



## ***Causes and consequences of ongoing urbanization processes in Sweden and Chile***

### ***Description***

There is a strong ongoing urbanization trend in the world, and United Nations estimates that by 2050 more than two thirds of the world's population will live in cities. Cities are important drivers of economic growth, but increasing city populations also creates concerns for a socially sustainable urban development. Quickly growing populations might lead to housing shortages and increasing housing costs, increased segregation and inequality, social exclusion and deprived neighborhoods, urban-related health problems, and increasing crime rates. This development is related to two of United Nations' sustainable development goals for 2030: Sustainable Cities and Communities and Good Health and Well-Being.

The purpose of this workshop is twofold. The first purpose is to present and discuss research that aims at providing a better understanding of the consequences of the ongoing urbanization processes in Sweden and Chile and to discuss policies, such as housing policies, place-based policies, and urban planning, that play important roles for this understanding. The second purpose is to initiate discussions for future research cooperation on how Chile and Sweden tackle problems following in the wake of urbanization.

The Swedish PI, Matz Dahlberg, is Professor in Economics, especially Housing and Urban Economics, at Uppsala University and director for Urban Lab (<https://urbanlab.ibf.uu.se/?languageId=1>), a research initiative that started at Uppsala University in 2019. The purpose of Urban Lab is to create an active and multidisciplinary research environment for quantitative studies of issues related to cities and urbanization processes. The Chilean PI, Voltaire Alvarado Peterson, Associate Professor in Geography at Universidad de Concepción, is involved in the research project "Geografías de la suburbanización propietaria en el centro sur de Chile. Estructura subsidiaria residencial y socioespacialidades del bienestar (1990-2022)", which examines the role of urban planning and different housing policies in understanding suburban sustainability in Chilean middle-cities, where unequal access to health and education play an important role.

The workshop is open to all types of questions related to the effects of urbanization and urban development. A non-exhaustive list of research questions of interest includes:

- How does urbanization affect individuals' health? Which are the mechanisms?
- How does urbanization affect cities' segregation patterns, crime rates, and neighborhood development?
- How does growing up in a disadvantaged or segregated neighborhood affect one's future outcomes (such as educational, labor market, and health outcomes)?

- What are the economic and social consequences of changes in the housing stock (due to, e.g., new construction, renovations, and housing conversions) for the affected individuals and neighborhoods? Are they drivers of gentrification and segregation?
- What are the economic and social effects of urban planning, housing policies, and place-based policies?

***Expected outcomes***

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***Possible site-visits***

TBD

***Planned activities***

The workshop will consist of three main parts:

1. Research presentations
2. Dedicated discussants for each presentation
3. General discussion of the research presented and on questions related to causes and consequences of urbanization.

***Contact details***

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