The City in Africa

As the city increasingly becomes the scene of political, social, and economic life across Africa, this reading group seeks to survey some of the literature from a variety of disciplines on themes such as architecture, aesthetics, informal economies, livelihoods, youth, sex, style, violence, security, migrations, and movement.

Week 1

• Gwendolyn Wright “Tradition in the Service of Modernity” (in *Journal of Modern History* 1987)
• Vyjayanthi Rao with Filip DeBoeck and AbdouMaliq Simone “Invisible Urbanism in Africa” (in *Perspecta* 2007)
• Achille Mbembe “Aesthetics of Superfluity” (in *Public Culture* 2004)

Week 2


Week 3

• Laura Fair “Dressing Up: Clothing Class and Gender in Post Abolition Zanzibar” (from *Pastimes and Politics* 2001)
• Louise White “A Colonial State and an African Petty Bourgeoisie” (from *Struggle for the City* 1983)
• Daniel Mains “Neoliberal times: Progress, boredom, and shame among young men in urban Ethiopia” (in *American Ethnologist* 2007)

Week 4

• Thomas Blom Hansen “Performers of Sovereignty: On the Privatization of Security in Urban South Africa” (in *Critique of Anthropology* 2006)
• Derek Hook and Michele Vrdoljak “Gated communities, heterotopia and a ‘rights’ of privilege: a ‘heterotopology’ of the South African security-park” (in *Geoforum* 2002)

Week 5