

Preface

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This Special Section—Part 2 includes two revised papers that were presented at the panel on *Power Games and Symbolic Icons in Evolving Urban Landscapes* convened by Giuliana B. Prato and Subhadra Channa at the at the 2021IUAES Congress (Yucatan, Mexico, virtual mode). A detailed outline of the panel’s aim and topics was presented in the ‘Introductory Note’ to the Special Section–Part 1 of the May 2022 issue of *Urbanities* (Prato 2022: <https://www.anthrojournal-urbanities.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/6-Prato-Introductory-Note.pdf>). Part 1 included three articles that addressed the symbolic and ideological dimensions of urban heritage and the legitimacy of urban change, drawing on ethnographic cases from Ecuador (Rumé 2022), India (Channa 2022) and post-Soviet Georgia (Komakhidze 2022); see <https://www.anthrojournal-urbanities.com/vol-12-no-1-may-2022/>. Two more papers originally presented at the 2021 panel are currently under revision and will be published separately at a later stage.

The two articles that follow focus respectively on Brooklyn, New York City, and the planned city of New Town in West Bengal. Drawing on his visual approach to vernacular landscape (Krase 2012), Krase analyses the historical changes around the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn and the attendant ‘morals of legitimacy’ (Pardo 2000), pointing to conflicting visual representations that emerged from the changing identities of the area. With reference to a key theme of the panel, *legitimacy* (Pardo 2000, Pardo and Prato 2018, 2019), Sarkar discusses how the State-led urban planning of New Town aimed at placing the city on a global scale while enacting the Bengali identity in order to legitimise the development projects and the ruling party.

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