

LIVING ON THE MARGINS
**International Conference - Vulnerability, social
exclusion and the state in the informal economy**
Cape Town, South Africa, 26-28 March 2007

LOM ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS

1. Band-aid, banditry or bricolage? Cattle production in the borderlands of the Eastern Cape province.

By:

Andrew Ainslie.

Rangeland Management

South Africa

ABSTRACT

Poverty in South Africa, the refrain goes, is concentrated among rural black people, especially those resident in the former bantustans. In this regard, cattle ownership/production stands out as a significant anomaly in attempts to understand and theorise poverty and marginalisation in - and of - the former bantustans, including those of the Eastern Cape. As long-term urban-based employment prospects for especially underskilled black males contract ever further, the burgeoning numbers of cattle (and small-stock) across the communal lands in the past decade attest to the continued (albeit contested) cultural currency of cattle, particularly in light of their almost unique capacity to shore up savings, i.e. to serve as the 'four-legged bank' of choice à la Ferguson (1990) and Comaroff & Comaroff (1990).

But who are the owners and keepers of cattle and what contribution can/do cattle make to attenuating livelihood vulnerabilities over time (Dovie *et al* 2006)? How are we to conceptualise the 'niche' role of cattle in people's discourses and experiences of poverty and in their various attempts - both admirable and abject - to assuage the socially cancerous consequences of lives lived on the edge, i.e. in spatially remote and materially impoverished circumstances (Shackleton *et al* 2001)? Where, for instance, do cattle - by any measure the biggest private investment in the rural economy (other than housing which is not nearly as fungible) - fit on the horns of the nebulous 'first' and 'second' economies dilemma? Do *all* four million-odd cattle in the Eastern Cape communal lands remain *stuck* in the spatially marginal 'second' (or 'subsistence') economy? Or do some cattle, specifically those in the borderlands between 'white, commercial' agriculture and the remote, so-called 'deep rural' areas, moo-ve to a different (economic) rhythm? In addressing these related questions, I suggest that it is significant that cattle are repeatedly and deliberately *made* to be culturally and socially 'sticky', to stand for and to work for relationships and for people as they engage with the changing, unitary (albeit segmented) economy on terms not of their own making.

The question really is this: is current-day cattle ownership, on the increase in the communal lands of the Eastern Cape, a monolithic, involuted cultural/conservative brake on trajectories out of poverty (an ironic case of 'non/accumulation from below') or is it a constantly evolving, economically creative and culturally resonant response to severe and persistent structural disadvantage, or ultimately, a mixture of both? After briefly reviewing colonial, apartheid-cum-bantustan-surrogate and post-1994 state approaches to cattle 'development' (see Ainslie 2002), I argue that the cattle in the borderlands, i.e. the districts that have long been borders between commercial settler farmers and the communal, former bantustan lands, may hold some of the answers to this question and shed light on possible pathways out of poverty.

2. Informality And Persistent Poverty: Pathways And Time Dimensions

By:

Dr. Armando Barrientos
IDS, University of Sussex

ABSTRACT

One in every two workers in Latin America is in informal employment. The share of the labour force in informal employment has risen in the last two decades across the different groups of informal workers. Recent research on informal employment in Latin America has sought to draw the implications from the heterogeneity observed among informal workers for the conceptualisation and measurement of informality. Empirical research using longitudinal survey data has also noted the presence of wide margins in between formal and informal employment, and a good measure of mobility across sectors. These findings suggest caution in drawing a direct link between informal work and poverty, and especially chronic poverty. Surprisingly, research on the relationship existing between informal work and poverty in Latin America is scarce. The paper makes a contribution to plugging this gap by examining the linkages existing between informal work and persistent poverty. It will focus on the conditions under which informal work drives households into persistent poverty, but it will also consider the extent to which informal work provides an escape route from it. The paper will pay special attention to the time dimension of informality and poverty, as well as to life course issues.

3. Migrant and Contract Labour in Global Production Systems – how to ensure decent work for the most vulnerable workers

Dr Stephanie Ware Barrientos
Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex
UK

ABSTRACT

The globalisation of production is driving the informalisation of work in export manufacture and agriculture, as well as greater mobility of workers within and across borders. This is reflected in the rise of economic migration (both internal and international), and the increased use of third party labour contractors in global production across developed and developing countries. This work provides economic and social opportunities for workers and their dependents. But they also face high levels of risk and vulnerability. Arrangements for the recruitment, employment and movement of workers are informal and complex across countries. Traditional forms of labour market regulation and delivery of employer based rights and benefits often fail to protect them. Trade union and labour organisations are often failing to reach or recruit them. This paper draws on case studies of migrant and contract labour in the horticulture and garments sectors of five countries (Bangladesh, Chile, India, South Africa and UK). It examines why the dynamics of global production is driving the intensified use of this type of labour. It identifies diverse informal arrangements for the movement and use of migrant and contract workers within and across countries. It examines the benefits and risks faced by migrant and contract workers, and their rights and protection deficits. It considers how migrant and contract workers might be better incorporated within the ILO decent work agenda (covering employment, rights, social protection and social dialogue) and the different strategies (international, regulatory and voluntary) that might help to support this increasingly vulnerable group of workers.

4. Women and Multiple Vulnerabilities: Opportunities and Constraints in Landed Property Ownership in the Informal Sector in Urban India

By:

Dr. Bipasha Baruah
Assistant Professor of Geography
California State University
Long Beach, CA 90840

ABSTRACT:

This paper explores the challenges and opportunities facing informal sector women in securing access to and control over landed property in low-income urban settlements in India through an exploratory research case study conducted in collaboration with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Ahmedabad. Qualitative research methods such as focus groups, semi-structured interviews, exposure and dialogue programs, and library and archival information were employed as means of data collection and verification.

Like men, women acquire property through inheritance, purchase in the market, and/or distribution by the state. However, unlike men, urban women face the following key challenges in securing access to and control over property: accessing joint titles to marital property; incurring higher formal and informal transaction costs for sale and transfer of property; and accessing adequate and appropriate financial services to facilitate purchase of new homes and upgradation of existing homes. The findings of this study further indicate that such obstacles interact with a range of other synergistic influences with differential gendered effects that also hinder women's ability to plan secure futures. These include: inadequate income and insecure employment; limited access to markets and the wider economy; concerns about physical safety resulting from the lack of basic amenities like toilets and street lights; the existence of pervasive gender-based employment discrimination; inadequate access to life, health and asset insurance; and pressure to demonstrate upward mobility through conspicuous consumption of consumer goods. The following policy measures would help to rectify the gender inequities in urban landed property ownership documented in this study: legislative reforms to facilitate urban women's access to joint property titles; policy change to waive or greatly reduce property sale and transfer related surcharges for low-income women; affirmative action legislation to ensure that women are able to translate vocational training into equal employment opportunities with men; and increased collaboration between public, private and community-based organizations on shelter provision and upgradation for low-income populations.

5. Jo Beall's abstract which is not submitted yet

6. Balancing Family And Labor Market Work: North-South Differences

By:

Lourdes Benería

Cornell University

ABSTRACT

This paper provides a human development framework to discuss some basic issues related to the reconciliation of paid and unpaid work. It does so in four parts. First, the paper begins with a discussion of the ways in which the notions of productive/reproductive and paid/unpaid work have been used at the theoretical and practical level. Second, it analyzes how the human development approach provides a useful framework for thinking through public policies dealing with this reconciliation. In particular, it makes use of A. Sen, M. Nussbaum and I. Robeyns's work in order to move forward the discussion. Third, based on the specific problems generated by labor market informalization and poverty in Latin American, it argues that the policies of reconciliation in Northern countries are designed to meet a different set of problems from those in the South; hence the need to understand similarities and differences between countries. Fourth, in order to elaborate this argument, the paper focuses on the processes of globalization of reproduction that affect many Latin American countries, including the loss of labor to the North and the feminization of emigration resulting from the increasing demand for care workers in the receiving countries. These processes have changed the structure of many families and the framework through which to discuss reconciliation policies, particularly in the South.

7. 'Remittances, Poverty Reduction And The Informalisation Of Household Wellbeing In Zimbabwe'

By:

Dr. Sarah Bracking and Professor Lloyd Sachikonye

IDPM, Univeristy of Manchester

UK

ABSTRACT

Evidence from household surveying in 2005 and 2006 in Harare and Bulawayo indicates that a wide network of international migrant remitters are ameliorating the economic crisis in Zimbabwe by sending monetary and in-kind transfers to over 50 % of urban households. The research combines quantitative measurement of scale and scope, with demographic and qualitative narrative to build a holistic picture of the typography of receiving and non-receiving households. A complex set of interrelated variables helps to explain why some households do and others do not receive income and goods from people who are away, and the economic and social extent of their subsequent benefit from them.

Moreover, the mixed methods approach is designed to capture inter-household and likely macroeconomic effects of how households receive their goods and money; and of how they subsequently exchange (if applicable), store and spend it. Evidence emerges of a largely informal, international social welfare system, but one which is not without adverse inter-household effects for some. These include suffering exclusion from markets suffering from inflationary pressures, not least as a result of other people's remittances. This paper explores the role of remittances, within the internationalised informal welfare system which we can map from our household survey, in reframing vulnerability and marginalization differentially among and between our subject households.

8. Globalization, Labour Regulation and Rising Inequalities in South Africa

Dr. Marlea Clarke
Labour Studies Programme
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

Focus: (1) The scope and changing nature of South African labour policies resulting from globalisation and recent development discourses advocated by international development agencies; (2) the impact of labour market regulation on economic security of vulnerable populations in South Africa.

Abstract: Researchers, unionists and policy makers have generally applauded South Africa's new regulatory framework for the labour market as 'pro-labour', and argue that new labour laws have begun to address poverty and deeply rooted inequalities. According to this view, rising unemployment, poverty, the expansion of informal, casual and other forms of precarious employment, and growing inequalities have been the result of other policies – GEAR, trade liberalisation, privatisation, trade and industrial policies – not of labour legislation itself.

This paper advances a different view. Certainly, trade liberalisation, privatisation and the broader processes of economic restructuring have put pressure on the labour market and created an environment in which job creation is difficult. And, the adoption of employment equity legislation and labour law reforms have led to some gains for marginalised workers, particularly women and skilled black workers. However, these gains remain modest in the face of widespread employment shifts and deteriorating employment conditions. I contend that the nature and structure of regulation and shrinking sphere of effective coverage have all been key causes of rising precariousness, inequality and poverty. Thus, the new regulatory framework has contributed to (re)shaping and reinforcing poverty, inequality and socio-economic marginalisation in post-apartheid South Africa.

This paper will explore how changes to employment standards in South Africa have impacted the economic security of vulnerable populations by engaging with policy and theoretical debates, and by exploring employment shifts and segmentation between 1994-2006. It will critically engage with academic debates and recent development discourses advocated by international development agencies by exploring how various development discourses define the relationship between state, civil society and the market, and will assess the implications of these for labour regulation and employment standards. It will also draw on extensive primary research carried out between 1998-2003 for my doctoral dissertation on the racial and gendered dimensions of precariousness work in South Africa's retail sector.

9. Informalization, Poverty and Inequality in Kinshasa (DRC)

By:

Dr. Tom De Herdt & Wim Marivoet
Institute of Development and Policy Management
University of Antwerp, Belgium

ABSTRACT

As a consequence of a concatenation of external and internal events, the economy of Congo DRC has informalised to an unprecedented level over the last decades. Yet, a comparison between historical datasets and a recent household survey in the capital city of Kinshasa demonstrates that surprisingly, this process of informalisation has *not* resulted in over-all economic *regress*, a result which confirms earlier conclusions based on trends in human development indicators. Further, informalization does seem to go hand in hand with increasing income inequality. On the basis of household survey data and secondary sources, the paper tries to connect these phenomena to their underlying causes. On the one hand, we trace this particular evolution in the capital city to the position of the city in relation to both its hinterland and the global economy. The observed change in urban diets directly connects to shifts in production patterns in the interior as well as in changes in external trade flows. On the other, we look at the role of classical markers like gender, ethnicity and education in generating and sustaining inequality. Unexpectedly, education remains an important predictor of inequality even in a thoroughly informalised economy. This finding has to be connected to a critique of analyses of informality as a neatly bounded sector. If this view is at all relevant, it is not applicable to Kinshasa.

Key words:

Informalisation, inequality, poverty, Kinshasa

10. No title

By:

Lisa Del Grande,
Director of Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA)
South Africa

ABSTRACT

"Farms came to the people. Our great grandparents were already here when the land was ruled by Amakhosi. The Amakhosi were removed through wars between AmaZulu and the Whites, with the intention to grab our land and make it their own. The Zulus failed. That is why we are being oppressed by the whites. We do not have a say with regard to land ownership. That's how our grandparents found themselves oppressed just as we are"

"Because of the history of apartheid in South Africa white people came to our country and took everything we had including livestock, land etc and as a result of that we ended up dependant on them."

"It's because of battles that took place. Black people lost and White people took all the land. They placed us in small places in the townships and divided us and made us their slaves. The new government is a ploy to make us think we are being given our land back."

Responses from three farm dwellers in KZN when asked why there are farm dwellers on farms in South Africa – 2005 workshop report: AFRA

Farm dwellers in South Africa remain marginalized in 2006 despite the promulgation and implementation of integrated development planning approaches and various government programmes aimed at transformation. This paper argues that the political discourse that suggests post-94 transformation agendas will eradicate this marginalization is flawed. On the contrary, the reliance of these agendas on planning paradigms and practices that are embedded in power dynamics that serve the interests of dominant economic and/or ethnic groupings will in fact consolidate and further exacerbate the marginalization of farm dwellers in SA. New approaches to planning are therefore necessary.

In 2003, AFRA undertook work with farm dwellers in KwaZulu-Natal in order to support them to articulate their own understanding of their situation. What emerged clearly is that farm dwellers understand their marginalization firstly as a construct of apartheid planning and development, and secondly, as an ongoing construct of post-apartheid planning and development. This paper aims to explore and understand this particular perspective of marginalization.

To do this the paper will consider planning theory concepts of marginalization both internationally and in the South African context. This will be done working

with the theory that power relations create and perpetuate marginality in the interests of dominant economic or ethnic groupings and that planning practices are a powerful tool in the hands of such dominant groups.

The role of planning, as an institution and in its practices and its contribution to creating and perpetuating such marginalization through theory and practice in South Africa, is critical to examine given the emphasis placed on such profession and practice in economic and planning discourse (including Integrated Development Plans). The ability or inability of such discourses to explain such marginalization and address it will also be considered.

Finally the paper will examine collaborative and insurgency planning theories in practice where farm dwellers have (as examples) or can (as proposals) shift power relations that perpetuate their marginalization. Within this it will comment on the possible role of the planning profession as an institution and of planners in redressing marginality.

11. "Living in the Background: Home based Women Workers in South and South East Asia"

By:

Donna Doane

Research Consultant

ABSTRACT

For low-income women in developing countries, informal homebased work may be one of the few options open to them, either as subcontracted workers (as industrial outworkers) or, more commonly, as self-employed workers. As with others working in the informal economy, in South and South East Asia homebased workers usually are not covered by laws regarding labor or social protection – the laws either do not exist, or they are not implemented. In addition, as a primarily female workforce operating out of homes or neighborhood workshops, homebased workers have not been recognized as workers in spite of the fact that they are frequently the main and sometimes sole providers for their families. As women, they are usually classified as "housewives" in census data or are assumed to be making only "supplemental" income, which justifies their very low earnings and lack of support, even though they are often the main breadwinners or co-breadwinners in the family.

Drawing on recent studies carried out by HomeNet South East Asia and HomeNet South Asia/Institute of Social Studies Trust, this paper will discuss the relationship between homebased work, gender and poverty – i.e., some of the forces that bear on the incidence of poverty and vulnerability among homebased workers in South and South East Asia. It will also begin to explore some of the linkages between the intergenerational persistence of poverty and homebased work, and a few of the strategies pursued by homebased workers to deal with their vulnerable conditions. Implications will then be drawn for social protection and other efforts to reduce the poverty and vulnerability of homebased women workers.

12. In search of South Africa's Second Economy

Andries du Toit

David Neves

Since 2003, South African policy discourse about persistent poverty has been dominated by the notion that poor people stay poor because they are trapped in a 'second economy', disconnected from the mainstream 'first world economy'. This paper considers the adequacy of this notion in the light of research conducted in 2002 and 2005 in Mt Frere in the rural Eastern Cape, and in Cape Town's African suburbs. It argues that a process of simultaneous de-agrarianization *and* de-industrialization has created a heavy reliance on a formal sector in which employment is becoming increasingly elusive and fragile. Rather than a 'second economy' disconnected from the first, fieldwork suggested high levels of integration, corporate penetration and monetization even in the remote rural Eastern Cape: the problem is not that people are *excluded* from the mainstream economy, or that the region is excessively remote or 'laggard'; rather it is that people are included on adverse terms. Within this context, survival relies on complex practices of reciprocity in spatially extended urban-rural networks, and on widespread, elusive, economically crucial but fragile forms of informal economic activity and self-employment. The dynamics of these diverge significantly from those imagined both in 'second economy' and in 'SMME' discourse. The paper concludes by highlighting some questions raised by the 'lack of fit' of dominant conceptions of economic activity at the margins of the South African economy.

13. The Occupations Of Economically Marginalized Disabled People: Two Stories Of Coping With Mental Illness And Chronic Poverty

By:

Madeleine Duncan and Akona Mbombo
University of Cape Town

Psychiatric disability is neglected in poverty research; this despite the fact that one member in every four families in the world is living with a mental disorder and that disability is recognised as a contributing factor in why poor households stay poor. To be poor is to be marginalised. To be mentally ill and poor is to be doubly marginalised but this does not negate the existence of or potential for a robust occupational narrative. Occupation refers to the ordinary things that people do everyday and the way they expend their time, energy, interests and skills in meeting their needs (Christiansen & Townsend, 2004). By shedding light on the survival occupations and occupational performance of mentally ill persons living in chronic poverty, the structural factors influencing social policy may be better appreciated. While the employment potential of the two individuals whose stories will be told may be constrained by structural and organic factors such as stigmatisation, relapse, inadequate public health services and high rates of unemployment, they are not poor because of lack of personal action. Drawing from innate and systemic asset bases they actively contribute to the livelihood of their households through orchestrating a range of income generating activities. Together with members of their households they operate within assigned roles for securing a livelihood while negotiating the disjunctions between disability and chronic poverty through complex, yet coherent and highly adaptive systems of strategizing.

14. Marginalisation, Alienation, Gender and the Economy: An Overview Of All Nodes In The Urban Renewal Programme

By:

David Everatt
Strategy and Tactics
South Africa

ABSTRACT

The Department of Social Development has commissioned a quantitative baseline survey covering all 8 Urban Renewal Programme nodes, as well as qualitative research in those nodes around particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups. This paper will combine the (by then) just-completed cross-node baseline survey, the first of this kind, with node-specific qualitative research. The purpose would be at one level fairly simple, at another fairly complex, namely to use the research data to understand which social groups emerge as 'vulnerable' or 'marginalised' in the different urban nodes.

Using qualitative and quantitative data relating to economic activities; civic engagement; sexual and reproductive health rights and knowledge; alienation and anomie; delivery; health status; access to government services and other variables; as well as the narratives of socially marginal groups about who *they* think are the vulnerable groups in their respective locales – we hope to construct a formal research narrative that identifies (using standard measures) socially and economically marginal groups and then contrasts this with the stories and perspectives of poor residents from within those groups and communities about who is marginalised why, and what help they need.

At one level, as suggested above, the purpose is simple – to describe and analyse the extent to which measurably different or similar groups are marginalised – socially and economically – across the 8 poorest urban nodes in South Africa. This has policy implications of its own. As a second level, we wish to compare the identified groups with the stories told by people living in the communities, to see if and where there is an overlap between narratives, whether state- (or Constitutionally-) identified marginalised groups match what local people think, and the policy implications of this.

15. Working on the Margins: Social Exclusion and Integration in Artisanal Mining in Africa

By:

Eleanor Fisher and Rosemarie Mwaipopo
University of Swansea
UK

ABSTRACT

Studies of artisanal mining in Africa point to the way it is associated with marginalisation, often taking place in remote areas where the state is weak, elites control access to mineral resources, and exploitative forms of capital accumulation are manifest. Understanding the character and dynamics of poverty in artisanal mining communities is an important contemporary policy issue, given the current scramble for mineral resources taking place across the African continent, stimulated by economic liberalisation, privatisation of state-owned mining companies, removal of protective legislation, and buoyant international mineral markets.

This article examines whether the concept of social exclusion can contribute to our understanding of inequality and deprivation in marginalised artisanal mining communities. Using ethnographic material to explore a practical case of gold and diamond mining in Tanzania, it considers the causal factors and dynamics of social exclusion within mining communities. We outline how certain groups of people are excluded from access to mineral resources and related institutions, have no voice in resource management decision-making, and are incorporated into productive processes on terms that engender dependence and subordination. This is linked to an examination of the differential impacts of state interventions intending to integrate artisanal miners into the formal economy through the formalisation of mineral rights. This process is highly discriminatory, despite of policy makers, favouring people who are well educated with political connections and the 'know how' to gain rights over mineral resources. In this respect it is essential to understanding local power relations and the way they have played out historically around the development of mineral claims and exclusion from mineral resources.

It is found that although the concept of social exclusion is by no means ideal when applied to social policy discourses in Sub-Saharan Africa it nevertheless provides a useful means to analyse the ways in which people are excluded from the formal mineral economy or incorporated on terms that engender subordination and dependence, perpetuating chronic poverty within certain social groups.

16. Occupation: A Helpful Way Of Viewing What People Do Every Day And How They Respond To Poverty

By:

Marion Fourie

PhD Candidate – University of Cape Town

ABSTRACT

The way that occupational therapists use the term occupation differs from its conventional usage, meaning much more than a specific type of work. In this paper, occupation refers to *all that people need, want or are obliged to do*. A specific model of occupation, encapsulating the three elements of *doing, being and becoming* will be presented.

Findings of an in-depth case study will explore an occupational perspective of poverty and illustrate one woman's story. The study examined the way in which her occupations contributed to and facilitated her response to poverty, while at the same time allowing her to make meaning of her life. Concurrently, the impact of poverty on her occupations was examined.

A number of findings which may be useful to poverty researchers from other disciplines will be highlighted. These include constraining vs enabling environments, coping strategies, reciprocity (akin to the African practice of *ukusisa*, meaning lending with a view to enabling) and agency.

17. Seeking To Participate: Reconfiguring The Relationship Between The State And Street Vendors In Caracas, Venezuela.

By:

Marcia Garcia

PhD Candidate, Department of Land Economy
University of Cambridge

ABSTRACT

This paper examines how the state engages with street vendors in Caracas, Venezuela. The 1999 Constitution in Venezuela not only recognized non-dependent workers' 'right to work' but also opened up new political spaces for participation. Vendors' strategies to participate more fully in political life are analyzed through: (1) creation of new street vendor organizations, (2) election of vendor representatives for local councils pertaining to public policies, and (3) creation of newly registered political parties to enable vendors to run for public office. However, attempts to participate more fully in political life have not come unchallenged. Paradoxically, while the state formally promotes more inclusive policies, local state actors use informal strategies to exclude vendors from participating.

The study is centered on the four main street vending sites in the municipality Libertador in Caracas: Sabana Grande, El Centro, El Cementerio and Catia. Using both quantitative and qualitative methods, 'on the ground' data was collected during nine months of fieldwork in 2004-2005, which produced a database with 366 street vendor surveys, more than 50 interviews with both state and non-state actors, a collection of newspaper articles since 1985 and notes of direct observation.

The paper challenges notions that formal discourse of participation will produce more inclusive participation of marginalized workers. The paper argues that although vendors, and in particular its leaders, attempt to *reconfigure* the relationship between the state and street vendors, the state symbolically uses participation to gain legitimacy while privately reproducing exclusionary practices. The paper draws mainly from Bourdieu's extensive writings to see how structures of exclusion are reproduced through time.

18. Poverty, Gender and the Disability Grant in South Africa

By Beth Goldblatt
Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Wits University
SOUTH AFRICA

ABSTRACT

South Africa's social assistance system was designed around the needs of those who are unable to work as a result of their youth, age or disability. The Disability Grant (DG) is the third biggest social assistance grant after the Child Support Grant and the Old Age Pension. It has doubled in its reach from 600 000 people in 2000 to 1,3 million in 2004. The main reason for this is the Aids epidemic which is resulting in huge numbers of very ill people who are unable to work. Despite the extensive grant system that covers 10 million people, many more millions of desperate people look to the state for support. The DG is an obvious focus for adults who cannot access child or old age grants but who face poverty and joblessness.

The paper will discuss the findings of a fieldwork study that is currently in progress on the way in which the DG operates in practice and proposals for the improvement of the grant system. We will argue that any evaluation of the grant should not be gender-neutral. The experiences of women within the grant system need to be understood and their views, expectations and wishes recorded through research. Our assumption is that certain of the illnesses and disabilities that women suffer are not always properly understood or treated in the same way as those suffered by men, for the purpose of evaluation by officials who decide on the allocation of the DG. Women are infected with HIV in higher numbers than men so we expect to see a disproportionate number of women getting grants for AIDS related illnesses. Women take greater responsibility for the care and support of children in our society and are generally poorer than men so we also expect this to impact on women with disabilities and the way in which their needs are served by the social assistance system.

19. Limits of dualism

By:

James S. Heintz

Political Economy Research Institute

University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Theories of economic dualism are frequently used to analyse informal activities, informal employment, and the links between informal and formal economies. Dualist approaches divide economies and labour markets into a distinct formal, regulated, or “modern” sector and an informal, unregulated, or “traditional” sector. Economic opportunities are rationed in the formal sector and displaced individuals find employment in the informal economy.

This paper questions the usefulness of the dualist framework along three dimensions. First, the paper argues that complex relationships exist between formal and informal activities that extend well beyond dualism’s characterization of the informal economy as an undifferentiated residual category. Most all informal activities interact directly with and depend on the formal economy. Understanding the nature of these interactions is critical for developing appropriate policies. Second, the paper shows that formal jobs are becoming increasingly informalised in ways that cannot be captured by the simple dichotomy of dualist approaches. Finally, segmentation of the labour market, barriers to economic mobility, and rationing of opportunities are not limited to the formal economy, as suggested by economic dualism. Informal activities are diverse, informal labour markets are segmented, and informal workers are marginalized in ways that dualist theory ignores.

The paper will draw on data and research studies from a range of developing countries in outlining the conceptual and theoretical limitations of traditional dualist models.

20. Indispensable Livelihoods Wiped Out? : The Case of Street Vending in Malawi's Urban Centers.

By:

Happy M. Kayuni and Richard I.C. Tambulasi

University of Malawi, Political and Administrative Studies Department

ABSTRACT

According to the World Bank and United Nations indicators, Malawi is one of the poorest countries in Africa. During the one party rule of Dr Banda from 1964 to 1993, it was against the government policy to mention that the country is poor. Dr Banda used to argue that Malawi was one of the richest in Africa. Being an agriculture based economy, Dr Banda encouraged people to work on their farms; hence the informal sector was largely suppressed.

When the multiparty system of governance was introduced in 1994, a new government led by a business tycoon Bakili Muluzi of UDF introduced business loans to assist Malawians set up informal businesses. Consequently, the informal sector – mainly street vending- mushroomed in all the urban centers of Malawi. The president himself said that he was patron of the street vendors. Due to a large number of vendors, the streets were often becoming impassable and unhygienic. City and municipal authorities failed to remove the vendors from the streets as they were strong supporters of the ruling UDF and its leadership - from whom they drew some sympathy.

When another president Dr Bingu wa Mutharika, an economist and former World Bank employee, took over the government in 2004, he insisted that all vendors must be removed from the streets. In April 2006, he mobilized the police and the army through what was termed *Operation Dongosolo* (*dongosolo* means order) to remove all vendors from the streets. This was effectively implemented despite serious threat of opposition from vendors. The informal sector that had been a source of livelihood for most unemployed Malawians was wiped out within a matter of days. Using a qualitative approach, the study aims at finding out the impact of such a move on the social-economic livelihood of those who benefited from this informal sector and what alternative coping mechanism have been adopted to ensure their survival.

21. Global Peddlers And Local Networks: Producing Cosmopolitanism On The Margins

By:

Uma Kothari

IDPM

UK

ABSTRACT

This paper is based on the experiences of street traders from South Asia and West Africa who currently live and work in Barcelona. It argues that their experiences of travelling and their encounters in place challenge conventional notions of cosmopolitanism and parochialism, and their apparent dualism. In the 'informal' and marginal spaces inhabited, utilized and created by these traders they produce forms of non-elite cosmopolitanism through which livelihoods are sustained, social bonds strengthened and fluid, diasporic identities produced. These are enabled by the development and maintenance of globalised networks and allegiances that are negotiated in highly localised ways and are often based on religion, race, ethnicity, tribe and nationality. Thus, mobile and abiding cultural characteristics co-exist as peddlers blur the cosmopolitan/parochial divide. The paper introduces the notion of a strategic cosmopolitanism that emerges out of the need for vulnerable individuals and groups to make a living in an environment characterised by insecurity and concludes by enquiring whether there are temporal dimensions to their performance of cosmopolitanism.

22. Lines In The Sand: A Conceptual Exploration Of The Informal Worker, Employer, State Nexus And Social Protection.

By:

Dr Sunil Kumar

Department of Social Policy

London School of Economics and Political Science

ABSTRACT

In a largely monetised urban context, the remuneration generated from waged, self-employed, contract and casual work is significant, as opportunities for self-provisioning (such as urban agriculture) are limited. Several issues are pertinent to contemporary discussions of vulnerability and the informal labour market. First, the evidence overwhelmingly points to the fact that the urban informal economy is not only here to stay but is growing and provides the only livelihood option for a significant proportion of the non-agricultural work force in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Second, a decline in regular waged work is pushing former salaried employees into the informal economy. Third, changes in employment practices as a result of globalisation, especially in new areas of comparative advantage (such as services), are giving rise to contract based employer-employee relationship with reduced welfare benefits. Finally, concerns relating to the informal economy in the 1970s, such as precarious, low-wage and irregular income, the lack of welfare benefits and poor working environments, remain the same in the 21st century.

This paper is conceptual and focuses on three questions relating to the vulnerability of informal workers. First, how best can informal workers secure social protection? Second, what form of social protection is most appropriate to the contemporary world of work? Third, what role should the state play in securing and safeguarding social protection for informal workers? This conceptual enquiry will be placed in the context of India where attempts are being made both by informal workers organisations to secure and the state to legislate and institutionalise social protection. This paper will argue that benefits of these actions are limited mainly because they are premised on traditional employer-employee relationships. There is an urgent need therefore to consider alternative forms and mechanisms to enhance the rights of informal workers to social protection.

23. From The Margins: A Web Of Possibilities For Disabled Women To Foster Social Change

By:

Dr. Theresa Lorenzo

Senior Lecturer, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

University of Cape Town, South Africa

ABSTRACT

Poverty and disability have been recognized as two of the greatest challenges for disabled people's organizations, as well as rehabilitation and development practitioners. The paper will present a PAR study with black disabled women living in impoverished communities that sought to explore the women's experience of disability and the strategies they created to participate in opportunities for social, economic and political development. The study highlights the human rights violations of disabled women as a marginalised and vulnerable group. Using Manfred Max Neef concepts of poverty as deprivation or potentiality, the barriers and strategies of disabled women who live in impoverished communities in Cape Town will be illustrated at an individual, family and community level. The outcomes from a PAR study with the women will be shared.

24. People On The Margins: Day Labourers At Informal Hiring Sites In Tshwane

By:

Mrs Huma Louw (Lecturer)

Dept of Social Work

Unisa

In spite of the country's recent economic growth a particular face of poverty has recently become more visible. In many cities and many towns in South Africa, day labourers, gathering at informal hiring sites or pick up points, eg. street corners or on shopfronts have become a familiar and regular feature. Day labourers are people, mostly men, who hope to sell their labour for a day or longer or for a specific job in order to earn something. Since the lifting of legislative restrictions on the movement of people and the institution of recent new labour legislation they have become more visible.

The aim of this paper is to present the results of a survey conducted during September 2004 involving a sample of 240 day labourers from 60 informal hiring sites in Tshwane. The paper will include a brief introduction on marginalisation/exclusion and of Max-Neef's view of poverty as multiple poverties. The findings of the survey will be presented to illustrate how day labourers experience poverty and marginalisation on all these levels.

25. Street Vending In Post-Operation Murambatsvina Harare: The Case Of Female Vendors In Machipisa, Highfield Township.

By:

Kudakwashe Manganga
MPhil Student at PLAAS
Zimbabwe

ABSTRACT

The paper examines the dynamics of street vending by female traders in Highfield Township in lieu of Operation Murambatsvina. The Clean Up Campaign that was launched in 2005 impacted on the informal sector and the livelihoods of thousands of urban households. The paper analyses the everyday struggles and engagement between local government and street vendors, whose relationship is currently an antagonistic one.

With an unemployment rate of over 80%, and given the dire socio-economic crisis currently obtaining in Zimbabwe, the informal sector has been growing rapidly and has gained salience. Women are a vital part of the informal economy and most street vendors in Harare are women. Street vending represents a significant share of the urban informal economy. It offers convenient goods and services in quantities and at prices the poor can afford. However, researchers and policy makers have limited understanding of the role of street vendors, especially their size, link with the formal trading sector and their overall contribution to the national economy. Consequently, public policies, urban planners and local government are often biased against street vendors.

The urban poor are often used as pawns by local and national political barons in pursuit of their political objectives. The paper argues that the ensuing clampdown on informal traders impacts on the psyche of the urban poor who are an important component of the electorate and strengthen their resolve to vote against the ruling ZANU PF government. This widens the chasm between the urbanites and government and further marginalizes the urban poor who have of late aligned themselves with the political opposition.

26. On The Margins Of 'The Economy'

By:
Colin Marx

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to open up new ways of engaging with processes of marginalisation. The paper suggests that the understandings of marginalisation that emerge out of application of poverty theories and the studies of the informal economy tend to mis-specify 'the margins' and hence, are ultimately unhelpful in reversing processes of marginalisation. Some of the reasons for this are traced back to the ways in which both concepts of poverty and understandings of the informal economy are entrained by a particular understanding of economic growth and its location in the city.

The paper draws on the example of eThekweni Municipality's long-term city visioning process (1996 – 2001) to demonstrate how poverty research and understandings of economic growth were articulated through a set of local institutional practices. This long-term visioning process produced a specific understanding of a set of 'margins' that inform current local development policies. Despite eThekweni Municipality's deep institutional commitment to poverty reduction and pioneering work on the informal economy the existence of these 'margins' has not been challenged. Indeed, such margins appear necessary to sustain a set of subjectivities on the part of researchers and policy makers and raise questions about how researchers and policy makers are implicated in representing marginalisation in specific ways.

The paper concludes by setting out an agenda for shifting the dominant understanding of the economy on the part of poverty researchers and through the institutional practices of local government.

27. "Spatial Dichotomies and the Realities of Everyday Practice: Are Concepts Such as 'Margins' and 'Marginalisation' Useful for Analyzing Rural Life in the Contemporary Eastern Cape Province?"

By:

Prof. Patrick McAllister

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

University of Canterbury

New Zealand

ABSTRACT

Field data gathered in rural Transkei, in 2005 and 2006, seem to confirm that spatial thinking about the socially excluded and disadvantaged segments of South African society creates a possibly erroneous impression about the ways in which privilege, disadvantage and exclusion are distributed. It has long been recognised that the rural/urban dichotomy is a misleading one, in that the two are interdependent, exchange personnel, and affect each other in many ways. In this paper, however, the focus is on the rural end, and on the ways in which the rural contains evidence of inclusion and exclusion independently of, as well as in conjunction with, the urban link. Marginalization, for example, previously thought to be directly related to factors such as access to urban wages and urban networks, is shown to function independently of these, in relation to rural social relations and circumstances. Similarly with those who are not marginalised. Empirical material to this end is presented and analysed within appropriate theoretical frameworks.

28. Demolition, Dispossession and Alienation: The Urban Poor's Negotiations of Home and Belonging in Mumbai

By:

Gayatri Menon

PhD Candidate

Cornell University, USA

ABSTRACT

As Mumbai's elites vie with other urban elites to provide a home for global capital, its poor find it increasingly challenging to negotiate a home in the city, finding themselves cast as 'outsiders' who threaten the neo-liberal re-visioning of the city through their presence and their trespasses, even as their labour underwrites the production of this vision. In present day Mumbai over six million people, unable to afford legal housing, subsist by encroaching on either private or public property and face the threat of violent demolitions. The frequent experience and daily anticipation of demolition reproduces the marginal political location of urban squatters in relation to the state and bourgeois civil society. In this paper I examine experiences of pavement dwellers negotiating this fraught cartography of belonging and alienation to create a home in the city, as well as the tactics they have devised to counter and challenge the violence they face at the hands of the city's demolition squads.

Crafting a home on a public thoroughfare is an exceptionally precarious and creative production that involves a desperate attempt to obtain invisibility while always being on display. For pavement dwellers, evidence of their presence in public spaces, and the absence of a private space, is their vulnerability. Drawing on eighteen months of fieldwork conducted in Mumbai in 2003-04 with *Mahila Milan*, an organisation of women who live on the pavement, I examine the paradox of the 'public invisible,' and the anticipations of deprivation, dispossession, dispersion and violence that animate and politicise this living condition. An examination of this paradox is vital to understanding both the ways in which it both configures the everyday productions of home, and complicates the kinds of challenges pavement dwellers can make to those who destroy their homes and deny their right to the city.

29. Class, formality and poverty reduction, Diana Mitlin (IIED and IDPM)

By:
Diana Mitlin

ABSTRACT

Development interventions are generally associated with attempts to support the poor to become less poor (in terms of incomes), become more included (in terms of access to resources) and become less disadvantaged (in terms of unequal relationships). Very little attention is given by such interventions to ways in which the social relations, social practices and development strategies of the lowest-income citizens differ from those of higher income groups, except in terms of capacity building programmes to assist the poor to develop other forms of relations and practices. The assumption, if it is thought about at all, is that more formalised and explicitly rule bound practices and relations are "better" than the "informal" relations and practices that characterise the lives of the poor.

This paper explores that assumption in two contexts: physically orientated urban development processes that seek to upgrade and develop shelter including both land tenure and services; and organizationally orientated interventions that seek to influence the form and practices of residents' associations in low-income neighbourhoods, and relations between such associations and the state. The discussion explores the proposition that those with low and insecure incomes may benefit more from flexible negotiated solutions than from the introduction of explicit rule-bound processes. It does this at a time when the primary professional emphasis is on the latter.

Formalised physical urban development generally involves the development of physical space. Individualised specific developments determined under explicit rules tend to orientate the community to look inwardly at the improvement process and seek to fit into what is being offered. However, arguably this undermines the very understanding and capacities that will enable the poor to overcome their situation. There is much evidence to suggest that it is the coming together of isolated individuals in locally controlled associations and the coming together of such associations particularly at the level of political units, that demonstrates to the poor that their problems are related to systemic disadvantage caused by factors such as exclusion, denial of rights and exploitation, rather than personal failure. The control of physical space is frequently designed in ways that prevents such a coming together. At another level, the control of space has a more subtle and disempowering effect, as people struggle for a useful space in their everyday activities, and feel themselves to be less important, of less value and to be "other". Hence the more that physical space is separated, controlled and formalised, the harder is a political consciousness, political strategising and action.

The modern capitalist state and associated institutions are, in general, bureaucratic. Bureaucratic regimes address urban poverty through allocating formal rights and entitlements to the poor which are then codified into rules with recourse to further

institutions such as the courts if the rules are not maintained. Formalisation and professionalisation are intertwined. Professionals are entrusted with management and they tend to validate formalised rule-driven relationships and look down less formalised ("informal") negotiated relationships. The associated issues in relation to "marginalisation" lie in the fact that the realities and hence expertise of the poor is in the latter (informal practices) rather than the former. And the reinforcement of the former both excludes some (eg. those who are not literate) and, as damaging, encourages the domination of local association and activities by those more comfortable with the formal – the elite within groups of the urban poor. In the conclusion, I suggest that one significant influence over professional behaviour is that of class. The lack of class analysis in development may have obscured the ways in which one group is able to dominate over another group. At the same time it appears that a number of dominant international processes (colonization, modernization as well as current trends) may encouraged practices that are, at their heart, anti-poor (rather than anti-"native").

Programmes that required the formalisation of urban poor processes, to access the benefits appear, in a subtle way, to undermine the networks and relations between within and between groups of the poor whilst strengthening those between the poor and those who are not poor, ie. the professionalized development world. As suggested by Bracking (2005, 1014), there is very little attention paid to strategies embedded in the lives of the poor as most commentators pay more attention to the ways in which the poor behave which are similar to other political actors. The discussion considers how the formalization of local grassroots organizations, and the formalisation of relations with the state, acts to deter the inclusion of those with the lowest-incomes or who are otherwise disadvantaged. It suggests that lack of attention to the implications of development on the practices of the poor has resulted in a range of professionally led strategies that are ineffective in addressing exclusion and the multiple incidence of deprivation. The poor cannot function equitably in a professional world through which most resources are secured and, without a collective movement which has in turn been significantly undermined by organizational "best practice", they cannot begin to identify their problems and develop more effective solutions. Divided, the best they secure is to become dependent on state programmes, which replicate structures of exclusion whilst seeking to address the dimensions of poverty related to material deprivation.

30. Street Vending in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: The Dynamics Behind Continuing Vulnerability

By:

Dr. Colman T. Msoka
Institute of Development Studies
University of Dar es Salaam

ABSTRACT

Street vending is an old practice in cities all over the world. The key players are the economically disadvantaged persons such as new migrants, the poor, lowly educated, individuals searching for jobs, and those disadvantaged in different ways. Street vending serve as a supplementary activity where, individuals in the formal sector employ it as coping strategies to address adverse effects of inflation or raise money for a planned activity. Street vending has grown tremendously in Dar es Salaam and it is one of the leading employers. This is because street vending appeals as a quick measure to address immediate financial needs of these who do not have access to formal employment and or are waiting for opportunities to rise.

The role of street vending in the economic health of the city is well known by city authorities and the residents as well. Besides its role to disadvantaged poor, its popularity to residents and its in-built economic vitality, street vending has continued to be a highly vulnerable sector. Given the size of the sector and its popularity, one would expect a declining degree of vulnerability but the case is the opposite. Fundamental questions that merits interrogation is: what is the nature of vulnerability of the street vendors and why is street vending so vulnerable in the city of Dar es salaam at a time when we would not expect so? Answers to this question will help us to understand the various dynamics that explain the continuing vulnerability inherent in the city of Dar es Salaam. In this paper, I use archival and ethnographic methods to explain the origins and dynamics of vulnerability and their implications to those employed in the sector. I also look at the wider implications of the vulnerability to the community.

31. The Impact of Operation Murambatsvina (Clean Up) on Urban Livelihoods of 'Informal Vendors' in Harare, Zimbabwe

By
Tendai Mugara
FAO, Zimbabwe

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the impact of the clean-up exercise on the marginalized and vulnerable urban informal vendors' livelihoods. The Government of Zimbabwe embarked on an operation to 'clean-up' the cities in May 2005, and resulted in the destruction of homes, business premises and vending sites. Approximately, 700 000 people in cities across the country have lost either their homes, their source of livelihood or both. People become more vulnerable to economic downturns and shocks. According to the government, the operation was motivated by the desire to ensure a semblance of order in the chaotic manifestations of rapid urbanization and rising poverty characteristic of African cities. The current economic crisis is a result of the inherited 'colonial economy' of Rhodesia, the post-independence Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) and economic policies undertaken since. Currently, the economy suffers from a large fiscal deficit, low economic performance and high unemployment. Failure of ESAP in the early 1990s led to the massive retrenchment of skilled and unskilled labour, closure of many manufacturing industries and the deterioration of social services. This led to the gradual decline of the formal economy and to the growth and emergence of the informal sector, especially in the rapidly growing towns and cities of Zimbabwe.

In 1980, the informal economy accounted for less than 10% of the labour force, due to various laws that were prohibiting. With deregulation after Independence and economic stagnation, the informal sector share of employment grew to 20% by 1986/7 and about 40% by 2004. The informal economy had effectively become mainstay for the majority of the Zimbabweans. The data for this study will be gathered through extensive review of secondary data.

32. Cashing in or Crashing Out? Pastoralists in Somali Region, Ethiopia

By:
Stephen Devereux
IDS, University of Sussex
UK

ABSTRACT

Pastoralists in Somali Region are in the paradoxical position of being wealthier than highland Ethiopian farmers but politically excluded, geographically marginalised, and intensely vulnerable to livelihood shocks - some natural (a sequence of low rainfall seasons), some economic (livestock import bans by Gulf states, government crackdowns on contraband trade), others socio-political (conflict between clans, or between militia groups and the state). The substantial displacement and destitution triggered by recent droughts has fuelled a re-emerging debate about the sustainability of pastoralism as a livelihood system throughout the Horn of Africa. The Ethiopian government is advocating sedentarisation as the only solution to a perceived crisis of reproduction in pastoralist communities, though critics argue that this is an opportunistic attempt by the regime to extend its control over an insubordinate minority. In this highly politicised debate, the voices of pastoralists themselves are absent or ignored, and the complexity, interconnectedness and resilience of livelihood systems in lowland areas is inadequately understood. Based on fieldwork conducted in Somali Region in 2005, this paper argues that 'living on the margins' - excluded by and beyond the reach of the state, resisting incorporation - is the source of both pastoralist wealth and pastoralist vulnerability.

33. 'Somewhere, Over The Rainbow'...Realising Economic Rights Through Extended Local Government Intervention In Post Apartheid Cape Town

By:

Susan Parnell and Jacqui Boulle

Realising the vision of a post apartheid city based on the notion of universal human rights demands a new practice of urban governmentality. Pointing to the logjam in the debate over the relative merits of greater efficiency in the state versus more effective empowerment and participation of civil society, we call for an alternative perspective grounded in an ideal of making the city a good place for all. Political affirmation of a utopian vision of the city based on the universal socio-economic rights, as implied in the South African Constitution and the Millennium Development Goals, has significant unrecognised institutional implications, particularly at the city scale. Using the case of post-apartheid Cape Town we argue that the developmental role of state in the global South is undertheorised. Working from the premise that much can be learnt from social action to foster the good city, four major points emerge. First, to realise socio-economic rights across the whole city demands that the role of government be conceived, designed and capacitated to do the job of upholding socio-economic rights at the city scale, and be able to respond to citizens who make this demand.

Second, the apparatus/instruments of the state must be redesigned to deliver its functions to all residents without prejudice. In most cities, but especially in cities of the South with exclusionary legacies, this entails removing blockages (like apartheid planning regulations) that discriminate directly or indirectly against individuals, households, groups or neighbourhoods and putting in place new systems of government with universal application. Third, the realisation of socio-economic rights is not simply the preserve of the local state. A rights based city necessitates the introduction of instruments or institutions across markets, civil society and the multiscale state that will enable redistribution and basic service delivery based on need not ability to pay. Finally, the vision of a utopian city occurs in an externally prescribed economic environment. The municipality cannot therefore ignore the imperatives of maximising wealth and income in the city and minimising the proportion of people requiring subsidised assistance. Against these imperatives the Economic and Human Development Strategy advocates substantive changes in local government practice to foster greater growth, poverty reduction and equity as the basis of the good city.

34. Hierarchy of ties in exchange and welfare outcomes: A case of *Gudangadi* economy in South India

By:

Bino Paul G. D. and Sony Pellissery

T A Pai Management Institute

India

ABSTRACT

Markets are created through social exchanges, and thus, an economic sociology approach to the market is interested to understand how social embeddedness affects the economic outcomes. This paper, through detailed examination of the ties involved in the creating *Gudangadi* (the local term to refer road-side small box shops that sell food items) economy, argues that distinct from the atomistic exchange, depicted by the neoclassical economic models, a pattern of social networks, guided through principles of social identity, governs the market. Existing development data bases in India, especially through large scale national surveys, though identifies informal sector distinctly (estimated to be about 87 per cent of Indian labour force working in it, contributing about 60 per cent of GDP) have not made significant progress in bringing out distinctive aspects of exchanges that are rooted in culture, geography and social identity. When the exchanges (networks) are closely observed, as we have shown, a hierarchy of the ties exists. Understanding this hierarchy as well as structure of networks is important to conceptualize the pattern of social exclusion in an informal economy.

An important insight we understand from the data indicates ties between *Gudangadi* and different nodes, in varying degrees, make exchange happen in *Gudangadi* Economy. The nodes include customer, family, friends, input suppliers such as grocery shop, *Gudangadi Vyparasthra Sangha*¹, municipality, banking institutions and money lender. Quite interestingly, it appears the ties between *Gudangadi* and nodes in the system constitute a hierarchy. We identify two nodes- customer and family- have the strongest ties with *Gudangadi* while nodes such as municipality, banking institutions and money lender have relatively weaker ties. Furthermore, tie with friends is the second best followed by grocery shop and *Gudangadi Vyparasthra Sangha*. The way economic activities are undertaken through social exchanges, and how these contacts are used to meet the welfare needs by this comparatively poor population is the focus of the paper. The paper is based on a case study of all the *gudangadis* and associated nodes in a small town of Udupi-Manipal in the Indian state of Karnataka. Though a fieldwork of six months data is collected using mixed methods approach. Data collected through observation, in-depth interviews and informal interaction with *gudangadi* owners, workers, their suppliers, legal and financial protectors, customers and family members allowed us to understand emergent concepts in the social exchange. These emergent concepts were used in a survey in the second phase of the study. Apart from the economic activities in exchange, we also examined the nature of health care access,

housing condition, education of the children and household risk management strategies by these workers.

35. Informality in sub-Saharan African urban economies: revisiting debates on 'dualism'

By:

Dr. Deborah Potts

King's College London, 4th Floor, Strand Campus, London, WC2R 2LS,

ABSTRACT

Conceptualizations of the informal sector in terms of economic dualism have a long history, as have effective challenges to those conceptualizations. This paper will attempt to examine the broad dynamics of the urban informal sector in sub-Saharan Africa over recent decades, with reference to these theoretical conceptualizations. It will also consider briefly the dynamics of rural-urban migration to African cities and the role of this in urban processes, including employment. The paper will be exemplified by the urban experiences of Zimbabwe and Zambia in particular.

36. Portability, Access And Reciprocity: Social Protection For Malawian Migrant Workers In South Africa

By:

Dr. Rachel Sabates-Wheele

Vulnerability and Poverty Reduction Unit, IDS

UK

ABSTRACT

Migration is a crucial social risk management instrument of mankind. It is a way by which individuals, families, and whole populations can escape the exposure to risk by moving from a risk-prone region to a safer region. Unfortunately there is little literature linking migration to social protection frameworks or policies. Increasing international and internal labour mobility raises questions about the social protection of migrants, especially migrant workers. A general concern is their access to social programs in the host countries for them and their families and in their source countries upon return.' A particular concern is the portability of long-term social security entitlements across international, and national, boundaries.

We intend to present some findings from an ongoing research project that investigates the situation for Malawian migrants to the UK and to South Africa. We investigate how access to advanced portability regimes in both sending and receiving countries is determined. How is access to these regimes negotiated? Which migrants are represented and who determines this? We also explore issues of access at source location that migrants are able to retain even though they are away from their home. What are the conditions of access and do these conditions influence migration patterns, specifically repeat or return migration and the duration of migration?

A further theme of interest relates to the non-formal nature of social protection. Systems or 'regimes of reciprocity' refers to the multiple institutions and networks that migrants use and have access to, based of a range of social, political and economic networks, that provide social protection. We attempt to understanding the relationship between formal and non-formal mechanisms of social protection and the way that the demand for different types of social protection interact with residency status and dominant understandings of 'the other' in host communities.

37. “How valuing unpaid work can help us to understand structural determinants of marginalization and poverty”

By:
Claudio Santibanez,
Inter-American Development Bank
USA

ABSTRACT

Unpaid work stands as a complex phenomenon that creates and limits the creation of value, enhances and limits human development opportunities, deviates resources, separate and establish roles among household members and raises ethical questions of discrimination and egalitarian concerns. However, most countries still formulate their national policies using data that covers only paid remunerated activities. This leaves out valuable information related to unpaid activities that certainly contributes to society's welfare. Thus awareness of the economic importance of unpaid household work has led to the acceptance that statistical measurements should be expanded to include unpaid work. In this direction, the collection and analysis of time-use data have reinforced the economic contribution of unpaid workers, especially women.

However, the LAC region is lagging behind in this effort. So far, only Mexico has a continuous experience in these surveys and only a small group of countries have performed at least one time this type of surveys. Systemizing the analysis of distribution patterns between unpaid and paid work is thus a new experience for the region and for other developing regions of the globe such as Africa. Developing and promoting a framework that uses such information will permit to give sound theoretical arguments to policy recommendations aimed to improve the unequal distribution of paid and unpaid work among citizens (mainly men and women). These analysis will also permit us to propose sound public policies that otherwise would be improbable to visualize.

This paper will give conceptual and theoretical arguments to justify the importance of including unpaid work analysis into policy recommendations. It will focus in arguing about the importance of constructing a theoretical and operational framework that could value unpaid work of those households participating -or those having the vulnerability risk profile to participate- in current poverty elimination strategies with conditional cash transfers in the Latin American region. This framework should be able to assess the pros and cons of such a strategy, tackling issues such as how the use of time devoted to accomplish these conditionalities could act as a significant deterrent for labor participation and income generation (specially for the case of women, who are generally more involved as programmes' counterparts and more vulnerable in terms of labor participation); how use of time analysis can help in bringing more efficient solutions to domestic organization (including child care solutions, improvement of transportation for water and food fetching, etc.); how use of time analysis explain the preference for informal work; or how use of time analysis can help to bring more equitable solutions in the distribution on unpaid and paid work within households.

Keywords: Poverty, Extreme Poverty, Chronic Poverty, Gender, Social Protection, Social Cohesion, Equality, Equality of Opportunities, Informal Economy, Time-Use Surveys.

38. Informality As The Condition Of Urbanization: Implications For A Politics Of The Poor

By:

Abdou Maliq Simone
Goldsmiths College

This presentation will attempt to take various concrete cases drawn from urban social economies in a cross-section of African cities to reflect on a range of practical issues related to engendering new forms of urban poor politics related to a broadened understanding of the role of informality in city-making.

A conventional reading sees many large cities in Africa as consisting of an urban fabric that has been overwhelmed, of a sociality that no longer is subjected to coherent forms of articulation and aspiration, and of institutions that no longer are capable of exercising authority over the use of materials and space. Instead, it is worth considering just how actions within and across cities might productively be informed by a view that sees an urban fabric in the making by virtue of the speed and intensity of diverse positions and practices of inhabitation that are not, or at most weakly, channeled by clearly demarcated trajectories of operation, spatial use, resource appropriation and social interchange.

Such a countervailing reading is particularly important as the logic of state control is progressively reconfigured through the extensions and diversification of frontiers—i.e., the kinds of definitional authority that centralized states once exercised over national territories is being retranslated into a further consolidation of specific conduits of access to resources, modes of expression, maps of eligibility as to where people can legitimately operate, spatialization of social contact, and structures of filtering which select out actions as having particular value. These proliferations of frontiers have durable consequences on what it is possible to do in and among cities. Infrastructural inputs, institutional policies, and economic regularities are directed toward solidifying, policing and readapting such frontiers, rather than to promoting urbanizing processes per se.

Rather than viewing informality as a compensation for failed urban economies or the temporal state of an urban economy in the process of “catching up”, informality is the very political conditionality that permits the ongoing production of a viable urban fabric for the majority simultaneously open to remaking but also vulnerable to being reified in a constant state of emergence. Any effort to order the urbanizing process and put it to work for specific objectives must make use of informality’s generative and fundamentally uncoded relational flows. There is interpenetration between them and mutual appropriation. Therefore the poor urban majority is not so much excluded from the city, but does the very work of city creation. It is the highly problematic and equivocal dimensions entailed in just exactly how this work is being deployed in many cities across the South—i.e. the reliance on the parasitical consumption of limited production nodes and the implicit reiteration of the prevailing definitions of identities, territories,

occupations, and sectors as residents simply try to “distribute” themselves across as many of them as possible—that necessitates new practices of urban poor politics.

39. Synchronicities and Mismatches: Urban Planning, Policy and Practice Towards Street Traders In Durban, South Africa’

By:

Caroline Skinner - School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal

ABSTRACT

In 2002 the International Labour Organisation reported that globally informal employment comprised one half to three quarters of non-agricultural employment and that, in most contexts, the proportion of informal to formal employment was increasing. Although there is a clear correlation between being poor and working in the informal economy, cumulatively these activities contribute significantly to economic growth. The often colourful myriad of street vendors, waste collectors, home based manufacturers and taxi drivers (among others) that have come to characterise particularly developing country cities are now an unavoidable challenge for urban economic development and spatial planners. In South Africa in the post apartheid period informal employment has been one of the few areas where there has been employment growth. Labour market data analysis demonstrates that nearly 50% of those working informally are involved in trade. A high proportion of employment creation recorded in both the September 2005 and March 2006 labour force survey, was in informal trade. The negotiations and politics around the allocation of public urban space for trading is thus a particularly critical area of analysis.

Durban, South Africa’s second largest city, has in recent years been portrayed, in both academic and policy circles, as an ‘international best practice’ with respect to incorporating the informal economy in general, and street traders in particular, into urban plans. The paper starts with a review of empirical evidence – both qualitative and quantitative - of the nature of street trading in the city. The paper then aims to document the Durban City Council’s approach to street trading from the apartheid era of repression to current times. The paper identifies five periods as follows:

Pre 1980’s - The apartheid era and the history of repression, 1980’s - Gradual tolerance, Early to mid 1990’s - Deregulation and re regulation, Late 1990’s – Innovations, 2001 onwards - Selective integration and regression.

The bulk of the paper concentrates on the last three periods. In each of these later periods the urban planning, policy and practice that shape informal livelihoods are considered. The research is informed by the notion of urban governance in which local government is understood to be part of a relational interaction with other organised constituencies and interest groups acting in the city. These interactions will be explored, a key issue being the role of collective action among street traders. All of this will be done with a view to establish under what conditions a formal bureaucracy responds to the needs and interests of those working in the informal economy. The paper thus aims to fit into the category of papers exploring practical case studies and experiences ‘on the ground’ of those in the informal economy and experiences of policy frameworks.

The paper draws on a number of years of research and policy work complemented by recent key informant interviews with street trader leaders and council staff, analysis of council documents and archival research.

**40. Can the State Perpetuate the Marginalization of the Poor?:
An Analysis of the Social Economic Effects of the State's Ban of
Minibus 'Callboys' in Malawi**

By:

Richard I.C. Tambulasi and Happy M. Kayuni
Department of Political and Administrative Studies
University of Malawi

ABSTRACT

Malawi is one of the Southern African Countries with a huge informal sector due to the high levels of unemployment. It is estimated that only 25% of Malawians are currently absorbed by the formal sector. In addition, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development statistics indicate that only 18,000 out of 400,000 students secure formal jobs after school. Minibus calling has been one of the ways people earn income in the informal sector. The good part of this is that minibus calling requires no monetary capital and hence it is very fitting in the Malawian context where capital is very hard to come by due to high levels of poverty and poor financial market infrastructure. Therefore, minibus calling has to a larger extent reduced vulnerability of the people as a great number of Malawians who would have otherwise be totally economically excluded have been able to earn a living.

This has also had a trickle down effect as those calling for minibuses have many dependants to take care of due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In addition, these people in many instances created opportunities for others as they could employ some to do the job for them. However recently the State declared such acts illegal and anyone found minibus calling currently faces the long arm of the law. Punishments vary from K5, 000 or in default to three months imprisonment. This has made many leave this particular informal trade. The consequences of this have however been disastrous with many becoming adversely economically marginalized. In many cases this has increased levels of poverty. In other cases this has forced some people to indulge in stealing and robbery. However there have been no attempts to study these effects. It is in this line that the paper wants to critically investigate into the social economic impacts of State's action in banning minibus calling on the livelihood of the former beneficiaries.

41. Vulnerability, Marginalization and the State: Livelihood Impacts of Agricultural Commercialisation in Small-scale Irrigation Schemes in the Limpopo Province

By:

Barbara Nompumelelo Tapela
PLAAS, University of the Western Cape

ABSTRACT

Small-scale irrigation farming is envisaged as playing a progressively larger role in rural development and in reducing some of the inequalities inherent in South Africa's space economy. The promotion of entry by black farmers into commercialized small-scale irrigation farming appears to have been bolstered by the late 1990s convergence of agricultural, water, land, local government and other sector reforms. Concomitant to these reforms, the government's macro-policy shifts seem to favour the creation of a black farming elite, and an important question centres on the possible negative impacts of neo-liberal policies on the livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable people within small-scale irrigation farming communities. It is also debatable whether a new class of petty commodity producers can establish a viable niche within global commodity chains, given the significant constraints to effective participation in a highly competitive and globalized commodity production sector. Furthermore, there are questions over the impacts of recent attempts to facilitate entry by small-scale farmers into commercial production through joint ventures or 'black economic empowerment' (BEE) partnerships involving small-scale farmers, private investors and government. The historical context of gender inequalities in access to and control over resources, and observations that women's roles and interests in land are increasingly politicized and contested, indicate a need for a gender-sensitive examination of the impacts of commercialization on the livelihoods of women and men living in small-scale irrigation schemes.

This paper examines issues of vulnerability and marginalization in the context of agricultural commercialization in selected small-scale irrigation schemes in the Limpopo Province. Although the 'revitalization' of these schemes has been greeted with optimism and renewed hope in certain circles within government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and small-scale irrigation schemes, progress has so far fallen short of expectations in many of the schemes. The promise of higher incomes and improved livelihoods has remained elusive, while debts and potential losses of often meagre household assets have loomed large, threatening to erode existing livelihoods and undermine government interventions. Research findings suggest that the challenge of reducing rural poverty and inequality might not be resolved through existing approaches to commercialization. These facilitate an integration of resource poor irrigation farmers into the globalised mainstream commercial production sector, but this might reinforce socio-economic disparities and undermine the livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable members of the irrigation schemes. Government interventions that are more finely tuned and responsive to livelihoods, social differentiation and exclusion within and among individuals, households and stakeholders are clearly requisite.

42. Poverty and Inequality in South Africa: Policy options and consequences for planning in an emerging democracy

By:

Jean D. Triegaardt, PhD

Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)

ABSTRACT

South Africa has experienced rising unemployment alongside poverty and inequality for several decades. Poverty, unemployment and inequality are all forms of exclusion and marginalization with respect to decision-making, ownership of land and access to services. During the apartheid era, exclusion was based on race and class. Post-1994, inequality now profiles other categories of people who are excluded, and the shift now profiles new zones of exclusion (Seekings and Nattrass 2005:6).

Almost half of the population continues to live under a poverty datum line (Adelzadeh, 2006). The South African government has paid increasing attention to poverty alleviation. The budget for social assistance has increased considerably, although there are concerns that the safety net is inadequate (Taylor, 2002; Samson, 2002). Over 10 million South Africans are receiving social grants in 2006. In spite of the pro-poor policies, South Africa still remains one of the highest in the world in terms of income inequality (World Bank Report, 2006). There are warning bells concerning the provision of social grants. There are writers (van der Berg et al, 2005:22) who suggest that as a poverty reduction strategy, social grants may be approaching the boundaries of its effective use, given the fiscal constraints. In addition, there are concerns that provision of social grants and the extension of the safety net will create dependency. Therefore, is there merit to expanding the safety net for children being combined with a productivist approach, which includes employment strategies such as the Extended Public Works Programme? Are these the most effective measures to break the cycle of poverty?

The purpose of this paper is to analyse the policy options in terms of poverty alleviation strategies, their merits, challenges and consequences with respect to future planning.

43. Second Best? Trends And Linkages In The Informal Economy In South Africa

By:

Imraan Valodia, Richard Devey and Caroline Skinner
School of Development Studies
University of KwaZulu-Natal

ABSTRACT

In August 2003, President Mbeki in an address to the National Council of Provinces, first introduced the idea of South Africa being characterised by a 'First Economy' and a 'Second Economy' operating side by side. He states:

The second economy (or the marginalised economy) is characterised by underdevelopment, contributes little to GDP, contains a big percentage of our population, incorporates the poorest of our rural and urban poor, is structurally disconnected from both the first and the global economy and is incapable of self generated growth and development.

Since this speech the notion of the 'second economy' has become part of policy rhetoric at all levels of state, including in the recent Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative in South Africa (Asgisa). In this paper the notion of two economies as articulated by Mbeki and the African National Congress is interrogated. Using Statistics South Africa data we reflect on recent labour market trends. This data supplemented with qualitative research is harnessed to suggest that there are several inaccuracies with the notion of the 'second economy'. We particularly examine linkages between employment in the formal and the informal economy arguing that, contrary to the views of the President and the ANC, there are in fact fairly close linkages between the formal economy and the informal economy.

44. Informal Globalisation Or Global Informalisation?

By:

Joris Verschueren

Institute for Development Policy and Management

University of Antwerp, Belgium

ABSTRACT

The paper presents findings on migrants from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the world-city Cape Town. Making up the bulk of the post-1994 (second) migration inflow, this group presents particular features because of the roles these migrants take up in the South African economy. A great many of them are excluded from citizenship and survive in the second economy. Their precarious structural position therefore allows for theoretical conclusions on both localised exclusion mechanisms and broader global trends.

Qualitative interviews with Congolese tradespeople in Cape Town inform us on the constraints and opportunities they face in linking up with the formal economy, ranging from xenophobia to municipal and national "second economy" policies. The latter, although interviews with local officials confirm the assertion that they consolidate dual development, provide migrants with space to employ their transnational identity. Local, sometimes formal, economic linkages are combined with what one could call "informal globalisation", as several respondents are embedded in commodity chains that are cast as far as the DRC's war-torn and almost entirely informalised economy.

These findings are interpreted through a reading of globalisation as a rescaling-process, characterised by several trends among which the emergence of a network of world-cities alongside the marginalisation of entire regions in the world-system stand out. The global re-negotiation of the twentieth century accumulation regime and its spatial organisation manifests itself in local development policies that provide a partial framework for the agency of survivalist entrepreneurs – the "second economy" discourse being a case in point. Some of the respondents however surpass this local level and gain control over transnational informal commodity chains. Pursuing this more promising strategy to improve their living conditions, they parallel formal globalisation.

45. Chronic Poverty, Disability And Occupational Deprivation

By:

Ruth Watson

University of Cape Town

ABSTRACT

In a study about chronic poverty, disability and occupation we asked if and how these three factors influence one another, and, more specifically, if poverty and disability impact on occupation (all the ordinary and familiar things that people do every day). Findings indicate that both disabled people and the households that they share are occupationally deprived. Occupational deprivation refers to a prolonged state of preclusion from engagement in occupations of necessity and/or meaning due to factors, which stand outside the control of the individual. In our study these factors included poverty and disability (Whiteford, 1997).

People who have an enduring health condition or impairment are often excluded or 'disabled' by society and cannot therefore become part of the formal economy. They may however, in addition to receiving a so-called Disability Grant, operate a small income-generating project. Gaining access to some income or a pension plays a central role in livelihood construction for marginalised people, but places the recipient simultaneously in a position of power and obligation to the household within which they reside, and at variance with their neighbours, who do not enjoy the same 'privilege'. The provision of a regular but totally inadequate income is therefore neither a short nor a long-term solution to chronic poverty.

Participation in a wide range of occupations plays a vital role in human development throughout the life span, and progressively contributes to the acquisition of the knowledge, skills and attitudes that make people employable. From this we can conclude that occupationally deprived, chronically poor and disabled people are not only at immediate risk, but also that they face the consequences of intergenerational poverty; and that ways to the develop innate human potential should therefore be vigorously explored.

46. After *Jambanja*: Land And Livelihoods In Svosve Communal Lands, Zimbabwe

By:

Admos Chimhowu and Phil Woodhouse
IDPM, University of Manchester.

ABSTRACT

This paper explores how the growth of informal land markets affects rural livelihoods in Africa, and in particular, the implications for rural poverty. The paper reviews the evidence for 'vernacular land markets' in Africa and their social consequences, and then explores the specific case of Svosve Communal Area, in Marondera District, Zimbabwe, in 2005-6. The area, celebrated as the site of the first invasions of white-owned commercial farms in 1998, has received a large influx of people over the past decade, with official census data showing population more than doubling between 1992 and 2002. Much of this influx results from the settlement of people evicted from peri-urban, urban areas and surrounding formerly white owned commercial farm land. By 2005, some 42 percent of heads of households surveyed were from outside Marondera District. Field evidence suggests many of these households have purchased land from existing landholders and local headmen (*sabukhu*), in effect through an informal land market. The paper discusses the political discourse of land sales on communal land, which are illegal in Zimbabwe, and explores the relationship between the terms of land access and land use and productivity in a context where average area cultivated per household has declined to less than half the figure at independence in 1981, but many households appear unable to farm all of the land to which they have access.

