



Parallel session 3A-2.3

**Circuits**

Tuesday 12 November, 14.00 – 15.30

South Wing Council Room (G12)

Chair: **Dr Miguel Kanai**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, The University of Sheffield

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**Urban Enclaving: Conceptualising private urban development in Africa**

Dr Austin Dziwornu Ablo, Lecturer, University of Ghana, Legon

The deregulation of sub-Saharan African economies in the late 1980s and the inability of African governments to plan and manage the rapidly growing cities and the increasing lack of housing for the urban population have seen the emergence and growth of what is described as ‘privatised urbanism’. These private cities are often considered as a solution to the mismatch between rapid urbanisation and planning, where planning ‘chases development’. Focusing on the case of the Appolonia City of Light, a 941-hectare private city located north of Accra Ghana, I examine the generative, utopian/dystopian, enacted and lived (attachment/detachment) experience of urban enclaving in sub-Saharan Africa.

African cities have expanded rapidly over the past decades, creating housing deficits and producing a pluralisation of forms of the urban, including the emergence and growth of what are often termed slums. With immediate affordable housing needs estimated at 400 million units, African cities have expanded beyond the ability of development to keep pace. The emergence and growth of private cities across sub-Saharan Africa are considered as a ‘quick fix’ to the sprawling the region’s cities characterised by poverty, housing deficits and poor infrastructure and services. The growth of private cities in the sub-Saharan African region is underpinned by social divisions, political fissures and deeper socio-cultural and economic divisions. It is imperative to rethink the conceptualisation of private urban development in sub-Saharan Africa that highlights the complexities relating to the region’s urban futures. James Ferguson’s use of enclaves that describes the delinking of resource extraction from the rest of society provides a useful conceptual tool for analysing private urban development in Africa.

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**The Infrastructure of Submarine Urbanism: Zanzibar in a Black and Blue World**

Prof. Garth Myers, Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of Urban International Studies and Director of the Center for Urban and Global Studies, Trinity College, Hartford CT

It is common now to think of how cities are connected to one another across the world, or to think of an increasing array of cities as being global or world cities, diverse and cosmopolitan sites of intersections of myriad variety. Still, much of the discussion of

globalization in academic urban studies concentrates on the links, networks and intertwined economies of the world's major metropolitan centres. Spaces of the global South beyond the usual small set of high-profile megacities are shortchanged, and broader realities of intersection often fall away with the economic emphases. There is a growing list of exceptions to my general claims. But scholarship still must do more to show the complicated life of the transversal geographies across and between places – what Glissant (1989) variously called the 'subterranean' and 'submarine' cultural connections. This essay builds on the many recent works of southern and postcolonial urban studies that have contested the universalizing and reductive tendencies of urban theory out of the global North, by making a case for rethinking the so-called 'infrastructural turn' in urban studies from an African standpoint. Taking the ideas of 're-description' and the 'make+shift city' from the recent work of Simone and Pieterse (2017: 62) and running with their claim that 'it is the character of the articulations among cities that is increasingly critical', I build from three decades of ethnographic fieldwork in Zanzibar to re-describe its cosmopolitan globality and infrastructure projects in Africanist terms.

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### **Is there a world-class city method?**

Dr Alessandra Radicati, Fellow, LSE

Is there a method for studying aspiring "world-class" cities? This paper argues that the anthropological study of large cities, particularly in the Global South, may necessitate new understandings of ethnographic methods and practice. Across much of Asia, Africa and Latin America, cities are increasingly marketing themselves in competition with one another as national and regional governments often proclaim that different urban centres are to become the next Dubai or Singapore. The aspirational appeal of the "world-class city" (Ghertner 2015) is evident across numerous different countries and contexts, including Dakar (Melly 2017), Ho Chi Minh City (Harms 2016) and Phnom Penh (Nam 2017).

Anthropologists increasingly work in these emergent world-class cities, and the aspirational rhetoric of urban development has become an interesting ethnographic object in its own right. But what challenges or tensions does studying rapidly growing and changing urban environments pose in a discipline whose core method was developed in considerably different circumstances? The paper focuses on two key tensions that arise in ethnographic methods used to study urban spaces in these conditions. The first tension is the role of interviews as opposed to "participant observation"; the second tension is the role of mobility, both that of the ethnographer and of her informants. This investigation is rooted in a close reading of both recent ethnographies of emerging world-class cities, and my own ethnographic research conducted in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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### **Transfer mechanisms of strategic spatial planning to post-Soviet cities: The case of Integrated urban development projects in Ukraine**

Vladyslav Tymynskyi, PhD candidate, Institute of Urban Planning and Design, University of Stuttgart

The approaches to planning which have originated in the “global North” are frequently based on assumptions regarding urban contexts that do not hold elsewhere in the world (and often no longer in the North as well) [...] (Watson, 2009). Ukraine is currently in the process of complex implementation of the reforms, based on decentralisation of power and empowering communities (Udovychenko et al, 2017). This directly affects the transformation of tools and mechanisms of the development of Ukrainian cities, which require comprehensive studies and strategic vision (Thomann, 2015, p.196). In this context, over the last decade the country has seen rising interest in the use of strategy in general and strategic (spatial) planning in particular (see Albrechts, 2004; 2015). But the process of elaborating and introducing spatial development strategies in Ukrainian municipalities reveals the hidden challenges of directly applying Western European best-practices to the local context, with its specific socio-political and planning systems inherited from the Soviet past and significantly adapted to the market-driven transformations started after the collapse of the USSR.

Based on the above-mentioned, the paper to be presented focuses on the study of urban policy mobilities (see McCann and Ward, 2011; Clarke, 2012; Temenos and McCann, 2013; Baker and Temenos, 2014) for understanding the transfer of strategic spatial planning, which has been conceptualised in the countries of Western Europe and introduced in the specific context of Ukrainian cities. In particular, the paper is aimed at revealing prerequisites, intervening factors and transfer agents as well as at demonstrating the transfer models and infrastructures based on the analysis of international cooperation projects in the field of Integrated Urban Development of the 2010s.