Understanding social inclusion from the perspectives of slum dwellers in Kampala (Uganda)

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The nature of the problem
Theoretical ‘lenses’
Research methodology
Findings
Conclusions
Nature of the problem

- Urban century: 54% in 2014, projected to 66% by 2050 (UN, 2014).
- Highest growth in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Increase in population in slums (UN-Habitat, 2012).
- In 2012, 863 million; 2000, 760 million; in 1990, 650 million
- Alternative ways of producing housing and infrastructural services have emerged (Cohen 2006; Ahlers et al, 2014)
- A well documented but conceptually less understood new ways of state-society engagements in planning - co-production.
Nature of the problem


• The colonial planning ideals have continued under a different guise

• In many parts of the world, current urban planning systems and processes are actually part of the problem: they serve to promote social and spatial exclusion, are anti-poor, and are doing little to secure environmental sustainability.

Nature of the problem

• An inclusive urban future will depend on recognition of existence of multiple realities.

• Planning needs to address aspects shaping urbanism, rather than focus on how urbanisation is governed or controlled (McCann, 2016).
Interpretations of co-production

• More recently, co-production as a form of state–society engagements that are taking place primarily in many cities of the South (Mitlin, 2008; Albrechts, 2012; Watson, 2014).

— a process of mobilisation that is sustained across time and space that includes the more nebulous, uncoordinated, and cyclical forms of collective action, popular protest and networks that serve to link organised and dispersed actors in processes of social mobilisation and can involve several networks and organisations aiming to change elements of the political, economic and social systems in cities.

(Bebbington, Mitlin, Mogaladi, Scurrah, & Bielich, 2010: 1306).
Case study approach


• (Yin, 1994:10): case studies
  – “generalizable to theoretical and conceptual propositions, and can yield propositions
  – Spent 90 days of fieldwork, talking to 111 participants

• How do co-production engagements in the City of Kampala provide empirical support for an alternative planning framework which contributes to ideas of inclusive urban development in the cities of the global South?
Kampala City

• Colonial planning 1903-1962.

• Post-colonial planning experiences-1962.

• Modernity, coloniality and postcoloniality are interlinked.

Co-production engagements & outcomes

- Water and sanitation
Co-production engagements

- Governance & decision making
Propositional tools for inclusive urban spaces

- Savings & community mobilization
- Learning and knowledge generation
- Exchange visits and networking
- Communities and NGO use collaboration, conflict and resistance.
Propositional approaches on urban housing
Conflicts as part of co-production processes - State-society

- Boycotts to resist bad policies - Evictions.
- Elections and the governance of the Federation.
- Relatively wealthy local landlords are powerful.
- Divisions and divides are common - clientelism.
- Lobbying, popular mobilization, & networking.
Communities/NGO engagement with the state

- Co-production is a dynamic process
- Responses to interventions vary - making use of them, rejecting them or hybridising
- There exists inter-group differences
- Vote banking and clientelism
- Popular methods - women
- Non-monolithic society & non-monolithic state
Federation-NGO relations

- 2000-2006, post 2006: Federation leadership
- The NGO has its own rules
- The Federation- both its own & Actogether rules
- The NGO builds capacity
- Differences on management of savings

- Assumptions of a cohesive society and civil society challenged?
State response to communities and Actogether

- Postcolonial State is not a homogenous entity
- Kampala in recentralization gear
- Powerful KCCA
- Local power and leadership brokers- Local Council One (LC1) as key
- Clear instances of an informal state (Roy, 2009)
- State driven clientelistic relations
- Multiple centres of state power
- Recognition and belonging is a matter of negotiation
Final reflections

• Co-production = both collaboration and conflict
• Inclusive urban spaces are a function of collaboration and conflict
• Postcolonial state is divided & conflicted.
• Blurred line between the formal and informal governance systems and practices in the South (Robins et al. 2008; Lindell 2008; 2008)
• Impractical to assume is power is absent.
• Reposition planning as both a collaborative and conflicted process.
• How does power and multiple identities impact urban poverty reduction strategies in the South?
Thank you