



Living the City



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AEGIS thematic conference Basel, 7 – 9 October 2010

As member of AEGIS, the European Network of Excellence in African Studies, the Centre for African Studies Basel holds a conference on its joint research theme, urbanisation in Africa. The meeting focuses on intervention and invention in African cities. In this context and as a pre-programme of the conference the Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) holds its annual meeting, in which case studies of the translation of research in urban development will be presented.

We live in a rapidly urbanizing world. For the first time in human history, more than half of the world's population lives in cities. We only begin to understand the consequences this upcoming urban age will have, and how the urban experience will shape societies around the globe. Until now, research on cities worldwide is still centred on cities in Europe and the United States which are seen as the standard model. However, cities in the global South are undergoing a much more rapid transformation, and many inter-linked transitions, whereby Africa features the highest urbanization rates worldwide. Cities are almost always major destinations of migration, and African cities serve as the main hub for migration towards Europe. A better understanding of these processes is urgently needed in view of the enormous threats such as global climate change and associated natural and man-made disasters. This is because their impact is particularly high in cities due to the density of population and infrastructure and the concentration of financial, economic and technological resources.

Rapid growth at a time of major transitions and transformations presents challenges as well as opportunities. Scholars call for a new approach to urban studies which examines cities from a more global, comparative perspective. This new approach should also pay more attention to the role societal creativity plays in processes of urbanization instead of concentrating exclusively on expert driven planning and intervention. Especially in fast growing cities with weaker institutional capacity for interventions, the interplay between intervention and invention, between expert and societal agency not only becomes more tangible but also more crucial. Processes of innovation and transformation touch on all spheres of life, and they will become even more significant in the cities of the future around the world. Transformations, interventions and especially innovations converge in cities because cities produce difference – differences between rich and poor, safe and unsafe, healthy and unhealthy and in many other domains. The conference therefore addresses the general question, how cities in Africa, being among the most dynamic and least regulated cities in the world, produce difference?

- What potential can be created at the interface of intervention and invention for the cities of the future?
- What can we learn from the fast-growing and often institutionally weak African cities?
- How can this new understanding inform policies and interventions which work with – and not against – the inventive potential of urban dwellers?

PROGRAMME:

Thursday, 7 October 2010

- 12h30-18h00 **KFPE conference**
Making Research Results Relevant to Urban Development
Annual conference of the Coordination for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (see separate programme)
- 18h15 **Carl Schlettwein Lecture 2010**
Invention and Intervention in African Cities
Prof. Jo Beall, University of Cape Town, African Centre for Cities
Introduction: Peter Nagel, Environmental Sciences, University of Basel
- 19h00 **Reception**

Friday, 8 October 2010

- 8h30-9h45 **Registration and coffee**
- 9h45-10h00 **Welcome address**
Elísio Macamo, Centre for African Studies, University of Basel
- 10h00-12h00 **Panel 1: Urban Management**
Chair: Piet van Eeuwijk, Social Anthropology, University of Basel
From an International Best Practice of a Progressive Policy to a Conservative Approach: Durban's street trading management policy towards the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa
Ercüment Celik, University of Freiburg
The Human Landing Catch: urban control and mosquito governmentality
Ann Kelly, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Do ICT Liberate a Space for Gendered Governance of the African city?
Joelle Palmieri, Institute of Political Studies, Bordeaux
- 12h00-13h00 **Lunch break**
- 13h00-15h00 **Panel 2: Urban Landscape**
Chair: Guéladio Cissé, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel
HomeSpace Maputo: meanings and perceptions of the built environment in a rapidly expanding African city
Silje Sollien, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen
Translocal urbanism: how Ouagadougou strategically uses decentralised cooperation
Blaise Dupuis (Ola Söderström/ Pierrick Leu), University of Neuchâtel
Cosmopolitan bodies and the sexual landscape of Maputo city
Sandra Manuel, School of Oriental and African Studies, London
The Politics of Urban Planning in East Africa: contrasting strategies of invention and intervention in Kampala and Kigali
Tom Goodfellow, London School of Economics and Political Science

15h00-15h30 **Coffee break**

15h30-17h30 **Panel 3: Urban Post-Conflict Governance**

Chair: Elísio Macamo, African Studies & Sociology, University of Basel

"Bringing the state back in"...to Cities after Civil War: the case of Huambo and Bailundo, Angola

Didier Péclard, Swisspeace / University of Basel

Local Government, Urban Associations and the Co-Production of Public Goods in Post-War Makeni, Sierra Leone

Anna Workman, London School of Economics and Political Science

Women besides the State: impact of a women's organization in West Point, Monrovia

Andrea Kaufmann, University of Basel

17h45-18h45 **Plenary**

African Cities as Sites of Creativity and Emancipation

Introduction by Till Förster, Social Anthropology, University of Basel

20h00

Conference dinner

Restaurant «Zum alten Zoll»

Elsässerstrasse 127, Basel



Saturday, 9 October 2010

9h00-12h00 **Panel 4: Urban Health** (with 30' coffee break)

Chair: Brigit Obrist, Social Anthropology, University of Basel

Long Distance Care: do mobile phones shape care pattern of elderly people in Dar es Salaam?

Jana Gerold, Universität Basel

(Re)reading the Risks of City Life: environmental toxicologists in Dakar, Senegal

Noemi Tousignant, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Writing and Governmentality: N'ko literacy, healing, and the reinvention of urbanity in Conakry, Kankan, and Bamako, West Africa

Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University and Sory Kourouma, University of Kankan

"Les plantes sont parties dans des nouveaux quartiers": the use and supply of medicinal plants in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Valérie Liebs, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz

12h00-13h00

Lunch break

- 13h00-15h00 **Panel 5: Urban Creativity**
 Chair: Till Förster, Social Anthropology, University of Basel
Visualizing the Mental City: the exploration of cultural and subjective topographies by contemporary performance artists in Johannesburg
 Fiona Siegenthaler, University of Basel
Literature in Africa and Latin American Readings: structures of feeling crossroads?
 Eliane Veras Soares, Federal University of Pernambuco
Urban Memories and Utopias: contemporary art in Luanda and Nairobi
 Ulf Vierke and Nadine Siegert, Centre for African Studies, University of Bayreuth
- 15h00-15h30 **Coffee break**
- 15h30-17h30 **Panel 6: Urban Tensions**
 Chair: Patrick Harries, African History, University of Basel
Urbanisation in Sudan and the Role of Conflict
 Margie Smith, Overseas Development Institute, London
Ordering Urban Space in Colonial Kano and Migrants' Protests in Sabongari
 Rasheed Olaniyi, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
Manifestations of Changing Urban Orders: youth and protest in Conakry
 Joschka Philipps, University of Freiburg / Arnold Bergstraesser Institute
- 17h30-18h00 **Closing remarks by chair**

- Venue:** University of Basel, Faculty of Law, Peter Merian-Weg 8, Basel
 Jacob Burckhardt-building, Pro Iure auditorium and WWZ auditorium
- Directions:** Leave Basel's central train station (Bahnhof SBB) using the main exit (direction «City»), turn right towards the post office and take the underground passage called «Post-passage», continue straight ahead towards the Peter Merian Buildings (green) and then on to the Jacob Burckhardt Building, No. 8 (silver) (approx. 7 minutes); or take the tram No. 10 that leaves in front of the station (direction: «Dornach») or tram No. 11 (direction: «Aesch») for one station, to the stop «Peter Merian».
- Convenor:** Centre for African Studies Basel
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 CH-4051 Basel
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- Registration:** by mail to afrika-tagung@unibas.ch
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 deadline 30 September 2010
- Fees:** CHF 60.- (students: CHF 30.-)