



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

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■ *Guy Tillim's travelling photographic exhibition: "Jo'burg" (2005).*

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



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



Relationship to host city

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



Imagining futures

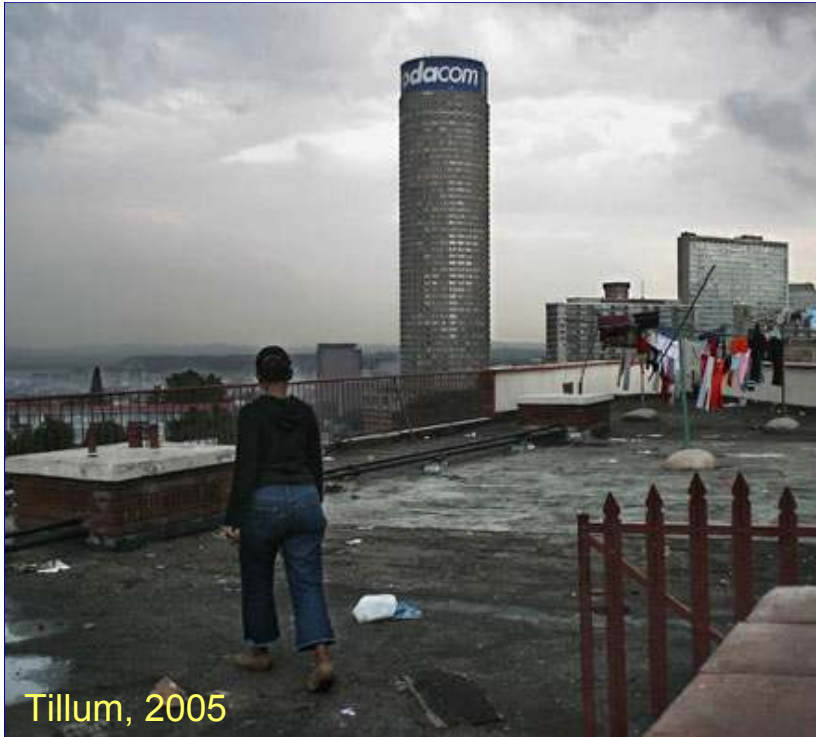
- Aspirations of a future are elsewhere geographically and in terms of belonging
- More than half want their children to grow up elsewhere
- High levels of mobility
- SA as a gateway



Consequences on cities

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





Tillum, 2005



Tillum, 2005



Tillum, 2005

