

Presentation 6

Institutional transformations for sustainable urban mobilities:

An exploration of changes
in Addis Ababa and Kisumu

by Dr Njogu Morgan, Gudina Terefe Tucho
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Abstract

While automobility has historically been embraced by policymakers in sub-Saharan Africa there are some nascent signs of alternatives coming into frame. In cities such as Addis Ababa and Kisumu policy-makers are embracing walking and cycling. They are doing so by developing new policies, infrastructures and programmes for walking and cycling. These are puzzling developments because they contradict assumptions in the sustainability transitions' literature. According to the extant findings in the literature, mobility transitions hinge in part on disruption of the shared rules, expectations, beliefs, and norms (institutions) that guide the behaviour of actors who support an incumbent system. Once such disruption occurs, innovations can emerge as they are powered on by new institutions. In the global South, however, unstable and heterogeneous institutions and actors are thought to stand in the way of innovation. Drawing on insights from the concept of institutional work, this paper analyses the dynamics accounting for institutional change and the role of different actors in the nascent shift towards active mobilities in Kisumu and Addis Ababa.

Presenter

Njogu Morgan is a lecturer in Global Urbanism at University College London and a research associate at the Wits History Workshop, University of the Witwatersrand. He is the co-editor with Yusuf Madugu of the research-publication project in progress *Cycling Cities: The African Experience*. His research focuses on the political and social-cultural aspects of sustainability transitions from a spatio-temporal perspective.

Discussant

Mónica Ramos Mejía. PhD Innovation and Governance for Sustainable Development (University of Twente, The Netherlands), MSc International Development (University of Bath, England), Industrial Engineer (Universidad de los Andes, Colombia). Maria is interested in the relationship between businesses, ecological sustainability and well-being. She studies both organisations and actors that create room for sustainability transitions in production-consumption systems, with a special focus on the global South. Maria currently work at Javeriana University in Bogota (Colombia) as head of the Management Department.