



Séminaire LAM

Mardi 27 novembre, 9h - 12h

Maison des Suds, Pesac

"Space and mobility in Kenyan intermediate towns"

- 9h / 10h30 Jackson Kago (LAM / Kenyatta University) : "Mobility Patterns and their Impact on Urban-Rural Linkages in Small and Intermediate Towns in Kenya – A Dual Transect Analysis"

Transport infrastructure is viewed as a main challenge in enabling interaction and connectivity between small and intermediate towns and the region. However, infrastructure that is not well integrated to ensure mobility and accessibility may not reliably improve livelihoods in rural areas.

The research will investigate intra-mobility between small and intermediate towns and their surrounding regions and its implications on urban-rural linkages, focusing in particular on the motives, benefits, barriers and challenges of mobility between urban and rural areas. It will use a dual transect analysis to explore mobility patterns along Thika and Karatina as well as Ruiru and Upland towns. It will make use of qualitative and quantitative techniques to assess both the usability and operational aspects of mobility by interviewing both operators, stakeholders and users of modes of transport. The study will give rationale for more in depth mobility analysis as part of the formulation of key infrastructure investments in the transport sector especially focusing on the socio-cultural considerations.

- 10h30 / 12h Nathan Kariuki (LAM / University of Nairobi) "Space-sharing Concept: The sustainability of the 'new city' night markets in Thika town"

According to the 2018 Economic Survey report published by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the informal sector accounted for the lion's share of the new jobs at 747,000. Street trading are the largest groups in the informal economy, after home-based workers, which together represent 10–35 per cent of the nonagricultural workforce in developing countries, in comparison with 5 per cent of the total workforce in developed countries. However, despite its role in the reduction of economic and social exclusion, street vending is little understood and not well recognized by the local authorities. They operate, most of the time, without urban infrastructures or urban services. They face harassment and are always evicted from the urban spaces. In order to tackle these challenges, street vendors show the ability to develop innovative ways to keep themselves on the streets. They use both illegal and legal means to ensure their presence in the urban landscape. The vendors have created a 'new city' night markets which utilizes the period after normal working hours i.e. between 5pm to 12am or beyond, to generate economic gains.

This study therefore seeks to assess the concept of space sharing, sustainability of night markets and providing information on how to manage the issues resulting from this new landscape in Thika town. This might be one of the ways of addressing the issues of street vending flows in Thika town rather than consistent displacement and harassment of the street vendors. When the local authorities consider this option and adjust their policies to accommodate the night market, then it might be the solution for the street vending in the town. This can be the start of the 24hour economy in Thika town if social innovations can be adopted to accommodate the informal traders. The research will use both the qualitative and quantitative techniques to collect and analyse data on space sharing concept in Thika Town. Interviews, questionnaires and focus group will be used in collection of data.

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