

**CALL FOR PAPERS for the
REDUCING URBAN POVERTY
2016 Graduate Student Paper Competition,
Policy Workshop, and Publication
Grand Prize Winner will attend **Habitat III in Quito**
Abstracts due: May 15, 2016**

To encourage a new generation of urban policy makers and promote early career research, Cities Alliance, IHC Global, USAID, the Wilson Center, and the World Bank are co-sponsoring the **7th annual paper competition for graduate students**, seeking abstracts on urban poverty in the developing world. Winning papers will be **published** and selected authors will be invited to present their work in a **policy workshop** at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. The grand prize winner will receive a travel stipend to attend the **United Nations Habitat III Conference** in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. Papers must be linked to one of the following sub-topics:

Climate Change

Cities are grappling with the impacts of a changing climate, and the urban poor are the most adversely affected, especially women and children who experience difficulty in accessing resources, services, and decision-making opportunities. Papers in this category should explore urban adaptation to climate change and identify promising approaches, whether at a regional, city, department, neighborhood, or grassroots level. Possible topics in this category include: what residents are doing to adapt their neighborhoods to the impacts of climate change; what specific challenges climate change brings to women and how they are responding to such challenges; how cities integrate climate change adaptation into municipal budgets and city halls; and promising solutions such as innovative land-use planning, green technology, and other urban approaches to making communities safer and more prosperous in the face of climate change.

Arrival Cities: Responding to Migrants and Refugees

While not a new phenomenon, current global conflicts are focusing public attention on refugees and migrants, as countries strive to cope with the influx of newcomers. Traditional refugee camps and services are increasingly out of date in today's urban landscape; policy makers and practitioners alike are struggling with how best to provide assistance to refugees in an urban setting. Papers on this topic might examine how cities are planning for refugees, evaluate current programs and practices, assess strategies for gender-responsive urban refugee services, examine innovative policies that are dealing with migrants and refugees at the local level; or explore the impact that current policies and programs for refugees and migrants are having on cities as well as their effect on different segments of refugee and migrant communities (i.e., women and men in different age cohorts).

Innovation in Urban Planning

Evidence-based planning is critical for addressing urban challenges and building equitable and sustainable cities and metropolitan regions. Recent advances in technology are enabling better informed decision making and new participatory processes. What tools, methods, and policies are being used by local governments and other institutions to develop consensus to define sustainable approaches to land use, urban investments, and public policy? How are these approaches to planning incorporating the perspectives of all stakeholders and focusing on the needs of the city's most vulnerable groups? How is innovative planning addressing the needs of women? Papers on this topic will explore new approaches to urban and metropolitan planning that help stakeholders understand, prioritize, and address urban challenges. Papers might examine innovations such as evidence-based participatory planning and the use of scenario planning with measurable indicators.

Financing Sustainable Urban Development

Investment in sustainable urban development is critical for the future of a rapidly urbanizing world. Growing financing gaps will have a significant impact on economic growth and the quality of life in cities. How are local governments financing infrastructure and services for city residents, particularly the urban poor? Papers on this topic could explore innovations in mobilizing revenue for urban development, such as public-private partnerships, social enterprise, financing tools and mechanisms, policies to increase women's access to finance, and the impact of more effective and accountable urban governance. Papers might examine how cities can improve creditworthiness, leverage local assets, and partner with national governments to meet pressing demands for local infrastructure and service delivery.

Process and Timeline

◆ Eligibility

This call for papers is directed at PhD students and advanced Masters students. To be eligible, applicants must be currently enrolled in a degree program as of May 15, 2016. Papers can be co-authored, if each author is a graduate student. In this case, only one author will attend Habitat III and present at the Washington policy workshop.

◆ Abstract Submissions

- Abstracts ([max 500 words](#)) and a brief CV must be submitted to the selection committee by May 15, 2016. Submissions should be sent to UrbanPaperComp@WilsonCenter.org
- Abstracts should contain a title, paper description, author name and affiliation, and specify which of the sub-topics listed above the paper will address.

◆ Criteria for Selection

- Abstracts should present a clear, compelling research question.
- Preference will be given to the presentation of original, field-based research that builds upon existing scholarship as opposed to desk or literature reviews.
- Paper proposals should be policy-based and solutions-oriented and should critically examine existing projects and/or propose new strategies for tackling issues related to urban poverty in the developing world.
- Abstracts should be clearly linked to one or more of the sub-topics outlined above, focusing on developing world populations and cities.

◆ Request for Full Papers

- A panel composed of members of the sponsoring organizations will review submitted abstracts and request full papers from finalists.
- Applicants will be notified in mid-June whether they will be asked to write a full paper, which will be due in early August 2016.
- Completed papers should be a maximum of 20 pages in length including appendixes (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font) and utilize the guidelines used by the Chicago Manual of Style.

◆ Publication

- Roughly eight of the full papers will be compiled in a book and published by the Woodrow Wilson Center.
- Publication of each selected paper is subject to review and will be contingent upon completion of suggested revisions by the authors, should they be requested by the selection committee.

◆ Policy Workshop

- Three or four authors whose papers are selected for publication will be invited to Washington, DC in early 2017 to take part in a unique “policy workshop” that will bring together academics, policymakers and students for an interactive discussion of international urban development topics. The session will focus on bridging gaps between policy and academia, theory and practice. Workshop invitees will be provided with a travel stipend to help cover transportation and accommodation costs.
- At the workshop, students will be paired with an experienced urban development expert who will serve as a discussant for their paper.

◆ Grand Prize: Habitat III

- The grand prize winner will receive a travel stipend to attend [Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development](#), in Quito, Ecuador, October 17-20, 2016.

Papers from a variety of perspectives are appropriate, including (but not limited to) urban planning, economics, political science, geography, public policy, law, sociology, environment, anthropology, housing policy, governance, emergency services, and public health.

For more information, please contact UrbanPaperComp@WilsonCenter.org

For more information on last year's competition, please visit: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/urban-opportunities-perspectives-climate-change-resilience-and-inclusion>