

Governing Mobility and Difference in Africa's Urban Estuaries

Violence, Mobility & the Spatiality of Belonging

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Metropolis International Conference

South-South Migration Gets Its Due

Mexico City

8 September 2015

Points for the day

- ***European Fallacy***: Most African migration is within Africa; most is regional and domestic
- ***Host/Guest Dichotomy Falter***: Cities are sites of domestic and international migration
- ***Formal Frailty***: Integration is localised, socialised and highly political.
- ***Forward towards Friendly Cities***: policy demands modesty and better understanding of sites, sectors, spheres, and interests

Informal Housing, Cape Town





Average annual rate of change 1990-2014

Average annual rate of change of city populations, 1990-2014



United Nations • Department of Economic and Social Affairs • Population Division • www.unpopulation.org



Urban Agglomerations 2014

Growth Rate

- <1%
- 1-3%
- 3-5%
- 5%+

City Population

- 1-5 million
- 5-10 million
- 10 million or more



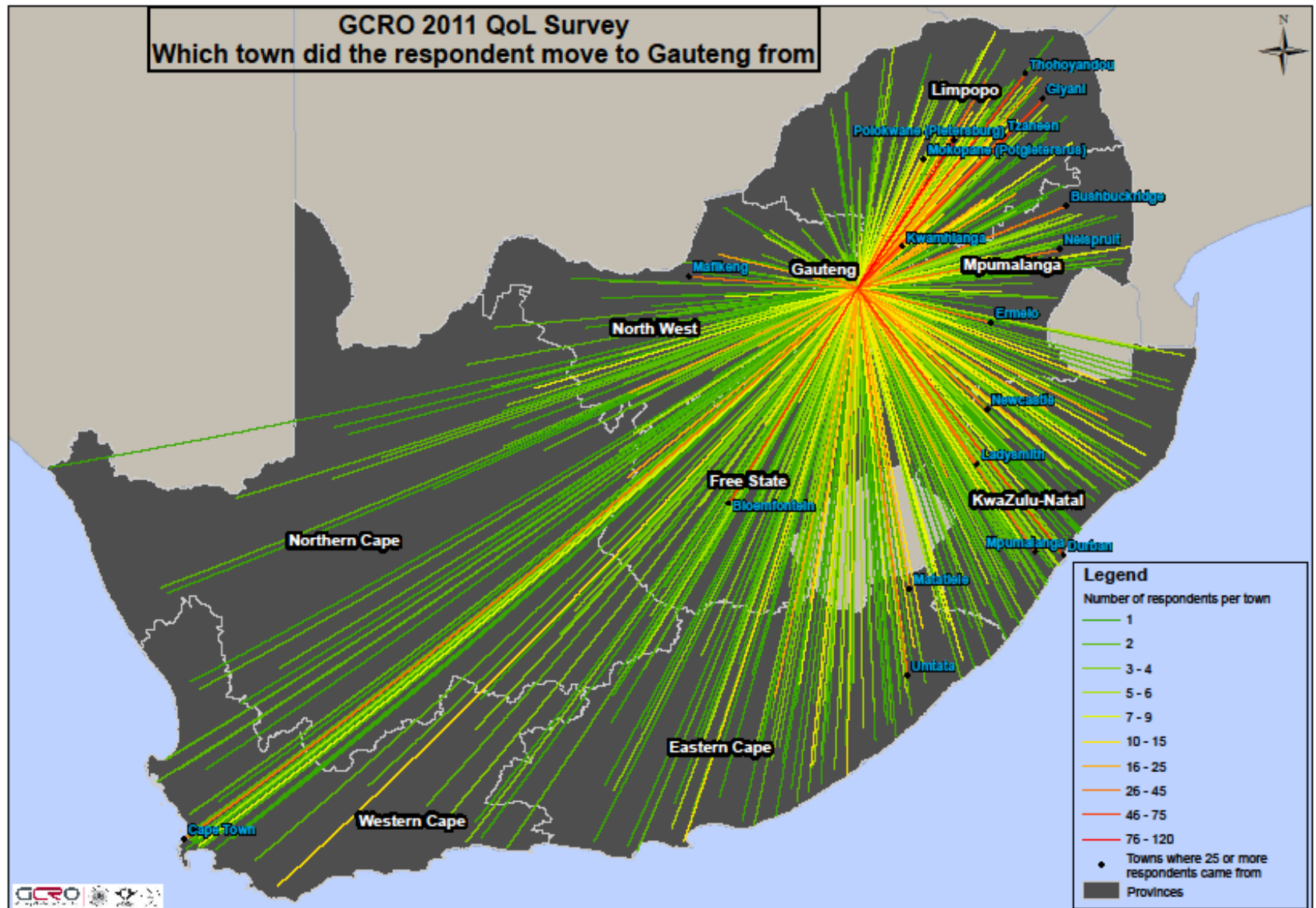
Zimbabwe

Diepsloot

Johannesburg

South Africa

Johannesburg: diverse mobility

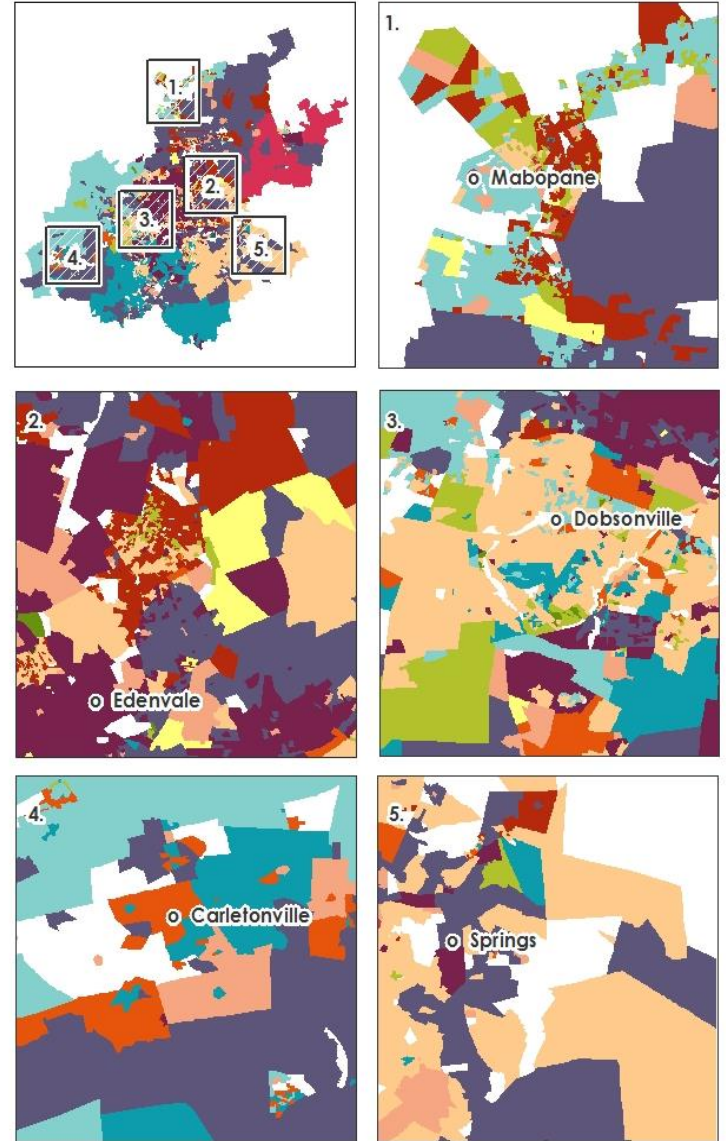
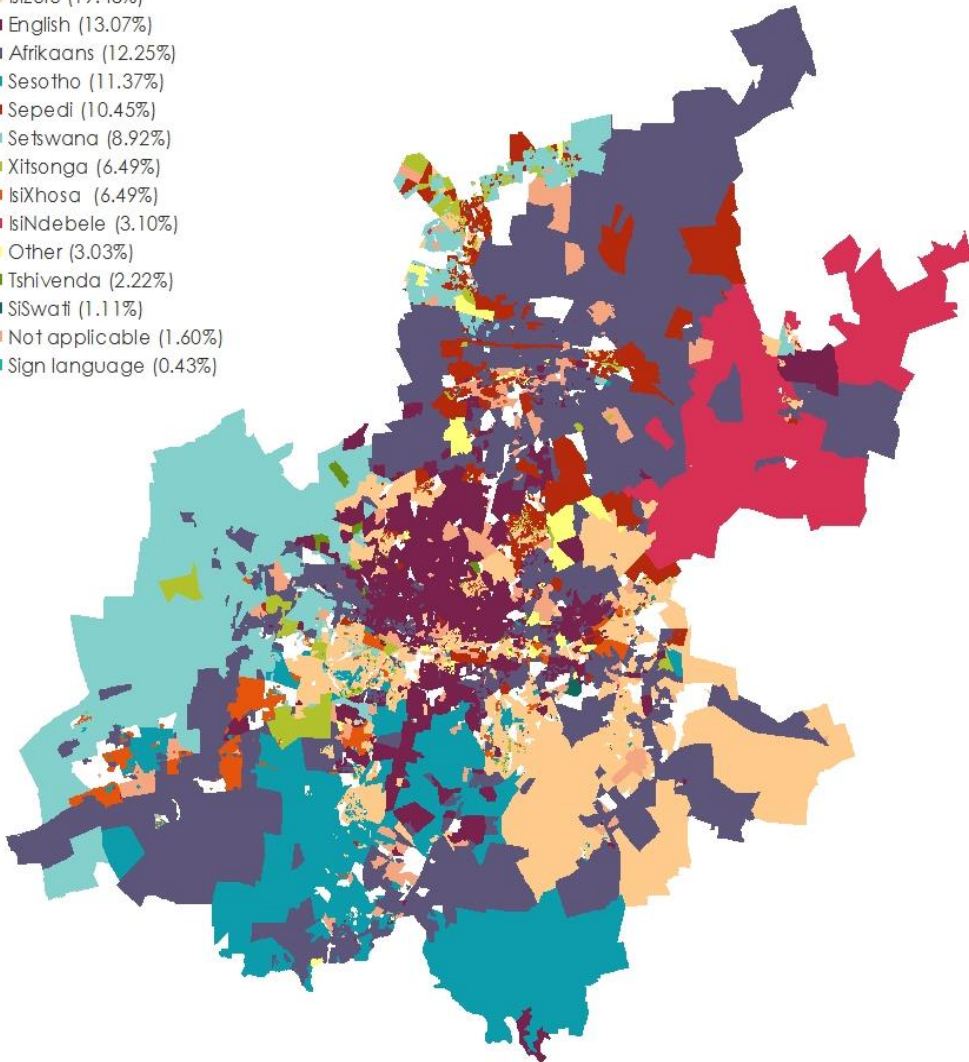


Languages most often spoken in households across Gauteng

Language most spoken by individuals in households per Small Area Layer

Percentage indicates language use across Gauteng

- IsiZulu (19.48%)
- English (13.07%)
- Afrikaans (12.25%)
- Sesotho (11.37%)
- Sepedi (10.45%)
- Setswana (8.92%)
- Xitsonga (6.49%)
- IsiXhosa (6.49%)
- IsiNdebele (3.10%)
- Other (3.03%)
- Tshivenda (2.22%)
- SiSwati (1.11%)
- Not applicable (1.60%)
- Sign language (0.43%)



Source: StatsSA Census 2011

The urban estuary

- Rapid mixing and churning:
 - Long term residents
 - Newly if poorly 'urbanised'
 - The 'suburbanised'
 - Transit migrants
 - Circular migrants
- Varied socio-economic objectives and trans-local configurations
- Dynamic mix of regulatory systems, authority structures and income generation



Diversity and sociality in the estuary

- International and domestic migrants often economically indistinguishable
- Generally low trust levels, including inter-ethnic trust
- Few receiving services or aid from public institutions
- Limited organisational membership – except for churches
- City life is often about life in ‘multiple elsewhere’s’



Communities of exclusion and convenience

- Without hosts and hegemony, what do we get?
 - Not a story of 'the coming anarchy', but of hybrid, pragmatic, privatised and precarious orders
 - Coercion mixed with contingent, tactical forms of recognition, solidarity, citizenship
 - Spatialised and multilocal
 - Double-helix of belonging & exclusion
 - Syncretic and slippery



New orders: exclusionary violence

- Alternative governance regimes emerge in absence of state hegemony
- Ongoing violence with attacks on people and property
- Closely correlated with social composition of 'micro-community'
- Rooted in local struggles articulated in competing language of rights and justice
- Enforcing, breaking & reshaping law



New orders: tactical cosmopolitanism

- Response to fluidity and hostility
- Denies desirability of place-based membership; denigrates purported 'hosts'
- Pastiche of translocal rhetorical forms and practices
- Recognition is elsewhere, rights are usufruct
- Language of the marketplace
- Only significant membership is in religious bodies
 - Religion is fragmented, conflictual
 - Fosters translocalism and deterritorialized allegiances, 'tactical cosmopolitanism'

"God owns everywhere, so even if you break the law here, he will forgive you."

- Stella, Ugandan migrant



Governing the estuary: formal failures

- General popular disillusionment, disengagement and limited capacity – governance of multiple elsewhere
- Officials' have poor understanding of their constituency; little interest
- Limited acceptance that migration is a local government concern
- Unsupported financially and administratively
- Politics of scarcity and precarity work against forward planning and inclusions



Finding Fixes

- Obstacles are conceptual, administrative, normative and political
- Improved sectoral knowledge, inter-governmental relations and ongoing search for solidarity
- Focus on local literacy, back routes to rights, and creative conducive environments



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