VERTICAL SLUMS / VERSATILE CITIES

Interdisciplinary research on hybrid urbanism and on the production of contemporary city.

The “Torre David” case, Caracas, Venezuela
### Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Workshop Caracas</td>
<td>CODEV, Seed Money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Kick off meeting EPFL</td>
<td>Swiss National Science Foundation (FNS), PhD Student: Salomé Houllier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Workshop Chennai with Venezuelan partner</td>
<td>PhD Student: Caroline Iorio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Workshop Guangzhou</td>
<td>Alcaldia de Caracas, Fundacion Parque Hugo Chavez, Alcaldia de Caracas, Fundacion Parque Hugo Chavez, Venezuela, Anna University, Chennai India, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seed Money partners:**
- EPFL
- Alcaldia de Caracas, Fundacion Parque Hugo Chavez

**FNS partners:**
- EPFL
- Alcaldia de Caracas, Fundacion Parque Hugo Chavez, Venezuela
Centro Financiero Confinanzas aka Torre David
Identifying hybrid objects in Caracas

Barrio El Quilombo, Cochechito Estanque  
Mercado Mayor  
La Rotonda  
23 de Enero

Photocollage : Torre David

Photos : by author
Hybrid Cities: informal resistance to violence of urbanization in China, India and Venezuela
supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation, 2016

Supervisors: Dr. Florence Graezer Bideau, anthropologist, Senior Scientist in the College of Humanities (CdH, EPFL)
Dr. Yves Pedrazzini, sociologist, Senior Scientist in Laboratory of Urban Sociology (LaSUR, EPFL)

PhD Candidates: Salomé Houllier, architect
Caroline Iorio, architect
"The contemporary city results from conflicts between modern urbanism and the resistances of informal settlements; the architectural, urbanistic and territorial hybridization allows to think a non dual urban design."

FNS – Main hypothesis

Torre David, Caracas (Venezuela)

Sri Nivasapuram, Chennai (India)

Shipai village, Guangzhou (China)

architectural hybridization

urbanistic hybridization

territorial hybridization

In **Caracas**, architectural hybridization is carried out by the occupation of formal buildings from the 20th century modernity; this occupation is led by inhabitants from informal settlements (barrio) and sometimes results in violent conflicts.

**Keywords**: formal/informal, hybridization, occupation, modern urbanism, violence

Case studies in Caracas

Barrio El Quilombo, Cochecho Estanque  Mercado Mayor  La Rotonda  23 de Enero

Photocollage: Torre David

Photos: by author
Hybridization in China
In Guangzhou, territorial hybridization results from the integration of rural/informal and urban/formal realities inside villages in the city (chengzhongcuns); the resistance of these hybrid neighbourhoods is possible only if these villages in the city are recognized as enclaves within the city.

Keywords: urban/rural, hybridization, enclaves, territorial governance, migrations, hukou system
Village in the city, Guangzhou

Villages in the City – mechanism of emergence

Case study # 1: Kowloon walled city, Hong Kong

Kowloon Walled City was a densely populated, largely ungoverned settlement.

Case study # 2 : Rooftop Communities, Hong Kong

Illegal housing on the rooftops of apartment buildings

Photo : by author
Hybridization in India
Slums, Chennai

In Chennai, urbanistic hybridization results from the progressive irruption of formal economy into informal settlements (slums). The latters wether resist their formalization, or try to beneficiate from it in order to ameliorate their integration to the city.

Keywords : urban/rural, formal/informal, hybridization, slums, rehabilitation, migrations

Photo : by author
Slums identified by TNSCB (Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board)

Rehabilitation schemes by TNSCB (Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board)

Metro line - aerial portion (under construction)

Metro line - underground portion (under construction)

Suburban rail network MRTS (Mass Rapid Transit System)

City limit according to CMDA (Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority)
Case study # 1: Dr. Ambedkar Slum, Chennai

Typical slum in the heart of the city

Photo: by author
Case study # 2: Sri Nivasapuram | Nochikuppam, Chennai

Slum rehabilitation site that witnessed the constructions of several projects through the years

Photo: by author
Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Caracas</td>
<td>Workshop EPFL with partners</td>
<td>Workshop Chennai with Venezuelan partner</td>
<td>Workshop Guangzhou</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **CODEV, Seed Money**
- **project funding**
- **Swiss National Science Foundation (FNS)**
- **PhD Student: Salomé Houllier**
- **PhD Student: Caroline Iorio**

**Seed Money partners**
- EPFL
- Alcaldía de Caracas, Fundación Parque Hugo Chavez

**FNS partners**
- EPFL
- Alcaldía de Caracas, Fundación Parque Hugo Chavez, Venezuela
- Anna University, Chennai India
- South China University of Technology, Guangzhou China