

# AFRICA

Journal of the International African Institute  
Revue de l'Institut Africain International

Vol. 93 No. 1 February 2023

## **Urban materialities**

Introduction

*Joost Fontein and Constance Smith*

## **Sand, concrete and construction materials**

Concrete futures

*Armelle Choplin*

A share in the sands

*Katherine Dawson*

## **Senses, animals and corporealities**

Goats, materials and uncertainty

*Joost Fontein*

Tasting 'kienyeji'

*Nick Rahier*

## **Planning and regulating uncertainty**

City of icebergs

*Constance Smith*

Modelling the city

*Morten Nielsen*

## **Urban fractures**

*Trisha Phippard*

## **The mobility of ghosts**

*Isak Niehaus*

# International African Institute Institut Africain International

## *Editors · Rédacteurs en chef*

Julie Archambault, Maxim Bolt and Asonzeh Ukah

## *Local Intellectuals Editor · Responsable de la rubrique lettrés locaux*

Karin Barber

## *Reviews Editor · Rédactrice comptes-rendus*

Keren Weitzberg

## *Editorial Advisory Board · Comité de Rédaction*

Wale Adebanwi, Kojo Amanor, Erik Bähre, Leslie Bank, Thomas J. Bassett, Heike Becker, Joost Beuving, Keith Breckenridge, Zoe Cormack, Filip De Boeck, Gregor Dobler, Harri Englund, Richard Fardon, Jude Fokwang, Joost Fontein, Eric Gable, Peter Geschiere, Euclides Gonçalves, Danny Hoffman, Elizabeth Hull, Nancy Rose Hunt, Emma Hunter, Fred Nyongesa Ikanda, Deborah James, Marloes Janson, Ferdinand de Jong, Hélène Neveu Kringelbach, Brian Larkin, Murray Last, Laura Mann, Adeline Masquelier, Mike McGovern, Birgit Meyer, Kenda Mutongi, Sasha (Alexander) Newell, Insa Nolte, Mwenda Ntarangwi, Rogers Orock, Derek Peterson, David Pratten, Katrien Pype, Noah Salomon, AbdouMaliq Simone, Benjamin Soares, Jonny Steinberg, Susan Reynolds Whyte

## **Officers · Membres du Bureau de l'IAI**

### **Chair · Présidente**

Alcinda Honwana

### **Vice-chair · Vice-présidente**

Odile Goerg

### **Honorary fellow · Membre honoraire**

Murray Last

## **Council · 2023 · Conseil**

Fred Ahwiring-Obeng  
Richard Banégas  
Leslie Bank  
Armando Cutolo  
Filip De Boeck  
Mamadou Diawara  
Andreas Eckert

Peter Geschiere  
Jan-Bart Gewald  
Nancy Rose Hunt  
Adam T. Jones  
Ousmane Kane  
Michael Lambek  
Elísio Macamo

Birgit Meyer  
Mauro Nobili  
Michael Oṃòlẹ̀wà  
Benjamin Soares  
Susan Reynolds Whyte  
Zachary Wright

## **Trustees · Conseil d'Administration**

Karin Barber  
Ken Barlow  
Philip Burnham, *Honorary Director · Directeur Honoraire*  
Richard Fardon, *Chair of Trustees · Président du Conseil d'Administration*  
Katherine Homewood  
Deborah James  
Murray Last

## **Staff**

Brian Johnson, *Treasurer · Trésorier*  
Stephanie Kitchen, *Managing Editor · Directrice de la rédaction*  
Anna de Mutiis, *Outreach and Administrative Officer*

---

# AFRICA

Vol. 93 No. 1 2023

*Editors · Rédacteurs en chef*

Julie Archambault, Maxim Bolt and Asonzeh Ukah

*Local Intellectuals Editor · Responsable de la rubrique lettrés locaux*

Karin Barber

*Reviews Editor · Rédactrice comptes-rendus*

Keren Weitzberg

---

## Urban materialities

Introduction: the stuff of African cities

**Joost Fontein and Constance Smith**

1

## Sand, concrete and construction materials

Building concrete futures: materiality and urban lives in West Africa

**Armelle Choplin**

20

A share in the sands: trips, pits and potholes in Accra, Ghana

**Katherine Dawson**

40

## Senses, animals and corporealities

Goats, materials and uncertainty in Nairobi

**Joost Fontein**

60

Tasting ‘*kienyeji*’: gustatory explorations of city futures in Nakuru, Kenya

**Nick Rahier**

80

## Planning and regulating uncertainty

City of icebergs: materiality, surface and depth in Nairobi’s built environment

**Constance Smith**

100

---

**Journal of the International African Institute**  
**Revue de l’Institut Africain International**

Modelling the city: bedroom drawer blueprints as urban planning in Maputo,  
Mozambique  
**Morten Nielsen** 121

### Urban fractures

Urban fractures: mobility, risk and the *accidenté* in Kikwit, Democratic  
Republic of Congo  
**Trisha Phippard** 140

### The mobility of ghosts

On the mobility of ghosts: spectral journeys in the South African lowveld  
**Isak Niehaus** 159

### Reviews of books

Leo Zeilig, *Frantz Fanon: A Political Biography*  
**Christopher J. Lee** 177

Elleni Centime Zeleke, *Ethiopia in Theory: Revolution and Knowledge  
Production, 1964–2016*  
**Namhla Thando Matshanda** 178

Laleh Khalili, *Sinews of War and Trade: Shipping and Capitalism in the  
Arabian Peninsula*  
**Yasir Zaidan** 180

Daniel E. Agbiboa, *They Eat Our Sweat: Transport Labor, Corruption,  
and Everyday Survival in Urban Nigeria*  
**Els Keunen** 182

Alice Bullard, *Spiritual and Mental Health Crisis in Globalizing Senegal:  
A History of Transcultural Psychiatry*  
**Yassin Dia** 184

Robtel Neajai Pailey, *Development, (Dual) Citizenship and Its Discontents in  
Africa: The Political Economy of Belonging to Liberia*  
**Daniel Hammett** 185

Alice Franck, Barbara Casciarri and Idris Salim El-Hassan (eds), *In-Betweenness  
in Greater Khartoum: Spaces, Temporalities, and Identities from Separation  
to Revolution*  
**Griet Steel** 187