



Technische Universität Berlin



TU Berlin Sekr. HBS 6

Hardenbergstr. 16-18 D-10623 Berlin

FAKULTÄT I

GEISTESWISSEN-
SCHAFTEN

Institut für
Kunstwissenschaft und
Historische Urbanistik

Center for
MetropolitanStudies-
CMS

Dr. Avi Sharma

030 314 -28 406

avi.sharma@metropolitanstudies.de

Berlin, April 10, 2021

RE:

Prof. Dr. María Moreno Carranco

Dear Professor María Moreno Carranco,

We are pleased to invite you as a Visiting Academic Fellow to the Center of Metropolitan Studies, a leading research and teaching institute that addresses urban topics in Germany and in Europe. Since our joint participation in the **WC2 Berlin Summer Symposium in 2016**, we have identified a number of areas of shared interest and believe that having you as a visiting scholar will strengthen the possibilities for individual and institutional collaboration between *Technische Universität Berlin* and the *Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana- Cuajimalpa*.

We hope to welcome you to our institution for your sabbatical in academic year 2022-2023. During that time, our collaboration will proceed along four tracks: **teaching, collaborative research, an international symposium, and institutional collaboration building**.

Teaching. Professor Moreno Carranco will co-teach a 16 hour “block seminar” on global urbanism, public space, megaprojects, post disaster response and reconstruction strategies with X in November 2022. The course will be open to graduate students from the Technical University of Berlin, the Humboldt University and the Free University, who will be awarded 3ECTS for their participation. This four/week block-seminar in our “Global Urbanism” track will focus mainly on contemporary urban issues from cities and metropolitan areas in Latin America, South Asia and Europe – Professor Moreno Carranco will focus on México City as a case study to address broader issues concerning big urban centers everywhere.

Collaborative Research. Together with Dr. Avi Sharma, Professor Dr. María Moreno will begin collaboration on an urban research project on *Urban Palimpsests in the Aftermath of Disaster*. The preliminary research is organized around the question: how do efforts to recover from natural disasters differ from disasters with anthropogenic causes and how these disasters are present in the built environment over time. Tentatively taking the cases of Mexico City after the earthquakes of 1985 and 2017 and Berlin after the destruction of WWII aerial bombardment... This collaborative work expands on the existing profile of the involved researchers....

International Symposium During Prof. Moreno Carranco’s sabbatical, we will also stage an international symposium on the theme of *Urban Palimpsests in the Aftermath of Disaster*. It is our intention to include scholars from Mexico City, Bogota, Los Angeles, Cambridge, MA., Cambridge, UK; Stanford; Berlin, Munich, and New Delhi in order to address case studies from Latin America, North America, Africa, Europe, and South Asia.

Institutional Collaboration Building. The Center for Metropolitan Studies will launch a new Master’s degree in Urban Studies in 2022, and part of the goal of that program is to enhance student and faculty mobility, in particular, with partner institutions in Latin America and South Asia. Professor Moreno will work with the Director of the Center of Metropolitan Studies, Dorothee Brantz, to identify possibilities for creating an institutional collaboration between the Technical University of Berlin and the UAM- Cuajimalpa. The key goal of internationalization will be to create opportunities to secure third party funding to support our joint initiatives. For this reason, in addition to teaching and research engagements, we hope to develop a strategic plan for collaboration, which include reciprocal research and teaching engagements, as well as joint publications and public events.

We look forward to working with Prof. Moreno Carranco. Her stay at The Center for Metropolitan Studies will undoubtedly strengthen the academic collaboration between UAM and TU, which in turn shall further one of the main goals of WC2: fostering close and long-lasting exchanges of its members.

Thank you for your attention, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Avi Sharma

we also would like to advance with you on our common research products, which have developed during your invited participation in our edited volume entitled “Urban Resilience in Global Context,” to be published by Columbia University Press in 2020. We want you to work on a specific journal article discussing metropolitan tensions in contemporary Latin American cities, and hope you will take an historical approach to the development of a metropolitan consciousness in Latin America during the 20th century. Given our desire to intensify collaboration between our two universities, we hope to explore parallels with European urbanization and the ideas mobility that impacted urban policies during that time. For that purpose we offer our spaces and staff for your research, but we also want to highlight the fact that you will have access to the *Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut* as a valuable source that we were able to explore during your visit to the TU Berlin earlier in 2019.

In part because we at the TU Berlin are very interested in exchange programming with Universities in Latin America, we believe that your visit will give us some time to develop a more detailed plan for student mobility between our institutions. We know that you can receive our students as you have been doing with students for SciencesPo from France and we are also capable of receiving students coming to visit the center from the *Gestión y Desarrollo Urbanos* program. We are also highly interested in promoting short-time academic trips, and especially academic field visits and consider that Bogotá and other Colombian cities are excellent examples to continue doing the sort of “urban laboratory” excursions that we have done in Greece, Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and elsewhere.

As you know we are highly interested in the urban impact of long-term violent conflicts and social turmoil, along with the impact of massive migration dynamics such as the ones that Europe is facing. Once again, we think Colombia is a great case study that will promote important scholarly exchange and co-creation of knowledge. We also believe that our joint efforts will bring insights from the current European migration crisis that can be usefully applied to understanding current urban challenges facing Colombian cities, which is facing extreme pressures from the post-agreement dynamics, as well as migration from neighboring Venezuela.

Finally, we recognize the substantial efforts you have made in recent years to help build the foundations for a strong network connecting your University with the TU Berlin, and also with other centers in Europe, the US, Latin America, and also Africa. We are pleased to be one pivotal hub of this dialogue network on urban topics. As you know, over the years, the Center for Metropolitan Studies has built strong relationships with universities across Europe, with Columbia University and Toronto University in North America and are willing to work on the development of a strong link with Universidad del Rosario. We know that our efforts will help expand the knowledge base within and across our academic communities, and that exchanges between our students and staff will create new opportunities for expanded knowledge production and funding for our universities.

We deeply hope we can have you here in 2020 to accomplish most of the ideas that we drafted during your previous visits, and expect that these plans will soon be realized. We express our hope that the academic selection committee of this call for applications will find this proposal as strong and valuable as we do. We hope that this funding will allow us to continue working on our common goals, and we expect that your visit in early 2020 will accelerate the implementation on ongoing collaboration between the Universidad del Rosario and the Center for Metropolitan Studies.