

CHANGING MIGRANT SPACES AND LIVELIHOODS: HOSTELS AS CRUs, KWAMASHU, KZN

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Renewal, Slum Clearance and Sustainable Livelihoods
Presentation

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Introduction

- * KwaMashu township & former single sex hostel 1958
- * Transformation of migrant spaces and livelihoods
- * Hostel dwellers in its totality: infrastructural, socially, economically, politically and spiritually
- * Themes: hostels, gender, livelihoods, households, intergenerational relations, rural-urban connections

Background

- * March 2009- April 2011 (two phases)
- * Urban and rural areas: KwaMashu hostel and Nongoma, Hlabisa, Eshowe and Mpangeni (URP & ISRDP)
- * Qualitative research methods: participant observation, interviews and focus group discussions and secondary material

Methods and Theory

- * Ethnographic and historical
- * Relational conceptions of space production (Lefebvre)
- * Space as unbounded and interconnected to other places and processes (Massey)
- * Importance of rural-urban connections and theory and practice as inseparable (Hart and Sitas)

Rural-Urban Migration

- * Single sex workers' hostels or compounds are the forms of accommodation which were strictly established to house rural-urban and foreign national migrants (1923)
- * Community Residential Units is the new name for the former single sex hostels in South Africa. These are family housing that have been designed by democratic government to replace single sex workers' hostels (1986)

Livelihood Strategies

- * Diminishing formal economy
- * Social assistance
- * Sexual economy
- * Informal economy
- * Criminality
- * Livestock
- * Land

Analysis

- * Gender and sexuality as centrally important constitutive forces
- * On-going rural-urban connections in the context a collapse of livelihood at both ends, i.e. formal employment in the urban and deteriorating land and livestock production in the rural
- * The ambiguous role played by social grants in livelihoods struggles

Conclusion

- * Rural-urban migration persist although reconfigured
- * Social deterioration : gender and inter-generational problems
- * Political rivalries: IFP-NFP-ANC
- * Economic instability: employment-unemployment, unsustainable livelihoods
- * Infrastructural decay: lack of basic municipal services

THANK YOU

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