

## The new middle class in the global south

A 2-day workshop at WISER, Wits University  
21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015

### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Discussion of key texts

#### 9.00-10.00 Comparative perspectives

Lentz, Carola. 2015. Elites or middle classes? Lessons from transnational research for the study of social stratification in Africa. *Working Papers of the Department of Anthropology and African Studies of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz* 161. [http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/Dateien/AP\\_161.pdf](http://www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de/Dateien/AP_161.pdf)

St Clair, G. 2015. Brazil's New Middle Class? – a literature review.

#### 10.00-10.50 Land and the 'old' middle class

Mabandla, Nkululeko. 2015. Rethinking Bundy: Land and the black middle class – accumulation beyond the peasantry. *Development Southern Africa* 32(1): 76-89.

#### 10.50 – 11.10 Coffee

#### 11.10 – 12.00 Middle or middling?

Phadi, Mosa and Claire Ceruti. 2011. Multiple meanings of the middle class in Soweto, South Africa. *African Sociological Review* 15(1): 88-108.

#### 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

#### 13.00-14.00 Debt and the middle class

James, Deborah. 2012. Money-go-round: personal economies of wealth, aspiration and indebtedness in South Africa. *Africa*. 82(1): 20-40.

#### 14.00-15.00 Class and race – popular cultural perspectives

Transcripts of Ruth First Memorial Lecture 2015, by Panashe Chigumadzi and Sisonke Msimang (<http://www.journalism.co.za/projects-a-fellowships/ruth-first/>),

Ngwane, Simphiwe. 2014. Archives dispel notion of money or nothing. *Sunday Times*, 30 March: 22.

#### 15.00 – 16.30 Coffee (regular WISER seminar takes place)

#### 17.00 – 19.00 Public event: Viewing Mobility

Public film screening and panel discussion of 'Forerunners', and Q&A with director Simon Woods, with drinks reception.

#### 19.30 Dinner at Maboneng for workshop participants

## **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Presentations**

**9.00 - 10.50**

Hlonipha Mokoena, Wiser, Wits **Khanyi Mbau: Some Notes on How the Media Shouldn't Address "Rich" Black People**

Mehita Iqani **"Lifestyles of the Black and Upwardly Mobile: Making Consumption Conspicuous in Documentaries on the Black Middle Class in post-Apartheid South Africa"**

Khadija Patel, Wiser, Wits **TBC**

Danai Mupotsa, African Literature, Wits **Look at Me/Passing for Human" (A nod to Santu Mofokeng's Black Photo Album).**

Discussant – Max Bolt

**10.50 – 11.10 Coffee**

**11.10 – 12.00**

Jason Musyoka, Human Economy Programme, UP **Culture or Economic Pragmatism? Human Economy Perspective on Wealth Distribution among South Africa's Black Middle Classes**

Roger Southall, Sociology, Wits **The Black Middle Class in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Size, Shape and Structure**

Nkululeko Mabandla, HUMA, UCT **TBC**

Deborah James, LSE **Debt, credit, and the new middle class in South Africa**

Amuzweni Ngoma, Sociology, Wits **TBC**

Discussant – George St Clair

**12.00 – 13.00 Lunch**

**13.00 - 14.50**

Ivor Chipkin, PARI **The Middle is not a place: Middle Classing in Roodepoort and Polokwane**

Simphiwe Ngwane, Momentum Retail **Do You! Young Futurists Making Sense of their Position**

Maxim Bolt, Wiser, Wits/Birmingham **Providing for the Future: Making Wills and Negotiating Inheritance in South Africa's Middle Class**

George St Clair, LSE **Marginality and disappointment in Sao Paulo: being Christian and middle class**

Discussant– Deborah James

**14.50 – 15.10 Coffee**

**15.10 – 16.30 Final Discussion**