



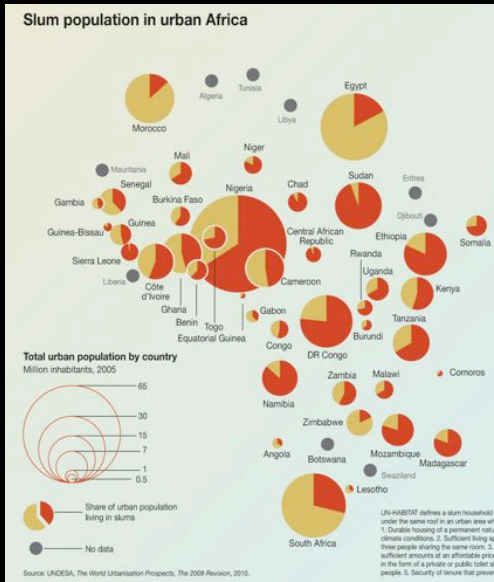
AFRICA'S INFORMAL CITIES

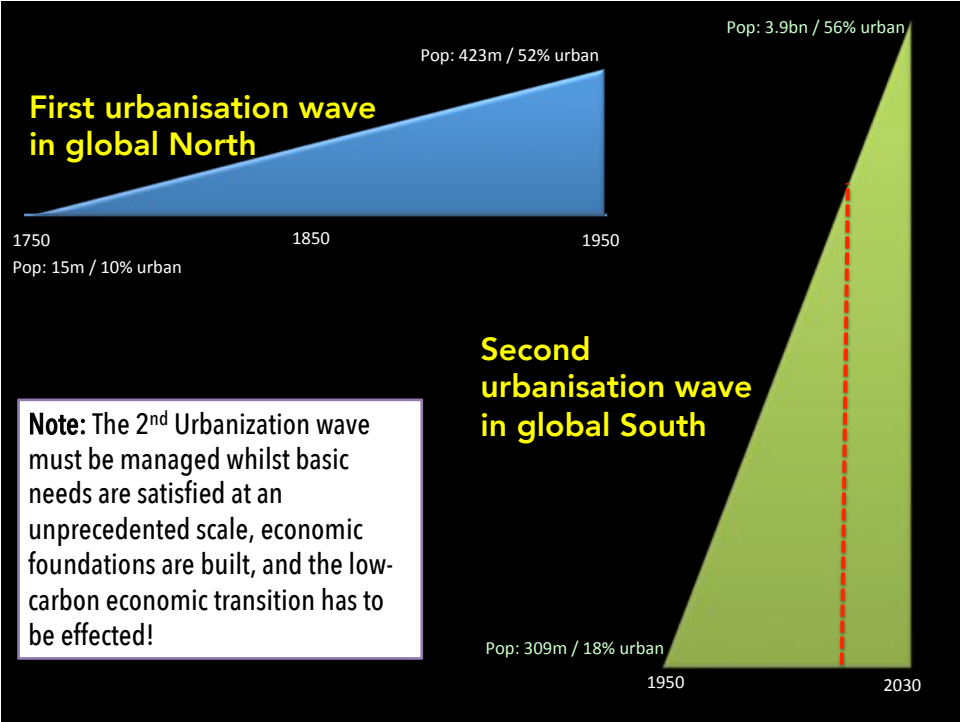
Urban Informality & Migrant Entrepreneurship in SAn Cities | 10-11 February 2014

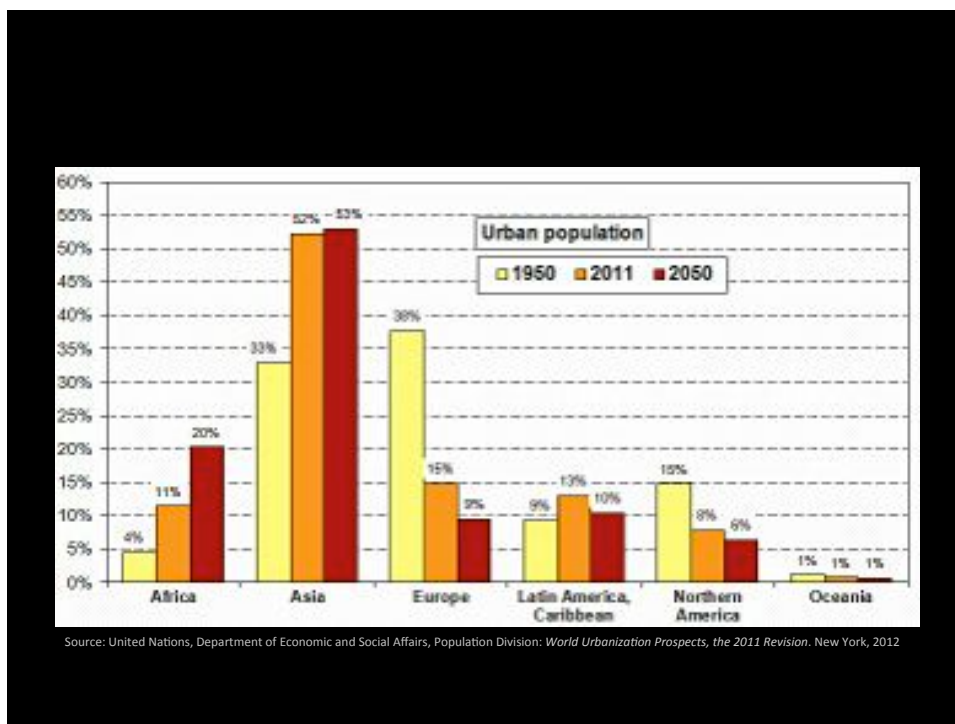
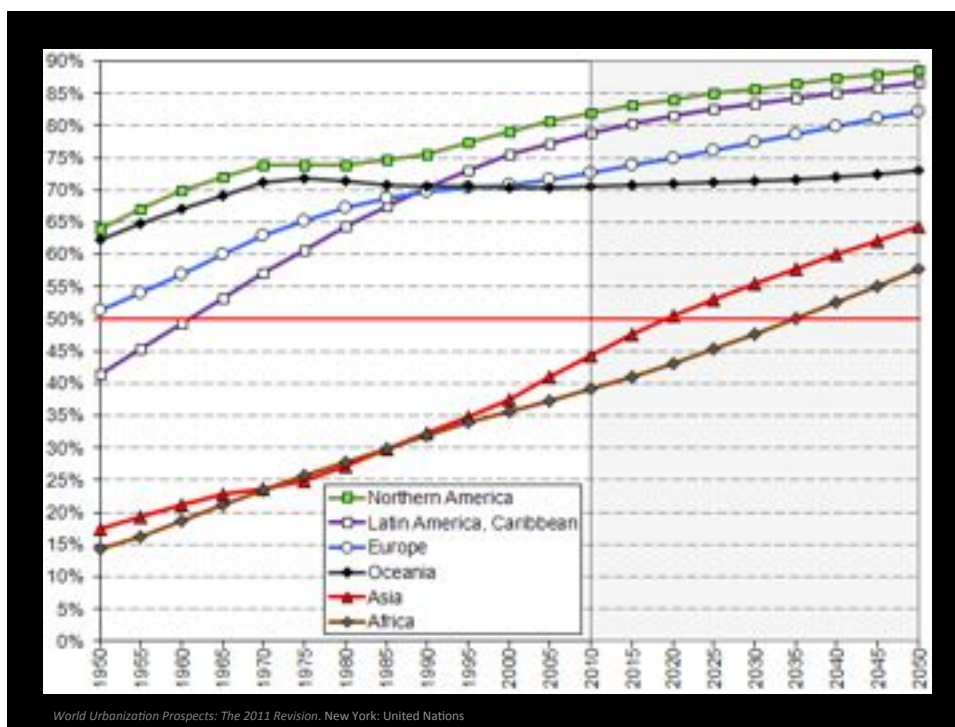
Edgar Pieterse, SA Research Chair in Urban Policy

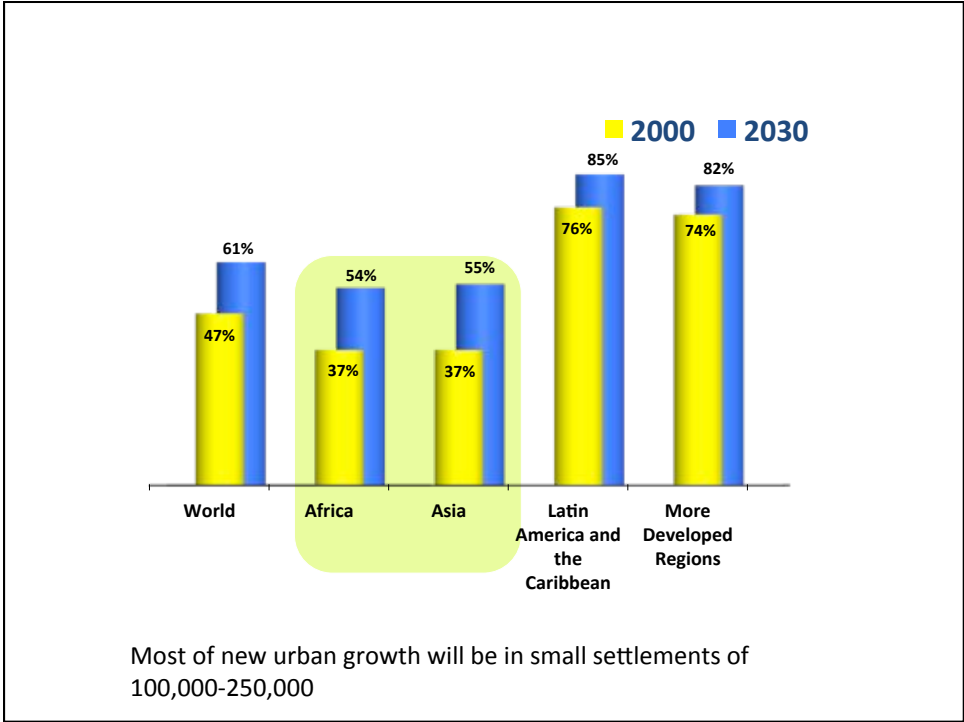
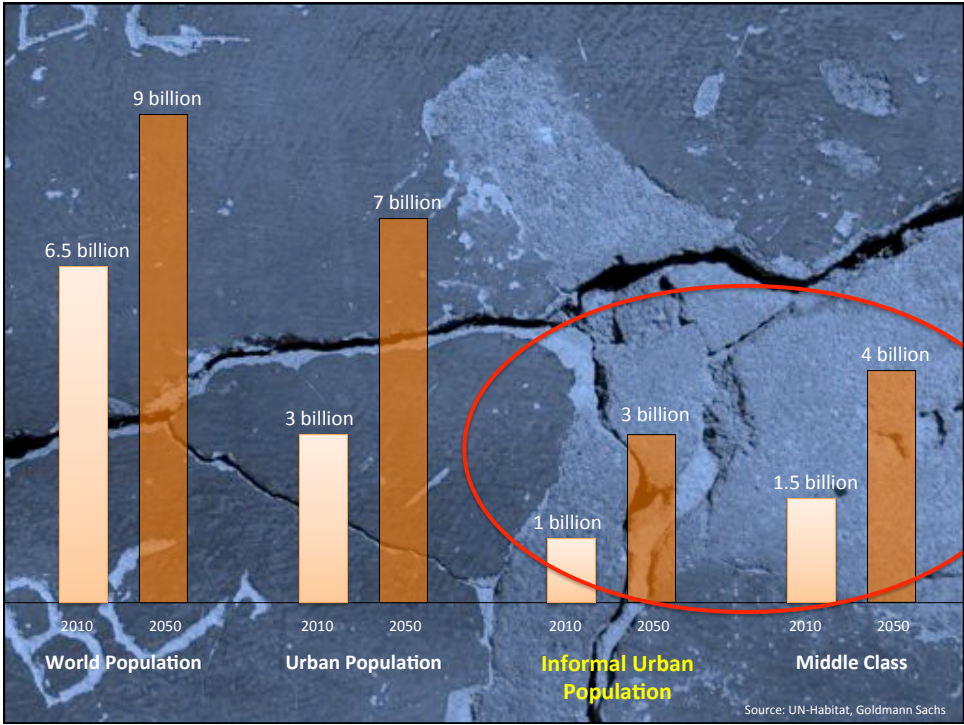


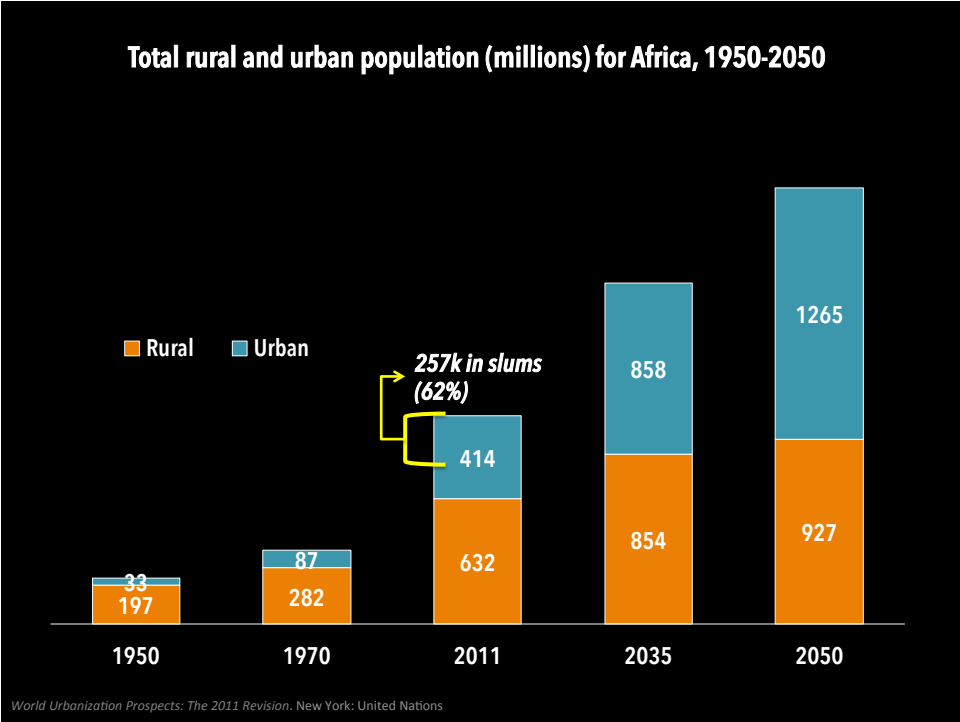
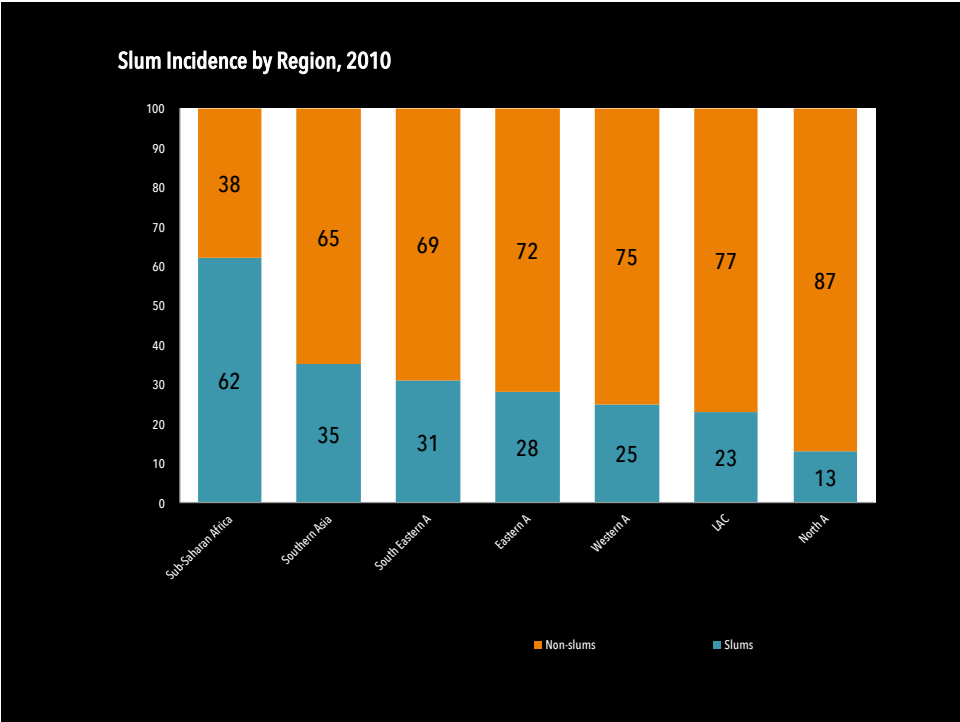
- 1. Urbanisation trends & pressures
- 2. Informalisation logics
- 3. Research & Policy Frames



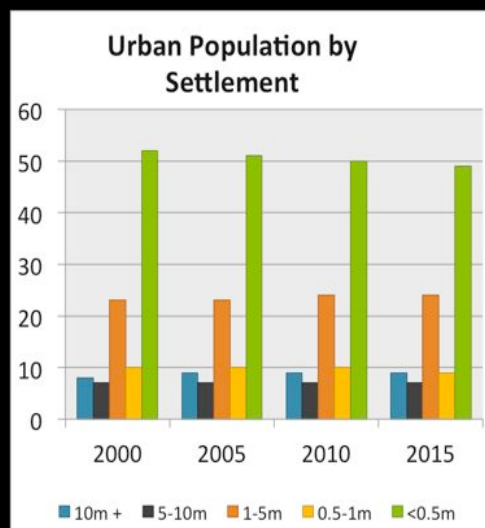








Urban Typology in Africa



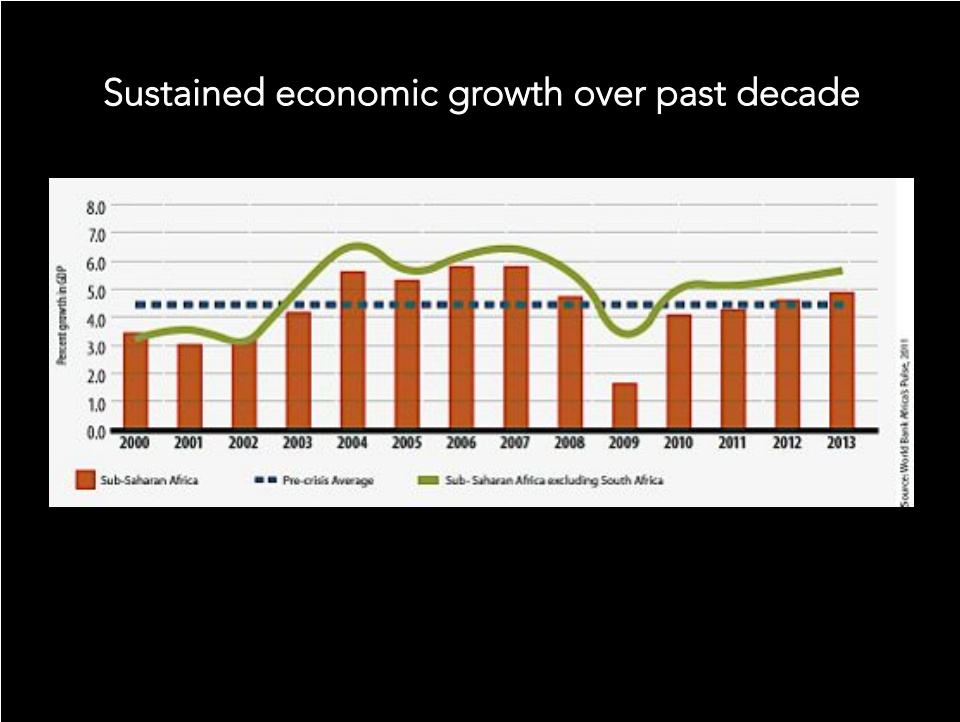
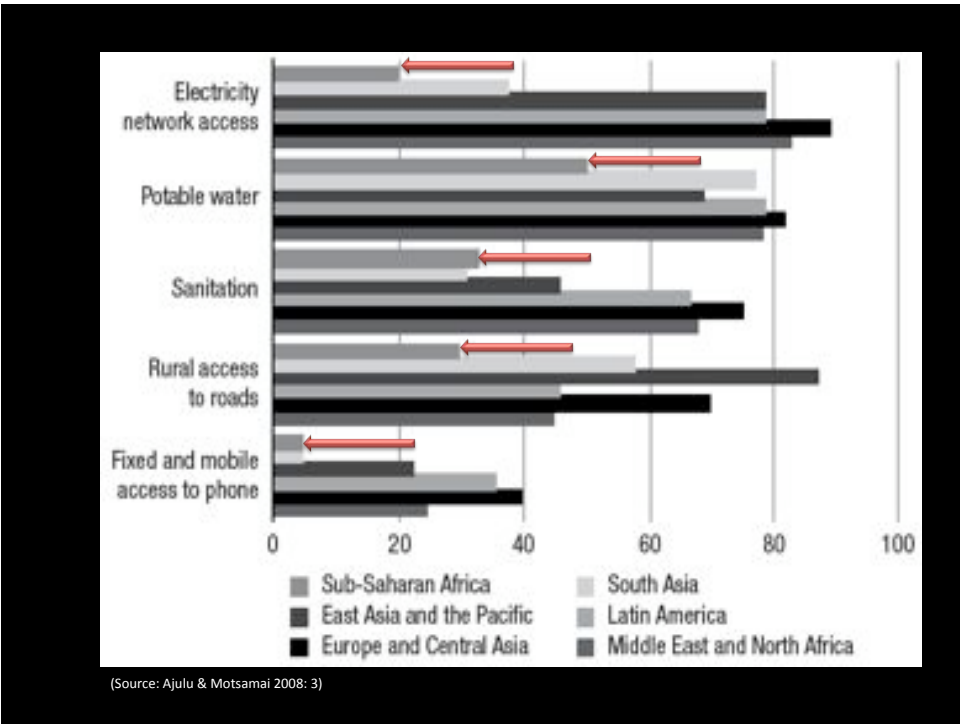
Structural poverty, inequality & limited employment manifest in Slum Living as the norm

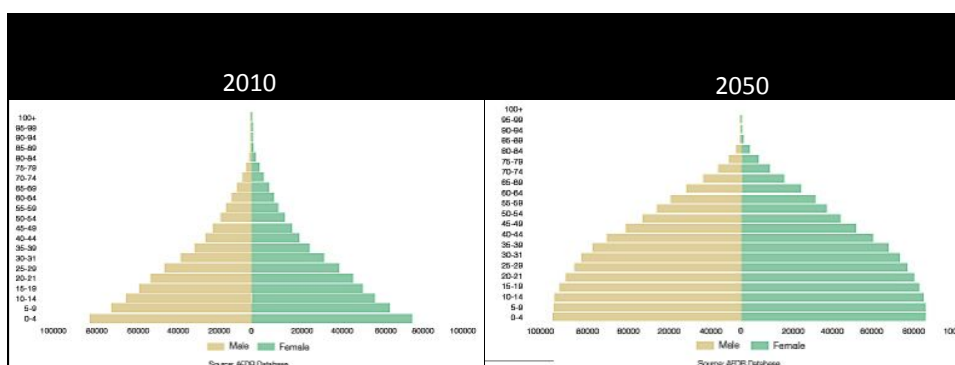
Region	% Slums	Moderated (1-2 deficiencies)	Severely (3-4 deficiencies)
Sub-Saharan Africa	62	63	37
Latin America & Carr	27	82	8
Southern Asia	43	95	5

[1. overcrowding; 2. informal housing; 3. lack of access to water and sanitation; 4. insecure tenure]



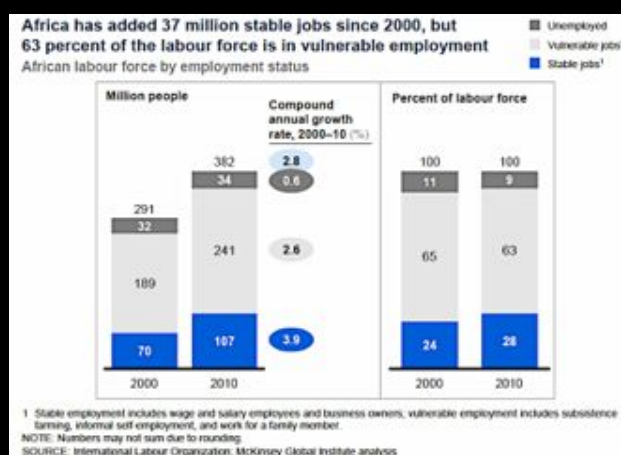
Source: UN-Habitat (2008) *State of African Cities Report*. Nairobi: UN-Habitat.

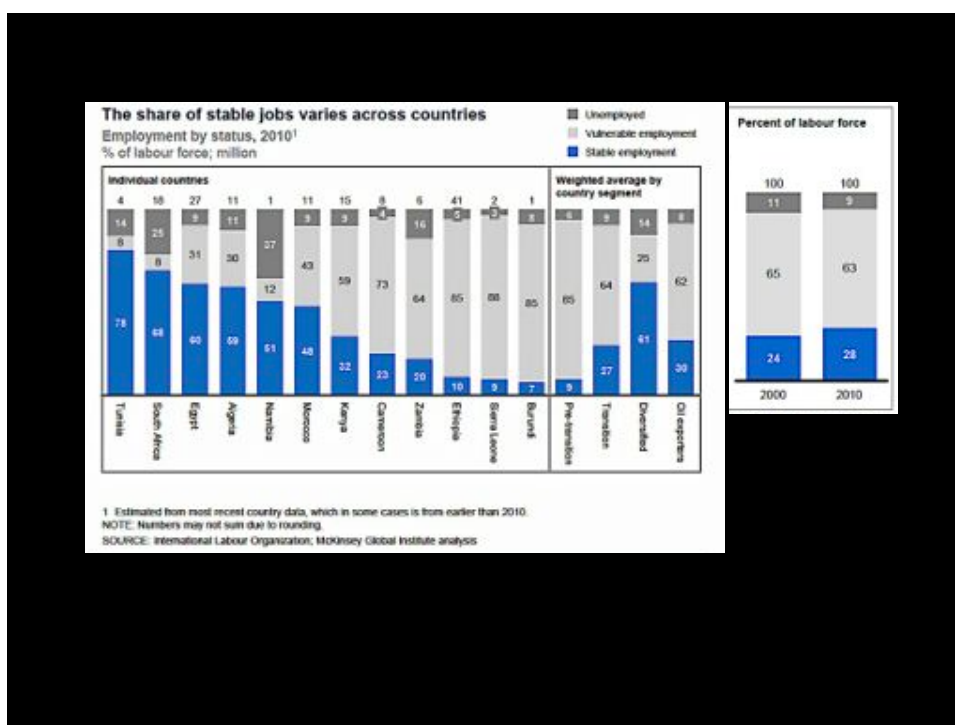
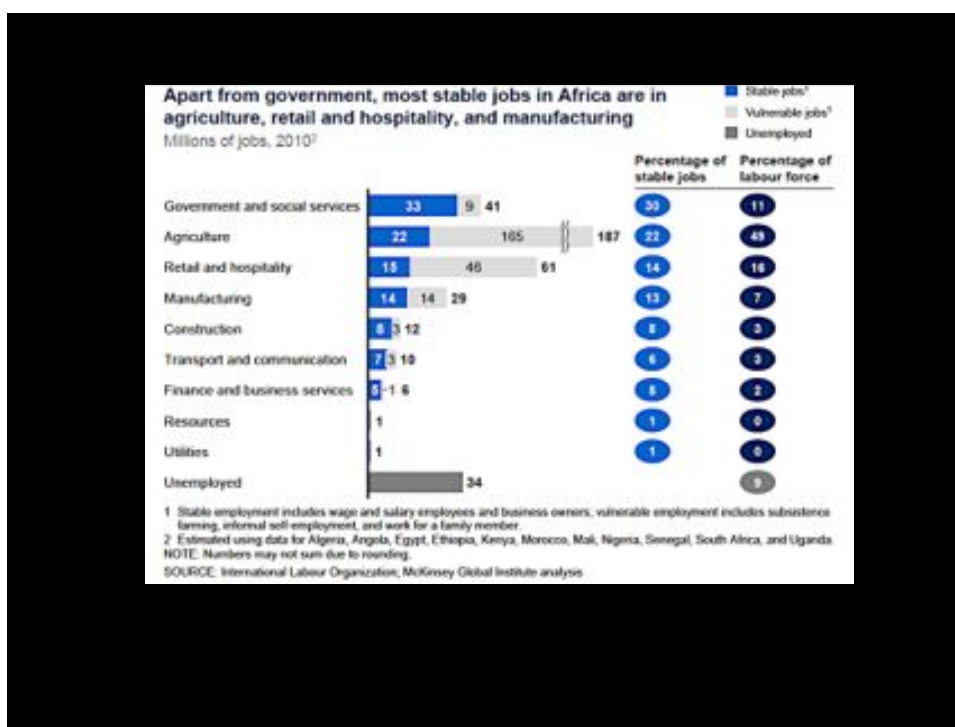


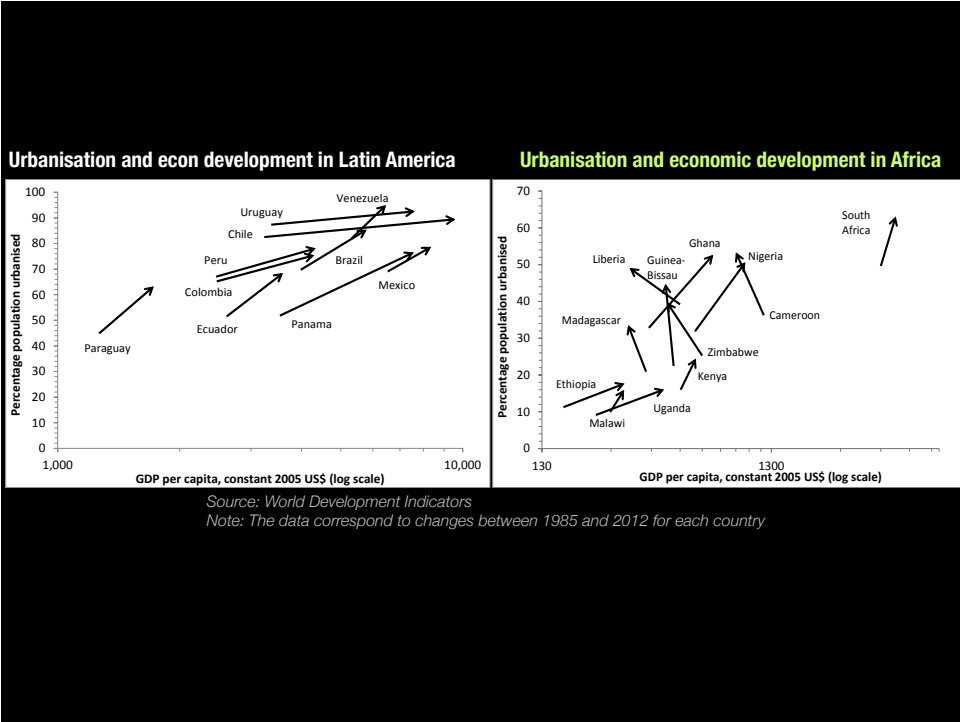
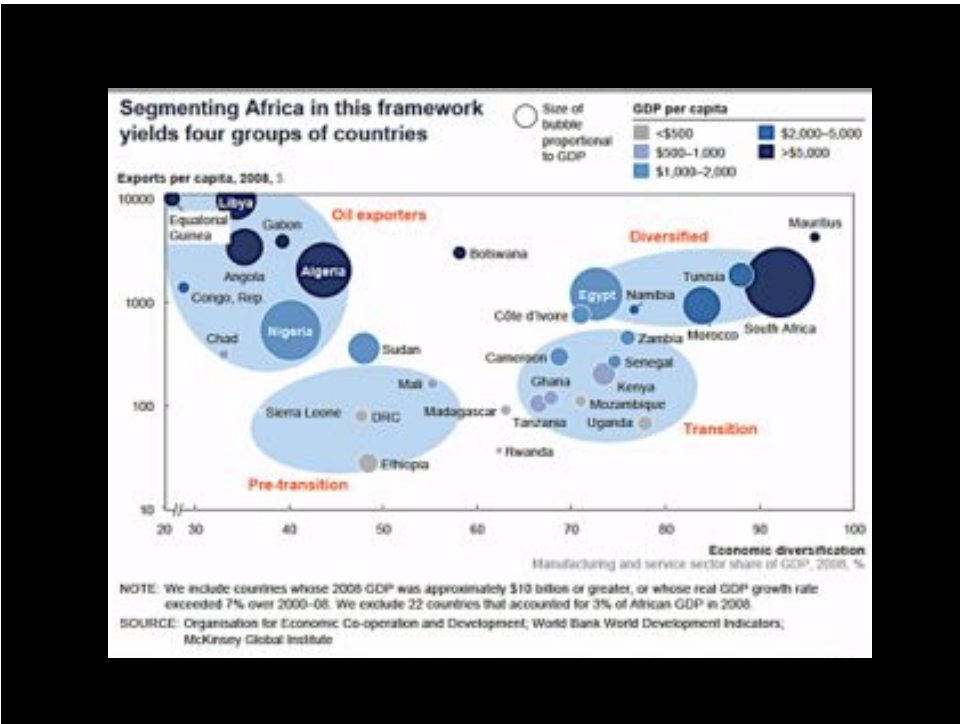


African Development Bank (2011) *Africa in 50 Years' Time. The Road Towards Inclusive Growth*. Tunis: ADB

- Half of the population is 19 years old and younger
- The labour force is expected to triple between 2000-2040: rising from 400m to 1.2bn over the period
- But, presently, **63% are in vulnerable jobs** and 28% in stable wage-earning positions



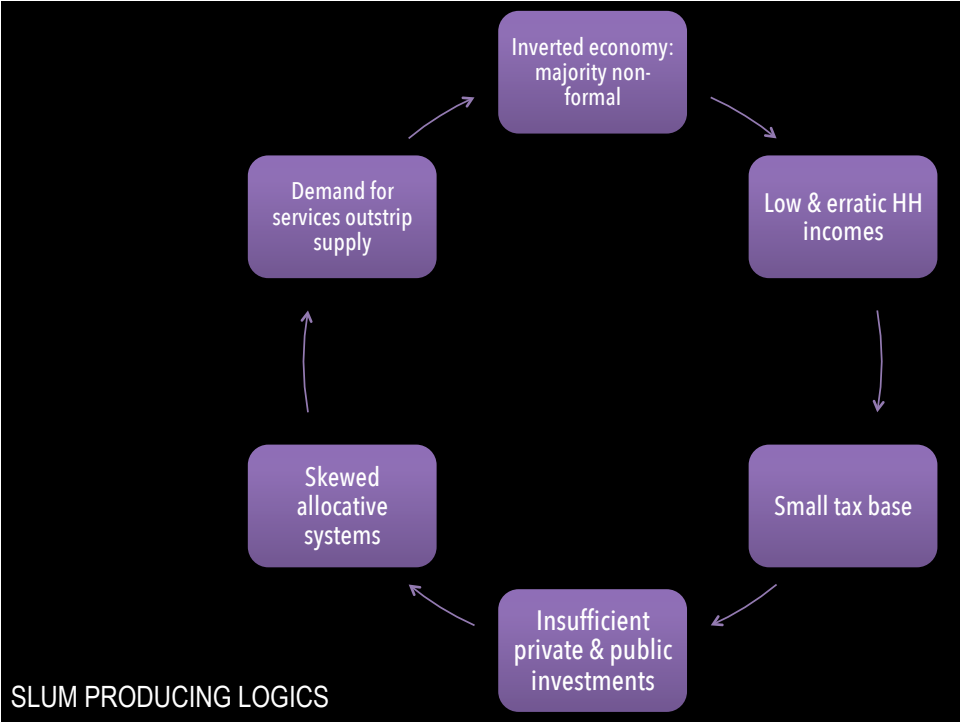
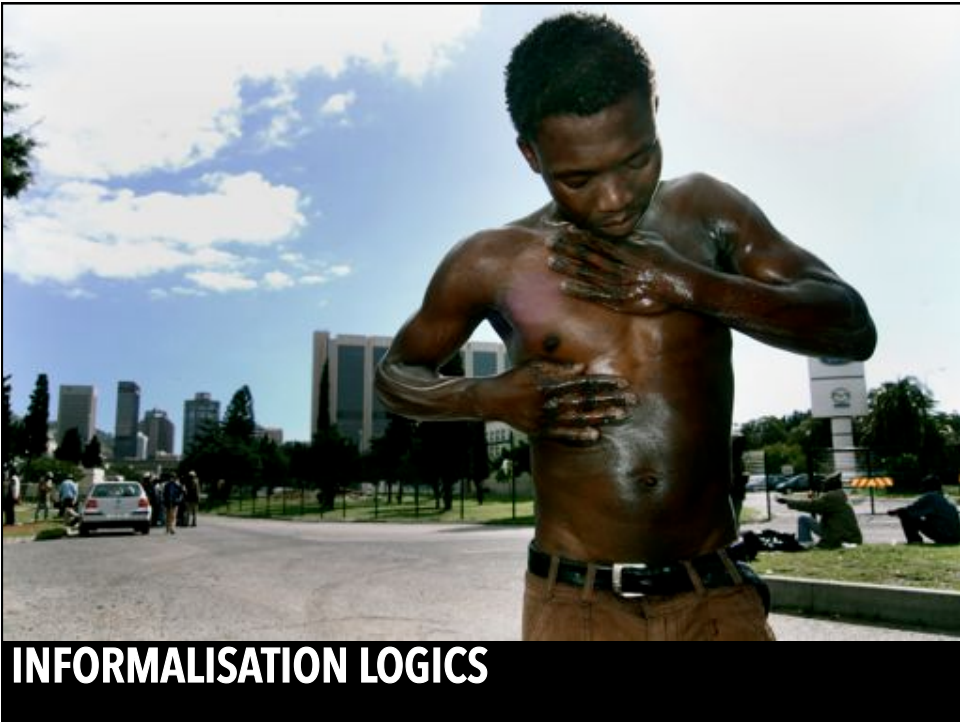




“the informal sector contributes about 55 per cent of Sub-Saharan Africa’s GDP and 80 per cent of the labour force”

- Mthuli Ncube, African Development Bank, 2013

Implication: The inability to generate sufficient wage-earning jobs means that most households will be unable to afford living in a formal house, pay taxes or contest the “rules of the game” when it comes to formal politics...



Reality Check

- Long-term under- and mal-investment in cities and urban infrastructures
- Immense pressure to address massive infrastructure backlogs through quick and dirty investments
- Turn-key projects driven by new investors often produce unsuitable outcomes: gated communities, malls, highways & other vanity projects to boost profile
- **Net effect: dramatic sprawl, ecological degradation, increasing spatial and social divides & under-investment in slum areas...**

"4% of Africa's GDP was invested in infrastructure over the past decade, compared to China's domestic investment ratio of 14%"

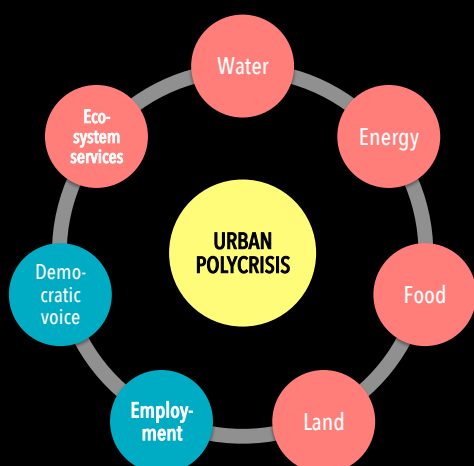
*Predominant condition: **extreme splintered urbanism**—slum neglect combined with enclave elite urbanism*



proposed: *Cité du Fleuve*, Kinshasa



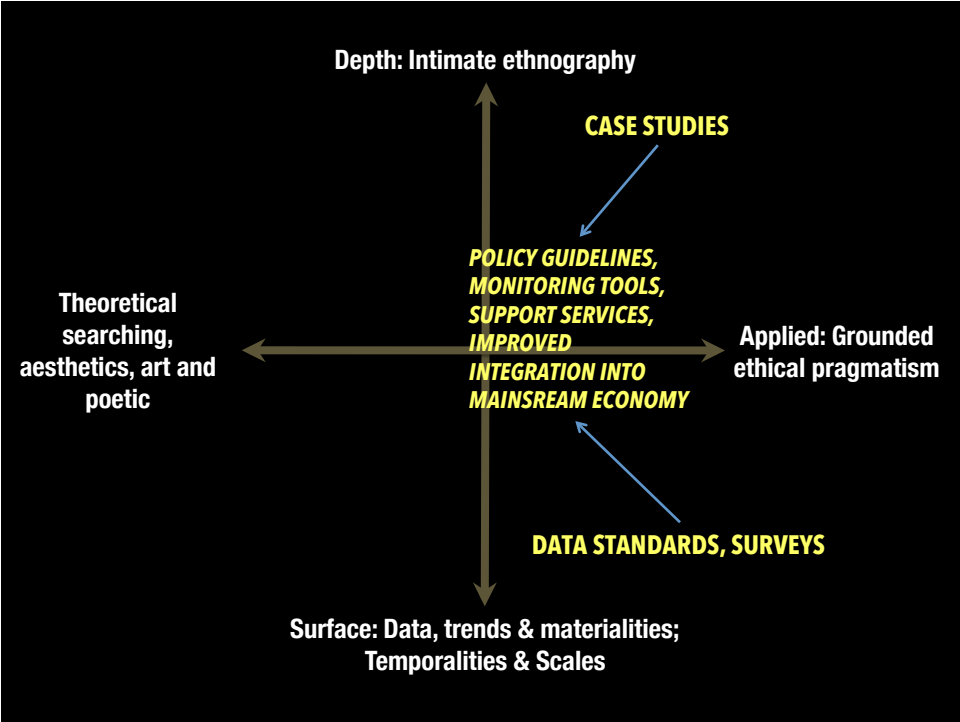
All things being equal, if current trends continue into the future, we can expect most African cities to demonstrate the agglomeration of multiple negative trends

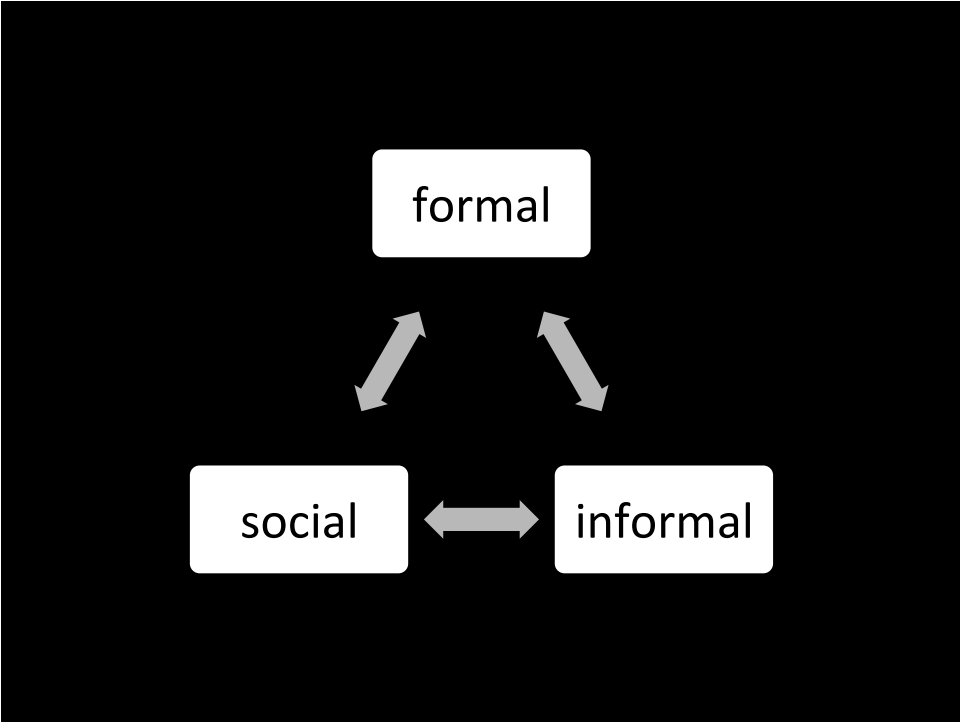
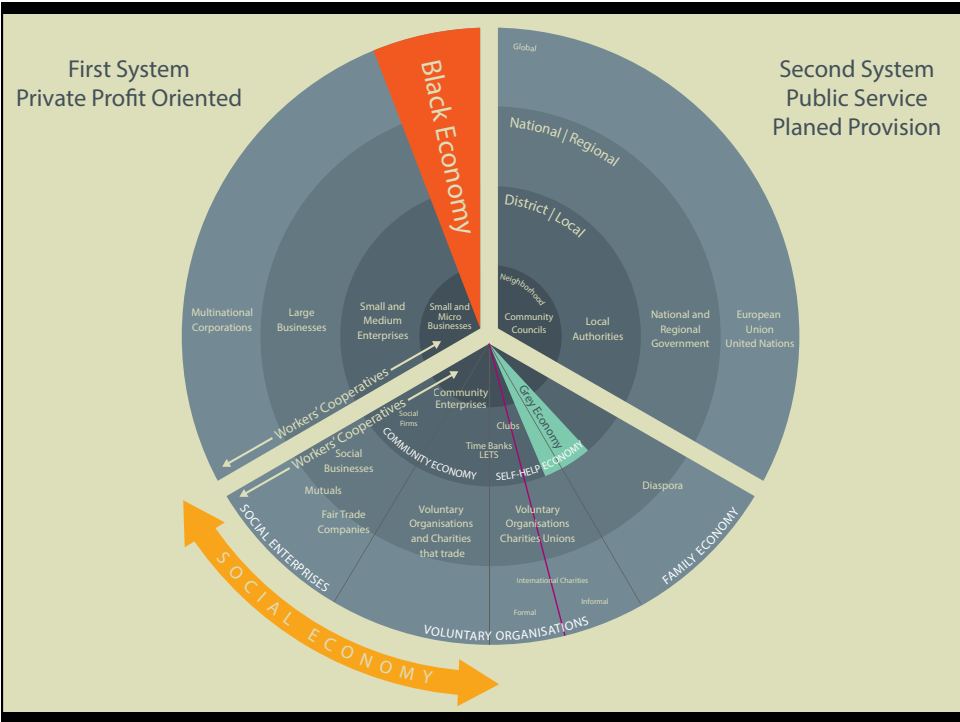


STRUCTURAL OBSTACLES:

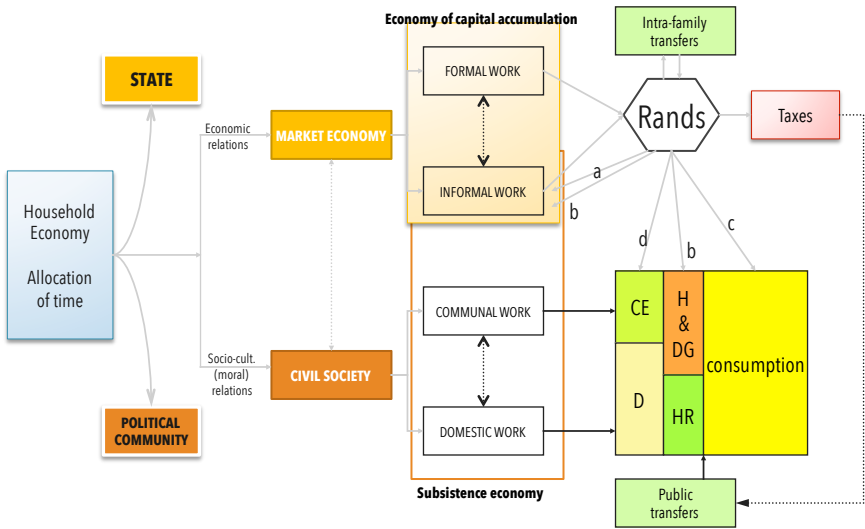


- Limited state understanding or appetite to address urbanisation
- Regulations that penalize informality
- Distorted identity politics of affiliation overdetermine service delivery
- Costs of large-scale dysfunction paid by 'voiceless' slum dwellers
- Small & skewed formal economies—limited tax base
- And, most African countries manifest very limited substantive decentralisation...



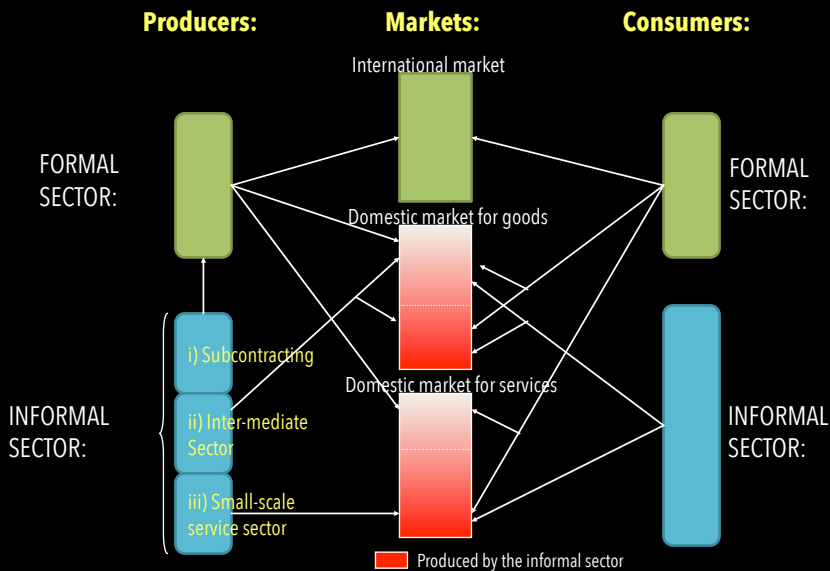


Whole Economy Model



(Source: J. Friedmann 1992: 50)

Relationship between Formal and Informal Sectors



(Source: J. Friedmann 1992)

“The informal is not just an image of precariousness; it is a compendium of practices, a set of functional urban operations that counter and transgress imposed political boundaries and hierarchic economic models. The hidden urban operations of the most compelling cases of informal urbanisation ... need to be translated into a new political language with particular spatial consequences. This will lead to new interpretations of housing, infrastructure, property and citizenship, and inspire new modes of intervention in the contemporary city”
- Teddy Cruz, 2012.

