

NEWS FROM:



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemakingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
La Grotto House, Glendarrach Rd, Rondebosch, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650-3733/2, Fax: +27 (0) 21 650-5682
Internet: www.uct.ac.za

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UCT PhD thesis unpacks access to land for urban poor

Najmunnisa Mammon's PhD thesis, *The urban land question: management and access for the urban poor in post-apartheid South Africa*, can play a significant role in addressing the urban land question in Cape Town and South Africa. She points out that the first step in making state-owned land available to the urban poor is to make the public land asset register more explicit and transparent to society; the second is to define a role for the state in facilitating access for the urban poor; and the third is to streamline urban planning and land use management processes to enable such access.

Using multiple research approaches and methods, including qualitative and geospatial data, Mammon examines the urban land question particularly Cape Town, where land distribution and ownership are highly inequitable. She unpacks land redistribution, land tenure reform and land restitution within this context.

She argues that the South African Constitution commits government to protect the property rights of those who currently possess or own property, and at the same time redistribute land to those who have been dispossessed. Mammon explores what this tension means for urban land redistribution and reform in Cape Town, using the Freedoms approach developed by Amartya Sen as a conceptual framework.

Mammon has a B (Soc) (Sci) (Hons) and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of Cape Town. She has been registered for a PhD in the Environmental and Geographical Sciences Department since 2005. During this time she has also been practising as a professional planner and has published a number of papers and chapters in books on developmental local government, city planning and the urban environment focusing particularly on urban land and land use matters against the question of urban poverty. Her supervisor is Professor Susan Parnell in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at UCT. Mammon received her degree on Friday, 10 June 2011, at 10h00.

ENDS

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Patricia Lucas

Tel: (021) 650 5428 Fax (021) 650 5628

Cell: 076 292 8047

E-mail: pat.lucas@uct.ac.za

La Grotto House, Glendarrach Road

University of Cape Town

Rondebosch

Website: www.uct.ac.za