

What we talk about when we talk about informal urbanisation

Roberto Rocco

*Associate Professor of Spatial Planning and Strategy
Delft University of Technology*



ROUTLEDGE
HANDBOOKS



The Routledge Handbook on Informal Urbanization

Edited by Roberto Rocco and Jan van Ballegooijen

AHMEDABAD
ANKARA
BALKANS
BEIRUT
BELO HORIZONTE
CAIRO
FORTALEZA
GUANGZHOU
GUAYAQUIL
HANOI (B)
HARARE
JERUSALEM
JOHANNESBURG
KHARTOUM
LIMA
MASHHAD
MEDELLIN
MUMBAI (R)
NAIROBI
PORT AU PRINCE
RIO DE JANEIRO
SÃO PAULO (tenement houses)
SÃO PAULO (occupations)
SEOUL (B)
YOGYAKARTA





Il nome della rosa



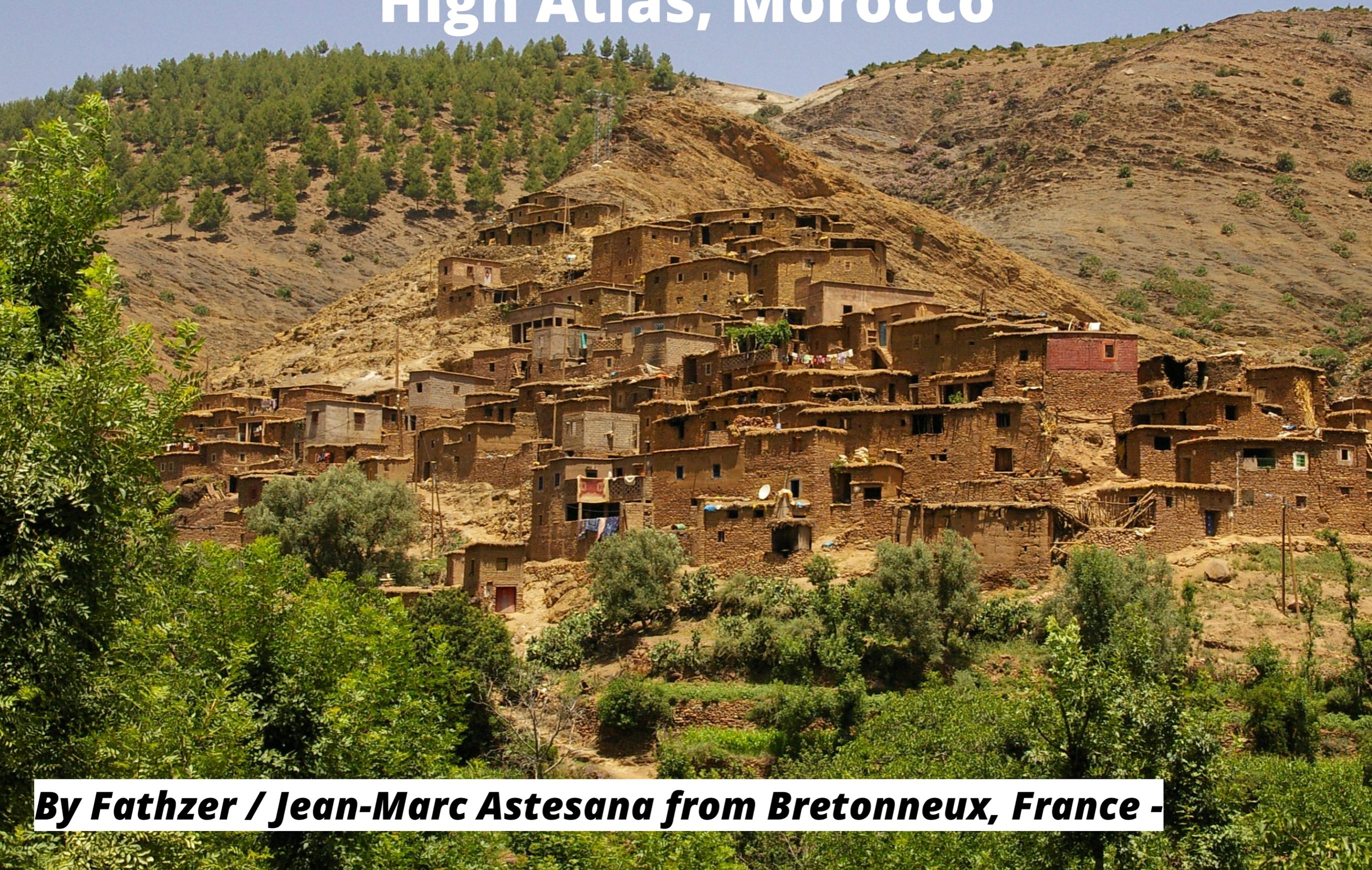
**Informality manifests
itself in multiple
forms that are
context dependent**

Vernacular X Informal



Traditional Village in Ethiopia <https://www.mercycorps.org/>

Berber village in Ourika valley, High Atlas, Morocco



By Fathzer / Jean-Marc Astesana from Bretonneux, France -

Saint-Cirq-Lapopie in Lot, France



By Adam Baker from Houston / Moscow / Toulouse (travel a lot) -

**Informality is necessarily
embedded in processes of
'MODERNISATION'**



Deficient
Incomplete
Dependent
Imposed
Exclusive
Neo-Colonial
Modernisation

**Who is included
and who is
excluded from
modernisation
processes?**





Photo Roberto Rocco

**The State
and its
technologies for
State building**



The role of international capital

Asking for 'modernization'

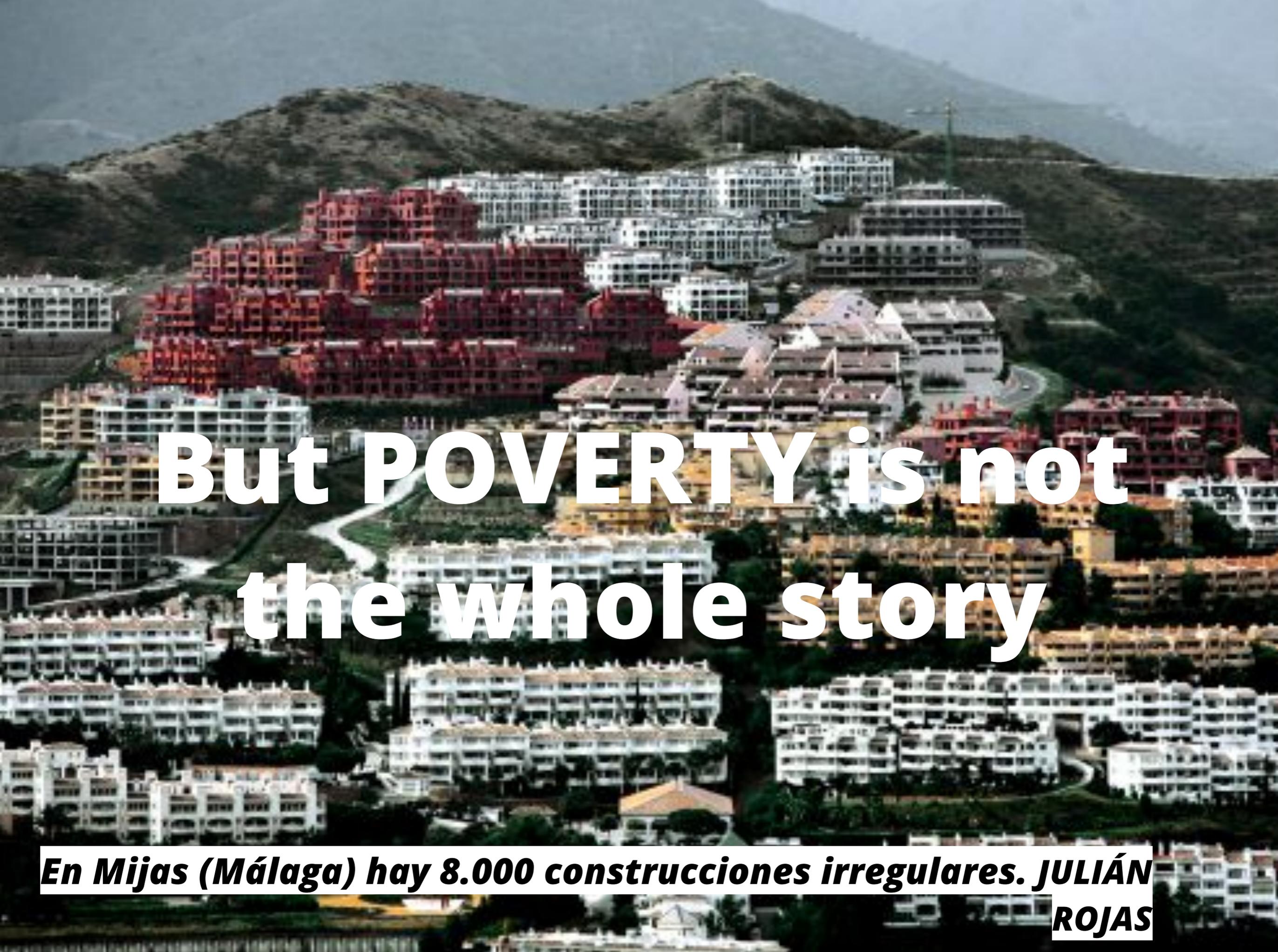


The role of planning

The brokers of modernisation



POVERTY

An aerial photograph of a hillside town, likely Mijas in Málaga, Spain. The town is built on a steep slope, with buildings of various colors including red, white, yellow, and orange. The buildings are densely packed and appear to be multi-story residential structures. In the background, there are more hills and mountains under a clear sky. The overall scene depicts a typical Spanish hillside town with a mix of traditional and modern architecture.

**But POVERTY is not
the whole story**

***En Mijas (Málaga) hay 8.000 construcciones irregulares. JULIÁN
ROJAS***

LEGALITY



PROIBIDO
JOGAR LIXO E ENTULHO
LEI MUNICIPAL Nº 13478/02
SUJEITO A MULTA DENUNCIE - 156
COLABORE COM A LIMPEZA DO SEU BARRIO
MPOD: **OURINHOS** REPERMERCADO
PREFEITURA DE **SÃO PAULO**

INFORMAL SETTLERS AS CRIMINALS



भाजपा मुंबई

मा. नरेंद्रजी मोदी आणि मा. राजनाथजी सिंह यांची झंझावाती सभा

एकचेतना... एकधारणा...

महा गजना

रविवार, २२ डिसें. २०१३ दुपारी १२:०५ वाजता बी.के.सी.मैदान, वान्द्रे (पूर्व), मुंबई

आमदार अंड.आशिष शेलार अध्यक्ष, मुंबई भाजपा

निमंत्रक मोहित कंबोज उपाध्यक्ष, मुंबई भाजपा

चला.... ऐकुया मोदींना..... निवडूया भाजपाला!

Online registration for NaMoinMumbai : www.mahabjp.org

INFORMAL SETTLERS AS CLIENTS

भाजपा मुंबई

मा. नरेंद्रजी मोदी आणि मा. राजनाथजी सिंह यांची झंझावाती सभा

एकचेतना... एकधारणा...

महा गजना

रविवार, २२ डिसें. २०१३ दुपारी १२:०५ वाजता बी.के.सी.मैदान, वान्द्रे (पूर्व), मुंबई

आमदार अंड.आशिष शेलार अध्यक्ष, मुंबई भाजपा

निमंत्रक मोहित कंबोज उपाध्यक्ष, मुंबई भाजपा

चला.... ऐकुया मोदींना..... निवडूया भाजपाला!

Online registration for NaMoinMumbai : www.mahabjp.org

A photograph of a busy street in an informal settlement. In the foreground, a man in a dark jacket and blue jeans sits on a black Honda Activa motorcycle, talking on a white mobile phone. Behind him, a long wooden cart with two wheels is loaded with various items, including a blue jacket and a red bag. The cart is being pulled or pushed along the cobblestone street. In the background, several multi-story buildings with corrugated metal roofs are visible. Laundry, including white and blue clothes, hangs from lines and balconies. A man in a striped shirt and shorts is walking towards the camera on the right side of the street. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

INFORMAL SETTLERS AS HOSTAGES



INFORMAL SETTLERS AS HEROES



**Challenge to
INCLUSION IN (true)
CITIZENSHIP
(which includes structures
of legality)**



ACCESS TO RIGHTS
(The right to have rights)



**They do so initially by
claiming their space in
the city**

**The winding road to
citizenship**

An aerial photograph of a densely packed favela, likely in Brazil, showing a mix of brick and corrugated metal buildings. In the background, modern high-rise apartment buildings stand against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground shows the skeletal wooden frames of new construction projects.

NEGATIVE RIGHTS X POSITIVE RIGHTS



RIGHT TO HOUSING



RIGHT TO CREDIT?

A photograph of a man with dark, curly hair and a mustache, wearing a light blue and white striped shirt, sitting in the driver's seat of a white vehicle. He is looking out the window to his right. The vehicle's interior is visible, including the steering wheel and a side mirror. The exterior of the vehicle is white and shows signs of wear, with some rust and scratches. The text "CITIZEN=CONSUMER?" is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters across the center of the image.

CITIZEN=CONSUMER?

A blurred photograph of two young girls smiling joyfully. The girl on the left is wearing a red top, and the girl on the right is wearing a purple top. The background is out of focus, showing other people and a bright light source. The text "SPATIAL JUSTICE" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

SPATIAL JUSTICE

**Spatial Justice concerns
the just DISTRIBUTION
of burdens and benefits
of (urban) development
in space and HOW these
benefits are distributed**

**[https://
spatialjustice.blog](https://spatialjustice.blog)**



**WEAK
INSTITUTIONS**



**(SUPPRESSED)
CIVIL SOCIETY**

A photograph showing a makeshift settlement in Shaker Basti, Delhi. The scene is filled with people, including women and children, amidst a large pile of debris and wooden poles. Some structures are made of bamboo and covered with light blue tarps. The ground is dirt and littered with various items, including plastic containers and bags. The background shows trees and a hazy sky.

TABULA RASA

People collect their belongings after a demolition drive carried out by the railways in Shaker Basti of Delhi on Sunday. Credit: PTI

An aerial photograph of a densely packed urban area, likely a favela or informal settlement. The buildings are multi-storied and constructed from brick, with many painted in a vibrant orange color. The structures are tightly packed together, with little open space between them. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a heavy, overcast sky with dark, grey clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of a bustling, crowded community.

RESISTANCE

PERSISTANCE

A photograph of a dirt street in a favela. The street is unpaved and shows tire tracks. On the right, there are several multi-story buildings with colorful facades in shades of orange, blue, and green. Some buildings have balconies with metal railings and satellite dishes. A person with a large green backpack is walking away from the camera on the left side of the street. The sky is overcast and grey.



DIGNITY



**Thanks for listening.
Questions?
Answers?
Please write to
r.c.rocco@tudelft.nl**