

“Sport and the City: Impacts and effects of Mega-Events on Urban Development” Conference: 26th-27th March 2012

INTRODUCTION

The School of Architecture and Planning, at the University of the Witwatersrand, together with our partners, the Gauteng Global City Region Observatory and the Johannesburg Development Agency are pleased to announce the ***Sport and the City*** conference to be held at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, on the new dates of the 26th – 27th March, 2012.

Sporting mega-events are an increasing urban phenomenon, from the FIFA World Cup, to the Summer and Winter Olympics, governments compete to host them with the promise that they will provide benefits to the precincts, cities, and countries in which they take place. Enormous amounts of money are spent on infrastructure development and other improvements in different areas of the city. However more work needs to be completed to analyse the major impacts and effects of these events on a range of stakeholders, urban dwellers and activities.

This conference seeks to focus on cities **post** the actual event and to engage with the full range of impacts that mega sporting-events have on cities: from the physical re-structuring, budgetary implications to the changes that they may make to the daily lives of residents. Furthermore the conference will focus on the lessons (good and bad) that have been learnt from cities and municipalities undertaking these events.

THEMATIC AREAS/QUESTIONS THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL ADDRESS

The conference encourages the submission of papers or exhibitions and visual material (not posters) on a full range of topics and from any discipline, trans-discipline or cross-disciplinary angle or framing:

1. **How have mega-events changed perceptions?**
 - Branding, re-branding
 - National and international perceptions
 - Nation building
 - Global City regions/World Class Cities

2. **What have been the effects or impacts of the spatial restructuring that were associated with these events?**
 - Infrastructure and transport
 - Safety and security
 - Precinct development/redevelopment/
 - Urban regeneration and property markets
 - Stadia and public viewing areas
 - Economic activities and land use

- Housing and relocation
3. **What has been the effect on relationships and partnerships?**
- Governance/participation and public engagement
 - Daily life
 - State/society engagements

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The sessions will take a discussion format rather than presentations followed by questions and answer. It is intended that all papers will be circulated prior to the conference. Each session will be focused on a specific theme and will begin with summary and responses by discussant, followed by author responses, followed by general discussion.

All papers that are submitted will be considered for publication.

DEADLINES

The following deadlines apply:

Abstracts for papers (300 words maximum)	February 3rd, 2012
Notification of acceptance of abstracts (updated)	February 10th, 2012
Submission of papers	March 9th, 2012

Please note that a first call for papers has been sent out and we received 15 abstracts. We have sent out a second call for papers and have been in discussions with a number of partners around additional events such as a panel discussion on “Models for Grassroots Infrastructure” and book launch.

CONTACT DETAILS

The organisers of the conference are Ms. Margot Rubin on rubinmargot@gmail.com or (+27) (0)82 739 0243 and Professor Aly Karam on aly.karam@wits.ac.za or (+27) 011 717 7707.