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Barbara (Bibi) Burger completed her BA humanities, with Afrikaans and Philosophy as majors, at the Potchefstroom campus of South Africa's North-West University. For her honours in Afrikaans and Dutch she moved to Stellenbosch University, where she also completed her Masters (with a six month stay at Leiden University in the Netherlands). Her MA-thesis dealt with a feminist reappropriation of the domestic sphere in three Afrikaans novellas published in the 1980s. For her PhD in Comparative Literature she is still investigating space, but her focus has moved to urban space and the way this is represented in Afrikaans and English South African novels published since 2000.

From Kleinbegin to Maboneng: fantastical spaces in the film Ballade vir 'n enkeling (2015)
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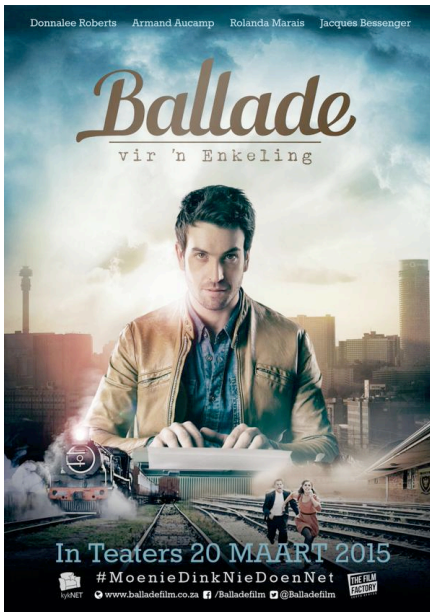
abstract
Johannesburg's efforts to "remake itself" are double edged: on the one hand it results in a "vibrating cultural atmosphere", but it "leaves open the question of the equitable involvement of all the social constituents". In this paper I want to explore the representation of one of these "urban regeneration projects", Maboneng, in a recent Afrikaans film, *Ballade vir 'n enkeling* (2015) ("Ballad for a loner") (hereafter *BvE*).
In my paper I will argue that the film presents an idealized version of Maboneng as a realistic representation of the city as a whole. I will interrogate the film's (implied) claims to realism and ask what the significance of this fantasy version of Johannesburg is. To answer this I will give background information, a plot outline and a discussion of the film's critical reception. I will also discuss the representation of space(s) in the movie and the academic writing on Maboneng and gentrification in Johannesburg. Lastly I will relate this to the depiction of Maboneng in the film, and provide an analysis of the implications thereof for questions of (spatial and symbolic) centrality and Afrikaner identity.