

YOUTH ON THE MOVE PERFORMING URBAN SPACE
IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Cartographies of Care:

safety

Mapping Women's Everyday Journeys and stories across Pretoria CBD



a workshop on popular mapping
University of Pretoria, South Africa
21-24 July 2025



Contents

Organisers

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Nolwazi Mkhwanazi, University of Pretoria
Min Tang, Tongji University
Anuj Daga, School of Environment & Architecture
Ying Cheng, Peking University

Supported by

Urban Studies Foundation
University of Pretoria

Participants

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website

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General Background

In response to the neoliberal restructuring of the Southern cities, the initiative of Youth on the Move (YOTM <https://www.asiaafricayouth.com/>) investigates urbanities that youth produce on the move in/across these radically transforming spaces. It aims to decolonise knowledge production by: (1) unpacking youth's socio-spatial practices and meaning-making through embodied politics of performance in urban Africa and Asia; (2) explicitly promoting South-South collaboration amongst researchers, and practitioners.

The first phase "Performing Urban Space in the Global South" (2023-24), supported by Urban Studies' Foundation's (USF) Seminar Series Award operated an artistic workshop in Lagos, Nigeria, 10 online lectures with world-wide participants, and a methodological workshop for early career scholars in Shanghai, China. These events brought together valuable knowledge and led to a wealth of discussion within the newly formed Asia-Africa network.

The second phase "Storytelling and Popular Mapping," (2024-25), supported by USF's Knowledge Mobilisation Award aims to strengthen these networks, translate collective knowledge into non-academic mediums and develop innovative methods of knowledge dissemination, enhancing accessibility to the public. In this phase, we have produced an exhibition in Surabaya, Indonesia (July 2024) and further proposed a "Popular Mapping" workshop (August 2025) in Pretoria, South Africa, co-produced by partners from Asia and Africa.

Cartographies of Care: Mapping Women's Everyday Journeys and Stories across Pretoria CBD

July 21-24, 2025

Urban public spaces are never neutral—they are shaped by histories of power, exclusion, and daily acts of negotiation. In South African cities, and especially in the downtown area, public space remains a deeply contested terrain, haunted by the spatial legacies of apartheid, urban transformation, and sustained inequalities. Yet, it is also a place of quiet defiance, resilience, and adaptation, through various practices of encounters, movements, waiting, and caring. For women, navigating the city is an ongoing act of both necessity and risk; to move through urban spaces is also to engage in acts of care—both for oneself and for others.

This workshop centers women's everyday journeys and their intersections with downtown. Their routes, routines, and detours are a vital form of urban knowledge. We ask how observing, narrating, and mapping women's movements could expose latent hierarchies and how the lens of care could reconfigure the urban map. Women's labor underpins urban life: the networks of solidarity they build, the way they read and anticipate risk, and the strategies they employ to foster safety and connection. These are forms of embodied knowledge that could transform how cities are designed for safety, inclusion, and belonging.

Through participatory mapping, we invite participants to collectively trace these embodied experiences in Pretoria, turning everyone's stories into collective spatial critique. This is not just an exercise in documentation—it is a form of reimagining and reclaiming. What if a "map" (in various forms like songs, paintings, performances, etc.) prioritized experiences and emotions over street names and numbers? What if it highlighted not just cartographic coordinates or urban landmarks, but the everyday places and practices of joy, solidarity, and care?

Schedule

21 JUL 2025

0830	<i>Pick-up for participants from Tau Village to CAS</i>
0900 - 0915	Opening note: On Mapping and Care
0915 - 1015	Icebreakers, self-introduction (with mid-morning coffee break at Campus)
1015 - 1115	Talk by Prof. Stephan de Beer
1115 - 1230	Some introductory sessions of mapping and storytelling
1230 - 1330	Lunch break / Catering at University Campus
1330	<i>Leave campus for Tau Village (CBD)</i>
1400 - 1530	Setting up groups and short exploration of CBD
1530 - 1615	A short collective experience sharing, reflection
1630 - 1700	Travel to Future Africa
1700 - 1800	Debriefing

22 JUL 2025

0900 - 0915	Arrivals and coffee
0915 - 0930	Briefing of the day
0930 - 1030	Talk by Wilna de Beer at Tau Village
1030 - 1045	Tea Break
1045 - 1230	Field mapping by each group
1230 - 1330	Lunch break / Catering at CBD
1330 - 1445	Field mapping by individual groups
1445 - 1515	Mid-afternoon coffee break at CBD
1515 - 1600	A short collective experience sharing and reflection

Venue at University of Pretoria

Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS), University of Pretoria
Old College House, Hatfield Campus, Hatfield.

23 JUL 2025

0900 - 0915	Arrivals and coffee
0915 - 0945	Briefing of the day
0945 - 1015	Break
1015 - 1230	Field mapping by individual groups
1230 - 1330	Lunch break / Catering at CBD
1330 - 1445	Field mapping by individual groups
1445 - 1515	Mid-afternoon coffee break at CBD
1515 - 1600	A short collective experience sharing and reflection

24 JUL 2025

0900 - 0930	Briefing of the day
0930 - 1200	Production and preparation for presentation by each group
1200 - 1300	Lunch break / Catering at CBD <i>Pick-up for participants at Tau Village (Time to be decided)</i>
1300 - 1430	Final Storytelling x Mapping presentation of each group (30 mins per group) Venue: CAS, University of Pretoria
1430 - 1500	Collective sharing, reflection and discussion
1500 - 1515	Closing note
1520	<i>Pick-up for participants to be taken back to Tau Village</i>

Venue at CBD

Tau Village
279 Struben St, Pretoria Central, Pretoria, 0002

Organiser Backgrounds

Lene le Roux, University of Pretoria

Lené Le Roux is a senior urban planner and researcher, currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at UP. She holds a professional Bachelor's in Town and Regional Planning, a Master's of Built Environment, and a Doctorate in Geography. Her core expertise is informal settlement upgrading, affordable and social housing, socio-economic development, urban governance, and municipal infrastructure and finance. Her geographical knowledge spans across South Africa's municipalities and provinces, focusing on metropolitan areas like the Gauteng City-Region and Cape Town. Her doctoral work explored the relational place-making strategies of the subaltern in Johannesburg's shared suburban spaces, reconceptualizing public space for Southern cities. She draws on postcolonial and Southern urban theory, critical urban geography, and more recently Black geographies; and applies urban ethnography as her primary research method, supported by text and data analysis. Her current projects include "Bantu African Epistemologies of Spatial Justice through Land Use Change in peri-urban uMgungundlovu" and "Rerouting the Life-Giving Force of Black Womxn in Pretoria Central by Reimagining the (Re)production of Space".

Nolwazi Mkhwanazi, University of Pretoria

Nolwazi Mkhwanazi is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pretoria. She joined the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS) in September 2021. Prior to this (2017-2021), she was the Director of the Medical Humanities program at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER), University of the Witwatersrand. Nolwazi is interested in issues relating to life course, kinship and care. While she has also done research on ageing and care, her main focus has been on young people, reproduction, sexuality and gender. In the last 5 years she has been working more broadly with young people regarding issues of sexuality, sex education and sexual health interventions. In this work, her fieldwork sites span across Southern Africa including Botswana and Eswatini, and she has collaborated with people in range of disciplines including fine art, biomedical sciences, public health, demography and other social science disciplines.

Min Tang, Tongji University

Dr. Min Tang is a research professor at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University, Shanghai, China. She holds a PhD in Architecture from the KU Leuven (Belgium) and a PhD in Geography from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France). Specialising in Global South urbanism, she conducts multi-sited activities across urban peripheries of Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe with multi-linguistic working ability (EN, FR, JP, CN). Her research interest lies in the decolonial and situated knowledge production of the urban, through

critical examinations of moving human bodies, planning ideas and city-making practices. The aim is to understand how these moves trigger localised institutional and grassroots practices that continuously territorialise urban peripheries. The primary tools of inquiry are intensive ethnographic studies, action research, critical cartography, and other qualitative and visual methods. She was the founder of "Asian-African studies on the Move" young scholar network, and serves as editorial board of the journal CITY: Analysis of Urban Change, Theory, Action.

Anuj Daga, School of Environment & Architecture

Anuj is an architect, writer, and curator based in Mumbai. His practice is informed by diverse engagements in the fields of design, research, and academia that have resulted in numerous roles as critic, commentator, theorist, or interlocutor in the cultural field. He has a keen interest in processes of meaning-making as well as studying the ways in which different visual media tie into contemporary architectural expression. Anuj has conducted several studies and studios around studying and reimagining the spatial conditions of transforming or marginalised neighbourhoods in Mumbai. Alongside, he has been a part of a 3-year long curatorial project 'Young Subcontinent' (2016-18) with artist-curator Riyas Komu bringing together young contemporary artists from across South Asia with a sharp political voice. He was the co-curator of the online festival of Video Art by Indian Contemporary Artists (VAICA) during 2021. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor at the School of Environment & Architecture, Mumbai.

Ying Cheng, Peking University

Ying Cheng is an assistant professor in the Department of Asian and African Languages and Cultures, Peking University. Her research interests include youth and popular culture in Africa, African visual and performance arts, cultural interactions between China and Africa, and so on. Dr Ying Cheng has also been a research associate (Arts of Africa and the Souths) of Rhodes University, South Africa since 2017. In recent years, she has published articles in African Arts, Journal of African Culture Studies, Routledge Handbook of African Literature and African Theatre.

Invited Speakers

Stephan De Beer, Director: Centre for Faith and Community, University of Pretoria
Stephan De Beer is an urbanist-theologian, committed to healthy urban communities with a bias towards under-resourced urban spaces. After leading a local community organisation committed to flourishing inner city communities in the City of Tshwane for 20 years, he joined the University of Pretoria in 2012, now serving as the Director of the Centre for Faith and Community and professor of Practical Theology.

Stephan completed his Doctorate of Divinity, focusing on a theology of inner city transformation, in 1999, and in 2018 obtained a PhD in Town and Regional Planning, focusing on space, spirituality and a community-based urban praxis. His research focused on the church in the African city; homelessness, housing and spatial justice; and pedagogies for urban community transformation. He created a research unit for street homelessness at the University of Pretoria, and served on the Scientific Advisory Committee of UN Habitat, for 'ending homelessness through affordable housing'.

Wilna de Beer, CEO, Tshwane Leadership Foundation

With over 30 years in community development, Wilna brings extensive experience in NGO leadership, strategic partnerships, project management, and fundraising. As a former NGO CEO for over a decade she led impactful programmes and built high-performance teams. Wilna has contributed to key forums such as the Child Justice Alliance, Tshwane Homelessness Forum, and the Pretoria Alliance for Street Children. She also founded the X-Network to protect at-risk youth and co-launched the Tshwane Counter Trafficking Coalition. Wilna's advocacy work spans contributions to key legislation, including the Trafficking in Persons Act. She serves on multiple boards and authored work on post-apartheid urban change and care.

Institutions

Yeast City Housing (YCH) is the first social housing company in the City of Tshwane and among the earliest in South Africa. It provides affordable, quality accommodation to low-income and at-risk individuals in the inner city, including those with special needs. Recognised as Housing Developer of the Year in 2002 by the Institute for Housing (Gauteng), YCH has played a pioneering role in transitional and special needs housing, transforming both the urban landscape and the lives of its residents. As it grows, YCH faces the ongoing challenge of maintaining high-quality living environments and fostering a strong sense of community beyond the landlord-tenant dynamic—while remaining grounded in its founding vision.

Tshwane Leadership Foundation (TLF) is a community-based organisation dedicated to socially inclusive urban transformation in the inner city of Pretoria. Since 1993, TLF has worked alongside the city's most vulnerable communities—women and girls, children and youth, and people experiencing homelessness—through 15 innovative programmes. Their work focuses on building healthy, inclusive urban communities by addressing poverty, homelessness, and violence against women and children. They advocate for rights-based policies while offering practical support through outreach, drop-in centres, transitional housing, life skills training, palliative care, and pathways to secure housing.

Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS), University of Pretoria

The Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS) at the University of Pretoria is a multidisciplinary research center focused on fostering intellectual dialogue and collaborative knowledge production, particularly within the humanities and social sciences. It aims to provide a supportive environment for scholars, researchers, and students to engage in meaningful academic inquiry and address significant societal issues. The Centre's work is geared towards tackling important social, economic, and environmental issues, with a focus on translating research findings into practical, real-world solutions. CAS is designed to facilitate research that transcends disciplinary boundaries, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing across different fields.

Participant Backgrounds

Elizabeth Mashego

Elizabeth Eugene Mashego is a 42-year-old outreach and social auxiliary worker based in Pretoria. She works with the Tshwane Leadership Foundation (TLF), the parent organisation of Yeast City Housing. Elizabeth is deeply engaged in community outreach, supporting others through her professional and personal commitment to care work.

Elizabeth Mojakisane

Emily Tladinyane

Emily Tladinyane is a 43-year-old outreach worker living at the YCH flats in Salvokop, Pretoria, where she resides with her spouse and children. Both she and her spouse are employed in community-based work—Emily at the Tshwane Leadership Foundation (TLF). Despite recent financial challenges, she remains dedicated to her role and continues to support others through outreach.

Katharina Bruck

Katharina Bruck is a 19-year-old volunteer currently working with the Tshwane Leadership Foundation (TLF) in Pretoria. She spends much of her time contributing to TLF's community-focused work. Through her engagement in the workshop, Katharina hopes to better connect with others in the community, and gain new knowledge and skills she can carry forward into her life.

Masefako Thole

Masefako Thole is a 42-year-old social auxiliary worker living in a house on Alice Findlay Street in West View, Pretoria. She volunteers in her field, dedicating her time to supporting others through community-based work. Her daily routine includes walking along Madiba Street, Lilian Ngoyi Street, and down to Paul Kruger Street—often stopping at local spots like McDonald's. These walks are not just practical but also serve as a form of exercise and reflection.

Portia Machaba

Puleng Dhlamini

Puleng Dhlamini is a 19-year-old volunteer currently living in a shelter on Burgerspark Lane in Pretoria. Deeply rooted in her community, Puleng finds meaning through spiritual and cultural engagement, regularly attending church and similar gatherings. Though she does not work formally, she contributes through volunteer work and values walking around the city not just for mobility, but for the joy of meeting people and staying connected.

Scholastica Kupata

Scholastica Kupata is a 45-year-old worker living and working on Struben Street in Pretoria. She resides in an apartment and hopes one day to improve her living situation. Her daily life is rooted in the city, where she walks between work and home and has easy access to shops, transport, and other essentials. Scholastica is also active in attending church and engages with both work and spiritual life as central aspects of her routine.

Taryn Mntambo

Taryn Mntambo is a 27-year-old coordinator living in an apartment on Struben Street in Pretoria, where she is connected to the Tshwane Leadership Foundation (TLF). Her work involves community engagement, and she balances her professional life with activities such as shopping and spending time in public spaces like Burgers Park, where she enjoys relaxing. While she values walking and being outdoors, safety concerns sometimes limit her mobility in the city.

Thandeka Shabangu

Zanele Thomas

Anna (Zanele Thomas) is a 45-year-old cleaner. While she receives a SASSA child grant, she continues to work hard to support herself and dreams of one day finding a better home where she no longer has to pay rent. Outside of work, Anna attends church and cultural ceremonies, and enjoys visiting places like the zoo to learn about animals.

Invited Artists

Kawthar Jeewa

Born and raised in Mauritius island, Kawthar is an advocate for alternative ways of co-existing and dwelling in nature that un-make colonial legacies. She holds a Master's degree in Architecture (Professional) from the University of Cape Town, in South Africa, where she also obtained a certificate in Advanced Project Management. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Architectural Studies at Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha, and was selected for the Architectural Workshop of the IUAV, in Venice, Italy. Her work has been part of a collective travelling exhibition, and Kawthar has recently been awarded a position as curatorial assistant. Currently she is a doctoral student at Nelson Mandela University.

Nsika Mhlongo

Nsika Mhlongo, a contemporary South African artist, explores the theme of violence and its impact on human experience through introspective works inspired by her own life. Born in 1998 in Richards Bay, South Africa, she obtained her BA in Visual Arts from the Centre for Visual Arts, University of Kwazulu Natal, in 2020. Her artistic journey began after teaching English for four years, when she met former mentor Thokozani Mthiyane. Under Mthiyane's guidance, she interacted with notable artists like Ayana V. Jackson. Mhlongo's career further developed with brief mentorship from Senzeni Marasela at Ellis House Artists Studios, and collaborations with Thami Jali at Linbro Park Studios, where she facilitated children's workshops. In 2023, she attended the Meta Foundation's "Business of Being an Artist" workshop, leading to a group exhibition at August House. After working as a Gallery Assistant at the University of Johannesburg, Mhlongo now practices art full-time in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Senzeni Marasela

Senzeni Mthwakazi Marasela is a cross-disciplinary visual artist based in Soweto. She earned her BA in Fine Arts from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1998 and subsequently participated in a residency at the South African National Gallery, contributing to its notable Fresh exhibition. Marasela has postgraduate studies in Curatorial Practice and is the Curatorial lead at Ellis House Art Building and a collaborator for Ellis Art House Projects, an entity that oversees the running of the inhouse gallery. Marasela's work spans performance, photography, video, printmaking, textiles, and embroidery, consistently exploring themes of history, memory, personal narrative, gender, and the lived experience of Black South African women. She has described her practice as creating an "intimate archive," often using what's termed "performative fictive masquerading"—where she embodies imagined or inherited personas.

Maps

Pretoria CBD







