



RESEARCH WORKSHOP
SEMINAR SERIES 2026

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF URBAN CRISIS: A FOCUS ON THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

14 MAY

Time: 1-3pm

Venue: PARI OFFICES

Register to attend in person

AND ONLINE

Register for Zoom

Civil society engagement with local government: African Reclaimers Organisation (ARO)

by **LUYANDA HLATSHWAYO**

The Africa Reclaimers Organisation (ARO) is a mass based, democratic movement of reclaimers, with members in Johannesburg, Mpumalanga and Cape Town. ARO emerged out of an organising process that started in 2016 to counter attempts by the City of Johannesburg and Pikitup to contract private companies to collect the recyclables that reclaimers depend on for their livelihoods. ARO succeeded in stopping all but two of the contracts and subsequently launched a powerful 'recycling with reclaimers' initiative in which reclaimers partner directly with residents to provide recycling services that circumvent the state's attempts to dispossess reclaimers. ARO is currently struggling to ensure that the extended producer responsibility (EPR) regulations requiring industry to pay reclaimers for the services they provide are implemented and that municipalities meaningfully partner with reclaimers.

LUYANDA HLATSHWAYO is a street reclaimer and activist in the African Reclaimers Organisation (ARO). He currently serves as ARO's Coordinator and Business Development Manager.

DISCUSSANT

MELANIE SAMSON is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Johannesburg and the coordinator of the ARO-UJ Reclaiming Praxis Network. She works closely with ARO and reclaimer movements across Africa.