A New Research Agenda?
Local Cultural Policy in South Africa

Zayd Minty
African Centre for Cities/UCT
Presentation at SACO Conference March 2018
Local Cultural Policy: 1) Terrain  2) South Africa  3) A Research Agenda?
The Terrain: Local Cultural Policies as a New Paradigm

How can a global North phenomena inform a global South agenda?

Culture is key to building a new country. A community that reads, knows its origins, has cultural spaces to enjoy and supports artists, is a society that is proud of its cultural diversity and is equipped with more tools to build peace.

Mariana Garcés Córdoba
Minister for Culture, Colombia
- Machine for Living in
- Management of Service Provision
- Engineers domain

- Networks and Flows
- Positioning and Enablement
- The economists/brand managers

Industrial City

Post Industrial City
Contemporary Approaches to Local Cultural Policy

- **Culture as public benefit/welfare for “betterment”** (pre 1960)
- **Cultural Democracy** (from late 60s – 80s)
- **Cultural Planning** (early 1980s to present)
- **Culture Led Urban Positioning/Regeneration** (late 1980s to present)
- **Creativity as an Economic Amenity** (1990s to present)
- **New Urbanism to Creative Place-making**
- **Cultural Development and Sustainability**

Grodach 2017, Andres & Chapain 2013, Stevenson 2004
Economic
- Middle Class Centric
- High Brand Value
- Economic Impact
- Inequity

Holistic
- Broad Based
- Not Flashy
- Resilience / Cultural Rights
- Developmental

CITIES IN CRISIS

Economically
Socially
Environmentally
Culturally
Politically

Pieterse, Swilling Malik-Simone
Revaluing Culture

Culture as a complex whole which includes knowledge, values, wisdoms, creativity, beliefs and rules.

- Culture as integral to Urban Governance & Development
- The “Arts Plus Swindle” (Deborah Mills: 2003)
- Creativity as an integral human dimension (UCLG)
Global South Context
Impacts & Challenges

- Economic & Infrastructural stagnation or collapse
- Resource lack
- Long term planning and delivery (long game) frustrated

- Cultural dynamism, cosmopolitan-ism and energy

- Colonialization
  - The panoptic city – cities of control
  - Western Conceptions of Art & “lifestyle”
  - Economic and Cultural Infrastructure Differences

- Corruption & Clientilism

- Neoliberal Economics
  - Debt / Restructuring / Educational deficit / health crisis
  - Labor exploitation
  - Environmental degradation

- Under-capacitated / Poverty / Violence

Foucault, Fanon, Said

Castells, Lash & Urry, Chomsky
Governance
Learning from the Literature

Evidence Based: Cultural Mapping (Mercer, Bianchini, Sirayi)

Participatory (Cultural) Planning Practise (Sandercock, Healey, Mercer, Pieterse,)

Skills and Aptitudes of Cultural Development Practitioners (Sandercock, Landry)

Learning City (Pieterse, Sandercock, Landry, Healey, Duxbury)

Culture + Sustainability + Frameworks (Duxbury, Stern & Seifert)

Research: Shaping the conversation/ Setting the Debate, Practise based learning

Partnerships: Civil Society, Multi-level Governance

Incentive Funding (Redaelli 2016)
UCLG AGENDA 21
Culture as the fourth pillar of sustainability

http://www.agenda21culture.net
“...Cultural policy can no longer limit itself to the promotion and development of arts and culture without taking into account socio-economic and political dimensions. Cultural policy should be seen as a guide to holistic development. Ie. economic, spiritual, social, intellectual and political.”

L Nawa (2016)
Grants in Aid

Art Centres & Recreation

A Theatre & An Orchestra

Museums & Art Galleries

Libraries

Where is the research? What can these stories tell us?
Two Cultural Capitals or… Culture for Positioning?

- **Culture and Urban Revitalisation Projects**
- **Public Art Policy & Program**
- **Cultural Infrastructure**
  (Soweto Theatre, Hector Pieterse Museum)
- **Events**

**City of Joburg**

- **Policy Development:**
  A&C (1996 - 2000) Arts, Culture and 
  & Creative Industries (2014)
- **Grant Making**
- **Cultural Positioning**
  World Design Capital ‘14, Unesco 
  Creative Cities Network, World Cities 
  of Culture Forum
- **Events**

**City of Cape Town**
Culture is not a Constitutional Mandate of Local Government in SA

Institutional Issues
- Definitional and Value
- Under what/whose remit?
- Low level influence
- Lack of implementation capacity & low budget
- Participatory Democracy
- Who are our stakeholders?

Nawa, Sirayi, Winkler, Pieterse, Stevenson
ECOSYSTEM CONSTRAINTS

• Diversity Politics
• How to work with Cultural Rights?
• Under-capacitated ecosystem
  • Divided
  • Weak
  • “financial, personality conflicts, delays, and managerial deficits"

Mommaas, McRobbie, Ansel & Chapain, Markusen
The question may be less how far we have moved along a spectrum from a fragmented to an integrated city... but rather: how are we doing in creating/dreaming more equitable, more cosmopolitan, more socially just, more liberating, more beautiful, more erotic, more meaningfully productive, more creative cities?

Edgar Pieterse (2006)
- Machine for Living in
- Management of Service Provision
- The Divided & Unequal City
- Engineers domain (dispersed political accountability)

(Third World) Industrial City

- Networks and Flows
- Enablement: “Relational & emergence”
- Cultural Rights
- The Cultural Development Facilitator

Post Industrial & Post Colonial City
Priorities: What’s to be done?

• Shaping the Debate
  • What is the culture and development work relevant for our cities and towns? – taking a position!
  • Moving beyond creative industries/art debate – what are the broad “on the ground” dynamics?
  • Working productively with cultural rights and cultural diversity – what tools and techniques?

• Gathering What’s There / Collecting New Data
  • Bibliographies & lit Reviews (interdisciplinary)
  • Follow the Money.
    • Where and what resources and allocated, what are the stated priorities for allocation, why?
    • Who benefits, why and how? What displacement happens, ie. who doesn’t get and why?
    • Where else is money (Influence) coming from outside the state?

• Interrogate systems and processes.
  • What policies AND practices exist at the municipal and regional level – a) interrogate beyond the rhetoric, and b) recognize the “messiness” inherent in the processes. c) look at the many reports for silences.
  • What is working / what is not? Micro dynamics matter. Is the glitch happening at the political, the administrative, parastatal/municipal entity, service providers, cultural sector or other?

• Documenting the stories

• How to adapt material for the global South / South Africa
  • Learning from both global north (literature) and global south (lit/cases)

• Sharpening Governance Models
  • Alternatives? multi level stakeholders, beyond local government
how can local cultural policy address integrated urban development challenges?

- participatory governance
  - cultural rights
  - cultural diversity
  - cultural mapping

- evidence base
  - civil society / government interface

- governance frameworks
- policy, frameworks, strategies
- implementation guidelines
- knowledge transfer
- indicator development

- policy initiation / adoption
- policy development
- cultural planning
- implementation
- monitoring + evaluation

accountability

capacitation
Lets build a shared learning platform.
https://www.researchgate.net/project/Local-Cultural-Policy-in-South-Africa

Thank You!

www.creativecitysouth.net
zayd.minty@gmail.com