ICCCASU Newsletter

Bulletin de l'ICCCASU

May / Mai 2026

Research, dialogue, and collaboration across Canada, China, and Africa

www.icccasu.org

Welcome ICCCASU Subscriber / Bienvenue aux abonnés de l'ICCCASU

Dear ICCCASU Members,

Welcome to the May 2026 edition of the ICCCASU newsletter. This issue brings together recent activities and publications across the ICCCASU network in a concise format. We highlight the April 2026 roundtable on panhandling, preview the 2nd Canada-China Housing Workshop, present recent ICCCASU team publications, announce the second issue of City Development: Issues and Best Practices (CDIBP), share three current calls for papers, and note a new Canada-Europe housing collaboration.

Chères et chers membres d'ICCCASU,

Bienvenue dans l'édition de mai 2026 du bulletin de l'ICCCASU. Ce numéro présente, de manière concise, les activités et publications récentes du réseau ICCCASU. Il met en lumière la table ronde d'avril 2026 sur la mendicité aux intersections urbaines, le 2e atelier Canada-Chine sur le logement, des publications récentes de l'équipe ICCCASU, le deuxième numéro de City Development: Issues and Best Practices (CDIBP), trois appels à contributions et une nouvelle collaboration Canada-Europe sur le logement.

Warm regards / Cordialement,

The ICCCASU Organizing Committee / Le comité d'organisation de l'ICCCASU

ICCCASU Roundtable: Caring for Individuals Seeking Assistance at Urban Intersections

Roundtable participants at the University of Ottawa, April 30, 2026

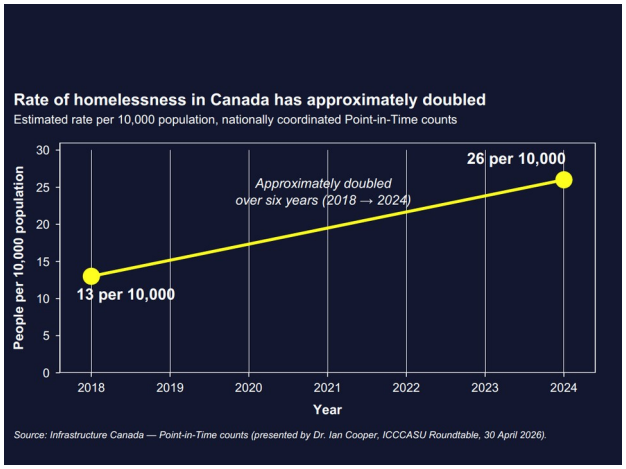
On April 30, 2026, ICCCASU held a bilingual roundtable on panhandling at urban intersections at the University of Ottawa. The event brought together scholars, policymakers, and community practitioners to examine panhandling not as an isolated behaviour, but as part of broader structural pressures related to housing affordability, poverty, mental health, addiction, and public-space governance.

A central message of the discussion was the need to balance human dignity with public safety and to move beyond enforcement-only responses. The roundtable connected local evidence from Ottawa and Toronto with national homelessness trends and international perspectives, helping frame the issue as a complex urban challenge that requires coordinated and evidence-based responses.

Beyond the opening discussion, the roundtable also moved through a more detailed evidence base. Presentations and panel exchanges connected panhandling at intersections to both local governance and national homelessness trends: the ICCCASU Toronto project drew on approximately 300 interviews to clarify distinctions between passive and aggressive solicitation and to question common assumptions about traffic safety, while national evidence showed visible homelessness rising sharply across Canadian communities. The discussion therefore pointed toward responses that combine housing and service supports, harm-reduction and outreach models, and careful attention to intersection safety, rather than relying mainly on fines or displacement-based enforcement.

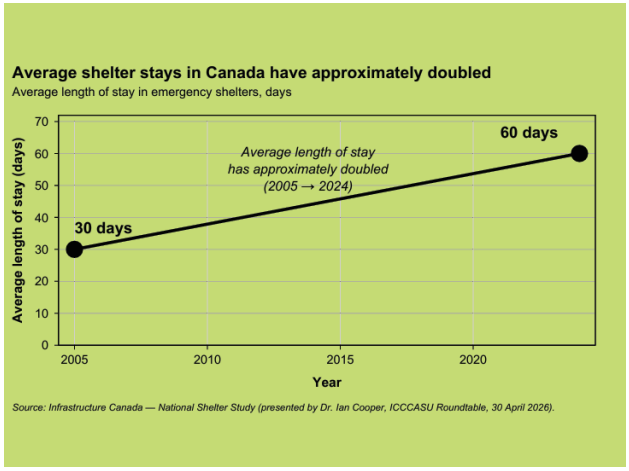
Key takeaways

- Panhandling at intersections reflects deeper structural pressures, not only individual behaviour.
- Recent national evidence presented at the roundtable showed visible homelessness intensifying across Canadian cities.
- Participants emphasized that public safety, dignity, and practical service responses must be considered together.
- The meeting opened a broader conversation rather than claiming a single solution.



Points clés

- La mendicité aux intersections reflète des pressions structurelles plus profondes et ne saurait être réduite à un simple comportement individuel.
- Les données nationales récentes présentées lors de la table ronde ont montré une intensification de l'itinérance visible dans plusieurs villes canadiennes.
- Les participants ont souligné que la sécurité publique, la dignité humaine et les réponses concrètes en matière de services doivent être envisagées conjointement.
- La rencontre a permis d'ouvrir un dialogue plus large, sans prétendre proposer une solution unique.



For more information, including the meeting video, news brief, meeting details, and roundtable PowerPoint slides, visit: Meeting video | News brief (PDF) | Roundtable page and PowerPoint

Next steps. Since the roundtable, ICCCASU has continued contacting key partners to gather feedback on the first event, discuss how best to prepare a second roundtable, and explore possible opportunities for future joint funding applications. At the same time, the organizing committee has decided to launch a call for papers for a CDIBP special issue on panhandling and homelessness through ICCCASU's online journal hosted on the University of Ottawa OJS system. The aim is to compare international experiences, since these cases can help us better understand the phenomenon and identify possible policy and community-based responses.

Le 30 avril 2026, l'ICCCASU a organisé, à l'Université d'Ottawa, une table ronde bilingue sur la mendicité aux intersections urbaines. L'événement a réuni des chercheurs, des décideurs publics et des praticiens communautaires afin d'examiner la mendicité non pas comme un comportement isolé, mais comme le reflet de pressions structurelles plus larges liées à l'abordabilité du logement, à la pauvreté, à la santé mentale, aux dépendances et à la gouvernance des espaces publics.

Un message central des échanges était la nécessité de concilier dignité humaine et sécurité publique, tout en dépassant les réponses fondées uniquement sur des mesures coercitives. La table ronde a mis en relation des données locales provenant d'Ottawa et de Toronto avec les tendances nationales de l'itinérance ainsi que des

perspectives internationales, ce qui a permis de présenter la question comme un défi urbain complexe nécessitant des réponses coordonnées et fondées sur des données probantes.

Au-delà des discussions d'ouverture, l'événement a également permis d'approfondir la base empirique du débat. Les présentations et les échanges en panel ont relié la mendicité aux intersections aux enjeux de gouvernance locale et aux tendances nationales de l'itinérance. Le projet torontois d'ICCCASU, fondé sur environ 300 entretiens, a notamment permis de clarifier les distinctions entre sollicitation passive et agressive et de remettre en question certaines perceptions courantes concernant la sécurité routière. Parallèlement, les données nationales ont montré une hausse importante de l'itinérance visible dans plusieurs collectivités canadiennes. Les discussions ont ainsi mis de l'avant des approches combinant soutien au logement et aux services sociaux, stratégies de réduction des méfaits et interventions de proximité communautaire, ainsi qu'une attention particulière à la sécurité aux intersections, plutôt qu'un recours principal aux amendes ou aux stratégies de déplacement.

Prochaines étapes. Depuis la tenue de la table ronde, l'ICCCASU poursuit ses échanges avec des partenaires clés afin de recueillir des commentaires sur ce premier événement, de réfléchir à la préparation d'une deuxième table ronde et d'explorer d'éventuelles possibilités de demandes conjointes de financement. Parallèlement, le comité organisateur a décidé de lancer un appel à contributions pour un numéro spécial de CDIBP consacré à la mendicité et à l'itinérance, dans le cadre de la revue en ligne d'ICCCASU hébergée sur la plateforme OJS de l'Université d'Ottawa. L'objectif est de comparer différentes expériences internationales afin de mieux comprendre ce phénomène et d'identifier des pistes de réponses politiques et communautaires adaptées.

Upcoming Event: 2nd Canada-China Housing Workshop in Shanghai and Hangzhou, China

Workshop snapshot

Planned dates: Last week of October 2026.

Locations: Shanghai and Hangzhou.

Hosts identified in planning materials: Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Zhejiang University of Technology.

Format: two-day workshop with expert panels, policy sessions, case studies, and site visits.

Core focus: mid-rise housing, wood-based construction, prefabrication, modular systems, advanced construction technologies, and modern methods of construction.

Shanghai skyline from the Bund. Photo: Wikimedia Commons, CC0 1.0.

Building on the foundation established by the 1st Canada-China Housing Workshop in Ottawa in 2024 (please read more about the first workshop at https://icccasu.com/canada-china-housing-workshop/), ICCCASU is preparing the 2nd Canada-China Housing Workshop for October 2026. The planned two-day event will be hosted by Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Zhejiang University of Technology and will bring together academic, policy, and industry partners from both countries.

The workshop will focus on shared housing challenges and opportunities, especially housing affordability, sustainability, construction productivity, and urban livability. Particular attention will be given to mid-rise housing, advanced wood construction, prefabrication, modular systems, and modern methods of construction. The workshop is designed not only as an academic exchange, but also as a knowledge-mobilization platform linking research, policy, manufacturing, forestry, and urban development.

The proposed discussions also speak directly to current policy shifts in China toward urban renewal, housing quality, and more livable cities, as well as to Canadian strengths in wood construction, low-carbon building, and

missing-middle housing. Expected outputs include case studies, a draft white paper, and a stronger platform for future Canada-China collaboration in housing innovation.

Hangzhou CBD. Photo: Baycrest/Foxy1219, CC BY-SA 2.5 via Wikimedia Commons.

Proposed session themes

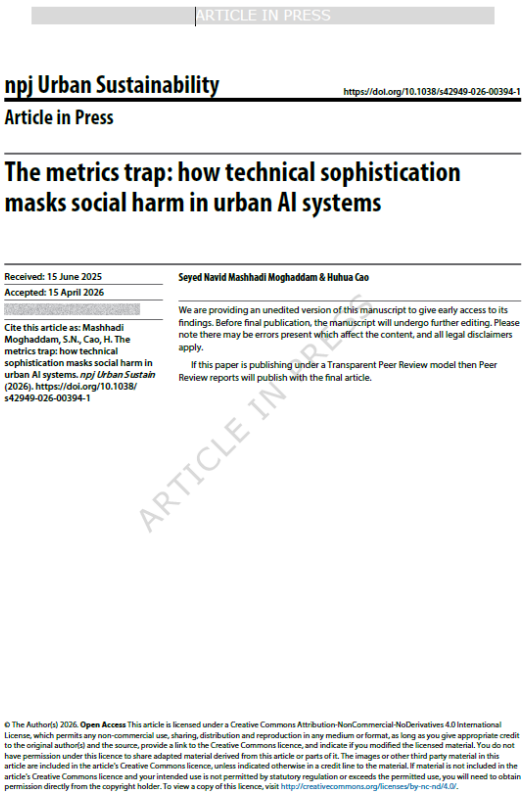
1. Key takeaways from the first workshop and comparative context.
2. Innovation and automation in housing construction.
3. Current and emerging technologies, techniques, and building systems.
4. Case studies from Canada and China.
5. Actors and ecosystems of innovation.
6. Materials for mid-rise construction, including wood, mass timber, hybrid systems, and alternatives.
7. Sustainable construction, demolition, circular economies, and embodied energy.
8. Barriers to innovation and scaling.
9. Enabling policies, programs, and public-sector supports.
10. Paths forward for Canada-China collaboration.

Recent Publications / Publications récentes

New article in npj Urban Sustainability

ICCCASU is pleased to highlight a recent team publication in npj Urban Sustainability, titled "The Metrics Trap: How Technical Sophistication Masks Social Harm in Urban AI Systems". The article reflects the group's broader contribution to responsible urban analytics by asking a central question for contemporary smart-city governance: what happens when strong technical performance does not translate into socially meaningful outcomes?

Nouvel article dans npj Urban Sustainability : L'ICCCASU a le plaisir de mettre en lumière une publication récente de son équipe dans npj Urban Sustainability, intitulée "The Metrics Trap: How Technical Sophistication Masks Social Harm in Urban AI Systems". Cet article reflète la contribution plus large du groupe au développement d'une analytique urbaine responsable en posant une question centrale pour la gouvernance contemporaine des villes intelligentes : que se passe-t-il lorsque de solides performances techniques ne se traduisent pas par des résultats socialement significatifs?



ARTICLE IN PRESS

npj Urban Sustainability https://doi.org/10.1038/s42949-026-00394-1

Article in Press

The metrics trap: how technical sophistication masks social harm in urban AI systems

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Cite this article as: Mashhadi Moghaddam, S.N., Cao, H. The metrics trap: how technical sophistication masks social harm in urban AI systems. *npj Urban Sustain* (2026). https://doi.org/10.1038/s42949-026-00394-1

Seyed Navid Mashhadi Moghaddam & Huhua Cao

We are providing an unedited version of this manuscript to give early access to its findings. Before final publication, the manuscript will undergo further editing. Please note there may be errors present which affect the content, and all legal disclaimers apply.

If this paper is publishing under a Transparent Peer Review model then Peer Review reports will publish with the final article.

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Why this article matters

- It strengthens ICCCASU's think-tank role by connecting AI methods with questions of urban governance, equity, and accountability.
- It shows how technically strong models can still hide or reproduce social harm if they are assessed only through narrow performance metrics.
- It provides a practical framework for evaluating urban AI beyond accuracy, with attention to accountability, social outcomes, and public decision-making.

Pourquoi cet article est important

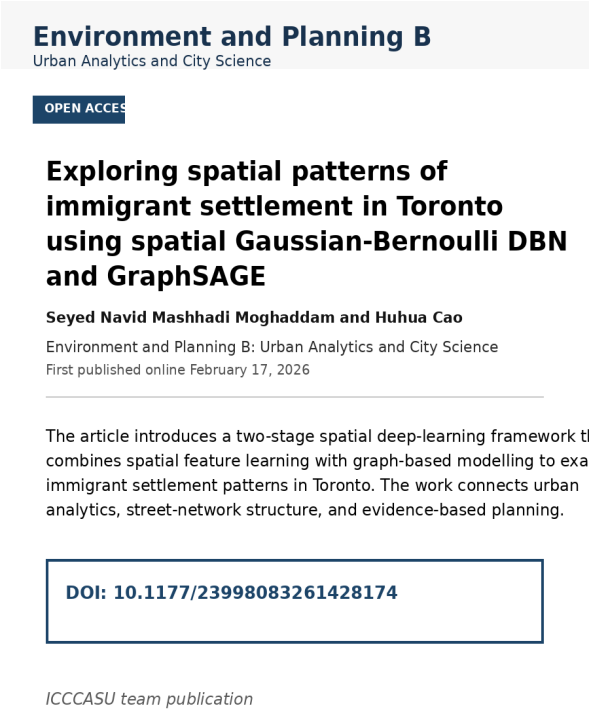
- Il renforce le rôle d'ICCCASU en tant que groupe de réflexion en reliant les méthodes d'intelligence artificielle aux enjeux de gouvernance urbaine, d'équité et de responsabilité.
- Il montre que des modèles techniquement performants peuvent néanmoins dissimuler ou reproduire des effets sociaux néfastes lorsqu'ils sont évalués uniquement à partir d'indicateurs de performance restreints.
- Il propose un cadre pratique pour évaluer l'intelligence artificielle urbaine au-delà de la simple précision technique, en accordant une attention particulière à la responsabilité, aux impacts sociaux et à la prise de décision publique.

For more information: Read the article

New article in Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science

ICCCASU also highlights another recent team publication, titled “Exploring Spatial Patterns of Immigrant Settlement in Toronto Using Spatial Gaussian-Bernoulli DBN and GraphSAGE”. The article develops a spatial deep-learning framework for studying immigrant settlement patterns in Toronto and connects technical innovation with practical questions of urban planning, community integration, and evidence-based decision-making.

Nouvel article dans Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science: L’ICCCASU souhaite également mettre en lumière une autre publication récente de son équipe, intitulée “Exploring Spatial Patterns of Immigrant Settlement in Toronto Using Spatial Gaussian-Bernoulli DBN and GraphSAGE”. Cet article développe un cadre d’apprentissage profond spatial pour étudier les dynamiques d’établissement des immigrants à Toronto, tout en reliant l’innovation technique à des enjeux concrets de planification urbaine, d’intégration communautaire et de prise de décision fondée sur des données probantes.



Environment and Planning B
Urban Analytics and City Science

OPEN ACCES

Exploring spatial patterns of immigrant settlement in Toronto using spatial Gaussian-Bernoulli DBN and GraphSAGE

Seyed Navid Mashhadi Moghaddam and Huhua Cao

Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science
First published online February 17, 2026

The article introduces a two-stage spatial deep-learning framework tl combines spatial feature learning with graph-based modelling to exa immigrant settlement patterns in Toronto. The work connects urban analytics, street-network structure, and evidence-based planning.

DOI: 10.1177/23998083261428174

ICCCASU team publication

Why this article matters

• It extends the team’s work on interpretable spatial AI by combining spatial feature learning with graph-based modelling.

• It examines immigrant settlement in Toronto through connected urban space, including the role of street-network structure rather than isolated locations alone.

• It offers a transferable framework for studying settlement, neighbourhood change, and planning needs in metropolitan regions.

Pourquoi cet article est important

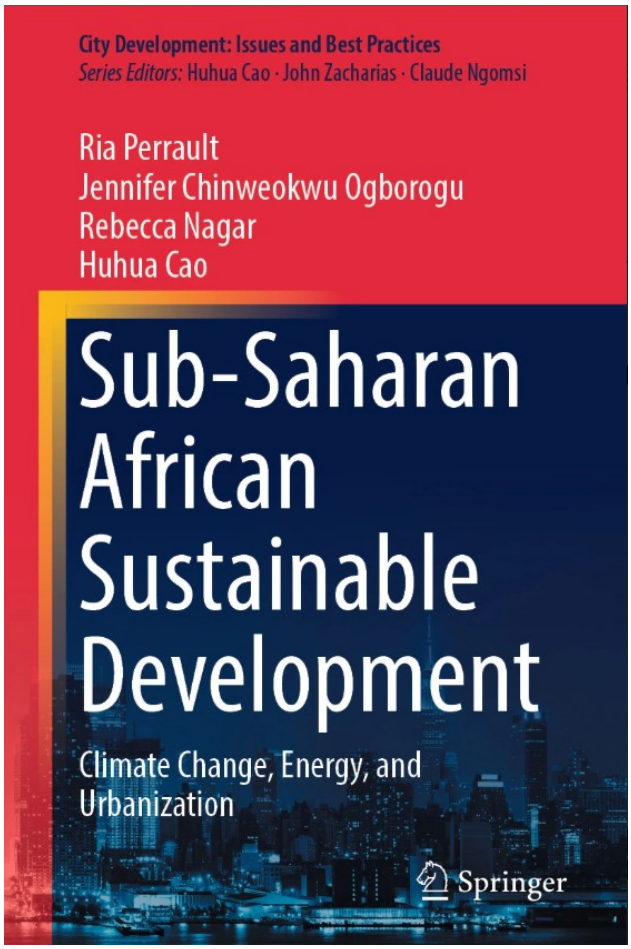
• Il prolonge les travaux de l’équipe sur l’intelligence artificielle spatiale interprétable en combinant l’apprentissage de caractéristiques spatiales et la modélisation fondée sur les graphes.
• Il analyse l’établissement des immigrants à Toronto à travers l’espace urbain connecté, en tenant compte notamment du rôle de la structure des réseaux de rues plutôt que des seuls lieux considérés isolément.
• Il propose un cadre transférable pour étudier les dynamiques d’établissement, les transformations des quartiers et les besoins en planification dans les régions métropolitaines.

For more information: Read the article

New Book: Sub-Saharan African Sustainable Development

Climate Change, Energy, and Urbanization | An ICCCASU team contribution to the Springer City Development: Issues and Best Practices series

Nouveau livre : Développement durable en Afrique subsaharienne : changements climatiques, énergie et urbanisation | Une contribution de l'équipe ICCCASU à la collection Springer City Development: Issues and Best Practices



Published by Springer in 2025 as part of the City Development: Issues and Best Practices series, this volume is highlighted here as a team-based ICCCASU contribution to African urban studies and sustainable development. It examines social and environmental sustainability challenges shaping contemporary urban Africa, with particular attention to climate change, energy, and urbanization.

A distinctive feature of the book is the strong participation of women graduate researchers from the University of Ottawa. This makes the volume especially valuable because it brings emerging scholars' perspectives into the study of African urbanization and sustainable development.

The book also reflects ICCCASU's role as a think tank by connecting research, graduate training, and international collaboration around practical questions of sustainable urban development.

Publié par Springer en 2025 dans la collection *City Development: Issues and Best Practices*, cet ouvrage est présenté ici comme une contribution collective de l'équipe ICCCASU aux études urbaines africaines et au développement durable. Il examine les défis de durabilité sociale et environnementale qui façonnent l'Afrique urbaine contemporaine, avec une attention particulière portée aux changements climatiques, à l'énergie et à l'urbanisation.

Une caractéristique distinctive de cet ouvrage réside dans la forte participation de chercheuses aux cycles supérieurs de l'Université d'Ottawa. Cela confère au volume une valeur particulière, puisqu'il intègre les perspectives de jeunes chercheuses émergentes dans l'étude de l'urbanisation africaine et du développement durable.

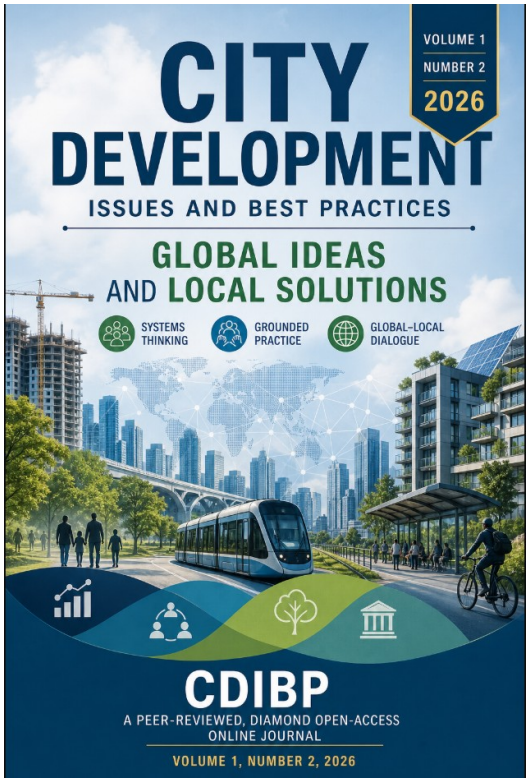
Le livre reflète également le rôle d'ICCCASU en tant que groupe de réflexion international, en reliant recherche, formation aux cycles supérieurs et collaboration internationale autour de questions concrètes liées au développement urbain durable.

For more information: Book page

CDIBP Launch: Second Issue Now Online

ICCCASU online journal: City Development: Issues and Best Practices (CDIBP) has launched its second issue, now available online. This issue includes five papers and an editorial introduction, spanning housing systems, AI and cities, project-based learning in Tunisia, youth-led climate response in Nairobi, and an opinion piece on public transportation in Nairobi.

La revue en ligne d'ICCCASU, City Development: Issues and Best Practices (CDIBP), a lancé son deuxième numéro, maintenant disponible en ligne. Ce numéro comprend cinq articles ainsi qu'un éditorial introductif, couvrant des thèmes variés tels que les systèmes de logement, l'intelligence artificielle et les villes, l'apprentissage par projets en Tunisie, les initiatives climatiques portées par les jeunes à Nairobi, ainsi qu'un texte d'opinion sur le transport public à Nairobi.



CDIBP: Vol. 1 No. 2 (2026) - Second Issue

Five papers now available online

- Editorial Introduction - Second Issue
- Housing Systems Under Strain: Canada and China in Comparative Perspective
- AI for Cities: Patterns, Gaps, and Future Directions
- From Pedagogy to Practice in City Development: Best Practices in Project-Based Learning for Housing Equity in Tunisia
- Youth-Led Response to Climate Emergencies in Informal Settlements: A Case Study of Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya
- Opinion Piece: The State of Public Transportation in Nairobi City

Open access platform for comparative, practice-oriented urban research in English, French, and Chinese.

The issue continues CDIBP's goal of connecting urban research with grounded practice and international dialogue. It also strengthens the journal's role as an open access platform for comparative and practice-oriented work in English, French, and Chinese.

Ce numéro poursuit l'objectif de CDIBP de relier la recherche urbaine aux pratiques de terrain et au dialogue international. Il renforce également le rôle de la revue comme plateforme en libre accès dédiée à des travaux comparatifs et orientés vers la pratique, en anglais, en français et en chinois.

Please visit ICCCASU's new online journal, *City Development: Issues and Best Practices (CDIBP)*:
Visit CDIBP

Calls for Papers / Appels à contributions

ICCCASU is pleased to announce three calls for papers associated with *City Development: Issues and Best Practices (CDIBP)*. To keep this section concise, we focus on the purpose of each call, the guest editors, and the thematic orientation. General submission guidelines are available on the journal platform. All submissions will undergo a peer-review process.
L'ICCCASU a le plaisir d'annoncer trois appels à contributions associés à la revue *City Development: Issues and Best Practices (CDIBP)*. Afin de garder cette section concise, nous mettons l'accent sur les objectifs de chaque appel, les rédacteurs invités et les orientations thématiques. Les consignes générales de soumission sont disponibles sur la plateforme de la revue. Toutes les soumissions feront l'objet d'une évaluation par les pairs.

ICCCASU 很高兴宣布与《City Development: Issues and Best Practices (CDIBP)》期刊相关的三项征稿启事。为保持本部分简洁，我们重点介绍每项征稿的目标、特邀编辑以及主题方向。投稿的具体要求与说明可在期刊平台查阅。所有投稿均将经过同行评审。

1) Populations at the Margin: Homelessness, Vagrancy, Civility and the Public Realm / Populations en marge : itinérance, vagabondage, civilité et espace public / 解码城市流浪与无家可归，守护公共空间温度

Guest editor(s): Professor John Zacharias (Peking University / Concordia University)

Co-guest editor(s): Professor Benjamin Gianni (Carleton University)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal: City Development: Issues and Best Practices (CDIBP)

Special Issue:
Populations at the Margin: Homelessness, Vagrancy, Civility and the Public Realm

Guest Editor
Professor John Zacharias, Chair Professor, Peking University, China & Emeritus Professor, Concordia University, Canada
Co-Guest Editor
Professor Benjamin Gianni, Carleton University, Canada

Overview
Poverty and social marginalization are increasingly visible in cities across North America. Streets and intersections are frequently occupied by individuals whose circumstances and behaviours fall outside conventional expectations of public life. Panhandling at traffic intersections has become a particularly visible, though still insufficiently understood, example of this. While often interpreted as an individual choice or isolated behaviour, panhandling is connected to wider structural pressures, including housing insecurity, income instability, mental health challenges, substance use, and social exclusion. Because it occurs in highly trafficked and symbolically important public spaces, it also raises broader questions about how cities manage shared space, public order, safety, and social vulnerability. It also raises broader questions about the right to the city, access to public space, and the line between individual freedom and collective responsibility.

This special issue invites contributions that examine marginalized populations in public space as a complex, multidimensional social phenomenon and explore how cities interpret, regulate, and respond to it. Papers should advance comparative and evidence-based perspectives from across Canada and internationally, while fostering dialogue among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in support of more informed, coordinated, and humane responses.

Themes (Submissions may address, but are not limited to):
- Structural drivers: housing, poverty, mental health, social exclusion
- Urban space and intersections: visibility, mobility, spatial dynamics, public safety
- Legal, policy, and governance frameworks: municipal, provincial, and national approaches
- Community and practice: lived experience, informal economies, service responses

This special issue examines marginalized populations in public space as a complex urban phenomenon. It encourages comparative and evidence-based research on how cities interpret, regulate, and respond to visible poverty, homelessness, and panhandling, while also raising broader questions about civility, public order, and the right to the city.

Main themes: Structural drivers such as housing and poverty; urban space and intersections; legal and governance frameworks; community and practice responses; comparative perspectives; and methodological innovation.

This call is especially timely because it builds directly on the themes discussed at the April 2026 ICCCASU roundtable and invites scholarship that connects research, policy, and practice.

Deadline: September 30, 2026 **|** **Languages:** English, French, or Chinese

For more information and submission details, please visit the CDIBP journal website

2) Villes haïtiennes au temps du banditisme : recompositions territoriales, mobilités contraintes et dynamiques locales de survie et de réagencement territorial

Guest editor(s): Professeur Georges Eddy Lucien (Université d'État d'Haïti / LADMA / Université d'Ottawa)

APPEL À CONTRIBUTION

Revue : Développement urbain : enjeux et bonnes pratiques /
City Development : Issue and Best Practices (CDIBP)

Coordonnateur du numéro : Professeur Georges Eddy Lucien, Hdr - Université d'Etat d'Haiti/LADMA/Université d'Ottawa

Villes haïtiennes au temps du banditisme : recompositions territoriales, mobilités contraintes et dynamiques locales de survie et de réagencement territorial

Ce numéro examine les recompositions urbaines en Haïti à l'ère du banditisme, en mettant l'accent sur la fragmentation de Port-au-Prince et la montée en centralité de plusieurs villes secondaires (Les Cayes, Verrettes, Cap-Haïtien, Morne-Rouge, Limonade, Ouanaminthe ou Fort-Liberté). La violence armée, l'effondrement institutionnel et l'érosion des centralités militantes transforment profondément les espaces publics, les formes de mobilisation et les sociabilités urbaines. Les contributions pourront proposer une mise en discussion critique de la catégorie de « banditisme », en analysant les modalités de sa généralisation, la fabrique médiatique et politique de l'insécurité urbaine, ainsi que ses effets sur les représentations, les politiques publiques et les trajectoires urbaines. En s'appuyant sur des données empiriques, elles analyseront également les mobilités contraintes, la redirection des flux urbains et les tensions liées au logement, à l'informalisation du travail et aux processus de gentrification.

Les articles analyseront les pratiques locales de recomposition sous contrainte, les formes de conflictualité urbaine ainsi que les dynamiques de recomposition sociale et spatiale à l'œuvre dans les villes d'accueil. Une attention particulière sera portée aux reconfigurations genrées de l'espace public, aux processus d'invisibilisation des femmes et aux formes de résistance développées en contexte de violence armée. Les contributions s'inscrivent également dans une lecture multiscalaire, locale, nationale et régionale, permettant d'articuler régularités structurelles et configurations locales spécifiques des transformations urbaines haïtiennes. Le numéro encourage, par ailleurs, des lectures iconographiques, filmiques et littéraires (photographies, cartographies, archives visuelles, imageries médiatiques, productions artistiques), susceptibles d'éclairer les paysages urbains, les formes architecturales, le quotidien des villes et leurs imaginaires dans des contextes marqués par la violence.

Ce numéro spécial en français porte sur les recompositions urbaines en Haïti dans un contexte marqué par la violence armée, l'effondrement institutionnel et les mobilités contraintes. Il accorde une attention particulière à la fragmentation de Port-au-Prince, à la montée en centralité de plusieurs villes secondaires, ainsi qu'aux transformations du quotidien urbain et des espaces publics.

Thèmes principaux : Représentations du "banditisme", fragmentation urbaine, pratiques spatiales genrées, invisibilisation des femmes, recompositions socio-spatiales des villes secondaires, paysages urbains et imaginaires.

Le numéro valorise aussi des approches iconographiques, filmiques et littéraires susceptibles d'éclairer les paysages urbains et les imaginaires de la ville en contexte de violence.

Date limite : 1er juillet 2026 | Langue : français

For more information and submission details, please visit the CDIBP journal website

3) Emergent Urbanism and Urban Futures in the Global South

Guest editor(s): Lefranc Joseph, PhD (State University of Haiti / CHARESSO / University of Ottawa)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal: City Development: Issues and Best Practices (CDIBP)

Guest editor: Lefranc Joseph, PhD – State University of Haiti / CHARESSO / University of Ottawa

Emergent Urbanism and Urban Futures in the Global South

This bilingual special issue examines contemporary urban transformations in the Global South in contexts marked by partial or contested infrastructures, social and environmental vulnerabilities, and the reconfiguration of public action. Its central question is the following: through what processes do forms of emergent urbanism take shape, and how do they configure urban futures? The use of this notion seeks to shift attention beyond frameworks that reduce these dynamics to informality alone. The issue is organized around three thematic axes.

Axis 1. Ordinary Making of the City: practices through which residents, collectives, and local actors produce, transform, and stabilize urban spaces.
Axis 2. Infrastructures, Regulations, and Urban Assemblages: configurations in which technical networks, institutions, and local arrangements coexist, overlap, or come into tension.
Axis 3. Crises, Vulnerabilities, and Urban Futures: effects of ecological, social, or security crises on ways of inhabiting, forms of coordination, and possible urban futures.

The issue invites empirically grounded contributions based on fieldwork, case studies, or comparative approaches. It welcomes work on cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Articles may examine localized dynamics or propose transregional comparisons, provided they are grounded in clearly identified empirical materials. Theoretical perspectives should help refine the analytical categories of emergent urbanism in dialogue with contemporary debates in urban studies, the sociology of space, and critical geography.

Guidelines for Authors
Article structure. Each article should include the following sections: introduction, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion.

Format and length. Articles must not exceed 8,000 words (including references, notes, captions, and tables). Manuscript in 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, Harvard referencing style. A title page should include the title, authors' names and affiliations, a running head, and the corresponding author's contact information.

This bilingual special issue examines contemporary urban transformations in the Global South in contexts marked by partial or contested infrastructures, social and environmental vulnerabilities, and reconfigured forms of public action. The issue asks how forms of emergent urbanism take shape and how they configure urban futures.

Main themes: The ordinary making of the city; infrastructures, regulations, and urban assemblages; and crises, vulnerabilities, and urban futures.

The call welcomes empirically grounded contributions from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, as well as transregional comparisons anchored in clear field-based evidence.

Deadline: September 1, 2026 **| Languages:** English or French

For more information and submission details, please visit the CDIBP journal website

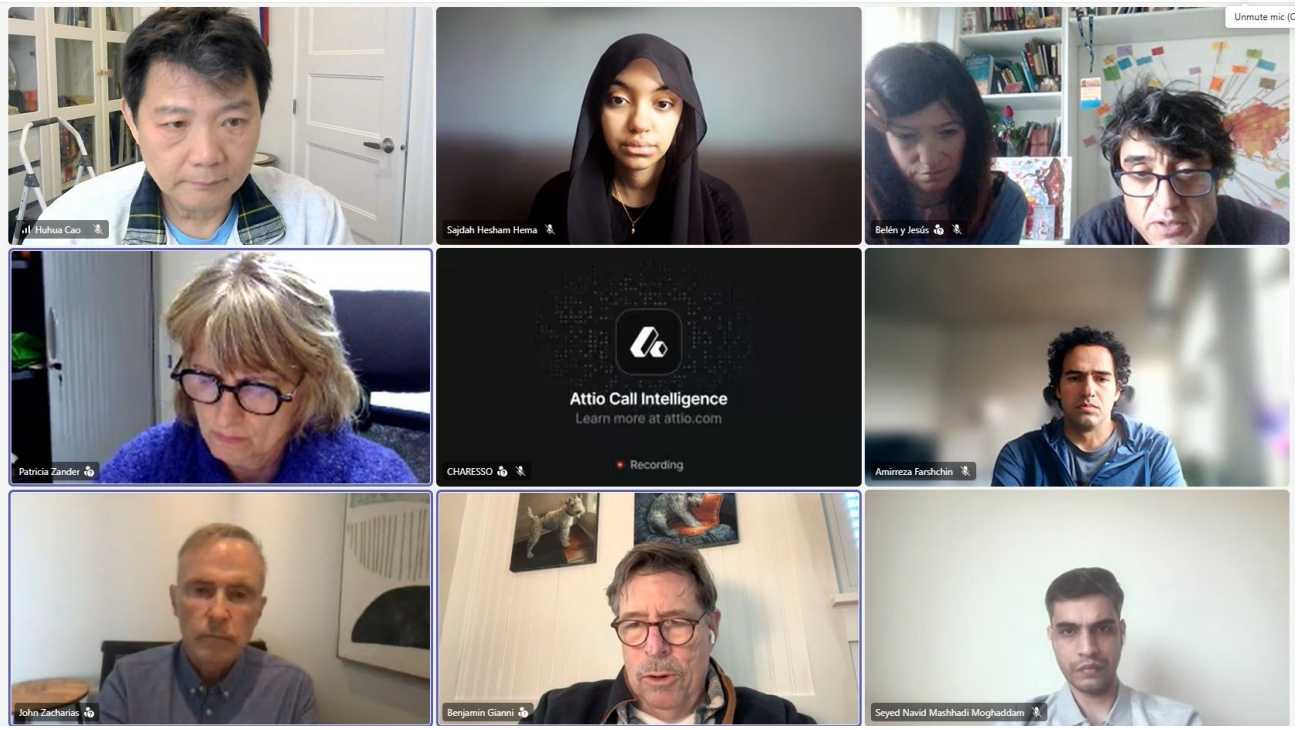
Emerging Canada-Europe Housing Collaboration / Collaboration émergente Canada-Europe sur le logement

ICCCASU has also begun developing a new housing-related collaboration with several European partners. Recent remarks by Prime Minister Mark Carney on the importance of cooperation among middle-power countries provide a useful broader context for this work. The initiative creates an opportunity to connect Canadian and European experiences in housing research, policy, and practice.

At this early stage, the team is considering participation from seven or eight European countries, including France, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and possibly other partners. The first objective is to organize a conference or workshop, likely to be held in Ottawa, as a platform for dialogue on housing affordability, construction innovation, and comparative urban policy. An initial online meeting with European colleagues has already taken place, and a follow-up meeting is planned for early June. The next step is to prepare a small-scale funding proposal to support the organization of the event.

L'ICCCASU a également commencé à développer une nouvelle collaboration liée au logement avec plusieurs partenaires européens. Les récentes déclarations du premier ministre Mark Carney sur l'importance de la coopération entre puissances moyennes offrent un contexte plus large et pertinent pour cette initiative. Ce projet crée une occasion de mettre en relation les expériences canadiennes et européennes en matière de recherche, de politiques publiques et de pratiques liées au logement.

À ce stade préliminaire, l'équipe envisage la participation de sept ou huit pays européens, notamment la France, l'Allemagne, l'Espagne, les Pays-Bas, l'Autriche, le Danemark, le Royaume-Uni et possiblement d'autres partenaires. Le premier objectif est d'organiser une conférence ou un atelier, probablement à Ottawa, comme plateforme de dialogue sur l'abordabilité du logement, l'innovation dans la construction et les politiques urbaines comparatives. Une première réunion en ligne avec des collègues européens a déjà eu lieu, et une réunion de suivi est prévue au début du mois de juin. La prochaine étape consistera à préparer une proposition de financement à petite échelle afin de soutenir l'organisation de cet événement.



Initial online meeting for the Canada-Europe housing collaboration, May 2026

Looking Ahead / En attendant la suite

As ICCCASU continues to connect research, policy, and practice across Canada, China, Africa, and emerging European collaborations, we thank our members, partners, authors, and readers for their continued engagement. We hope this issue encourages you to explore the new resources, read the latest publications, and contribute to upcoming CDIBP initiatives.

Alors qu'ICCCASU poursuit son travail de mise en relation entre la recherche, les politiques publiques et les pratiques à travers le Canada, la Chine, l'Afrique et de nouvelles collaborations européennes, nous remercions chaleureusement nos membres, partenaires, autrices et auteurs, lectrices et lecteurs pour leur engagement. Nous espérons que ce numéro vous donnera envie de consulter les nouvelles ressources, de découvrir les publications récentes et de participer aux prochaines initiatives de CDIBP.

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