COVID-19, Informality & Public Space

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Joy McKinney | VPUU, 2014
Unregulated or unregistered businesses, settlements, activities and infrastructure built outside of state regulations (Auerbach et al., 2018: 2)

Global South Realities:

- Informality as the ‘norm’
- Over 50% informal urban employment
- Temporal and Spatial
- Criminalisation: Subaltern Informality (Roy 2015: 66)
PUBLIC SPACE

noun

- ‘A neutral inactive receptacle’ (WEIGO 2018)
- Accessible to all
- Physical and political dimensions
- **Forms:** streets and sidewalks, boulevards and promenades, parks and beaches, and public buildings
- **Functions:** sports and leisure, exchanges, political, traffic and transport commercial

Figure 2: Public Space I’m Harare 2021. WLA. [online] Available at: <https://worldlandscapearchitect.com/> [Accessed 15 April 2021]
South African Context

- Global south has some of the largest informal settlements.
- Low resource settings.
- COVID-19 exhausts facilities in high income areas - the worrying effects in areas with no health infrastructure.

C19 and Informality

- Closure of public spaces
- Decreased income
- Decreased food security
- Decreased access to public transport
- Decreased access to basic health and sanitation services

C19 and Public Space

- Enhancing public space.
- Challenged - Covid 19 protocols.
- Solution Interventions
Guidelines for future planning & design of public spaces

**INCREMENTALITY**

**PARTNERSHIP**

**MOBILITY**

**DECENTRALISATION**

**RESPONSE TO CASE STUDY**

**RESPONSE TO COVID**

The Table House
[link](https://www.noeroarchitects.com/project/the-table-house/)

Bhubaneshwar street vendors
[link](https://i0.wp.com/orissadiary.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EVET9-6U4A0CAM.jpg?fit=1280%2C721&ssl=1)

Bicycle commuter

Restoration of cheonggyecheon stream
[link](https://medium.com/vision-zero-cities-journal/paradigm-shift-in-seoul-3895fe381b61)

[link](https://www.noeroarchitects.com/project/the-table-house/)
Giving the community the ability to adapt

Modulated adaptive framework

Formal recognition

Through adaptive frameworks and perceived formality, informal entrepreneurs are able to retain their agency whilst receiving security.
PARTNERSHIP

Public | Private | informal partnership

Allocation & regulation of informal activities

Giving legal recognition & protection

Active attempt to upskill & integrate into the economy
Mobility

Greening transit routes for human comfort & mitigation of heat island effect

Safe and equitable access to transport nodes

Connecting peripheral developments to economically active hubs

Readdressing spatial frameworks defined by exclusionary urban planning structures

“Just because you own a car, does not mean you own the road"
DECENTRALISATION

Equitable access to public spaces

A move toward smaller fractured urban entlands

User derived activations of space
Reflections & Conclusions

Definitions

Knowledges

Provision

Global South Tapestries

Appreciating All Types

Space & Economy

ICLEI, 2020

Sean Dayton, 2014

News24, 2018

Tourism Update, 2020

Abalimi Bezekhaya, 2019