

Africa and Asia are at the epicentre of the second large-scale urban transition in the history of the world. The first transition unfolded between 1750 and 1950 in North America and Europe, which saw the urban share of the total population grow from 10% to 52%. The second urban transition is unfolding largely in the global South between 1950 and 2030, where the urban share of the population will grow from 18% to 56%. Africa's share of urban population rose from 15% in 1960 to 35% in 2006, and is expected to be above 60% by 2030. Concretely, about 350 million people live in urban areas across Africa and this number is expected to reach 742 million by 2030.

This demographic shift represents more than a doubling of the population, which is a profound economic, social, political and cultural phenomenon that will have far-reaching environmental consequences. Surprisingly, there are very few university-based research institutions on the African continent engaging with this extraordinary transition, which is an unprecedented one in that no other world region has urbanized in a context of full-blown economic globalization (on unfavourable terms for Africa) coupled with the imperative of finding low-carbon growth paths into the future.

It is against this backdrop that the University of Cape Town (UCT) adopted the Cities in Africa Signature Theme in 2007, which institutionalised as the African Centre for Cities (ACC).

# AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES SIGNATURE THEME RESEARCH REPORT 2008-2009

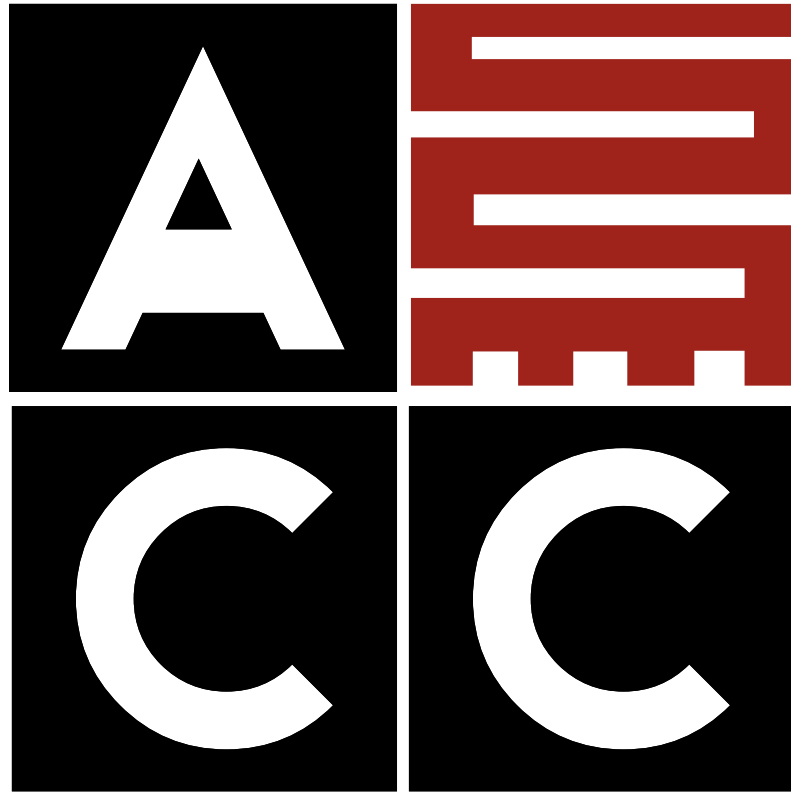


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ACC IS A UCT RESEARCH SIGNATURE THEME





**AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES**

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**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

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# FOREWORD

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Africa and Asia are at the epicentre of the second large-scale urban transition in the history of the world. The first transition unfolded between 1750 and 1950 in North America and Europe, which saw the urban share of the total population grow from 10% to 52%. The second urban transition is unfolding largely in the global South between 1950 and 2030, where the urban share of the population will grow from 18% to 56%. Africa's share of urban population rose from 15% in 1960 to 35% in 2006, and is expected to be above 60% by 2030. Concretely, about 350 million people live in urban areas across Africa and this number is expected to reach 742 million by 2030.

This demographic shift represents more than a doubling of the population, which is a profound economic, social, political and cultural phenomenon that will have far-reaching environmental consequences. Surprisingly, there are very few university-based research institutions on the African continent engaging with this extraordinary transition, which is an unprecedented one in that no other world region has urbanized in a context of full-blown economic globalization (on unfavourable terms for Africa) coupled with the imperative of finding low-carbon growth paths into the future.

It is against this backdrop that the University of Cape Town (UCT) adopted the Cities in Africa Signature Theme in 2007, which institutionalised as the African Centre for Cities (ACC).

By definition, urban studies is interdisciplinary. However, it has been a practical and conceptual challenge to figure out how best to advance interdisciplinarity when the bulk of existing research is firmly embedded in disciplines and sectorally driven thematic areas. A further challenge is how to make academic knowledge relevant to the real-world challenges of urban practitioners in social movements, government and other institutions that seek to understand and effect just and sustainable human settlements.

The ACC knowledge community engaged actors in the public sector and together agreed on an innovative applied knowledge experiment: CityLabs on various dimensions of sustainable human settlements. The ACC CityLabs have come into being over the past two years (2008–2009) as co-production spaces that knit together academic, professional and activist knowledges to understand particularly pressing urban challenges in the Cape Town city-region better. This research report provides a brief insight into the themes and outputs of these research clusters. More in-depth information can be garnered from the ACC website.

Since 2009, the ACC has begun to explore in earnest knowledge networks on the African continent. This exploration has been anchored by the Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS) – a network of 39 university-based urban planning schools in 15 countries – working collaboratively to update curricula and foster a new research ethos that is firmly anchored in the Afropolitan agenda of UCT: “Afropolitanism

connotes a worldly and future-oriented approach to understanding Africa. It is based on the conviction that Africa is an important and distinctive area of study, as heterogeneous and uneven as any other region in the world, and extensively connected to the rest of the world.”

The AAPS network and experience have taught us how strategically focused knowledge networks are an ideal institutional strategy to build a grounded understanding of urban change in Africa. Thus, in the course of 2009, the ACC established a partnership with a dynamic global movement of informal workers, Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO), to anchor our Urban Inclusion research programme. Similarly, we consolidated a relationship with the African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN) through our incorporation of the Programme on Urban Food Security at UCT. AFSUN works across eleven Southern African cities to undertake comparative applied research on the vital issues of urban well-being through the prism of food security. These three applied research networks informed the ACC's decision to take on the responsibility of producing State of the Cities Reports in various African countries from 2010 onwards. Through this project the Signature Theme will be able to build up a cutting-edge repository of urban data for the continent over the next decade.

The applied research undertaken in the CityLabs in conjunction with the various Africa-oriented projects has created a dynamic research milieu that offers a home for urbanists at UCT, irrespective of whether they are directly involved in any of these projects or not. This, for us, is the key to making the Signature Theme a success: becoming a magnet for urban scholars and students who are keen to advance our understanding of the complex and dynamic processes unfolding in Africa's pulsating cities. This brief research report provides a snapshot of ongoing research, and most importantly, research outputs of academics and students associated with the ACC Signature Theme. We hope it will encourage UCT staff and students who have not yet engaged with our experiment to come and explore how they can enrich it, and in turn nourish their disciplines and departments with cutting-edge knowledge about contemporary Africa.

Finally, we want to thank the Deans of the three faculties – Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE), Science and Humanities – associated with the Signature Theme for their support and guidance. In particular, we want to acknowledge the role of Professor Francis Petersen and the additional support that the EBE faculty provides to underwrite our work. The Research Office has also been a constant source of support and advice. We are also very mindful that the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellors have gone out of their way to reinforce the Signature Theme status of the ACC. Finally, we want to acknowledge the support of various international, South African and university donors that have made it possible for the Signature Theme to live up to its potential.

EDGAR PIETERSE, DIRECTOR, AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES





# ABOUT THE ACC

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The African Centre for Cities (ACC) was established in 2007 to serve as a platform for interdisciplinary research across the University of Cape Town (UCT) on urban issues on the African continent. In its first two years of operation, the ACC has dedicated itself to supporting and undertaking theoretical and applied research that explores the complex nature of urbanisation in Africa.



## Our Mission

Our mission is to facilitate critical urban research and policy discourse for the promotion of vibrant, democratic and sustainable urban development in the global South from an African perspective.

## Strategic Goals

- Produce credible new knowledge on the drivers of urban crises in African cities with an eye on systemic solutions.
- Provide tailored capacity development products and services based on new knowledge about the unique dynamics of urban development in Africa and the global South.
- Strengthen durable knowledge institutions and networks in Africa to undertake urban research and training.
- Promote and disseminate quality publications by African scholars on urban topics in general, but rooted in ACC programmes.
- Undertake targeted advocacy with influential development agencies that shape the urban development agenda in Africa and the global South.

The ACC's imperatives are addressed through five geographically focused programme streams:

- UCT
- Cape Town
- South Africa
  - Africa
- Global South

Each programme stream is built upon a combination of teaching, applied research, academic research and knowledge networking.



# APPLIED URBAN RESEARCH

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The cutting edge of urban studies can be found in engagement with real-life problems associated with understanding and addressing urbanization in contexts where the needs outstrip available resources. In these settings it is vital get into the worlds of practice and explore how best different types of knowledge can be brought together to achieve a multi-dimensional perspective on complex and evolving processes. This awareness drives the prioritisation of applied urban research on the dimensions of sustainable human settlements in the ACC.

Applied research is primarily undertaken in the Cape Town city-region through an innovative methodological approach called CityLabs, supported by the Cape Urban Observatory. Each CityLab is comprised of academics, postgraduate students, public sector practitioners and wherever possible, civil society activists. At a national level, the ACC has positioned itself to use trend data to drive a policy conversation on the elements of a national urban development framework.



## Purpose and Objectives

Flooding of informal settlements is a particularly large problem in Cape Town – over the past three years more than 30 000 people per year have been displaced by flooding in informal settlements. The Urban Flooding CityLab brings together researchers and practitioners interested in various aspects of urban flooding in Cape Town and how flooding risk can be reduced.

The Urban Flooding CityLab was initiated by Professor Sue Parnell in September 2008 and Warren Smit was appointed as coordinator in January 2009. A series of seminars and field trips have addressed various issues relating to flooding. Topics have included sustainable urban drainage systems, natural drainage systems and conceptualisation of flooding risk. A collaborative UCT/ Stockholm Environment Institute research project on collaborative governance to reduce flooding risk in Cape Town will contribute greatly to the work of the Urban Flooding CityLab. As background material for this project, Warren Smit and Gina Ziervogel have written a paper, “Learning to swim: strengthening flooding governance in the city of Cape Town”, which sets out the key issues relating to governance and flooding in the city.

## Partners

Across UCT, partners include the Department of Civil Engineering and the Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme. Beyond the UCT community, partners include the South African Planning Institute and the Stockholm Environment Institute.



### RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR (HEALTHY CITIES AND URBAN FLOODING): WARREN SMIT

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#### Research Interests:

Warren's research interests include housing policy and strategy, governance and the formulation and implementation of city development strategies. Warren is currently doing an urban planning PhD on the City of Cape Town's integrated development planning processes.

## Purpose and Objectives

The Healthy Cities CityLab programme was established as a platform to explore the relationship between the urban environment and the health of urban communities. Focusing on urban environments in the City of Cape Town and other cities of the global South, the Healthy Cities CityLab was initiated by Professor Vanessa Watson in December 2008 and Warren Smit was appointed as coordinator in January 2009.

Since the establishment of the Healthy Cities CityLab, an interdisciplinary core group of researchers from UCT, the Medical Research Council and Stellenbosch University have come together across fields such as health sciences, planning and food security to explore the interface between built form and the burden of disease in greater Cape Town. Working together the ACC, the Healthy Cities CityLab and its stakeholders have prepared draft proposals for a long-term research programme and funding opportunities are being pursued.

## Partners

Current partners of the Healthy Cities CityLab include the Global Research Network on Urban Health Equity (GRNUHE) and the Roundtable on Urban Living Environment Research (RULER). These partners also include researchers from the Chronic Disease in Africa Initiative, the Sports Science Institute and the Children's Institute at UCT.



## Purpose and Objectives

The Cape Urban Observatory (CUO) is an applied urban research initiative of the ACC. Work on the CUO began in July 2008 with the establishment of a coordinating group comprising Professor Susan Parnell, Dr Julian Smit and Dr Ralph Hamann. In addition, a CUO Forum was established with membership including representatives of organisations with a direct stake or interest in the CUO's purpose and activities. The overarching purpose of the CUO is to contribute to the development of sustainable human settlements in the greater Cape Town area. This will be achieved by facilitating evidence-based decision making and learning through provision of a public information platform for the analysis, dissemination and storage of timely and reliable geo-spatial data on themes critical for integrated development planning for the region.

The primary output of the CUO will be a web-based GeoPortal comprising a spatial data clearinghouse. The clearinghouse will enable researchers to search for and download spatial data and related attribute data, as well as to map and display spatial data and produce reports. A further objective of the CUO is to develop a better understanding of indicators relevant to sustainable integrated development planning. To this end a comprehensive literature review has been undertaken to benchmark relevant national and international indicators in this domain. Further work in this area will be undertaken in consultation with the CUO Forum members. To date the physical GeoPortal infrastructure has been acquired and installed and implementation of the software framework is underway.

## Partners

The CUO has partnerships with a number of local governments in the Western Cape, including the City of Cape Town, the Saldanha Bay municipality, the Swartland municipality, the Drakenstein municipality, the Stellenbosch municipality, the Theewaterskloof municipality and the Overstrand municipality. At provincial and national levels the CUO is supported by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the South African National Biodiversity Initiative (SANBI) and the South African Environmental Observatory Network (SAEON), as well as the Cape Urban Observatory Forum in the Provincial Government of the Western Cape.



### RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR: JULIAN SMIT

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**Research Interests:** Julian's research interest include remote sensing for earth observation in the specific area of image classification from multispectral imagery for land use management. Julian is also interested in spatial data infrastructures (SDI).





**RALPH HAMANN**

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**Research Interests:** Ralph's research is on strategic change in organisations and governance systems in response to complex socio-ecological problems, with a focus on food security, climate change and human rights issues in extractive industries.



**SUSAN PARNELL**

(Director : Citylab & Cape Urban Observatory)

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**Research Interests:** Sue's research interests range from urban historical geography and the rise of racial residential segregation to the impact of colonialism on urbanisation and town planning in Sub-Saharan Africa. She is currently working on contemporary urban policy research in sub-Saharan Africa broadly and specifically in South Africa since 1994. Her research explores the arguments for a national urban policy reflecting the unique power of the central state and the special circumstances of cities.

## Purpose and Objectives

The Philippi CityLab focuses on the area of Philippi, located on the south-eastern periphery of the City of Cape Town in what is today a region called the Cape Flats. Originally a colonial farming settlement, urbanisation has transformed Philippi from a primarily agricultural district into a peri-urban area that has become home to marginalised communities such as poor migrants, displaced farm labourers and communities forcibly relocated under the laws of the racially discriminatory apartheid government. Since 1994 local and provincial government in the Western Cape have actively worked to address the unmanaged and negative impacts of urbanisation in Philippi. This includes managing the development of informal settlements and the environmental impacts of inadequate public utilities.

The Philippi CityLab was developed in response to the recent resurgence in public and private investment in Philippi, and the need to identify and remove the barriers to development in the area. Philippi therefore represents a concentration of both opportunity and challenge and provides an interesting case for further exploration into the question of what is required from different stakeholders to create safe, economically viable and sustainable human settlements. The Philippi CityLab brings together a range of different participants including academics, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and government officials interested in furthering dialogue and engagement around the development challenges facing Philippi. In the period 2008-09, the Philippi CityLab hosted regular dialogues on the physical and social challenges faced by the greater Philippi community. Some of the topics included:

- Research on food security and the urban poor in Oceanview, Khayelitsha and Philippi
- Water on the Cape Flats: people, ecology and opportunity
- Community-led development in Philippi
- Building community-driven university research and service learning partnerships

## Partners

Partners of the Philippi CityLab include the City of Cape Town, Urban Matters, SANBI and Community Connections.



## RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR: MERCY BROWN-LUTHANGO

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**Research Interests:** Mercy's research interests include the economics of land use planning, i.e. understanding how certain planning processes impact on the value of land, and the use of this increased land value as a source of revenue for municipalities to address infrastructure and other development challenges in poorer parts of the city. Mercy is also interested in studying the impact of certain land use practices, such as the retention of vacant land and the lack of appropriate regulatory tools to address these practices, on the ability of the urban poor to access land.



## Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Climate Change CityLab is to establish a research reference group consisting of renowned academics, technical experts and local government that enables collaboration and dialogue to inform and shape the implementation of effective climate change policies and programmes on the ground.

The following research projects are either underway or in the process of being commissioned:

- Long-Term Mitigation Scenarios for the City of Cape Town and implications for the City coffers (supported by the WWF-funded Low Carbon Zone feasibility study)
- Marine and Freshwater Interface Systems Modelling
- Climate Change legal review: responsibility and liability assessment
- A decision support tool
- Financial mechanisms for funding climate change adaptation and mitigation

By mid-2010, the ACC will have compiled and published the full research findings of the projects into a single Local Government Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Resource document.

## Partners

Partners of the Climate Change CityLab include the Royal Danish Embassy and the City of Cape Town.



### RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR: YVONNE LEWIS

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**Research Interests:** Yvonne has a background in chemical engineering and now applies her systems analysis skills and life cycle perspective to urban systems. Her particular research interests cover the following areas: sustainability indicators, urban metabolism and ecological footprints, life cycle assessment and "carbon footprints".



# APPLIED URBAN RESEARCH / CENTRAL CITY CITYLAB

## The Densification of the Central City

### Purpose and Objectives

The Central City CityLab's focus on residential densification emerges from the City of Cape Town's bold aspiration to increase the Central City population by 100 000 people within a 10-year period. This increase represents an almost threefold increase from the current population of around 55 000 people. By spatially locating the projects and areas of intervention, and by understanding the movement of people in and out of the city, the Central City CityLab is beginning to highlight the complexities of the planned densification of Cape Town. An examination of the areas of intervention in the Central City, and the related tensions and trade-offs, points to fundamental questions which are conceptual, theoretical and practical in nature.

Every working day an estimated 360 000 people pour into the inner city, 120 000 using public transport and 240 000 by car. The challenge for Cape Town is to get people to live and work in the city, thereby reducing traffic congestion and the related negative environmental impacts. A compact city needs to contribute to a more sustainable form of development in its broadest sense – social, economic and environmental. How do we create a more compact city, yet have appropriate public space and green space? An examination of Cape Town's Draft Densification Strategy (2009) reveals an inconsistent view of the role of the Central City. Who is the city for? What are the spatial priorities of the Central City? Furthermore, what regulatory support structures need to be introduced, and amendments made, to current standards and policies, in order to facilitate higher densities? And how will the city monitor and administer the process?

The diversity of questions raised seems difficult to respond to without practical research. The Central City CityLab's methodology is to turn to the concrete projects that are happening in the city, in order to understand the status quo a bit better, to understand what the political and institutional obstacles are, and what the practical issues are that demand our attention. It is through this process of interrogation, with interdisciplinary inputs from academics, practitioners and housing experts and feedback from city officials, that the Central City CityLab aims to provide the underlying research which will begin to answer some of the difficult questions faced by the City of Cape Town.

### Partners

Partners of the Central City CityLab include the City of Cape Town, Vodacom, Eskom, the Provincial Government of the Western Cape, the Council for the Built Environment and the Africa Centre.



### RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR: ISMAIL FAROUK

Email: [ismail.farouk@uct.ac.za](mailto:ismail.farouk@uct.ac.za)

**Research Interests:** Ismail's research interests include analysing the spatial dynamics of cities and interrogating creative strategies for dealing with spatial inequalities. Ismail is researching the forms of expression that include creative public space interventions, public art and public performance, mediated through the body and/or the use of new Internet technologies, which primarily provide a platform for new forms of participation and contribution.



## Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the South African spatial economy research project is to review recent trends in the South African spatial economy and to prepare a draft national urban policy framework. The ACC participated in a consortium of research agencies, including the South African Cities Network, the University of the Witwatersrand and the CSIR, to develop an evidenced-based argument for a national urban policy in South Africa. The project showed the increasing urbanisation of the population as well as increased poverty, and that economic growth and employment have also been concentrated in the major cities. A typology of different kinds of settlement was prepared showing the distribution of economic output, population and poverty according to each settlement type. A draft national urban policy framework was submitted to Cabinet in mid-2009.

## Partners

The research and analysis on the South African spatial economy have been undertaken in consultation with the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, formerly the Department of Provincial and Local Government.

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## RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR: / VISITING FELLOW IVAN TUROK ( University of Glasgow)

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**Research Interests:** Ivan's research interests include a review of the prospects for African urban economies and assessing the potential for greater cross-border collaboration. Ivan is also conducting research to examine the City of Cape Town's economic competitiveness and to identify ways to improve performance in relation to other cities on national and international scales.





# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS

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ACC is driven by the belief that Africa's urban challenges can only be addressed once there is sufficient endogenous intellectual capital steeped in urban research. We therefore see our success dependent on the growth of durable knowledge institutions, focussed on urban issues, across the Continent. The strategic challenge for ACC is how best to embed its research agenda within a larger matrix of processes and initiatives to rebuild research and training capacity at African universities to prepare a critical mass of scholars and practitioners to deal with the specificities of African urbanization within a globalizing context. In light of this the ACC has actively sought out and promoted a number of strategic research networks that enable it to enhance its own research and simultaneously strengthen partners and knowledge networks.



# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS/ ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN PLANNING SCHOOLS

## Purpose and Objectives

The overall purpose of the Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS) project is to reflect on and catalyse a review and revision of planning curricula in African universities. As part of this larger project the following interim objectives are to be pursued:

Expansion and enhancement of the AAPS network of planning schools  
Facilitation and support of urban planning research and publication  
Strengthening of technical and academic capacity building programmes in urban planning

The AAPS network was conceptualised in 1999 at a meeting in Dar es Salaam of representatives from three African planning schools, who agreed to form an Interim Coordinating Committee to discuss the revitalisation of planning-related education on the continent. Following that meeting, planning programmes across sub-Saharan Africa were surveyed on the need for a network of planning schools and the consensus was that such a network was required. In 2003 the AAPS was formally established and in 2008 the network, in association with the ACC at UCT, secured a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to hold its inaugural meeting and to begin a programme of capacity building and exchange. Since the launch of the network in late 2008, a comprehensive review of each member planning school has been underway. The initial feedback is that the planning schools are generally under-resourced and hampered by unsupportive institutional environments and outdated planning legislation.

## Partners

Partners of the AAPS initiative include the Rockefeller Foundation, the Global Planning Education Association and the Association of European Planning Schools.



### RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR: NANCY ODENDAAL

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**Research Interests:** Nancy's research interests focus on the extent to which Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) interface with urban change and spatial restructuring in the South African context. Nancy aims to use this learning and research to develop a deeper conceptual engagement with the interface between urban governance and space and the many actors implicated in that relationship.

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS/ WOMEN IN INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT: GLOBALISING AND ORGANISING



## RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR (Inclusive Cities & WIEGO): CAROLINE SKINNER

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**Website:** [www.wiego.org](http://www.wiego.org)

**Research Interests:** Caroline's research interests include considering how the working poor experience urban policies and planning processes, infrastructure and service delivery programmes, and also their own organisations. Caroline is also currently exploring conceptual and political economy blockages to inclusive planning for the working poor.

## Purpose and Objectives

Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO) is part of a broader consortium of membership-based organisations (MBOs) of the working poor concerned with Inclusive Cities. This includes the Self Employed Women's Association, StreetNet International, HomeNet South and South-East Asia, the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Waste Pickers, supported by the Avina Foundation, the Pune-based waste picker trade union Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchaya (KKPKP) and a support NGO for street vendors based in Durban, Asiye eTafuleni.

### The partners in the consortium share the following core objectives:

- To improve the organisational strength and negotiating capacity of the MBOs of home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers and to assist them in achieving supportive urban laws and policies, as well as adequate infrastructure and services.
- To provide the research and statistics, good practice examples and policy analysis that the MBOs of the urban working poor need to pursue their activities.
- To educate key policy makers at the local, national and international levels by disseminating research findings, statistical data and policy analysis to illuminate the issues faced by the urban working poor. This is with a view to raising awareness among policy makers of the benefits of including the working poor in urban plans.

### The focus of the joint ACC-WIEGO work is on research and documentation. In 2009 research activities included:

- Assessing the impact of the global economic crisis on the informal economy;
- Constructing statistical profiles of the urban informal economy, including methodological reflections on how to improve data gathering techniques;
- Documenting policy and organisational practice that have resulted in securer livelihoods;
- Analysing the policy environment using informal economy budget analysis techniques, and documentation and analysis of the legislative environment for urban informal workers.

## Partners

WIEGO is part of a broader consortium of MBOs of the working poor concerned with Inclusive Cities. This includes the Self Employed Women's Association, StreetNet International, HomeNet South and South-East Asia, the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Waste Pickers, supported by the Avina Foundation, the Pune-based waste picker trade union KKPKP, and a support NGO for street vendors based in Durban, Asiye eTafuleni.

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS/ THE AFRICAN FOOD SECURITY URBAN NETWORK

ACC is involved with a node—Programme in Urban Food Security (PUFS)—of a SADC research and training network on urban food security called The African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN). At the end of 2009 it was agreed that ACC will become the anchor point for this vibrant network.

## Purpose and Objectives

Most research on food security in Africa focuses on rural food security. There are large gaps in our knowledge and understanding of the dimensions of urban food insecurity, its causes, consequences and implications for the growing numbers of urban poor. The evidence base is uniformly poor and needs to be created and integrated into policy work, curriculum development, public education and capacity-building.

AFSUN's applied research programme is designed to proceed in logical stages from identification of the data gaps, formulation of research questions, development of appropriate methodologies and implementation. The first output will be a review of the current state of knowledge about the links between urban food security and HIV/AIDS and identification of information gaps, needs and priorities. This will inform a comparative survey in 11 cities across nine SADC countries.

The PUFS programme address the capacity building dimensions through various training and teaching products.

## Partners

ABC Ulwazi  
Care International  
Center for Population Studies at Eduardo Mondlane University  
Centre for Environment, Agriculture and Development (CEAD) at the University of Kwazulu Natal  
Centre for Social Research (CSR) at the University of Malawi  
Centre for Studies in Food Security at Ryerson University  
Department of Geography & Environmental Science at the University of Zimbabwe  
Department of Geography at the University of Guelph  
Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario  
Department of Geography at University of Calgary  
Department of Geography, Environmental Science and Planning at the University of Swaziland  
Food & Trees for Africa  
Health Promotion Unit, School of Public Health at the University of Witwatersrand  
Idasa Governance and Aids Programme (GAP)  
Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR) at the University of Zambia  
Institute of Southern African Studies (ISAS) at the National University of Lesotho  
Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA)  
Programme in Urban Food Security (PUFS), African Centre for Cities at University of Cape Town  
Reos Partners  
Southern African Research Centre, Queen's University  
South African Cities Network  
University Central Consultancy Bureau (UCCB) at University of Namibia  
Department of Economics at the University of Botswana

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## PROJECT MEMBERS:

DR BRUCE FRAYNE, DR JANE BATTERBY-LENNARD AND PROF SUE PARNELL

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# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS/ SOUTH AFRICAN CITY STUDIES CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP



**PROJECT COORDINATORS:**  
ASSOCIATE PROF SOPHIE OLDFIELD AND PROF EDGAR PIETERSE

On the 24-25 June 2009 the inaugural South African Cities Conference took place at the University of Witwatersrand. It represented a partnership between ACC and The Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies (CUBES) and grew out of a shared recognition that a regular forum for academic exchange between South(ern) African scholars of cities was long overdue.

Until recently, urban scholars could only find platforms to present their research and engage each other at their disciplinary conferences. Given that most of the pertinent urban questions are interdisciplinary in nature it was obvious that we needed to create a regularised forum where research could be presented and discussed across traditional disciplinary boundaries in order to enrich current work but also to generate new and better research agendas.

Apart from creating a dynamic platform for interdisciplinary scholarly engagement, there was clearly also a need to make academic conferences more dynamic by opening up participation to 'urban practitioners' whether they be from the state, private sector or social movements. In fact, since much of contemporary urban scholarship in one form or another seeks to contribute to broader societal goals of great equity and justice, it is fitting that scholars also open up their work and debates to a larger audience with a vested interests in the issues under discussion. This can only enrich and deepen the quality of contemporary scholarship.

The forty plus papers presented at the conference in June 2009 ranged widely and was grouped under the following themes: Rights, Participation, and Struggle; Difference, Planning and Knowledge Production; Bodies in Space: Desire, Discipline and Personhood; Moving beyond participation?; Reading the Dark Sides: Alternatives, Identities, and City Space; Conflicting Rationalities in Planning in Post-Apartheid Cities; Contested Public Spaces: Finding Agency, Building Place; History and Memory in the Contemporary City; Regional urban futures? Cities, City-regions and Regional Perspectives.

Another important objective of this initiative is to actively invest in the promotion of a new generation of urban scholars. This was achieved through the number of papers presented by doctoral candidates and emerging researchers.

## Partner

CUBES at the University of Witwatersrand.



India's Urban Transformation  
From Challenge to Opportunity



Source: UN



# ACADEMIC TEACHING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

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Even though research lives at the heart of the ACC, we are committed to develop a dynamic virtuous circle between research-teaching-practice-and-research. This is driven by the imperative to greatly expand the number of professionals and scholars steeped in African urbanism and the impetus that grows out of lively classrooms. It is therefore fitting that the ACC is closely associated with an Mphil programme in urban infrastructure design and management, a phd seminar series and the support of postgraduate students who work on urban development issues. In this regard the ACC seeks to inform the research priorities and interest of students with the real-world issues that arise from our applied and academic research programmes.



# ACADEMIC TEACHING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

## MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY: URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

At the beginning of the 21st century the central issue for South Africa and the broader African continent is the delivery of urban services and infrastructure to rapidly growing urban populations. Delivery, operation and maintenance of services and infrastructure are the essential elements required to enable city dwellers to live and work in sustainable and integrated environments.

Initially funded by the Ove Arup Foundation, the UCT master's programme in Urban Infrastructure Design and Management has a strong interdisciplinary focus, as the Engineering and Built Environment (EBE) Faculty believes that urban problems can only be addressed through an integration of approaches which come from specific disciplinary backgrounds. To this end the programme draws on staff from engineering, architecture, planning, environmental sciences, geography, the social sciences and management. Course activities include both formal lectures and problem-based learning through projects and cases. The programme is aimed at building capacity amongst those in government and the private sector who are committed to the future of African cities and particularly to the servicing of poorer inhabitants.

The MPhil in Urban Infrastructure Design and Management requires coursework and a research report or full dissertation. The core modules for the programme include Developing Cities: Issues and Strategies, Sustainable Urban Systems, Community Development and Urban Renewal. Elective courses offered allow students to specialise in land use management, transport planning, urban water management or project management. The programme can be completed in 18-24 months and includes intensive on-campus modules as well as assignments to be undertaken at home and an examination.



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**Website:** [www.urbaninfrastructure.uct.ac.za/](http://www.urbaninfrastructure.uct.ac.za/)

# ACADEMIC TEACHING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

## ACC PHD SEMINAR SERIES



The primary purpose of the ACC PhD Seminar Programme is to foster a dynamic forum for critical discussion and reflection. Furthermore, it is meant to ground emerging urban scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds in a foundational sense in larger debates about the (spatial) nature of the urban, with particular reference to the specificities of the African context. The ACC PhD Seminar also provides a supportive space for PhD candidates to present their research and get considered feedback in order to strengthen their research. Practically, the PhD Seminar is convened once a month over a two-year cycle. The first cycle was completed in December 2009.



### CO-ORDINATOR

#### PROF EDGAR PIETERSE (Director: ACC)

**Email:** [edgar.pieterse@uct.ac.za](mailto:edgar.pieterse@uct.ac.za)

**Research Interests:** Edgar's research interests includes theorising about aspects of the city, how to think about meaningful policy discourses and interventions to make the city more just and accessible for all who choose to make it a place of dwelling. Concretely, Edgar's research interests are structured around differential patterns of urbanisation in the 'Global South', African urbanism and regional policy and development planning.

# STUDENTS

The ACC provides an intellectual home to post graduate students from across a number of disciplines in the applied and social sciences linked to the development of African cities. The following section highlights bursary recipients at Master's and Doctoral levels as well as the larger community of affiliated students.

## BURSARY RECIPIENTS

### Master's Students

Clive Truter  
Haley Petersen  
Jumani Clarke  
Mamphaka Mabesa  
Prestige Makanga  
Ratidzo Dhlembeu  
Rebecca Tyler  
Sarah Netsai Matshaka

### Research Projects

Stimulating urban renewal, through forging connections between architecture and public infrastructure; towards a new urbanism  
Spatial labour market mismatch in Cape Town  
Informal networks and identities of transnational traders  
Land Information Systems in Lesotho: land tenure, rights registration and cadastral systems  
Spatial Data Infrastructures: system architecture design for sustainable human settlements  
Assessing the applicability of the USEPA BASINS catchment modeling system to a South African urban context  
Aspects of flood disaster management in informal settlements  
Housing experiences and the meaning of home among female migrants in Cape Town

### Doctoral Students

Ayse Basbozkurt  
Cecil Madell  
Chartlon Ziervogel  
  
Dorothy Kobel  
Frank Meintjies  
Gerry Adlard  
Justin Gichobi  
Selwyn Naidoo

### Research Projects

An integration data approach for extracting building density from multiple aerial images  
Local economic development and poverty reduction  
My city, your city, our city, Cape Town and its edge cities; examining social polarisation and spaces of urban integration in post-Fordist cities  
Water and sewage services  
Land use planning and management in relation to informal land markets during the first decade of democracy  
From participation in the iSLP to eradication in the N2 Gateway – shifting city-wide policies on informal settlements  
Developing and testing a land cover and land use classification scheme for sub-Saharan cities  
Relationship between physical environments and chronic disease – Cape Town case study

## MASTERS CANDIDATES

Name	Department	Topic	Supervisor
Dhlembeu, R.	Environmental and Geographical Science	Assessing the applicability of the USEPA BASINS catchment modeling system to a South African urban context.	Dr Kevin Winter and Dr Ralph Hamann
Makanga, P.	Architecture, Planning and Geomatics	A new perspective on Spatial Data Infrastructures.	Dr Julian Smit
Mason-Jones, K.	Chemical Engineering	The use and disposal of NiCd batteries in Cape Town.	Dr H. von Blottnitz

## DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Name	Department	Topic	Supervisor
Adlard, G.	Environmental and Geographical Science	From participation in the iSLP to eradication in the N2 Gateway – shifting city-wide policies on informal settlements	Professor Sophie Oldfield
Akrofi, E. O.	Architecture, Planning and Geomatics	Strengthening customary land tenure systems for efficient urban land delivery	Associate Professor J. Whittal
Chileshe, M	Environmental and Geographical Science	Impact of retrenchment on urban household food security, Copperbelt, Zambia	Dr Bruce Frayne
Drivdal, L.	Centre of Criminology	Adaptation to the risk of flooding in informal settlements: Learning through collaborative governance	Clifford Shearing
Gichobi, J.	Architecture, Planning and Geomatics	Developing and testing an urban land use classification scheme using Remote Sensing and GIS: A case for the City of Cape Town	Dr Julian Smit and Dr Susan Parnell
Madell, C.	Architecture, Planning and Geomatics	Local economic development and poverty reduction within townships in South Africa: The development of theory through the exploration of a case study	Professor Vanessa Watson
Marrengane, C.N.	Environmental and Geographical Science	Sub-national government and the management of HIV and AIDS under conditions of rapid urbanisation: The case study of Mbabane, Swaziland.	Professor Susan Parnell
Nickanor, N.	Environmental and Geographical Science	Women and household food security in Windhoek, Namibia	Dr Bruce Frayne
Tawodzera, G.	Environmental and Geographical Science	Urban household food security and livelihoods in Harare, Zimbabwe: The search for an analytical framework	Dr Bruce Frayne

## MASTERS GRADUATES

Name	Department	Topic	Supervisor
Kirkland, D (2008)	Environmental and Geographical Science	Urban Agriculture as a Pro-Poor Development Process: Harvest of Hope, Cape Town.	Dr Bruce Frayne

## DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Name	Department	Topic	Supervisor
Rink, B. (2008)	Environmental and Geographical Science	Village People: Quartering De Waterkant in discourse and bricks.	Dr Sophie Oldfield



# RESEARCH OUTPUTS: 2008-2009

## I. BOOKS (AUTHORED)

Beall, J. and Fox, S. (2009) *Cities and Development*. London and New York: Routledge  
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## II. CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

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Beall, J. (2009) Decentralizing Government and De-centering Gender: Lessons from Local Government Reform in South Africa. In A.M. Goetz (ed.) *Governing Women, Women's Political Effectiveness in Contexts of Democratization and Governance Reform*. London and New York: Routledge

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Eriksen, S., Vogel, C., Ziervogel, G., Steinbruch, F. and Nazare, F. (2009) Vulnerability Assessments in the Developing World: Mozambique and South Africa. In A. Patt, R. Klein and A. de la Vega-Leinert (eds) *Assessing Vulnerability to Global Environmental Change: Making Research Useful for Adaptation Decision Making and Policy*. London: Earthscan

Farouk, I. (2008) Mapping the Routes of the Soweto Uprisings. In A.K. Hlongwane (ed.) *Footprints of the 'Class of 76': Commemoration, Memory, Mapping and Heritage*. Johannesburg: Library Publications, for the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum

Farouk, I. (2008) Burying the Dead at Avalon Cemetery. In N. Brodie (ed.) *The Joburg Book*. Northlands: Pan Macmillan Publishing South Africa

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### III. RESEARCH ARTICLES

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#### IV. CONFERENCE PAPERS

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Brown-Luthango, M. (2008) *Capturing Value from a Soaring Land Market for Redistribution*. Southern African Housing Foundation Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, 15 October

Brown-Luthango, M. (2009) *Access to Land for the Urban Poor - Policy*

*Proposals for South African Cities*. International Sociological Association (ISA) - Research Committee 21 (RC 21) Conference on Inequality, Inclusion and a Sense of Belonging, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 23-25 August

Carden, K., Winter, K., Spiegel, A. and Armitage, N. (2008) *Approaching Community-Level Greywater Management in Non-Sewered Settlements in South Africa*. Proceedings of the 33rd WEDC International Conference, Accra, Ghana, April

Carden, K., Armitage, N., Hotchkiss, T. and Makgalemele, M. (2009) *The Comparative Challenges of Urban Water Sustainability in Three Municipalities in the Western Cape Province, South Africa*. Proceedings of the IMESA 2009 Conference: Serve Our Cities - Rescue Our Resources, Cape Town, 28-30 October

Carden, K., Winter, K. & Armitage, N. (2009) *Sustainable Urban Water Management in Cape Town, South Africa - Is It a Pipe Dream?*. Proceedings of the 34th WEDC International Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May

De Carvalho, S.C.P., Armitage, N.P. and Carden, K.J. (2008) Development of a Sustainability Index for Integrated Urban Water Management for Southern African Cities: Case Study Applications to Hermanus and Maputo. Proceedings of the WISA 08 Biennial Conference, Sun City, South Africa, May

Frayne, B. and Pendleton, W. (2009) *Key Findings of AFSUN Urban Food Security Baseline Survey from 11 SADC Cities*. Urban Food Security in Southern Africa: Strategic Policy Dimensions. African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN) Regional Conference, Ekurhuleni City Council Chambers, Kempton Park, South Africa, 10-12 June

Frayne, B. (2009) *Regional Food Security Situation for 11 Southern African Cities*. Data Analysis Workshop, Programme for Urban Food Security, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, 3-4 February

Frayne, B. (2009) *The State of South African Cities*. Urban Food Security Session, 3rd South African Cities Network (SACN) Urban Conference, Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa, 24-25 November

Frayne, B. (2009) *Urban Food Security in Southern Africa 'Working on the Margins': Addressing structural poverty and exclusion in South Africa*. PLAAS, University of the Western Cape, South Africa, 26-27 March

Frayne, B. (2009), *Urban Food Security in Southern Africa*. Chair, Research Planning Workshop, Programme for Urban Food Security, University of Botswana, Botswana, 17-19 June

Gichobi, J. (2009) *Cape Town Dumpsites Flouting DWAF Rules: A GIS Investigation*. Paper presented at the International Association of Impact Assessment South Africa Conference, Wilderness, South Africa 23-26 August



Gichobi, J. and Smit, J. (2008) *Where Will Cape Town Dump Its Waste? A GIS Solution*. Paper presented at the International Association of Impact Assessment South Africa Conference, Bela Bela, South Africa, 10-13 August

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Herbstein, A., Shale, M., Timm, S. and Li, H. (2009) *Governance and Agency in Poor Communities: A Lo'Glo'cal Approach*. Amsterdam Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2-4 December

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Pieterse, E. (2008) Commentary on the State of the World's Cities Report 2008/9. Presented at the World Urban Forum, Nanjing, China, 3-6 November

Pieterse, E. (2008) *Planning and the Construction of Democratic Practices in the City*. Presented at South African Planning Institute Conference: Planning Africa 2008—Shaping the Future, Sandton, South Africa, 14-16 April

Pieterse, E. (2008) *The Impossible (Neoliberal) Work of Becoming a Global City*. Presented at the conference : Johannesburg and Megacity Phenomena, hosted by the University of Johannesburg and Theory, Culture & Society's New Encyclopaedia Project, Johannesburg, South Africa, 9-11 April

Pieterse, E. (2008) *Urban Human Settlements in Africa: Critical Challenge*. Presented at HSRC, CODESRIA & ISSC Scientific Symposium on Knowledge and Transformation: Social and Human Sciences in Africa, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 27-28 November

Pieterse, E. (2008) *Working Notes on a Relational Model of Urban Politics*. Presented at Princeton Urban Democracy and Governance in the Global South Symposium, Princeton, USA, 7-8 November

Pieterse, E. (2009) *African Urbanisation Dynamics*. Presentation at the 4th International Lifecycle Management Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, 7-9 September

Pieterse, E. (2009) *Democratic Renovations in the City*. Presented at Peripheries: Decentring Urban Theory Conference, UC Berkeley, USA, 5-7 February

Pieterse, E. (2009) *Exploratory Notes on African Urbanism*. Paper presented at the 3rd European Conference on African Studies, Leipzig, Germany, 4-7 June

Pieterse, E. (2009) *Framing Themes and Questions for an Engagement on African Urbanism*. Opening Address at the African Urbanism Colloquium,

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Pieterse, E. (2009) *Post-Apartheid Geographies in South Africa: Why Are Urban Divides So Persistent?* Interdisciplinary Debates on Development and Cultures: Cities in Development – Spaces, Conflicts and Agency, Leuven University, Belgium, 15 December

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Smit, J., Sithole, G. and Strever, A. (2009) *Vine Signal Extraction – an Application of Remote Sensing in Precision Viticulture*. Paper presented at the Earth Observation for Global Change 2009 Conference, Chengdu, China, 25-29 May

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## V. RESEARCH OUTPUTS RELATED TO THE SIGNATURE THEME AND WHICH ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE ABOVE

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Farrell, L., Mackres, E. and Hamann, R. (2009) *A Clash of Cultures (and Lawyers): A Case Study of Anglo Platinum and its Mogalakwena Mine in Limpopo*, South Africa. Case study report submitted to a competition at the University of Stellenbosch Business School

Frayne, B. (2008) *Food Security in South Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Choices*. Research and Information Division, Development Bank of Southern Africa, 27 August

Frayne, B. (2008) *Food Security in the Context of Fossil Fuels, Environmental Stress and Population Growth. Leadership in Sustainable Development: The Population-Environment-Development Nexus*, Environmental Evaluation Unit, School of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town (invited seminar)

Frayne, B. (2008) *Review of The End of Food: The Coming Crisis in the World Food Industry* by Paul Roberts (New York: Houghton Mifflin). *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*. 50: 44-49

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- Pieterse, E. (2008) 2010's Legacies for Cape Town., Essay featured as part of the South African exhibition *Locating 2010*, mounted at the Venice Biennale in 2008
- Pieterse, E. (2008) Deciphering City Futures. *Cluster Magazine* 7: 132-138
- Sinha, P., Akoorie, M., Hamann, R. and Marshall, S. (2009) *Perceived Institutional Pressures in the Global Wine Industry: A Three-Country Study of the Adoption of Environmental Practices*. Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA
- Skinner, C. (2009) Challenging City Imaginaries; Street Traders' Struggles in Warwick Junction. *Agenda : Special Issue on 'Gender and Poverty Reduction* 81: 101-110
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- Smit, W., Tipple, G. and Majale, M. (2008) *State of Cities Reporting: Good Practice Guide and Toolkit*. Report prepared for the South African Cities Network, Johannesburg
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July 2008

**City Futures: Confronting the Crisis of Urban Development**

In 2008, the ACC launched the first ACC publication, *City Futures: Confronting the Crisis of Urban Development* by Edgar Pieterse. The volume begins with the recognition that sometime in 2008 the world became irrevocably urban, with more than 50% of the global population living in cities and towns. *City Futures* explores the implications of this profound demographic shift from the perspective of ordinary 'city-zens' in the global South who make up this growth but remain excluded from the economic, social and political advantages that this urban moment presents. The book has been hailed by world-renowned urbanist Professor Ash Amin as "an important and hopeful work that does not shy away from the inequalities and power asymmetries that confront cities of the South".

October 2008

**Launch of the African Innovations Project and the Inaugural Meeting of the Association of African Planning Schools**

With support from the Rockefeller Foundation, the African Innovations Project at the ACC was launched in October 2008 with the purpose of creating a space for dialogue with prominent African urbanists and artists whose work is focused on everyday urban experiences and practices. In addition to the African Innovations Project, the gathering provided a platform for the first meeting of the AAPS which was held in Cape Town at the same time. This was the first contact meeting of this association developed to discuss the building of knowledge networks and exchanges across African tertiary institutions within the urban planning disciplines.

February 2009

**SUD-Net Workshop, Cape Town**

On 17-19 February 2009, the ACC, UN-HABITAT and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) jointly hosted the Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net) Workshop in Cape Town. The purpose of the event was to discuss the role and functioning of SUD-Net, a global knowledge network on sustainable urban development initiated by UN-HABITAT, and to establish SUD-Net Africa. The workshop was attended by over forty participants from nine African countries, representing municipalities, planning institutions and associations, NGOs and academic institutions. It culminated in the formal launch of the African chapter of SUD-Net.

# MAJOR MILESTONES 2008-2009

## June 2009

### **2009 South African Cities Conference, Johannesburg**

A regular forum for academic exchange between South African scholars of cities has been long overdue. At present urban scholars often only find platforms to present their research and engage each other at their disciplinary conferences. Given that most of the pertinent urban questions are inter- and/or transdisciplinary in nature, it seems clear that there is a need to create a regularised forum where research can be presented and discussed across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Such a forum not only enriches current work but also provides a platform to generate new and better research agendas that will allow us to gain an enhanced purchase on the contemporary urban condition.

Apart from creating a dynamic platform for interdisciplinary scholarly engagement, academic conferences need to become more dynamic by opening up participation to 'urban practitioners', whether they be from the state, the private sector or social movements. In fact, since much of contemporary urban scholarship seeks to contribute to broader societal goals of greater equity and justice, it is fitting that scholars debate research with a larger audience with vested interests in the issues under discussion.

In June 2009, the first South African Cities Conference, jointly organised by the Centre for Urban and Built Environment Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand and the ACC at UCT, was held in Johannesburg. The broad themes selected as focus areas for paper sessions were:

- City economies, governments and inclusion
- People on the move: city cultures and desires
- Making city spaces and places
- Urban research methods and theory
- What's new in city studies in South Africa?

*A follow-up conference is scheduled for 2010 at UCT.*

## July 2009

### **Online launch of the African Cities Reader**

The African Cities Reader, a joint ACC and Chimurenga Magazine project, was launched online in July 2009. The Reader is a collection of creative work on the African city experience organised around the theme: "Pan-African Practices". The work contributed by authors from the continent and its diaspora focuses on practices, phenomenologies and spatialities and their intersections. This first edition of the African Cities Reader aims to incorporate literature, philosophy, fiction, reportage, ethnographic narrative and forms of representation. The African Cities Reader will seek to embody and reflect the rich pluralism, cosmopolitanism and diversity of emergent urbanisms across Africa. Thus, the Reader invites and undertakes to commission writing and art by practitioners, academics, activists and artists from diverse fields across Africa in all of the continent's expansiveness.

### **Public seminar on OECD Territorial Review: Cape Town**

On 28 July 2009 the ACC co-hosted a seminar on the recently published OECD Territorial Review on Cape Town with the Cape Higher Education Consortium, Accelerate Cape Town and Ernst & Young. The Review was the first of its kind in Africa and suggested that public bodies and the business sector are failing to come to terms with the hard challenges at the nexus of the pursuit of economic competitiveness, social inclusion in a neo-apartheid setting and environmental sustainability. The ACC also contributed to the preparatory work undertaken in 2008 for the Review.

## August 2009

### **Inaugural lecture of ACC Director Professor Edgar Pieterse: "African cities, grasping the unknowable"**

On 26 August 2009 Professor Edgar Pieterse delivered his inaugural lecture at UCT. In this lecture he grappled with what it means to make sense of transitions in the specificities of our African soil, spirit and phenomenologies when we are bereft of an appropriate philosophical-social theoretical vocabulary.



# MISTRA-URBAN FUTURES

## Purpose and Objectives

The Mistra Urban Futures programme is an initiative to build an international network of research, knowledge and innovation platforms for sustainable urban development. The starting point of the programme is the partnership of seven institutions in a series of projects that explore new modes of collaborative knowledge production. Sited in Gothenburg, Sweden, Mistra Urban Futures was set up to better understand the challenges and possibilities facing urban areas and to establish a world centre for their sustainable development. It is funded by the Mistra Foundation for Strategic Development, Swedish International Development Agency and seven founding organisations. The centre itself is hosted by Chalmers University of Technology.

## Partners

The other partners in the programme are the Centre for Sustainable Urban Futures (Manchester, United Kingdom), Tongji University College of Architecture and Urban Planning (Shanghai, China), Maseno University (Kisumu, Kenya) and the ACC (Cape Town).



# FORTHCOMING PROJECTS FOR 2010

## STATE OF THE CITIES IN AFRICA PROJECT



### Purpose and Objectives

The reality of Africa's urban transition is no longer in dispute. The rate of urbanisation in Africa is widely recognised as the most rapid in the world. And the Africa region still has no effective networks of urban management professionals/practitioners with consistent, relevant skill sets and shared knowledge. The most basic requirement, therefore, is for a readily accessible platform for enabling ministers, mayors and practitioners to gain and continually upgrade the skills and knowledge needed to manage sustainable growth.

The ACC, as an established centre within UCT, will be a durable partner in this process, and its focus on "real-life" case studies as a key knowledge tool fits very well with the approach taken by other active stakeholders in the urban development sector.

The objective of this project is to establish an institutional foundation to support the systematic definition of urban systems in Africa. This work will be achieved through a process of analytical research undertaken by local experts in urban centres across the continent. Building on the work of ACC senior staff to create a network of planning schools in anglophone Africa, the State of the Cities in Africa (SOCA) Project will serve as a platform for:

- the systematic capture, analysis, synthesis and presentation of city-level data from urban centres across the continent;
- establishment of knowledge networks among African urban practitioners and scholars and the larger global South;
- a series of reports produced through a consultative process with local stakeholders.



### RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR NTOMBINI MARRENGANE

Email: [ntombini.marrengane@uct.ac.za](mailto:ntombini.marrengane@uct.ac.za)

**Research Interests:** Ntombini's research interests include urban governance and examining how institutional powers of sub-national authorities can be leveraged to improve the lives of the poor. Ntombini also has an interest in management of public health challenges as a theme in urban development.

### Partners

In the preparation for the launch of the SOCA initiative, the ACC has established firm links with funders including the Cities Alliance and DFID's Urban LandMark. Technical cooperation agreements have been established with the Global Urban Observatory at UN-HABITAT, and will also be established with planning schools across the continent via the AAPS.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TITLE	NAME	ROLE	EMAIL
Professor	Jo Beall	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town / Chair	<a href="mailto:jo.beall@uct.ac.za">jo.beall@uct.ac.za</a>
Professor	Francis Petersen	Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment	<a href="mailto:francis.petersen@uct.ac.za">francis.petersen@uct.ac.za</a>
Professor	Vanessa Watson	Acting HOD, School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics	<a href="mailto:vanessa.watson@uct.ac.za">vanessa.watson@uct.ac.za</a>
Professor	Edgar Pieterse	ACC Director	<a href="mailto:edgar.pieterse@uct.ac.za">edgar.pieterse@uct.ac.za</a>
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Associate Professor	Harro von Blottnitz	Department of Chemical Engineering	<a href="mailto:harro.vonblottnitz@uct.ac.za">harro.vonblottnitz@uct.ac.za</a>
Professor	Cyril O'Connor	Department of Chemical Engineering (Former Chair)	<a href="mailto:cyril.oconnor@uct.ac.za">cyril.oconnor@uct.ac.za</a>

# ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



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MICHELLE ARMSTRONG

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**SENIOR  
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MARYAM WAGLAY

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## VISITING FELLOWS



**IVAN TUROK,  
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW**

**Email:** i.turok@lbs.gla.ac.uk

**Research Interests:** Ivan's research interests include a review of the prospects for African urban economies and assessing the potential for greater cross-border collaboration. Ivan is also conducting research to examine the City of Cape Town's economic competitiveness and to identify ways to improve performance in relation to other cities on national and international scales.

**JENNY ROBINSON,  
OPEN UNIVERSITY**

**Email:** J.D.Robinson@open.ac.uk

**Research Interests:** Jenny's research is on re-grounding comparative methods to support a more properly international urban studies, and developing a comparative research project on the politics of city strategies.

