

City Occupied: A neighbourhood-based comparison of informal land occupations in Bogotá, Cape Town and São Paulo

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PROJECT AIMS

- Study land and building occupations in 3 neighbourhoods in Bogotá, Cape Town and São Paulo
- Everyday practices, struggles and future possibilities of citizen-led, cooperative solutions to global housing crisis
- Collaborative research approach to challenge problematic, 'dehumanising' narratives of occupations
- Produce academic & policy knowledge on informal occupations
- Widen networks between South America (Brazil and Colombia) and South Africa
- Strengthen capacity of early career researchers

IMPACT

- is a recorded or otherwise auditable occasion of **influence** from academic research **on another actor or organisation** (LSE, 2011)
- is any effect on, change or **benefit to** the economy, society, culture, public policy, etc (UK Ref 2014)
- is **the good** that research can do in the world...There is an implicit judgment in this definition; we are **seeking benefits and working for the good of others beyond the academy**...work with stakeholders to design responsible, sustainable and inclusive research (Mark Reed, 2018)

OUTPUTS

- Blog post "Covid & Housing: occupations and evictions in Bogotá, Cape Town and São Paulo"
- Popular zine featuring portraits of 14 residents of building occupation in Cape Town
- Zine featured in one of SA's newspapers (newframe.com)
- Documentary "City Occupied"
- 4 Honours thesis (completed) and 2 Masters thesis (ongoing)
- Public dialogue in May focused on movements in Cape Town and São Paulo
- More dialogues to follow
- Community Indicators (Bogotá) for the implementation of the Action Plan signed with the local government in 2021

IMPACTS

- Engagements and outputs provided support to occupiers & social movements in advocating for housing and a just city
- Influence public narratives: show humanity in occupations, demonstrate challenges and need for progressive state
- Student education and capacity building
- Established new networks among researchers and occupiers
- Community Indicators for leaders to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan, creating an instrument of accountability to discuss progress with the municipality

