



GUEST SEMINAR – UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Friday 5th April 2019 – 15:00-16:15

Sala S02, Engenharia Civil, Escola Politécnica, Campus Capital

Part 1: Engineering Solutions to improve human lives in slums in India – Slum Networking

Dr Priti Parikh will present results the research she has conducted in slums of India. This work has led to the development of an innovative approach called ‘slum networking’, which combines engineering and socio-political analyses. The slum networking approach consists in analysing and maximising opportunities of the biophysical environment in which slums are located - such as topography and drainage paths – for better integration in the wider urban environment. The approach also involves the analysis of financial resources. The research generated evidence that water and sanitation were perceived as top priority for investment by families. It also demonstrated that investment in basic infrastructure through external aid funding was subsequently leading to household investment which, over the long-term, led to improvements in health, literacy and poverty alleviation.

Part 2: Sanitation and the Sustainable Development Goals

Loan Diep will present the project ‘Mapping the interlinkages between sanitation and the Sustainable Development Goals (‘SDG’ or ‘Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável’ in Brazil). This project is being conducted by an interdisciplinary team of University College London. It consists in identifying the potential effects of improving sanitation access on other sectors. We used the SDG targets for this theoretical mapping, and looked for evidence of possible effects (positive or negative) of sanitation improvements on poverty (SDG1), food (SDG2), health (SDG3), etc. The team gathered evidence for a significant number of synergies (positive effects) between sanitation and each of the 169 SDG targets. We thereby demonstrated the need for accelerated investment in sanitation and making the case for cross-subsidies between sectors. The team now seeks to practically apply this methodology with the case of Brazil, and would like to invite young researchers to take part in the study and join the team.



***Dr. Priti Parikh** is an Associate Professor and Programme Director at University College London. She is an expert in infrastructure and business models for resource constrained settings such as slums and rural communities. She has experience in city infrastructure planning, financial planning, institutional frameworks and societal impact. She carries out sustainability assessments and monitoring/evaluation of infrastructure projects, using participatory techniques and impact assessment tools. She has substantial in-country experience in South Asia, Africa and the UK working with local governments and slum communities and has led multi sectoral projects at both city and community scale.*

***Loan Diep** is pursuing her doctoral research on green infrastructure, urban governance and inclusivity on São Paulo, with a focus on favelas. She previously worked as Project Officer and Researcher for the NGO Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor. Her work focused on water and sanitation services for low-income populations, with projects implemented in Africa, South Asia, as well as the Middle East & North Africa region. Loan also worked as Research Consultant and conducting several projects, including the 'Resilience and Resource Efficiency in Cities' research for the United Nations Environment Programme.*

