



Urban resilience past, present and future: Celebrating David Satterthwaite

Event programme

Tuesday 14 May 2024, 10am-12pm BST/UK



David Satterthwaite makes a presentation at the TEDxHamburg City 2.0 event to advocate for new approaches to aid (Photo: TEDxHamburg)

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About the event

This event will bring together a distinguished panel of speakers from around the world to reflect on what has been learned from decades of experience working in urban development.

The discussion will celebrate the achievements of David Satterthwaite, an esteemed researcher, professor, author, co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, and recipient of the Volvo Environment Prize who has dedicated more than 50 years to delivering positive change in informal settlements and climate change adaptation.

We will explore David's influence and contributions through research and teaching, his work at IIED and with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and his engagement with federations of the urban poor.

About David Satterthwaite



David is a senior associate with IIED and visiting professor at the Development Planning Unit, University College London. He was a co-ordinating lead author of the chapter on urban adaptation in the Fifth Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and he recently published a book with other IPCC authors on how cities can combine development and climate change adaptation and mitigation. He was previously director of IIED's Human Settlements research group. He was awarded the Volvo Environment Prize in 2004 and was part of the IPCC team honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. He curates a blog series on the [transition to a predominantly urban world](#).

This new publication, '[Urban legend: one man, 50 years, countless seeds of hope](#)', reflects on the legacy of David Satterthwaite, IIED's accidental urbanist.

Agenda

This is the confirmed order of activities. Please note that the timings may shift slightly on the day.

Time	Activity
10.00-10.05	<p>Welcome and housekeeping</p> <p>Lucy Earle and Tom Mitchell</p>
10.05-10.30	<p>David's time at IIED and E&U</p> <p>Moderator: Lucy Earle Speakers: Diana Mitlin (recording), Cecilia Tacoli, Sheridan Bartlett</p> <p>About This session brings together three long-term collaborators of David's during his decades at IIED: Diana Mitlin, Cecilia Tacoli and Sheridan Bartlett. They will reflect on how, with David, they have generated new urban research agendas and carved out space to ensure the experience and knowledge of southern partners are shaping key debates, including through the journal <i>Environment and Urbanization (E&U)</i>.</p>
10.30-10.55	<p>David's contribution to shaping generations of urban practitioners</p> <p>Moderator: Alexandre Apsan Frediani Speakers: Pascale Hofmann, Donald Brown, Edgardo Bilsky, Gautam Bhan</p> <p>About David's work and ethics have been inspiring generations of urban development practitioners. His publications and his commitment to grassroots processes, knowledge and practices have played a key role in encouraging sensitivities, methodologies, and ways of working with those working in NGOs, governments, academia, donor agencies and beyond. This session will reflect on how David has contributed to shaping the formation of practitioners. The different speakers will share stories as well as testimonials on how David's work and pedagogical approach have been used in higher education teaching environments and processes of training and capacity development.</p>
10.55-11.05	Break
11.05-11.30	<p>David's work with the IPCC</p> <p>Moderator: David Dodman Speakers: Debra Roberts, Mark Pelling, Aromar Revi</p> <p>About Since 2001, David Satterthwaite has been a major driver of the urban agenda in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Generations of climate change scientists have been influenced by his knowledge and analysis of how cities and their residents are affected by climate change, and how they should be involved in tackling this crisis. This session – involving several of David's longstanding IPCC colleagues – explores the ongoing need for the IPCC and other climate processes to take cities seriously, how this is taking place, and the influence of David in this process.</p>
11.30-11.55	<p>Partnerships with grassroots organisations and federations of the urban poor</p>

Moderator: Anna Walnycki

Speakers: Somsook Boonyabancha, Joseph Muturi, Jorgelina Hardoy

About:

This panel will reflect on their experiences of working with grassroots organisations and federations to address the upgrading/housing/basic service needs at scale in cities in low- and middle-income nations over the last 30 years. Looking to the future, how might we increase the scale, scope and effectiveness of this work, not least in light of current and future risks posed by climate change? What priorities should be set?

11.55-12.00 **Closing remarks**

Sheela Patel

David Satterthwaite

Contributor profiles



Alexandre Apsan Frediani

Alexandre is a principal researcher at IIED. His work explores participatory approaches to planning and design of interventions in informal settlements in cities in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. Alexandre is an expert affiliate of Architecture Sans Frontières UK, a fellow of the Human Development and Capability Association, and part of the boards of Habitat International Coalition and the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre. [More information.](#)



Anna Walnycki

Anna is a principal researcher at IIED and works with civil society organisations and global partners to promote social justice and climate action in cities across the global South. Anna has over 10 years of experience co-producing action research on urban poverty and informality with long-term partners in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. She leads a new programme of work that promotes the development of mitigation-focused climate actions that also tackle urban inequalities. [More information.](#)



Aromar Revi

Aromar is the founding Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) and a global practice and thought leader, educator, and institution builder, with 40 years of local to global interdisciplinary experience. Aromar is one of the world's leading experts on global environmental change and one of the [most cited scholars on climate adaptation](#) and [disaster risk reduction](#). With David Satterthwaite, he was a Coordinating Lead Author of the 2014 IPCC Assessment Report 5 (AR5) on [Urban Areas](#). [More information.](#)



Cecilia Tacoli

Cecilia is a senior associate at IIED. Her work focusses on links between rural and urban development, with special attention to the role of small urban centres in the development of their surrounding region, migration and mobility, livelihood diversification and rural non-farm employment, and transformations in peri-urban areas. [More information.](#)



David Dodman

David is the General Director of IHS, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam. His research interests focus on urban climate change resilience and informality, and he has been a Coordinating Lead Author in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). David worked at IIED from 2008 to 2022, most recently as the Director of the Human Settlements Group. [More information.](#)



Debra Roberts

Debra has spent the last four decades working at the science-policy-practice interface in the fields of biodiversity planning and management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development and resilience at local and international levels. In 2015 Professor Roberts was a lead author of Chapter 8 (Urban Areas) of Working Group II's contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). She was elected as IPCC Co-Chair of Working Group II (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability) for the sixth assessment cycle. In 2019 and 2022/23 she was included in a list of the World's 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy. [More information.](#)



Diana Mitlin

Diana is a Professor of Global Urbanism in the Global Development Institute at The University of Manchester and also a Senior Associate at IIED. Her work focuses on urban poverty and inequality, including urban poverty reduction programmes and the contribution of collective action by low-income and otherwise disadvantaged groups. She has had a particular research focus on issues of urban basic services, tenure and housing. She has studied urban social movements and their strategies of confrontation and collaboration with state agencies. [More information.](#)



Donald Brown

Donald is an Associate Professor in the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London. Donald was once one of David's students in the DPU before going on to work with him on a variety of projects in the Human Settlements Group in IIED. After completing his PhD, Donald co-taught a module titled 'Urban environmental planning and management in Development' with David for several years. Like so many of us interested in sustainable urban development, Donald's work has been heavily inspired by David's contributions to the field. [More information.](#)



Edgardo Bilsky

Edgardo Bilsky, former director of research of United Cities and Local Governments, coordinated UCLG's triennial flagship report, the Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization ([GOLD](#)). Since 2006, six reports have been published. The last report, GOLD VI, is focused on urban and territorial inequalities. From 2017, he also coordinated the yearly report of local and regional governments to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF): [Towards the localization of the SDGs](#) and supported local government associations to develop [Voluntary Subnational Reviews](#) (26 countries since 2020).



Gautam Bhan

Gautam is Associate Dean, School of Human Development, as well as Senior Lead, Academics and Research, School of Human Development at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Bangalore. He holds a PhD in City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley. At IIHS, Gautam teaches, researches, and writes on the politics of urban poverty and inequality, urban and planning theory, housing, and identity and social practice. He anchors IIHS' work as a Centre for Excellence with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, as well as a knowledge partner to urban movements for housing rights. [More information.](#)



Jorgelina Hardoy

Jorgelina is a geographer, coordinator, and senior researcher at IIED – América Latina, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her work is focused on the Latin America region, developing collaborative processes to improve resilience and climate action in deprived urban neighbourhoods. She works with local communities and local governments to develop more integrated and transformative urban agendas, contributing to inform local and national policies and planning processes. [More information.](#)

Joe Muturi



Joe Muturi is the President of the Global Slum Dwellers International (SDI) Network and Chairs the SDI Board. He is a social activist and leader of [Muungano wa Wanavijiji](#), the national federation of slum dwellers in Kenya. Joe has been extensively involved in government and city-led projects that affect urban poor communities in Kenya. One of these is the precedent setting [Mukuru Special Planning Area \(SPA\)](#) project in Nairobi's Mukuru slums. Mukuru SPA sets in motion one of the largest informal settlement upgrading projects ever, aiming to transform a slum area of 650 acres into a healthy, functioning neighbourhood, improving the lives of people who live there. Currently, he serves as an advisory in the Global Resilient Partnership and sits on the Cities Alliance board. [More information.](#)

Lucy Earle



Lucy is the director of the Human Settlements Group at IIED. Her work focuses on the intersections of urbanisation, urban poverty, and humanitarian crises, particularly forced displacement into and within urban areas. She is especially interested in understanding how refugees and internally displaced people navigate urban systems to meet their basic needs and how displaced people can engage with local authorities to raise awareness of their needs, priorities and aspirations. Lucy also has a background in working on low-income housing, urban citizenship, and the right to the city in the Global South. [More information.](#)

Mark Pelling



Mark is a Professor in Risk and Disaster Reduction at the Institute of Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London. He was a Coordinating Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 5th and 6th Assessment Report and its Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation. His research focuses on social and political aspects of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, mainly in urban contexts and often in low- and middle-income countries. [More information.](#)

Pascale Hofmann



Pascale is an Associate Professor at the Development Planning Unit, UCL, and Joint Programme Leader of the MSc in Environment and Sustainable Development. Most of her work centres around infrastructure and service provision arrangements in urban and peri-urban contexts in a changing climate to generate knowledge towards pathways for more sustainable and inclusive futures. [More information.](#)



Sheela Patel

Sheela is the founder and director of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) India, which is based in Mumbai, and works in partnership with the National Slum Dweller Federation and Mahila Milan. SPARC has been working since 1984 to support community organisations of the urban poor in their efforts to access secure housing and basic amenities and seek their right to the city. [More information.](#)



Sheridan Bartlett

Sheridan's work straddles the divide between the field of child development and the world of housing, community development, social justice and urban poverty. Despite their mutual relevance, bringing these two domains into conversation with one another remains a challenge. Work has included research and consultancies with UNICEF, Save the Children, the Aga Khan Foundation and Bernard van Leer, an affiliation with the Children's Environments Research Group at CUNY Graduate Center in New York, and work with the Human Settlements Group at IIED primarily as managing editor and then co-editor of Environment and Urbanization.



Somsook Boonyabancha

Somsook is chairperson of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, a coalition of organisations working on urban poor housing development in Asia. She was the former Director of the Community Organizations Development Institute in Thailand (2000-2008) and still being chairperson of CODI's National Slum Upgrading Committee. She was born in 1951 in Thailand, and she studied Architecture at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and from the Housing and Urbanization Course in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1978, with an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Khonkhaen University. She received the Japan Housing Association IYSH Award, among others.



Tom Mitchell

Tom is the executive director of IIED. Tom has a keen interest in leadership in complexity and a research background in systems innovation, climate resilience, and anticipatory governance. Previously with senior roles at Climate-KIC and the Overseas Development Institute, Tom has also served as an IPCC co-ordinating lead author and a UN senior technical advisor. [More information.](#)

If you have any questions about the event, please contact:

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