

Urban policy modelling and diversity governance in Doha and Singapore

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The transnational circulation of policy ideas is increasingly put forward as a significant factor in the fabric of local diversity policies. On the one hand, the circulation of managerial concepts such as branding or diversity management has contributed to the rise of neoliberal urban diversity governance models. On the other hand, city networks, international organizations and transnational civic movements are pushing forward progressive urban diversity agendas. This presentation analyzes the role of processes of policy modelling in shaping urban diversity governance. It is based on fieldwork conducted in Doha and Singapore since 2018 and on the analysis of these cities' policy documents. The presentation shows how references and norms that circulate transnationally contribute to shaping local diversity governance frameworks and how both cities strive to position themselves as diversity governance models. The modelling strategies rely on the spatial and organizational compartmentalization of distinct diversity frames, which minimizes policy tensions and external critiques and crafts local experiments that can be projected as models on the world stage.

