

Call for Papers
TRIALOG Journal
Issue Theme

***Reflexive research practices in marginalised contexts of
the Global South:
perspectives and orientations for students and young
academics***

Cities in the 'Global South' are still underrepresented in urban research. In *Ordinary Cities*, Robinson (2006) describes a North-West dominance within urban research, calling for theory-building from the South. Therein, ethical research must move beyond dominant categories and take local contexts seriously (Mbembe & Nuttall, 2004; Simone 2019).

Ethically responsible research is concerned with transparency of its framing, the origin of data, its effects and the protection of research participants. However, global postcolonial structures characterized by historically grown and reproduced power inequalities place further demands on a critically reflexive research practice, especially (but not exclusively!) in the Global South (Winkler 2018; Daley and Murrey 2022; Guma et al. 2023; Bertschi et al. 2023). For example, Quijano & Ennis (2000) emphasize the effects of European-North American control over the production, dissemination and form of knowledge through their concept of the coloniality of power (see also Ndlovu-Gatsheni 2014).

What results from such groundbreaking theoretical interventions for research practice? That is the question, we would like to move forward with this special issue. In light of a wider postcolonial critique, we argue that ethical post-colonial research in urban studies must go far beyond compliance with formal legal standards and ethics votes. Particularly in marginalized neighbourhoods in the Global South, where power imbalances between researchers and research subjects are particularly evident, it is essential to reflect on one's own positionality as a researcher in addition to protecting the "researched" (Ha 2014; Lawhon & Truelove 2020). When researching "marginalized neighbourhoods", there is also a risk of reproducing stigmas through inattentive selection of research sites and reliance on categories such as 'slums', rooted in North-Western thoughts (Beier 2020; Valladares 2019). Consequently, this thematic issue is oriented towards research practice. It engages in reflections on how researchers can address ethical challenges in postcolonial contexts and how the reproduction of the power imbalance between researchers and "researched" and between researchers from better and less well-resourced institutions can be overcome or at least limited.

Referring mostly but not uniquely to current post/decolonial discourse in geography, urban planning, and urban studies (Ha 2014; Roy 2016; Winkler 2018; Singer 2019; Lawhon & Truelove 2020; Schwarz & Streule 2020, Bauriedl and Carstensen-Egwuom 2023, Guma et al. 2023), this special issue would like to address ethical questions of human research practice in marginalized contexts of the so-called Global South. We are looking for research-related contributions that critically reflect on own research experiences and practices with regards to the reproduction or deconstruction of postcolonial structures as well as self-positioning. The aim is to reflect on one's own research practice from as many different perspectives as possible, in order to provide students and young researchers in particular with a first orientation in preparation for own research.

We are particularly, but not exclusively, interested in contributions that deal with one or more of the following focal points:

- Field reports on the everyday practice of critical self-reflection and positioning in "southern" research contexts (but also marginalized contexts of the so-called Global North)
- Critical-reflexive methodological practice
- Strategies for dealing with postcolonial reproductions in the selection, delimitation and embedding of the research object
- (Im)possibilities of balanced power relations in research collaborations
- Questions and challenges of decolonial language in human geography
- Practices of provincialization of urban theories
- Diversification of research institutions
- Encounters of research with competing local knowledge-systems
- ...

We suggest concentrating on submissions to TRIALOG's "Perspectives" format in order to enable the most open and accessible approach to the topic. "Perspectives" are an alternative format that invites you to go beyond the classic research article format and to share content outside the box. Zooming in on the work, experience, and positioning through, essayist viewpoints, interviews, narrative biographies of persons of interest, as well as personal experience reports from the field.

Author Guidelines

Interested authors are invited to submit an abstract (max. 300 words) by March 29, 2024.

Contributions can be written in either English or German. The paper should not exceed 4,000 words. All submissions will be reviewed.

Please include your full contact details and a brief biography of each contributing author (up to 100 words per author) and submit as a single document with the full paper to editor@trialog-journal.de.

Authors interested in submitting a paper for this issue are asked to consult the journal's instructions for authors and for any further inquiries please contact the editors directly: appelhans@tu-berlin.de and raffael.beier@tu-dortmund.de, and janek.becker@tu-dortmund.de.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission: March 29, 2024

Invitation to submit full paper: April 11, 2024

Full Paper deadline (max. 4,000 words): July 12, 2024

Reviewers' Feedback: September 2024

Revised paper's submission deadline: November 2024

(second revision if necessary)

For more information on TRIALOG, please visit <http://www.trialog-journal.de/en>

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