

Engaged Lecture at the Institut für Politikwissenschaft Universität Münster

Montag, 28. August - 14:00 Uhr
Scharnhorststr. 100
IfPol im Gartenhaus am Aasee
(flaches Gebäude neben dem Parkplatz am Aasee)

(Re)negotiating boundaries in a transitioning world: Grassroots organizations (GROs) in complex governance assemblages.

By Beatrice Hati.

Whether it is towards a low-carbon economy, a just and inclusive society, a risk-free environment, a poverty-free population, a digital future, or even to a healthier citizenry, the world is transitioning to something. We are immersed in a continually fluxing global system, yet the question of who governs this transition, how, and for whom does not yet receive the attention it deserves. It therefore does not come as a surprise that the conventional governance practices will, more often than not, reproduce vulnerability, precarity, and (I dare say) inequality - especially in contexts battling historical and ongoing marginalization. Urban transitions are complexified by societal specificities, cultural peculiarities, historical experiences, multiplicity of actors, and divergence of needs. No individual actor at any governance level can holistically address these needs. So how can we understand and interact with complex governance assemblages without reproducing complexity? In this engaging session, I will use GROs as a point of departure to bring a dialogue on how governance is being negotiated in the Afrocentric while engaging with associated tensions, prospects, and perils. This is based on my experiential anecdotes from my urban planning practice in Kenya, my societal positioning as a grassroots network convener, and my academy hat as a PhD student.

Suggested (hopefully interesting) readings

1. Briassoulis, H. (2019) Governance as multiplicity: the Assemblage Thinking perspective, Policy Sciences. Springer US. [doi: 10.1007/s11077-018-09345-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11077-018-09345-9)
2. Hati, B. G. (2020) 'Adopting Collective Frugality in Rethinking, Re- planning, Reimagining urban informal settlements.', in The International Society of City and Regional Planners, ISOCARP. Den Haag, Netherlands: pp. 952–964. [doi: ISBN 978-90-75524-67-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-90-75524-67-3)
3. A case study worth perusing – Grassroots Led governance in Mukuru slums: <https://gca.org/guide-for-building-climate-resilience-in-urban-informal-settlements-videos/>

About speaker:



Beatrice Hati (Bea) is an urban planner working as a research and urban development associate at the Kenya Hub of the [International Centre for Frugal Innovation \(ICFI\)](https://www.icfi.org/). She is also a PhD researcher at the International Institute of Social Studies. For almost a decade now, Beatrice has worked actively as a pracademic in the pro-poor development space, designing and [advocating for community-led practices to policy-making](#) and planning of sustainable, resilient, equitable, and integrated cities. In addition to her work with Shack/ Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Tomorrow's Cities Urban Disaster Risk Hub, the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), Centre for Urban Research Innovation, Beatrice sits at the UNAccc (Unity of Nations Action for Climate Change Council) and convenes a grassroots' reform coalition (MSPARC). Beatrice's interests in

span across pro-poor governance, community resilience, disaster risk management, development policy and politics, (nested) networks and partnerships. Her doctoral research applies a grassroots lens to the examination of multilevel governance arrangements during fire disasters in marginalized communities.