

## Session: **African Urban (History) Matters. Collaborative Research between UGent and UWC/UNIKIN**

organizers: prof. Johan Lagae & prof. Michiel Dehaene, Dept. of Architecture and Urban Planning, UGent

with the participation of: prof. Premesh Lalu (UWC), prof. Patricia Hayes (UWC), prof. Bradley Rink (UWC), prof. Jacob Sabakinu Kivilu (UNIKIN), Luce Beeckmans (UGent), Konstantijn Verbrugge (tbc)

### **Abstract**

Over the last decade, the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning of Ghent University together with research groups and scholars from the University of Western Cape (South Africa) and the History Department of the University of Kinshasa, has been engaging in urban research, both in Cape Town, South Africa, and various cities in Central-Africa, such as Kinshasa, Lubumbashi and Matadi. Firmly embedded in the domains of history and theory of architecture and urbanism, which is one of the Department's strongholds, this research has focused both on past and contemporary challenges in the making and shaping of urban landscapes by a variety of stakeholders: architects, planners, central and municipal administrations, as well as the inhabitants. While our investigation draws mainly on archival research and fieldwork, an important part of it often consists also of mapping exercises and the production of forms of interpretative cartography.

In this session we will, first, present some of the outcomes of this research, which has so far been conducted in close collaboration with master students, and discuss with our partners some of the opportunities as well as challenges met along the way. Two case-studies in particular will be addressed: (1) an investigation of the Voortrekker Road, an 18 kilometer long strip in the Cape Town Metropolitan Area, and (2) an analysis of the development of the urban form of the port city of Matadi, Congo, during colonial times. In both cases, we will argue that a sound understanding of the origin of these particular urban environments is crucial to think their futures.

Finally, this session will also include a discussion on where we can take this collaboration further in the future, and address about, among others, a future collaboration between UWC and UGent related to the establishment of an International Institute for Advanced Studies in Arts and Humanities in Cape Town, South Africa, an initiative of UWC's Centre for Humanities Research.

### **Schedule**

9h30-9h40: introduction / Johan Lagae & Michiel Dehaene

9h40 – 10h00: Mapping Matadi. Towards a historical atlas of a port city / Johan Lagae, Jacob Sabakinu Kivilu, Luce Beeckmans

10h00-10h15: Mapping Voortrekker Road / Konstantijn Verbrugge (tbc), Michiel Dehaene, Johan Lagae

10h15-10h30: Voortrekker Gateways: notes on a photography seminar at UWC / Patricia Hayes

10h30-10h45: Patterns of exclusion and inclusion along Voortrekker Road. Ongoing research at UWC / Bradley Rink

10h45-11h00: The Establishment of an International Institute for Advanced Studies in Arts and Humanities in Cape Town, South Africa. Starting a new collaboration between UWC & UGent

11h00 – 11h30: Final discussion with participants & audience “Engaging in urban (history) research between North & South. Opportunities & challenges”