Curriculum Vitae

ANDREA POLLIO

I am assistant professor of Political and Economic Geography. My research interests coalesce around the relationship between cities, economic development, digital technologies, and entrepreneurial cultures. My doctoral dissertation focused on the mobility of entrepreneurship and antipoverty expertise in the making of Cape Town's start-up scene.

In 2020, I was awarded a 3-year Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship from the European Commission, (grant no. 886772) for research on the impact of Chinese techno-capital on Nairobi's innovation scene. As a result of this fellowship, I am working on a book project titled "Nairobi, techno-capital: Global China and the Silicon Savannah (contracted with University of California Press)

EDUCATION

PhD. - Geography and Urban Studies   *17/03/2014–03/05/2019*

Institution: Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University
Supervisors: Prof. Donald McNeill and Dr. Sarah Barns.
Thesis examiners: A/Prof. Nancy Odendaal, University of Cape Town; Prof. Fran Tonkiss, London School of Economics and Political Science.

MSc. in Architecture, Construction, City   *30/10/2010–18/12/2012*

Institution: Polytechnic of Turin - joint degree with Polytechnic of Milan.
Major (final thesis): Urban Geography

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Title: Assistant Professor of Economic and Political Geography (with tenure)
Institution: Department of Urban and Regional Studies and Planning – Polytechnic of Turin, Italy
Role: I teach units in economic geography and urban studies. I am part of the doctoral college.

I also maintain an affiliation with the African Centre for Cities (University of Cape Town) where I am research associate.

CURRENT FUNDED PROJECTS

'Smartness as Wealth' (CI) – VolkswagenStiftung   2023-2027

Institutions: Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Dresden University Of Technology, University of Cape Town
Project lead: Armin Beverungen, Orit Halpern, Liza R. Cirolia, Marc Steinberg
Project highlights: Funded by the Volkswagen foundation, It is a four-year project which covers five cities, including Nairobi (Kenya), Tokyo (Japan), Kolkata (India), Denver (USA) and Hamburg (Germany). In Nairobi, where I am coinvestigator, the research focuses on the relationship between the city's vibrant fintech ecosystem, and the speculative promises of social and economic inclusion.
Link: http://smartnesswealth.net/

PREVIOUS RESEARCH PROJECTS

Marie Skłodowska-Curie global fellow   1/10/2020–30/09/2023

Institutions: jointly, Department of Urban & Regional Studies and Planning, Polytechnic of Turin, and African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town.
Project: Sinofinancialization and Urban Change in Addis Ababa and Nairobi: and ethnography of private Chinese capital along the new maritime silk road.
Project lead: Dr Andrea Pollio
Role: As part of this research, I was the sole responsible for the conceptualization, the fieldwork, as well as the budget of the project.
Achievements in the role: Research funded by the European Commission with a budget of €192k; three papers in Q1 journals, and 1 book proposal under review.

Reference group member and Co-Investigator   1/1/2021–31/03/2023

Institutions: African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, British Instute of East African Studies, University of Rwanda.
Project: Platform politics and Silicon Savannahs
Project lead: Dr Rika Sitas, Dr Liza R. Cirolia, and Dr Andrea Pollio
Role: As co-investigator, I collaborated with field researchers on the project's empirical fieldwork and with the PIs on the writing of the research outputs.
Achievements in the role: Research funded by the Volvo Foundation for Education and Research with a budget of circa €75k. Outputs: two technical reports and two papers.

Post-doc research fellow   16/03/2019–30/09/20

Institution: Future Urban Legacy Lab, Polytechnic of Turin
Project: R-urban dynamics. The project investigated the relationship between peri-urban entrepreneurs using new agricultural technologies and urban consumers in South Africa, China and Malaysia.
Project lead: A/Prof. Francesca Frassoldati
Role: This post-doc fellowship entailed ethnographic research of agricultural startups in the Western Cape, South Africa, with a focus on the financial technologies that link sites of production and consumption in Cape Town.
Achievements in the role: 1 paper under review, 1 seminar presentation.

Research and engagement assistant   ***02/07/2018–21/12/2019***

Institution: Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University; University of Canterbury (Christchurch)
Project: Antarctic Cities and the Global Commons. This 3-year project sought to understand and produce a sense of custodianship towards Antarctica starting from its five 'gateway' cities (Hobart, Cape Town, Christchurch, Punta Arenas and Ushuaia)
Project lead: A/Prof. Juan F. Salazar; Prof. Paul James, Dr. Liam Magee
Role: Within this Australian-Research-Council-funded international project, I worked on the development of a serious game through codesign activities, and therefore contributed to the development of the action-research methodology. I was also responsible for the research outreach by developing and managing the website of the project.
Achievements in the role: launch of project website; launch of online serious games; two papers published in Q1 journals.

Research consultant   ***1/04/2019–2/07/2019***

Institution: Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University; American University of Paris; Monash University (Melbourne); University of Witwatersrand (Johannesburg).
Project: UNESCO and the Making of Global Cultural Policy: Culture, Economy, Development.
Project lead: Prof. Deborah Stevenson.
Role: Within this Australian-Research-Council-funded international project, I managed the field research in Torino, which was one of the case studies of the project.
Achievements in the role: 1 co-authored paper submitted for review; 1 international seminar organized.

Project Manager & Research Analyst   ***8/10/2018–18/01/2019***

Institution: Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University
Project: Inner West City Council - Institute for Culture and Society - Western Sydney University
Research project: Mapping Cultural Infrastructure in the Inner West
Project lead: Dist. Prof. Ien Ang, Em. Prof. David Rowe, Prof. Deborah Stevenson, Dr. Liam Magee.
Role: As part of this role, I managed the research consultancy by liaising with both contractors and participants, I managed the ethics protocol, I organized and contributed to the collection of data, the analysis of research findings and the engagement outputs of the project.
Achievements in the role: fruitful management of AUD $20k; one research report on the Australian Analysis and Policy Observatory (APO) Repository; documented impact on policy decisions, as attested by the city council through a letter of impact.; 1 paper published in a Q1 journal of urban studies.

Research Assistant   ***01/09/2017–01/12/2017***

Institution: Institute for Culture and Society - Western Sydney University
Research project: Data Centres and the government of labour.
Project lead: Prof. Brett Neilson, Prof. Ned Rossiter, Dr. Tanya Notley
Role: I collected and analysed data concerning the digital infrastructures of the three main Pacific Internet hubs (Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney). The role involved the creation of digital maps for the three cities.
Achievements: Internet maps of Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney were used by the project's chief investigators for dissemination and communication of the research results to wider audiences.

Research assistant   ***18/04/2016 – 30/11/2017***

Project: Mapping Culture: Venues and Infrastructures in the City of Sydney LGA
Project lead: Distinguished Prof. Ien Ang
Role: as part of this role, I collected and analyzed data concerning the use of cultural spaces by artists and creative workers in the city of Sydney, documenting the struggles of low-income practitioners in maintaining venues for creativity in the city.
Achievements in the role: two co-authored reports published on the Australian Analysis and Policy Observatory (APO) Repository, one intersectoral conference organized between the first and the second phase of the research.

Research Assistant   *05/09/2016– 23/12/2016*

Institution: Institute for Culture and Society - Western Sydney University
Research project: Digital Cities Future Fellowship
Project lead: Prof. Donald McNeill
Role: In support of Prof. McNeill's Future Fellowship, I collaborated on scoping research, data collection, the organization of 2 seminars and 1 international workshop, as well as forthcoming publications.

Junior Research Fellow   *1/03/2013–28/02/2014*

Institution: EU-POLIS, Polytechnic of Turin
Research project: Smart City projects in Turin
Research lead: A/Prof. Marco Santangelo.
Role: The role involved data collection, report writing and the organization of a final conference. I actively contributed to the editing of the book that was published as main outcome of the project.
Achievements in the role: 1 co-authored report, 1 paper published in Q1 journal (Urban Geography), 2 book chapters in an edited collection, and 1 conference organized.

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Master supervision: 3 students to completion, 5 ongoing
PhD. supervision: 1 student to completion (co-supervision), 4 ongoing

Unit Coordinator and Lecturer   *10/2023–ongoing*
Institution: Department of Regional Studies and Planning (DIST) – Polytechnic of Turin
Unit: Urban and Regional Economics
Role: I am the sole responsible for the course

Unit Tutor   *02/2020–07/20*
Institution: Department of Regional Studies and Planning (DIST) – Polytechnic of Turin
Unit: Descrivere, analizzare, interpretare atelier.
Role: Reporting to the main lecturer, the role involved support for the practical research activities carried out by first-year planning students during their first fieldwork experience.

Unit Coordinator and Lecturer   *06/2017–11/2018*
Institution: School of Social Science and Psychology Arts - Western Sydney University
Unit: Planning the City. Development, Communities and Systems (3rd-year Bachelor of Urban Planning and 1st-year Master of Teaching).

Role: Reporting to the school's Director of Academic Program for Geography, Tourism and Planning, the shared role involved managing an upper-level professionalising subject, lecturing c. 100 students, updating the curriculum and liaising with professional planning bodies to incorporate guest speakers from the field. *Achievements in the role*: Planning the City. Development, Communities and Systems was one of the best-ranked units in the School of Social Science for 2018.

Unit Coordinator and Lecturer   *12/2016–11/2017*
Institution: School of Social Science and Psychology Arts - Western Sydney University
Unit: Working with Communities (1st-year core unit for all Social Sciences students).
Role: Reporting to the Director of Academic Program for Geography, Tourism and Planning, the role required to manage an 850-student unit, with 14 employed tutors, and to develop the curriculum for five additional tutorials.

Unit Instructor   *02/2017–06/2018*
Institution: School of Social Sciences and Psychology – Western Sydney University
Unit: Cultural and Social Geographies – Unit Coordinator: Prof. Andrew Gorman-Murray
Role: Preparation of weekly workshops on the unit readings and supervision of final projects.
Achievements in the role: This unit, which I was the sole instructor of, was voted as best unit in the School of Social Sciences and Psychology for that year, and thus received a prize from the Dean.

Teaching Assistant   *2017–06/2018*
Institution: School of Humanities and Communication Arts – Western Sydney University
Unit: Analytical Reading and Writing – Unit Coordinator: Dr. Adrian Hale
Role: Delivery of weekly workshops on academic writing and literacy.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

1. **Pollio**, A. (2024). Of Bloatware and Spreadsheets: Nairobi, Chinese Phones, and the Limits of Data Coloniality. *Journal of Urban Technology*, 1-22. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/10630732.2024.2374195

2. Cirolia, L. R., **Pollio, A.**, Sitas, R., Fortuin, A., Odeo, J. O. I., & Sebarenzi, A. G. (2024). Fintech 'frontiers' and the platformed motorcycle: Emergent infrastructures of value creation in African cities. *Environment and Planning D-Society & Space,* 1-23. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/02637758241276324

3. **Pollio, A.**, Cirolia, L.R., Odeo, J.O., (2023). Algorithmic Suturing: Platforms, Motorcycles and the 'Last Mile' in Urban Africa. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 47*(6), 957-974. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.13200

4. Huang, Z., & **Pollio, A.** (2023). Between highways and fintech platforms: Global China's and Africa's infrastructure state. *Geoforum, 147*, 103876. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2023.103876

5. Cirolia, L. R., Sitas, R., **Pollio, A.**, Sebarenzi, A. G., & Guma, P. K. (2023). Silicon Savannahs and motorcycle taxis: A Southern perspective on the frontiers of platform urbanism. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 55(8), 1989-2008. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X231170193

6. Cirolia, L.R. & **Pollio, A.** (2023). Queer Infrastructures: Objects *of* and Orientations *towards* Urban Research Practice. *Urban Forum,* (in press), DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s12132-023-09488-w

7. Gris, A. V., Iacovone, C., Safina, A., **Pollio, A.**, & Governa, F. (2022). Il 'campo'geografico di un'etnografia sottile. Cinque esperimenti di fieldwork. *Rivista Geografica Italiana, 2022*(1), 5-31. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3280/rgioa1-2022oa13364

8. **Pollio, A.**, & Cirolia, L. R. (2022). Fintech urbanism in the startup capital of Africa. *Journal of Cultural Economy*, 15(4), 508-523. DOI https://doi.org/10.1080/17530350.2022.2058058

9. **Pollio, A.** (2022). Acceleration, development and technocapitalism at the Silicon Cape of Africa. *Economy and Society*, 51(1), 46-70. DOI https://doi.org/10.1080/03085147.2021.1968675

10. **Pollio, A.** (2021) Reading development failure: experts and experiments at the bottom of the pyramid in Cape Town. *Third World Quarterly, 42*(12), 2974-2992. DOI https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2021.1983425

11. **Pollio, A**. (2021) Uber, airports, and labour at the infrastructural interfaces of platform urbanism. *Geoforum, 118,* 47-55. DOI https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2020.11.010.

12. **Pollio, A**., Magee, L., Ang, I., Rowe, D., Stevenson, D., Swist, T. and Wong, A. (2021). Surviving Supergentrification in Inner City Sydney. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 45*(5). 778-794. DOI https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.13015

13. Khan, M., Magee, L., **Pollio, A.**, & Salazar, J. F. (2021). Counter-fun, scholarly legitimacy, and environmental engagement – or why academics should code games. *First Monday, 26*(2). DOI https://doi.org/10.5210/fm.v26i2.11427

14. **Pollio, A.**, Magee, L., & Salazar, J. (2021). The making of Antarctic Futures: Participatory game design at the interface between science and policy. *Futures, 125*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2020.102662

15. **Pollio, A.** (2020). Making the silicon cape of Africa: Tales, theories and the narration of startup urbanism. *Urban Studies*, 57(13), 2715-2732. DOI https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0042098019884275

16. **Pollio, A.** (2020) Incubators at the frontiers of capital: An ethnographic encounter with Startup Weekend in Khayelitsha, Cape Town. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers, 110*(4), 1244-1259. DOI https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2019.1680232

17. **Pollio, A.** (2020). Architectures of millennial development: Entrepreneurship and spatial justice at the bottom of the pyramid in Cape Town. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space, 52*(3), 573-592**.** https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0308518X19876939

18. **Pollio, A.** (2019). Forefronts of the sharing economy. Uber in Cape Town. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 43*(4), 760-775. DOI https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.12788

19. **Pollio, A.** (2016). Technologies of austerity urbanism: the "smart city" agenda in Italy (2011–2013). *Urban Geography, 37*(4), 514-534. DOI https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2015.1118991

20. **Pollio, A.** (2016). Smart cities as hacker cities. Organicist urbanism and welfare restructuring in crisis-ridden Italy. *Nóesis. Revista de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades, 25*(49), 31-44. DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.20983/noesis.2016.12.3

Other journal articles, essays and commentaries:

21. Chen, J., van Doorn, N., Grohmann, R., **Pollio, A.**, & Soriano, C. (2024). Introducing *Platforms & Society*. *Platforms & Society, 1*, 29768624241235492. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/29768624241235492

22. **Pollio, A**. (2020). The Cloud, geographical advantage, and the metaphors of the Earth. *Issues, Vol. 3*. DOI https://doi.org/10.51142/issues-journal-3-1-2

23. Iacovone, C., Gris, A. V., Safina, A., **Pollio, A.**, & Governa, F. (2020). Breaking the distance: Dialogues of care in a time of limited geographies. *Dialogues in Human Geography, 10(2)*, 124-127. DOI https://doi.org/10.1177%2F2043820620934940

Edited books:

24. Santangelo, M., Aru, S., & **Pollio, A.** (eds.) (2013) *Smart City. Ibridazioni, innovazioni e inerzie nella città contemporanea.* Rome: Carocci.

Book chapters:

25. **Pollio, A.** & Cirolia, L.R. (2024). Beyond Inclusion: Glitchy Economies and the Promise of Platformization in African Cities. In Neves, J. & Steinberg, M. (eds.) *In/Convenience: Inhabiting the Logistical Surround. Theory on Demand #54,* 148-161. Amsterdam, Institute of Network Cultures.

26. **Pollio, A.** & Rossi, U. (2024). Urban Political Economy. In Vogel, R. (ed.), *Handbook of Urban Politics and Policy,* 320-336. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

27. Cirolia, L. R. & **Pollio, A.** (2024). Spectrums of infrastructural hybridity: Insights from urban Africa for a propositional research agenda. In Coutard, O. & Florentin, D. (eds.). *Handbook on infrastructures and cities,* 179-195. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

28. **Pollio, A.** (2022). The Digital Silk Road as Planetary Intelligence: A Story of China in Africa. In Singh, R., Guzmán, R.L. & Davison, P. (eds.) *Parables of AI in/from the Majority World,* 88-99. New York: Data & Society Research Institute.

29. Ortar, N., Taylor, A. R. E., Velkova, J., Brodie, P., Johnson, A., Marquet, C., **Pollio, A.**, & Cirolia, L. (2022). Powering 'smart' futures: data centres and the energy politics of digitalisation. In Abram, S., Waltorp, K., Ortar, N., & Pink, S. (Eds.) *Energy Futures: Anthropocene Challenges, Emerging Technologies and Everyday Life*, 125-167. Berlin: De Gruyter.

30. Besplemennova, Y. & **Pollio, A.** (2021). Snowfall on Piazza Castello. Stubborn dispositions and multiple publics in a (temporarily smart) Milanese square. In Odendaal, N. & Aurigi, A. (eds.). *Designing Smart for Better Cities*, 71-86. Cambridge: Academic Press Elsevier.

31. Barns, S. & **Pollio, A.** (2018). Parramatta Smart City and the quest to build Australia's Next Great City. In Karvonen, A., Cugurullo, F. Caprotti, F. (eds) *Inside Smart Cities:Place, Politics and Urban Innovation,* 215-228. London: Routledge.

32. McNeill, D. & **Pollio, A**. (2018). Tracking the Global Urbanists. In Harrison J. & Hoyler, M. (eds). *Doing Global Urban Research*, 81-95. London: Sage.

33. **Pollio, A.** (2013). Città hacker e politiche mash-up. In Santangelo, M., Aru, S., & Pollio, A. (eds.) (2013) *Smart City. Ibridazioni, innovazioni e inerzie nella città contemporanea*. Rome: Carocci, 71-85.

34. Aru, S., & **Pollio, A.** (2013). Oltre la smart city. In Santangelo, M., Aru, S., & Pollio, A. (eds.) (2013) *Smart City. Ibridazioni, innovazioni e inerzie nella città contemporanea.* Rome: Carocci, 199-222.

Book reviews:

35. **Pollio, A.,** Abbas, S., Baker, A., Barve, S., Kasper, M., Kourri, D., Mizes, J.C., Silva, L., & Wahbi, N. (2024). Grammars of Urban Extremes: Reading Jonathan Silver's The Infrastructural South. *Antipode Online*, Available at https://antipodeonline.org/2024/06/10/the-infrastructural-south/.

36. **Pollio, A.** (2016). Debunking Neoliberal Economics: What if Growth Could Only Happen Outside the Market? Stiglitz and Greenwald on Development and Innovation. *Journal of International Development, 28*(1), 150-151.

37. **Pollio, A.** (2013) If the Revolution is not Tweeted but Choreographed, review of Gerbaudo, P. (2012) "Tweets and the Streets". *City, 17*(4), pp. 541-543.

Research reports:

38. Sitas, R., Cirolia, L.R., **Pollio, A**., Odeo, J.O. Sebarenzi, A.G., Fortuin, A. (2023). *Fintech and the platformed motorcycle: speculating on ordinary mobility economies in urban Africa*. Cape Town: African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town

39. Sitas, R., Cirolia, L.R., **Pollio, A.,** Sebarenzi, A.G., Guma, P. and Rajashekar, A. (2022). *Platform Politics and Silicon Savannahs: The rise of on-demand logistics and mobility in Nairobi and Kigali.* Cape Town: African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town.

40. **Pollio, A.,** Ang, I., Rowe, D., Stevenson, D., & Magee, L. (2018). *Cultural Creation and Production in the Inner West LGA: A Case-Study Needs Analysis. Institute for Culture and Society Report*. ISBN 978-1-74108-484-9

41. Ang, I., Rowe, D., Stevenson, D., Magee, L., Swist, T., Wong, A., & **Pollio, A**. (2018). *Planning Cultural Creation and Production in Sydney: A Venues and Infrastructure Needs Assessment*. Institute for Culture and Society Report. ISBN 978-1-74108-463-4.

42. Ang, I., Rowe, D., Stevenson, D., Magee, L., Swist, T., Wong, A., **Pollio, A.**, & Rouillard, D. (2016). *Mapping Culture. Venues and Infrastructures in the City of Sydney LGA*. Institute for Culture and Society Report. ISBN 978-1-74108-435-1.

Non-academic outlets:

43. **Pollio, A.** (2024, May 30). The Impact of a Californian Ideology in Africa: How Silicon Valley ideologies about lean startups and nudge theory have shaped Africa's development sector." *The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. Available at https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2024/05/california-africa-startup-development-californian-ideology?lang=en

44. **Pollio, A.** (2023, January 17). Cities as Geopolitical Testbeds of Digital Infrastructure. *Chicago Council of Global Affairs*. Available at https://globalaffairs.org/research/working-paper/cities-geopolitical-testbeds-digital-infrastructure

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

October 2024 – "China-Kenya and digital technologies"
Invited lecture – China In Africa. Guest of Prof. Antonella Ceccagno
University of Bologna, Italy

June 2024 – "Speculative sandboxes".
Invited talk – "Continuity and Change: Reflecting on over a Decade of Platform-Mediated Gig Work" workshop.
ETH Zurich, Switzerland

May 2024 – "China and digital statecraft in Kenya: A question of development?"
Invited talk – China in International Development: Instruments, Finance, and Infrastructures
The New School – India China Institute, New York City, US

January 2024 – "Digital infrastructure and African cities: between geopolitcs and micropolitcs"
Invited lecture – MSUD Urbanization in the Global South – Guest of Prof. Idalina Baptista
University of Oxford, United Kingdom

July 2023 – "Platform research beyond the North and South divide"
Invited keynote – Global Perspectives on Platforms, Labor & Social Reproduction international conference
University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

August 2022 – "Crafting (a) fintech capital: perspectives from Cape Town, South Africa"
Invited presentation - Management Department Research Seminar Series
University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia

June 2022 – "Crafting African Start-up cities: perspectives from Cape Town, South Africa" (with L. Cirolia)
Invited keynote - European creative cities and Covid-19: exploring urban creative economies and policies in the age of Covid-19
University of Dundee, GSSI, University of Helsinki and Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy.

May 2022 – "Making the Silicon Cape of Africa"
Invited presentation - Urban Africa reading group.
Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa

May 2022 – "Researching the Digital City in Africa"
Invited lecture – Oxford University Refugee-led research hub.
British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA), Nairobi, Kenya

March 2022 – "Cloud Urbanism/Platform Urbanism in Cape Town"
Invited Speaker - International Political Economy of Platforms Seminar Series
City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

April 2021 – "Cloud geographies and platform interfaces"
Invited guest lecture - "Deep Dive: Smart city experiences across the globe" lecture series
University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

GRANTS

2020-2023 – Marie Sklodowska-Curie Action fellowship (grant number 88672) – principal investigator
2020-2021 – MAC VREF – co-investigator
2021-2022 – MAC VREF – co-investigator
2023-2024 – Urban Studies Foundation – co-applicant
2024 – Edimburgh – co-applicant
2024-2025 – British Academy – co-applicant

OTHER EXPERIENCES

Visiting periods

03/2015–10/2015
Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, University of Cape Town.
Host: Prof. Sue Parnell.

10/2013–11/2013
Institut de Géographie, Université de Neuchâtel
Host: Prof. Ola Söderström.

Organization of conferences, seminars, and workshops

Workshop co-organizer
Title: UTA-Do
Institutions: Ardhi University of Dar es Salaam, FES Tanzania

Conference organizing and scientific committee   21-23/11/2022
Title: African Infrastructure Futures: Building Common Purpose for Urban Success
Institution: African Centre for Cities with AHG and GIZ
Role: I served on the organizing committee chaired by Edgar Pieterse and on the scientific committee chaired by Abdoumaliq Simone

Seminar organizing committee 12/02/2020-27/06/2020
Title: Full Seminar Series Spring 2020
Institution: FULL- Future Urban Legacy Lab – Polytechnic of Turin
Role in the seminar organization: With two other members, the seminar organizing committee selected a list of 5 external and 5 internal speakers and organized the logistics of the talks and international guests invitations.

Future Fellowship final international workshop 19-20/12/2017
Title: Governing digital cities final workshop
Institution: Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University
Role in the conference organization: I managed the seminar, and the schedule of the fieldtrips.

Report launch 01/06/2017
Title: Mapping Culture: Venues and Infrastructure for
Institution: Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University
Role in the conference organization: preparation of the final project deliverables, invitations and presentation to the public.

Editorial responsibilities

I am currently founding editor of a new journal (*Platforms & Society)* published by SAGE.

I have been peer-reviewer for *Environment and Planning D, Antipode, Geoforum, European Urban and Regional Studies, Journal of Urban Affairs, Urban Research & Practice, Urban Geography*, *South African Geographical Journal, ACME, Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*, *IJURR*, *Cities*, *Urban Forum*, *Critical African Studies* and *Africa*.

Awards

2024 - Highly commended paper – Best IJURR paper award for 2023

2022 - Summer Institute for Economic Geography 2020 – AAG Economic Geography Specialty Group's travel award (postponed to 2022).

2020 - Centre for Advanced Internet Studies CAIS Visiting Fellowship – Bochum (June 2020) (not fulfilled because of Covid-19)

2013 - Institute for Culture and Society International Scholarship – Sydney (2014-2017)

Language skills

Italian – native
English – C2
French – B2
Mandarin – A1 (HSK1)

REFERENCES

Prof. Donald McNeill
PhD supervisor, coauthor, University of Sydney.
d.mcneill@sydney.edu.au

Prof. Edgar Pieterse
Founder and Director of the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town
edgar.pieterse@uct.ac.za

Teaching experience referee:

Prof. Emma Waterton
Director of Academic Program (DAP) for Geography, Tourism and Planning, Western Sydney University
Now Professor & Director of the Heritage for Global Challenges Research Centre, York University
emma.waterton@york.ac.uk

29.08.25