

RESEARCH WORKSHOP
SEMINAR SERIES 2025

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

29 MAY

Time: 1-3pm

Venue: WITS HUMANITIES GRADUATE CENTRE

Register to attend in person

AND ONLINE

<https://rebrand.ly/oj7ftbp>

Room for the poor in inner city Johannesburg?

by LAUREN ROYSTON

The housing crisis in inner city Johannesburg was magnified for the public when 76 people died in a fire in the Usindiso building on 31 August 2023. A commission of inquiry into the tragedy is drawing to a close. SERI pulled together the evidence it has collected since establishment, and undertook new research, in order to prepare its submission. Lauren Royston will share aspects of that work and the argument she developed in response to the terms of reference, including the approach SERI proposes to address the conditions under which occupiers live.

LAUREN ROYSTON is the Director of Research and Advocacy at SERI and holds a Master of Science in Development Planning and a Master of Art in Creative Writing. She has been associated with SERI in different capacities since its inception 15 years ago.

DISCUSSANT

ALEX PATRICK is a journalist at News24. She has reported extensively on the inner city fires in Johannesburg and the City's mismanagement of its 'red fleet' procurement.