Liminal lives and rootedness in African cities: the case study of Johannesburg

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Purpose

- A search for new conceptual frameworks for understanding African cities
- Nuancing the debate on migration in Johannesburg
- Unpacking consequences for city strategies and plans
Discourses on mobility in Johannesburg

- A history of mobility and contestation
- Mobility as a threat, disturbing the order of things
- Mobility celebrated as a resource

Landau, 2004
Liminal lives

- Relationship to home
- Imagining futures
- Relationship to host
- City Johannesburg
Relationship to home

- Even though left home, an eye looking back
- Strong links to culture
- Character of associational life
- Strong economic ties and investments back home

Hornberger, 2005
Relationship to host city

- Suspended in society
- Low levels of integration and social capital,
- Weak ties within and between communities in the inner city

Tillum, 2005
Imagining futures

- Aspirations of a future are elsewhere geographically and in terms of belonging.
- More than half want their children to grow up elsewhere.
- High levels of mobility.
- SA as a gateway.

Hornberger, 2005
Consequences on cities

- Participation and planning
- Implications for accountability
- Revisiting notions of ‘inclusive’ cities

Landau, 2004