



Tshwane University
of Technology

We empower people

CULTURAL PLANNING AND DECOLONISATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN URBAN SPACE

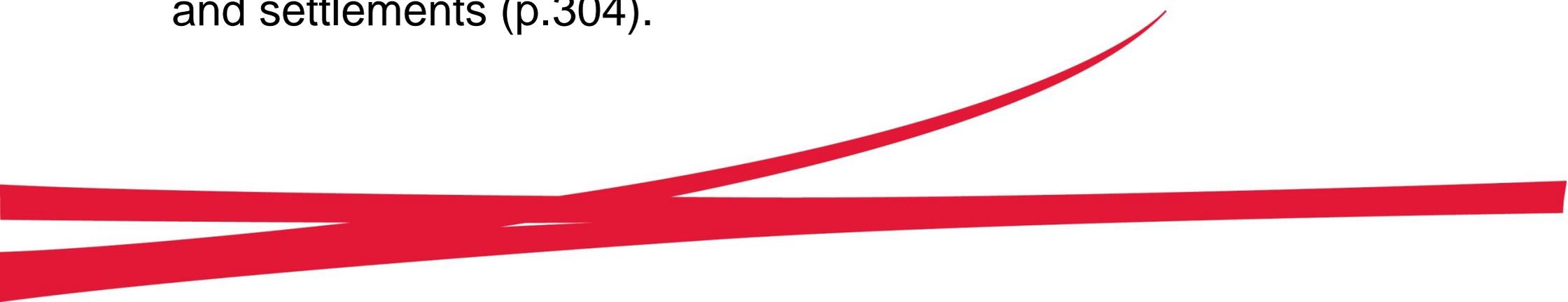
Profs Mzo Sirayi

May 2017

INTRODUCTION

- 1994 - the beginning of a democratic
- Despite the progress and groundwork.
- South Africa remains plagued by racial conflict.
- Imperialist policies (and policy approaches) introduced by British colonizers throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Nyoka, 2016, pp.904-905)

INTRODUCTION

- British colonialism and imperialism have had a pronounced – impact is with respects to **urban planning and design**, “imbalance of land distribution, race-based control of space and infrastructure” carried forward by apartheid-era legacy city-planning policies (Massey, 2015, p.304).
 - A significant “backlog in housing demand” in South Africa, with more than a quarter of South Africa’s urban dwellers – predominantly black Africans – currently living in informal housing and settlements (p.304).
- 

CONTINUES

- “... true hope for African cities lies in starting afresh. Nairobi for example is certainly not a city. It is just one huge slum that is so badly mismanaged by people who know next to nothing about town planning (Muluka, 2002)
- “There is no doubt that Mombasa (Kenya) has in the last few years degenerated into anarchy as hawkers took over the side walks, ...the streets and thugs and drug dealers ... (Mutonya,N:2002:11)

CONTINUES

- “The city of Lagos has been characterised as a bedlam, sprawling with filth and stench from uncleared refuse and drainage (Ipaye, 2001).
- *And of another Nigerian city – Onitsha, a columnist writes that:*
 - *“Onitsha is a chaotic city, an insult to the art of architecture and a disgrace to urban planning and development. The people live and conduct business in a disorganized, congested space, carved out into small empires...” (Abati, 2006).*

CONTINUES

- The same could be said about South African cities:
- are in trouble due to rapid population growth, urbanisation, neglected rural areas, poverty, badly maintained roads, poor public transport, unemployment, drug abuse, pollution, service delivery protests, traffic congestion, social exclusion of many black working class, inability to afford socio-economic goods and many other societal challenges (Sirayi, 2016 & Runciman, 2017).

CONTINUES

- Foundations for ungovernable, criminalised areas and settlements, and the general decline and degeneration of South Africa's cities and towns.
 - The City Beautiful and Garden City movements - have proven contentious and arguably ineffective in South Africa (Sutcliffe, 1990).
 - For a true solution to be found, a proper decolonization of South Africa's urban development policies needs to occur.
- 

CULTURAL PLANNING AND DECOLONISING URBAN SPACE

- Modernist (e.g. Garden City and City Beautiful) or postmodernist movements.
- A solution could be found, is arguably, through an exploration of cultural planning - the “integrated approach” which could contribute effectively to urban regeneration.
- North America, Europe, and Nigeria with versions of it being found in other countries ...(Bianchini, 2013, p.377).

CONTINUES

- ❑ The term “cultural planning” dates back about 1970s and 80s (Dreeszen 1997 & Bianchini 2013 Stevenson,2004).
- ❑ Bianchini (2013) suggests that some of its central ideas find their origins in ancient civilizations.
- ❑ Cultural planning dates back to the pre-colonial period in Africa (Sirayi, 2016).

CULTURAL PLANNING AND DECOLONISING URBAN SPACE

- Today, the use of culture has become a common feature in the urban development policies of local and central governments across the world (O'Brien, 2014, p.91).
- Although broad in its remit, cultural planning can, perhaps, be best understood as a...
 - *[C]ulturally sensitive approach to urban and regional planning and to environmental, social and economic public policy making; it is about creating a two-way relationship between cultural resources and public policy (Bianchini, 2013, p.380).*

CONTINUES

- In this respect, cultural planning is not so much about planning culture (Bianchini & Ghilardi, 2007, p.2).
- Bianchini (2013) suggests that cultural planning should be understood as “a relationship in which people who are in charge of mapping cultural resources [are] also able to influence public policy – it should be a dialogue between equals” (p.380).
- “the creative industries and cultural activity” (Throsby, 2010, p.133).

CONTINUES

- Easy to dismiss cultural planning as another Western approach to urban development ... a growing number of scholars (including South African scholars) have posited cultural planning as a novel and, in the case of South Africa, much needed approach to urban planning (e.g. Sirayi, 2008; Segooa, 2014; Nawa et al., 2016).

CONTINUES

- Cultural planning is needed to ensure that indigenous cultures continue to develop and endogenous industries are able to grow and flourish.
- Mercer (2006) adds that without a proper cultural planning approach, there is no guarantee that indigenous cultural development and endogenous industry growth will occur (p.12).
- Throsby (2010) notes that one of the many (cultural) challenges facing developing countries – such as South Africa – is the breakdown of social, political, cultural, and economic barriers as a result of globalization (p.191).

CONTINUES

- Well-documented are the effects of globalization on indigenous cultures (e.g. Spivak, 2012; Throsby, 2010; Graves, 2005; Bennett et al., 1993).
- In this respect, cultural planning could serve South Africa as a vehicle for decolonization:
 - ***its emphasis on local culture could conceivably help the country's cities and townships disengage with colonial planning approaches that replicate Western aesthetics and ideas.***

CONTINUES

- When speaking of decolonization, in the context of urban development, it is largely understood as a corrective measure that uses alternative urban planning approaches to address colonially-imposed Eurocentric and apartheid planning approaches.
- Perhaps more importantly, however, cultural planning would offer South Africa an approach to urban, and **township planning** that adequately address many of the country's prevailing urban issues such as crime, unemployment, housing shortages, and degeneration.

CONCLUSION

- The introduction and application of cultural planning into South Africa's approach to urban development.
- No means a promotion of cultural planning as simple “beautification” or aesthetic enhancement of a decaying cityscape.

CONTINUES

- What this paper proposes is a cultural planning approach that, as Bianchini (1999) suggests, is “rooted in an understanding of local cultural resources and of cities as cultural entities” – an approach that seeks to foster an environment of cultural inclusion, where “people meet, talk, share ideas, and where identities and lifestyles are formed”(p.49).
- It is this paper’s view that by focusing on the cultural offerings, South Africa can legitimately begin the process of decolonizing its urban development.

CONTINUES

- For too long, South Africa has relied on urban planning approaches that were borne of colonial-rule and which have served to legitimize ideas and ideologies that perpetuate apartheid-era policies of racial segregation and exploitation.
- With cultural planning, South Africa would arguably have an approach to cultural planning that would enable it to disengage with a prominent component of colonialism and re-forge a cultural identity that is distinctly South African (see Figure 1).



Tshwane University
of Technology

We empower people

SKOT-HANSEN'S MODIFIED CULTURAL PLANNING APPROACH

Dorte Sko-Hasen's Model



ENLIGHTENMENT

Insight
Knowledge
Education/Decolonisation
Reflection/Decolonisation

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Image /regeneration
Tourism/Creative Industries
Recruitment
Job-creation

**Cultural Plan of Local
Authority**

EMPOWERMENT

Cultural Identity
Social Inclusion
Social Cohesion
Cultural Diversity

Entertainment

Leisure
Play
Fun
Recreation/Rituals

FIGURE 1: THE FOUR E'S – GOALS OF CULTURAL PLANNING APPROACH



Tshwane University
of Technology

We empower people

THANK YOU