# Global Sustainable City-Regions (2nd #MScGSCGlasgow Edition): Stockholm, Berlin, Kolkata, Masdar, Bengaluru, Malawi, Belfast, Hong Kong, Seoul, Helsinki and Glasgow

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## GLOBAL TAINABLE CITY-REGIONS

(Msc Global Sustainable Cities 2nd Edition 2016-2017)

Dr Igor Calzada MBA, FeRSA, Ed.

Transformative Smart Cities

STOCKHOLM Melisa Candel KOLKATA Dalia Hui MASDAR Omar Islam BENGALURU Seema Issar

SEOUL Nattharucha Piamsawat

Changing Social Innovation

**BERLIN** Laura Fritsche

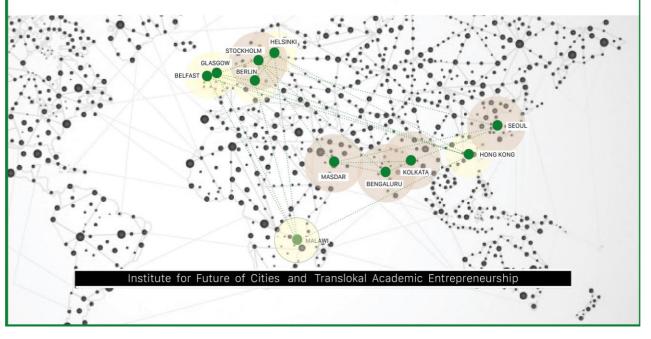
**BELFAST** Laetitia Lucy

MALAWI Akuzike Florence Kamwanja

HONG KONG Rebecca Seraphine Mueller

**HELSINKI** Venla Riekkinen

**GLASGOW** Rhona Morven Sampson



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#### About The Institute for Future of Cities

The Institute for Future Cities (University of Strathclyde) brings together governments, businesses, academics and citizens to imagine and engage with the future of our cities, and explore how to make cities more successful, healthier, safer and more sustainable for us all.

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⊚ Editor: Dr Igor Calzada, MBA, FeRSA

#### ② Authors:

- 'Transformative Smart Cities' research postgraduate team: Melisa Candel (Stockholm), Dalia Hui (Kolkata), Omar Islam (Masdar), Seema Issar (Bengaluru), and Nattarucha Piamsawat (Seoul);
- 'Changing Social Innovation' research postgraduate team: Laura Fritsche (Berlin), Laetitia Lucy (Belfast), Akuzike Florence Kamwanja (Malawi), Rebecca Seraphine Mueller (Hong Kong), Venla Riekkinen (Helsinki) and Rhona Morven Sampson (Glasgow).

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## **GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE CITY-REGIONS**

## #MScGSCGlasgow

Transformative Smart Cities: STOCKHOLM, KOLKATA, MASDAR, BENGULURU & SEOUL

Changing Social Innovation:
BERLIN, BELFAST, MALAWI, HONG KONG, HELSINKI & GLASGOW

Comparing 11 City-Region Case-Studies in Two Research Postgraduate Teams from Two Methodological Modules:

Global Cities: Sustainability and Society & Public Policy, Governance and Strategic Change in Cities.

#### MSc Master in Leadership for Global Sustainable Cities

Edited by Dr Igor Calzada, MBA, FeRSA

Authors:
Melissa Candel
Dalia Hui
Omar Islam
Seema Isaar
Nattharucha Piamsawat
Laura Fritsche
Laetitia Lucy
Akuzike Florence Kamwanja
Rebecca Seraphine Mueller
Venla Riekkinen
Rhona Morven Sampson





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Figure 1. Image by @ifuturecities

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This policy report, entitled 'Global Sustainable City-Regions,' covers the work developed by the lecturer, Dr Igor Calzada, MBA, FeRSA, as the editor of the publication and students of the second edition of the Master course MSc in Leadership for Global Sustainable Cities from September to December 2016.

Specifically, this policy report follows a two-sequential-module structure:

- The first module, entitled 'Global Cities: Sustainability and Society,' consists of six methodological units.
- Thereafter, the second module, entitled 'Public Policy, Governance and Strategic Change in Cities,' consists of five methodological units.

The policy report focuses on two urban global issues in a comparative basis. The MSc was developed in a team-based dynamic by applying qualitative action research methodologies to understand and interpret each case and to benchmark and contrast with other cases that addressed the same global urban issue.

The cases were selected jointly by the lecturer and the students in a dynamic process in order to achieve a suitable selection of cases that would allow them to:

- arrange groups around one specific global urban issue,
- compare cases around the same specific urban issue, and
- produce a full case study by applying the two-sequential-module methodology.





As a result, the following two global urban issues and 11 Global Sustainable City-Region case studies were selected. Each student worked on each of them, as follows:

## GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE CITY-REGIONS #MScGSCGlasgow

Dr Igor Calzada MBA, FeRSA (Editor)

Transformative Smart Cities
STOCKHOLM Melissa Candel
KOLKATA Dalia Hui
MASDAR Omar Islam
BENGALURU Seema Issar
SEOUL Nattharucha Piamsawat

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HONG KONG Rebecca Seraphine Mueller

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GLASGOW Rhona Morven Sampson

Comparing 11 City-Region Case-Studies in two research postgraduate teams from two methodological modules: Global Cities: Sustainability and Society & Public Policy, Governance and Strategic Change in Cities. (Msc Global Sustainable Cities 2016-2017)

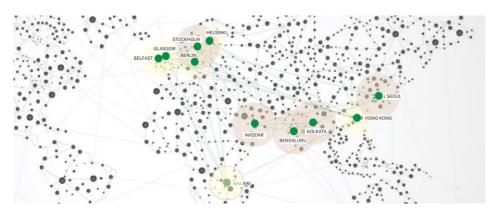


Figure 2. Global Map with cases





#### A. INTRODUCTION

#### A.1.- MSc Global Sustainable City: Two modules

This policy report has been organised in two modules. Indeed, both modules proceeded sequentially.

#### A.2.- GSC938 > Global Cities: Sustainability & Society.

This first module elaborates a general perspective of urban issues at present. Two issues are the main pivotal concepts that allow us to understand the urban dimension: sustainability and society.

#### A.3.- GSC942 > Public Policy, Governance & Strategic Change in Cities.

The first module will be completed with a detailed body of techniques in order to identify public policy, governance and strategic change to the cases studies that students selected.

#### A.4.- Itinerary and Students/Participants: Action Research Methodology.

This report summarizes the full itinerary made by students that was conducted and mentored by the lecturer, Dr Igor Calzada, MBA, FeRSA. The methodology was based on action research insofar as students and the lecturer work together in the definition and application of the sequential modules.

#### A.5.- Learning by Doing.

Thus, students gained the ability to learn by doing a case study.

#### A.6.- Qualitative Research.

Although during the MSc, a significant source of secondary information was used, it could be said that case studies followed primarily qualitative methods.

#### A.7.- Case Studies.

Each case study was produced by one student in collaboration with peers. At the end of the day, everything boiled down to students sharing and learning together.

#### A.8- City-Regions: Unit of Analysis.

Keeping in mind the selected cases followed a diverse range of cities and regions with very diverse populations, geographical sizes and a composition of factors, the MSc considers the city-region as the most suitable unit of analysis.

#### A.9.- International/Global Scope.

The urban perspective encouraged students to compare the international preconditions for each case.

#### A.10.- Comparative/Benchmarking.

Comparing Global Sustainable City-Regions' Urban Issues.

As the outcome of the MSc Master in Leadership for Global Sustainable Cities, students produced a case study that was organised by the lecturer in two comparative global urban issues. Here is the main definition of each urban global issue, in brief:





#### • Transformative Smart Cities:

In recent years, the smart city paradigm has gained traction in urban policy and governance. Underlying the smart city discourse is the techno-utopian belief that the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) is imperative to confront the challenges of urbanization and sustainable development. Although, little has been researched about the differences between this paradigm and its consequences in the Global South and in the Global North. In addition to this, since the smart city as a buzzword has conquered policy agendas worldwide, a transformational push is occurring in some innovative cities and regions worldwide.

This urban issue called 'Transformative Smart Cities' is explained comparatively through five cases as follows: Stockholm, Kolkata, Masdar, Bengaluru, and Seoul.

#### Changing Social Innovation:

Urban issues are usually complex and interconnected phenomena. Poverty, political conflicts, environmental awareness, mobility and transport mechanisms, geopolitical path-dependence, ethno-political unrest, digital connectivity and self-determination could be researched from the social innovation changing perspective. The capacity to think across and between as well as within the thematic factors is crucial. Likewise, a clear understanding of the way in which different disciplines can contribute to a step change in delivery against these changing challenges is therefore required. Ultimately, an awareness of the underlying factors and contexts (including social, political, economic, cultural, technological and historial), interdependencies, synergies, tensions and trade-offs that promote, obstruct or even reverse delivery against social innovation, both individually and collectively are key to understand changing dynamics in city-regions.

This urban issue called 'Changing Social Innovation' is explained comparatively through six cases as follows: Berlin, Belfast, Malawi, Hong Kong, Helsinki, and Glasgow.





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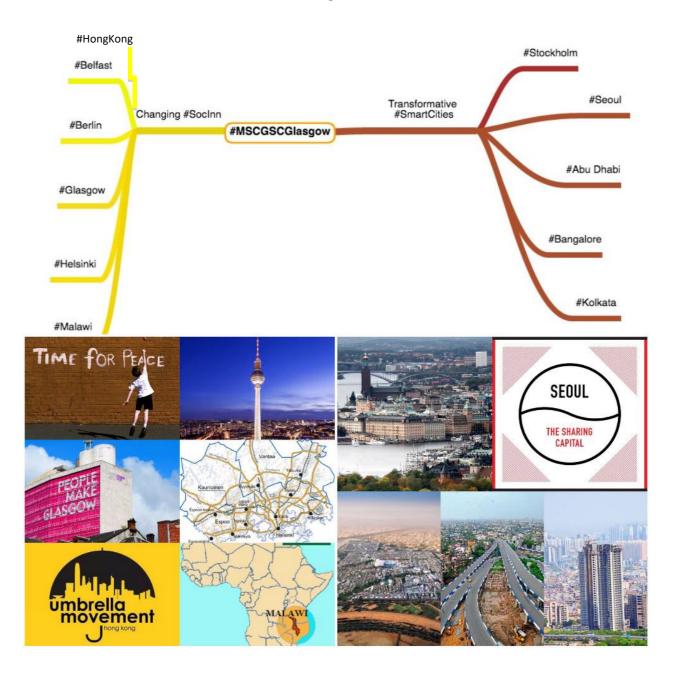


Figure 3. #MScGSCGlasgow 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2016-2017

For further information about this Edition and the MSc, please contact: <a href="mailto:igor.calzada@strath.ac.uk">igor.calzada@strath.ac.uk</a>







