

13
July
2016



Today's and tomorrow's challenges are intelligence, social cohesion, innovation, culture - I could have actually used just one word: **the city**.

Bertrand Delanoë, Former Mayor of Paris

TOMORROW'S WORLD

"Urban Future"

By: Geci Karuri-Sebina, PhD

@ IRES International Panel of Futurists Public Roundtable
Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc
Rabat, Morocco



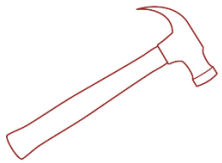
Overview



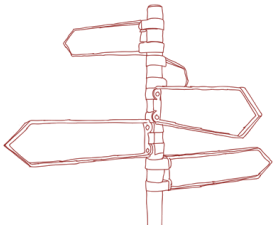
Why Urbanisation



Implications



Responses

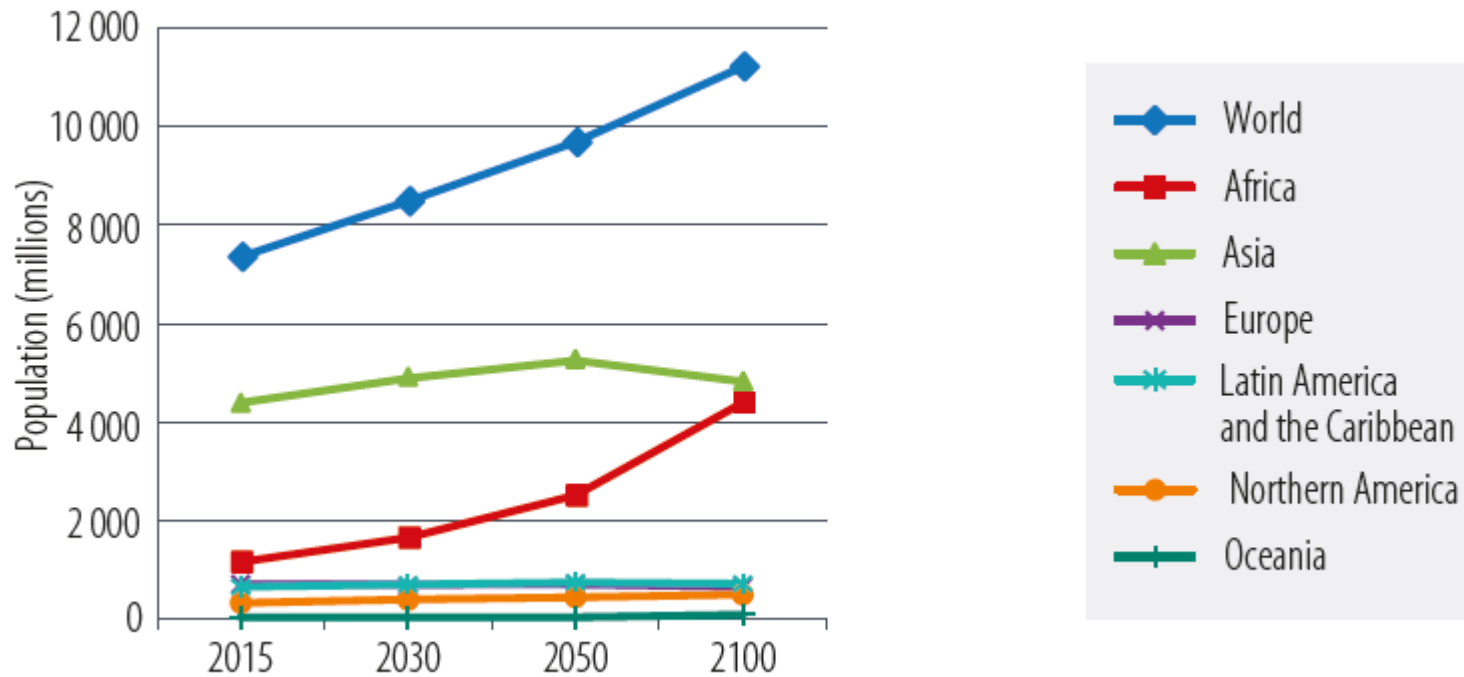
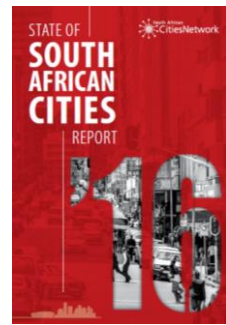


Prospects



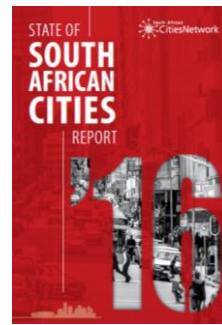
WHY URBANISATION?

Demographics

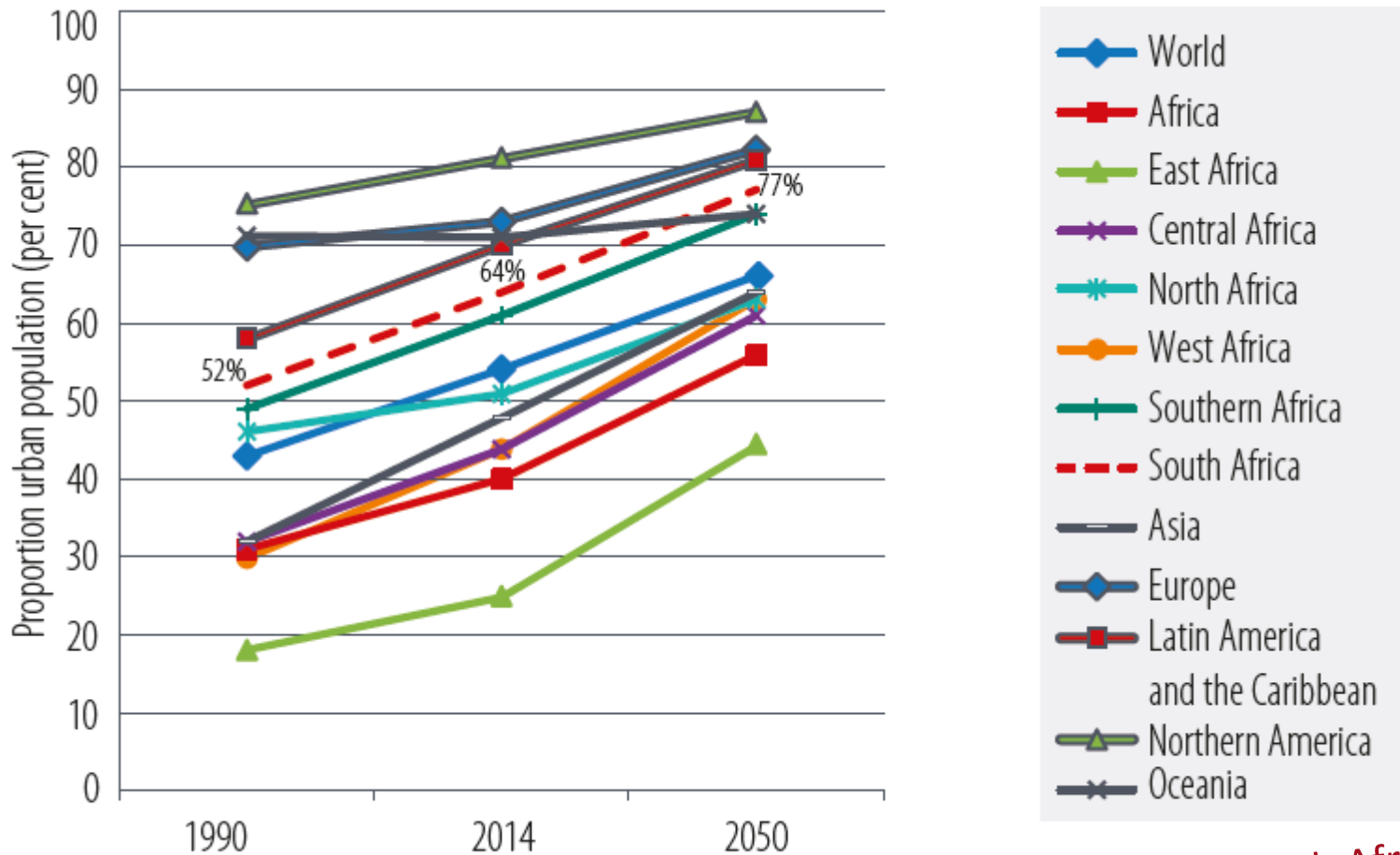


Source: UN DESA (2015)

Almost half (1.3 billion of the 2.4 billion) of the people projected to be added to the world population between 2015 and 2050, will be Africans.



Why the focus on cities is important



Source: UN DESA (2014)

in the world and in North Africa

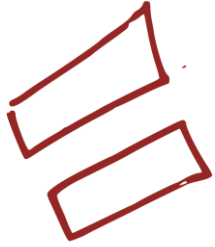
In 2014, for the first time in history, more people ^ lived in urban than rural areas. World urban population is projected to grow from 54.5% in 2014 to 66% in 2050.



Why the focus on cities is important

- Four African city-regions are listed among the 50 largest urban areas in the world:
 - #17: Cairo – population nearly 16 million (15 910 000) and density of 9 000 people per km²
 - #24: Lagos – population nearly 13 million (12 830 000) and density of 9 000 people per km²
 - #27: Kinshasa – population over 11 million (11 380 000) and density of 19 500 people per km²
 - #40: Johannesburg – population over 8.5 million (8 655 000) and density of 3 300 people per km²

One quarter (23.9%) of the world population is already concentrated in large urban areas of a million population or more. Densities vary hugely.



EXPONENTIAL URBANISATION

Implications

Persistent issues and emerging urban challenges due to **increased urban population.**



Urban Growth



Change in Family Patterns



Increased Residency in Slums and Informal Settlements



Challenges in Providing Urban Services



Climate Change



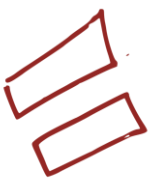
Exclusion and Rising Inequality



Insecurity

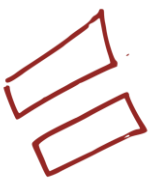


Upsurge in International Migration

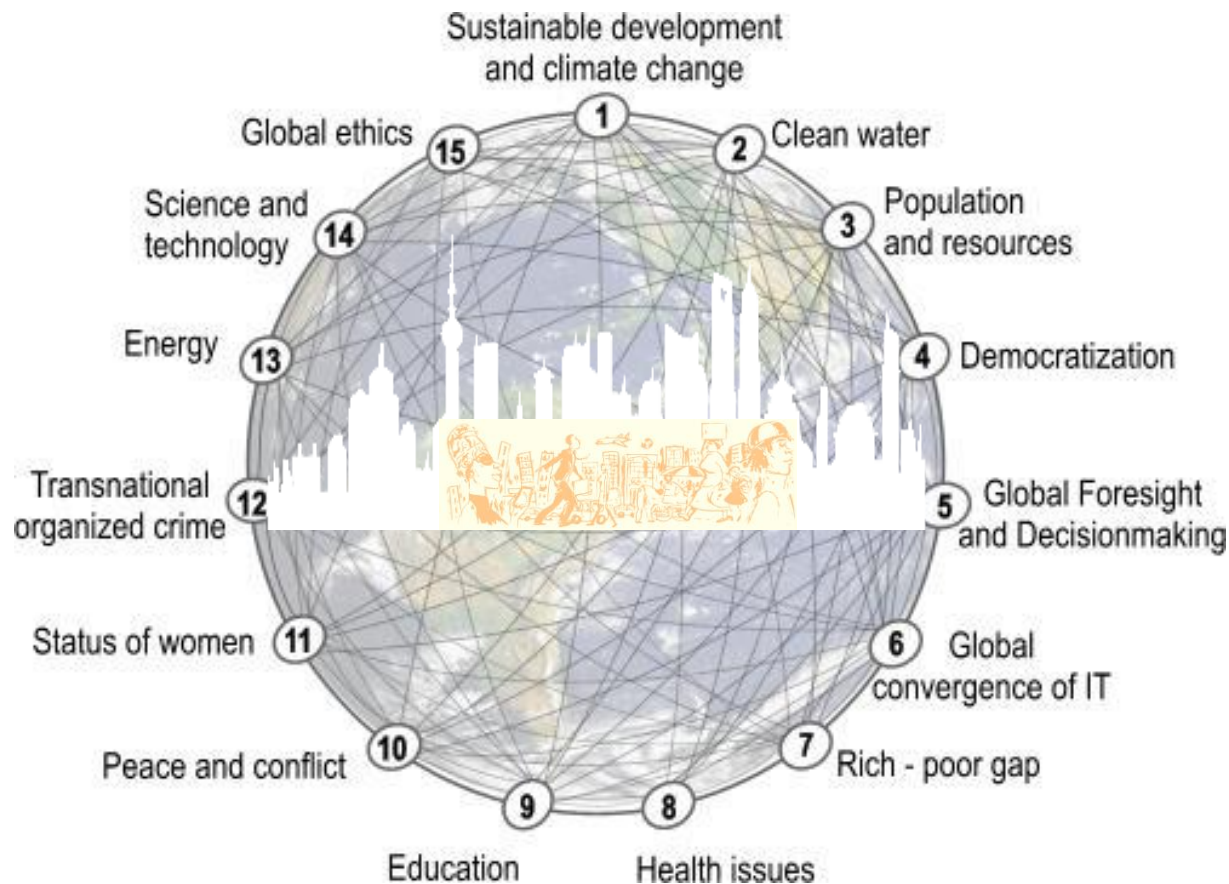


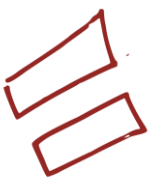
Urbanisation Effects





15 Global Challenges facing humanity



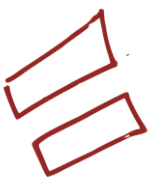


Implications: tensions

**The cities
we have**

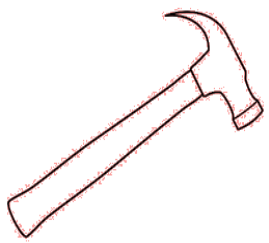


**The cities
we want**

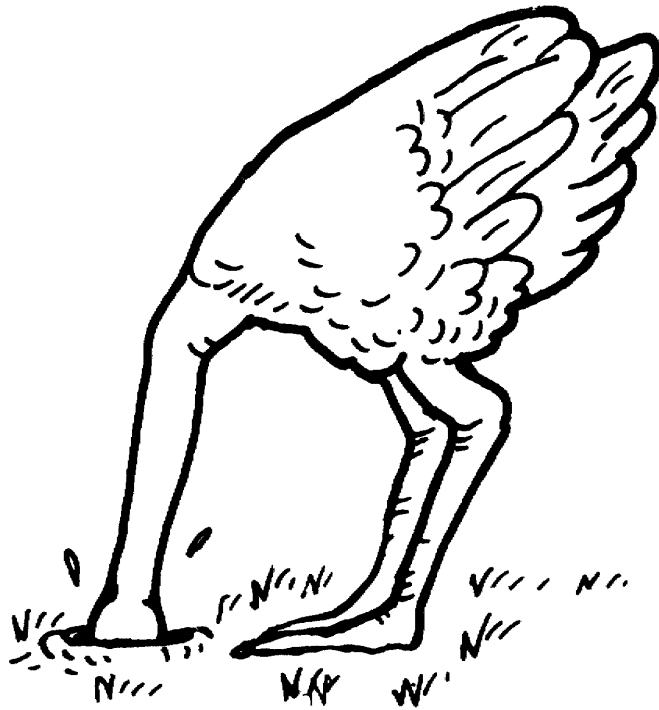


Local challenges, Global considerations





URBAN PRESSURE Responses



New generation urban 'master' plans

“With Africa’s resource boom, growing middle-class and rapid urbanization, this continent is seen as **the next frontier** for property developers and architectural consultancies running out of work in the global North [*and South*].

The **urban fantasies** which are sold to politicians are based on images of Dubai, Shanghai and Singapore, but are still rooted in the work of 1930s French architect Le Corbusier. Politicians who always wanted to ‘catch up with the West’ are now being persuaded to ‘catch up with the East’. **Smart-cities** and **Eco-cities** are other terms being used to disguise these **profit-seeking** initiatives.

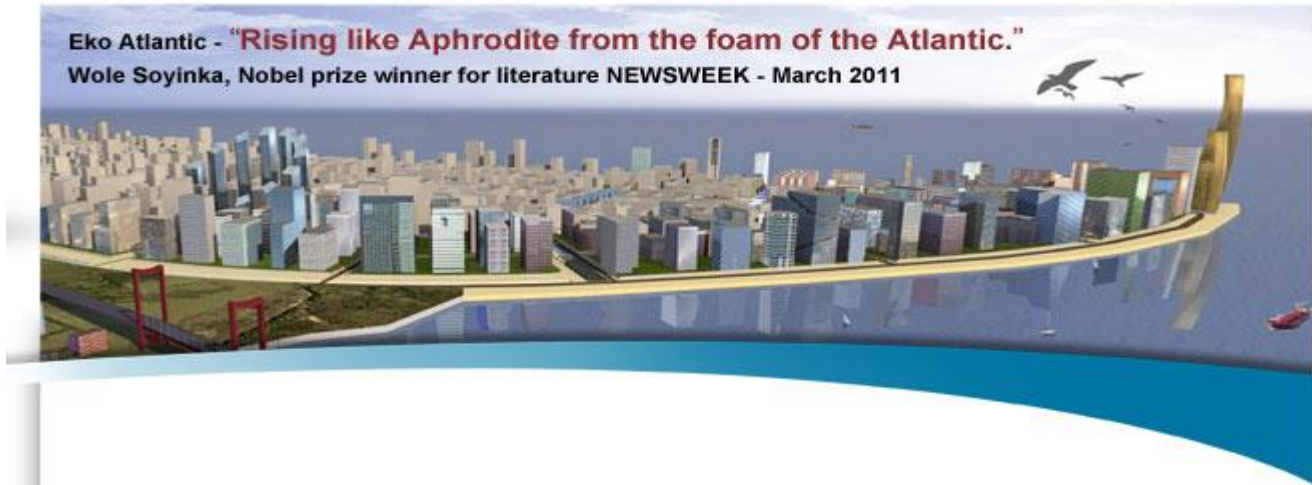
These plans will have devastating consequences for African cities. They are **environmentally unsustainable** and **car-oriented**, and will lead to massive **displacement** of the urban poor which make up the majority of these cities. City budgets will be skewed away from basic services towards infrastructure for these visions. The property developers and their consultants will be the beneficiaries. Angola’s ‘ghost cities’, standing empty, are an example of the result.

‘Satellite cities’ is one form being taken to avoid dealing with **the messy reality** of the existing urban areas – this is ‘splintering urbanism’ on a regional scale.”

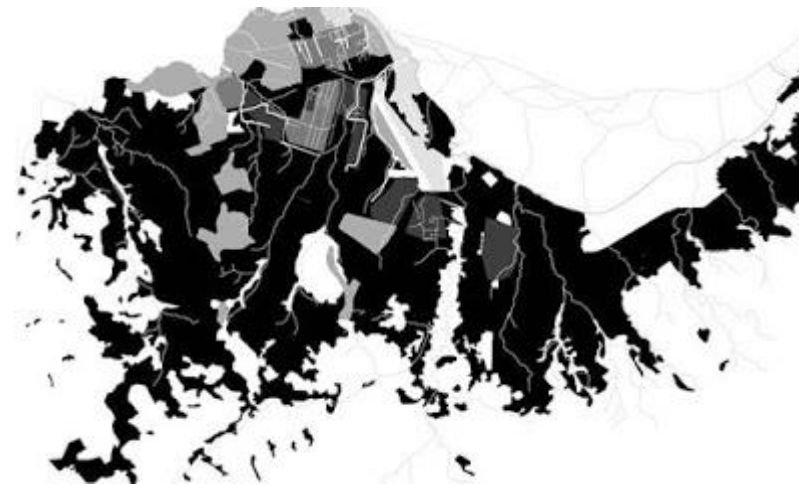
Nairobi (Kenya)



Lagos (Nigeria)



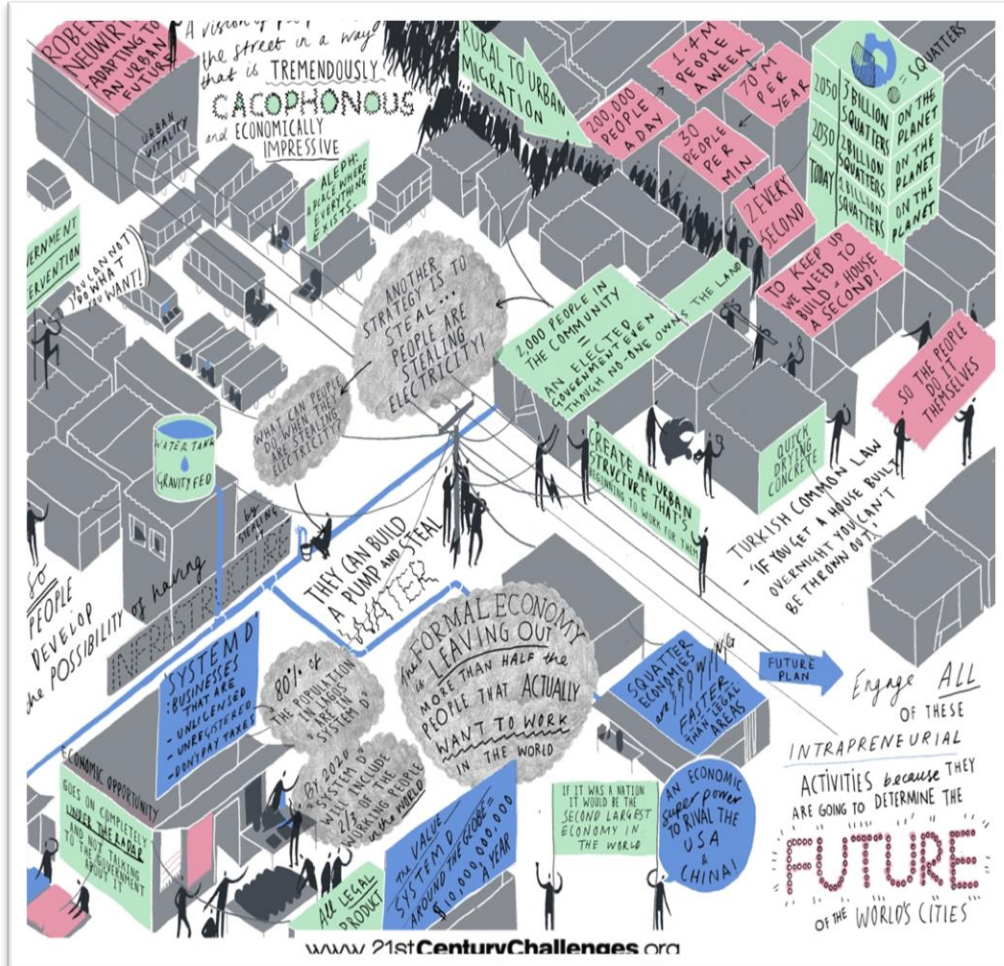
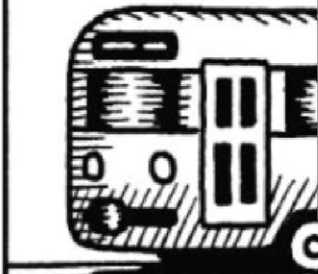
Kinshasa (DRC)



"PUBLIC INVESTMENT"



"WASTE"



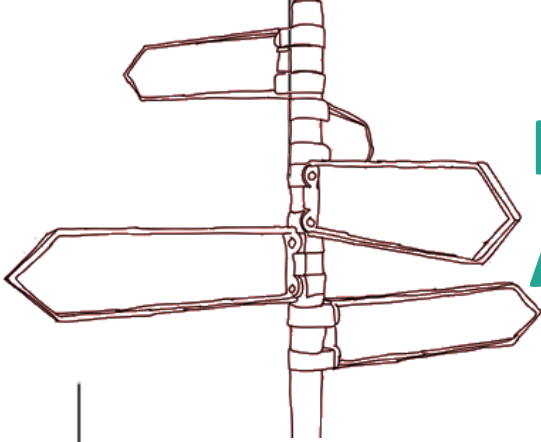
WE SUPPORT AFFORDABLE, SUSTAINABLE HOUSING PROJECTS.



...AND NO CATS!



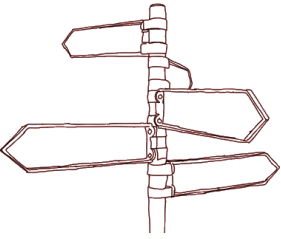
GHENT/SINGER



PROSPECTS

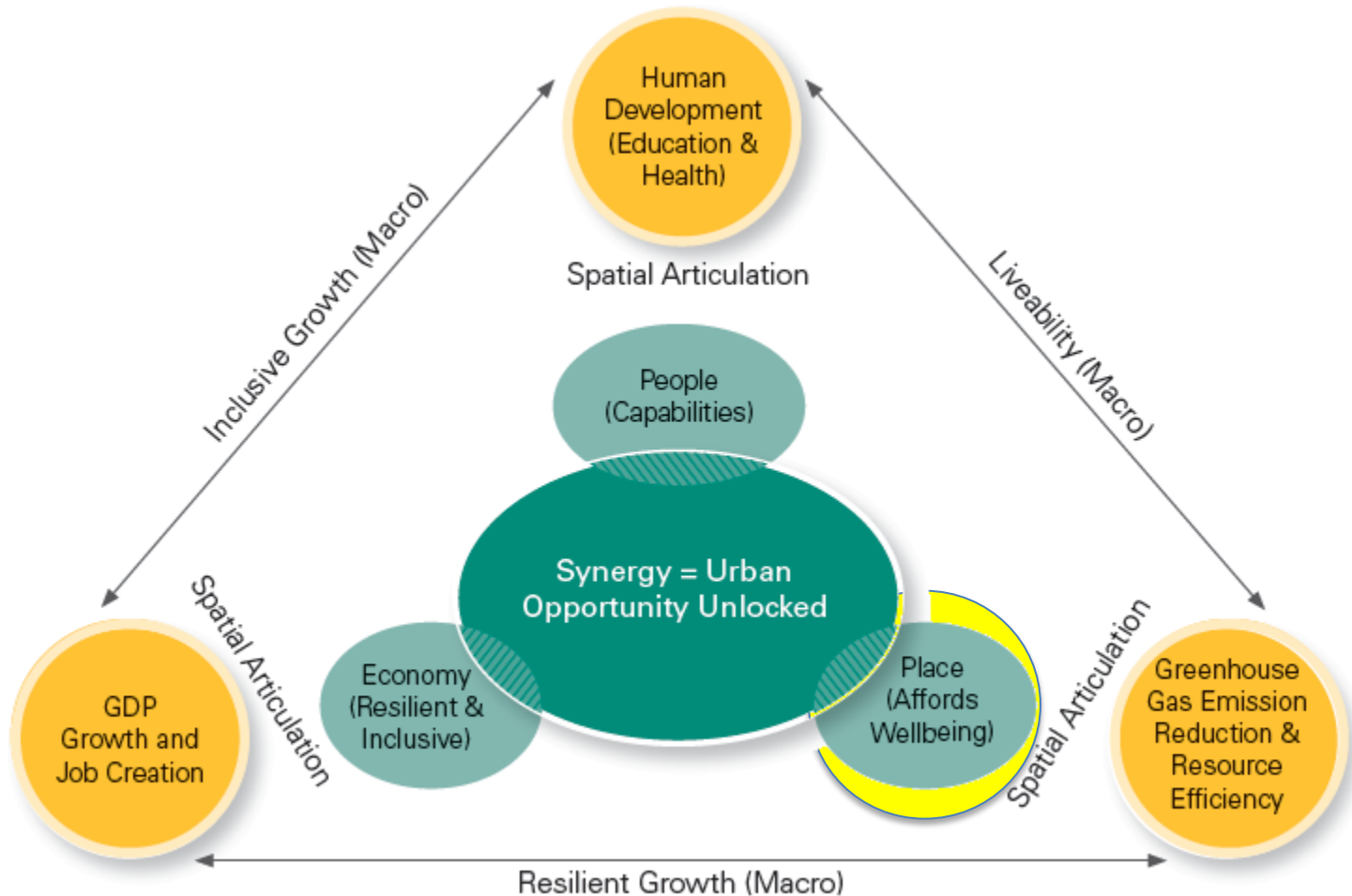
Approaches and ideas

- Systemic images:
 - “Tale of 2 Cities” (Charles Dickens)
 - “Fortress World” (James E. Gunn)
 - “Planet of slums” (Mike Davis)
 - “Shadow Cities” (Robert Neuwirth)
 - “Arrival City” (Doug Saunders)
 - “Happy City” (Charles Montgomery) , etc.
- Thematic approaches:
 - Smart City; Green City; Knowledge / Innovative City; Collaborative City; etc.

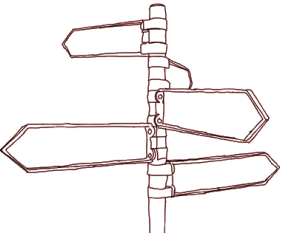


PROSPECTS

“Urban Dividend”



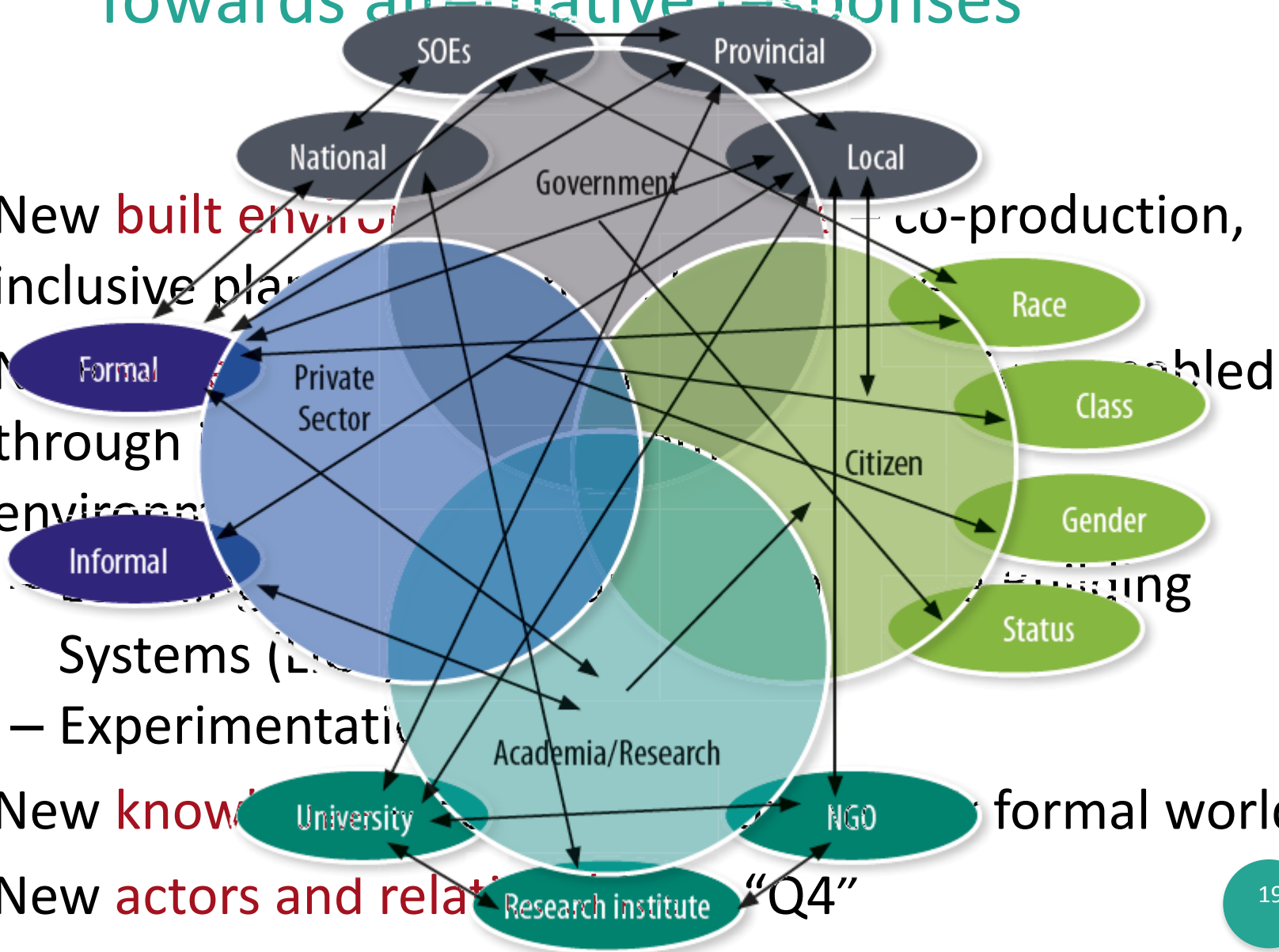
Source: COGTA (2016)

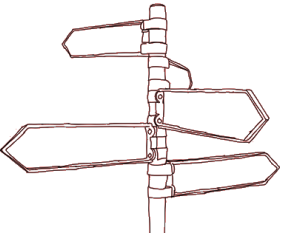


PROSPECTS

Towards alternative responses

- New **built environment** through inclusive planning
- New **knowledge** through environmental systems (Local, National, Provincial, SOEs, Government, Local, Private Sector, Academia/Research, University, Research institute, NGO, formal world)
- New **actors and relationships** through co-production, co-creation, co-learning, co-governance, co-management, co-decision making
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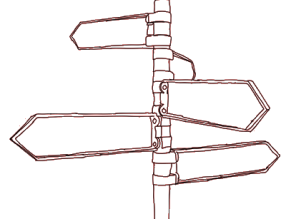




PROSPECTS

Disruptions

- **Governance** – forms, networks, power shifts
- **Physical Space** – new built forms, reformed tenure systems
- **Resource limits** – food, energy, water and waste systems
- **Technology** – new tools, ubiquity
- **Infrastructure** – transformations (modernisation, resilience), dynamic demand (lifecycle issues, finance)



PROSPECTS

Disruptions

“Opportunities”

- “Natural resources”
 - Youth – “Demographic Dividend” / Pressure cooker
 - Diversity – Conflict / Resilience
- Backlogs and deficit - unmet and unmet demand
- Creativity, love, joy, compassion, communalism
- Indigenous knowledge systems
- Crisis and collapse

"The real intelligence of cities lies in the almost miraculous, unstable, spontaneous order of city life. The social relationships between people generate the functional intelligence of cities. Imperfect, conflicting, disastrous at times, always open to improvement. Technology only facilitates certain processes, and the logic of collective life will defeat any attempt to implement systems that exceed the required level of sophistication."

Scott Nazarian (The Temporary City)



Thank you
Merci Beaucoup

References

- African Economic Outlook, 2016
- African Urban Research Initiative, 2014-16
- RSA Department of Cooperative Governance, 2016
- South African Cities Network, 2016
- UN DESA Population Division, 2014
- Vanessa Watson, University of Cape Town