

PRACTICES OF THE STATE IN URBAN GOVERNANCE

International Workshop

6-8 June 2018

Wits University, Johannesburg



PROGRAMME

Day 1: Wednesday 6 June 2018

Seminar Room, Humanities Graduate Centre, SW Engineering, East Campus

08h30-08h40 Opening

Prof Nnamdi Elleh (Head of the School of Architecture and Planning, Wits)

08h40-09h00 Introduction: Locating the debate between state and city studies

Prof Claire Bénit-Gbaffou (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)

Theme 1:

State society encounters in the city – what do we learn about the state and its practices in the city, through these encounters?

09h00-10h45 Theme 1, Session 1 – The challenge of effecting policy change: from outside, inside and in-between

- **Mamokete Matjomane** (GCRO & PSUG, CUBES, Wits)
Losing battles and winning the war? Street traders' influence on policy making in India
- **Dr Monika Dowbor** (CEBRAP, University of Sao Paulo)
Professionals, activists and urban policy change in Sao Paulo, Brazil
- **Prof Xolela Mangcu** (Department of Sociology, UCT)
Harold Washington and the Cultural Transformation of Local Government in Chicago (1983-1987)

Discussant: Prof Noor Niefertgodien (South African Research Chair in Local Histories and Present Realities, Wits)

Chair: Nqobile Malaza (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)

10h45-11h15 Tea break

11h15- 12h30 **Theme 1, Session 2 - The politics of intermediation: Mediators, the poor and policy change**

- **Boitumelo Matlala** (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)
The politics of NGO mediation in urban governance, straddling representation and strategic interventions
- **Prof Monique Marks and Dr Kira Erwin** (Urban Futures Centre, DUT)
Political capital and moral conservatism in state-society partnership encounters in the city of Durban

Discussant: Prof Sophie Oldfield (ACC, UCT)

Chair: Jeanne Bouyat (PSUG, CUBES, Wits & CERI, Sciences Po)

12h30- 13h30 Light lunch

13h30-15h15 **Theme 1, Session 3 - Twilight institutions: expanding or undermining the state in urban governance**

- **Rodolphe Demeestère** (University Sorbonne Paris I & PSUG, CUBES, Wits)
Regulating the township economy: Socio-political genesis of the spaza shop sector's bureaucratization in contemporary South African townships
- **Prof Laurent Fourchard** (CERI, Sciences Po)
The "Union", the state and the government of transport in Nigerian cities
- **Ntombini Marrengane** (ACC, UCT)
The governance of urban land development: straddling municipal and traditional authorities in Mbabane, Swaziland

Discussant: Dr Kira Erwin (Urban Futures Centre, DUT)

Chair: Boitumelo Matlala (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)

15h15-15h30 Tea break

Theme 2:

State officials' practices in the city - straddling agency and structure

15h30-17h30 **Theme 2, Session 1: Unpacking officials' practices in the city of the South**

- **Dr Richard Ballard** (GCRO, Wits & UJ)
Intentionality and social change: rethinking 'direction setting' by authority figures
- **Dr Solomon Benjamin** (IIHS Bangalore)
Land bureaucracy as a political space: Some insights from Indian cities

- **Ryan Brunette** (PARI)
Drawing the Line between Politics and Administration: Agency and Structure in the Shaping of the City Managerships of Two Metropolitan Municipalities
- **Kate Tissington** (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)
The responses of City of Johannesburg officials to litigation around inner city housing: A view of the *Blue Moonlight* case ten years on

Discussant: Prof Monique Marks (Urban Futures Centre, DUT)

Chair: Darlington Mushongera (PSUG, CUBES & GCRO, Wits)

Cocktail Launch of Special Issue

You are invited to the cocktail launch of the Special Issue of *The Journal of Development Studies* on 'Informal Practices of the State in Urban Governance: Views from Southern African Cities', edited by Prof Claire Bénit-Gbaffou and Prof Sarah Charlton.

Date: Wednesday 6 June

Time: 18h30-19h30

Venue: Seminar Room, Humanities Graduate Centre, SW Engineering, East Campus

The coordinators and a number of contributors to the special issue will be present: **Prof Claire Bénit-Gbaffou** (PSUG, CUBES, Wits); **Dr Sian Butcher** (Department of Geography, Wits); **Prof Sarah Charlton** (CUBES, Wits); **Dr Margot Rubin** (SA&CP, Wits).

Discussants: Dr Solomon Benjamin (IIHS Bangalore) and *Prof Karl von Holdt* (SWOP, Wits)

Inside the Special Issue:

- Claire Bénit-Gbaffou - *Introduction: Unpacking State Practices in City-Making, in Conversations with Ananya Roy*
- Claire Bénit-Gbaffou - *Beyond the Policy-Implementation Gap: How the City of Johannesburg Manufactured the Ungovernability of Street Trading*
- Sarah Charlton - *Confounded but Complacent: Accounting for How the State sees Responses to its Housing Intervention in Johannesburg*
- Sian Butcher - *Making and Governing Unstable Territory: Corporate, State and Public Encounters in Johannesburg's Mining Land, 1909–2013*
- Chloe Buire - *Intimate Encounters with the State in Post-War Luanda, Angola.*
- Margot Rubin - *At the Borderlands of Informal Practices of the State: Negotiability, Porosity and Exceptionality*
- Ananya Roy - *The Potency of the State: Logics of Informality and Subalternity*

Day 2: Thursday 7 June 2018

Seminar Room, Humanities Graduate Centre, SW Engineering, East Campus

09h00-11h00 Theme 2, Session 2: “Activists in City Hall”, a Southern view

- **Melinda Barnard** (CISA, Wits)
Maverick in the making: Walking the tightrope between entrepreneurship and civil service. Introducing solar technology in Kochi airport, India
- **Prof Claire Bénit-Gbaffou** (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)
Working behind the scene: City officials, community engagement and urban change in post-apartheid Johannesburg
- **Prof Phil Harrison** (SA&CP, Wits)
“Welcome to Alcatraz”: A reflection on three years in a City bureaucracy
- **Dr Margot Rubin** (SA&CP, Wits)
Driving inclusionary development: Bureaucratic activism in the City of Johannesburg

Discussant: Dr Monika Dowbor (CEBRAP, University of Sao Paulo)

Chair: Kate Tissington (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)

11h00-11h15 Tea break

Theme 3:

The politics of policy instruments for city making

11h15-13h00 Theme 3, Session 1: Policy instruments as embodiment of state rationalities

- **Jeanne Bouyat** (CERI, Sciences Po & PSUG, CUBES, Wits)
Why are identification systems developed in South African schools? Multiple rationalities: between redressing the past, neoliberalism and institutional xenophobia. A view from Johannesburg low-income schools
- **Graeme Gotz** (GCRO, Wits & UJ)
Managing bad buildings in inner city Johannesburg: government practice and the agency of systems
- **Nqobile Malaza** (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)
The normalisation of empowerment in the City of Johannesburg: An exploration the instruments of procurement in the local state

Discussant: Prof Laurent Fourchard (CERI, Sciences Po-Paris)

Chair: Rodolphe Demeestère (University Sorbonne Paris I & PSUG, CUBES, Wits)

13h00- 14h00 Light lunch

14h00-15h45 **Theme 3, Session 2: Knowing and not knowing as modes of urban government**

- **Dr Thomas Aguilera** (Sciences Po-Rennes, ARèNES)
Discontinuous Metropolis. Exploring the governability of cities through the analysis of policy instruments towards informal housing in Europe
- **Prof Sarah Charlton** (CUBES, Wits)
Seeing and unseeing: suburban poverty, privilege and politics on Johannesburg's Corridors of Freedom. A story of housing inclusions, exclusions and omissions
- **Prof Mary Galvin** (Centre for Social Change, UJ)
Deceptive lenses: the politics of misrepresentation of local realities in eThekweni's water and sanitation services

Discussant: Prof Ivor Chipkin (PARI)

Chair: Mamokete Matjomane (PSUG, CUBES & GCRO, Wits)

15h45-16h00 Tea break

16h00-17h45 **Theme 3, Session 3 - Data, knowledge and the work of confusion: impeding the capacity to govern?**

- **Saskia Greyling** (ACC, UCT)
Techno-political entanglements in housing delivery: Unravelling the form and function of the integrated housing database in Cape Town
- **Darlington Mushongera** (PSUG, CUBES & GCRO, Wits)
'City intelligence?' or 'City ignorance?' Water data and strategic planning of service delivery in the City of Johannesburg
- **Dr Laila Smith** (CLEAR-AA, Wits)
Why is it so difficult to learn from practice to guide municipal strategic intervention? The place of evaluation in the City of Johannesburg

Discussant: Dr Thomas Aguilera (Sciences Po-Rennes, ARèNES)

Chair: Tholohelo Mokgere (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)

19h00 Dinner for speakers and discussants

Day 3: Friday 8 June 2018

Basement A4, John Moffat Building, East Campus

Roundtable discussion:

The politics of studying the local state

09h00-09h15 Introduction - Nqobile Malaza (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)

09h15-10h30 Roundtable 1: Embedded or engaged research? Confronting the messiness of researching the local state

- Graeme Gotz (GCRO, Wits & UJ)
- Dr Sogen Moodley (Urban Futures Centre, DUT)
- Dr Margot Rubin (SA&CP, Wits)
- Dr Melanie Samson (Department of Geography, Wits)

Facilitator: Boitumelo Matlala (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)

10h30-10h45 Tea break

10h45-12h00 Roundtable 2 – Building a research collective on the local state

- Prof Claire Bénit-Gbaffou (CUBES, Wits)
- Prof Ivor Chipkin (PARI)
- Prof Phil Harrison (SA&CP, Wits)
- Prof Solomon Benjamin (IIHS Bangalore)

Facilitator: Kate Tissington (PSUG, CUBES, Wits)

Closure and vote of thanks - Claire Bénit-Gbaffou

12h00-13h00 Light lunch

More information: <https://www.wits.ac.za/cubes/projects/practices-of-the-state-in-urban-governance/psug-international-workshop-2018>

Registration for attendance: <https://goo.gl/forms/YkvdpluGwxsGGk8Y2> (before 1 June 2018)