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Governing Mobility and Difference in Johannesburg's Urban Estuaries Loren Landau



abstract

Using migrants – domestic and international – as a heuristic, this paper explores the multiple scales and means of regulating access to the city and its resources. These include not only formal laws, but informal social and coercive mechanisms that may ultimately do more to regulate behaviour, social life, and community formation. The presentation will draw particular attention to the institutional importance of 'xenophobic violence', the rise of charismatic churches, and pressures to contribute trans-locally to god and social taxes. It ultimately describes a city of both overlapping and parallel legal regimes in which state policy and policing is but one of many factors and actors determining rights to the city.