

what are the governance challenges and potential solutions to realising a sustainable urban future for all?

Andreza Aruska de Souza Santos, University of Oxford

Every city plan, whether for a new city or small-scale alterations of existing cityscapes, brings with it the promise of a better future. Cities in Latin America are sites of hope and many residents of rural areas have moved to urban enclaves in search of a better life. The pace of urbanization (from 30% of the population living in cities in the 1950s to more than 80% today) reveals the intense draw of promises of progress and modernity.

The challenge of governance is to create cities that are able to cater to audiences with different perceptions of what a good life should be, and cities in Latin America have often failed to do that. Large-scale and state-led plans abounded in the region, with narratives and results that exclude large parts of the population. Latin American cities are thus sites of contestation. The participatory and protest landscape for which Latin American cities are famous presses for the *right to the city*. The governance challenge here is to realise common demands for housing, transportation, and sanitation, and yet tailor solutions that include different demographics based on wealth, gender and age, for example; and answer environmental demands such as climate change and the nexus between water, food and energy provision. Today's sketches for sustainable transformations face the challenge of not only imagining a 'better future', but also making sure that the act of imagining is inclusive to all users of the city.