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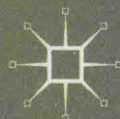
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# LATIN AMERICAN URBAN DEVELOPMENT INTO THE 21st CENTURY

Towards a Renewed Perspective on the City

*Edited by Dennis Rodgers, Jo Beall and Ravi Kanbur*



# Latin American Urban Development into the 21st Century

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Dennis Rodgers

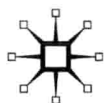
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This volume is a product of the broader UNU-WIDER research project 'Development in an Urban World'. We thank both the former and current directors of UNU-WIDER, Tony Shorrocks and Finn Tarp, for supporting this research.

*Dennis Rodgers, Geneva*

*Jo Beall, London*

*Ravi Kanbur, Ithaca*

# Foreword

The 20th century was a century of unprecedented rapid urbanization, whether considered in terms of rural–urban migration or natural urban growth. By the dawn of the 21st century, for the first time in human history, more than half of the world's population was living in urban areas, and demographic forecasts for the decades ahead estimate that by 2030, almost five billion people – out of a total world population of eight billion – will be living in towns and cities. In 2009, UNU-WIDER launched a large-scale interdisciplinary research project to try to gain a better understanding of what this urbanization will most likely mean for human development. Although the project explored the nature of the new urban reality in general, an area of particular interest was how the consequences of urbanization are different for different parts of the developing world.

This collection presents a range of studies focused on Latin America. According to UN-Habitat, Latin America is the developing world's most urbanized region, with over 75 per cent of its population residing in towns and cities at the beginning of the 21st century – a figure that it is estimated will rise to almost 85 per cent by the middle of this century. As such, Latin America, in many ways, arguably constitutes something of an 'urban laboratory'. Although many of the consequences of contemporary global urbanization are regionally specific, common trends and issues that cut across regions clearly also exist. Thus, much can be learnt from the Latin American experience. This volume presents an original collection of studies, drawn from a range of disciplines, which highlight some of the key issues regarding the changing nature of contemporary urban life in the region, and the consequences of its transformation for development more generally.

I would like to conclude by expressing my gratitude to Dennis Rodgers, Jo Beall, and Ravi Kanbur for their first-rate academic and professional skills in successfully bringing this thought-provoking volume to fruition, as well as to the contributors to this collection for providing such a stimulating set of studies.

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Foreign Affairs), Finland (Ministry for Foreign Affairs), Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida), and the United Kingdom (Department for International Development – DFID).

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