

Panel 39: Megacities in South Asia as Arenas of Risks and Resilience

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Abstract: Megacities can be regarded as the new focal points of an emerging global risk society. Under the impact of globalization and global environmental changes as well as due to local transformations, tensions between a multitude of actors and interest groups have also increased in the megacities of South Asia. While there is great potential for economic development, financial wealth and innovation, life has become precarious, particularly for the urban poor. Social conflicts between those urban actors who are the winners of urban transformations and those at the margin are increasing and pose new threats for urban governance.

Against this background, the panel seeks to examine megacities in South Asia as arenas of social risks and resilience. These are the guiding questions:

- Which risks (have) emerge(d) in the megacities of South Asia (i.e. food, water, health,...)?
- How are these risks perceived by different socio-economic groups and along which story lines do risk discourses unfold?
- How do different actors, i.e. state authorities, city municipalities, private sector, citizens, cope with and adapt to these risks?
- What forms of risk governance have evolved, and what role do informal modes of risk regulation play?
- Which forms of resilience can be identified in South Asian Megacities?
- What is the trade-off between the production of security and the production of risk?
- What mechanisms for resilience-building can be considered?

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