

Call for Contributions for a book edited by INTALInC-LAC



INTALInC LAC | 2024

Making way for accessibility: Governance, plans, and policy for urban mobility, urban form, and social inclusion in Latin America and the Global South

Cities provide their inhabitants with a wide array of resources fundamental to social inclusion. Such resources include jobs, hospitals, schools, green spaces, urban amenities, government facilities, services, consumer goods, and more. However, these resources are not evenly distributed throughout urban space and not everyone can reach the sites providing such resources with the same ease. Given people's residential location, availability of transport infrastructure, socioeconomic, and individual conditions, not everyone has the same level of accessibility to such resources. Especially in unequal cities, the uneven possibility to access the places that are essential for people's life generates long trips, high transport costs, or even immobility. Acknowledging this problem, researchers have called to put *accessibility* at the center of urban development and transport planning as a way to promote transport justice and more inclusive urban societies (Duranton & Guerra, 2016; Geurs & van Wee, 2004; Levine et al., 2019; Lucas et al., 2016; Martens, 2017; Páez et al., 2012). Researchers have also called for greater attention to the links between mobility and urban form and how *access* to the array of resources and opportunities offered by urban areas is the basis of economic development in urban regions (Rode, P. & da Cruz, N., 2018; Rode et al., 2017). Accessibility, defined as the ease of reaching places, destinations, activities, or opportunities through a combination of transport modes (Duranton & Guerra, 2016; Geurs & van Wee, 2004; Pereira et al, 2019), is increasingly regarded as the primary urban measurement to consider from a resource allocation standpoint as it can link discussions on land use, housing, transportation to achieve more equitable urban conditions (Cui et al., 2019; Luz & Portugal, 2022; Pereira et al., 2017; Vecchio & Martens, 2021). In facing the urban development challenges of the highly unequal urban societies of Latin America and the Global South in general, we believe that focusing urban development processes through an accessibility lens can contribute to the production of a more integrated and equitable urban space.

Despite successful applications to examine existing urban settings and transport systems, accessibility remains an emerging concept in policy difficult to apply into actionable plans and urban policy, requiring considerable technical expertise, and political sensitivity. Yet in Latin America, the links between accessibility and policy have caught the attention of researchers and



policy practitioners (Oviedo et al. 2020; Vecchio et al, 2020). For example, studies have applied the classical measures of potential accessibility to inform policy debates (Hernández, 2018; Pereira, 2019), looked at the existing gaps between research and policy in the promotion of accessibility (Tiznado-Aitken *et al.*, 2023), examined how policies from seemingly distinct policy domains overlap and interact in urban space to produce geographies of low accessibility (López-García, 2023), explore the relationship between the growing concern for transport equity and accessibility-oriented plans and policies (Vecchio et al., 2020), and discuss how the lived experience of urban residents could be leveraged to support more inclusive accessibility policies (Borello *et al.*, 2024). While these works show the importance of links between urban accessibility and urban planning and policy, there is still a need to advance the research agenda and broader dissemination of knowledge in this field. There is also an opportunity to learn about research on accessibility in different contexts of the Global South.

Aiming to advance knowledge production about the impacts of accessibility in urban planning and urban policy and to contribute to more equitable policy-making, the Latin American Chapter of the International Network for Transport and Accessibility in Low-Income Communities (INTALInC-LAC) is calling for contributions for an edited volume on the relationship between accessibility, urban planning, urban policy, and governance in the Global South.

The themes that we seek to include in the edited volume include, but are not limited to:

- Conceptualizations of the relationship between accessibility and urban planning and policy.
- Case studies of accessibility to urban resources and opportunities including jobs, healthcare facilities, schools, green spaces, urban amenities, government services, consumer goods and services, and so forth.
- Accounts of how the classic (e.g., potential accessibility) and emergent (e.g., observed accessibility, perceived accessibility) techniques for the assessment of accessibility have been used in urban planning and policy.
- The links between the concepts of emerging *mobilities* and *diverse mobilities* with accessibility plans and policy.
- The actors, discourses, and narratives that shape the relationship between accessibility, plans, public policy, and social inclusion.
- The circulation of ideas, plans, policies, and so-called best practices between cities and countries in the accessibility agenda.
- The relationship between the accessibility lens and discussion about the tradeoffs between efficiency and equity in urban development.
- The use of the urban accessibility lens in urban development discussion at different geographical scales such as the city, metropolitan, and regional scope.
- The relationship between urban accessibility and the challenges of urban economic development at the city, metropolitan, and regional scales.



- The policy processes, the forms of governance at different scales, the mobilization strategies used by urban actors, and the social mobilization strategies that shape and transform accessibility-related plans and policies.
- The gaps between theory and practice in accessibility-oriented plans and policies.
- Comparative studies of accessibility plans and policies, either within the Global South or between the Global North and South.

If interested, please submit a **250-word abstract** to intalinc.lac@gmail.com by **March 31, 2024**. Please put "Proposal for edited volume" in the subject line. Your submission must also include a title, 3 to 5 keywords, the name and affiliation of all authors, a list of references, and a short bio of no more than 150 words of every author; these elements are not part of the 250-word count for the abstract. The editors will notify the authors if their proposal is selected for inclusion in the edited volume by **April 30, 2024**.

The selected proposals will become part of a book proposal to be sent to an international academic publisher for their consideration. The audience of the book is graduate students and researchers in higher education institutions, researchers at think tanks and international development agencies and philanthropies, as well as practitioners of urban planning, urban policy, and urban design in governments and consultancies. If the book proposal goes into contract, the contributing authors will participate in **virtual workshops** organized by INTALInC-LAC to discuss and provide feedback on their manuscripts. The selected chapters will also go through a double-blind peer review process of at least two reviewers coordinated by the book editors.

Full manuscripts must be submitted to the editors by **December 31, 2024**. Manuscripts must have an extension between 6,000 to 8,000 words, including title, abstract, keywords, tables and figures, annexes, and references. The manuscripts must be in English, Times New Roman font size 12, double spacing, and APA citation format.

Editors

Please refer any questions about this call to the book editors:

- Dr. David López-García, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Policy, University of Illinois Chicago. lopezgar@uic.edu
- Dr. Natalia Villamizar Duarte, Lecturer, School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape, Newcastle University. natalia.villamizar-duarte@ncl.ac.uk
- Dr. Ana Marcela Ardila Pinto, Profesor, Departamento de Sociología, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais. marardila@gmail.com
- Dr. Giovanni Vecchio, Profesor Asistente, Instituto de Estudios Urbanos y Territoriales, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. giovanni.vecchio@uc.cl



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