



PUG
Politics & Urban Governance
Research

2024 Annual Report



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Participants at the AUH Summer School | Photograph: Reflex Photography

Message from the PUG Team

As we look back on the past year, we are proud to share the progress, challenges and collective efforts that have shaped our journey. This report offers a snapshot of our key achievements, the impact of our work, and the values that continue to guide us. It celebrates our team's dedication, support and shared commitment to making a meaningful difference.

2024 was a year of growth and new beginnings for PUG. We established a management team and advisory board to help guide and shape our direction, and we welcomed new staff and students to our growing team. Over the year, PUG secured five new funding grants — ranging from short-term seed funding to major multi-year awards involving consortium partnerships. Most notable are the two long-term grants under PUG's Human Rights and Urban Governance research programmes.

2024 saw the launch of the African Universities Hub for Human Rights - a space for activists defending human rights and democracy in Africa to develop ideas and reflect on their work. The Africa Hub, led by Dr Mmeli Dube, connects universities and civil society to strengthen democratic engagement and support the protection of Human Rights Defenders.

Under the Urban Democracy programme, we launched the NRF-funded Governing the Just Urban Transition project, which runs until 2026. The project explores the governance dimensions of a just urban transition in South Africa, addressing a critical research gap by focusing on informal and marginalised communities. Led by PUG, the project builds on long-standing partnerships with the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO), the

University of Cambridge, Cardiff University, and the University of Sheffield.

In 2024, the team focused on developing PUG's business plan. With the support of advisory board member Prof. Zarina Patel, we worked to clarify our purpose, methods, and motivations (our goals and value-based principles can be found later in this report). The resulting business plan lays a strong foundation for our long-term goal of becoming a formalised research centre.

One of our key objectives is to foster participatory spaces that support inclusive debate, and in 2024, we hosted two Summer Schools, an international conference, and online seminars. We also ran a workshop series on participatory action research methods, including WhatsApp Diaries, PhotoVoice and Storytelling, in line with PUG's aim of capacitating emerging researchers in community-centred and collaborative research.

We are privileged to have such a dedicated team and to have received overwhelming support from our collaborators and funders.



PUG Research Team at the 2024 end of year celebration | Photograph @PUGResearch

A group of approximately 20 people, mostly young adults, are posing for a group photo on the wide stone steps of a large, classical-style building. The building features a prominent pediment with a circular emblem in the center, flanked by columns. Three flags are visible: the Nigerian flag (green and white) on the left, the Nigerian flag (green and white) on the right, and a white flag with a blue emblem on the far right. The participants are dressed in a variety of casual and semi-formal attire, including hoodies, patterned shirts, and dresses. Many are smiling and clapping their hands. The ground in front of the steps is paved with reddish-brown bricks.

Mission, Values and Organisational Structure

Mission Statement

PUG's mission is to link marginalised voices with power holders and decision-makers through a platform centred on research excellence.

Our Objectives

1

Better understand all forms of governance in vulnerable or marginalised communities through building long-term research partnerships.

2

Use our research as a platform to link residents to decision-makers and power holders. We foster participatory spaces that support inclusive debate.

3

Influence decision-makers and policies related to urban governance and human rights through research, inclusive dialogue and co-design.

4

Build a platform to expand opportunities for collaborative international research and publishing.

5

Provide opportunities for emerging scholars and post-graduate students to develop research experience and networks.

Value-based Rationales

Five value-based rationales guide PUG's research, how we work and our impact:

1. Empirical - We conduct long-term, inclusive research embedded in postgraduate training to help those in positions of power better understand and address the realities of marginalised communities, making our findings accessible to policymakers with the goal of driving meaningful change.

2. Theoretical - We develop critical and nuanced theories of social justice, human rights and citizenship by challenging conventional frameworks, exposing complex power dynamics, and advancing approaches to governing transitions that resist simplistic solutions and avoid reinforcing systemic injustice.

3. Methodological - We co-create knowledge with diverse participants and partners, working with marginalised communities through participatory, mixed-methods research. We use participatory action research methods like PhotoVoice, WhatsApp Diaries, and Storytelling — and support pluralistic, context-sensitive urban research by embedding these approaches into our regular methods training.

4. Epistemological - We centre knowledge from the margins to shape urban scholarship and influence decision-making, reimagining the role of universities in addressing urban crises and expanding democratic spaces through support for early-career researchers and human rights defenders.

5. Collaborative - Networking and partnerships are central to our approach, as we foster an inclusive, international research environment through strong collaborations with civil society, human rights organisations, community-based groups, and partners beyond academia.

Our Team



Dr Mmeli Dube

Programme lead: Human Rights, PUG Research Management



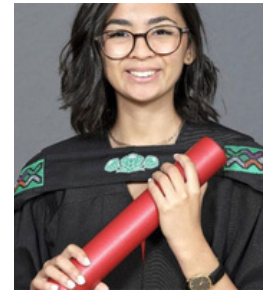
Ms Babongile Bidla

Researcher, Website and Social Media Manager



Prof. Fiona Anciano

PUG Research Head; Programme lead: Democracy and Citizenship



Ms Michaelyn Cornelius

Administrator, Finance Manager, Event Organiser



Dr Christina Culwick Fatti

Programme lead: Urban Governance, PUG Research Management



Ms Nheo Fumba

Research Assistant



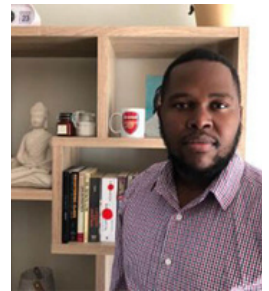
Ms Boitumelo Papane

Researcher and PhD Student



Mr Sindisa Monakali

Research Assistant



Dr Lindokuhle Mandyoli

Research Associate

Our Advisory Board



Prof. Michelle Esau

Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, University of the Western Cape



Prof. Paul Gready

UNESCO Chair in Protection of Human Rights Defenders, University of York



Assoc. Prof. Zarina Patel

Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town



Prof. Charlotte Lemanski

Geography, University of Cambridge



Prof. Joelien Pretorius

Political Studies, University of the Western Cape

PUG Research Programmes: Outputs and Activities



PUG Research Programmes

The Politics and Urban Governance (PUG) Research Group connects research on urban politics to people's lived experiences. It upholds a commitment to integrity, collaboration and social impact. PUG's research is grouped into three broad research programmes with various projects under these programmes.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

HUMAN RIGHTS

URBAN GOVERNANCE

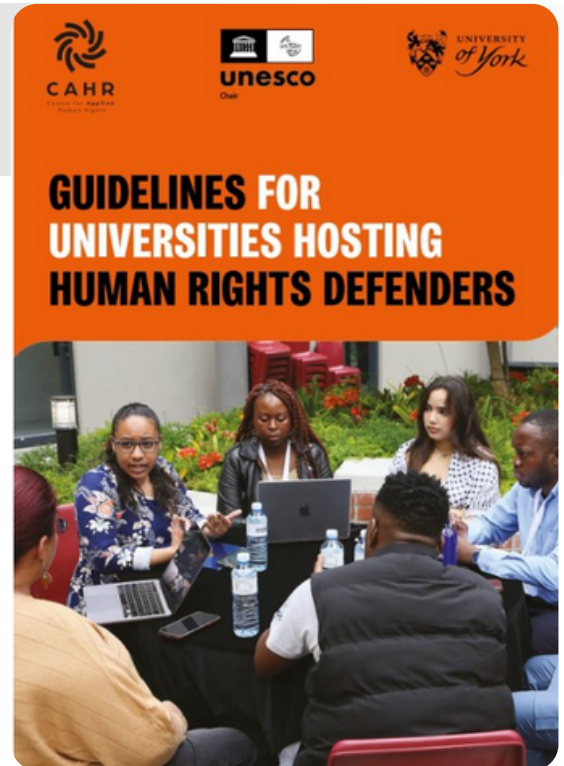
DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENSHIP

Human Rights Programme

Through the African Universities Hub for Human Rights, we leverage our research capacity to provide thought leadership human rights protection and democracy. The Africa Hub serves as a space for incubation and reflection, connecting activism and academia to support human rights defenders, students and scholars in shaping and influencing their political contexts.

UNESCO Chair: Launch of University Guidelines on the Temporary Relocation of Human Rights Defenders

On the 2nd - 5th July 2024, Mmeli Dube, lead member of African Universities Hub for Human Rights, and Lindokuhle Mandyoli, PUG research associate and lecturer at UWC's Political Studies Department, attended the UNESCO Chair: Launch of University Guidelines on the Temporary Relocation of Human Rights Defenders. Representatives of universities and development agencies, CAHR staff and UNESCO Chair in the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Expansion of Political Space, Paul Gready was also at the Guidelines Workshop at the University of York.



African Universities Hub (AUH) for Human Rights Launch 2024

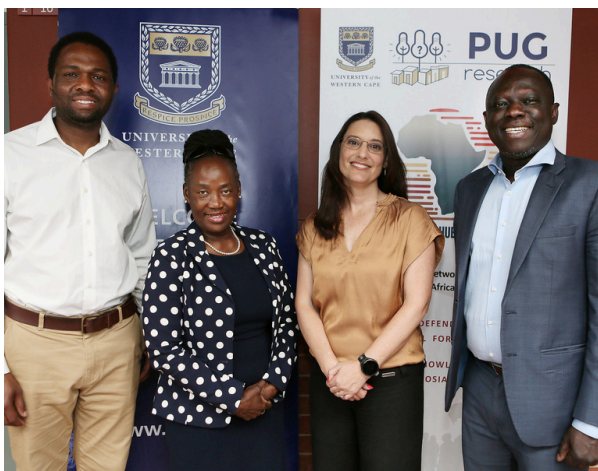


Photo Left to right: Mmeli Dube (Africa Hub Programme Lead), Matete Madiba (DVC Student Development & Support, UWC), Fiona Anciano (PUG Founder and EMS Faculty Acting Deputy Dean of Research) and Clément Nyaletsossi Voule (Fmr UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association) at Africa Hub Launch. Picture by UWC media

On 7 October 2024, the Politics and Urban Governance Research Group (PUG) officially launched the African Universities Hub for Human Rights (AUH) at an event at Greatmore Hall. The audience comprised participants of the first cohort of the AUH Summer School, a representative from the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, civil society leaders, and faculty members from UWC. The AUH launch celebrates a significant step in positioning UWC as a university that is committed to supporting human rights and strengthening democracy in Africa, which also aligns with our university's history and values. The AUH launch event was also the first day of the Hub's inaugural summer school for African defenders of human rights and democracy.

African Universities Hub (AUH) for Human Rights Summer School 2024

On 7 – 10 October 2024, AUH held its inaugural summer school for human rights defenders at UWC. The school had 21 participants from 15 African countries. It brought together activists, lawyers, and academics (HRDs) working on climate, land justice, gender and reproductive rights, women's rights, and other areas. Faculty staff from the Political Studies Department, researchers from the Centre for Applied Human Rights (CAHR) at the University of York and the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, and civil society leaders lead mini workshops and lectures during the four-day School.

The Summer School was an open and engaging space for critical reflection, learning new concepts and skills, and networking under the theme: "Recentring Human Rights Protection: Innovation and Sustainability, beyond the Present". The programme covered topics including mapping the human rights protection ecosystem in Africa, revisiting the concept of human rights and democracy and its relevance to the continent, storytelling as a tool for human rights defenders, activists' psychosocial well-being and human rights leadership. Among the summer school participants were three fellows that AUH is hosting under the protective fellowship programme.



Summer School Participants | Photograph: UWC media


Human Rights Defenders Protective Fellowship

From September to December 2024, the African Universities Hub for Human Rights (Africa Hub) hosted its first cohort of Fellows under its Human Rights Defenders Protective Fellowship Programme. The first cohort had three HRD's from Mozambique, Uganda and Kenya. The inaugural fellowship was designed as a rest and respite for HRDs working in stressful environments. The HRD's audited academic courses where they contributed their practical experiences, had networking meetings with civil society, visited inspiring historical sites and had interactions with some of South Africa's democratic institutions.



Partnership with African Defenders

We acknowledge our partnership with African Defenders in hosting Gloria Kimani, the Fellow from Kenya. African Defenders (the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network) is a network of five African sub-regional organisations, dedicated to the promotion and protection of HRDs across the African continent. The Network considers Cape Town, as one of its Ubuntu Hub Cities, where it temporarily relocates HRDs at risk.



Access to Information
and Human Rights
Defending

Workshop for the Human Rights Clinic
05 March 2025

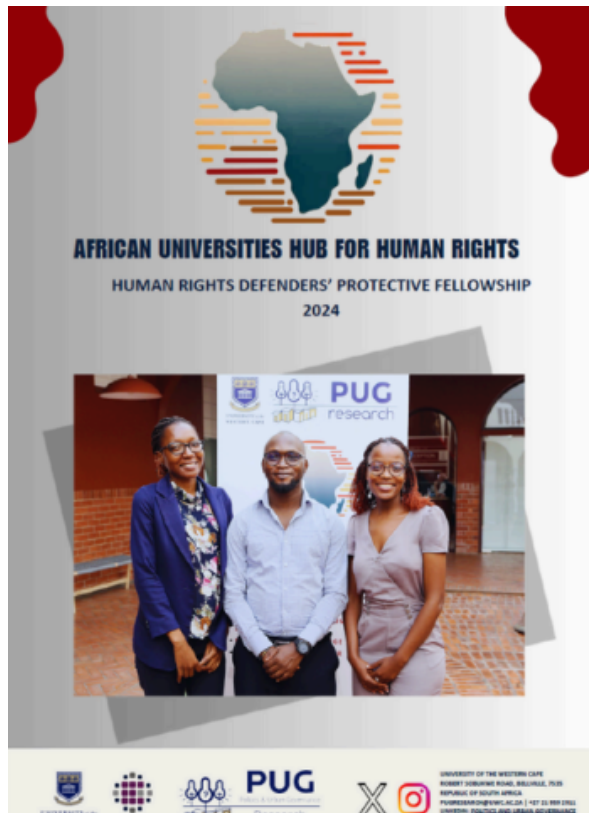
AUH launches collaboration with Human Rights Clinic!

The Africa Hub launched a four-month research project to shape the thematic focus, design, and other elements of an upcoming repository for Human Rights Defenders in Africa.

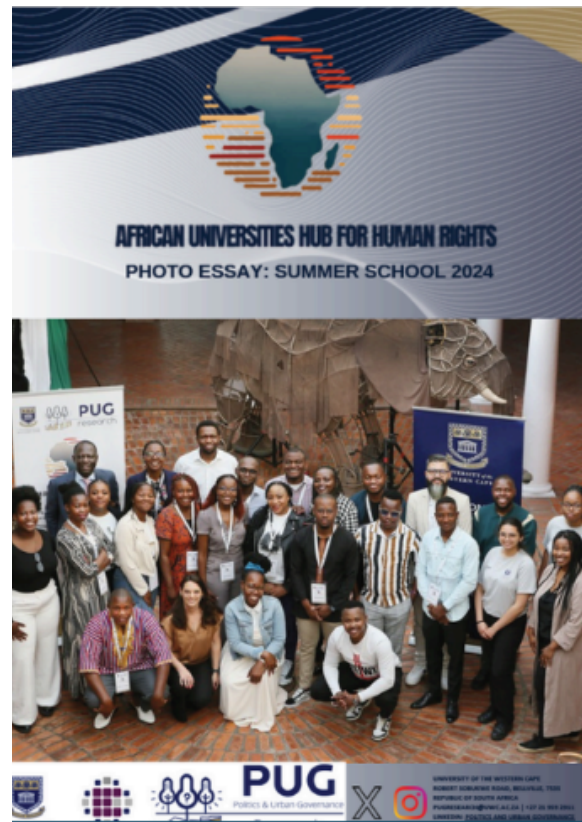
The research was conducted with post-graduate students from the Human Rights Defense Clinic, an LLM Module hosted by the Centre for Applied Human Rights of the University of York. Between February and May 2025, the students will map existing human rights repositories, interview the hosts, and help design specific elements of the repository platform. This collaboration provides students with valuable practical experience while supporting the Africa Hub with essential research to create accessible resources for human rights defenders working in challenging contexts throughout the continent. As part of its mission to support human rights defenders, the Africa Hub is developing a repository focused on generating and sharing knowledge with academics and activists regarding political developments and shrinking space for activism in Africa. This information will help HRDs to think more strategically about their work, map the possible risks involved, and plan for the kind of support they will need.

The Human Rights Defense Clinic is hosted by the Centre for Applied Human Rights (CAHR). It provides support to organisations and individuals as well as other clinics who work on human rights or social justice issues in the UK and abroad. Through the help of human rights postgraduate students, the Clinic responds to the needs of partner organisations or individuals by providing support on long-, medium- and short-term projects and/or activities.

African Universities Hub for Human Rights 2024 Reports



[Click to download](#)



[Click to download](#)

Networking by the African Hub Team and 2024 Fellows | 25-26 November 2024

In November, the Africa Hub team and the 2024 Fellows met with Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. They shared their work, and the Fellows also shared their countries' human rights situation. The meeting occurred on the sidelines of the Southern Defenders' 7th annual summit, from 25 to 26 November in Johannesburg. The summit gathered human rights defenders, civil society organisations, grassroots movements, National Human Rights Institutions, and government officials from Southern Africa to discuss strategies for strengthening accountable governance through human rights advocacy in the region. The Africa Hub team participated in the summit and used the opportunity to meet with many other human rights defenders.



Photo: From left to right: Mmeli Dube (AUH programme lead), Gloria Kimani and Godwin Toko (AUH fellows), Mary Lawlor (UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders situations), Nheo Fumba (AUH Staff), Sheila Nhancale (AUH fellow) and Lindokuhle Mandyoli (AUH Research Associate and UWC Associate Lecturer).

Urban Governance

Urban governance is a complex and multifaceted process involving diverse stakeholders—ranging from local government to the private sector and community leaders—and requires balancing economic, social, environmental, and political considerations, especially in South Africa’s highly diverse urban landscape. Our Urban Governance research programme examines the multiple ways in which these various elements interact with each other and influence decision-making processes. We adopt a range of research methodologies to understand the relationships between different actors, who holds power and how decisions are made within different contexts, to better understand the multiple forms of urban governance that influence the ability of cities to achieve the SDGs and improve the lives of citizens.

Current projects

- Governing the Just Urban Transition
- Pandemic Resilience and Cities: Learning from Community-Based Organisations
- Scaling up off-grid sanitation
- Interrogating Urban Crisis Representation and Response
- Off-grid Cities: Elite infrastructural secession and social justice

Governing the Just Urban Transition (Go-JUT)

In the context of growing water and electricity insecurity in South African cities, the need for environmentally sustainable and socially just transitions has become increasingly urgent. Inadequate access to essential services like water and electricity exacerbates everyday crises and deepens inequality, highlighting the importance of pursuing inclusive and equitable urban development pathways. The Governing the Just Urban Transition (GoJUT) project, funded by the NRF, is designed to explore the complexities of just urban transitions in this context. In 2024, the GoJUT project laid strong foundations for impactful research and engagement. Key milestones included establishing governance structures, finalizing fieldwork preparations—such as ethics clearance and site selection—and disseminating emerging insights through academic and policy platforms.

A project advisory committee was also established, bringing together government and NGO representatives to deepen engagement with the Just Urban Transition agenda. The project’s theoretical contributions were presented at major conferences, including the African Urbanisms Conference (Johannesburg) and Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD) Annual Scientific Conference (Cape Town). Monthly reading groups were launched to explore key theoretical and policy issues, extending participation beyond the core project team. Student researchers were actively supported, with Masters students completing coursework and submitting proposals, while PhD students advanced toward proposal submissions in early 2025. A blog post on “Unequal Energy Transitions in South Africa” was published through the IISD, and regular virtual meetings ensured continued coordination and progress across the team.



The GoJUT team includes Fiona Anciano (UWC), SJ Cooper-Knock (Sheffield), Charlotte Lemanski (Cambridge), Margot Rubin (Cardiff), Motshwaedi Sepent (UWC), Christina Culwick Fatti (UWC), Kurisani Mdhuli (UWC), Boitumelo Papane (UWC), Rogini Naidoo (UWC), Asemahle Mahlunwana (UWC), Samkelisiwe Khanyile (GCRO) and Mamokete Modiba (GCRO).

Go-JUT and Off Grid Cities knowledge exchange | July 2024

PUG, together with the South African Cities Network and the Gauteng City-Region Observatory hosted an online knowledge event that discussed the Off-grid Cities project and the recently published Governance of the Just Urban Transition research paper. Fiona Anciano and Christina Culwick Fatti presented a joint reflection on these two projects, followed by a panel discussion with Dhesigen Naidoo (South African Presidential Climate Commission), Tracy Ledger (Public Affairs Research Institute) and Anthea Stephens (National Treasury Cities Support Programme). Reflections from city officials, Nomvula Mofokeng and Ondela Tywakadi from the City of Johannesburg, and Daniel Sullivan from the City of Cape Town, provided practical perspectives. The event was attended by 221 people who participated in robust and engaged debate. Samkelisiwe Khanyile (Gauteng City-Region Observatory) facilitated the online event, with Danga Mughogho (South African Cities Network) providing welcome and closing remarks. This event lays the foundation for future engagements as part of the GoJUT project.

Sanitation Consortium Meeting in Kenya | February 2024

In February 2024, three members of the PUG research team met with project partners to discuss the data, collected through the photovoice and ODK survey methods, since the start of the project during the height of COVID-19. Partners shared key findings across the different sites and their implications for specific actors and the broader Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector. While in Kenya, project partners also had a field visit to Sanergy and took a 'transect walk' through Mukuru Kwa Reuben informal settlement to get a clearer grasp of the context.



Kenya | Photograph: PUG Team

International Symposium, Representing Global Crises in Vulnerable Neighborhood's in Colombia and South Africa | September 2024



Colombia | Photograph: PUG Team

The Crisis Representation Project Team (University of Sheffield, PUG Research Group, UWC and University of Cambridge) attended the 'International Symposium on Representing Global Crises in Vulnerable Neighbourhoods in Colombia and South Africa' hosted at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Cali. The project team was accompanied by representatives from Equal Education, Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI). The project is a British Academy-funded research aiming to understand and compare crisis representations and responses Cape Town and Johannesburg (South Africa), and Cali and Buenaventura (Colombia).

Democracy & Citizenship

Democracy is a pillar of South African society, emphasizing human rights and citizen-led transformation. Yet, its strength is in its practice, not merely its structure. PUG believes that to understand democracy's real impact, especially in South Africa's urban spaces inhabited by extreme inequalities – from wealthy elites to low-income communities, we need to examine both local and comparative practices of participatory democracy and participatory governance. By exploring democratic practices across diverse contexts, we can uncover new strategies to amplify citizens' voices and promote governance models that prioritise dignity and social equity.

Current projects

- Participedia: Participatory Democracy
- PAR-City

Participedia Partners Conference and Winter School | June 2025

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PARTTRTICIPEDIA PARTNERS CONFERENCE | 5-7 JUNE 2024

Community Engagement Day

The Participedia Partners has the opportunity to engage in community activities, such as tours of Cissie Gool House and Robben Island, providing a deeper understanding of South Africa's history and community dynamics. The Community Day was designed to foster engagement among local communities and conference participants. It aimed to create a space for sharing experiences, discussing local and global challenges, and exploring innovative solutions in public participation and democratic governance.

Capstone Panel Event

The conference featured a Capstone Panel Event & Book Discussion Democracy and the Legacies of Truth and Reconciliation. The Capstone Panel Event was held on June 6, 2024, in Cape Town, South Africa. This hybrid event featured discussions on the book Truth Commissions and State Building. Panelists Bonny Ibhawoh, Serges Kamga, and Jasper Ayelazuno shared their insights on Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRCs) and their roles in democratic innovations. The event concluded with a Q&A session moderated by Fiona Anciano.



Participedia Partners Conference Participants | Photograph: The Dollie House

PARTICIPEDIA WINTER SCHOOL | 10 -15 JUNE 2024

On the 10th - 15th of June, PUG hosted the hybrid Participedia School on 'Transnational Democratic Innovations' in partnership with Memorial University, the University of Western Cape, McMaster University, the Coady Institute, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Innovation for Policy Foundation, Mission Publiques, Democracy International, and a consortium of leading practitioners and scholars. The School aimed to provide accredited skills training, knowledge sharing and collaboration, and design on democratic innovations through an interdisciplinary, intersectional, and international exchange. Below are our highlights and some reflections from participants.



Winter School Participants | Photograph: The Dollie House

Participedia Partners Conference and Participedia School on Transnational Democratic Innovation 2024 Reports

Participedia is a collaborative and crowdsourced effort to document public participation and democratic innovation around the world. Participedia in collaboration with PUG has released reports on [the Partners Conference](#) and the [Participedia School on Transnational Democratic Innovation 2024](#), which were hosted in June 2024 at the University of the Western Cape.



Publications and Conference Attendance



Workshop Attendance

Off-Grid Cities Writing Workshop | 26th to 27th August 2024

In late August 2024, members of the Off-Grid Cities project came together for a writing workshop in London (August 26-27). These two days provided the team members —Christina Culwick Fatti, Fiona Anciano, Margot Rubin, SJ Cooper-Knock, and Charlotte Lemanski—valuable opportunity to make progress on various co-authored journal articles.

PAR-City Workshop | December 2024

Fiona Anciano attended a workshop in London for the project Participation in the City: How Urban Participatory Innovations are Reshaping Democracy, Governance and Trust (PAR-CITY), led by Prof Samuel Halvorsen of Queen Mary University of London. The project brings together 25 interdisciplinary researchers to explore how cities are responding to contemporary democratic challenges. Through a relational comparison of seven major cities across the global South and North, PAR-CITY aims to deepen understanding of participatory urban governance and its impact on trust and democracy.

Conference Attendance

Crafting The Flow: The Intersectional Complexities of Water Security | 6th July 2024

Dr Mmeli Dube participated in the conference and presented on intersectional vulnerabilities and access to sanitation in South African informal settlements. His presentation used the lens of intersectionality to examine the various claims on Container Based Sanitation's (CBS) inclusivity, drawing lessons from a case study of the BM Section informal settlement in Cape Town. The presentation highlighted how different forms of vulnerability converge to shape users' and non-users' sanitation experiences. It drew from research that was being prepared for a journal submission by the presenter, alongside Fiona Anciano, Dani Barrington (University of Western Australia), Alesia Ofori (Cranfield University) and Lindokuhle Mabaso (UWC).

Annual International Conference of Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers | 27-30 August 2025

Christina Culwick Fatti and Fiona Anciano participated in the RGS-IBG Annual Conference, presenting in the Alternative Southern Methodologies for Justice session. Christina presented "Which just sustainability?: The case of private investments in renewable energy in South Africa," co-authored with Fiona Anciano and Charlotte Lemanski, based on the Off-grid Cities project. Fiona was also a co-author on a paper from the Crisis in the City project titled "Decolonising methodologies: Storytelling to interrogate urban crisis in 'disorderly' Southern cities across South Africa and Colombia." The other co-authors of this paper are Charlotte Lemanski, Henry Staples, and Melanie Lombard.

African Studies Association of the United Kingdom: 30 Years of Democracy | 29-31 August 2024

Fiona Anciano collaborated with Shauna Mottiar from the University of KwaZulu-Natal to co-convene three panels on "South African Democracy at 30 Years." As part of these panels, Fiona presented her paper titled "Substituting for the State: The Sovereignty Impact of Diverse Citizens' Strategies to Attain Services in Post-Apartheid South Africa." This presentation drew on a co-authored paper currently under review, written with Charlotte Lemanski, Christina Culwick Fatti, and Margot Rubin.

16th SANORD International Conference | 4th December 2024

Christina Culwick Fatti attended the SANORD conference at UWC, and presented a paper on Governing the Just Urban Transition.

African Urbanisms Conference | 24th October 2024

Fiona Anciano presented The Moral Economy of Sanitation Provision in Informal Settlements in Cape Town and Nairobi, exploring basic service delivery. Christina Culwick Fatti followed with Co-producing a Just Urban Transition in South Africa, highlighting collaborative approaches to urban transformation.

PUG Seminar Series

In 2024, the Participatory Urban Governance (PUG) research group launched a dynamic post-graduate seminar series exploring participatory research methods under the theme “Researching the City.” Designed to deepen methodological engagement and promote inclusive research practices, the series featured three interactive workshops that equipped researchers and students with innovative tools for community-based inquiry.

The first workshop, held in August, focused on Photovoice and was presented by Fiona Anciano, Mmeli Dube, and Dani Barrington. Participants explored how visual storytelling can enhance research impact and influence policy engagement.

In September, the WhatsApp Diaries workshop—led by Fiona Anciano and Boitumelo Papane—introduced creative strategies for documenting and analyzing urban experiences through mobile messaging platforms.

The final session in October spotlighted Storytelling as a research method. Presented by Fiona Anciano, Babongile Bidla, and Charlotte Lemanski, this workshop unpacked narrative approaches to co-producing urban knowledge.

With good attendance and enthusiastic engagement across all sessions, the series successfully fostered a space for critical reflection, collaboration, and methodological innovation within research.

Film Screening: Mother City

This event was jointly hosted by the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) and PUG Research.

“Mother City is one of the most thought-provoking documentaries I’ve seen thus far. It depicts the lived realities of historically disadvantaged groups who are still marginalised in terms of their constitutional right to housing. Most strikingly, the quest for affordable housing in the inner city (of Cape Town) is met with hostility from various stakeholders who appear to be fine that the majority of people are still left at the outskirts of economic activities. Quite sadly, the dynamics of the “haves and have-nots”, “included and excluded”, and “deserving and undeserving” are still relevant more than 30 years after democracy.”

Reflection by Meshay Moses



Journal articles

Anciano, F. and Lombard, M. (2024) Hybridising governance for resilience in a time of crisis: learning from community-based organisations in Cape Town and Cali. *International Development Planning Review*: 1–23. [Open Access link](#)

Mdee, A. Orfori, A. Anciano, F. Barrington, D. and Dube, M. (2024) On a journey to city-wide inclusive sanitation? A political economy analysis of container-based sanitation (CBS) in the fragmented in(formal) city. *Globalizations*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2024.2434302>

Papane, B. & Anciano, F. (in press). Digitally Mediated Research: WhatsApp Diaries in Times of Crisis and Beyond? *Journal of Law, Society and Development*. 11:21. DOI: [10.25159/2520-9515/17165](https://doi.org/10.25159/2520-9515/17165).

Lewis, A.R., Bell, A.R., Casas, A., Kupiec-Teahan, B., Sanchez, J.M., Willcock, S., Anciano, F., Barrington, D.J., et al. 2024. Comparative sanitation data from high-frequency phone surveys across 3 countries. *Data in Brief*. 55:110635. DOI: [10.1016/j.dib.2024.110635](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2024.110635).

AM Ngatia, F Anciano, D Kagendo, J Riungu. (2024) Situational analysis of occupational safety, health, and dignity of sanitation workers: a case of Mukuru kwa Reuben Slums, Nairobi, Kenya. *African Journal of Science, Technology and Social Sciences* 2 (2), 138-152. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.58506/ajstss.v2i2.169>



Newsletters and Blogs

PUG produced three newsletters last year, featuring key updates on events, new projects, team highlights, and insights into our ongoing research and collaborations.

1. [PUG Insights Issue 1](#)
2. [PUG Insights Issue 2](#)
3. [PUG Insights Issue 3](#)

PUG produces a wide range of publications and outputs, including blog posts. Each publication is linked to PUG's research projects, which fall under three key themes: **Human Rights, Urban Governance, and Democracy & Citizenship**.

1. [Three things to celebrate about South African democracy](#) - Author: Fiona Anciano
2. [Reaching Human Rights Defenders in the Margins: Challenging but Worthwhile](#) - Author: Mmeli Dube
3. [Unequal Energy Transitions: The impact of private solar adoption on social justice in South African cities](#) - Author: Christina Culwick Fatti

Work with Us

To stay updated on the latest outputs, events and opportunities, check out our website (SEE QR CODE), sign up to our mailing list or connect with us on social media.



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