

The Practice and Politics of Urban Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Efforts at the Margins

Abstracts

Session 1: The View from Malawi

Practice and Politics of Land Use for Urban Climate Mitigation and Adaptation in Blantyre and Lilongwe Cities, Malawi

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Land use is a cross cutting issue in urban development planning and management because all sectors of economic development take place on land. The rule of law in land use is critical not only for orderly urban development but also climate mitigation and adaptation. In recent decades there has been a sour relationship between political and planning decisions that shape land use. Competing interests vie to shape urban land use through political lens against attempts to rationalize decisions through urban planning procedures. Experience has shown that politics often triumphs leaving urban planners frustrated and communities at risk. Public discourse has attached urban disasters as an outcome of planning failure. However, the public interest of land use through informed and objective analysis is a central objective of urban planning and development support systems. Malawi's legal framework on controlling urban land use and development has not been effective. Illegal developments are taking place in the cities contributing to climate related disasters that destroy life and property. Some argue that the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11 may remain rhetoric if institutional machinery designed for purposes of development control and enforcement services are insufficient, underfunded and limited in capacity. Politics coupled with the lack of capacity at local level, inability to provide effective and up-to-date operational guidelines and compliance monitoring haunts urban land use planning and therefore climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Development of settlements in marginal areas receives both condemnation and praise depending on the political season yet climate disasters are on the increase. As such, how to better assess, communicate and respond to climate risks in urban Malawi has emerged as a key question in the practice and politics of urban land use for climate mitigation and adaptation. The paper discusses how different constructions of land use intersect with agency and power to shape the capacity for response and collective action for better climate mitigation and adaptation in Blantyre and Lilongwe Cities.

Key Words: Urban Politics, Land Use, Climate mitigation, Adaptation

Local level governance and urban adaptation- Experiences from working with communities in Mzuzu and Karonga

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The paper will discuss how governance at the local level impact the effectiveness of climate related adaptation efforts in urban areas. The paper will focus on reflective evaluative experiences from working with local neighborhood leaders and disaster committees in the Urban Ark Research Project in Karonga and Mzuzu. The research involved academic and community researchers using a spectrum of methods collaboratively to collect and analyse data and to implement small action research projects to deal with multiple disaster risks. The paper will argue that the local actors are bedeviled with rationality conflicts that are complicated by attempts at forcible state policy implementation. These situations can affect the realization of the goal of 'sustainable cities and communities.' Therefore, an understanding and harmonization of the local political governance structures and systems, is one way to effective adaptation efforts in urban areas.

Key words: urban governance, rationality conflict, DRR, adaptation, policy

Towards an integrated planning approach to urban climate change adaptation and mitigation in Malawi.

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Globally, cities have been blamed for their disproportionate contribution to climate change arising from the excessive emission of green house gases (GHGs)(Dodman, 2009). Rapid industrialisation and the unsustainable use and consumption of natural resources that characterise cities in more developed countries have largely been responsible for the excessive emission of GHGs that have been blamed for global climate change. However, in less developed countries (LDCs), including Malawi, the contribution of cities to climate change is minimal and almost negligible. Despite their minimal contribution to climate change, Malawian cities and urban centres are increasingly being affected by climate change-related shocks, such as flooding and drought. The urban-rural divide in Malawi is skewed heavily towards the latter as only 17% of the entire population lives in urban areas according to the 2018 population census. Official policy responses to climate change-related shocks have focused on the agricultural sector in rural areas. It is no wonder that inadequate policy attention as well as funding has been given to efforts aimed at urban climate change mitigation and adaptation in Malawi. In addition, efforts aimed at adapting to, and mitigating against, urban climate change shocks in Malawi are *ad hoc* and are not integrated with the approaches that have been widely employed for the rural sector. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 advocates for cities and human settlements that are safe, resilient and sustainable. One of the targets under SDG 11 calls for the adoption and implementation of **integrated** policies towards mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and implementation of holistic disaster risk management at all levels by 2020. If Malawi is to achieve the goal of sustainable cities as SDG 11 advocates, an integrated approach to urban climate change adaptation and mitigation in Malawi is called for.

Marginal Voices, Resilient Acts: Urban Marginality and Responses to Climate Events in Lilongwe City Informal Settlements.

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Urban informal settlements have, over the years, been centres of conflicting development debates yet, for people with low socio-economic status, these are areas of opportunities. However, the peripheral nature of these locations has far-reaching implications on how, people in these areas, participate in decision-making processes that affect them. Lately, the effects of climate events have also added another layer of socio-economic, political and environmental challenge to the dynamics of life in the marginal areas of the urban setting. The purpose of this paper is to critically examine how people in marginal informal settlements of Lilongwe City respond to climate events and interact with the wider ecosystem of development stakeholders. The major thesis of the paper is that while critical policy makers ignore these peripheral voices in the provision of basic services, an enhanced support to these informal settlements can prove positive if efforts are harnessed to mitigate urban marginality and amplify marginal voices to change social policies for the good of all. This paper uses the case of Lilongwe City where three informal settlements of Mtandire, Kaliyeka and Kawale, form part of the study.

Session 2: Regional Perspectives

Governing groundwater use amid climate risks in Lusaka

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This paper is an attempt to discuss and examines the planning and governance of water security in Lusaka specifically, ground water protection based on a planning process to develop a water security action and investment plan in the city of Lusaka. The paper discusses the recognised potential risk of climate change but also includes the informal social processes that threaten the sources of water for the city of Lusaka. The paper also aims at understanding the city's vision for a water secure city and how decision making and implementation processes already happening in the city can hinder or progress on climate change mitigation and water security. The paper takes the approach of examining the events and planning processes in a global south city in order to understand the context of the case in light of informal land allocation, encroachment on ground water resources/aquifers and how on the formal side, plans are being developed to protect water security. The paper argues that while best practices and visioning is occurring at a multi stakeholder institutional level, there are also informal processes and decisions that are being made in the city that could negatively impact the water security status in the city of Lusaka. The paper discusses how the Lusaka water security initiative which is a multi stakeholder initiative that is planning for water security through the creation of eco-parks and using various business models to protect the cities ground water resources. An assessment/discussion on the trans-disciplinary, multi stakeholder and integrated approach to planning for water security in the city of Lusaka will be done with regard to the opportunities identified through the Lusaka water security initiative. It is a diversion from a focus purely on infrastructural development, and discusses the social and decision making processes that may affect and amplify ground water security in Lusaka.

Organising for energy in Lusaka: Tales across the city

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As Zambia gears up to diversify its energy sources from the dominance of hydro-electric power whose vulnerabilities have been laid bare by successive droughts that have reduced generation capacity – in the capital Lusaka, its residents struggle to deal with regular power cuts. The impact of power load shedding has been devastating for key public services like health. It has also been crippling for the cities business and industry. In the city's high density informal settlements where the majority of residents live, businesses ranging from welding and carpentry stores that support the cities growing construction industry have been affected, so too those in the service sectors, such as hairdressers, restaurants and business cafes. Coupled with rising energy tariffs, unaffordable to many of the city's urban poor, residents have not only been re-organising their energy needs, they are re-arranging their lives around the energy crisis. Drawing on in-depth ethnographic cases, covering a transverse on neighbourhoods in Lusaka ranging from high to low density the paper explores how Lusaka's public sector, businesses and residents are experiencing and addressing unreliable energy and how they aim to deal with this in the short and medium and long term perspective. The paper analyses these cases within the framework of energy geographies (Huber 2015; Calvert 2016), infrastructural inequalities (Pilo' 2019, Trovalla and Trovalla 2015) and studies that look to the improvisational processes of self-provisioning and do-it-yourself urbanism. The paper contributes to studies on the differential experiences of energy insecurity in a context where changing climate patterns and energy needs have affected the reliability of hydro-power.

Saving Up for a Rainy Day? Savings Groups and Resilience in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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This paper explores the role of savings groups in resilience to urban climate-related disasters. Savings groups are a rapidly growing phenomenon across Sub-Saharan Africa. They are decentralized, non-institutional groups that provide millions of people excluded from the formal banking sector with a trusted, accessible, and relatively simple source of microfinance. Yet there is little work on the impacts of savings groups on resilience to disasters. In this paper we use a combination of quantitative and qualitative evidence from Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), to show that savings groups also play a role in helping households cope with climate-related shocks. We draw on new household survey data to shed light on the extent of mutual aid groups in the city and to measure the relationship between membership of these groups and resilience to floods. We find that nearly one quarter of households have at least one member in a group, and that households with member(s) are 16-25% more likely to have been able to save in the last month and 12-17% more likely to say they have access to informal finance (all other things being equal). They are also 10-12% more likely to have recovered from past flood events. Based on qualitative interviews, we then propose five pathways through which savings group membership can support household resilience: (i) saving and lending activity; (ii) informal insurance; (iii) non-financial mutual aid; (iv) collective enterprises; and (v) community service. All five have potential to enhance both individual household and community resilience to disasters such as floods.

Where is the state missing? Addressing urban climate change at the margins in Luanda and Maputo

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Climate change has become a more seriously debated issue since the beginning of the millennium, at least apparently. For being such a recent concern, the available definitions of what is at stake and what is needed to deal with it are often too broad, vague and even disputable depending on the interlocutors. In the context of urban climate change in Luanda and in Maputo, there is also an undefined set of tasks and responsibilities to deal with the impacts and prevent further effects on the poor urban dwellers. This paper will identify the recurrently mentioned areas where the state is considered to be absent – and should be more present – using both the available literature and accounts of expert stakeholders and the appraisals and claims of the urban dwellers. Based on fieldwork conducted in Luanda and in Maputo, it will confront the existing legal and policy dispositions, the existing systems to deal with climate change and resources, with what policy stakeholders and practitioners see that needs to be improved. This will be simultaneously confronted with what urban dwellers on the ground see as missing, urgent and capable of improving daily lives.

The Practice and Politics of Urban Climate Mitigation and Adaptation at the Margins of Maputo City

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Maputo is a fast growing city. The population is increasing essentially because of its high rate of natural growth. That growth is, also a, consequence of long and short term internal migrant, who move to the city for many reasons. Most of those migrants are looking for a better condition of life in Maputo, the capital city that concentrate more than 50% of national GDP. A significant part of Maputo is characterized by different types of environmental risks alongside socio-political and economic vulnerability of the major part of the households. People have growing living in a precariat environmental condition, associated with a lack of basic services such as: water supply, sewage drainage and waste management, in the context of unsustainable energy access.

Buy this, a kind of urban violence emerge, aggravated by a less presence of the government or unintended consequence of some public policies in the city. This together make people, especial those in the margins, to do things by their selves either to make their life reasonable. The pepper will be built up from several interdisciplinary research in which we have been involved in the last five years. The communication will suggest many, like: Understanding the plural meanings of margins; bring lessons from an experimental projects in participation and planning for climate change in a neighbourhood of Maputo. Understanding of alternative governance as a key process in supplying urban services, including energy access, in Maputo; understanding the role of migrants in building pathways to sustainability.

The multiscale approach will be adopted as methodology of the pepper. So, the political and institutional processes, will be accessed from local (Maputo city) to national level (Mozambique). Community or neighbourhoods scale will allow us to show the practices of urban climate mitigation, bringing some specific examples of adaptation efforts done by the marginalized peoples. Four neighbourhoods will be used as indicative and representative case of the urbanization and climate adaptation in Maputo.

Keywords: Urban Climate, Margins, Vulnerability, Environmental Risky, Governance, Adaptation.

Session 3: Beyond the regional

“Fruity” smells, sacred spaces, and the politics of waste in colonial Accra

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In December 1913, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, The Right Hon. L. Harcourt, MP, wrote to Governor Sir Hugh Clifford “announcing that I had definitely approved the drainage scheme for Accra.” The Advisory Medical and Sanitary Committee for Tropical Africa had reviewed proposals submitted by the Gold Coast government and endorsed a scheme designed by a Mr. Simms, with the consulting engineers recommending “immediate adoption”. Harcourt reported that “the Committee expressed the hope that the attention of the Government might be drawn to the great desirability of avoiding excessive waste of water partly on economic grounds and partly on grounds of sanitation in view of the fact that waste water especially near stand-pipes is apt to form a breeding place for mosquitoes.” In doing so, Harcourt and Gov. Clifford’s government committed to a project that united both an interest in generating revenue to enable the colony to be self-sustaining AND providing for new forms of urban infrastructural development in the name of public health. The Accra sewerage scheme would never be fully implemented due to the financial exigencies brought about by the ensuing world wars and global depression. However, the debates that unfolded over the next twenty-five years and the persistence of this colonial dream for a sewerage system for the city highlighted the parameters of contestation and negotiation in this urban colonial project. This paper explores the politics of waste in colonial Accra. When the British declared Accra the capital of their Gold Coast Colony in the 1870s, they sought to remake the politics of space and the culture of everyday life in the old town, which had long been settled by members of the Ga ethnic group. British efforts concentrated particularly on issues of “sanitation.” While sanitation debates included issues of road drainage, water provision, and rubbish collection, the most animated conversations centered on issues of sewage. What appears on the surface to be a relatively straight-forward conversation about public health highlighted fundamental cultural fissures over relatively mundane issues such as smell, bathing practice, and the organization of the household or compound. The resulting debates and policy proposals not only sought to remake the build environment of the city and its infrastructures of public service, but it also provoked new conversations about the physical or natural environment—in particular, the Korle lagoon—and its spiritual significance for local inhabitants.

Climate change and vulnerable groups in Cairo. Status quo and prospect low tech solutions.

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Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent. The most vulnerable to climate change are people in deprived areas with limited access to basic infrastructure. A one year exploratory and investigative action research study was carried out in Cairo in one of the historic neighborhoods that is now a mix of slums and poor-quality social housing. Walking interviews with local inhabitants supported by filed observations were the main tools used in this study supported by photo documentation and field notes for the main problems in the area. Also, locals’ adaptive solutions were discussed during the interviews and were noted during the site walks. After the investigative phase the site data were analyzed and synthesized to lay hands on the main problems with local comfort within their neighborhoods and

inside their buildings specially in summer time. Some low-tech solutions were proposed and tested in small test cubes on one of the roof tops in the neighborhood. The test cubes were monitored for two weeks to test the thermal performance of the proposed solutions for reducing heat gains from façades and roofs. 8 cost efficient solutions were tried out from local recycled materials that can be found easily at almost no cost in the neighborhood. The 8 solutions were compared to each other to evaluate their efficiency and durability as well. The paper will discuss the outcome of the interviews and will shed lights on locals' adaptive solutions to the gradual rise in temperature given the poor urban and building quality in their neighborhoods. In addition, the paper will show the outcome of the 8 test cells as a mitigation strategy and locals preference for the proposed solutions. There is evidence for climate change that can't be denied and there are clear causes which have sever effects on our planet. Hopefully this research will contribute with some temporary solutions and pave the road for more actions to take.

DIY Urbanism and Everyday Practices of Sustainability in Detroit: Lessons from Urban Africa in America's "Comeback" City

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The paper situates Detroit in a conversation with African cities that share similar experiences of precarity, inequality, and urban compartment(s) often characterized by improvisation and unpredictability. The paper thus draws from works by Simone, Pieterse, Trefon, and other Africanist scholars to understand processes of contemporary urban practice(s) in Detroit. I discuss preliminary findings from fieldwork conducted in Detroit, Michigan during autumn 2018. The research investigates climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts at the urban "margins" in situations of uneven state presence. Given the state's long inability to provide services due to a lack of resources, Detroit has a lengthy history of citizen-led initiatives that have tried to fill the service provision void. These grassroots efforts continue into the present. Questions engaged in the paper, include: what are the limitations and advantages for using urban theory developed in / for Africa in comparative context? How do urban citizens living with, and in, persistent and pervasive socio-economic, political, and spatial uncertainty conceive and implement sustainable climate solutions? What can formal institutions learn from solutions that happen "outside" the purview of the state? Throughout the essay, I advocate for the applicability of Africanist urban theory outside the Global South. Via observations, interviews, and document analysis, I pursue the above questions via the examination of themes connected to urban agriculture, eco-housing movements, and infrastructure decay.