

April 12, 2021

CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal of Illicit Economies and Development (JIED), LSE Press

Special Section: ILLICITIES – City-Making and Organized Crime

Special Section editors: Frank Müller (Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University) and Julienne Weegels (Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation, University of Amsterdam)

Deadline for Submission: May 20, 2021

This special section explores the ways in which heterogeneous governance actors, including formal state, private enterprises and organized criminal groups, co-produce cities. As spaces that concentrate economic wealth and political power cities are prone to struggles over the distribution of resources and often become arenas in which negotiations between the formal state and illicit actors - such as militia, mafia, drug trafficking and paramilitary groups - materialize and shape bodies, architectures and the built environment in general. Alongside this, security enforcers are also constantly diversifying their economic bases beyond classical protection rackets, building and shaping illicit value and production chains. As organized crime “weaponizes” formal urban development, and private and public enterprises depend on governing illicit territories and economies, citizens’ ability to own, manage, and access resources such as land, construction materials, apartments and urban utilities (water, electric energy and gas) is severely limited. This urges us to include the particular materialities of urban protection rackets in the analysis of illicit urbanization.

We address the influential role of illicit actors in urban planning, administration, and marketization and examine their intricate ties with formal state, and seemingly licit private enterprises. We also seek to address the effect of architectures and built environments on human profit-making agencies. In doing so, this themed issue’s overarching, methodological and conceptual axes advance the critical role of objects, infrastructures and materialities in such hybrid city-making. This can include more apparently illicit goods (drugs, weapons, etc.) and those that, as part of illicit city-making, turn into illicit goods (illegally extracted sand, construction materials, etc.). From diverse disciplinary angles the collection of papers in this themed issue pushes for a better understanding of the urban and material conditions of Charles Tilly’s crime/state-making nexus. By bringing Charles Tilly’s analogy of state-making and organized crime to the city, we wish to bridge debates of urban planning, development, and civic engagement into dialogue with those of crime and illicit economies.

Suggested themes:

- The involvement of urban infrastructures in hybrid city-making and the effect on access to and distribution of urban utilities such as water, electric energy and gas;
- The il/licit provision and marketization of construction materials (sand, cement, asbestos, steel etc.);
- The ties between formal, illicit and religious actors and spaces and the role of religious buildings, as well as spiritual objects and symbols in influencing illicit urbanization;
- The role of institutions that are located on or implicated in the city-making/organized crime nexus (government buildings, prisons, police, schools, etc.)
- Tacit/explicit ‘legalizations’ or ‘criminalizations’ of il/licit objects, urban infrastructures or economies;
- Sensory and affective accounts of any of the above.

We invite contributions from around the world and a broad range of academic disciplines, including but not limited to anthropology, geography, sociology, criminology, political science, and international relations. In addition to full

length research papers, we also invite policy analyses from activists, NGO leaders, or practitioners. In their contributions, authors are invited to respond to (some of) the following questions:

1. How are different materialities and objects, such as urban utilities, housing, bodies/senses, technologies, and weapons tied to criminal and/or state activity and to the negotiations, conflicts or collaborations between state authorities and illicit groups?
2. What kind of built (infra)structures favor illicit activities and economies?
3. What patterns of urban forms, of buildings/architectures, and of infrastructures emerge out of il/licit city-making?
4. Do licit-illicit orders engender more or less equal distribution of goods and commons, as well as access to housing, infrastructures, and (public) spaces?
5. What kind of responses to illicit city-making can we observe from urban populations?

In this time of COVID-19 lockdowns and uncertainty within academia, we particularly encourage submissions by female scholars, precariously employed faculty-members, and academics from less traditional backgrounds.

The special issue will also contribute to the strengthening of the research network ILLICITIES – City-Making and Organized Crime, hosted by the Centre for Urban Studies, University of Amsterdam.

As noted, JIED calls for two types of contributions in English (to discuss the possibility of publishing in Spanish, please contact the editors):



RESEARCH ARTICLES

based on unpublished original research that makes a substantial contribution to knowledge and understanding to this special issue. Length: 8,000 words (abstract 250 words).



POLICY COMMENTARIES

which cover commentary on novel policy interventions, or review pre-existing interventions. Length: 3000 words (abstract 250 words).

If you are interested in responding to this call, please submit the following information:

- Article type: __Research Article / __Policy Commentary
- Tentative title of article
- Short biography (100 words), including name, affiliation, main publication(s) and place of residence of authors(s)
- Abstract of the manuscript (250-500 words)

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Deadline for Submission of abstracts: May 20, 2021

Please submit your abstract and bio to both editors: f.i.mueller@uva.nl; j.h.j.weegels@uva.nl.



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