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## **Bridging Inequality, Shaping Resilient Cities**

Urban scholarship today confronts a dual imperative: to chronicle unprecedented demographic shifts and to expose the widening socio-economic divides they engender. True to the Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs' mission, the sixteen peer-reviewed contributions collected here probe that tension from Bahrain to Zambia, coupling methodological originality with policy-relevant insight. Each paper underscores that equitable growth is inseparable from a nuanced understanding of place, culture and governance.

Our first thematic cluster, Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities, draws attention to the lived realities of vulnerable groups. Whether interrogating gendered housing exclusion in Nigeria or the cascading costs of India's abandoned slum-redevelopment scheme, these studies reveal how policy design and local perception converge to shape urban livelihoods.

The second cluster, Territorial Dynamics, examines how land-use regimes, fiscal instruments and environmental externalities redirect flows of people, capital and heritage value. From polycentric governance in Egypt's new towns to wavelet-based evidence on Nigeria's ecological footprint, the authors demonstrate that territorial restructuring has palpable—and often unequal—economic consequences.

Finally, Urban Transformations showcases methodological and technological innovations capable of steering cities toward greater resilience. Entropy-TOPSIS evaluations, transit-oriented development diagnostics and digital-twin approaches to smart housing offer concrete pathways for practitioners aiming to reconcile growth with sustainability.

### **I. Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities**

*Afaf E. Mohamed* and *Islam H. Elghonaimy* illuminate how resident perceptions frame the economic trajectory of Muharraq's cultural-tourism sector. By triangulating interviews, surveys and policy review, they pinpoint authenticity loss and stakeholder exclusion as market-eroding risks, while proposing participatory governance to align visitor income with heritage stewardship—advancing the journal's call for socially rooted growth. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-2>

*Ekta* and *Prasanth Vardhan* focus on Delhi's economically weaker sections, modelling 383 household surveys through Principal Component Analysis. Their work exposes how social networks and tenancy security rival rent level in shaping residential choice, urging rental-policy reform that privileges socio-spatial mobility over mere supply expansion. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-5>

In *Olusola O. Makinde* and *Olubukunmi T. Makinde*'s study of Osun State, 328 responses and robust ANOVA testing reveal gender disparity as a statistically significant drag on Nigeria's housing stock. The authors quantify how denied land titles and employment inequity suppress construction demand, filling a gap between equity rhetoric and economic metrics. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-7>

*Adrian Lo and Toan L. Phuc* ask whether vertical ‘streets-in-the-sky’ can translate Bangkok’s informal networks into high-rise form. A research-by-design studio combines spatial analytics with community charrettes, proving that stacked common spaces can safeguard livelihoods while boosting plot values—an inventive lens on slum-upgrade economics. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-11>

*Dhruv Tapadia, Tithi Soladhara, Shelly Kulsheshta and Rishita Lunawat* deploy Frank Fischer’s four-tier framework to dissect India’s discontinued in-situ slum scheme. Linking completion rates, household surveys and  $\chi^2$  tests, they show how flawed land-value capture produced vertical poverty traps, offering transferable lessons on incentive alignment. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-16>

## II. Territorial Dynamics

*Debanjali Saha, Haimanti Banerji and Umesh Kumar* use RIDIT analysis of expert surveys to rank sixteen barriers hobbling India’s rental-housing rollout. They quantify how regulatory rigidity and weak incentives depress private investment, thus mapping the economic anatomy of policy failure. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-4>

*Mohamed Kadry and Husam R. Husain* combine spatial datasets with expert scoring to reveal why Egypt’s new-towns have captured just 31 % of their planned residents. Their five-phase strategic framework integrates realistic population targets with polycentric finance, reframing redistribution as an economic—not merely demographic—imperative. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-10>

*Esraa Othman, Sarah Abdelghany and Tarek Farghaly* harness GIS hot-spot and network analytics to pinpoint accessibility gaps across 294 Alexandrian heritage sites. By valuing cultural assets through NOUH criteria and transit reach, they translate conservation into a spatial-economic optimisation problem that local planners can act on. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-12>

*Oluwatoyin A. Somoye, Awosusi A. Ayobamiji and Toluwalope S. Akinwade* deploy wavelet quantile-on-quantile causality for 1961-2020 data, showing that Nigeria’s urbanisation and human-capital gains alternately dampen or amplify ecological footprints across frequencies. The paper closes a methodological gap in Environmental-Kuznets debates by foregrounding distribution-specific effects. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-13>

*Peter Kakoma, Penjani H. Nyimbili, Moffat Tembo and Erastus M. Mwanaumo* integrate ANFIS with AHP to forecast performance of Zambia’s CDF-funded infrastructure. Achieving  $R^2 = 0.92$ , their model converts constituency data into proactive budgeting tools, illustrating how fine-grained analytics can steer equitable public-works expenditure. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-15>

## III. Urban Transformations

*Ziqi Qiao, Xiang Xu, Xinran Wang and Yifen Zhang* rank sixteen Shandong cities with an entropy-TOPSIS matrix, discovering that sewage-treatment quality and clean-heating adoption drive renewal success. Their policy recommendations fuse environmental metrics with fiscal priorities, exemplifying data-led transformation. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-1>

*Sampa Chisumbe, Clinton Aigbavboa, Wellington D. Thwala and Erastus Mwanaumo* leverage the Delphi method to expose how political influence and weak governance inflate Lusaka’s housing deficit. By linking these socio-economic factors to infrastructure outcomes, they outline an integrated planning framework for Sub-Saharan cities. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-3>

*Maher Niger and Sanjida A. Sinthia* evaluate Dhaka’s Agargaon Metro Station through TOD metrics. GIS mapping and stakeholder interviews reveal under-utilised land parcels and deficient pedestrian links, arguing that mixed-use incentives could unlock both mobility efficiency and local commerce. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-6>

*Azeez E. A. Aburmalah and Doğa Üzümcüoğlu* combine GIS-derived urban-form indices with EnergyPlus simulations to show that medium-density neighbourhoods in Hebron minimise combined heating-cooling loads, offering a transferable metric set for semi-arid planning under energy-price volatility. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-8>

*Saad Hanif* and *Müge Riza* conduct a cross-regional literature synthesis to unpack the cultural-political logics of heritagisation. Contrasting Western commodification with Eastern identity-reinforcement, they recast regeneration as a site of contested socio-economic narratives rather than mere conservation. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-9>

*Nor Suzylah Sohaimi, Muhammad H. A. Razak, Mohd S. Said, Filzani I. Ibrahim* and *Tülay Zivalı* employ scientometrics, systematic review and practice cases to craft a framework linking smart-technology uptake to affordability and social inclusion across South-East Asia, filling a policy void on digital equity in housing. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2025.v9n1-14>

Collectively, these contributions reaffirm that socio-economic justice is inseparable from territorial logic and technological choice. They critique existing paradigms yet also furnish replicable tools—from adaptive neuro-fuzzy models to participatory design playbooks—capable of guiding practitioners towards inclusive, resilient urban futures. We commend the authors, reviewers and editorial team whose diligence makes this dialogue possible, and we invite readers to mobilise these findings within their own cities and disciplines.

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