.