

PROGRAMME:

THE CAPE TOWN CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

6 June 2015 | 9:00-17:00 | Chemical Engineering Building, University of Cape Town.

Venue

Chemical Engineering Building,
Mandela Circle, Upper
Campus, University of Cape
Town. For directions, see next
page. Map on last page.

Contact

First port of call: Jessica Rattle
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The conference is organised by
Dr. Henrik Ernstson, ACC, UCT
(082-9666554;
henrik.ernstson@uct.ac.za).

Webpage: [http://
civnet.situatedupe.net](http://civnet.situatedupe.net)

Mini-bus pick ups

As per our RSVP/webpage
information, hired mini-buses/
taxis will pick-up participants
from various locations in the
city from 8:15 am. For pick-up
locations see last page.

The min-bus taxi contact is
Fayzal at F8 Travel Solutions
with cellphone +27 (73)
5648396 and email:
fayzal@f8travelsolutions.co.za



Welcome!

This conference welcomes Cape Town's civil society organisations to reflect and share their experiences in mobilisation and influencing the urban environment, from struggles around housing and service delivery, to the protection of habitat and biodiversity. This includes wider issues of democratisation and civil society autonomy. The day will be divided into **keynote talks** by researchers, **break-out sessions** for sharing experience and networking, and **artist interventions**. Coffee and lunch is included. We are expecting at least 80 participants and we hope for a great day together!

Programme

9:00 Coffee, tea and registration (30 min)

9:30 Hip-hop & BBoying to break da ice! (20 min)

EMILE YX?, LEEROY PHILLIPS and STEFAN BENTING from Mixed Mense and Heal the Hood will use



Directions if you travel by car

From the North Entrance (Woolsack Drive or Rhodes Drive). You will enter the University Estate on the Entrance Road and will travel over some speedbumps. At the fork at the Sports Centre, keep right, going up the hill. This is Mandela Circle. You will travel through a security boom. Keep going up the hill. The road bends to the left. Take the left turn into South Lane which is just AFTER the bus stop. The Chemical Engineering Building is on your right. Parking will be available.

From the South Entrance (Rhodes Drive peel-off lane): After turning off the freeway, you turn a sharp left and enter the University Estate on Rugby Road. Keep going straight until you reach a stop street next to a security hut. Turn right at the stop street, passing through a security boom and travelling up the hill. This is Mandela Circle. The road bends to the right. Take the right turn into South Lane. The Chemical Engineering Building is on your right. Parking will be available.

Map on last page. GPS Coordinates Chemical Engineering Building: -33.958163, 18.459485.

their Cape Flats hip-hop pedagogy to kick-start the meeting and foreground the diversity of experiences, histories and struggles that we all bring to the conference.

9:50 Short introduction & 4 key questions (10 min)

HENRIK ERNSTSON (ACC, UCT) will welcome everybody. He will briefly introduce *The CIVNET Study* that has served as a vehicle to create the conference and introduce four key questions that will guide the conference:

1. How does alliance building and movement formation work in Cape Town?
2. What is the state of democratisation of South African cities?
3. What is the role of civil society in these processes of democratisation?
4. How to build an autonomous civil society in unequal cities? What would this mean?

10:00 Keynote address 1 (30 min + 10 min for questions)

Mobilising Across Cities in the World: Experiences and Theories of Social Movements and Alliance Building

MARIO DIANI

Professor of Sociology, Trento University, Italy

Mario Diani will build on his international empirical work and his long-term experience of studying social movement and social mobilisation in various locations and cities of the world, from Chile, Lebanon and Italy, to similar studies like that of *The CIVNET Study* in the UK. He will help us elaborate on what civil society networks could mean as structures of possibility and constraints and how this might differ across various cultural contexts. Besides surfacing international experiences, his talk will aim to provide concepts, ideas and themes for the break-out groups.

10:40 Findings from The CIVNET study (30 min)

Let's Debate Early Findings: Lessons and Questions From the Cape Town CIVNET Study

HENRIK ERNSTSON

Research Fellow at UCT & KTH, South Africa & Sweden

Henrik Ernstson will present findings from the CIVNET study that has interviewed 129 civil society groups in Cape Town during 2013-2014. The study focused on collaborations and mobilizations around the urban environment, including service delivery to the protection of biodiversity. Findings will relate to how legacies of the apartheid city structures alliance networks; the structuration of ties through campaigns, events and involvement in green and public spaces, and data on how the city's public forums have been used, amongst other issues. These findings will serve to generate discussion and debates during the break-out sessions.

11:10 Break-out session 1: Identify & discuss themes from The CIVNET study (50 min)

We will divide into groups and discuss some of the things that The CIVNET Study brings to the surface and try to relate them to the four key questions. Each group will be able to quickly report back to the plenary about their discussions.

--- 12:00 LUNCH will be served with chance to network with others (60 min) ---

*Please also take the opportunity to **share your story** of how you became active—when, how and why did you become active in civil society and your organisation? ACC-affiliated researchers will record personal stories during lunch and at the end of the day.*

13:00 SMS-based survey (15 min)

Henrik will introduce an sms-based survey that is voluntary, anonymous and takes less than 5 minutes to do. It asks which organizations you are active in and everybody receives a small airtime voucher after completion to cover your telephone costs. After the conference, we would appreciate if you could let fellow members in your organization know about the survey so they can also do it and receive a voucher.

13:15 Break-out session 2: Identify and discuss emergent themes (45 min + 45 min)

We will identify emergent themes from the morning and divide into groups. One person will chair each theme and report back afterwards. It will be possible to change discussion groups during the session. After circa 50 min discussions in the groups, each group will report back (3 min per group) and this will provide material for a wider discussion (during 30 min) about the conference's key questions around i) alliance building and movement formation; ii) the state of democratisation of South African cities; iii) the role of civil society in democratisation, and iv) what it means to build an autonomous civil society in unequal cities.

14:45 Coffee and tea break (30 min)

15:15 Let the artists express what's going on...!

EMILE YX?, LEEROY and STEFAN will try to work out a spoken-word/dance/rap performance to express what they have picked up from the day.

15:30 Keynote address 2 (30 min + 10 min for clarifying questions)

On Contemporary Challenges for Civil Society in South Africa and its Cities:

From Apartheid-struggle to the Present Situation

PETER ALEXANDER

South African Research Chair in Social Change, University of Johannesburg

Peter Alexander will use this last keynote address to build on his long-term experience of studying social change and social movements in South Africa. He will reflect on what has surfaced during the day and provide an overview of the challenges of contemporary civil society in South Africa and its cities.

16:10 – c. 16:40 Concluding discussion and next steps (30 minutes)

Henrik will moderate a panel discussion with Mario and Peter with questions from participants that will try to connect some of the themes that have emerged around the CIVNET study and the 4 core questions. We will also surface any next steps that participants have discussed during the day, identify if any new working groups have been created to produce collective resources or campaigns, and if there is interest to organise a similar conference next year.

16:40-17:00 Rounding off

During the rounding off there will be more time to network. You can also *share your story* with an ACC-affiliated researcher.

17:00 Conference ending

Mini-buses/taxis will take participants back home.



Mini-bus Taxis will pick up at 8.15 am from 9 locations on Cape Flats: ► **Langa** - Gugu Sthebe (Washington Rd next to Langa Police station) ► **Gugulethu** - At police station NY1 ► **Nyanga** - The Nyanga Community Health Clinic (opposite bus terminus) on Sithandatu Avenue ► **Khayelitsha** - Corner Mew Way and Lansdowne Road (foot of road going to N2) ► **Khayelitsha** - Nganini Police Station (New 1) ► **Grassy Park** - Bona Cafe (Victoria Rd Grassy Park) ► **Vrygrond** - Checkout Supermarket (Cnr 6 Ave and Dunster Str Belgravia, near Klipfontein Rd) ► **Steenberg** - Mosque in Concert Boulevard ► **Lavender Hill** - BP garage on Prince George Drive.



Funders. The CIVNET Study has been funded by a research project lead by Dr. Henrik Ernstson from the Swedish Research Council Formas (Dnr: 211-2011-1519; MOVE) and hosted by the African Centre for Cities at UCT and the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm and their KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory. Part of H Ernstson's salary has also come from the Marcus & Amalia Wallenberg Foundation. The Conference is part of ACC's strategy to engage a wide range of stakeholders in its research. For more information about the project and related research projects, see <http://www.situatedecologies.net/projects> and <http://www.africancentreforcities.net>.