

Call for Abstracts

RC212019@Delhi Conference September 18-21, 2019

In and Beyond the City: Emerging Ontologies, Persistent Challenges and Hopeful Futures

Panel 51: Sociabilities in public spaces at the margins of the Market

Conveners: Mamane Tassiou Amadou and Hannah Schilling

Forms of sociability in urban public spaces, such as the “fada” in Niger, the “grin de thé” in Mali, Burkina or Cote d’Ivoire, are mainly discussed as potential spaces for transgression of social norms (Masquelier 2012; Boyer 2014), as places of identity making (Vincourt et Kouyaté 2012) and cultural reinvention (Biaya 2000). These discussions draw on literature about community, subculture and governance, but seldomly link it to the sphere of production and the economy. In other words, less has been the focus on their relevance as practices of getting by and making do in economic contexts marked by instability.

The panel wants to explore possible connections of forms of sociability in public spaces to their larger economic context and discusses their relevance in current forms of value extraction in cities across the globe. Particularly interesting here are debates about a post wage era and community capitalism (Dyk 2018), which discuss the re-discovery of the community by the Market (such as expressed in the sharing economies etc.). How and to what extent might spaces of sociability seen as informal, temporary and based on reciprocities and practices of gifting become relevant for urban economies not as practices outside of the Market, but as spaces at the margins of it.

The contributions should be empirical, but can also rely on secondary analyses of (historical) data on value chains, markets and urban infrastructures. While urban youth, so often discussed as driver for cultural change and urban futures, might be an interesting case to study forms of production and reproduction in current urban economies, we do not want to restrict the contributions to research on urban youth. Also, we don’t want to only focus on spaces of sociability in West African cities, but look more largely at the connections of public or semi-public spaces to trace economic practices, sociabilities and identity making as interrelated processes.

Important details

The panel conveners welcome **abstracts of max. 300 words** with empirical or theoretical perspectives from everywhere, and especially from research done in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Deadline for abstracts submission is **20 January 2019**

You can directly submit via email your abstract to both conveners: Hannah Schilling: hannah.schilling@cms.hu-berlin.de and Mamane Tassiou Amadou: mamane.amadou@unibas.ch

Please cc the email of submission of abstracts to: rc21delhi@gmail.com.

Please indicate the panel number (51), the panel’s title, your full name and institutional affiliation.

Please also consult the conference organizer’s instructions for individual paper abstract submissions: <https://rc21delhi2019.com/index.php/call-for-abstracts/>

You can also visit the website of the RC212019@Delhi Conference on: <https://rc21delhi2019.com/>

For information about possible travel grants, please get in touch with the conveners.

We are looking forward to your submissions!