

**Project Title**

*Privatising the Coast: Fragmented Urban Governance and the Privatisation of Public Beaches in Lima, Peru*

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**Abstract**

This project examines the privatisation of public beaches in Lima, Peru, through the lens of fragmented urban governance. It argues that Lima constitutes a deviant case of neoliberal urban governance in which privatisation processes do not follow coherent top-down urban renewal strategies but instead emerge through highly localised and fragmented negotiations between district municipalities, metropolitan authorities and other institutional actors. Focusing on six public beaches in the district of Barranco between 2006 and 2019, the study investigates how regulatory fragmentation and decentralised territorial authority have shaped both the strategies deployed by local authorities to privatise public space and the forms of resistance articulated by residents and urban movements. Drawing on document analysis and qualitative interviews with public officials, activists and residents, the research demonstrates that privatisation in Lima is mediated by a governance model characterised by institutional overlap, weak metropolitan coordination and strong district-level autonomy. By situating beaches as sites of neoliberal spatial production and socio-spatial contestation, the project contributes to debates on public space governance in the Global South and advances a context-sensitive understanding of how fragmented governance structures shape urban inequalities and collective resistance.