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CRD9. ETHNICITY, DIASPORA, AND COSMOPOLITANISM

ROUND TABLE TITLE:

URBAN SPACE AND SOCIAL DIVERSITY IN THE CITIES

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## ABSTRACT

Urban space is the physical space which is inhabited by people. These spaces include houses, streets, markets, roads, bus stands, railway stations, airports, metro stations, parks, offices, places of worship and numerous other buildings which we see in a city (Beall, 1997: 3). Cutting edge information technology has revolutionised the way we communicate today and have a plethora of information and avenues. On the other hand, tremendously increased pace of urbanization, westernization and modernization has created a hazardous situation in the developing urban space. The lifestyle in cities has become complex like never before giving rise to several issues which anthropology cannot neglect. In this sphere, anthropology needs to perceive and address in appropriation to the emerging dynamics of the social relations, symbols, and political economies, caste, and class dynamics, changing ideologies, smart cities, street food, street children that are most manifested in the urban space.

In cities, diversity can be understood by its two related form, physical diversity, and social diversity. The physical diversity is the one which is easily visible in the urban infrastructure such as buildings, schools, hospital and malls and many other institutions which are often distinct when it comes to their location, size, and function. Social diversity on the other hand refers to underlying differences based on various social factors. The cities are socially diversified through several significant markers that include age, caste, class, ethnicity, religious minorities, gender, and disability.

This panel would be interested in studies of caste, class, and gender in the urban context, political economic studies of transnational culture and diaspora. The panel would also explore the studies of ethnicity, migration, human trafficking, contemporary popular culture, technological innovations, artificial intelligence and social production of urban space and planning.

**Keywords:** Urbanization, Diversity, Smart cities, Ethnicity

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