

# URBAN WORLDS



**ANTHROPOLOGY SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**Annual conference**

**4 - 7 October 2009**

**University of Johannesburg**



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## CALL FOR PAPERS

More than half of the world's population currently live in cities and most people will do so by 2050. Urban populations in Asia and Africa will double over the next 25 years, and by 2030, 80% of the world's towns and cities will be in the developing world. The scale and rate of urban growth, particularly in the developing world, is staggering. Lagos, for example, currently has over 10 million inhabitants and this is expected to nearly double by 2015. In South Africa, the Gauteng city-region is expected to grow to 14 million inhabitants by 2015, putting the region in the top 15 biggest urban areas in the world. Towns and cities are not only increasing in size, but also in complexity—varying in forms, structures and functions. Migrants with diverse backgrounds, skills and expectations move to urban areas in their own countries and across borders, despite having to cope with social disruption, lack of secure housing, poor services and bad environmental conditions. Nevertheless, living in these circumstances is preferred by many as compared to staying behind in rural areas.

Setha Low (2005) argues that anthropological voices are seldom heard in urban studies

discourse although many anthropologists do research in urban environments. She suggests that the city is undertheorised in anthropology. This conference would like to pose general theoretical and methodological questions about urban anthropology. Are we, for example, doing anthropology in the city or anthropology of the city? How do we understand social relations and the role of kinship in urban environments? What is the relevance of a framework using culture to describe and analyse the lives and worlds of city dwellers? How are health seeking behaviour and healing practices changing to accommodate emerging diseases of lifestyle? What is anthropologists' involvement in urban research, and in urban policy making?

Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts and present papers that engage with the theme. Abstracts of between 500 and 800 words should indicate the following: Title of the paper, full name/s, institutional affiliation/s and address/es, including e-mail/s and contact telephone number/s, of the presenter/s.

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## DEADLINES

Abstracts should be submitted to asna2009uj@gmail.com not later than 21 August 2009. For enquiries contact Prof Thea de Wet or Ms Joyce Ferreira at 011-559 2859 or e-mail joycef@uj.ac.za.

Abstracts will be peer reviewed by a panel of experts and decisions will be communicated by 4 September 2009.

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## CONFERENCE COST

R950 for the full conference attendance  
R450 for students  
R300 per day if not attending the full conference

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## FURTHER ENQUIRIES

Visit the AsnA website (<http://asnahome.org/>) for more information on the conference, including accommodation.