



University of the Witwatersrand
Forced Migration Studies Programme

Identity, Movement, and Control

Soss 4019 (Hons) – 7025 (MA)

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Course Coordinator

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Class Meetings:
Mon and Wed 14.30-17.30
Central Block 17
Consultations by appointment

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course explores the intersections among human mobility, regulation, and the making of social space. To do this, the course proceeds through two primary sections. The first explores theories of power, sovereignty, and space drawing on literatures from political science, human geography, and anthropology. The second uses cases studies to consider three 'types' of space through and within which people regularly move: refugee camps, border zones, and urban centres. In all instances, case material and theory will position African examples in comparative perspective.

Over the course of the term, the class will address the following questions:

- What theories of spatial control are best able to make sense of African dynamics and how should the theories be revised to better consider African realities.
- What are the primary actors and mechanisms in shaping and reshaping regimes of spatial regulation in Africa? How do these compare with regimes elsewhere in the world?
- How are different categories of migrants products and producers of spatialised regimes of power?

This will be an intensive class with 100-200 pages of reading a week. Depending on the number of participants, students will be asked to present the course readings once or twice during the term and comment on all readings in each class meeting. Other requirements include two short response papers, a 4000 word final essay, and a take home final exam.

The course is open to all FMSP students and others with suitable backgrounds from across the Social Sciences.

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