

# Urban Governance through the lens of housing: narratives of African cities

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR AN EDITED BOOK

**Margot Rubin, Sarah Charlton, and Neil Klug (eds.)**

Cities are complex agglomerations with diverse dynamics and actors, but there is broad consensus that governance is key to understanding how they function, their politics and to gaining a clear sense of the reasons for their current morphology. Given the importance of this governance dimension, this serves as a call for scholars working in and on the African continent to submit abstracts for an edited collection on urban governance as understood through the lens of housing. We seek analytical accounts that engage with the urban governance dynamics and impacts of housing programmes and housing projects across all forms of human settlements. These accounts could include insights into the relationships between parties and actors undertaking projects or whose housing activities impact on the city; including issues of power distribution, the visions or agendas motivating these actions, and the instruments used to advance them. More generally, we are interested in what insights these housing analyses offer into the areas of political-economy and urban governance. Examples that would be of interest include the rise of mega housing projects; private sector driven residential developments; unobtrusive transformations of existing building stock (including inner city residential buildings), establishment and upgrading of informal settlements; and state driven low cost housing schemes (including site and service schemes).

Interested scholars should please submit a 400-500 word abstract of original work describing their case and the dimensions of urban governance that it reveals, as well as an indication of the literature it engages with, to the three editors: [Margot.Rubin@wits.ac.za](mailto:Margot.Rubin@wits.ac.za), [Sarah.Charlton@wits.ac.za](mailto:Sarah.Charlton@wits.ac.za) and [Neil.Klug@wits.ac.za](mailto:Neil.Klug@wits.ac.za) by the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020. A first full draft would be required by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and an online workshop will be held in late April 2021, to develop the conceptual and theoretical relationships between the chapters. After further revision each chapter and the collection as a whole will be peer reviewed.

Please note the editors are in discussion with an interested publisher, but a full proposal will be developed and negotiated once chapter outlines have been received. If there are any queries, these can be directed to [Margot.Rubin@wits.ac.za](mailto:Margot.Rubin@wits.ac.za) Please note that this is a joint initiative between scholars at the Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies (CUBES); the NRF Research Chair in Spatial Analysis and City Planning and the School of Architecture and Planning, all based at the University of the Witwatersrand.

