

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Book Title: Resilient Futures for Small and Medium-Sized Cities: Theories, Experiences, and Innovations.

Publisher: Routledge

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Description of the Issue:

Small and Medium-sized Cities (SMCs) are becoming the new frontiers of global urban population growth. The newly developed *degree of urbanization* projection suggests a gradual transition from rapid growth in the last half-century to slow growth by 2050, especially in large cities of middle and low-income countries (UN Habitat, 2022; UN DESA, 2018). However, this apparent slow growth takes a different turn in small and medium-sized cities, estimated to grow nearly two and half times by 2070 in low-income countries (UN-Habitat, 2022). Concurrently, some SMCs are shrinking due to structural economic shifts, de-industrialization, and significant population declines—notably in high-income countries (Eraydin and Özatağan, 2021). In these urban areas, sprawled patterns of growth and blight and vacancies resulting from shrinkage also engender inequality and inequities, and climate change impacts layered on ambiguities in efforts to tackle socio-environmental challenges—such as through climate-sensitive and equitable resilient planning— might replicate already entrenched unsustainable urban development and planning practices in large cities. Whether *growing or shrinking*, SMCs are experiencing the fastest growth in urban vulnerability, requiring efforts to make them resilient (IPCC, 2022, p.53). Would SMCs *leapfrog* the urban socio-environmental challenges of large cities to become *new urban frontiers* of resilient and sustainable development? This question requires new thinking in line with the shifting contours of urban growth and the relevance of SMCs to the global urban sustainability agenda. While this undoubtedly invites *theoretical* and *empirical* grounding, SMCs have received limited attention from researchers and policymakers (Marks and Pulliat, 2022, p.141). This edited volume invites contributions from scholars and practitioners across the broad field of urban studies, planning, geography, environment and development on topics that theoretically *grasp*, experientially *inform*, contextually *plan*, and visibly *elevate* local innovations in both the Global North and South to *foreground* the critical role of SMC in realizing *resilient futures*.

Keywords:

Futures, Urban Resilience, Climate Change, Small and Medium-sized cities, Risk, Urban Sustainability

References

Eraydin, A., & Özatağan, G. (2021). Pathways to a resilient future: A review of policy agendas and governance practices in shrinking cities. *Cities*, 115, 103226.

Marks, D., & Pulliat, G. (2022). Urban climate governance in Southeast Asian small and mid-sized cities: undermining resilience and distributing risks unevenly. *Journal of Integrative Environmental Sciences*, 19(1), 141-160.

IPCC (2022) Summary for Policymakers [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, M. Tignor, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem (eds.)]. In: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E. S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 3–33, doi:10.1017/9781009325844.001.

UN DESA (2018). 'World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision'. Available at: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-KeyFacts.pdf> (accessed 12 December 2018)

UN-Habitat (2022) World Cities Report. https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/06/wcr_2022.pdf

Timeline:

Deadline for abstracts:	June 31, 2024
Deadline for full chapters:	October 31, 2024
Publication:	March 30, 2025 (Tentative)

The following are possible themes (but not limited to) for contributors.

1. Grounding risk and resilience in SMCs.
2. Theoretical approaches for understanding risks and resilience.
3. Equity, risks, and resilience in SMCS.
4. Planning for resilience in SMC.
5. Reimagining resilience approaches and strategies for SMCs.
6. Innovations and practices for risk reduction in SMCs.
7. Community-Based Organizations and Non-Profit Organizations in resilience building in SMCS.
8. The politics/governance of risk and resilience in SMCs.
9. International comparative studies of risks and resilience in SMCs.
10. Funding resilience actions in SMCs.

Please submit your abstract to **Dr. Stephen Kofi Diko** at skdiko@memphis.edu or **Dr. Louis Kusi Frimpong** at lkfrimpong@uesd.edu.gh and cc all editors.

Please note that the total length of abstracts should not exceed 250 words. Please include a brief bio (100 words max), including the email addresses and affiliations of all authors.

Related inquiries should be directed to any of the editors. Please kindly share within your networks. Thank you for your contribution to this project.

The Editors