

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

| Personal information | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Name | Xavier Gonzalez Sanchez |
| Student number | 5270693 |

| Studio | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Name / Theme | Real Estate Management - Housing | |
| Main mentor | Darinka Czischke] | Real Estate Management - Housing |
| Second mentor | Ellen Geurts | Real Estate Management - Housing |
| Argumentation of choice of the studio | [Argumentation of choice of the studio] | |

| Graduation project | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Title of the graduation project | Capacities and Decision Making in Informal Settlement Upgrading |
| Goal | |
| Location: | Community in Monterrey Mexico |
| The posed problem, | Informal settlement upgrading interventions in Mexico focus on the physical improvement and the human and social capital development. Physical infrastructure is commonly achieved, but the increase in human and social capital in informal settlement upgrading that leads to long-last benefits has proved to be a harder challenge. This leads to a continuous institutional segregation and marginalization of the urban poor. Therefore, its necessary to understand how the development of capacities benefits this sector of the population. |
| research questions and | To what extent does the development of institutional and community capacities empower communities to influence the decision-making environment of |

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| | <p>community-led informal settlement upgrading processes in Mexico?</p> <p>Subquestions:</p> <p>SQ1. How are community-led informal settlement upgrading processes in Mexico initiated, planned and executed and what are the main focus of the interventions?</p> <p>SQ2. Who are the key actors that can be identified in community-led informal settlement upgrading processes in Monterrey, Mexico, and how do they relate to each other?</p> <p>SQ3. What are the motives, roles, interests, needs and responsibilities of the identified actors?</p> <p>SQ4. How do the actors perceive themselves and each other in the decision-making power dynamics and throughout the upgrading process?</p> <p>SQ5. What existing instruments and resources are available for the key actors involved in informal settlement upgrading processes that enhance community empowerment, who can use them, and how?</p> |
| <p>design assignment in which these result.</p> | <p>A set of recommendations for urban stakeholders, mainly communities and institutions, on how to collaborate more effectively.</p> |
| <p>Process</p> | |
| <p>Method description</p> | |
| <p>Two main methods will be used. An extensive literature review that bridges the relevant topics is first conducted. The literature review serves to add theoretical knowledge on the forces driving the development of the informal urban sector, its manifestations in the built environment and the alternatives taken to address the problems stemming from it. In addition, the literature review looks into capacity and human development theories. Second, an empirical study in a selected community in Monterrey, Mexico will be carried out. The empirical research is carried out</p> | |

qualitatively in a series of semi-structured interviews with key urban actors from public, private and civil sectors. The interviews' purpose is to understand the perspectives of different actors towards the same issue, the perception of themselves and each other in regards to the exertion of power and the existing conditions of the community. These two methods complement each other through the delimitation provided by the theoretical framework for the data gathered in the empirical study. In addition, triangulation is used to develop a comprehensive understanding of the case.

Literature and general practical preference

First, historical and theoretical understandings of the urban informal sector are studied to provide a basis for the main focus of the research. Second, the topic of urban governance is unpacked in different approaches in the developing world. Third, the concepts of informal settlement upgrading, capacities, capabilities & livelihoods, and community empowerment are studied.

Some of the key authors and articles are:

Informal Settlement Upgrading

Georgiadou, M. C., Loggia, C., Nunez Ferrera, I., & Fagan-Watson, B. (2016). An overview of top-down vs. bottom-up models for informal settlement upgrading in South Africa. *International Society of City and Regional Planners Discussion Paper*. <http://www.westminster.ac.uk/westminsterresearch>

Capacities

Turok, I., & Taylor, P. (2006). A skills framework for regeneration and planning. *Planning Practice and Research*, 21(4), 497–509. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02697450601173462>

Empowerment

Rappaport, J. (1987). Terms of empowerment/exemplars of prevention: Toward a theory for community psychology. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 15(2), 121–148. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00919275>

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

This thesis studies how informal dwellers of informal settlements can improve their relationship to the built environment through the development of capacities resulting in empowerment to control their lives. To the MBE track, this is related through the management of processes and stakeholders relating to projects that have an impact on the built environment and that contribute to the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of urban systems. To the master programme, this thesis relates to it from the relationship between professionals, people, and the built environment. Architecture, urbanism and building sciences all have the user as a central concept, and this research aims to better understand this relationship to find areas for improvement.

2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

Societal Relevance

The societal relevance of this research relates to the involvement of a wide range of public, private and civil actors that can benefit from the success of informal settlement upgrading processes in both short and long temporal periods. Informal settlements and the upgrading processes that attempt to integrate them into a formal framework impact micro, intermediate, and macro dimensions of cities and subsequently, their dwellers. Further, informal settlement dwellers are often institutionally, societally, and sometimes physically, segregated, and stigmatized. Thus, implying a causal relationship of sustainable urban, social, environmental, and economic development between dwellers and their relationship to their city. Therefore, building the capacity of the vast array of

actors can create more effective integration processes, healthier stakeholder relationships and minimize the vulnerability of a disadvantaged urban sector

Scientific Relevance

The focus of this research studies how capacity building can enhance the success of intangible social aspects in informal settlement upgrading processes. Previous attempts have found this aspect to be one of the keys to sustainable development within communities while, at the same time, one of the most challenging to effectively execute. Therefore, further research in this field can provide insight for institutions and communities into innovative paths to sustainable urban development. In addition to individual and group capacities, the relations amongst urban stakeholders are central to this research. The study of stakeholder relations, power dynamics and perceptions in upgrading processes holds scientific relevance since they influence how agency, at different levels, is exercised in the decision-making of urban development.

Planning

The following image shows the timeline from P2 until P4 of the research, as well as identified tasks and milestones and their interdependencies. The upcoming task is to define the case study and plan the fieldwork calendar.

Research Plan

