



URBANISING LANDSCAPES AND TRADITIONS OF CHANGE IN AFRICA AND BEYOND

21 May 2019
09:00–17:00

A workshop organised by the Aarhus [IHOPE](#) Hub

Extreme climate risks are recognised as the most severe threat to fast-growing cities across the globe, and especially in Africa. As most world governments commit to reduce carbon emission at COP24 (2018), the role of science and research appears polarised between the scepticism of fossil fuel-dependent economies and the zealous but discordant efforts of climate change mitigating actions. In fast-urbanising economies, this missing link between data science and policy planning often translates into development initiatives that are designed to deliver sustainable responses to climate change global trends but fail to account for the social, economic and ecological impacts of localised climate extremes and anomalies. One might cite, for example, the impact of hydropower industry, which has become a major focus of climate-smart development strategies in emerging economies of the global south. Whilst supplying renewable energy to megacities, the building of hydropower plants also means reshaping the hydrology of entire regions, resettlement of people, and annihilation of long-established built environments. A similar degree of controversy is hampering efforts to model food security and heritage protection, especially in Africa, facing the fastest and largest transition from rural to urban living.

In an attempt to foster an interdisciplinary discourse, the Aarhus Hub of IHOPE will host a workshop to consider social and environmental implications of fast urbanising phenomena and increasing climate change sensitivity in Africa and beyond. Participants will offer perspectives and case studies on:

- Urban services and systems for producing and sustaining water and food security in the face of demographic growth and climate change sensitivity;
- Urban spaces and strategies for developing and maintaining resilient-built environments and landscape infrastructures;
- Urban cultures and what 'city' and urban living mean in different socio-cultural contexts.

Venue

Centre for Urban Network Evolutions, Aarhus University
Moesgård Allé 20, DK-8270 Højbjerg, Building 4230, 2nd floor

RVPS by 5 May 2019 via email (sulas@cas.au.dk)

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PROGRAMME

09:00–09:15	<i>Welcome and introduction</i> Felix and Federica
09:15–09:45	Urbanising the Palmyrene Desert in Antiquity: looking for climate change as a factor Rubina Raja, <i>Department of Classics and UrbNet, AU</i>
09:45–10:15	Environmental change impacts in sub-Saharan Africa: beyond the social ramifications Innocent Pikirayi, <i>Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Pretoria and AUFF visiting professor, UrbNet</i>
10:15–10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:30–11:00	Beyond drought: developing artistic ethnographic methods toward exploring water scarcity Joshua Cohen & Martin Høbye, <i>Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, AU</i>
11:00–11:30	Eastern Africa's future mega-ports: Heritage, sustainability and maritime ecology challenges viewed in long-term perspective Paul Lane, <i>Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge</i>
11:30–12:00	Tema Port: How public and private Danish capacity development initiatives reflect Danish stakeholder interests in Ghana Annette Skovsted Hansen, <i>Department of Global Studies, AU</i>
12:00–13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:00–13:30	Afrofuturism Peter Mortensen, <i>Department of English, AU</i>
13:30–14:00	Plotting, Fencing and Developing Land in Northern Uganda Lotte Meinert, <i>Department of Anthropology, AU</i>
14:00–14:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:15–14:45	Indigenous African home-garden technique as a sustainable and climate-smart agriculture alternative Søren Munch Kristiansen, <i>Institute of Geoscience, AU</i>
14:45–15:15	Atmospheres in the urban Anthropocene Polina Chebotareva, <i>School of Architecture, Aarhus</i>
15:15–15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30–17:00	Roundtable discussion

Dinner for speakers at 19:00.

