

# CONVITE AULA ABERTA TEORIA DA HABITAÇÃO

## VILLAGES IN THE CITY: SPATIAL INFORMALITY AND URBAN GOVERNANCE IN CHINA'S MEGACITIES

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China's economic boom has gone hand-in-hand with urbanization. While only 13% of the country's population lived in cities in 1950, the urban share of the population had grown to 53% in 2012; it is projected to reach 60% by 2030. Twenty-five of the world's largest 100 cities are in China. China's rapid urbanization is coupled with informal housing and land development. Urban villages are a unique form of informal housing that appears on both the outskirts and downtown areas of large Chinese cities. While these villages have posed major challenges to urban planning and urban management, they represent local communities' innovative approaches of survival and economic growth. Many local governments have recently launched projects to redevelop urban villages, and the process is highly contentious. Drawing from her research in Guangzhou and Shenzhen, Yue Zhang will discuss the formation and governance of urban villages in China. This is part of her ongoing book project that compares informal housing and urban governance in China, India, and Brazil.

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