

Turning Livelihoods to Rubbish?

Workshop — 3 August 2018

Infrastructure, labour, waste, value, finance, geographies



By the project team: Henrik Ernstson, Mary Lawhon, Anesu Makina, Nate Millington, Kathleen Stokes & Erik Swyngedouw (2 Aug 2018)



The University of Manchester



The University of Manchester

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Economic and Social Research Council
ESRC-DFID Poverty Alleviation Grant 2013-14



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Sponsors, institutions, and roles

Aim

- To develop improved understandings of the impact of specific interventions on the ability of the urban poor to extract value from waste in South Africa.
- Translate these findings to Southern Africa and low-income country contexts.

Questions

- What factors shape *pathways into and out of poverty*?
- How can policy create *sustained routes* out of extreme poverty in ways that can be replicated and scaled up?
- What political and institutional conditions are associated with effective poverty reduction and development, and what can *domestic and external actors* do to promote these conditions?

Agenda

- 9:30 - 10:00 - Arrival and refreshments
- **10:00 - 10:15 - Introduction to project, objectives for workshop, participant introductions**
- **Presentation of findings of TLR project**
- 10:15 - 10:45 - **Nate Millington** (University of Cape Town): *Salvage Accumulation and the South African Wastescape: Preliminary Reflections*
- 10:45 - 11:15 - **Henrik Ernstson** (University of Manchester): *Financial Flows Linking with Waste Flows in South Africa: Preliminary Reflections and How to think about the Remarkable Success of the CDM Failure* (with Erik Swyngedouw)
- 11:15 - 11:30 - Short Break
- **Updates on PhD Projects**
- 11:30 - 12:00 - **Anesu Makina** (University of Oklahoma) *Understanding Informal Waste Picking Using an Agonistically Transgressive Appropriations Framework*
- 12:30 - 1:00 - **Andreas Bracht** (University of Cologne), *Increased Value Participation for Small and Informal Actors through the Establishment of Governmental Policies: The Case of E-waste in South Africa, Observations and Preliminary Results from Field Phase*
- 1:00 - 2:00 – Lunch
- **2:00 - 3:00 - First cut screening of TLR research documentary** (with Yvette Kruger)
- 3:00 - 3:30 - Closing thoughts and reflections

We focus on four trends in waste management

1. **Technologization** of waste management

The use of technology and replacement of manual labour.

2. **Institutionalization** of waste management

'Formalization'; changing rules, property regimes etc. around waste.

3. **Internationalization of waste finance**

Different forms of financialization (access to capital) from international markets, e.g., Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), to fund waste infrastructure projects.

4. **Community responsibility** for waste management

"Cooperative governance"; e.g., enrolling residents in sorting, recycling; nurturing co-operatives with reclaimers; community-led projects etc.)





Our more specific team research questions are:

- How do **specific waste interventions** promote new practices to extract value from waste?
- What are the social, political, and institutional effects of these interventions?*

Waste
to
value

- What benefits are associated with different interventions for different categories of the urban poor?

** Of course we are also interested in accounting for environmental effects, but in only through drawing on secondary data (we are not doing any primary data gathering as in ecological or biological measurements).*

Case studies of concrete interventions

Community responsibility
and labourers' livelihoods

Lead:

Kathleen Stokes

Technologization and
formalization of recycling

Lead:

Nate Millington

Internationalization of
waste finance and its
connection to SA

Leads:

Erik Swyngedouw

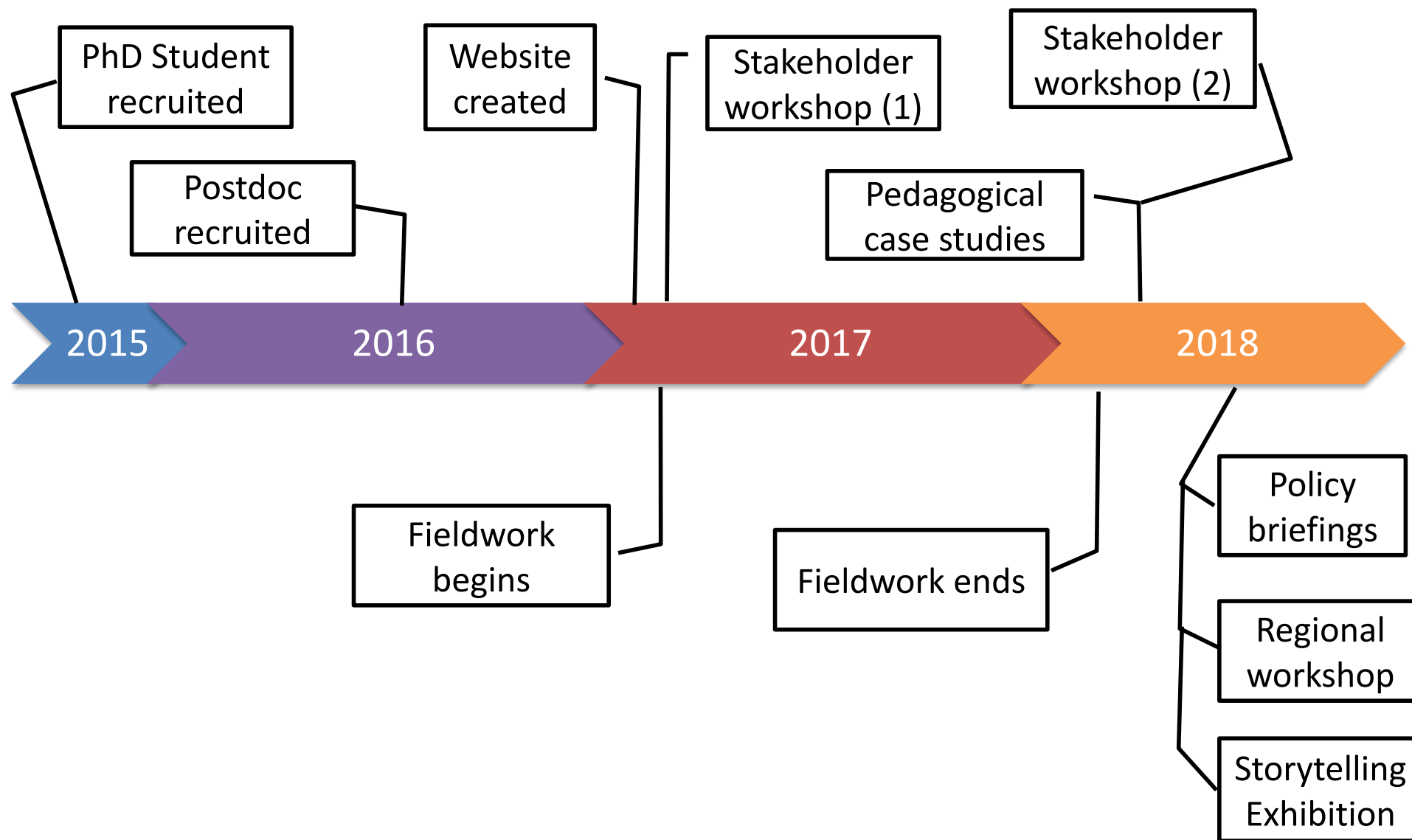
Henrik Ernstson

Waste and Livelihoods using
an Agonistically
Transgressive Appropriations
Framework

Leads:

Anesu Makina

Mary Lawhon



Project Timeline

Nov 2015 – Oct 2018 (extended to Feb 2019)

Outputs: building publics (as of Aug 2018)

- **Policy Briefings** (*for policy makers*)
 - In draft state. One will be discussed today. Two more coming.
- **Pedagogical Case Studies** (*for students*)
 - Designed for the African Association of Planning School (AAPS), a network across over 40 African universities (Coordinated by Nate Millington). Three under preparation.
- **Digital story telling & short documentary film** (*for general public*)
 - First cut version screened at WS2 in 2018. Final version with associated website with links to other outputs (policy briefs, pedagogical case studies, blogs and research reports). (Linked with film-based research grant Visual Environmental Humanities at KTH Stockholm by von Heland & Ernstson)

Outputs: networks (as of Aug 2018)

- **Stakeholder Workshops 1 and 2**
 - WS1: 2017 at ACC, UCT
 - WS2: 2018 at ACC, UCT (this one)
- **Regional Workshop in Kampala, Uganda (WS3: 2018)**
 - Co-organised with the HICCUP Project (PI H Ernstson) with a focus on heterogenous infrastructure configurations, in particular around waste and sanitation in Eastern/Southern African cities.
- **Conference Presentations**
 - AAG 2017
 - Intl African Cities Conference 2018 (w/ special session org.)
 - RGS-IBG 2018 (with special session organized)

Outputs: publications (as of Aug 2018)

- **Peer-reviewed articles**
 - *A Labour Question for the 21st century: Perpetuating the Work Ethic in the Absence of Jobs in South Africa's Waste Sector.* **IN PRESS.** *Journal of Southern African Studies*. By Mary Lawhon, Nate Millington, and Kathleen Stokes.
 - *New Geographies of Waste: Conceptual Vectors from the Global South.* **ACCEPTED.** *Progress in Human Geography*. By Nate Millington and Mary Lawhon. (Extensive literature review.)
 - *From Precarious Work to Obsolete Labour? Implications of Technological Disemployment for Geographical Scholarship.* (Revise & resubmit to *Geografiska Annaler Series B*). By Pierce, Joseph, Mary Lawhon and Tyler McCreary.
 - *Value, Ruination, and Salvage in the Contemporary City: Recasting Waste as Resource in South Africa.* **IN PREPARATION** for *Environment and Planning D*. By Nate Millington and Kathleen Stokes.
 - *Wasting CO2: The Remarkable Success of a Climate Failure.* **IN PREPARATION** for *Environment and Planning E* by Henrik Ernstson and Erik Swyngedouw.
- **Dissertations:** Kathleen Stokes (May 2019) and Anesu Makina (Dec 2019)

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Lets start.