

International conference

MIDDLE CLASS URBANISM IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: ROUTES, SHAPES AND ASPIRATIONS

CALL FOR PAPERS

MAPUTO, FEBRUARY 26th-28th, 2018

Organised by: The 'Middle Class Urbanism' Research Team
& The Department of Anthropology, Aarhus University



Conference theme

This conference focuses on the dynamic, multi-stranded and highly complex relationship that exists between the emerging middle classes and urban development in the Global South. It aims to promote an exploratory dialogue based on accounts from different urban contexts and with various analytical perspectives, in order to reach new interdisciplinary insights and refine research questions concerning this dynamic relationship.

The rising global middle classes are at the centre of international debates. Indeed, for many analysts and researchers, they are considered crucial for generating macro-economic growth and democratic stability. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, the rising middle class is diagnosed on the basis of the urban population's shifting consumption patterns. The middle classes in Africa have, in a liberal capitalist logic, also been associated with the "prediction" that they are key drivers for socioeconomic improvement and a better urban future. Throughout the region's cities, such optimistic estimations already affect and transform urban development, by, for instance, encouraging commercial initiatives and development plans on different societal levels – e.g. . It might thus seem that the alleged growth of the middle class has become a platform for realising

ideals of a proper city and a proper society, as well as of proper social and political belonging and recognition.

The organisers encourage participants to consider the following questions:

What happens to a city when the middle class starts to grow? How does the rise of an urban middle class influence urban development and how does it change or rebalance the actors and agencies involved in the production of urban space? Which kind of new patterns of urban expansion, housing typologies and city models does it encourage? How do the middle classes manifest themselves as societal forces that potentially shape new and emerging urban spaces? How do they influence renewed forms of urban citizenship and urban anxieties/aspirations? To what extent, and in what way, are they key drivers for new or changing city models?

We aim at organising a compact group of interdisciplinary researchers from various fields, including anthropology, urbanism and architecture, design and arts, geography and planning, sociology, urban economy, development economy, history, ethnography, development studies, culture studies, public management and policies. Academics and professionals from the public and private sectors and development agencies are also warmly welcome to respond to this call.

Comparative cases, fieldwork outputs, life stories are also welcomed.

Abstract submission:

Authors/researchers can send abstracts of up to 250 words to anna.mazzolini@cas.au.dk and florabotelho@cas.au.dk, specifying affiliation and attaching a short biography (100 words).

Formats: Authors can elaborate full papers, posters or speeches supported by PowerPoint presentations. Full papers should not exceed 6000 words.

Important dates:

- Deadline for abstract submission: December 1st, 2017.
- Communication of accepted abstracts: December 15th, 2017
- Confirmation of participation in the conference: February 1st, 2018

Conference fee: No conference fee is required but participants (or related institutions) must cover travel costs to Maputo. Depending on the number of participants, some accommodation may be provided. Further information regarding accommodation will be provided by the conference organisers when papers are accepted.

Conference outputs: The aim is to publish a selection of papers in a leading peer-reviewed journal.

For any inquiry or additional information please contact anna.mazzolini@cas.au.dk and florabotelho@cas.au.dk. More information will soon be available on the conference website (currently under development).

The Middle-class Urbanism Project.

The conference is organised by the research project “Middle Class Urbanism: An interdisciplinary study of the physical reordering of urban sub-Saharan Africa”, which is funded by the Danish Council for Independent Research (FKK) and will run from 2017-2020. The project uses the specific example of Maputo as a lens for investigating rapid urbanization processes in sub-Saharan Africa more generally. It places special emphasis on the radical transformations of the built environment caused by ‘middle class urbanism’, conceptualised as an assemblage of practices - crosscutting the legal and the illegal, the formal and the informal – that is structured by ideas of privacy and social-cum-physical security as key factors for improving the quality of urban life.

More information about the MCU project and sub-projects can be found at the following link:

<http://projects.au.dk/middleclassurbanism/>

Scientific Committee members

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