

# FP LECTURE SERIES 2015

## EVERYDAY SPACES OF RESISTANCE: Lessons on how to survive neoliberalism, cases from Mexico and India

Neoliberalism has brought major changes in Mexico in the last decades; economic growth and rapid modernisation of cities are some of the most visible benefits of this model. However, while Norman Foster is designing the Mexico City new airport as a reflection of the country modern image, Mexico is facing its worst human right crisis. The social divide between poor and rich is deepening, violence related to drugs trafficking has become part of inhabitants' everyday life, marginalisation of indigenous communities is still present and generalised poverty is increasing. In this context, the joint-lecture addresses a 'form of resistance coming from the grassroots' to defend their rights, culture, livelihoods and territories through their everyday practices.

The resistance is observed in two ways; in some cases as a 'survival strategy' in front of neoliberal forces and in other cases as a way to challenge the neoliberal system by generating spaces where 'alternative ways of development' are built. In the first part of the lecture, Karol gives an overview of grassroots' resistances based on the concept of buen-vivir (well-being) which emerged from the Zapatista movement in Mexico. In the second part, Lila and Karol present research cases from Mexico and India to generate reflections in the construction and meaning of our cities. Three research themes are discussed: street vendors, everyday life in slums and food waste practices.

**Date :** Thursday, 29th October

**Time :** 6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Venue :** Auditorium

Lila Oriard and Karol Yañez



Lila and Karol are both Mexicans researchers from Developing Planning Unit, University College London and with experience doing research in India under the UKNA program. Lila currently works as Teaching Fellow in Faculty of Planning at CEPT and is an expert planner specialised in informal street vendors. Karol has wide experience researching on social organisations constructing alternative ways of development in response to pressing environmental issues such as water, waste and food systems.



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