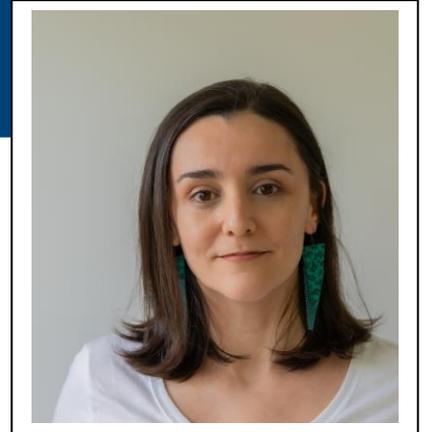


School of People, Environment and Planning

Development Studies Seminar/Webinar Series 2021

Reframing climate adaptation from the urban periphery

Karen Paiva Henrique (University of Western Australia)



Thursday, 27 May, 2-3pm

This seminar will be accessible via Zoom:
<https://massey.zoom.us/j/3268916045>

3rd floor Social Science Tower (SST 3.07/17)

ALL WELCOME

State-led adaptation projects are under increasing scrutiny given their overall inability to address climate problems in ways that are inclusive, fair, and sustainable. A case in point, the state of São Paulo, Brazil, is currently enacting a multimillion-dollar floodplain restoration scheme, aiming to relocate thousands of low-income families to allegedly protect the city against exacerbated flooding. Yet, to date, the plan has largely failed to improve the lives of those affected; instead, it has arguably entrenched existing and created new vulnerabilities. Building on this and other cases from the Global South, I argue that we must shift adaptation away from large-scale techno-managerial projects and pay attention to the ‘messy’ everyday spaces wherein adaptation efforts are simultaneously enacted, resisted, and negotiated. I will discuss how attention to this space, and ‘othered’ ways of knowing and addressing socioenvironmental challenges, provides entry points to reframe adaptation and achieve climate justice.

Dr Karen Paiva Henrique is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Western Australia. Her work lies at the intersection of climate adaptation, urban development, and multiple dimensions of justice. Dr Henrique’s PhD research examined the politics of flood adaptation in São Paulo, Brazil, demonstrating how state practices entwine with exclusionary development trajectories while sketching more inclusive and sustainable approaches from below. Her postdoctoral work investigates how people in Western Australia make individual and collective decisions and trade-offs to protect the many things they value against the multifaceted socio-ecological impacts of the global climate crisis.