A talk by

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THE GLOBAL CIVIL CITY
Totalitarianism through the intention of sustainability

Immune as our urban world might seem to totalitarianism—given that it cannot be governed by a centralized agency or rigid ideology—common deference to sustainability suggests otherwise. Looking to a conflict over freeway construction in Bridgeview BC (on the fringes of Vancouver), I show that we may be realizing a consensus of which Le Corbusier only dreamed. No need for politics, just planning. In the emergent global civil city, even the state is being rendered as an urban planning institution. In Bridgeview’s dark corners, however, I find resistance to this totalitarian planning, and a vital urban politics that could help stretch our political imaginations.

SERENA KATAOKA is committed to improving our ways of living together. Her analyses of urban politics and planning have been published in *Theories of Urban Politics*, 2nd ed, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, and *International Political Sociology*. She has recently returned ‘home’ to the near north, where she is a part-time faculty member at Nipissing University.