



CALL FOR PAPERS

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

Special Issue: Women in City Development: Their Challenges and Strategies

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Overview

Research has shown that city development is historically driven by Eurocentric male-dominated models. These models are particularly rooted in western capitalist expansion and pressed around the world by colonial and imperialist forces. They are primarily concerned with buildings, roads, and transits, that help the white, able-bodies, male workforce carry on with economic productivity. This pre-occupation with physical infrastructure for commuting male “breadwinners” to and from commercial/industrial zones overlooks the complex daily routines, safety needs, and mobility patterns of women, mothers, and non-binary individuals.

Scholars have argued that the underrepresentation of women and marginalized groups in urban planning and decision-making reinforces the systematic segregation of homes. This segregation forces the heavy burden of unpaid and underpaid reproductive and caregiving labor mostly onto women, particularly migrant and racialized women. It also perpetuates patriarchal domination, enforces subordination, and fuels violence against women at home and in society.

As evidence shown in research, inadequate safety in public spaces, fragmented public transit that ignores caregiving travel patterns, and insufficient facilities for caretakers pose severe challenges for women and impose on them a “triple burden” of reproduction, production, and community care.

When urban neighborhoods lack localized essential amenities, accessible, clean public restrooms, resting spots, and family-friendly infrastructure including care and social services, women’s freedom of mobility is limited, and their time and efforts required for basic daily tasks increase. This neglect of social infrastructure that serves as the essential social fabric to enable communities to function, including helping those who care for children and families improve their daily life, disadvantages women, minorities, and care-oriented demographics.

The push to replace these hegemonic models is gaining momentum through feminist research, interdisciplinary decolonial frameworks, and social justice movements as well as anti-imperialist practices that revolve around historically excluded voices. Feminist and socially just urbanism and inclusive,

gender-and-climate-responsive city development are approaches that aim to reshape urban environment to serve everyone equitably. Decolonial and anti-imperialist practices pursue alternative models designed to achieve ecologically balanced green development and potentially, an opportunity to reach the universal goal of a safe and healthy life for all.

Around the world, women are organizing and advancing into local governance, and some have excelled in their role as mayors. Cities, especially under their leadership, are adopting gender-responsive planning, participatory governance, and inclusive urban policies.

Centering reproductive life in comprehensive planning for an overall system of social security prioritizes care work, affordable housing, accessible transit, and public safety and health over mere economic efficiency and capitalist extraction. Honoring women's stewardship, Indigenous knowledge, and a reciprocal relationship with the land challenges the boundaries between planners and the planned by empowering communities to drive their own projects.

This special issue invites contributions that take stock of key strategies, feminist research, and interdisciplinary decolonial and anti-imperialist frameworks that emerge from investigations of ways to overcome the challenges women and the marginalized face in city development. It welcomes research articles, policy analyses, case studies, and practice-based or field reports that apply comparative methods from a gender and intersectional perspective with the use of international human rights framework. Such application may help strengthen dialogue with current debates in urban studies, sociology, critical geography, gender and race studies, and studies of health and social welfare.

In particular, the articles can include evidence-based analysis in concrete contexts at local or national levels where communities and society in Africa, Asia, Canada and Latin America act to increase equity and diversity in urban planning and decision-making.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

1. Creating safe streets, public spaces and transit networks;
2. Increasing accessible, available, affordable hygienic water, sanitation, and care as a social responsibility;
3. Incorporating violence prevention directly into policymaking and building and planning laws;
4. Co-creating neighborhoods with women and the marginalized to ensure their lived experience shape the built environment.

Guidelines for Authors:

Articles should be organized by way of introduction, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion and must not exceed 8,000 words (including references, notes, captions, and tables). Manuscripts should be formatted 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.

Submission:

Articles must be submitted directly by authors through the journal platform:

<https://uottawa.scholarsportal.info/ottawa/index.php/CDIBP/index>.

Authors should create an account, select “Special Issue” in the submission form, and indicate the title of the issue in the “Note to the Editor” field. **Deadline: 1 November 2026.** All articles will undergo peer review.

- For any questions regarding this special issue, please contact springer@uottawa.ca.
- For any questions regarding the submission process, please contact Jack Cao, Assistant Publication Manager, at zcao086@uottawa.ca, and please also copy springer@uottawa.ca.
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