Curating the Afropolitan City

New Ethnographies of Johannesburg

12-13 August 2014

During the last quarter of the 20th century, Johannesburg expanded in a relatively decentralized, if not random, way. Today the city is better understood as a largely de-territorialized mega-region with multiple urban enclaves and myriad links with the Continent and the world at large. One of its defining features is not only its disjunctive geography, but also the way in which humans and non-humans are linked together in heterogeneous and often unrecognized assemblages that contribute to the making of a uniquely Afropolitan urban form. In three keynote lectures, ten parallel sessions, one evening event and one musical performance, the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research invites you to explore this constantly evolving metropolis.

Tuesday, August 12

9:00 – 10:30 Keynotes

Chair: Pamila Gupta

Keith Breckenridge  The Making of Modern Johannesburg
Sarah Nuttall  Writing Johannesburg: Circa 2010-2014
Achille Mbembe  City Studies and the Anthropocene

10.30 – 10.45 Tea/Coffee

10.45 – 13:00 Platforms 1 and 2

Platform 1

Chair: Joshua Walker

Jameel Asani  Somali Migrants
Pamila Gupta  Portuguese Johannesburg
Christi Kruger  The New “Poor Whites”

**Platform 2**

*Chair: Catherine Burns*

M. Kottakkunnummal  Generic Antiretrovirals
Geronimo Thusi  Policing Sex
Melekiyas Zulu  Spirituality in a Wasteland

13:00 – 14:00  **Lunch**
14:00 – 16:00  **Platforms 3 and 4**

**Platform 3**

*Chair: Sarah Nuttall*

Edgar Pieterse  Digital Artefacts
Kim Gurney  The Life and Death of an Atelier
Nicky Falkof  Garden Cottages

**Platform 4**

*Chair: Kirk Sides*

Cheryl Stevens  Skyline for Sale
Jason Frenkel  Arts on Main
Claire Rousell  Emerging Nature Cultures
16:00 – 16:15  Tea/Coffee

16.15 – 17.30  Platform 5

Platform 5
Chair: Achille Mbembe

Bettina Malcomess  Not No Place?
Philip Harrison  Assemblage in Context
Solam Mkhabela & Kirsten Dormann  Urban Compounding and Zwakala & Kaneno
Edward Webster & Luli Callinicos  Surviving on the Margins

Wednesday, 13 August

9:00 – 11:00  Platforms 6 and 7

Platform 6
Chair: Tim Wright

Brett Pyper  Jazz and Intimate Publics
Amber- Jade Geldenhuys  Art, Design and (In)security
Daniela Goeller  Reading Subcultures
Ntamack Serge  Science and Knowing

**Platform 7**

*Chair: Dhammamegha Annie Leatt*

- Wamuwí Mbao  Township Car-Wash
- Dipalesa Mpye  Informal Hairdressing
- Tracy Ledger  Food Networks

11:00 – 11:15  **Tea/Coffee**
11:15 – 13:00  **Platform 8**

**Platform 8**

*Chair: Achille Mbembe*

- Fiona Rankin-Smith  Migrant Journeys
- Matthew Solomon  Capitalism and Xenophobia
- Alice Nevin  The Gentrification of Maboneng

13:00 – 14:30  **Lunch & Musical Performance**
- Clare Loveday and Mareli Stolp

14:30 – 16:30  **Platforms 9 and 10**
**Platform 9**

*Chair: Sarah Duff*

Clare Loveday & Mareli Stolp
City as Phantasmagoria

Erin Bosenberg
Listening for Narrative

Laura Burocco
Wandering as a Political Exercise

Clive Kellner
The Johannesburg Art Gallery

**Platform 10**

*Chair: Jonathan Klaaren*

Raymond Nyapokoto
Fanon and Gated Communities

Alexandra Mary Parker
Johannesburg Films

Charles Villet
Rich Master and Poor Slave

Lauren Kent
Inner City Childhood

**16.30 – 17:00**

**Closing Comments**

WiSER Seminar Room,
6th Floor, Richard Ward Building,
East Campus,
Wits University