

# Urban Politics in a Global Society

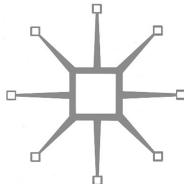
Series Editors: Richard Stren & Christopher Gore

**About the Series:** We are now in "the urban century". Cities around the world house more than half of our global population, and their size and economic power are growing. This is nowhere more evident than in cities of the so-called "developing" areas of Latin America, Africa and Asia. In many countries of the global south, large cities have already outstripped most northern cities in size, and the functions and administrative powers of all cities – large, medium-sized and small -- are growing as a result of decentralization, democratization and the initiatives of civil society and community groups at the local level. These changes are uneven and almost always localized, but they highlight the increasing importance of understanding the politics of cities, and the manner by which cities are taking their place globally among the major nodal points in the international political system. Elected city officials are becoming more prominent in national-level politics, and issues of inclusivity, environmental and social sustainability, economic productivity and competitiveness, crime and violence, and health promotion are both national and urban-level questions in many countries. Until now, studies of cities in the global south have rarely considered the political aspects of urban development, although these aspects are of increasing importance.

This series, "Urban Politics in a Global Society," will publish well-researched, well-written books on urban political subjects in cities around the developing world, as well as the developed world. Monographs (or coherently edited books) on single cities or countries will be welcomed, as well as comparative studies dealing with more than one country. Cities in the global south will be the primary focus of series books, though we will also include works that discuss the global north by way of comparison with the global south. While different vantage points – geographical, planning, economic, sociological – may be incorporated into the analyses, books in the series will stress, as a focus, the process and structures of politics, and the implications of the politics of urban development for the future of cities everywhere.

## The Editors:

**Richard Stren** is Emeritus Professor of Political Science and a former Director of the Centre for Urban and Community Studies at the University of Toronto from 1989 to 2000. He has degrees from the University of Toronto and the University of California, Berkeley. He has carried out research and consultancies in both African and Latin American cities, and during the early 1970s he served as chief planning officer to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development of the Government of Tanzania. In the 1990s he coordinated a world-wide network of researchers and policy makers looking at governance and urban policy questions in Asia, Africa and Latin America. He has written or edited eighteen books on urban subjects and over 70 articles and chapters in books. He is currently a senior advisor to the interdisciplinary Cities Centre at the University of Toronto.



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