


Marie Huchzermeyer

Informal settlements through the lens of Henry Lefebvre's right to the city

The right to the city, both as a slogan and as a theoretical and analytical framework, has gained prominence in the Anglophone urban and development discourse over the past decade. In the first instance, 'right to the city' is understood to promote access by the poor to urban space and decision-making. It is undermined by forced evictions and other measures that exclude the poor from cities. Forced evictions in urban areas are increasingly linked to the pressure faced by authorities to optimize the economic functioning of cities. This presentation looks to 'the right to the city', as originally conceptualized by Henri Lefebvre from the late 1960s, as a lens for strategic analysis of the dynamics that lead to forced evictions, and as impetus for new strategies for rights-based movements.

Marie Huchzermeyer is a professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Her research has spanned Brazil, South Africa and Kenya, where she has explored questions of policy and rights as they relate to informal settlements, large-scale private rental stock and housing more broadly. She recently published 'Cities With 'Slums': From Informal Settlement Eradication to a Right to the City in Africa' (UCT Press) and 'Tenement Cities: From 19th Century Berlin to 21st Century Nairobi' (Africa World Press).



The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section features a photograph of informal settlements with corrugated metal shacks and laundry hanging on lines. A diagonal black line with the text "Urban Talks Series" and "2014" runs across the top. The right section is a solid black background with white and yellow text. It includes the title "Informal settlements through the lens of Henry Lefebvre's right to the city", the speaker's name "Marie Huchzermeyer", the date and time "15/07 19 Uhr A 052", and a detailed description of the event. At the bottom, logos for Habitat Unit, um URBAN MANAGEMENT, and TU are displayed.

Urban Talks Series 2014

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15/07
19 Uhr
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The lecture series is jointly organized by the Habitat Unit and the Urban Management Program at Technical University Berlin.

Habitat Unit **um** URBAN MANAGEMENT **TU**

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