

CLAS Events – Lent Term 2026

Wednesday 25 February - 5:00pm | Film Screening / Q&A

A Place in the City

Gabriel Silvestre (Newcastle University)

Room S1, First Floor, Alison Richard Building

Synopsis: A PLACE IN THE CITY – documentary film, 2025, 60 minutes

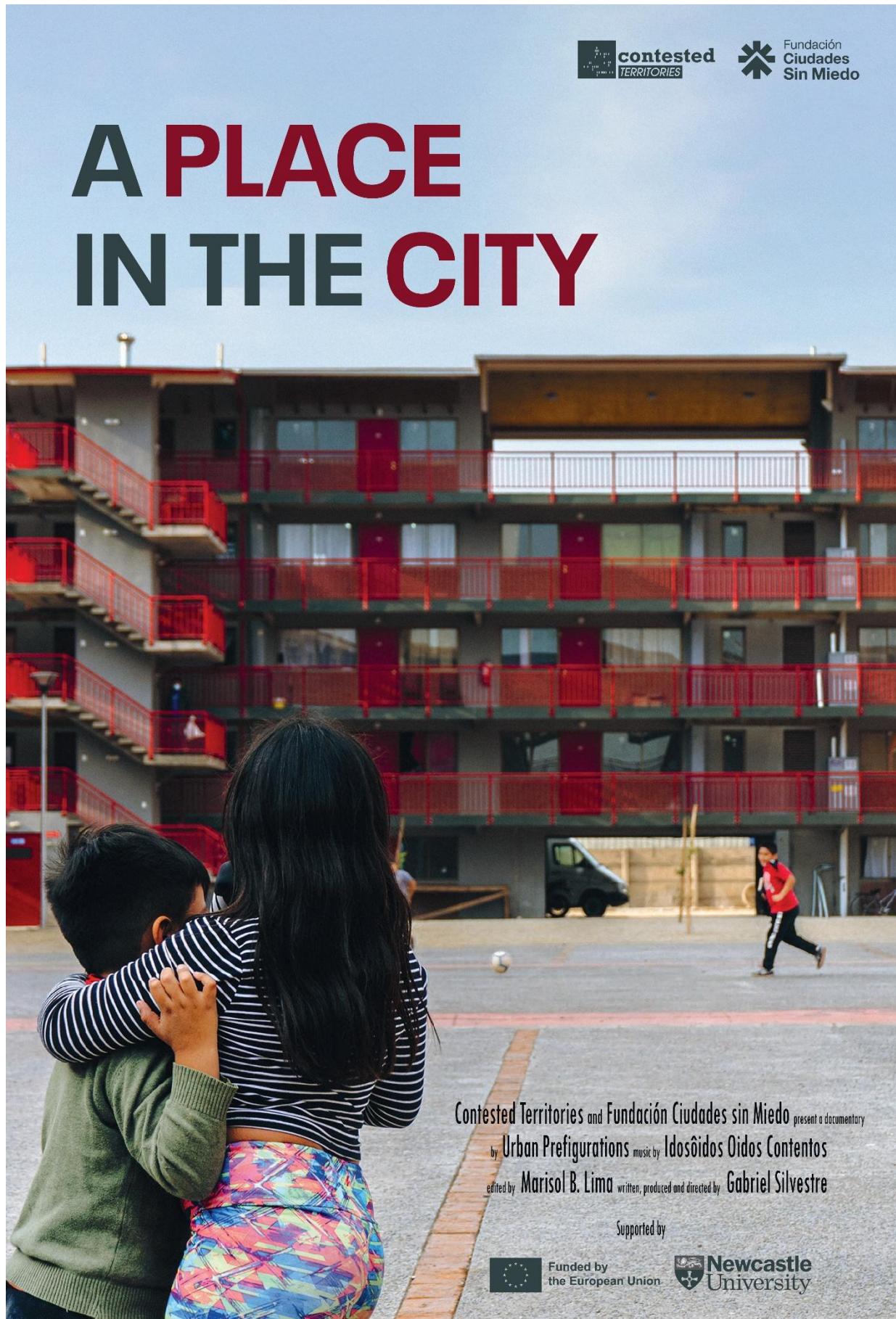
A Place in the City examines hope, resistance, and collective action in Latin American cities. Written and directed by Dr Gabriel Silvestre (Newcastle University), the film delves into the enduring influence of philosopher Henri Lefebvre's revolutionary ideas on the "right to the city." Through the lens of communities in Santiago (Chile), Rosario (Argentina), and Belo Horizonte (Brazil), it reveals how ordinary people are reclaiming urban space, fighting for their rights while actively shaping more inclusive neighbourhoods. The film showcases inspiring stories of community strength and collective action.

Blending academic insight with lived experience, *A Place in the City* captures the power of grassroots movements to imagine alternative urban futures. Through personal stories of struggle and resilience, the film invites audiences to reflect on how urban life can be collectively redefined from below, foregrounding the everyday acts of organising, designing, and care that sustain social transformation. The documentary is part of a research project that examines how social movements, grassroots coalitions, and urban researchers are collectively redefining the right to the city, demonstrating that just urban futures are not only imagined, but actively built through cooperation, creativity, and care.

Film trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= hZYGVQDv2g>



Gabriel Silvestre is a Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning at Newcastle University and serves on the steering board of the university's Centre of Latin America and the Caribbean (CLAC). He is the director of *A Place in the City*, and the eight-part web series *Community-led Planning*, co-produced with Fundación Ciudades sin Miedo from Argentina as part of the project *Urban Prefigurations* (<http://urbanpref.com>). His recent editorial work includes *Insurgent Planning Practice* (Agenda Publishing, 2024), and he has authored numerous publications in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, examining urban politics, socio-spatial change, and social justice in Latin American cities.



Contested Territories and Fundación Ciudades sin Miedo present a documentary
by Urban Prefigurations music by Idosoídos Oídos Contentos
edited by Marisol B. Lima written, produced and directed by Gabriel Silvestre

Supported by



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