

EORC TALK – Talk at the Earth Observation Research Cluster

Eberhard Rothfuß & Axel Prestes Dürrnagel

Chair of Social and Population Geography | Department of Geography | University of Bayreuth | 95447 Bayreuth | Germany
in cooperation with Axel Prestes Dürrnagel (University of Kaiserslautern-Landau) & Thomas Dörfler (Friedrich Schiller
University Jena)

Revealing a „Life-World“-Perspective for the Global Urban South: Methodological and Empirical Reflections from the Rural-Urban-Interface of Maputo (Mozambique)

Cities in sub-Saharan Africa are growing at an unprecedented rate, resulting in the significant expansion of peri-urban spaces in the „ordinary city“ (ROBINSON, 2006). Postcolonial planning reflects the instrumental rationale continued by colonial legacies and largely fails to take the realities of the peri-urban population into account. As the empirical example of Maputo, the Mozambican capital, demonstrates, the consequences are far-reaching. Implementing individual land titling programs promotes the commodification of space and the individualization of collective life, while the modernist vision of a homogeneous physical order leads to the socio-spatial alienation of existing residents and large-scale displacements. Employing a “life-world”-approach in Alfred Schütz’s tradition of a “sociological phenomenology” (SCHÜTZ & LUCKMANN, 1973), this presentation brings the everyday reality of peri-urban dwellers into focus. Building on place-based research and life-world analytical ethnography as methodology, the reconstruction of practices and experiences illuminates the “paramount reality” (SCHÜTZ, 1945) of everyday life in Maputo and beyond - as necessary entry points for an urban planning agenda in the Global South that reconciles both the life-world of the people and the instrumental realities of state, planning actors and market logics.



Monday, 14th of July, 03 p.m. | Seminar room 1 (00.B.04), John-Skilton-Str. 4a