

# Wits-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab

## Sharing mentorship responsibilities

**YEBO! Conference**

**April 12th 2021**

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**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

**BMZ**



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



**SCHOOL  
OF  
ARCHITECTURE  
&  
PLANNING**



**Habitat Unit**



# **The Wits-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab project**

**One of seven Sustainable Development Goal  
graduate schools funded by DAAD with  
funds from the Federal Ministry for  
Economic Cooperation and Development**

**Knowledge production around the issues of  
resilience, urban justice  
and solidarity within sustainable  
urban development pathways**

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Federal Ministry  
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and Development

# **The Wits-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab project**

**University of the Witwatersrand,  
School of Architecture and Planning  
(Prof Fana Sihlongonyane, Prof Marie  
Huchzermeyer)**

**Technische Universität Berlin, Institute of  
Architecture, Habitat Unit  
(Prof Philipp Misselwitz)**

**University of Lagos, Centre for Housing  
Studies and Sustainable Development  
(Prof Taibat Lawanson)**

# **The Wits-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab project**

## **1. Phase 2016–2020 (Wits-TUB Urban Lab)**

**Establishment of the Master of Urban  
Studies in the field of Urban Management at  
Wits**

**PhD and masters scholarships**

**Summer schools at Wits and TUB**

# **The Wits-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab project**

## **2. Phase 2021–2025**

**PhD cohort based at Wits and  
UNILAG starting in 2022**

**Postdoctoral researchers at  
both institutions**

**Mentoring and capacity building  
activities for early career researchers**

**Networking to bridge research,  
policy and practice**

# **Aim**

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**Structures and capacity building in higher education: Need for practioners to guide transformation processes towards more sustainable cities.**

**→ How does this aim relate to the question of ,internationalisation‘?**

**Local accessiblity to and visibility within the global academic system**

# **Challenges**

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- **Differences in PhD supervision cultures: unstructured process with defence in Berlin vs. semi-structured process in Johannesburg**
- **Underfunding of the German PhD education requires self-reliance of doctoral students**
- **Challenges in attracting qualified candidates with competition from high-profile international universities**

# **Focus areas**

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- **Post-Doc phase and mid- to long-term institutional capacities**
- **Open access dissemination of content (planning and teaching tools) to reach beyond the network and create a wider discussion context for the endeavour**



# **Strenghts**

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- **Bridging rather than re-inforcing power-imbbalances in international academia**
- **Wider exposure for all participants and conductors of the programme (visibility and experience)**
- **Long-term networks across institutions**

**Thank you for your attention!**