

RESEARCH WORKSHOP  
SEMINAR SERIES 2025

# A multidisciplinary approach to the study of Urban Crisis: A focus on the City of Johannesburg

3 APRIL

Time: 1-3pm  
Venue: HUMANITIES GRADUATE CENTRE,  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Register to attend in person

AND ONLINE

<https://rebrand.ly/m3he7kx>

## Shared Accountability for community safety

by EMMA DE VILLIERS

The GIZ Violence and Crime Prevention Programme commissioned [Municipal Safety Case Studies project](#) profiled 18 contemporary stories of local safety practice, led and supported by local government around South Africa in 2024. Across these stories, a number of critical insights and provocative questions emerged for local crime and violence prevention and safety practice. The most pressing question was, if no role player can single-handedly break the cycles of crime and violence that keep South Africans traumatised, isolated and afraid, then what does shared accountability for safety look like? Particularly in the context of increasing expenditure on securitisation?

There are roles for residents and communities (who do we mean when we say 'community' in South Africa?) and there are some challenging perspectives for the municipality. Communication, connection and collaboration may turn out to be more powerful than cameras and control rooms.

**EMMA DE VILLIERS** is a systems process facilitator, researcher and strategist in the field of sustainable development and transformation. With her partner Barbara, she runs Fixed Africa, a small consulting business in Johannesburg, which is interested in supporting and enabling sustainable local development, with a particular emphasis on women, children and safety.

### DISCUSSANTS

**ESTHER PADI** is the Chairperson of the Innovative Kasi Organisation, which educates and empowers citizens to come up with innovative solutions to their local problems. She uses her experience in hosting events to create platforms for citizens to voice out their societal issues and to develop solution driven programs.

**JULIA HORNBERGER** is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand. She works on questions of policing in relation to health, intellectual property (IP) and human rights.