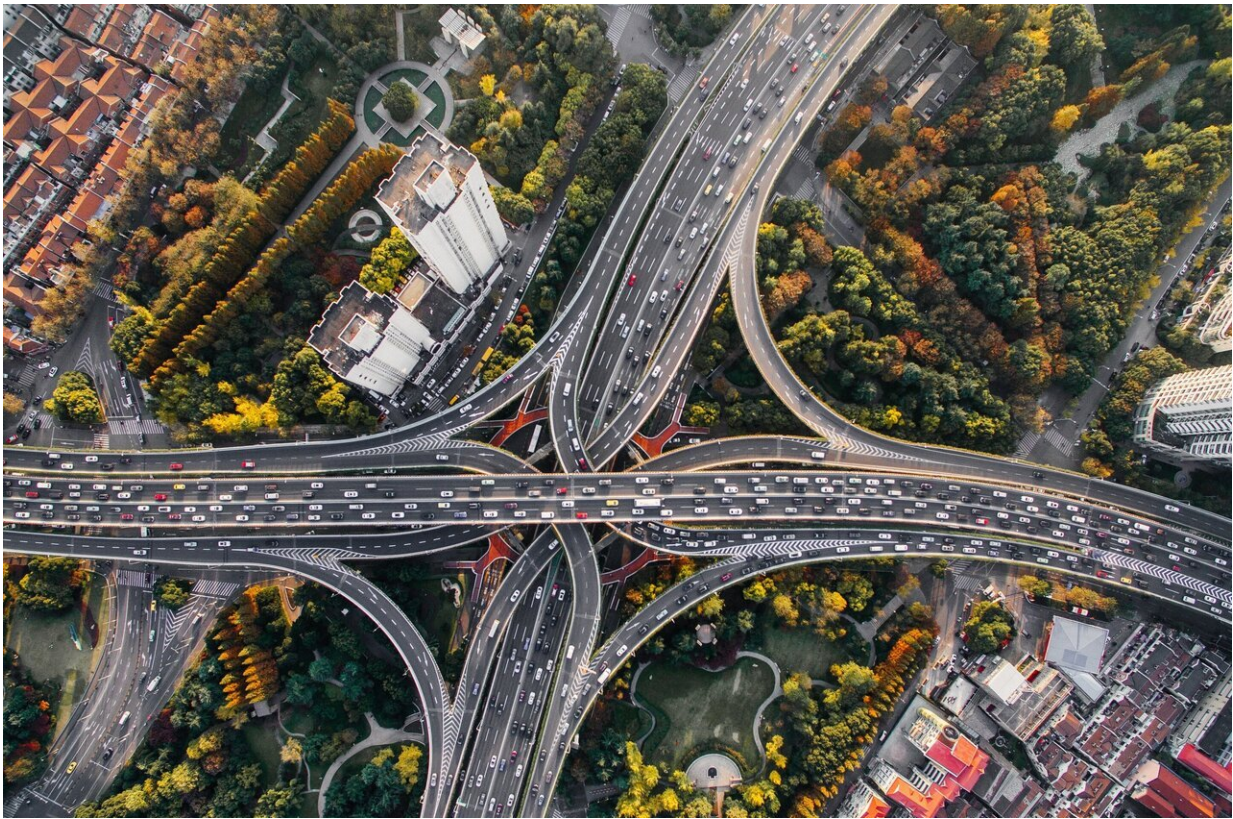


# New paper on the value of international partnerships for co-producing just cities

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Beth Perry, Vanesa Castán Broto and their colleagues Zarina Patel and Rita Sitas have published a new open access paper in the journal *Planning Theory*, titled "The value of international partnerships for co-producing

just cities."

The paper provides a distinctive analysis of the value of international intermediation alliances for co-production, based on the way they operate in practice.

While much attention is paid to ideal or normative models of co-production, there is less understanding of the complexities that pervade co-production practices in specific contexts or how this shapes outcomes.

Despite longstanding critiques and [reflection](#), international partnerships can reinforce unequal power dynamics embedded in already unequal global research and knowledge production circuits. However, such partnerships, despite their [structural problems](#), can also give rise to more informal relations wherein the long-term value of international co-production inheres. The authors call for a re-examination of these complex sets of informal relations, beyond the structures of partnerships, that enable co-production across local and global divides.

Drawing on comparative international evidence, they propose a [framework](#) for understanding and action based on the concepts of alliances, allyship and activism. These three characteristics of international co-production partnerships can constitute socio-material infrastructures that help maintain relationships of solidarity and care over time beyond the remit of individual projects.

While this is relevant in any co-production context it becomes particularly important in international research projects so that they do not paradoxically reproduce colonizing structures of knowledge production in the search for more just cities.

**More information:** Beth Perry et al, Alliances, allyship and activism:

The value of international partnerships for co-producing just cities,  
*Planning Theory* (2023). [DOI: 10.1177/14730952231189548](https://doi.org/10.1177/14730952231189548)

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