



## **Urban Breakdowns: Crises, Control and Repair**

2024 CITY's Graduate Student Conference

October 25, 2024  
9 AM – 6 PM  
Kaneff Tower, Room 519  
York University, Keele Campus

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda</b>
8:45 - 9:15 AM	Registration and continental breakfast
9:15 - 9:30 AM	Welcome by Yuly Chan and Luisa Sotomayor on behalf of CITY's 2024 Graduate Conference Organizing Committee
9:30 - 10:15 AM  Keynote session on urban research methods	<p><b>Studying the “urban” and not taking it for granted</b></p> <p>Rachel Bok, PhD in Geography, University of British Columbia Visiting Scholar at City Institute (2024-2025)</p> <p>Using insights from her multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork, Dr. Bok will facilitate a broad conversation on attaining and locating routes of access to otherwise inaccessible sources, surmounting barriers to transparency, writing strategies to address the politics of representation, and retaining a critical distance while taking care of not ruining relationships. Whether you're in the process of writing your research proposal, have recently completed fieldwork or are already in the writing stages, this session will provide space for a supportive and generative discussion.</p>
10:30 - 12:00  Panel 1	<p><b>Urban Growth and Breakdown: Abandonment, Densification and the Vertical City</b></p> <p>Chair: Yuly Chan, PhD Candidate in Sociology, LA&amp;PS</p> <p>“What is tall? Density and Urban Form” by Ian Weir and Madison Stirling, MES Planning students, EUC</p>

	<p>“Housing, Care and Gender: Navigating the Challenges of Commodified Living Spaces” by Clara Gómez, PhD student in Environmental Studies, EUC</p> <p>“Abandoning Skylines: Conceptualizing the Rise and Fall of Toronto’s Residential High-Rises” by Elham Akbari, PhD student in Environmental Studies, EUC</p> <p>“Hammering Gentrification in the Hammer: Redevelopment, Displacement, and Gentrification in Hamilton’s Downtown Core” Rob Butrym, PhD student in Politics, LA&amp;PS</p> <p>“It’s Not Really the Suburbs Anymore: The Politics of Planning in Post-Suburban Newtonbrook, North York” by Steven Lum, MES Planning student, EUC</p>
12: - 1:00 PM	<b>Lunch –</b> Sponsored by the Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change
<p>1:00 - 2:30 PM</p> <p>Panel 2</p>	<p><b>Global Perspectives on Infrastructure Failures and Repair</b></p> <p>Chair: Sophia Ilyniak, PhD Candidate in Human Geography, EUC</p> <p>“Unraveling Urban Decline in the East: Systemic Failures in Lyulin’s Microdistricts in Sofia, Bulgaria” by Martin Barakov, PhD student in Politics, LA&amp;PS</p> <p>“Urban Infrastructure and Systemic Failure: A Case Study of Weston-Mount Dennis” by Aaron Joseph, MES student, EUC</p> <p>“Practices of Care and Repair Across Nairobi &amp; Karachi” by Muhammad Arsam, PhD student in Environmental Studies, EUC</p> <p>“Seasonal Water Source Choice in the Informal Settlements of Freetown, Sierra Leone” Brian Waters, PhD student in Geography, EUC</p>
<p>2:30 - 4:00 PM</p> <p>Panel 3</p>	<p><b>Governance and the Politics of Urban Order: Decentralization, City Image and the Metaverse</b></p> <p>Chair: Viktoriya Vinik, PhD Candidate in Political Science, LA&amp;PS</p> <p>“Metaverse, Not the Universe: The AI-governed City” by Katayoon Salehi, Graduate Program in Communication &amp; Culture, LA&amp;PS</p> <p>“Visions of Governance, Citizenship, and Order: A Discourse Analysis of Toronto’s 2021 Encampment Evictions” by Farida Rady, PhD student in Geography, EUC</p> <p>“Vancouver’s Urban Image and Jacques Rancière: Democracy and the 2010 Winter Olympics” by Jacob Roberts, MA student in Critical Human Geography</p> <p>“Decentralization in Ukraine: Reorganizing Core–Periphery Relations?” by Sophia Ilyniak, PhD Candidate in Human Geography, EUC</p>

4:00 - 4:15 PM	<b>Coffee break</b>
4:15 - 5:45 PM Panel 4	<p><b>Labor Precarity and Crisis Narratives: Resistance and Solidarity</b></p> <p>Chair: Mantha Katsikana, PhD Candidate in Human Geography</p> <p>“The View from the Driver’s Seat: Urban Stories of App-Based Delivery Drivers Navigating Precarity in Lethbridge, Alberta” J. Lawrenz Decano, MA student in Geography, EUC.</p> <p>“Best Before Date: 2nd Feb 2024 – The Breakdown of Protections for Precarious Workers in the GTA: The story of Del Monte in Oshawa” Christopher C. Sorio, MA student in Critical Human Geography, EUC.</p> <p>“Manufacturing Crises: Toronto’s fear of Palestine solidarity” Fizza Mir, PhD candidate in the Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture at York University and Toronto Metropolitan University and Aaliya Khan, PhD candidate in Social and Political Thought LA&amp;PS</p> <p>Street Art as a Tool for Challenging Dominant Narratives and Fostering Resistance, Care, and Repair” Jila Mosapournegari, Graduate student in the Department of Anthropology, LA&amp;PS.</p>
5:45 - 6:00	Closing Remarks by Organizing Committee
6-7 PM	Awards Announcement and Reception

**This event is co-sponsored by the Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change and the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies.**

**Conference Organizers:**

Yuly Chan, PhD Candidate in Sociology, LA&PS and Graduate Representative, City Institute’s Executive Committee

Sophia Ilyniak, PhD Candidate in Human Geography, EUC

Mantha Katsikana, PhD Candidate in Human Geography and GenUrb Representative, City Institute’s Executive Committee

Dr. Maryam Lashkari, Human Geography, EUC (recent alumna)

Brian Waters, PhD Student in Geography, EUC

Luisa Sotomayor, Director, the City Institute

Ushieja de Zoysa, Coordinator, the City Institute

**The City Institute at York University (CITY)** brings together the university’s urban scholars—faculty members, post-doctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students and visiting scholars—from across the social sciences and the humanities with particular strengths in geography, environmental studies, planning, anthropology, sociology and political science. As an interdisciplinary institute, CITY facilitates critical and collaborative research, providing new knowledge and innovative approaches to comprehending and addressing the complexity of the urban arena.