

Table of Contents

The Black Urban Seminar Series : Re-generating Regeneration: A New Agenda? Laban Centre,
London, SE8 3DZ 1

The Black Urban Seminar Series : Re-generating Regeneration: A New Agenda? Laban Centre, London, SE8 3DZ

URL:

<http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/cucr/html/revisioning.html>

Re-visioning Black Urbanism

The Centre for Urban and Community Research, Goldsmiths, University of London presents...

The Black Urban Seminar Series

Re-generating Regeneration: A New Agenda?

Date: 22nd November 2006 2pm-4.30pm

Location: Laban Centre, Creekside, Deptford, London, SE8 3DZ (Greenwich, Cutty Sark or Deptford Bridge DLR)

Panel Discussion with Maria Adebowale, Director, Capacity Global; Sayeeda Warsi, Vice-Chairman, Conservative Party (Cities) and Dr.Lassell Hylton, Director, Enterprise in London

Chaired by Paul Goodwin, CUCR, Goldsmiths

The purpose of this special half-day seminar is to sketch an overview of current and past urban regeneration initiatives in London and critically assess their impact on black, asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities. Key questions to be discussed include:

- How inclusive have regeneration programmes been?
- Is there a need to re-think the way regeneration and community based initiatives relate to black and asian communities?
- Is a new agenda needed to ensure that black and Asian communities benefit fully from major projects, such as the 2012 Olympics, Thames Gateway and Elephant and Castle regeneration?

This is the first of a series of three seminars on *Regeneration: Challenges of Black Urbanism* organised by the Centre for Urban and Community Research (CUCR), Goldsmiths and Capacity Global, a London based NGO that pioneers solutions for social and environmental development and justice (www.capacity.org.uk). Seminars on *Culture and Regeneration* and *Grassroots/Civil Society* will follow in January and March 2007. The full programme, dates and times will be posted on the CUCR web pages. For further information please contact the convenor of the series: Paul Goodwin, CUCR, email: p.goodwin@gold.ac.uk, tel:(020 7919)7390. www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/cucr

Re-Visioning Black Urbanism is a new research initiative being developed at the Centre for Urban and Community Research by **Paul Goodwin**, a Research Associate in the centre. *Re-Visioning Black Urbanism* will explore new modes of inhabiting, imagining and making cities from progressive black and culturally diverse perspectives. The project will critically examine the impact, contribution and engagement of black and minority ethnic communities with contemporary urbanism: the physical, economic, social, political and cultural environments in metropolitan areas.

Research

The research component of the project will:

1. re-think the way black communities have been conceptualised in Western urban thought
2. research case studies of black urbanism as 'dissident' socio-spatial interventions in cities involving specific forms of spatial knowledges, discourses and strategies
3. explore alternative visions of urban life by black artists, architects and thinkers

The research will encompass critiques of urban epistemology and urban rationalities by engaging with the work of writers as diverse as WEB DuBois, Michel Foucault, Rosalyn Deutsche, Paul Gilroy and Henri Lefebvre. Case studies based on ongoing field research in London and Paris will be included. The project will initiate scholarly debate, stimulate community dialogues and produce original research reports and publications.

Seminars and Events

A series of seminars and special events will address issues of black urbanism in the UK with a focus on London as a key 'laboratory' in the evolution of forms of urban multi-culture. There will be two major series.

Series 1 - *The Regeneration Game: challenges of black urbanism* - will critically examine current urban regeneration agendas in light of the impact on and contributions of black communities to the urban landscape in London and beyond. With major regeneration projects in Elephant and Castle, Thames Gateway and the 2012 Olympics set to radically transform London's architectural and socio-cultural environment this series will constructively question the engagement of urban regeneration with black urbanism from a variety of perspectives and disciplines.

Series 2 - *Re-Visioning the City* - will explore how black artists, architects, writers, musicians, cultural workers and urban practitioners are re-thinking and re-visioning processes of urban change and the creation of new urban spaces, real or imagined. The emphasis here will be on forms of black creative practice; the spatial modalities of improvisational culture and the question of how black artists have imagined utopia/ dystopia.

Accompanying the seminars will be a number of programmed activities and special events: a curated exhibition around the themes of Re-Visioning Black Urbanism; various architectural and urban themed music events and a programme of talks and debates with urban movers and shakers: architects, artists, designers and community organisers.

The series will begin in November 2006 extending throughout 2007. Please check this page for updates and further details on the Re-Visioning Black Urbanism Project or contact Paul Goodwin