



AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES
urbanism from an african perspective



AFRICAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUTURES

Academic Conference

Programme

CONVENED BY



AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES
urbanism from an african perspective

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URBAN FUTURES STUDIO

CONTENTS

Welcome	04
Thank You	05
Programme Overview	06
Keynote and Biographies	08
Parallel Sessions	
Track A1: How Africa's marginalised urban majority reframes the sustainability agenda	11
Track B1: Explaining exclusionary urban infrastructures: the transcalar politics of financing, centralised power, and spatial disconnection	15
Track C1: Finance as and of infrastructure: reframing financial and fiscal frontiers	19
Track D1: Infrastructure's multiplicities-circulations, adaptations, and composites	24
Track A2: Resilience as a concept, infrastructural practice, and/or (re)imagination	29
Track B2: States and possibilities of urban infrastructure policymaking	34
Track C2: Platformed cities and citizens	40
Track D2: Everyday socio-infrastructure encounters in African cities	45
Track A3: Urban speculations, design dispositions, and the politics of performance	51
Track B3: Plural governance regimes: Urban politics beyond the state	56
Track C3: Enduring and emerging spatial imaginaries: From SEZs to ring roads	62
Track D3: Decaying, caring, and repairing urban infrastructure	67
General Information	72

WELCOME

The last fifteen years has seen rising interest in African cities, particularly within urban studies. This work has sought not only to produce knowledge 'on' African urbanisation, but to build insights and theories 'from' Africa.

While the project of southerning urban theory is replete with contradictions and paradoxes, progress has undoubtedly been made in centering African experiences, voices, and orientations within global debates. These gains are particularly prominent within the so called 'infrastructure turn' within urban studies. It is here that economic, cultural, social, and political assumptions – about what is, could be and should be – have been most productively challenged and critiqued. Ideals developed in western/northern contexts have been questioned in favour of situated responses to crises emerging from - among other things - infrastructural backlogs, financial constraints, colonial legacies, and climate risks.

The African Infrastructure Futures Conference extends this project – aiming to balance critique with proposition and disagreement with convergence. This one-day academic conference kicks off an exciting week of events, including two days of policy and practice workshops, exhibitions, and opportunities for bilateral city-exchanges. While academic thought alone is insufficient in the face of the complex and daunting realities which African cities face, the role of urban research, creative thought, and critical inquiry remains vital.

Edgar Pieterse and
the African Infrastructure Futures Conference Organising Committee

THANK YOU

The African Centre for Cities would like to express our sincere gratitude for the time, and intellectual contribution of the Scientific Committee, to the curation of this programme.

- **Prof AbdouMaliq Simone** (Urban Institute, University of Sheffield) – Committee Chair
- **Dr Liza Rose Cirolia** (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town)
- **Prof Kenny Cupers** (Critical Urbanisms, University of Basel, Switzerland)
- **Dr Wangui Kimari** (Institute for Humanities in Africa, University of Cape Town)
- **Dr Nobukhosi Ngwenya** (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town)
- **Prof Edgar Pieterse** (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town)
- **Dr Andrea Pollio** (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, Polytechnic of Turin)
- **Assoc Prof Andrew Tucker** (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town)

The committee would like to express thanks to our session leads, who provided the framings for each of their respective sessions and feedback on the programme design, enhancing the richness and diversity of the intellectual project.

- **Dr Mercy Brown-Luthango**, (African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town)
- **Dr Nyx Mclean**, Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa
- **Prof Nancy Odendaal** (School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, University of Cape Town)
- **Dr Suraya Scheba** (Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, University of Cape Town)
- **Prof Jennifer Robinson** (Department of Geography, University College London, UK)
- **Dr Philippa Tumubweinee** (School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, University of Cape Town and Izuba InAfrica Architects)

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW | ACADEMIC CONFERENCE, 21 November 2022

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW ACADEMIC CONFERENCE, 21 November 2022		*VENUE
08:30-09:00 WELCOME	Edgar Pieterse, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa	New Lecture Theatre
09:00-10:15 KEYNOTE	<i>Drawing Cities: Thinking urbanisation in an age of global warming</i> Dilip M Menon, Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, and Mellon Chair in Indian Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa Chair: Edgar Pieterse, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa Respondent: Susan Parnell, Bristol University	New Lecture Theatre
10:15-10:45	BREAK	New Lecture Theatre
10:45-12:15 PARALLEL SESSION 1	<i>Track A1: How Africa's marginalised urban majority reframes the sustainability agenda</i> Chair: Kenny Cupers, Critical Urbanisms, University of Basel, Switzerland <i>Track B1: Explaining exclusionary urban infrastructures: the transcalar politics of financing, centralised power, and spatial disconnection</i> Chair: Jennifer Robinson, Department of Geography, University College London, UK <i>Track C1: Finance as and of infrastructure: reframing financial and fiscal frontiers</i> Chair: Liza Rose Cirolia, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa <i>Track D1: Infrastructure's multiplicities-circulations, adaptations, and composites</i> Chair: AbdouMaliq Simone, Urban Institute, University of Sheffield, UK	LSS 1A LSS 1B LSS 1C LSS 1D
12:15-13:30	LUNCH	New Lecture Theatre

*VENUE: Plenary Sessions and lunch take place in the New Lecture Theatre. Parallel Sessions take place in the nearby Leslie Social Sciences Building (LSS). Simply follow the wayfinding outside the New Lecture Theatre .

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW | ACADEMIC CONFERENCE, 21 November 2022

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW ACADEMIC CONFERENCE, 21 November 2022		*VENUE
13:30-15:00 PARALLEL SESSION 2	<i>Track A2: Resilience as a concept, infrastructural practice, and/or (re)imagination</i> Chair: Suraya Scheba, Environmental and Geographical Sciences Department, University of Cape Town, SA <i>Track B2: States and possibilities of urban infrastructure policymaking</i> Chair: Sylvia Croese, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa <i>Track C2: Platformed cities and citizens</i> Chair: Nyx Mclean, Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa <i>Track D2: Everyday socio-infrastructural encounters in African cities</i> Chair: Mercy Brown-Luthango, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa	LSS 1A LSS 1B LSS 1C LSS 1D
15:00-15:30	BREAK	New Lecture Theatre
15:30-17:00 PARALLEL SESSION 3	<i>Track A3: Urban speculations, design dispositions, and the politics of performance</i> Chair: Philippa Tumubweine, School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, University of Cape Town, SA <i>Track B3: Plural governance regimes: Urban politics beyond the state</i> Chair: Wangui Kimari, Institute for Humanities in Africa, University of Cape Town, South Africa <i>Track C3: Enduring and emerging spatial imaginaries: From SEZs to ring roads</i> Chair: Nobukhosi Ngwenya, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa <i>Track D3: Decaying, caring, and repairing urban infrastructure</i> Chair: Andrea Pollio, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa	LSS 1A LSS 1B LSS 1C LSS 1D
17:00-18:15 CLOSING PANEL	<i>Propositions of the Present: Closing reflections on the potentials and pathways for urban infrastructure scholarship from Africa</i> Chair: Edgar Pieterse, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa Wangui Kimari, Institute for Humanities in Africa, University of Cape Town, South Africa Liza Rose Cirolia, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa AbdouMaliq Simone, Urban Institute, University of Sheffield, UK	New Lecture Theatre



Dilip M Menon
Keynote Speaker

Dilip M Menon is Professor of History in the Department of International Relations and Director of the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa at the University of the Witwatersrand. His work is primarily in cultural and intellectual history with a focus on South Asia and the global South. The themes of his research are oceanic histories and knowledges from the global South. His recent publications include the anthology *Oceans as Method* (Routledge, 2022) and the edited volume *Changing Theory: Concepts from the Global South* (Routledge, 2022).

KEYNOTE | 21 Nov, 09:00-10:15

Drowning Cities: Thinking urbanism in an age of global warming

One of the most evocative images of civilisation, history, and memory is the idea of the submerged city: from the Greek Atlantis to the TAMILIAN Kumarikandam. This is an emergent trope again as the prospect of global warming and the rising of the oceanic waters raises the prospect of major cities along the coast, from Tokyo to Bangkok and London, being submerged by 2050. How do we think about urbanisation in an era of climate change and configure the idea of catastrophe into our current perception of the organic growth and decline of cities?



Susan Parnell
Keynote Respondent

Susan Parnell is a Global Challenges Research Professor in the School of Geography at the University of Bristol and Emeritus Professor at the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town. She has held previous academic positions at Wits University and the University of London (SOAS). She was a Leverhulme Visiting Professor at UCL (2011/2), Emeka Anyaoku Visiting Chair, UCL (2014/15) and Visiting Professor at LSE Cities (2017/18). She has been actively involved in urban policy debates around the SDGs and is an advocate for better science policy engagement on cities.



Edgar Pieterse
Keynote and Closing Panel Chair

Edgar Pieterse is the founding Director of the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town and holds the South African Research Chair in Urban Policy. His research and teaching explore urban imaginaries, alternative futures, sustainable urban infrastructure, place-making, public cultures, responsive design, and adaptive governance systems. He writes, curates exhibitions, and convenes difficult conversations about pressing urban problems. His current research is focused on the tenets of sustainable infrastructure systems in low-income contexts. He also leads the African Mayoral Leadership Initiative and serves on the advisory boards of several urban and scientific institutions.



Wangui Kimari
Closing Panelist
21 Nov | 17:00-18:15

Wangui Kimari is an anthropologist. Her work draws on many local histories and theoretical approaches in order to think through urban spatial management in Nairobi from the vantage point of its most marginalized residents. Wangui is also the participatory action research coordinator for the Mathare Social Justice Centre (MSJC), and an editorial board member of the online publication Africa Is a Country (AIAC).



Liza Rose Cirolia
Closing Panelist
21 Nov | 17:00-18:15

Liza Rose Cirolia is a senior researcher at the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town (South Africa). Her work focuses on governance, municipal finance, urban infrastructure, and real estate in the context of Africa's growing urban areas. Her recent projects focus on distributed and decentralized infrastructure configurations, taking an approach that aims to be both critical and propositional. Liza is actively involved in developing pan-African research collaborations, leading collaborative and comparative projects. In addition to academic work, Liza consults for local and international organizations, supporting policy development processes in African cities.



AbdouMaliq Simone
Closing Panelist
21 Nov | 17:00-18:15

AbdouMaliq Simone is a Senior Professorial Fellow at the Urban Institute, University of Sheffield, co-director of the Beyond Inhabitation Lab (Turin) and Visiting Professor of Urban Studies at the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town. Key publications include, *For the City Yet to Come: Urban Change in Four African Cities* (Duke University Press, 2004), and *City Life from Jakarta to Dakar: Movements at the Crossroads* (Routledge, 2009), *Jakarta: Drawing the City Near*: (University of Minnesota Press, 2014), *New Urban Worlds: Inhabiting Dissonant Times*, (with Edgar Pieterse, Polity 2017), *Improvised Lives: Rhythms of Endurance for an Urban South* (Polity 2018), and *The Surrounds: Urban Life Within and Beyond Capture* (Duke University Press 2022).



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Kenny Cupers, Critical Urbanisms, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

How Africa's marginalised urban majority reframes the sustainability agenda

What do sustainable urban futures look like for low-income residents of African cities? What sorts of infrastructure transitions are in-progress, probable and possible from the perspective of this marginalised urban majority? To what extent can efforts to advance more sustainable urban futures in Africa foster inclusion – not only in terms of resource distribution and infrastructural access, but also in terms of political rights and participation in decision-making about what those futures should or can be? How might attending to politically marginalised urban lifeworlds reframe the sustainable infrastructure agenda, not just in Africa, but globally? These are the questions that will structure this roundtable discussion, based on reports of ongoing work in low-income neighbourhoods across the continent.

PAPERS

- *What does sustainable infrastructure mean for slum-upgrading and urban development in Kenya? Reflections on the development of a 'Framework for Inclusive and Integrated Infrastructure'*
Margarita Garfias Royo, Joe Mulligan, Jack Campbell Clause, Mukanga Pascal, Bosibori Barake, George Arabbu, and Priti Parikh
- *Reframing an 'Upgrading' Imaginary: From occupied land to occupied building*
Jhono Bennett, Jacqui Cuyler, and Dumisani Mathebula
- *The effects of hyper-privatisation on water and health infrastructure in Lagos*
Nura Ali

TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Kenny Cupers, Critical Urbanisms, University
of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

What does sustainable infrastructure mean for slum-upgrading and urban development in Kenya? Reflections on the development of a 'Framework for Inclusive and Integrated Infrastructure'

Margarita Garfias Royo, Joe Mulligan, Jack Campbell Clause, Mukanga Pascal, Bosibori Barake, George Arabbu, and Priti Parikh

Incoming legislation in Kenya and many current and planned “slum upgrades” emphasise investment in infrastructure as the basis of urban development. A common assertion among academics and practitioners is that infrastructure investments that are inclusive of a broader set of voices and needs, and that integrate physical, social and ecological systems, can create just, resilient, and viable neighbourhoods. But in the political and economic reality of our cities, how could these more responsive systems be conceived, planned, and designed to shape a new and viable urban future for city residents? To provoke thinking and action towards better development planning in low-income areas, a coalition of built environment practitioners (KDI Kenya), organisations of the urban poor (Akiba Mashinani Trust), a professional institution (The Architectural Association of Kenya), academic partners (University College London, UCL) and a private-sector engineering firm (Arup East Africa) came together to create an “Integrated and Inclusive Infrastructure Framework” (3IF) for informal-settlement upgrading in Kenya. The process was followed by researchers from the UCL Engineering for International Development Centre and funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering under a Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) programme to strengthen and build the capacity of professional engineering institutes in East Africa. The Framework was developed through an extensive co-production process in 2021 and 2022 with government, academia, and civil society, during which definitions (and outcomes) of “sustainable”, “integrated”, and “inclusive” infrastructure were discussed. This discussion outlines the process of creation of 3IF through key informant interviews and workshops with stakeholders in and outside the project. We reflect on the potential and limitations of the 3IF approach in influencing agenda-setting within the contested, power-laden, and multi-actor nature of infrastructure planning and implementation in Kenya.

TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Kenny Cupers, Critical Urbanisms, University
of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Reframing an 'Upgrading' Imaginary: From occupied land to occupied building

Jhono Bennett, Jacqui Cuyler, and Dumisani Mathebula

South Africa's Upgrading Informal Settlements Policy (UISP) has put in place important in-roads towards the scaling-up and institutionalisation of not only participatory process in the upgrading of informal settlements, but the wide-scale inclusion of multiple actors and stakeholders into the socio-technical governance infrastructures of In-Situ Upgrading (ISU) systems across the country. While there is still much work to be done in this sector towards meaningfully embodying what the UISP, alongside the various other instruments of government policy, have attempted to instil, there remain severe shortcomings and closures inherent in navigating the often detrimental stigmas and perceptions of what and who “upgrading” is for – as well as what this looks like in action. Such cracks have been seen to show when the authors of this paper have attempted to engage governmental bodies and local institutions, alongside our grass-roots partners, on projects and initiatives that sought to support occupants of “occupied buildings” in Johannesburg's inner city. The differences experienced in how these residents are seen and engaged with versus “occupied land” groups are vast. They speak to a cognitive dissonance and reading of the city that can only be explained by what Edward Said terms “imaginative geographies”. Conditions such as “occupied buildings” – while dynamic and complex – hold the potential to address other challenges encountered when working with “occupied land” groups, particularly around density and the search for available and well-located upgrading locations. This paper will share these experiences, the various socio-technical design tools, digital methods employed in support of this work, and offer an insight on what the authors feel is an opportunity to re-frame the imaginative spatial geographies of what “upgrading” means in support of not only an individual household model; how it could be applicable to existing neighbourhood infrastructures that are already acting and working sustainably in many ways.

TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Kenny Cupers, Critical Urbanisms, University
of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

The effects of hyper-privatisation on water and health infrastructure in Lagos

Nura Ali

Lagos has historically been facing a water crisis, triggered by a combination of post-colonial planning legacies, partially planned or “bypass” urbanisation, vested interests in public-service delivery, and the commodification of access to basic rights. While the production of the water crisis is inherently socio-political, most policies follow a managerial or market-driven approach to solving the issue. At the same time, vested (often corporate) interests behind public health agendas manifest through urban water insecurity, while informalised water networks/associations and individual businesses have emerged as a counter-narrative to public-service absenteeism.

The “environmental nuisance” (as per government rhetoric) that is a by-product of infrastructural deficiencies, particularly WASH infrastructure, is used as justification for threats of evictions or actual demolitions. Informal dwellers along Lagos’ coast (sea and lagoon), in particular, fall victim to the logics of the urban hyper-privatisation that drives the urge to develop land for the highest-earning segments of society. In many parts of the wealthy Victoria Island, a purported ideal of elite urbanism led to evictions followed by luxury development (i.e. Maroko), or expensive land reclamation through sand dredging in areas that will be struggling with rising sea levels in the near future (i.e. Eko Atlantic). Civil society interventions have started to strategically intervene through local and traditional governance structures to promote and pair the ongoing “urbanism from below” with a request for more inclusive urban development and public and corporate accountability (i.e. CAPP Africa, and Community Development Associations). In an attempt to “theorise from the majority”, this PhD paper maps the hydro-social relationships, water governance, and community-driven health services in Makoko, a historical Lagos coast community with no access to basic public-service delivery. This research aims to show how water and health run along socio-spatial gradients, and how hydro-social spaces have become an arena for aggressive urban capitalism and post-colonial planning legacies.

TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Jennifer Robinson, Department of
Geography, University College London,
London, UK

Explaining exclusionary urban infrastructures: The transcalar politics of financing, centralised power, and spatial disconnection

This session will focus on urban infrastructure initiatives in which national governments have played a strong role. The discussion will probe the way in which different national political formations shape interactions with financial actors and external sovereign investors to secure major infrastructure developments, with a focus on roads and industrial development. Centralised political systems, including authoritarian governments or rent-seeking political parties, mean that local government institutions and actors are often side-lined, leading to limited impact of existing urban plans or community agency in shaping infrastructure developments. Meanwhile, other national state actors play a strong role, including state-owned development corporations and central government agencies. The papers detail a resultant disconnect of large-scale infrastructure developments from the urban fabric and a lack of synergies with existing settlements and activities. Discussion will reflect on whether better outcomes might be secured, considering the actual relations among the different actors assembled around specific developments, and exploring the potential of a transcalar analysis to generate new insights.

PAPERS

- *Financial cityscapes and urban infrastructure investment: Transforming central Lilongwe through road infrastructure*
Matthew Lane and Evance Mwathunga
- *Participation, prioritisation and planning of projects in the urban context: A case of the Nairobi Expressway*
Constant Cap
- *Sustainable infrastructural governance and the politics of urban industrial integration in African authoritarian states*
Selam Robi



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Jennifer Robinson, Department of
Geography, University College London,
London, UK

Financial cityscapes and urban infrastructure investment: Transforming central Lilongwe through road infrastructure

Matthew Lane and Evance Mwathunga

A lot of attention has been paid to privately designed “mega-projects” in and around African cities. However, in today’s financialised landscape there is an increasing range of ways in which private monies can end up investing in the future of urban Africa. Infrastructure has been touted as one important vehicle in this regard, but what is it that actually renders African urban infrastructure projects “investable” for the private sector? How are the imaginations of the future that they usher in competing with the material realities of the present in the minds of governments and investors? Using the ongoing case of Kenyatta Drive in the centre of Lilongwe, Malawi, this paper explores the investment logics deployed to fund the expansion of this inner-city highway which aims to reshape the spatial organisation of the city. It connects the split commercial centres of Lilongwe Old Town and the ‘city centre’, built from 1968, and supports a new commercial area linking the two. Shifting away from foreign donor-led infrastructure models, the Malawi government is delivering the project through a private development bond in partnership with both local and international financial institutions. Based on interviews with a range of stakeholders from government and the private sector, this paper examines how this project came to be identified as viable for private-sector investment. In doing so, it offers new insight into how urban territories get produced in the background of negotiations around infrastructure, and the complex ways in which finance, political legacies and spatial planning determine such territorialisations



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Jennifer Robinson, Department of
Geography, University College London,
London, UK

Participation, prioritisation and planning of projects in the urban context: A case of the Nairobi Expressway

Constant Cap

Infrastructure is key for economic growth and alleviation of poverty in any country. Over the past decade, Africa has undergone massive developments of “hard infrastructure” projects like highways, railways, and ports that aim at boosting local and regional economies while uplifting standards of living. However, many times these have not resulted in the intended purpose, with countries finding themselves with unprecedented levels of debt, increased cost of living, and white elephants. This study focuses on one project, the Nairobi Expressway. This is a double-decker, toll-based highway that was recently built through a public-private partnership between the Kenyan government and the Chins Road and Bridge Company. The study looks at the viability of the project against the publicly stated objective of solving traffic congestion in Nairobi, versus other mobility alternatives based on city and citizen needs. The methodology used includes desktop research of official city plans, key informant interviews with professionals, as well as public documents from the public participation processes and tribunal hearings that queried the project’s environmental impact assessment. The study uses the project to ask questions about infrastructure prioritisation, and looks at power dynamics and the narratives that are shared in public. The results describe how projects are driven through big capital without following a planning process that takes into consideration the city character and the citizens’ socio-economic dynamics. It highlights the gap between perceived “economic priorities” and the actual needs of the majority of the population.



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Jennifer Robinson, Department of
Geography, University College London,
London, UK

Sustainable infrastructural governance and the politics of urban industrial integration in African authoritarian states

Selam Robi

A growing number of developmental authoritarian African states – Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Tanzania – are attempting to steer structural transformation to address the political threat of the urban demographic explosion through large-scale state-driven industrialisation in cities (Fourie, 2011:2). However, the interactive sub-processes of this transformation – urbanisation and industrialisation – are being steered through highly fragmented state action generating infrastructural, social, economic and environmental challenges in a range of African countries (UNECA, 2017, 2018). This fragmentation of policy making and development in the urban-industrial nexus has thus created serious challenges for sustainable infrastructural governance. One way this has taken shape is in the governance dynamics between centralised state-owned development corporations that lead centrally designed infrastructure projects like industrial parks, and the city administrations that are excluded from the policymaking and planning of these developments that they eventually host. This paper examines how authoritarian politics drives and sustains this policy fragmentation by linking theorising on the governance of urban infrastructural integration with that on authoritarian decentralisation. The implications of the minimal bargaining power of city administrations within structures of authoritarian decentralisation for local integrative and coordinative capacity clearly defines the scope of sustainable infrastructure governance and integrated urban development. On the other hand, central government discourses of “pressuring cities to increase their capacity” through deliberately fragmented top-down infrastructural development sheds new light on the ways in which limited urban decentralisation and constraints on integrative urban governance are sustained.



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Liza Rose Cirolia, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South
Africa

Finance as & of Infrastructure: reframing Financial and Fiscal Frontiers

Despite the enduring structural factors within the financial system, the ways in which risk and returns are calculated, the players involved, and the urban sites brought into financial registers and circuits offer dynamic and new opportunities for the capture, consolidation, and distribution of speculative value. This panel is concerned with the changing configurations of infrastructure finance in African cities and the ways in which financial infrastructures themselves shape city-making. The panel aims to congregate grounded work on the interstices of finance, infrastructure, and African urbanisation, which experiment with new methodologies, challenge dominant accounts, and transgress siloed debates on Africa’s fiscal and financial future.

PAPERS

- *Chinese capital and the Infrastructure Turn in Africa: A comparison between the ICT sector and transport infrastructure*
Zhengli Huang and Andrea Pollio
- *Insurance urbanism*
Irmelin Joelsson
- *Africa’s infrastructure: A paradox for whom?*
James Christopher Mizes
- *Sovereign circuits of investment in the production of urban infrastructure: A preliminary view on East Asian actors in three African cities*
Philip Harrison, Kofi Amedzro, Yan Yang, and Yohei Miyuachi



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Liza Rose Cirolia, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South
Africa

Chinese capital and the Infrastructure Turn in Africa: A comparison between the ICT sector and transport infrastructure

Zhengli Huang and Andrea Pollio

China has become a formidable presence in Africa's infrastructure development. Chinese banks have channelled billions of dollars into building regional corridors in Africa, and Chinese state-owned contractors dominate Africa's construction market. In the meantime, the Digital Silk Road has led to the establishment of major information facilities and data centres in Africa. This paper contributes to the literature on China in Africa by juxtaposing two types of infrastructure that China is building in Africa, i.e. transport infrastructure and ICT infrastructure, building linkages between the two and comparing their impacts on urban development. The analytical framework draws from the authors' fieldwork experiences in East Africa. China's presence in the transport infrastructure is dominated by state capital and closed-door negotiations, steering centralised decision-making in Africa. On the other hand, the ICT sector is largely populated by private actors, and presents significantly different patterns of collaboration between Chinese and African agencies. Therefore, the authors' contrasting positionality has led to different forms of access – or lack thereof – to information and interviews, reflecting the unique technopolitical practices embedded in the two different types of infrastructure building. Despite this contrast, we argue that the two types of investment are interlinked and influence each other. As recent trends have shown a downturn in China's domestic economy and a significant drop in the state's risk appetite for hard infrastructure in Africa, a window of opportunity is opening to rethink the engagement with the role of Chinese capital in building more connected and accessible African cities.



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Liza Rose Cirolia, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South
Africa

Insurance urbanism

Irmelin Joelsson

Tanzania hosts some of Africa's oldest and most extensive social insurance schemes, which together with a growing private sector as well as community-based savings and insurance schemes, make up an important yet overlooked arena for inquiry. This paper explores the relationship between social insurance and emergent forms of urban infrastructure financing through a case study in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. 'Insurance urbanism' asks how the global and national scale of insurance is connected to localised social insurance ventures, aided by emerging forms of financial and technological logics and logistics. Further, it asks how such intermediations are maintained through often "macro-" and "micro-" interventions, such as property ("mali" in Swahili) investments at different scales, in Dar es Salaam. Although the insurance sector is certainly not new, the scope and scale, and the dynamic and logics of its operations and networks in Africa, are. Little is known of the workings of insurance capital in Africa, in particular the investments of national social insurance in localised infrastructure forms in the continent's urban metropolises. The notion "insurance urbanism" identifies a particular interface between economy, history, finance, and culture in the city as a shifting assemblage of ideas about urban life, its infrastructures, and its governance. It engages in how certain kinds of regimes of economic governance (here in the form of insurance) "lands" on the ground, is appropriated locally, popularised through various financial repertoires, and is translated as a system with its own logics and infrastructures in the city.



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Liza Rose Cirolia, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South
Africa

Africa's infrastructure: A paradox for whom?

James Christopher Mizes

In March of 2020, global consulting firm McKinsey & Company published a policy brief which introduced a new way to understand Africa's infrastructure: as a "paradox". According to the brief, there is a large pipeline of potential infrastructure projects across Africa, and a similarly vast amount of capital ready to invest in them. Yet, paradoxically, 90% of Africa's infrastructure projects fail to secure funding. Two years later, a representative of the African Union's own infrastructure planning program framed the problem in identical terms. The solution, he argued, is to develop the technical skills needed to demonstrate the feasibility and profitability of Africa's infrastructure projects to "alternative investors" across the world. Perhaps surprisingly, both institutions underlined the importance of government: they argued for "national ownership" and an expanded role for government in the provision of electricity, transport, water, and sanitation. In this presentation the author will consider how this new relationship between governments and "alternative investors" could transform the planning and management of large technical systems in Africa. How, for example, will governments attempt to change investor perceptions of the riskiness of African infrastructure? And what, in turn, will investors ask of governments to assuage their apparent low appetite for Africa's infrastructural risks? These questions are particularly salient for municipalities which are today faced with a litany of new infrastructural risks and vulnerabilities often beyond the scale of their political authority (e.g. drought, blackouts, military coups, floods, sectarian violence).



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Liza Rose Cirolia, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South
Africa

Sovereign circuits of investment in the production of urban infrastructure: A preliminary view on East Asian actors in three African cities

Philip Harrison, Kofi Amedzro, Yan Yang, and Yohei Miyuachi

East Asian governments (including China, Japan, Korea, and Singapore) have emerged as a major source of investment in physical infrastructure across Africa. The investment happens through a diversity of institutions and instruments, including through government-to-government grants and loans, technical cooperation agencies such as JICA, state-owned banks, development finance institutions, sovereign wealth funds, and other state-linked funds including China's Belt and Road Fund. It also happens in an entanglement with private and developmental circuits. First, this paper explores the approaches and mechanisms deployed by the different East Asian sovereign actors operating as investors across the cities of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Lilongwe (Malawi), and Accra (Ghana). Using preliminary work, it considers whether the origin and nature of funding makes a difference in the process and outcome of investment (e.g. in relation to debt repayments, local participation, developmental focus). Secondly, the paper explores the make-up of sovereign circuits of investment. To deliver a project, a sovereign actor must negotiate with governmental and non-governmental players, from national to community level. It must also assemble an array of constituting elements, from political support across the levels of the host government to funding guarantees, planning permission, and land assembly. With diverse political cultures, institutional forms, and regulatory environments in the host country, the functioning of sovereign circuits will vary. As a conclusion the paper argues that it matters for outcomes which sovereign actor is investing, what the basis of the investment is (e.g. loan, grant), and what city is invested in.

TRACK
Everyday and Hybridity

D

TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
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Lecture Theatre 1D

CHAIR
AbdouMaliq Simone, Urban Institute,
University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Infrastructure's multiplicities-circulations, adaptations, and composites

The emphasis of this session is on how infrastructural operations are pieced together through various logics, materials, logistical systems, and actors. These operations must be multiply articulated to different conditions, sensibilities, affordances, and materiality.

PAPERS

- *Community-developed infrastructure and malaria management in the informal settlement of Makoko, Lagos, Nigeria*
Ebenezer Olamiposi Adeyemi
- *Informality and griddedness: Infrastructure deficits and impacts on social processes – the case of Mossel Bay*
Mercy Brown Luthango and Mntungwa Gubevu
- *Ring roads, revived plans, unexpected outcomes: Capturing value in Nairobi's (not-so-peripheral) areas*
Miriam Maina and Liza Rose Cirolia
- *Infrastructural insurgency? Reconsidering civic planning for informal infrastructures*
SJ Cooper-Knock

TRACK
Everyday and Hybridity

D

TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1D

CHAIR
AbdouMaliq Simone, Urban Institute,
University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Community-developed infrastructure and malaria management in the informal settlement of Makoko, Lagos, Nigeria

Ebenezer Olamiposi Adeyemi

Current scholarship on infrastructure predominately frames it as material objects, like roads, healthcare facilities, etc. that are provided primarily by the state. Additionally, debates in medical anthropology highlight how social factors, like inadequate infrastructure, interact with biological pathogens to make marginalised populations susceptible to infectious diseases in Africa. However, building on Simone's (2001, 2014) argument for the framing of African marginal urban spaces as sites of creativity and relational practices, and Storey's (2021) assertion that "sociotechnical tinkering", typified by community-developed infrastructure, are dynamic spaces for understanding agency, this paper examines the role of community-developed infrastructure in the management of malaria in Makoko, Lagos State, Nigeria. Makoko is a large informal settlement characterised by government marginalisation, a lack of state-funded infrastructure, and a high rate of malaria infection. Based on data gathered through participant observation and interviews in Makoko, this paper addresses the following questions: (1) How do local approaches that Makoko residents use to treat malaria infections depend upon the development of community-developed infrastructure? (2) How does community-developed infrastructure mediate human and non-human interaction in Makoko? (3) What can community-developed infrastructure tell us about how marginalised communities make claim on the state and citizenship in the current neoliberal era characterised by decreasing government spending on public infrastructure? (4) How can framing these infrastructural initiatives as a form of agency expand current social science debates on infrastructure, health, and inequality? (5) How can we include community-based approaches in the ongoing debates regarding the search for sustainable urban infrastructure in Africa?



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

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CHAIR
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University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Informality and griddedness: Infrastructure deficits and impacts on social processes - the case of Mossel Bay

Mercy Brown Luthango and Mntungwa Gubevu

Infrastructure assemblages include physical and technological “material”, as well as the political and systemic factors which “govern” how infrastructure is developed and used. Urban food systems are made up of public and private actors and market and governance processes which shape the cost and availability of food in different urban contexts. At the intersection of urban food systems and infrastructure assemblages lies the food and nutrition security of urban dwellers. The framing of contemporary debates and policy priorities with respect to both nutrition and infrastructure are heavily conditioned by presumptions in favour of formality and griddedness, which fail to reflect the reality of marginalised African and Southern urban communities. For the communities discussed in this research, specifically Mossel Bay, South Africa, their experience is one of hybridity, with formal and informal infrastructures and economies central to their lives and livelihoods. These hybrid arrangements are imbued with power structures and socio-political dynamics that are context-specific and further condition their experiences. Together, these are the factors that condition the food strategies and outcomes of individuals and households. However, there is a failure to reflect this reality in the conceptualisation of infrastructure challenges, leading to unworkable solutions and policies that end up perpetuating problems. This paper presents research carried out to better understand the food system impacts of the obsession with formal infrastructure, and how removed these imaginations are from the lived realities of communities who themselves are in a constant state of hybridity.



TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

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CHAIR
AbdouMaliq Simone, Urban Institute,
University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Ring roads, revived plans, unexpected outcomes: Capturing value in Nairobi's (not-so-peripheral) areas

Miriam Maina and Liza Rose Cirolia

From the Thika Superhighway to the opening of the Expressway, Nairobi's recent history has been marked by the rapid development of large-scale mobility infrastructures. Reflecting from Nairobi, this paper uses the urban bypass highways that circle the city as a heuristic entry point to theorise the urban and contribute to debates on the nature and extent of peripheral urbanisation in Africa. To focus on the intersection of two recently built bypass roads connecting the north of Nairobi's metropolitan region, and at the intersection of the Nairobi and Kiambu County administrative boundaries. These roads and highways were conceptualised in 1970s plans as part of a ring road network to circumvent the city. At the time, they were truly intended to be outer ring roads – logistical solutions – that flowed through rural peripheries. Nearly half a century later, these dominant dreams have been revived – but Nairobi is not the city it once was. Kenya has gone through an involved process of devolution. A plethora of real estate and small industrial developments now populate this periphery, now firmly outside of the 2010 boundaries of Nairobi County. As a result, the highways once imagined to bypass urban conurbations are now well within the material sprawl of the metropolitan region, despite being outside of the territorial jurisdiction of the urban authority. We are interested in how investments in bypass roads animate Nairobi's material and economic development processes in ways both predictable and unexpected.



TRACK
Everyday and Hybridity

TIME
21 Nov
10:45-12:15

VENUE
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Lecture Theatre 1D

CHAIR
AbdouMaliq Simone, Urban Institute,
University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Infrastructural insurgency? Reconsidering civic planning for informal infrastructures

SJ Cooper-Knock

This paper focuses on the conceptual language surrounding the formation and planning of informal settlement infrastructures. The primary focus is on the concept of “insurgent planning”, which many writers have found analytically generative. This paper argues that insurgent planning is too narrowly defined to capture the nuances of what many residents are undertaking when they create and develop informal settlement infrastructures. The normative heart of this terminology romanticises and homogenises the aspirations of informal settlement residents. Other approaches – such as “co-production” – have avoided this normative framing, but arguably at the expense of analytical purchase. This paper explores whether the notion of “civic planning” can better capture the multiple logics, practices, and contestations that surround the ongoing planning of infrastructures within informal settlements.



TRACK
Design and Resilience

TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Suraya Scheba, Environmental and Geographical
Sciences Department, University of Cape Town,
Cape Town, South Africa

Resilience as a concept, infrastructural practice, and/or (re)imagination

The concept of urban resilience has grown in popularity in the past few years in the context of growing urbanisation and associated socio-ecological challenges. While the meaning of “resilience” has been stretched over time, it broadly refers to an ability to cope and adapt in a world defined by change and uncertainty. This panel will be in conversation with a growing body of scholarship calling for a more critical and situated reading of resilience. The contributions will explore resilience in relation to questions of equity, including explicitly challenging a neutralised approach to the concept of resilience, asking “Resilience for whom, and to what effect?”. The panel is designed to invite reflections and interrogations of the meaning of resilience, the uneven impact of who is called to be resilient, as well as the uneven response to communities facing risk and vulnerability. Furthermore, the question of resilience in relation to specific social-ecological conditions and geographies will also be brought into this reflection, focusing on the meaning of urban resilience in cities of the South.

PAPERS

- *Blue-Green Acupuncture: A blue-green infrastructure strategy for Cape Town’s Storm-water Ponds*
Julia McLachlan
- *Expanding the notion of infrastructure for resilience: drawing on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) WGII*
Gina Ziervogel and Vanesa Castán Broto
- *Urban Food Security and Resilience*
Gareth Haysom and Jane Battersby-Lennard
- *Stakeholder and community engagement events: Platforms for addressing cracks in sustainable infrastructure development and promoting resilient communities in the Cape Flats*
Tsitsi J. Mpofu-Mketwa



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Suraya Scheba, Environmental and Geographical
Sciences Department, University of Cape Town,
Cape Town, South Africa

Blue-Green Acupuncture: A blue-green infrastructure strategy for Cape Town's Stormwater Ponds

Julia McLachlan

Since Day Zero's close looming, Cape Town is seeking resilience by diversifying its water supply infrastructure to include the Cape Flats Aquifer (CFA) using Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR). Stormwater ponds – basins engineered to prevent urban flooding – lie above the CFA and could potentially be retrofitted as part of its MAR, using a nature-based approach as part of blue-green infrastructure. Ecological processes alone can't provide urban water resilience, though. Many of these single-purpose stormwater ponds occur in poorly resourced neighbourhoods hampered by the legacy of apartheid spatial planning: several ponds have been occupied with informal housing, and many are filled with discarded waste. In the urban landscape context, these blue-green spaces present themselves as messy, neglected, and unsafe. In seeking ecological resilience, there is a need to re-imagine these ponds' social and cultural performance within the global South context. This is being investigated within a Danida MFA-funded project, Pathways to Water-Resilient South African Cities. A stormwater pond in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town, serves as a "blue-green acupuncture" demonstration site. Multi-engagement approaches – exploring social and cultural considerations with local residents using knowledge co-production and co-creation processes – are recognising that these ponds possess agency. Altering their agency to "speak", by curating the landscape to incorporate aesthetic, environmental, and traditional cultural experiences, is now being explored as part of a resilience strategy that acknowledges that achieving ecological performance within urban areas requires us to reimagine this infrastructure – in this case, as blue-green acupuncture points in an otherwise sterile urban landscape.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
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CHAIR
Suraya Scheba, Environmental and Geographical
Sciences Department, University of Cape Town,
Cape Town, South Africa

Expanding the notion of infrastructure for resilience: drawing on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) WGII

Gina Ziervogel and Vanesa Castán Broto

The concept of "resilience" has strong roots in engineering and infrastructure, as well as ecological theory. The growth in the use of the concept to frame urban issues has been critiqued by a growing number of scholars who feel that "resilience" often brushes over issues of power, politics and the struggles associated with trying to be resilient daily. Similarly, many critical scholars argue that infrastructure is socially constructed, requiring more attention to understanding the interconnected nature between social, economic, and physical aspects. In the chapter 'Cities, settlements and key infrastructure' by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II, the concept of infrastructure is used to unpack adaptation actions. Types of infrastructure are grouped into social, ecological, and grey/physical systems. This move to include social infrastructure in the chapter speaks to the attempt to place it on an equal footing with physical infrastructure. Although this shift is welcome, in city-level responses social infrastructure does not often receive the same funding and support as a priority adaptation action. We argue that social infrastructure needs more investment and defence. It needs to be seen as part of an important suite of infrastructure types that are needed to support life, wellbeing, and resilience. This is necessary for ensuring more equitable urban climate adaptation that reaches marginal residents struggling to access services. This paper posits that, although infrastructure is a powerful convening concept when thinking about resilience, it needs to be (re)imagined more creatively and holistically.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

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CHAIR
Suraya Scheba, Environmental and Geographical
Sciences Department, University of Cape Town,
Cape Town, South Africa

Urban Food Security and Resilience

Gareth Haysom and Jane Battersby-Lennard

The concept of resilience within urban food systems has gained significant academic and policy focus in recent years. This aligns with the increased global awareness of the problem of urban food insecurity, and increased focus on sub-national policies for sustainable development. COVID-19 demonstrated a series of vulnerabilities in the food system and the urban system. Academic work on urban food system resilience is wide-ranging, however, particular areas of focus dominate, focusing on urban agriculture, localised food systems, resilient city-region food systems, and the water-energy-food nexus. Renewed interest in resilience policy at the local government level has been amplified by global networks, whose framing of urban food systems resilience is embedded within the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. Using findings from cities in five African countries, this paper argues for a re-framing of urban food system resilience that is inclusive of a wider set of factors shaping the form and function of the food system; that the urban system, specifically infrastructure, shapes the functioning of the food system and the ability of consumers to use the food system; and that the agency of urban food system-users needs inclusion in understandings of, and efforts to increase, food systems resilience.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

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Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Suraya Scheba, Environmental and Geographical
Sciences Department, University of Cape Town,
Cape Town, South Africa

Stakeholder and community engagement events: Platforms for addressing cracks in sustainable infrastructure development and promoting resilient communities in the Cape Flats

Tsitsi J. Mpofu-Mketwa

This paper draws on an ongoing interdisciplinary research project, UKRI GCRF's 'Water and Fire: Enhancing capacity and reducing risk through 15 "Best Bets" for transformative adaptation with vulnerable residents on the Cape Flats'. The project uses participatory approaches to promote inclusion of vulnerable communities in debates on key infrastructural decisions that foster community resilience to build resilient cities in response to climate change-induced disasters. Community engagement events are crucial to the project by bringing together vulnerable communities and multiple stakeholders to address the cracks in sustainable infrastructure development and how these affect recovery from recurring fire outbreaks, flooding, and water shortages. Using community-driven visual research outputs (digital stories, photo, voice and community maps) as entry points for discussing communities' experiences of three environmental hazards, the project research partner, the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation, facilitated stakeholder and community engagement events in three Cape Flats communities. Three events were conducted in Overcome Heights, Philippi Village, and Delft. In the context of protracted violent protests for service delivery, these events create positive dialogue between communities, local government officials, and other key stakeholders in addressing infrastructural inadequacies. The focus of this paper is threefold: to reflect on the three Cape Flats communities' infrastructural challenges that impact recovery from environmental disasters, to capture key stakeholders' contributions to debates on the infrastructural inadequacies, and to report key outcomes of the community engagement events. The paper concludes by advocating community engagement events as crucial platforms for interaction between multiple stakeholders and vulnerable communities.

TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
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Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Sylvia Croese, University of the
Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

States and possibilities of urban infrastructure policymaking

This session explores how local governments produce and are produced by urban infrastructure policies and development. By critically reflecting on the experience of (South) African cities and policymaking in sectors such as transport, energy, and the circular economy, the contributions to this panel explore a set of three interrelated questions: First, how do existing political, fiscal, and administrative regimes shape the role of (or space for) local governments in infrastructure policymaking? Second, what kind of urban policies, plans, and infrastructure systems does this (re)produce? Finally, what are the modes and techniques for learning that could foster the generation of more inclusive practices of knowledge (co-)production? In addressing these questions, the panel builds on and advances scholarship on urban statecraft in relation to infrastructure policymaking as a tool to explore the complex and everyday workings of the urban state in Africa, and the politics and potential of just urban transitions.

PAPERS

- *Urbanisation trends in southern Africa: Implications for urban infrastructure*
Tazviona R. Gambe, Ivan Turok, and Justin P. Visagie
- *Adaptive incrementalism: A 'deep uncertainty' approach to long-term transport infrastructure policymaking*
Sean Cooke, Marli Swart, Keresha Naidoo, and Claire Holderness
- *Left-out locals: How local government issues feature in the just energy transition discourse in South Africa*
Kevin Foster and Megan Davies
- *Navigating sustainable futures: How collective knowledge is supporting circular economy transition in African cities*
Daniel Adeniyi, Paul Currie, Jokudu Guya, Matthew Hurworth, and Zakiyya Atkins
- *Urban statecraft and informal infrastructures: The case of small-scale rental housing in Cape Town*
Andreas Scheba, Ivan Turok, Claire du Trevou, Zama Mgwatyu, Helen Rourke, Claudia Hitzeroth, Willard Matiashe, Chuma Giyose, and Mkhholisi Sompeta

TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Sylvia Croese, University of the
Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Urbanisation trends in southern Africa: Implications for urban infrastructure

Tazviona R. Gambe, Ivan Turok, and Justin P. Visagie

Urbanisation is often treated as if it is a similar phenomenon posing similar infrastructure challenges in different countries and at different points in time. Yet the levels and rates of urbanisation vary considerably from one region to another. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate that urbanisation (and the associated infrastructure imperatives) in southern Africa is highly variable across space and time. It provides a systematic analysis of the rate and form of urban growth in the 12 SADC mainland countries between 1975 and 2015 using the newly released Global Human Settlements Urban Centre Database 2015 (GHS-UCDB 2015 R2019 V1.2). Some of the findings give cause for concern and warrant more concerted government attention in terms of infrastructure investment. Growth is unevenly distributed across the size spectrum, with the largest (and most infrastructure-hungry) cities growing much faster than other cities. In addition, the highest urban densities are in the poorest countries, suggesting that density takes the form of overcrowded informal settlements rather than liveable and productive places. The DRC and Mozambique exemplify these challenges. The percentage change (growth) of the urban footprint between 1975 and 2015 was higher in low-income than middle-income countries. Over the past 40 years, cities in Zambia, Tanzania, Angola, and Malawi experienced a rapid outward expansion ranging from between 444% and 1,060%. These trends greatly exacerbate the pressure on local governments as cities that grow outwards tend to be more demanding in terms of public infrastructure than those that are relatively compact.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
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Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Sylvia Croese, University of the
Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Adaptive incrementalism: A ‘deep uncertainty’ approach to long-term transport infrastructure policymaking

Sean Cooke, Marli Swart, Kerasha Naidoo, and Claire Holderness

The transport planning profession is becoming increasingly aware of how uncertain the future is. The level of uncertainty in transport planning and decision-making has intensified in the face of climate change, political and economic instability, technological innovation, and changing consumer preferences. COVID-19 has accelerated many innovative and disruptive transitions, expanding the set of plausible futures and compounding the “deep uncertainty” that we have about planning for the future. Conventional transport planning practices conceal uncertainty by relying heavily on historic cause-effect relationships, and result in misplaced confidence in our predictive abilities. New logics for transport infrastructure policymaking are required to grapple with the deep uncertainty we’re facing in long-term transport infrastructure planning across Africa. Cape Town is also facing multiple compounding local crises in the development of its transport infrastructure, from deteriorating rail assets to declining national government funding, and a complicated relationship with the resilient paratransit industry. These interwoven crises are driving a transition in the approach that the City of Cape Town takes toward long-term planning. This paper explores the changing role that the state undertakes within the sector as we plan for ever more uncertain futures, and the just urban transitions that will be necessary. The paper describes the ongoing development of the CITP (Comprehensive Integrated Transport Plan) and IPTN (Integrated Public Transport Network) plans – the long-term, strategic, and infrastructure plans for the city – and its new policymaking approach, which brings unconventional techniques from the climate adaptation, transport justice, and sustainability transitions research fields into transport planning practice; some for the first time. The lessons from this process will be relevant to those cities across Africa, and the global South, which are looking to embed more resilience into their transport planning systems in the post-COVID era. Additionally, this new approach to transport infrastructure policymaking has resulted from a knowledge co-production arrangement between academia and local government that may provide insights for avoiding policy and practice lock-in.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
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Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Sylvia Croese, University of the
Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Left-out locals: How local government issues feature in the just energy transition discourse in South Africa

Kevin Foster and Megan Davies

This paper asks to what extent sustainability of municipalities and municipal services is being considered in the emergent discourse of South Africa’s energy transition and efforts to ensure that it is a just transition. It examines the discourse of the just energy transition in South Africa, who is leading the transition, how they define a “just” transition, and how local government is addressed in this discourse. South African municipalities have relied on surpluses generated by electricity sales to fund electricity provision to poor households and to cross-subsidise other services and discount property rates. This practice is under threat due to rising Eskom prices eroding surpluses, and increased competition for municipalities as electricity distributors with the emergence of unlicensed generation of up to 100MW. The energy transition has significant implications for the sustainability of local government, which is mandated to deliver key services such as water and sanitation, waste management, spatial and development planning, as well as some housing and transport functions. The energy transition threatens these services, either through diminishing levels of service, or continued lack of service – and raises questions about an energy transition that is just for municipalities and their residents. These questions are mostly absent from the discourse of just energy transition in South Africa. For instance, the national draft Just Transition Framework only discusses local government in a short, shared section with provincial government, with no discussion of impacts beyond extreme weather events.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

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Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Sylvia Croese, University of the
Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Navigating sustainable futures: How collective knowledge is supporting circular economy transition in African cities

Daniel Adeniyi, Paul Currie, Jokudu Guya, Matthew Hurworth, and Zakiyya Atkins

The increasing global interest in the “circular economy” represents possibilities to advocate for binding global commitments around sustainable production and consumption, and to take stock of local actions that contribute to improved lifecycle resource management. While circular economy has captured the imagination of urban practitioners and city officials, there is no standardised definition of circular economy, nor clear context-based frameworks for its implementation in African cities. As with many development-sector concepts (such as decoupling, decarbonisation, just transition, etc.), circular economy and its effective implementation in African cities has met with various constraints. These include the dearth of officials with technical understanding, fragmentation and misalignment of activities, unsurety about where responsibility for resource management sits, inadequate contextual translation of these concepts, and the concomitant omission and lack of coherence or representation in policy documents. This begs the question of whether these concepts are useful for improving resource governance, or instead creating more work for local governments. Through a Community of Practice (CoP) and several learning exchanges with cities, ICLEI Africa has taken an action research approach to uncover contextual challenges and opportunities, improve circular economy knowledge within cities, build stronger interest and capacities in urban resource management and governance, and implement relevant actions. This paper dives into how and to what extent this approach fosters co-production of knowledge for circularity transitions in cities. It also reflects on emergent bottlenecks and possibilities for meaningful realisation of circular economy practices at local level. The research shows the value of bringing together an epistemic community and a practice community to tangle with how to translate circular economy principles into meaning and actions, while also highlighting the interconnectedness of the principles of circularity. It also demonstrates that by fostering participation and other core social learning approaches, we can find new and appropriate articulation of the circular economy in the African urban context.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
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CHAIR
Sylvia Croese, University of the
Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Urban statecraft and informal infrastructures: The case of small-scale rental housing in Cape Town

Andreas Scheba, Ivan Turok, Claire du Trevou, Zama Mgwatyu, Helen Rourke, Claudia Hitzeroth, Willard Matiashe, Chuma Giyose, and Mkhholisi Sompeta

Building sustainable infrastructures in African cities requires governments to take informal, unplanned densification of peripheral neighbourhoods more seriously. Evidence shows that urban population growth is highly unevenly distributed within cities, with peripheral settlements bearing the brunt of urbanisation pressures. In South Africa, significant growth of informal backyard and small-scale rental housing has put some peripheral neighbourhoods under unprecedented strain, resulting in rising pressure on basic infrastructure (schools, health clinics, transport) and risking the collapse of essential services (electricity, water, refuse removal). There is growing recognition that urgent government action is required, but questions remain as to how policy and practice can better govern “informal” densification to promote more sustainable neighbourhoods. This paper draws on rich qualitative and quantitative evidence collected predominantly in the City of Cape Town in the latter half of 2021, to discuss how the current regulatory regime – including legislation, administrative processes, governance and bureaucratic practices related to land-use planning, building control and title deeds – produces informality and its impacts on local infrastructures. Furthermore, the paper interrogates the opportunities and challenges of recent regulatory reforms, financial incentives, and public support measures proposed by the City to formalise informal rental housing and capture some of its financial value (via rates and taxes) to fund municipal infrastructure investments. The paper argues that a fundamental rethink in governance and significant investments in the “spatial contract” (Schafran et al. 2020) between citizens and the state is required to build sustainable infrastructures in urban peripheries.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

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Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Nyx McLean, Rhodes University, Makhanda,
South Africa

Platformed cities and citizens

This session speaks to digital infrastructures, platform politics, and the technological determinism and ethics of platformed cities and the implications for their citizens (and those they will leave out). Presentations include exploring tech-urban interfaces; online access to health and LGBTIQ safe spaces; loadshedding and the digital-material; and building sustainable digital knowledge infrastructures. The session is formulated as a conversation that leans towards storytelling, one that takes place among the presenters and with the session attendees. It seeks to be collaborative and to ask questions of technological determinism, social justice, the enmeshing of the online-offline, agency, arrangement and action, local needs and global influences, and the ethics of platform cities – including who is left out of this conceptualisation of platformed cities. Presenters ask those attending to join them in leaning into complex, sometimes uncomfortable, and invigorating questions in order to generate something productive and collaborative out of the session.

PAPERS

- *Building sustainable digital knowledge infrastructures: Designing from within a low-income neighbourhood in Nairobi*
Nele Van Doninck
- *Platform politics, Silicon Savannahs, and tech-urban interfaces*
Rike Sitas
- *Becoming infrastructure: Online access to health and LGBTIQ safe spaces*
Neil R. Hassan
- *Loadshedding and lateral thinking on the intimate and infrastructural from the Cape Flats*
Karen Waltorp



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Nyx McLean, Rhodes University, Makhanda,
South Africa

Building sustainable digital knowledge infrastructures: Designing from within a low-income neighbourhood in Nairobi

Nele Van Doninck

This paper explores the role of education and learning in the design of sustainable digital knowledge infrastructures in urban African contexts, such as Nairobi. The combination of learning gone massively online during the COVID-19 pandemic with the already ongoing shift during the past decades from institutionalised knowledge to knowledge that is freely accessible through the internet, has made the need for sustainable digital knowledge infrastructures emergent. Reliable and inclusive digital knowledge structures are needed for all. The research presented in this paper centres around an (informal) coding school in an urban low-income area in Nairobi, Kenya. Young people in this school simultaneously learn through (online) technology and design and develop technology for learning, such as learning platforms and content. The paper sets out to answer two sets of questions: Firstly, from the point of view of the “slum” ecosystem, what is sustainable digital knowledge infrastructure? And how can we design not only for, but also from within, the “slum”? How can we make digital knowledge infrastructures that counter precarity and marginalisation? And secondly, how can software engineers who grew up in a low-income area get their own learning done? How do they make the best of available resources on the internet, and how do global narratives of life-long learning influence their decision-making in learning and developing platforms for others? The paper argues that the outcomes are heavily influenced by global narratives around (ed)tech and learning, but also firmly rooted within the daily micro-level context of the urban low-income area.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Nyx McLean, Rhodes University, Makhanda,
South Africa

Platform politics, Silicon Savannahs, and tech-urban interfaces

Rike Sitas

Discourses on the smart city and platform urbanisms are bifurcated between those that celebrate the transformative potential of technology and those that are deeply suspicious and critical of it. This contribution joins those who are interested in modulating these extreme perspectives. The fantasy of smart cities conjures images of seamlessly connected systems and high-tech infrastructure promising to solve myriad urban challenges. The reality is a rapidly evolving ecosystem of actors, technologies, capital, politics, and power dynamics. The smart city can be found in large-scale ICT infrastructure as much as on street corners. Of particular interest here is the urban-technology interfaces in everyday mobility enabled by boda boda, or moto taxis, in Silicon Savannah and tech-centric cities. Motorcycles have been ubiquitous in African urban mobility for some time and, with use accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, continue to be a growing phenomenon across the continent. Drawing from collaborative and comparative research in Nairobi, Kigali, and Cape Town conducted between 2020 and 2022, and oriented around a Southern urban perspective that sits between techno-pessimist/optimist binaries, this paper reflects on the everyday spatial, labour, and socio-technical relations that animate this sector. The research shows that this proliferation of platforms is not just a case of global platform capitalism expanding to urban Africa, but dynamic and experimental processes through which new mobility practices are taking shape in these cities. Understanding these nuances and shifts are important in the pursuit of appropriate and just socio-spatial and economic responses in African cities.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Nyx McLean, Rhodes University, Makhanda,
South Africa

Becoming infrastructure: Online access to health and LGBTIQ safe spaces

Neil R. Hassan

Significant opportunities exist to consider digital sexualities in relation to urban forms of infrastructure, and especially technologically mediated forms of infrastructure. Recent evidence suggests that social media and other internet-mediated platforms are increasingly being used to promote health and wellbeing among lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) citizens in South African cities. Urban researchers are ideally placed to explore how internet-mediated platforms are developed and implemented, along with how key concerns of health accessibility, affordability, and safety are addressed among LGBTIQ citizens in Africa. Drawing on pilot research to explore how the needs of LGBTIQ communities may be effectively addressed via new online technologies, this presentation introduces the Digital Safe Space, an internet-mediated platform aimed to support and sustain access to health services among LGBTIQ citizens in Cape Town. This work explores how LGBTIQ identities, bodies, and categories are constructed and incorporated, at the nexus of online and offline experiences, to govern urban health.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
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Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Nyx McLean, Rhodes University, Makhanda,
South Africa

Loadshedding and lateral thinking on the intimate and infrastructural from the Cape Flats

Karen Walторp

What comes into view if one looks at the smartphone and digital dimension far from Silicon Valley, across scales from the intimate everyday life on the Cape Flats on the outskirts of Cape Town, to mapping controversies around global IT giants in the local context, and linking this to the failing energy grid needed for the digital infrastructure? Almost 60% of South African households access the internet through mobile devices, and as the access point to the digital dimensions the mobile phone collapses the phenomena of data costs, connection, and capture – electricity costs and energy consumption. This paper grounds the digital as always also material with ethnographically informed theories of infrastructures and energy (Abram et al. forthcoming; Anand et al. 2018; Larkin 2013). Thinking from the Cape Flats with theories on “an ecology of mind” (Bateson 2000 [1972]), this paper conceptualises the digital-material environment as a habitat with specific affordances that unfold in an interplay with the people inhabiting it (Walторp 2020, c.f. Gibson 2014 [1979]). This habitat is one in which the smartphone as relational device is crucial, and loadshedding, cost of data, and loss of connection an everyday obstruction, making it apparent how the fragile digital dimension of the everyday habitat only works with “people as infrastructure” (Simone 2004), helping each other with costs, charging a phone, etc. A habitat imbricated with the city (Mbembé and Nutall 2004) of Cape Town as well as with the world(s) assembled in the smartphone and the real virtuality this dimension configures, opening up to new ways of thinking about the spatial – laterally.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
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CHAIR
Mercy Brown-Luthango, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Everyday socio-infrastructural encounters in African cities

In a context of limited and often precarious access to even the most basic infrastructure services, residents of cities in the global South rely on an array of complex configurations of social and material relationships and strategies to access water, electricity, and sanitation on a daily basis. Everyday strategies, articulations, and mobilisations for more equal access to the city become manifested through and in relation to the politics of breakdown, maintenance, and inadequacy of infrastructure access, and expose wider systems of urban inequality and differentiated citizenship. This session focusses on the complexity of these everyday social-technical interactions. It will explore the complex configurations of multiple systems, actors, knowledges, and infrastructures to sustain everyday life in African cities and encourage us to interrogate what sustainable, inclusive development means at various scales.

PAPERS

- *Infrastructuring-as-sustaining in urban worlds: Scenes and encounters from Nairobi*
Constance Smith and Prince Guma
- *Destruction, displacement and infrastructural futures in north Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: Thinking from the experiences of impacted inhabitants and local NGO practices*
Christoph Veithen
- *Infrastructures of pandemic preparedness: insights from open markets in Ghana*
Lewis Abedi Asante and Henning Füller
- *Griddedness and the food and infrastructure intersection – concepts, assumptions, and challenges*
Nick Nisbett, Hayley Macgregor, Sudeshna Mitra, Dolf te Lento, and Iromi Periera
- *Everyday infrastructuring through storage: Domestic storage of water and electricity as part of infrastructural presents and futures in Nairobi*
Moritz Kasper



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1D

CHAIR
Mercy Brown-Luthango, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Infrastructuring-as-sustaining in urban worlds: Scenes and encounters from Nairobi

Constance Smith and Prince Guma

Sustainability is a watchword for our times, but it is not always clear precisely what it is that we seek to sustain, nor for whom. Sustaining life in African cities is not simply about delivering projects for greener futures, but about how to live with infrastructures in ways that make life both viable and meaningful. Too often, large-scale infrastructures promise certain kinds of developmental futures whilst simultaneously excluding the very lives for whom the future is most uncertain. Meanwhile, legacies of past projects – such as colonial urban planning, modernist roadbuilding schemes, or global telecoms systems – cast long shadows, continuing to inflect how newer interventions are experienced. Through a series of vignettes that examine particular infrastructural assemblages in Nairobi, including a new expressway, high-rise housing, and kiosk economies, we consider the imbrication of the environmental, the social, and the material elements of sustaining urban worlds. We explore themes of manoeuvring with infrastructures, examining how everyday repair, modification, and repurposing of infrastructures enable new kinds of connectivity and possibility. We argue that it is often in the interstices, in the cracking open of large-scale structures, that the space for opportunity is made to appear. In this sense, we consider infrastructuring as a verb for living: as open-ended and incomplete, a continuous and incremental way of sustaining life, rather than a linear project to be delivered on time.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
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CHAIR
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University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Destruction, displacement and infrastructural futures in north Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: Thinking from the experiences of impacted inhabitants and local NGO practices

Christoph Veithen

Over the past decade, many inhabitants in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, have been impacted heavily by official urban policies of destruction and construction, which hinge upon discourses of development, modernity, and an “emerging” economy. In view of large-scale infrastructure projects such as the “Fourth Bridge” and the metro system, many neighbourhoods in north Abidjan have been (partially) demolished in the past four years, and tens of thousands of people have been displaced, often without governmental identification or the provisioning of housing services. Drawing on 17 months of multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork in north Abidjan from 2019 to 2022, this paper describes how mass destruction and displacement – though highly disruptive of everyday lives – show where the potential lies for the making of sustainable urban infrastructures based on everyday practices and coping strategies of impacted inhabitants in terms of recycling, reoccupation, and resettlement in three different neighbourhoods: Quartier Rouge (Adjamé), Mamie Faitai (Yopougon), and Borribana (Attécoubé). Furthermore, the paper focusses on the attempts of a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) to navigate the politics of infrastructure in favour of local populations by engaging in practices of advocacy, community organisation and protest, and constructing locally situated knowledge(s) through censuses. In focusing on the practices and narratives of this NGO and on the lived realities, rhythms, and experiences of inhabitants in these neighbourhoods, the paper aims to show how this NGO attempted to decrease the knowledge and participation gaps between official urban policies and the daily lived realities of inhabitants, including them in the infrastructural futures that these official policies promise.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

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CHAIR
Mercy Brown-Luthango, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Infrastructures of pandemic preparedness: insights from open markets in Ghana

Lewis Abedi Asante and Henning Füller

“When a city goes into lockdown, its survival infrastructures are crucial for the most vulnerable.” (Datta 2020) – The concept of survival infrastructure helps to analyse the variety of resources and institutions and the interconnections necessary to provide wellbeing in a city. This paper presents results of a recent research project on the impact of COVID-19 partial lockdown and the subsequent public health measures on trading activities in open markets in Accra and Kumasi. Results of in-person and focus group interviews with traders, head porters, and truck pushers in Accra and Kumasi demonstrate a perception of resilience regarding the pandemic on the one hand, and their dependence on a broad range of networks and ties on the other. Based on this finding, the paper provides recommendations for sustainable infrastructures of pandemic preparedness at the marketplace. Proper technical solutions (hygiene installations, digital payment systems) too often miss actual demands and become neglected in everyday practice. Sustainable infrastructures of pandemic preparedness should emphasise trustworthy and inclusive channels of communication and establish different prerequisites for this among formalised and informal groups. The findings emphasise the sub-city – the marketplace, in our case – as a meaningful scale for planning and strengthening sustainable survival infrastructures.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

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CHAIR
Mercy Brown-Luthango, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Griddedness and the food and infrastructure intersection – concepts, assumptions, and challenges

Nick Nisbett, Hayley Macgregor, Sudeshna Mitra, Dolf te Lento, and Iromi Periera

This paper asks “How is marginalised people’s food and nutrition security shaped by urban infrastructure assemblages in a variety of ‘off-grid’ settings in Asian and African cities?”. By “assemblage”, the researchers mean multiple arrangements of infrastructure access determined not only by physical infrastructure, but social and political relationships, and ideologies operating and influencing access, at multiple city scales (Desai et al. 2015, Redfield & Robins 2016). In low- and middle-income countries, infrastructure provision is rarely experienced in a stable manner by continuous access to a formal, city-wide “grid” (Pieterse et al. 2018). Decentralised and off-grid service delivery arrangements (Jaglin 2014) can make everyday forms of coping possible for many urban residents, and sometimes offer more sustainable solutions to particular urban growth patterns. Deficiencies in infrastructure can also have a significant impact on food and nutrition security. Because of this dependence on a range of infrastructures, food and nutrition security provides a useful lens to interrogate infrastructure assemblages. This paper builds a conceptual approach through engagement with three interrelated bodies of literature. The first focuses on the concept of infrastructure, or multiple and hybrid infrastructures encompassing socio-natural and socio-material arrangements. Second, given that such relationships, particularly for the poorest and most marginalised urban residents, are precarious and subject to shocks, the next section reviews various forms of infrastructural precarity. A final section focuses on the relationship between urban food systems and infrastructure – reviewing food and nutrition’s infrastructural dependencies. The researchers argue that the way in which the urban food system has been conceived sometimes parallels the formal treatment of infrastructure in missing important daily improvisations and negotiations undertaken by all urban residents, when the focus is on formal and regulated structures.



TIME
21 Nov
13:30-15:00

VENUE
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Lecture Theatre 1D

CHAIR
Mercy Brown-Luthango, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Everyday infrastructuring through storage: Domestic storage of water and electricity as part of infrastructural presents and futures in Nairobi

Moritz Kasper

For urban Africa and elsewhere, infrastructural notions largely rest on flows, circulations, and other “movements”. Considering frequent, planned and unplanned interruptions – e.g. as water outages or blackouts – African infrastructural presents are, however, not only defined by socio-technically mediated “flows”. Instead, urbanites such as those in Nairobi simultaneously engage in everyday infrastructuring via the continuous storage of water, electricity, energy, and various other resources on household level. The deployed artefacts and performed practices of storage often form an “intermediary infrastructure”, providing a “buffer” for short- and long-term interruptions within networked infrastructures, or enabling post-networked supply modes. Despite its ubiquity and visibility in the urban everyday, however, domestic storage – i.e. the combination of storage “containers” and storage practices – is rarely discussed in (African) urban studies and infrastructure research, nor does it receive appropriate attention by the various practices of city-making. Drawing from qualitative research in Nairobi in 2021/22, this contribution engages with storage of water as well as electricity to a) show the place-specific relevance and roles of domestic storage as part of urban-infrastructural lives and configurations, b) point out its position in existing and emerging, networked and post-networked infrastructures, and c) elaborate on how thinking through/with storage may contribute to new imaginations of African infrastructural futures. Ultimately, the researcher hopes to provide a provocation and material for diverse disciplines and practices – from design (e.g. of containers) to architecture to urban and infrastructure planning and governance – to build upon the everyday infrastructuring through storage as a perspective for the present and future sustainability and inclusivity of cities.



TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

VENUE
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Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Philippa Tumubweinee, The School of
Architecture, Planning, and Geomatics, University
of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Urban speculations, design dispositions, and the politics of performance

Forward planning and spatial design are evidently of limited value in urban contexts overdetermined by rapid expansion, declining resources, deepening inequality, intensified competition, and digital rewiring of operating systems, circulatory opportunities, and mediascapes. How do art, design, and affective sensibilities allow us to ‘see’ the city in different ways? From creative methodologies to the politics of performance, this panel explores the interfaces between critical creativity and urban processes. This panel revolves around several questions: First, what role does art and design play in knowing and making the city? Here we take a critical frame, exploring both progressive and regressive effects. Second, how might speculative design and the infrastructures of creativity help us to imagine and prefigure urban futures? Here we consider the ways in which these methods and infrastructures might be reconfigured, and along what lines.

PAPERS

- *Only an idiot could have written this*
heeten bhagat
- *Minimal Infrastructure: Rethinking informal upgrading initiatives and speculative design practices in Cape Town*
Laurin Baumgardt and Christo Visser
- *Possible African futures through the lens of speculative design*
Caroline Sohie
- *Media infrastructure, performance art and political mobilisation in Somalia*
Abdifatah Tahir



TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Philippa Tumubweinee, The School of
Architecture, Planning, and Geomatics, University
of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Only an idiot could have written this

heeten bhagat

The author's current research revolves around a range of projects that extend thinking and doing beyond the now-familiar ubiquities of radical thinking. In the same way that creativity became the panacea to activate out of a wide range of challenges facing social science research, radical thinking has found a similar groove. Its arguably wide-ranging purchase has rendered it palatable, familiar... banal, even. This mainstreaming of the left-field/ blue-sky/ out-the-box interventions is understandable in view of the increasingly complex problems we are facing. More so when these proliferating conundrums become unwieldy; idiotic, even. A growing strategy to parse these conundrums recommends a dash towards the speculative. Processing through speculative means to satiate a hunger for urgent solutions, however, has also landed in a similar terrain as radical thinking. Not to undo the well-meaning suggestions that have emerged, evidence points to a numbing of the inherent potential to think audaciously – unreasonably, even – in favour of chronically comprehensible and well-meaning propositions. This presentation will revolve around a provocation to think beyond the tried and tested imaginaries prescribed by the global North, and to project past the vagaries increasingly being imposed by notions of Afro-futurism. Through the mechanisms of the idiot and practicalities of idiotics, the foundational query will aim to unpack the potential of building on a palette of resistance to make space for an even-more absurd imagination-toolkit, and in so doing propose ways to look beyond the persistent monolith of post-colonial fixity and aftermath.



TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

VENUE
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Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Philippa Tumubweinee, The School of
Architecture, Planning, and Geomatics, University
of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Minimal Infrastructure: Rethinking informal upgrading initiatives and speculative design practices in Cape Town

Laurin Baumgardt and Christo Visser

This joint research will discuss some unique experimental and speculative developments that shed light on how people in South Africa and beyond cope with and react to the rise of infrastructural failures in the face of increased energy and housing demands in Cape Town, South Africa. In an era of energy crises, continuous infrastructural marginalisation, and what we would describe as minimal infrastructures, this paper will elucidate the operative logics and conflicting rationalities present in the delivery of decentralised low-tech, small-scale solutions in the absence of state-provided, centralised scalable infrastructures. This research draws from extended ethnographic field research on the iShack project in Enkanini, Stellenbosch, and other low-tech and low-cost development designs across Cape Town. The field research on these projects is critical to producing an informed analysis of the mechanisms and strategies whereby under-served and segregated neighbourhoods are reimagined through new housing designs and sustainable development initiatives. At its core, we argue that the speculative designs within informal upgrading initiatives are the amalgamation of more-than-material relations. These design practices depend on the association and disassociation between housing policy, land rights, state resources, and private funding, lack of basic infrastructures, local and expert knowledge, material conditions, and individual stakeholders. Drawing from extensive literatures on critical infrastructure and development studies, design anthropology, and sustainability, we will discuss the rising tensions with and potential limits of some of these techno-political interventions and infrastructural visions.



TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

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CHAIR
Philippa Tumubweinee, The School of
Architecture, Planning, and Geomatics, University
of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Possible African futures through the lens of speculative design

Caroline Sohie

Speculative design as the provocation is positioned as the entry point to systemic change; with the objective to identify strategic design agendas and enable alternative development patterns to leverage empowered responses to 21st-century global challenges. Applicability of this method is interrogated within the context of reframing sustainable and inclusive urban agendas in Africa. The methodology is vested in the synergy of design thinking, foresighting strategies and critical urban theory. A Futures Studies research methodology stimulates strategic thinking and speculative design capabilities; the lens of “Possible futures” taxonomy (Hancock and Bezold) is applied to analyse and envision alternative urban development trajectories. The research-by design framework positions design as the critical medium to prototype unknown futures, leading to alternative pathways towards sustainable urban infrastructure, including identification of global and local drivers of change; horizon scanning, leading to understanding of macro- and micro-trends; testing of possible long-term future scenarios; envisioning future urban states; and tracking of divergencies and potentialities leading to alternative futures. The framework forms the foundation to the exploration of design responses; to identify what strategic agenda can positively impact the city’s trajectory and influence the current conditions governing tomorrow. The process provides unique insights about key decisions which are needed to enable the shift from an extractive to a regenerative approach to the built and natural environment. The potential of the approach is explored through a design project which interrogates the potential of blockchain infrastructure as an entry point towards bottom-up empowerment, leading to socio-economic transition in Dar es Salaam.



TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

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Lecture Theatre 1A

CHAIR
Philippa Tumubweinee, The School of
Architecture, Planning, and Geomatics, University
of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Media infrastructure, performance art and political mobilisation in Somalia

Abdifatah Tahir

State-controlled media is a critical infrastructure for political mobilisation in Africa. In Somalia, colonial, postcolonial, and post-transitional state authorities have assembled people, materials, and technology to create a communication ecosystem that conveys and advances state political narratives. Performance art, including but not limited to poems, plays, and songs, often lay at the heart of the state’s propaganda programming. While the current literature provides crucial insight into the interface between politics and media, very little attention is given to the essential role performance art plays in the political mobilisation for and against the state. Relying on archival data, examination of audio and audio-visual materials, key informant interviews, and media monitoring, this paper contributes to this debate by examining how innovations in performance art have historically sparked critical political conversations but failed to do so now under the transitional federal government(s), despite significant investment in both narrative and communicative infrastructure for political propaganda. The paper argues that this failure can partly be explained by the difference in the conflict and post-conflict urban environments and, by extension, the current elites’ attitude towards innovation in performance art. Rather than projecting it as a pervasive phenomenon able to penetrate political spaces regardless of actors’ agency, the utility of performance art as an essential tool of propaganda depends on the degree to which the contesting political actors adopt it as a discursive arena for formulating and presenting their narratives and counter-narratives.

TRACK
Power and Governance

B

TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Wangui Kimari, Institute for Humanities in Africa,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Plural governance regimes: Urban politics beyond the state

The session is framed around the following ideas and questions: What actors beyond the state shape urban politics? And how is the pluralistic power matrix in the city contested and remade at various scales? It will explore the complex power arrangements that emerge due to overlapping political domains, mapping out how authority over the urban form is configured by expected and unexpected actors across space and time. With reference to Lagos, Durban, Dar es Salaam, Tamale and Johannesburg, the session's papers will detail the relevance of actors such as the World Bank, multinational corporations, traditional authorities, and everyday citizens in urban governance, towards highlighting the constellation of power regimes that can exist at any one time in these cities.

PAPERS

- *Governance of infrastructure provision in informal settlements: The case of electrification in Stjwetla informal settlement in the City of Johannesburg*
Savory Chikomwe
- *The politics of global urban infrastructure lending and development: The World Bank in Dar es Salaam*
Sylvia Croese and Wilbard Kombe
- *Truncated 'infrastructuring': The case of port infrastructure plans and projects in Durban, South Africa*
Glen Robbins
- *Tacit urban governance and tenure regimes: Navigating the messy realities of Lagos*
Lindsay Sawyer
- *Alternative infrastructure governance arrangements in Tamale, Ghana*
Issahaka Fuseini, Ibrahim Yakubu and Carlos Abdul-Latif Adam

TRACK
Power and Governance

B

TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Wangui Kimari, Institute for Humanities in Africa,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Governance of infrastructure provision in informal settlements: The case of electrification in Stjwetla informal settlement in the City of Johannesburg

Savory Chikomwe

This paper analyses infrastructure governance arrangements under the state-approved informal settlement upgrading strategy for informal settlements in the City of Johannesburg. Increasing numbers of informal settlements in South Africa are receiving interim infrastructure services for extended periods, culminating in complex infrastructure governance configurations in the provision of temporary water and sanitation infrastructure (housing sector) and grid electrification (energy sector). Conceptualised under co-governance, infrastructure governance as a decision-making process by governmental organisations and actors is being realised as a missing but key component for the sustainable urban infrastructure in impoverished communities in sub-Saharan Africa. The inquiry adopted comprehensive literature and document reviews and a qualitative methodology of in-depth interviews with key informants in three case study areas. This paper focusses on one of the cases, Stjwetla, which is enmeshed in unclear governance of the interim infrastructure provisions where the community has (mis)taken the installation of interim electrification as connoting in situ settlement upgrading. The confusion about permanency is exacerbated by discordance between energy institutions which argue the interim electrification is permanent, while the housing sector institutions are planning to relocate the settlement. The interviews spanned community leadership, political representatives, and officials in municipal, provincial, and national departments, as well as municipal-owned entities. The case context sheds light on the complex socio-political and institutional governance context and modes of infrastructure governance characterising informal settlement upgrading as practiced in the City – and to some extent in South Africa more generally. The electrification, though well-intentioned, is triggering confusion and contradictions of permanence-temporariness, among other dynamics.



TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

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CHAIR
Wangui Kimari, Institute for Humanities in Africa,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

The politics of global urban infrastructure lending and development: The World Bank in Dar es Salaam

Sylvia Croese and Wilbard Kombe

This paper examines the interactions between global development agencies and local decision-makers around the conception, financing, and implementation of large-scale urban infrastructure development. The paper draws on research conducted as part of a multi-year comparative project on the transcalar politics of large-scale urban development in urban Africa, on the World Bank-funded Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP). Implemented between 2015 and 2022, the project is part of the World Bank's growing urban portfolio in Tanzania, aimed at improving urban services through urban infrastructure upgrading and development as well as institutional capacity strengthening. Taking a *longue durée* (long-term) view of World Bank interventions in the country, the paper on the one hand provides insight into the Bank's leading role in urban development lending in the context of an increasingly polycentric and financialised global development landscape. On the other, it sheds light on the ways in which World Bank-funded developmental interventions intersect with and are shaped by local politics, and the ways in which national governments exercise their sovereignty with respect to the territorialisation of development finance, and what this means for the governance and sustainability of urban infrastructure at the city level.



TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

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CHAIR
Wangui Kimari, Institute for Humanities in Africa,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Truncated 'infrastructuring': The case of port infrastructure plans and projects in Durban, South Africa

Glen Robbins

Evolving patterns of global trade, and the production and transport systems associated with them, have witnessed extensive and uneven shifts in manufacturing, away from the industrialised nations of the northern hemisphere towards some countries of the global South. In response, national governments, city authorities and other stakeholders have often sought to accommodate large, internationally networked transport infrastructure projects deemed essential to securing a presence in these global flows. Port cities, in countries as diverse as China and Tanzania, have featured in these processes. In South Africa, the country's premier port, the Port of Durban, has been the focus of many development plans in recent decades. These have been aimed at growing both the scale and the scope of the cargo that the port can handle. Yet the Port of Durban is reported on as being both inefficient and expensive, and is associated with growing problems such as landside traffic congestion and urban blight. Drawing on notions of "infrastructuring", understood as starting when projects are conceptualised and persisting into operational phases, this paper reports on the efforts of the state-owned enterprise responsible for South Africa's commercial ports (Transnet) to prosecute a series of high-modernist development schemes in the Port. The research reports on how this state-owned entity's intentionally truncated mode of "infrastructuring" has rendered many of these schemes inadequate to the task of responding to globalised trade pressures, to a complex set of interests of communities surrounding the port, and to the array of port users.



TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

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CHAIR
Wangui Kimari, Institute for Humanities in Africa,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Tacit urban governance and tenure regimes: Navigating the messy realities of Lagos

Lindsay Sawyer

This paper looks at the ordinary yet unofficial governance and tenure regimes of Lagos, asking what role the state plays in their prevalence, and how an understanding of this could help us navigate the often messy realities of African cities in practice and theory. Residents associations and individuals across Lagos perform vital functions of everyday urban governance, managing the provision of and access to key infrastructures such as security, road surfacing, power, and water. A dual land regime is dominant in Lagos, and while it's estimated that 90% of people do not have formal tenure, it is impossible to purchase a plot or construct a house without the express permission of the traditional landowners. These constitute the ordinary way of doing things in Lagos for the vast majority, yet while the existence of residents associations and customary titles are officially acknowledged, the vital roles they perform are not. What if we were to see these as tacit regimes of governance and tenure? Widely known, highly visible yet unwritten, regimes that have achieved covert dominance through the tacit consent of the state. By simultaneously disavowing and allowing putatively illegal and informal practices, a decapitated state can displace some of its roles onto other actors in the configuration. As such, dominant tacit regimes ultimately work to uphold rather than challenge state power. By focussing on the state's tacit consent for and benefit from pervasive "informalities", perhaps we can better navigate the confounding ambivalence, ambiguity, and contradiction that often characterise majority urbanisms, helping shape much-needed governance and tenure reforms that better engage with urban realities.



TIME
21 Nov
15:30-17:00

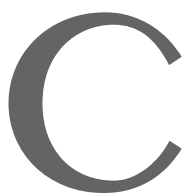
VENUE
Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1B

CHAIR
Wangui Kimari, Institute for Humanities in Africa,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Alternative infrastructure governance arrangements in Tamale, Ghana

Issahaka Fuseini, Ibrahim Yakubu and Carlos Abdul-Latif Adam

In Tamale, Ghana, historically, land and other key infrastructure sites, such as markets, have been governed by traditional leaders. In the Tamale case, by the king and designated deputies. Different actors play different roles, all intersecting with tradition and cultural processes. These processes are seldom aligned to bureaucratic modes of governmentality. Rather, infrastructure and land access is mediated through traditional authorities, whose remit included engagements in multiple cosmologies, all requiring different modes of engagement and process. Due to its transversal nature, the food system enables insights into the intersections between different infrastructures, scales, access, and the plurality of governance modes (and actors) and how city residents navigate these multiple governance domains. The descriptive examples, using food as a lens, drawn from the Tamale case poses important governance questions, highlighting the dissonance in roles and actions played by different governance actors. This paper draws on authors who have discussed hybridity and heterogeneity in infrastructure provision, framed here as a gridded continuum. Our use of the word continuum suggests the fluidity or lack of fixidity in the arrangements that people experience, enhanced through contextual and negotiated infrastructure access enabled by traditional authorities, as opposed to the assumed 'fixidity' of the grid imagined by central governments and international donor organisations.



TIME
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15:30-17:00

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Leslie Social Sciences
Lecture Theatre 1C

CHAIR
Nobukhosi Ngwenya, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Enduring and emerging spatial imaginaries: From SEZs to Ring Roads

African urban agglomerations have long been sites of spatial experimentation with large-scale infrastructure. Many of these experiments translate economic ideas and objectives into material plans and investment programmes. This panel engages with these visions – some of which have come into reality and others which live only in discourse and plans. As the panel shows, plans for corridors, ring roads, SEZs and similar developments implicitly mobilise long-enduring imaginaries to various ends, and with mixed outcomes. Given the dialectical relation between these imaginaries and the material world, how are large-scale infrastructural visions for sustainable urban futures are compelled to engage with everyday city-making processes, in what ways do these new imaginaries hold within them both historical and speculative orientations? How have these imaginaries been institutionalised in city-building processes and taken up by different stakeholders? And, how does their institutionalisation contribute to the longevity – or reconfiguration – of these spatial imaginaries?

PAPERS

- *ChemCity Eco-Industrial Park: Lessons, opportunities, and challenges for future sustainable industrial infrastructure development in South Africa*
Mareli Hugo, Johannes Bhanye, Rouvé Bingle, and Abraham Matamanda
- *How African states learn: Translating the experiences of urbanisation-industrialisation nexus through the development of industrial parks in Ethiopia*
Jing Zhang
- *Scales of (un)sustainable Progresso: Infrastructural blocks in Luanda's urban expansion*
Ricardo Cardoso
- *Large-scale urban road corridors development and urban sprawl in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area, Ghana*
George Owusu, Rosina S. Essien, Kofi K. Amedzro, and Musah I. Aziba



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University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

ChemCity Eco-Industrial Park: Lessons, opportunities, and challenges for future sustainable industrial infrastructure development in South Africa

Mareli Hugo, Johannes Bhanye, Rouvé Bingle, and Abraham Matamanda

Globally, industrial operations are causing serious social and environmental challenges. Recently there has been a movement towards “greening” or “ecologicalisation” of industries, that is, establishment of eco-industrial parks (EIPs) to curb the challenges of pollution, environmental degradation, global warming, and diseases like tuberculosis. An eco-industrial park is a community of manufacturing and service businesses located together on common property to enhance environmental, economic, and social performance through collaboration in managing environmental and resource issues – industrial symbiosis. Using the case of ChemCity Eco-Industrial Park in South Africa, this study explores lessons, opportunities and challenges of eco-industrial parks for future sustainable industrial infrastructure development in South Africa. The study is qualitative, anchored in the case study design, with interviews and secondary documents as data sources. While ChemCity EIP is still in the early phases of development, there are positive industrial linkages, ensuring a closed system. The findings reveal that economic, environmental, and social benefits of EIPs range from reduced risk exposure, increased competitiveness, collaborations and exchanges, business development, increased resource efficiency, production continuity, and better reputation with key stakeholders. However, currently, there is a lack of knowledge around the concept of EIPs, lack of capital, investment and technology, and limited support by current acts, policies, and legislations. Based on the key lessons, opportunities, and challenges of ChemCity EIP, the study concludes that policymakers and planners in southern Africa should reimagine spaces and transform current and future industrial areas through the establishment of sustainable industrial clusters – eco-industrial parks.



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CHAIR
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University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

How African states learn: Translating the experiences of urbanisation-industrialisation nexus through the development of industrial parks in Ethiopia

Jing Zhang

With the ambition of transforming Ethiopia into Africa's light-manufacturing hub by 2025, the Federal Government of Ethiopia has led a rapid expansion of industrial park development since 2012 in multiple urban centres. As one of the most successful countries to achieve a nexus between urbanisation and industrialisation by leveraging industrial parks and other kinds of SEZs, China has been active in this process. The earliest industrial park in Ethiopia was developed by a Chinese investor. Beyond the park developers, Chinese actors have also been intensively engaging as investors, infrastructure contractors, and knowledge partners. Existing research concentrated on how material interests and transnational resources have shaped such policies and political process; this research addresses the gap by incorporating the role of ideas in shaping the policy and politics, and how different types of transnational and national ideas interacted with the local political institutions that have affected urban and industrial development in Africa. By using a learning lens to trace the dynamics over the evolution of industrial park programmes in Ethiopia, this research highlights the agency of both Chinese and Ethiopian actors as policy entrepreneurs and epistemic communities that changed the problem definition and policy solution in the stage of agenda-setting and policy formulation, while at the same time emphasising the challenges set by the different paradigmatic ideas that underpinned the political institution during the policy implementation, which would ultimately constrain the policy translation of some Chinese SEZ experiences in Ethiopia.



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Scales of (un)sustainable Progresso: Infrastructural blocks in Luanda's urban expansion

Ricardo Cardoso

Progresso is found as the unpaved road begins, just outside the limits of Kilamba in Luanda, Angola. Located in the periphery of the infamous new town, itself located beyond the limits of Luanda proper, the auto-constructed and formally under-serviced neighbourhood stands in direct contrast to the infrastructural forms and regularity of Luanda's most highly planned "new centrality". Indeed, to use REframe's words, the "extreme dualism" of this landscape provides yet another example of a "uniquely malfunctioning urban system" in the African context. This, however, does not mean that they are not deeply interconnected. In fact, both Kilamba and Progresso have been assembled out of the Angolan oil boom, through modular forms and material processes that manifest themselves in at least three different scales: the massive blocks of subterranean oil estates upon which the entire political economy of Angola is laid; the city and housing blocks that encapsulate Luanda's dominant forms of official urbanism since the late 2000s; and the cement blocks that house the vast majority in Luanda and constitute one of the most ubiquitous elements of its urban landscape. Accounting for the key infrastructural blocks in Luanda's urban expansion, this paper looks into the case of Progresso (and Kilamba) in order to provide a theorisation of Luanda's de facto infrastructure systems and associated investments. The aim is to develop a deeper understanding of the logics that currently drive them, so as to speculate on what a sustainable urban infrastructure could mean in the Luandan context.



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Large-scale urban road corridors development and urban sprawl in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area, Ghana

George Owusu, Rosina S. Essien, Kofi K. Amedzro, and Musah I. Aziba

Uncontrolled urban expansion is a characteristic feature of many cities of the global South. This paper explores how much-needed investments in urban road infrastructure are driving urban sprawl. The general policy and practice response is to view traffic congestion in large cities as an infrastructure problem rather than the result of combinations of a deficit in infrastructure, traffic management, public transport systems, and urban land-use planning. Consequently, investments are pursued towards widening roads and construction of dual carriageways to allow free flow of traffic in and out of cities. Using the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA) as a case study, we review the GAMA Strategic Plan of 1991 and related documents, plus draw on expert interviews to assess the extent to which road corridor development is a cause and consequence of urban sprawl in Ghana's largest metropolitan region. In particular, we assess the role of multilateral and bilateral donors in financing Accra's large-scale road infrastructure, and reflect on the consequences for the metropolitan region's sprawling and attendant socio-economic and environmental challenges. The paper argues that GAMA's growth trajectory runs counter to its Climate Action Plan (2020-2025), which maps out the path that the city governments, citizens, and private businesses proposed to embark on to achieve transformational action to deliver an emission-neutral and climate-resilient city. We conclude that initiatives for urban sustainability in the global South, and specifically for Accra, need to reflect on the implications of the infrastructure turn in urban development.



TIME
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Lecture Theatre 1D

CHAIR
Andrea Pollio, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South
Africa, and Polytechnic of Turin, Turin, Italy

Decaying, caring and repairing urban infrastructure

This session will explore three entry points to the study of infrastructure in urban Africa, escaping the productivist lenses through which technical systems are usually assessed. These three entry points are decay, care, and repair. As both analytical/political objects and orientations, these vantage points may shape alternative ways of seeing infrastructure, their potential for life-giving, and their discontents. Yet, a focus on these vitalist rather than productivist heuristics still requires a pragmatic understanding of how infrastructural decay, care, and repair are costed, financed, designed, retrofitted, and valued. It also demands engagement with theories that are sometimes neglected by urban scholars – from failure and decay studies, to feminist conceptualisations of social reproduction. To these ends, the following papers chart different ways of engaging with decay, care, and repair, both practically and theoretically.

PAPERS

- *Reparative infrastructures in making the city otherwise*
Suraya Scheba and Nate Millington
- *Charging the non-networked: Infrastructure care, repairs, and pricing practices within off-the-utility-grid's water systems in Dar es Salaam*
Francis Dakyaga and Sophie Schramm
- *Caring as transforming: How innovators adapt the urban infrastructure landscape to climate change in Lobito, Angola*
Vanessa Castán Broto and Lorraine Dongo
- *Unpacking adoption and adaptation in infrastructure assemblages – A comparison between greater Harare and Bangalore*
Sudeshna Mitra and Percy Toriro



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CHAIR
Andrea Pollio, African Centre for Cities,
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South
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Reparative infrastructures in making the city otherwise

Suraya Scheba and Nate Millington

Infrastructural provisioning can be contradictory, both life-giving (for some) and destructive (for others). In this paper, drawing from ideas of repair, maintenance, and care, we consider how the idea of reparative infrastructures – a version of what Winona La Duke and Deb Cowen call “infrastructure that is life-giving in its design, finance, and effects – can create space for thinking more expansively about infrastructural temporality and possibilities. It asks: What might a focus on repair, as a counter to collapse, breakdown, and abandonment, make possible when considering infrastructural provisioning? And what might reparative infrastructures mean in an African context, where infrastructure has never been universal, and where infrastructure is often incomplete? This paper explores reparative infrastructures in two specific ways: First, it considers how existing informal housing practices can offer possibilities for imagining the city otherwise, as a practice of prefiguration. Second, it considers mechanisms for funding infrastructural provisioning in ways that support the decoupling of infrastructural systems from logics of cost recovery and commercialisation.



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Charging the non-networked: Infrastructure care, repairs, and pricing practices within off-the-utility-grid’s water systems in Dar es Salaam

Francis Dakyaga and Sophie Schramm

Urban infrastructure scholars have drawn our attention to the heterogeneous water infrastructures beyond the utility grid serving residents in Southern cities. However, studies have to date rarely explored the practice of care and repairs of the off-the-utility-grid water infrastructures, and how they shape water pricing. This paper addresses this scholarly gap by analysing the practices of infrastructure care and repairs of off-the-utility-grid water infrastructure among water providers beyond the utility water grid infrastructures in Dar es Salaam. Through a qualitative case study of off-the-utility-grid infrastructure providers and consumers, the paper reveals that pricing practices depend on repair works of artefacts and technologies that mediate the distribution of water beyond the utility and are mediated by: tyres of vehicles, water pump machines, storage tanks, and PVC pipes. In addition, electricity bills, fuel, maintenance cost, distance, and nature of road connectivity to clients’ residences, as well as providers’ expected profit margins, guided the pricing of water per unit. In relation to these emerging and uncertain expenses for repair of decaying infrastructures, prices were established in a place-specific way, less by pre-determined standards than by everyday negotiations, calculations, and providers’ discretion, or learning by doing. The conventional practice of non-collective bargaining led to the establishment of a specific water price between providers and clients, in a place-specific context, and subject to further negotiation and modification. The paper argues that focus on pricing sheds light on an important aspect of the urban infrastructure future, especially in the global South: repair work for artefacts and technologies-enabled water supply, and the associated costs, were passed on to water consumers in uneven ways. This dynamic, in turn, exacerbates fine-grained socio-spatial differences between individuals within single neighbourhoods. We conclude that repairs and care for off-the-utility-grid infrastructures is the water-infrastructure future for the many urban residents unserved by the utility.



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Caring as transforming: How innovators adapt the urban infrastructure landscape to climate change in Lobito, Angola

Vanesa Castán Broto and Lorraine Dongo

The challenges of the Anthropocene in the urban environment are redefining urban affects, and in turn are transforming the relationships of urban dwellers and the cities they inhabit. How this will change the future of urban Africa is still to be understood, and there is a rush of conceptualising what is a diverse and heterogeneous process in grand theories of urban change. But what we are observing is the emergence of new practices of care reconfiguring the significance of what it means to dwell in the urban environment. Thinking with Sarah Ahmed of affects as the orientations which shape decisions and practices towards the world and towards each other, we see some of those orientations as embedded in relationships of care. The Anthropocene is transforming that object of care and, as Puig de la Bellacasa has explained, such relationships of care are never neutral, and have costs and consequences. In this paper, we seek to understand how actions to respond to climate change in urban environments create new affordances in the urban landscape, and whether those affordances enable imaginations of alternative forms of urban living. Looking at the case of nature protection in Lobito, Angola, we show how forms of care are raised from a concern with the neglected; in this case, the flamingo. Rather than emphasising narrow impacts such as reduction of carbon emissions or increase in flamingo populations, the work of activists in Lobito show how they build specific affective infrastructures which enable forms of engagement, and practice focus on shared vulnerabilities, and an alternative perspective on the more-than-human. We see affective infrastructures as a central component of the new wave of reparative urbanism that seeks to reimagine contemporary urbanisation through a redefinition of engagement and ethics.



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Unpacking adoption and adaptation in infrastructure assemblages - A comparison between greater Harare and Bangalore

Sudeshna Mitra and Percy Toriro

This paper draws on primary fieldwork and secondary research in Greater Harare (Harare and the settlements of Epworth, Dzivarasekwa, and Mabvuku), Zimbabwe, and Bangalore, India, undertaken as part of the (Re) Thinking the Off-Grid City project. The “assemblage” frame is used to unpack the human/non-human history of infrastructure provisioning at the neighbourhood scale, with a focus on water. The talk will discuss how the assemblage for water provisioning may be understood as a co-functioning, shaped by practices of adoption and adaptation of technology, materials, and systems, through social and political networks, and through cycles of daily use, seasonal scarcities, material life-cycles of repair, and institutional/non-institutional cycles of investing in upgraded/new infrastructure. Based on findings from the field, the paper will discuss the geographies of difference that persist across Harare and Bengaluru neighbourhoods, which show us that while infrastructure assemblages highlight “transversal logics” of instrumentality in situations where pipes do not guarantee provisioning, they are not immune to structuring that recreates and amplifies existing patterns of social and economic marginalisation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAMME VENUES

The conference takes place across two venues on the University of Cape Town's Upper Campus: the New Lecture Theatre and Leslie Social Sciences Building. All plenary sessions will take place in the New Lecture Theatre.

Please follow the directional signage to parallel session venues. Each Track of the parallel sessions will remain in its assigned venue for the duration of the conference.

WIFI AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Free WiFi is available to all conference delegates. Please find the individual login details in your delegate bag.

We are reporting on the conference via social media using the hashtag #AFI_CONF2022. Please use this hashtag in your own posts too.

Follow us on Facebook @africancentreforcities and Twitter @UrbanAfrica_ACC to share and engage with exciting conversations.

Keynote sessions are being streamed live on the African Centre for Cities' YouTube channel. Share this link (<https://www.youtube.com/africancities>) with colleagues who are not able to attend, or to re-watch session after the conference.

MEALS AND DRINKS

Tea and coffee

Tea and coffee along with a snack is served in the morning (10:00-10:30) and afternoon (14:30-15:00) breaks in the New Lecture Theatre.

Lunch

Lunch is available from 12:15 to 13:30 on the ground floor level of the New Lecture Theatre Building. Lunch will be served as a self-help menu selected to cater for varying tastes and diets based on requirements specified during the registration process.

Special diets

If you have informed the conference organisers of special dietary requirements during registration, please make yourself known to the catering staff who can direct you to special meals.

Water

To try and minimize plastic waste, you received a reusable water bottle as part of your conference pack. We would like to encourage you to use these bottles and refill them from the water coolers placed throughout the venues.

SMOKING

The University of Cape Town is committed to providing a safe and healthy working and learning environment for the students, faculty, staff, and visitors to its campuses, as such it prohibits smoking in buildings and outdoor public spaces, except for designated smoking areas. Go to www.uct.ac.za/about/policies and click on UCT Smoking Policy for more information.

MEDICAL, EMERGENCIES & SAFETY

On campus

Medical emergency: Please alert a conference staff member immediately.

Security emergency

In case of a security emergency during the conference alert Campus Protection Services (CPS) 021 650 2222/3 immediately.

Fire emergency

In case of fire emergency evacuate the venue immediately. Follow the fire evacuation procedure specified in the particular venue.

Out and about in Cape Town

Emergencies from a mobile: 112

Emergencies from a landline: 107

South African Police Service: 10111

Medical & Fire Emergencies: 021 480 7700

Safety tips

- Do not leave belongings unattended.
- Avoid carrying large sums of cash, and try not to have expensive electronic devices and jewellery in plain sight.
- Avoid walking or hiking alone in isolated areas.
- Lock your doors when driving and do not pick up strangers.
- When parking, lock valuables in the trunk of the car. After dark, park in secure, well-lit areas.
- Do not allow strangers to assist you in any way at cash machines.

RECYCLING

We endeavour to host this conference in an environmentally responsible way. The UCT campus has waste bins that segregate recyclable and non-recyclable waste. Please use the bins as indicated to reduce landfill waste.

We have also placed special recycling bins at the entrance to the venue for anything in your delegate bag that you don't wish to keep. Simply deposit it in the marked bins and we will recycle or reuse it responsibly.

BANKING

ATM machines for all major South African banks are available on campus. Leslie Social Sciences Building has ATMs for FNB, Standard Bank and Nedbank available. ATMs for Capitec and ABSA are located in the Molly Blackburn Memorial Hall.

LOADSHEDDING

South Africa is currently experiencing loadshedding which requires switching off parts of the country's electric grid in a planned and controlled manner due to insufficient capacity or to avoid a countrywide blackout.

Should loadshedding occur during the conference, backup generators will automatically kick in. It might take a few minutes, so please be patient.

Loadshedding tips

- Ensure that your electronic devices, such as phone, tablet or laptop is fully charged at all times.
- Download the EskomSePush app and add 'Rondebosch (15)' as an area to monitor the loadshedding schedule for the UCT campus and surrounding area.
- Note that lifts on the UCT campus do not have backup power and should not be used 10 minutes prior to scheduled loadshedding.
- Be aware that loadshedding may cause traffic light outages, which can cause delays in travel time.

PHOTOGRAPHY

A conference photographer will be at the event taking photographs during presentations as well as social events. These images will be shared on social media and the African Centre for Cities website. If for any reason you wish to not appear on photos, please indicate this during the registration process or notify the helpdesk.

You are also invited to take your own photos during conference proceedings, but we ask that you please avoid flash photography during presentations. When sharing photos on social media please use the hashtag **#AFI_CONF2022**

CORRECT AT PRINT

We have taken care to ensure that all information contained in this publication was correct at the time of going to print. Please note that the programme and speakers listed are subject to change without prior notice and would not incur any obligations. Errors and omissions excepted. November 2022.

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