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# Spatial Justice

Planning... what is its role in ensuring a more just reconstruction process.



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SPATIAL PLANNING AND STRATEGY  
CENTRE FOR THE JUST CITY

TOOLS FOR POST CONFLICT URBAN RECOVERY 12.06.2023



**Objective: To understand the concept of Spatial Justice and Spatial Planning and their application in post-conflict reconstruction scenarios.**

- **Introduction to Spatial Justice**
- **Amartya Sen's conceptions of justice**
- **Participation and Citizen Engagement**
- **spatial justice and the complexities of planning... an exercise**

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, ..." <sup>(1)</sup>

# The American Dream

## What is this about?

- 1931, "Epic of America." (James Truslow Adams)



<sup>(1)</sup> American constitution

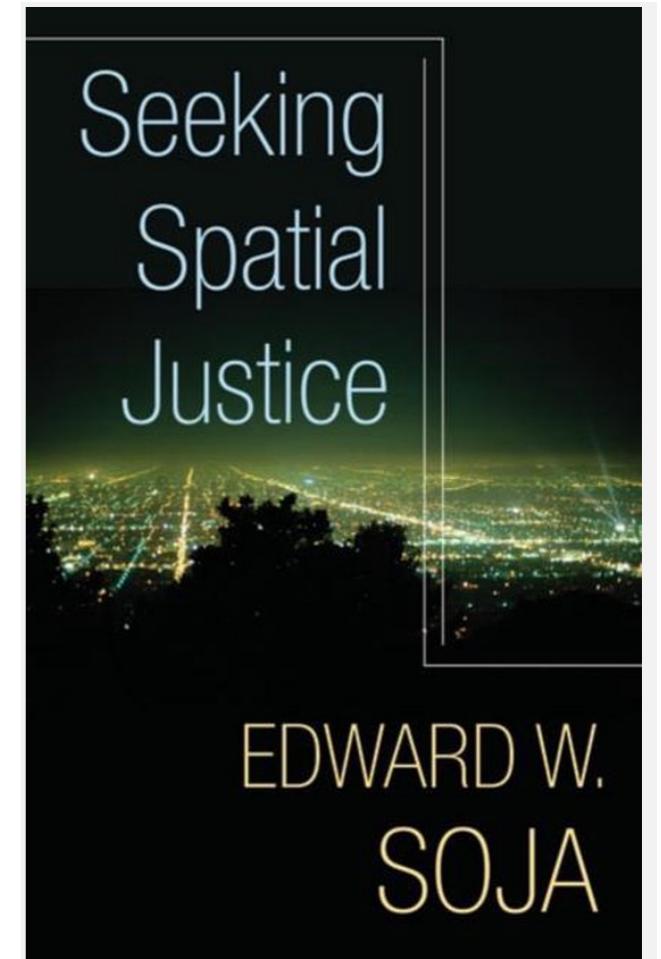
postmodern political  
geographer & urban  
theorist

# Edward Soja

2009 - **The City and Spatial Justice. Justice Spatiale / Spatial Justice, 1, 1–5.**

2010 - **Seeking Spatial Justice. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.**

- critical analysis of space and its relation to the social world
- understanding the spatiality of (in)justice —> not only from a theoretical interest, but also to feed activism (CHANGE)



From time to space....

# Spatial Turn

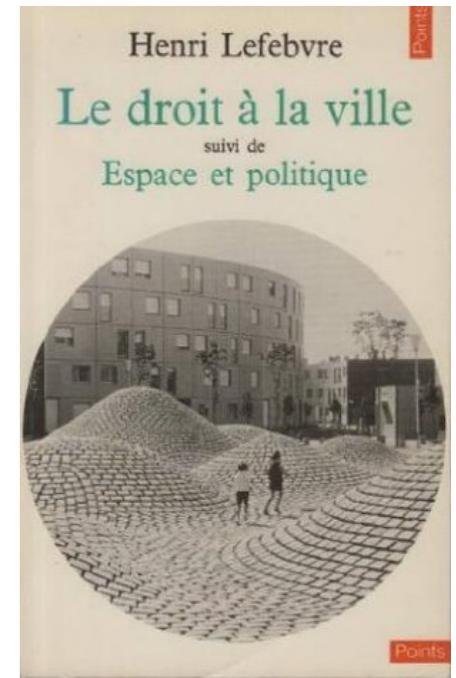
## Renewed attention in the social sciences

- Being human or becoming human is not only defined in time (eg. being born, living and eventually dying), but also spatially
- Until the second half of the 19th century space was merely the canvas, the container in which humans were active (Foucault)
- Space is no longer just conceptualised as this container, but as a **social construction**
- Renewed attention for the work of Lefebvre (eg. the Right to the City (1968) )

space

## Examples

- Peter Sloterdijk's Spheres trilogy
- Foucault, Michel (1984). "Des Espace Autres". Architecture, Mouvement, Continuité. 5: 46–49 (spoke about it much earlier)
- Pierre Bourdieu's Effets de lieu (1993) (Site Effects) —> Distance and accessibility
- ....

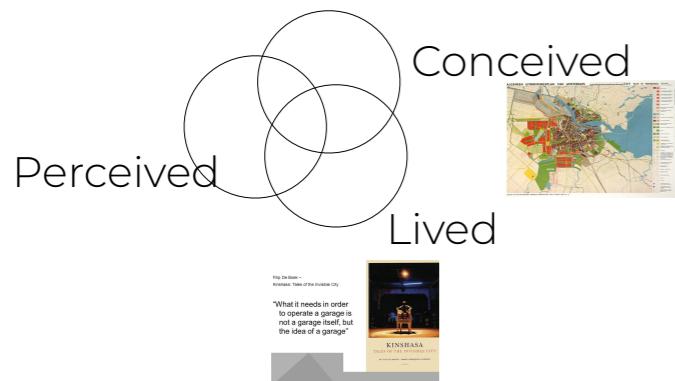


1968

Soja, 2009, p.2

# Critical Spatial Thinking

**Space is  
socially  
produced**



**Ontological  
Spatiality of  
being**

humans are:

- social beings
- temporal beings
- **spatial** beings

**Critical Theory**

Frankfurt School

Marcuse

**Socio-Spatial  
Dialectic**



Bourdieu, Massey, ...

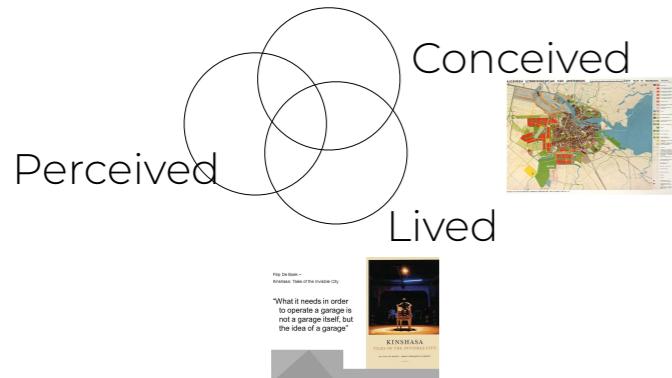
# Space matters!

Soja, 2009, p.2

3 principles

## Critical Spatial Thinking

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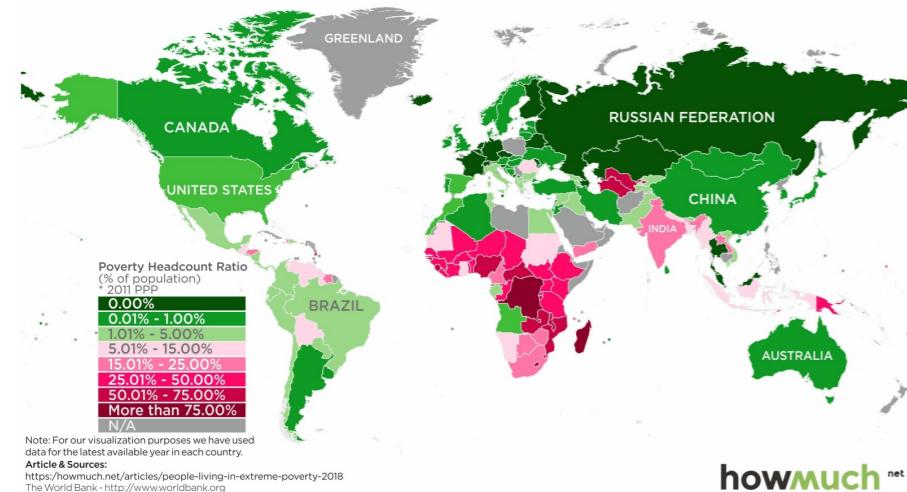
Marcuse

**Socio-Spatial  
Dialectic**



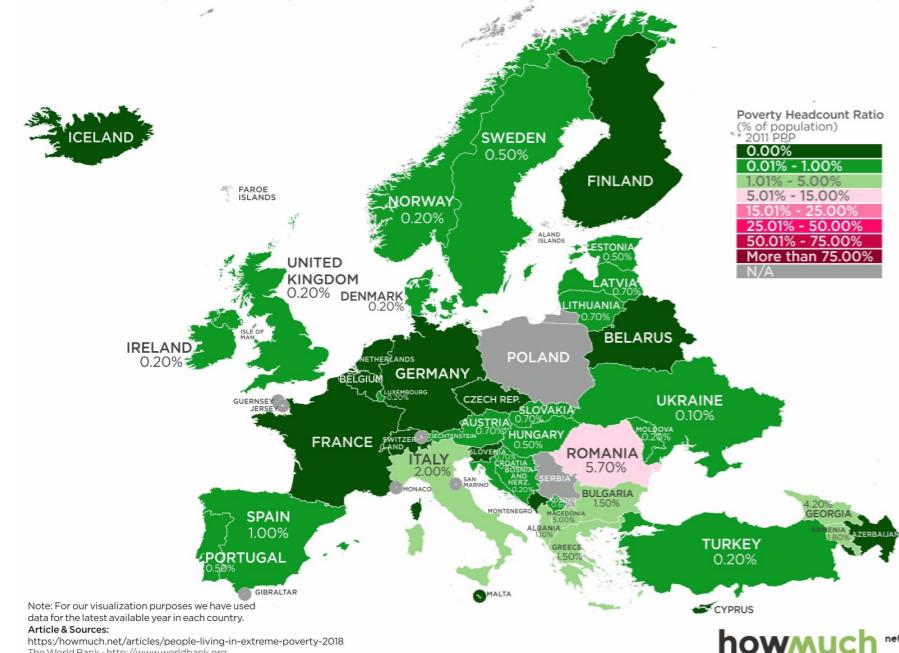
Bourdieu, Massey, ...

## People Living in Extreme Poverty Percentage of Population Living on less than \$1.90 a day\*



howmuch<sup>net</sup>

## People Living in Extreme Poverty in Europe Percentage of Population Living on less than \$1.90 a day\*



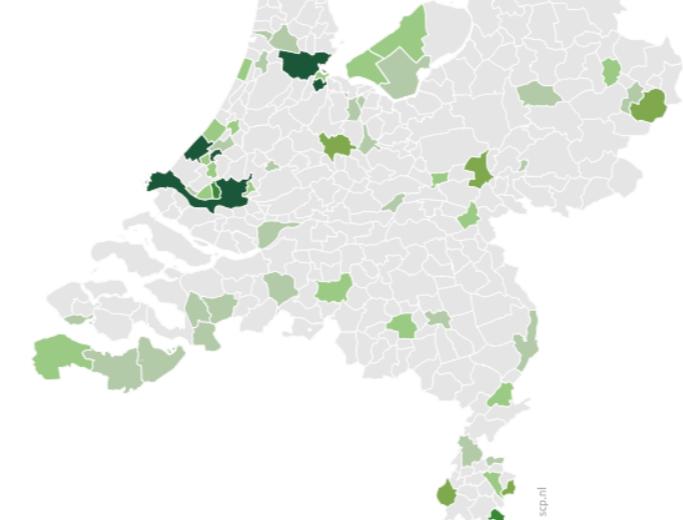
howmuch<sup>net</sup>

## Totaal

2017

- Lager dan gemiddeld (5,7%)
- 5,7-6,4%
- 6,5-7,4%
- 7,5-8,4%
- 8,5-9,4%
- 9,5% en hoger

Beweg de cursor over een gemeente voor meer informatie en een vergelijking met eerdere jaren en andere gemeenten binnen dezelfde arbeidsmarktregio.

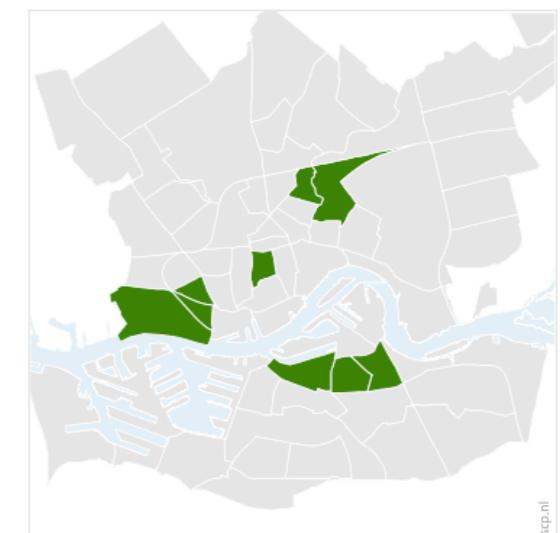


Kies:

Top 10 armste gemeenten 2017

Rotterdam	10,9%
Amsterdam	10,5%
’s-Gravenhage	10,3%
Vaals	9,4%
Schiedam	8,9%
Groningen	8,6%
Enschede	8,2%
Maastricht	8,2%
Arnhem	8,1%
Kerkrade	7,7%

## Rotterdam



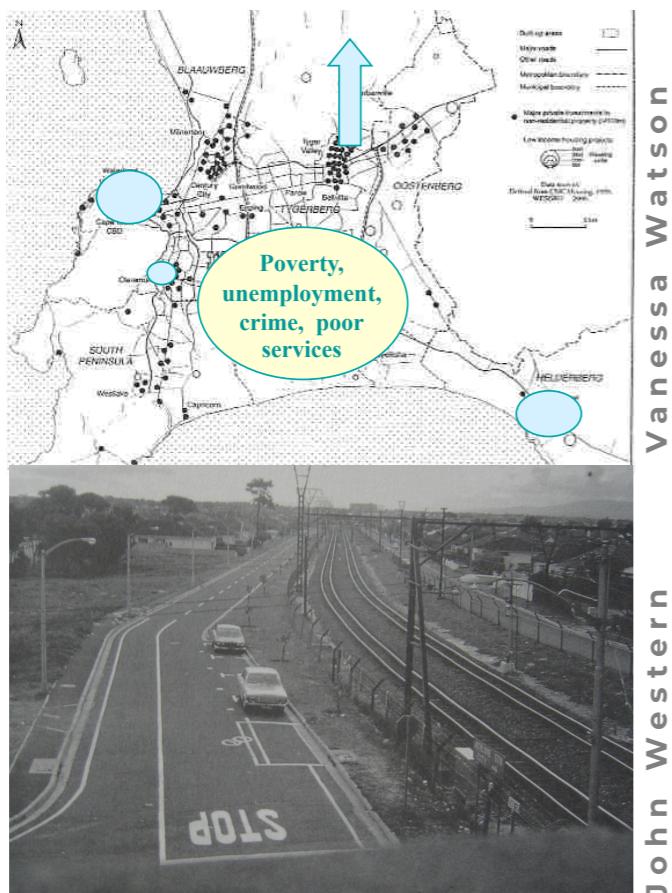
<https://howmuch.net/articles/people-living-in-extreme-poverty-2018>

<https://digitaal.scp.nl/armoedeinkaart2019/>

Soja, 2009, p.3

# Distributional patterns

## Spatial (in)justice as OUTCOME



John Western

## Spatial (in)justice as PROCES

- describing the underlying processes is difficult
- most familiar shaping forces of locational and spatial discrimination: class, race and gender
- political organisation of space
- uneven geography!

Vanessa Watson

# The quest for spatial justice

# Planning in neo-liberal times

# WHEN SPACE BECOMES A PRODUCT



"OK, now for the third and final part of today's lesson..."

# INCREASING SPATIAL SEGREGATION

- eg Docklands London
- Drozdz, M. (2014). Spatial inequalities, "neoliberal" urban policy and the geography of injustice in London. *Justice Spatiale - Spatial Justice*, 6,



<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/east-is-poor-west-is-posh-south-is-rough-and-north-is-intellectual-londoners-views-on-the-citys-9088834.html>

Soja (2010, p. 73)

# Spatial injustice

being differently located in space can have

“deeply **oppressive and exploitative effects**, especially when maintained over **long time periods** and **rooted in persistent divisions** in society such as those based on race, class, and gender”

Soja (2009, p. 2) (2010,  
p.4)

# Spatial justice

**involves**

*“the **fair** and **equitable** distribution in space of  
**socially valued resources and opportunities** to use*

**acknowledges that**

*them”*

*“social **processes** shape the spatiality or specific geography of (in)justice.”*

**needs**

*urban dwellers to be able to “to **participate** openly  
and **fairly** in all the **processes producing urban**  
**space”***

Soja (2009, p. 2) (2010,  
p.4)

# **Spatial justice**

**DISTRIBUTION** of outcomes

**Inclusive PROCESSES**

**RECOGNITION** of difference

**Intersectional thinking**



Metelkova, Ljubljana (photo credit: Gil Joncker)



# Planning apartheid in South Africa

1948: National Party (NP) comes to power --> “apartheid” becomes the main principle (with legislative power)

separation on all intra-personal levels

racist legislation

group areas act (1950) --> **FORCED REMOVALS**

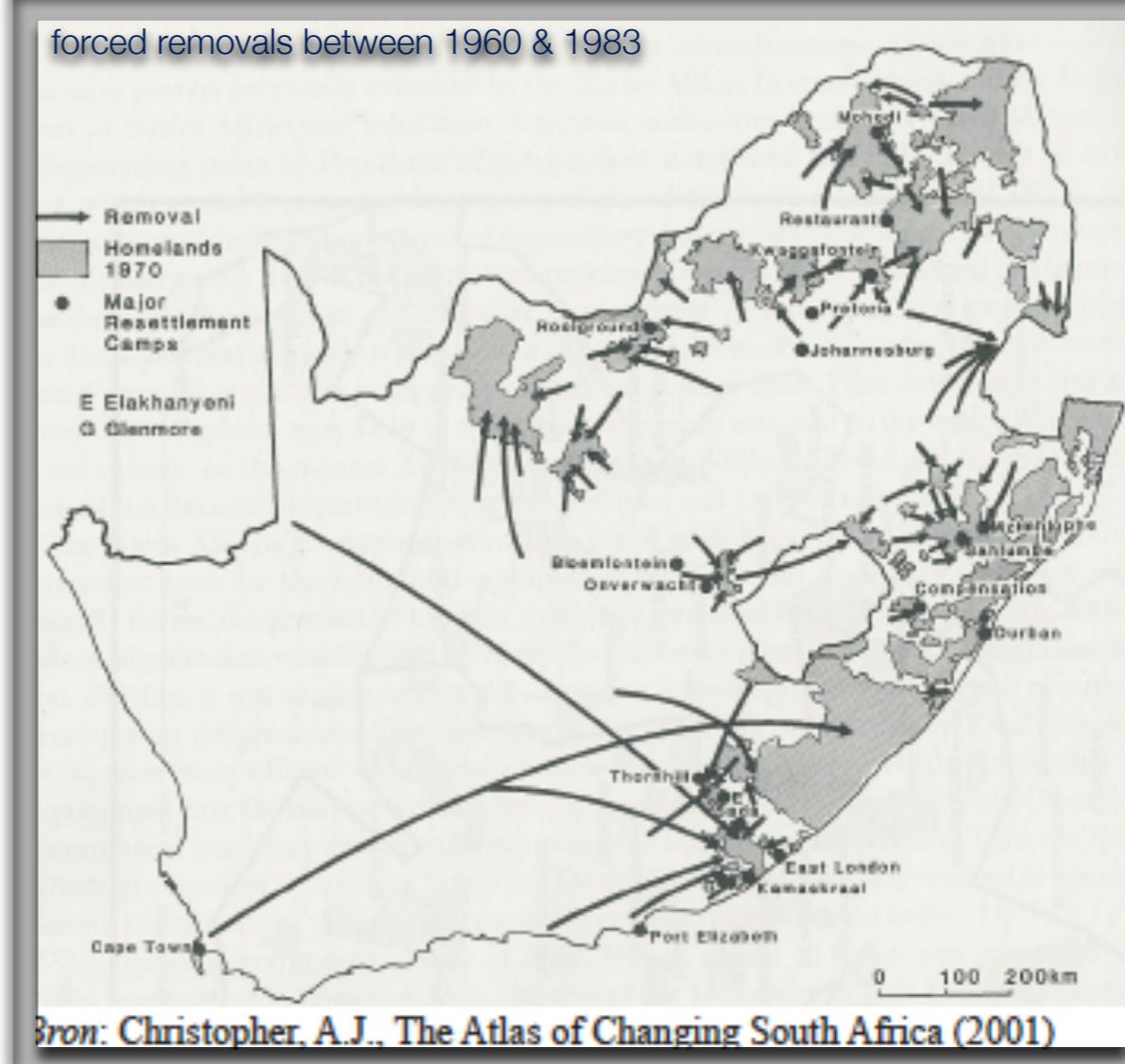
13% of the land for 75% of the population

1951: 60% of the Black population lived in “white (proclaimed) areas”

1985: 60% of the Black population lived in the homelands

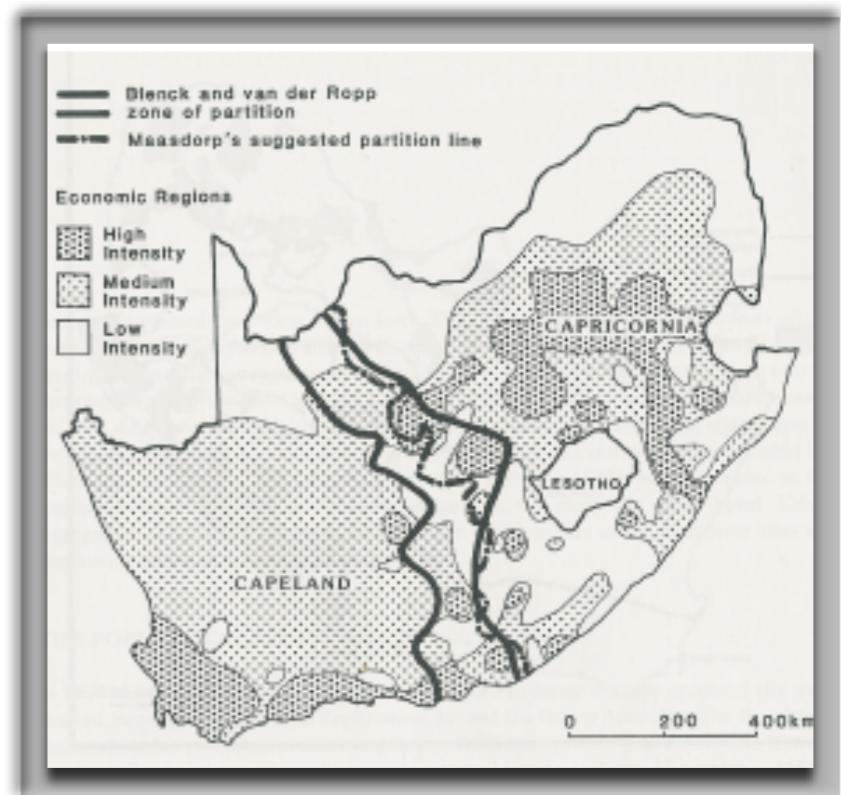


1,7 million  
people

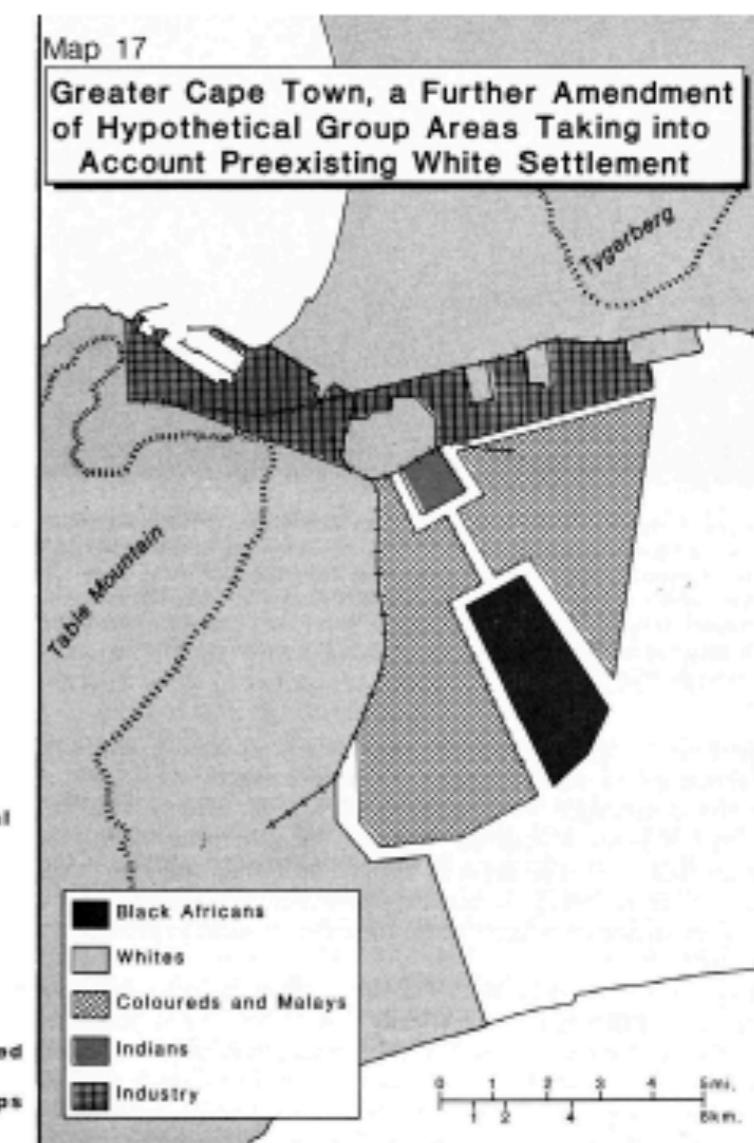
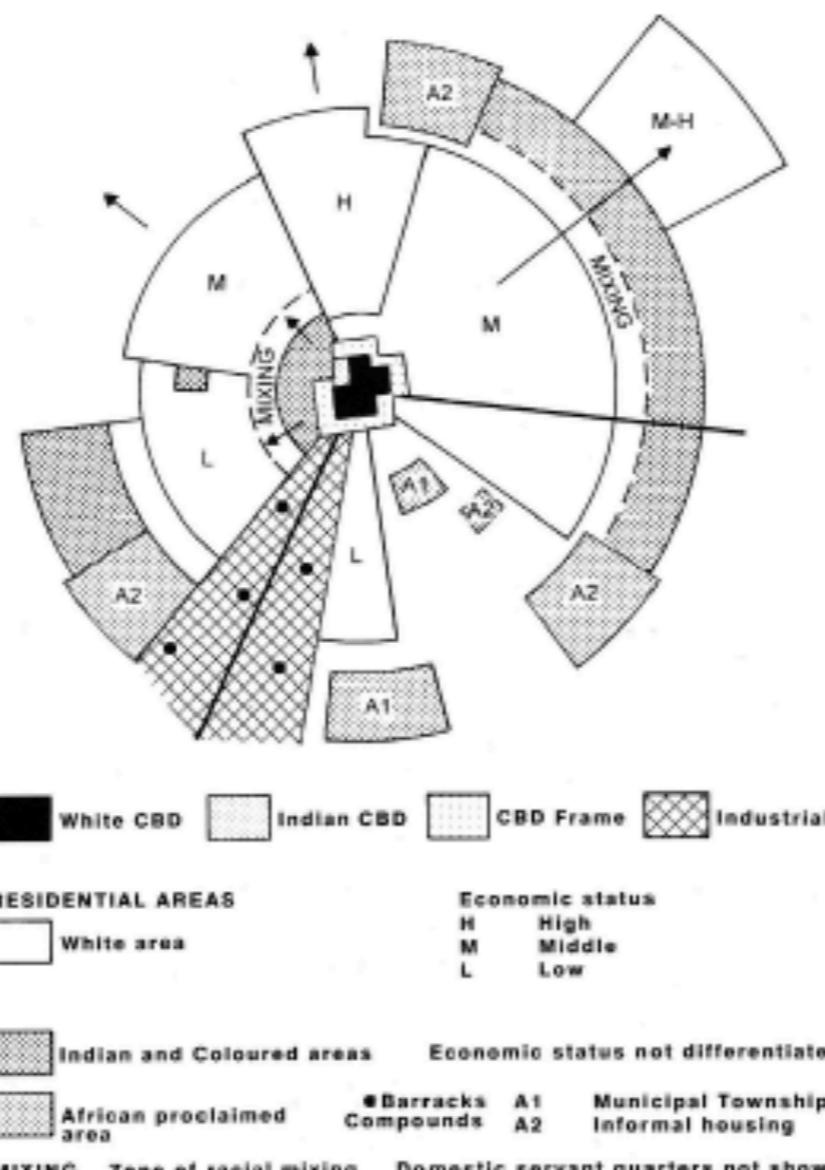
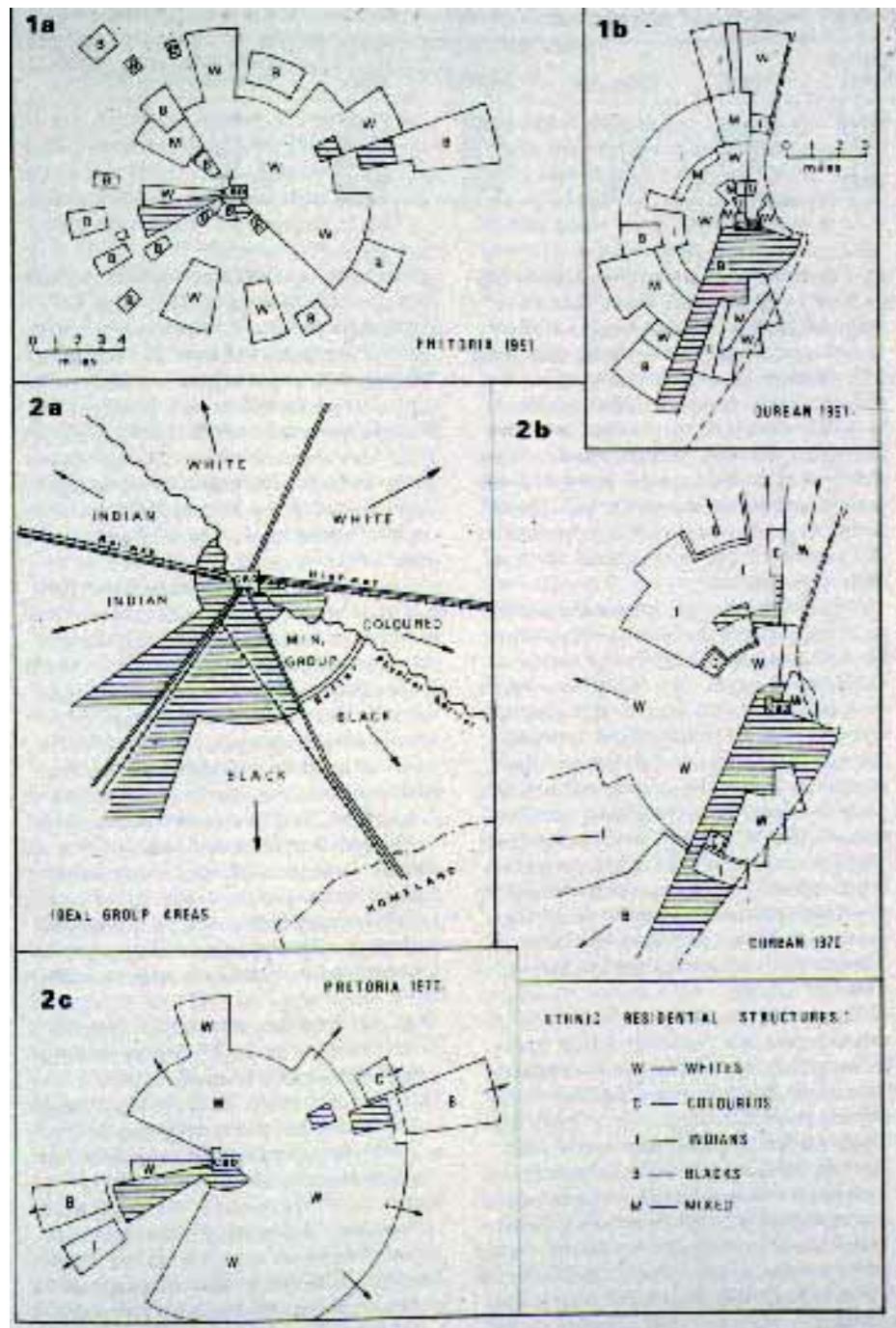


# Planning apartheid in South Africa

year	law
1904	Natives Location Act (municipality could organise segregated locations for Blacks)
1913	<b>Natives Land Act</b>
1918	Native Urban Area Bill
1919	Public Health bill
1923	<b>Natives Urban Areas Act</b>
1927	Natives Administration Act (introduced a different political regime, 'rule by proclamation', in the 'black areas')
1934	Slum Act
1936	Native Trust and Land Act
1937	Natives Law Amendments Act (increased influx control and expulsion powers, employers can be compelled to provide housing (FINANCIAL-act in 1952: Native Services Levy Act)
1944	Housing Amendment Act (more power to nat gov)
1949	<b>Prohibition of Mixed Marriage Act</b>
1950	<b>Group Areas Act</b>
1950	<b>Population Registration Act</b>
1950	Immorality Act
1951	Bantu Authorities Act (seperate gov structures)
1951	Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act
1951	Native Building Workers Act and Native Services Levy (white employers must pay for housing black labourers)
1952	Natives Law Amendments Act (restricted the right of permanent residence in Urban areas for Blacks)
1953	<b>Separate Amenities</b>
1953	Bantu Education Act (all black schooling under gov control (=ends missionary schooling))
1951-1956	Separate Representation of Voters Bill
1956	Mines and Work Act
1957	Housing Act
1958	Promotion of Black Self-Government Act (create separate/independent home-lands)
1959	Extension of University Education Act
1963	Coloured Persons Education Act
1970	Black Homeland Citizenship Act (Black became citizens of the newly created homelands, ensuring white demographical/statistical majority in SA)



# The spatial implications of apartheid in Cape Town



**Fig. 7.1 The model segregation city (left) and the model applied on Cape Town (right)**

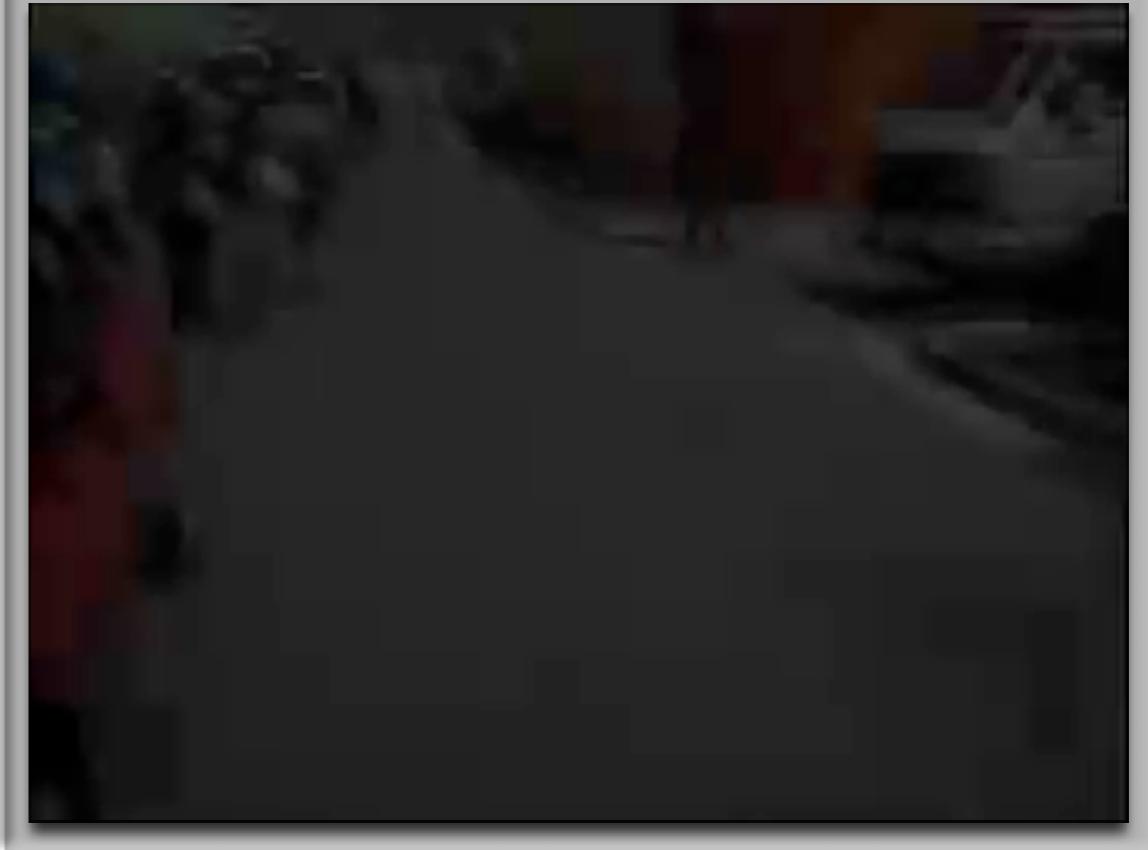
Source: *The Atlas of Changing South Africa* (Christopher, 2001) and *Outcast Cape Town* (Western, 1996)

# The spatial implications of apartheid in Cape Town - District Six & the Bo Kaap

## District Six & Bo Kaap

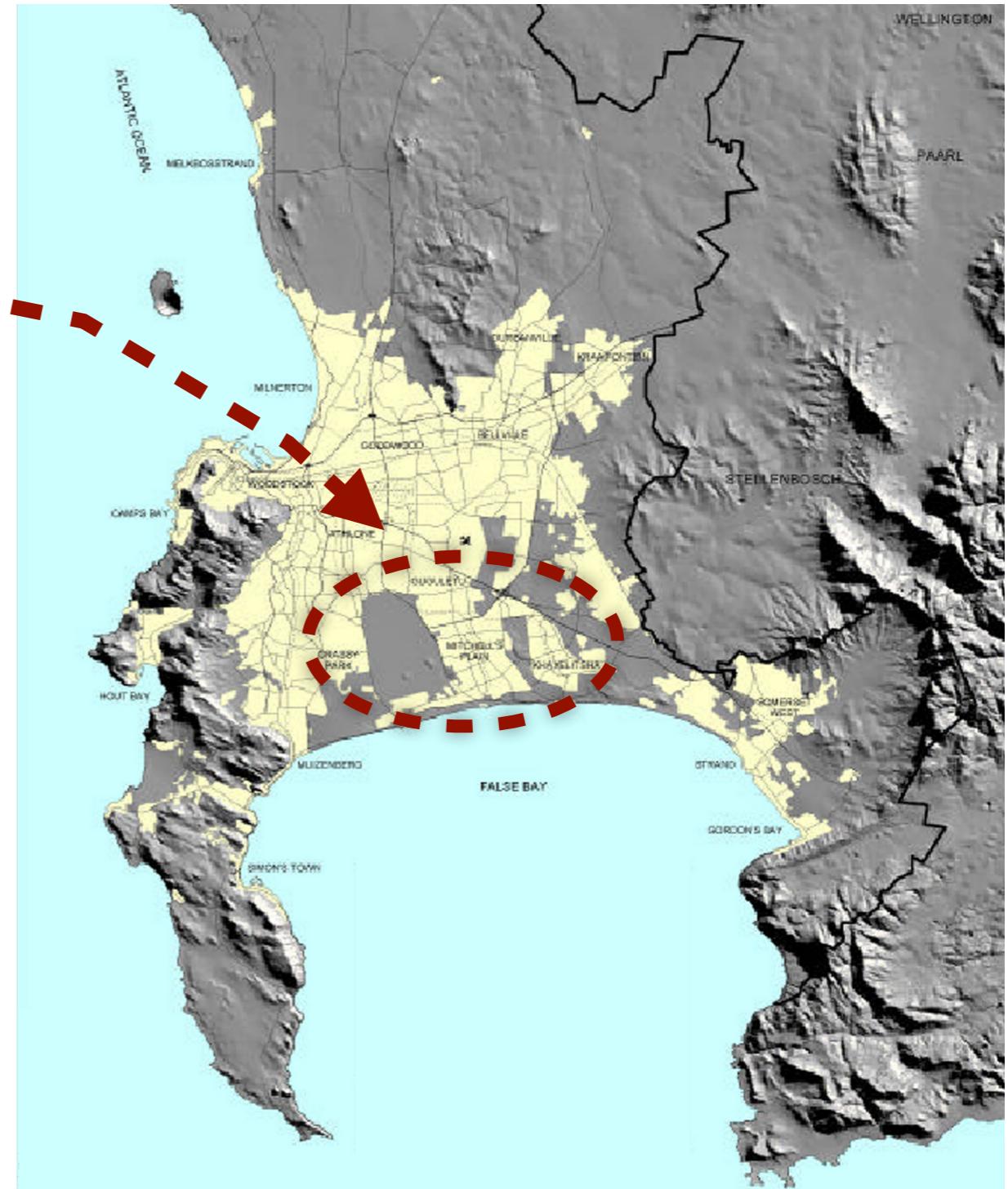
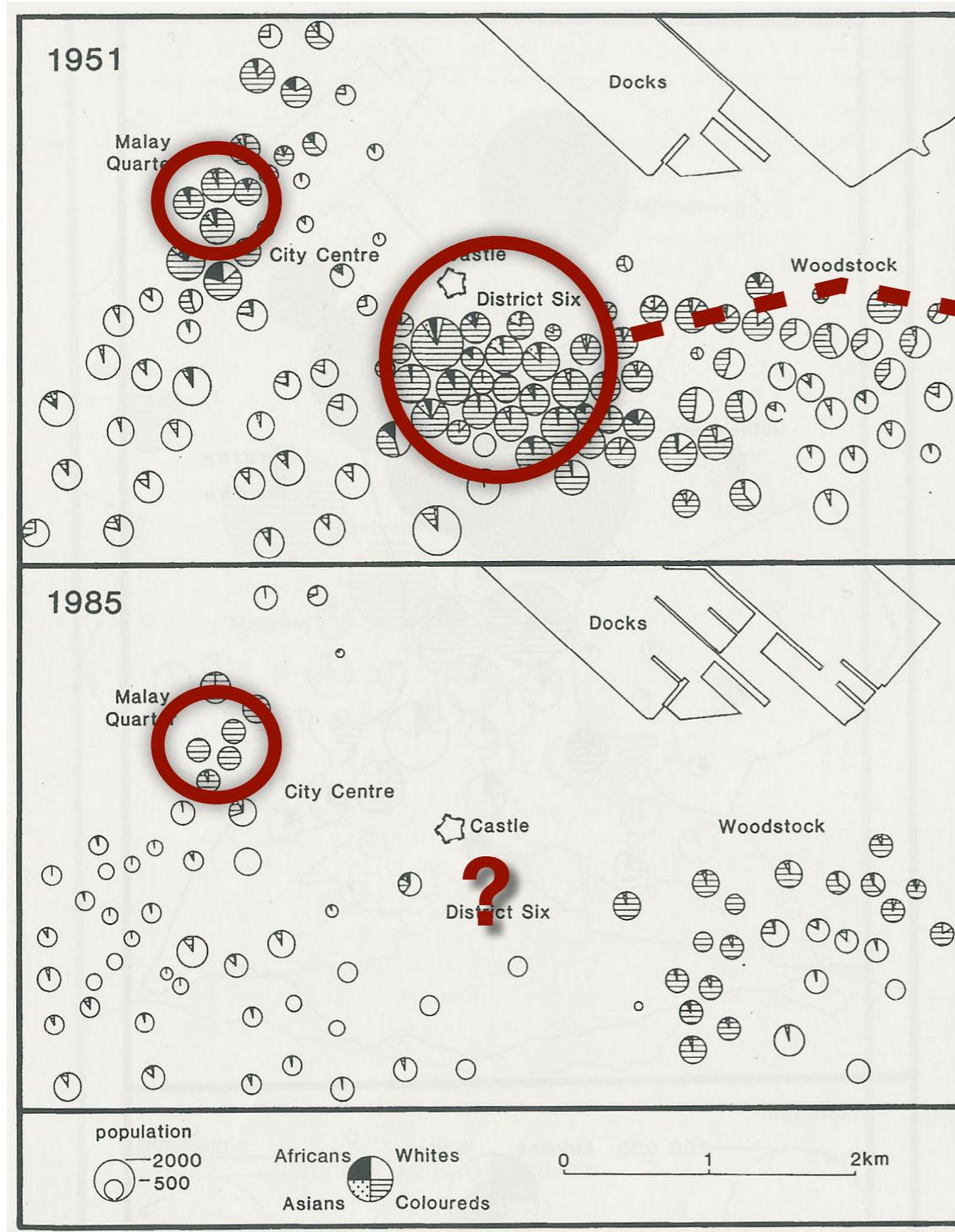


**District Six**

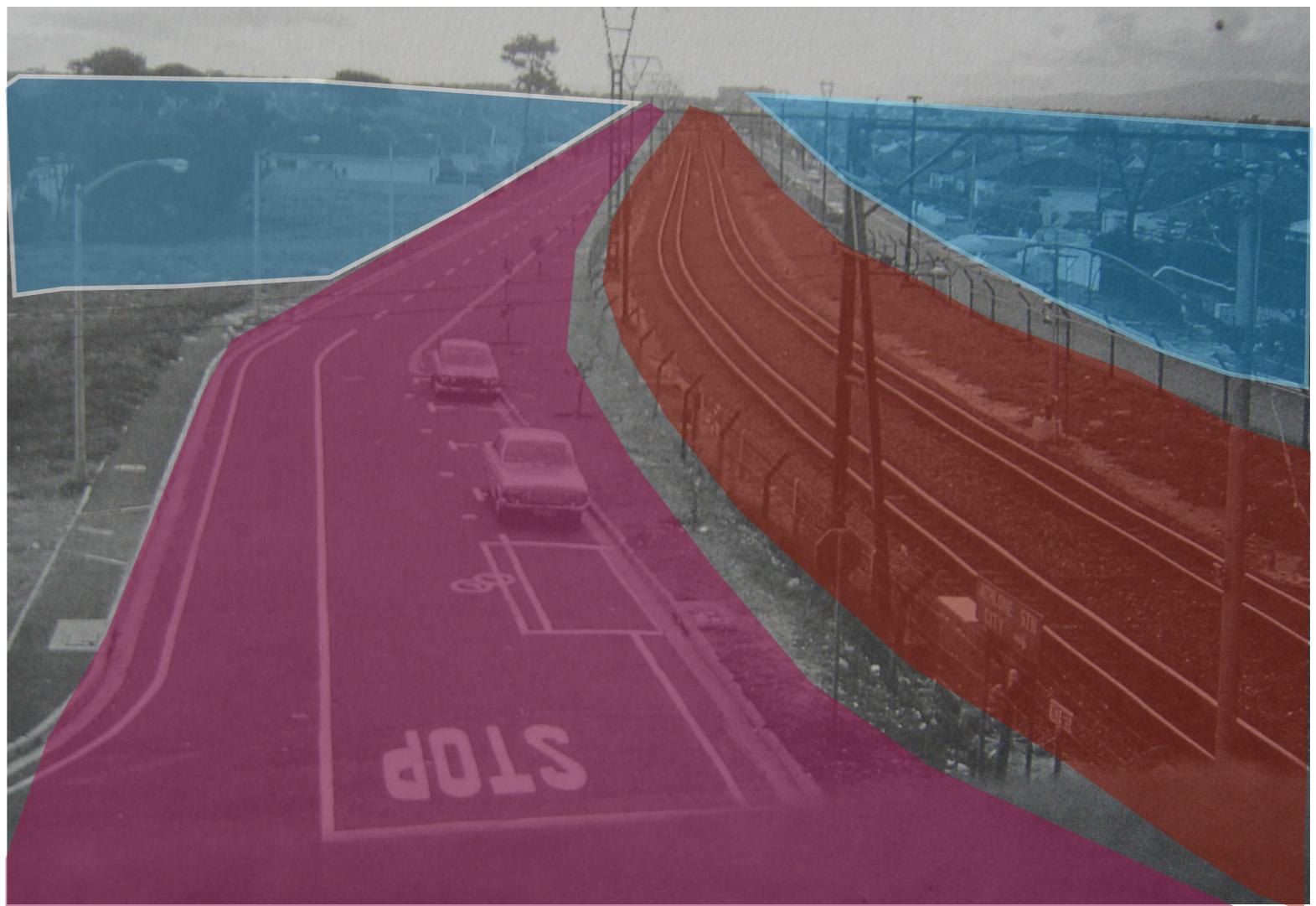
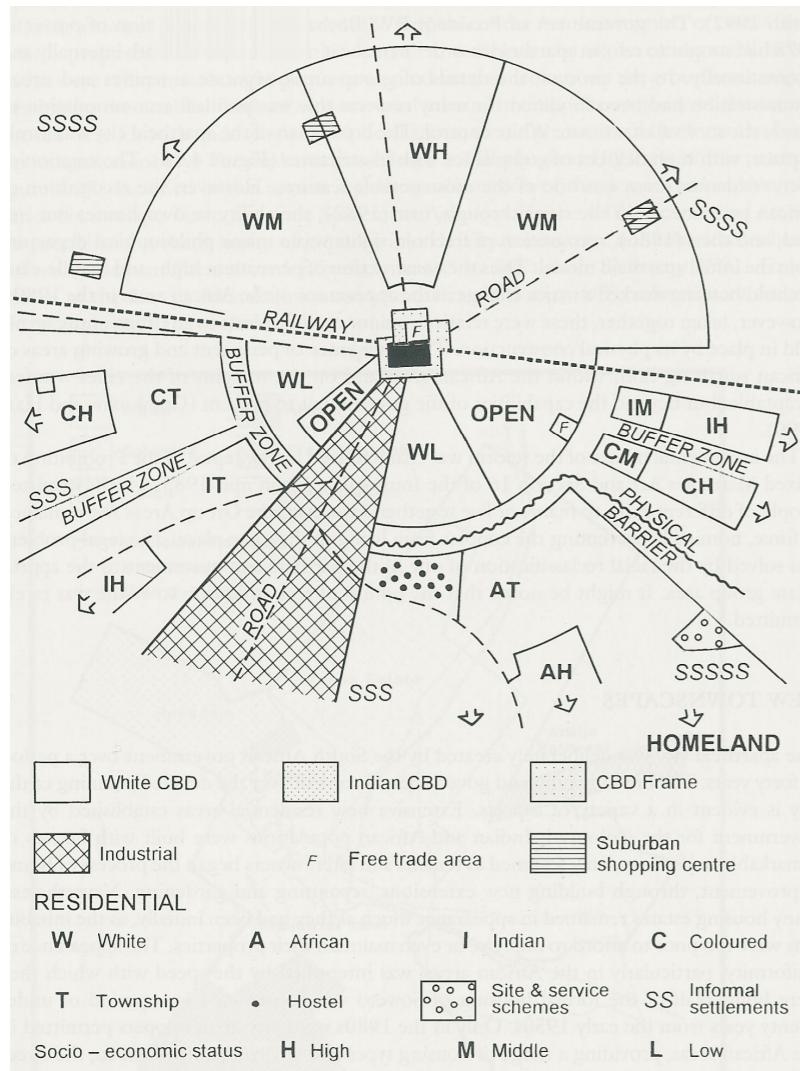


**Bo Kaap**

# The spatial implications of apartheid in Cape Town - District Six & the Bo Kaap

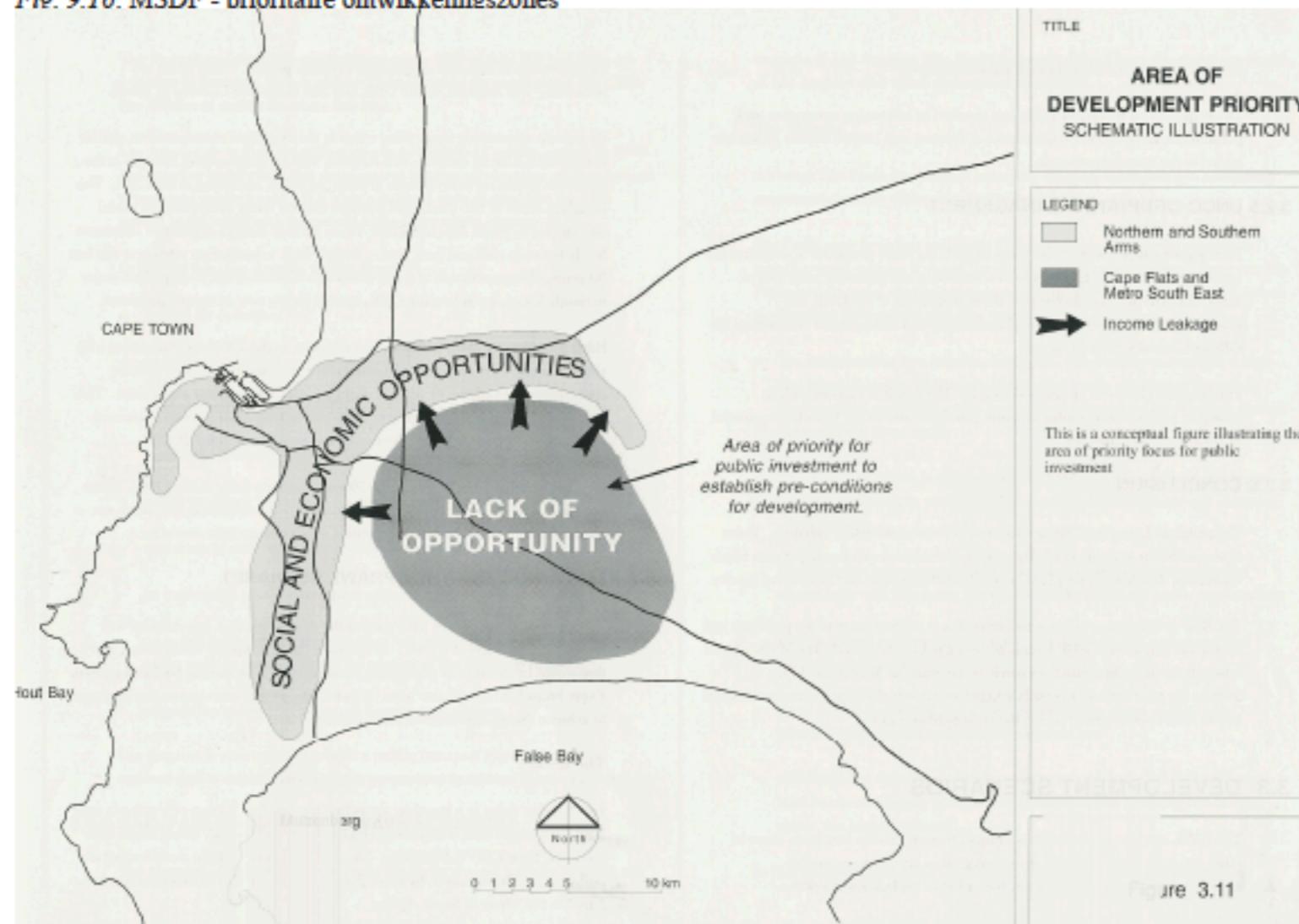


# The spatial implications of apartheid in Cape Town

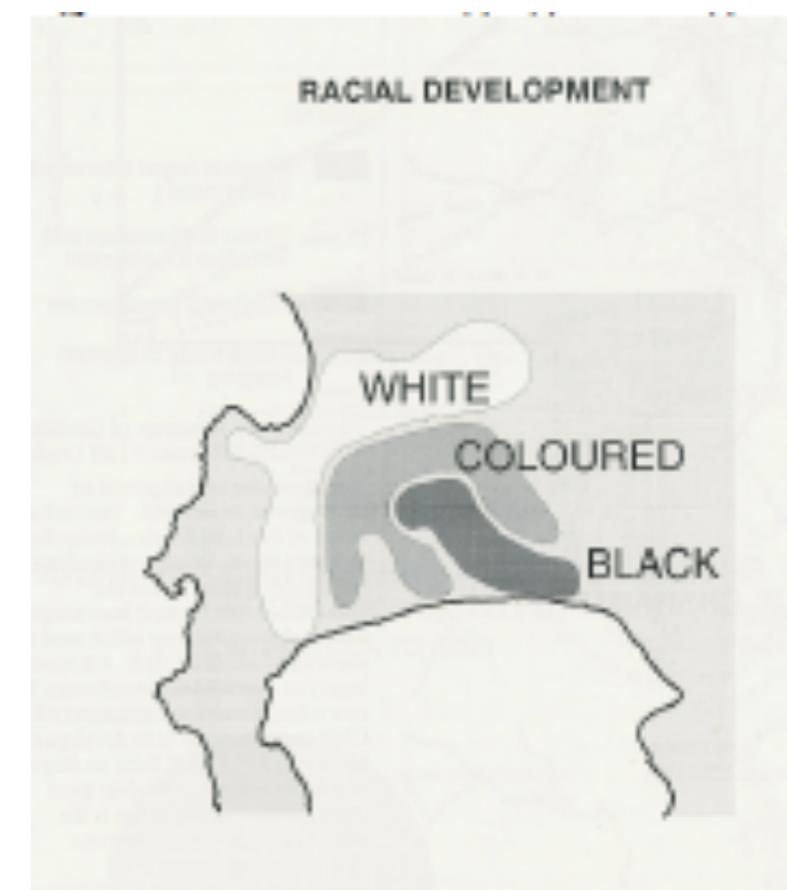


# The spatial implications of apartheid in Cape Town

Fig. 9.16: MSDF - prioritaire ontwikkelingszones



Bron: CMC, MSDF (1996)





source: District Six museum





Source from the District Six Museum: Lucien le Grange Architects & Urban Planners, District Six Heritage Impact Assessment, 2003.



This map displays surveyor's diagrams of District Six overlaid on modern aerial photography. The diagrams show the erven (plots of land) that existed before District Six was expropriated and destroyed by the apartheid government.

*Double-click the map or use your scroll wheel to zoom in; click and drag to move around.*

## DISTRICT SIX: LAND CLAIMS SUBMITTED

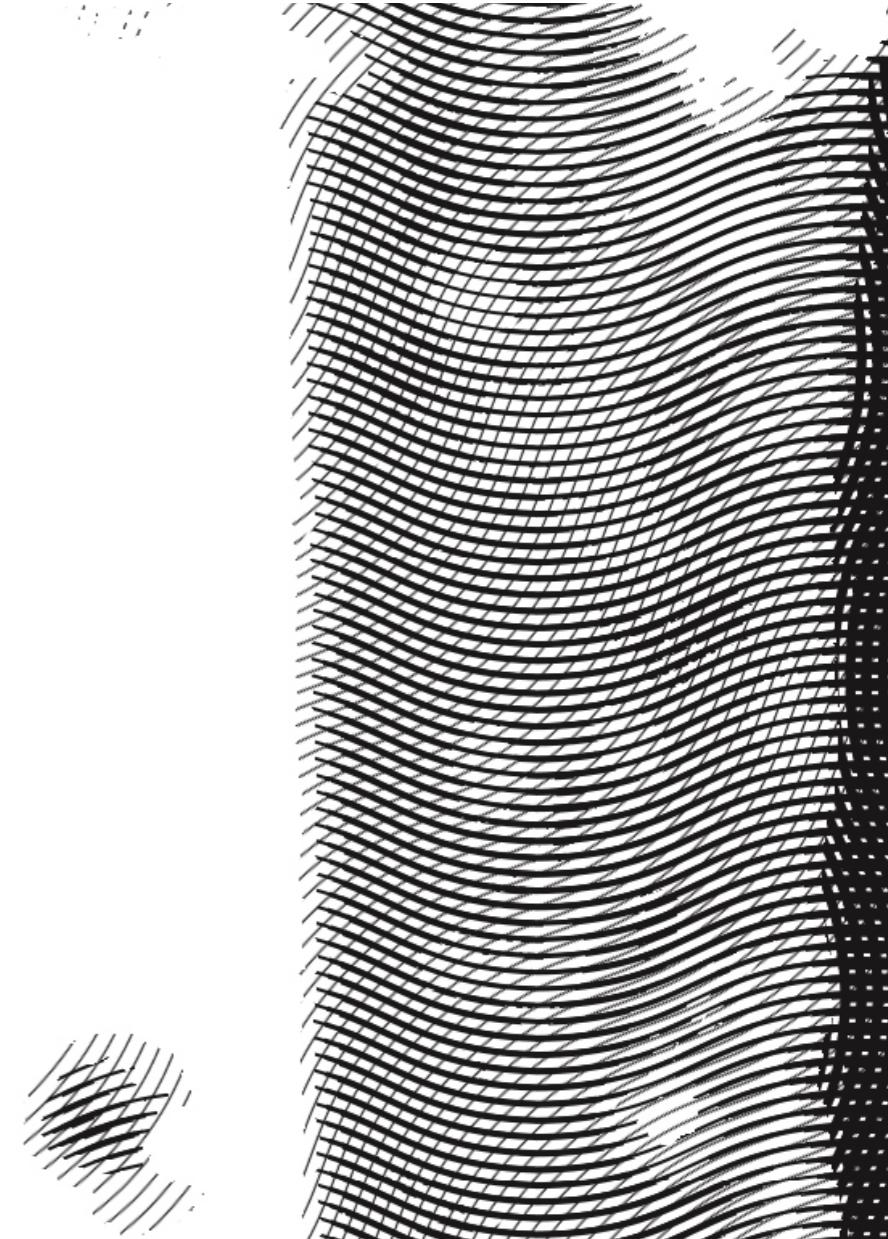






**Etienne du Plessis**

# Mariana Fix University of Sao Paulo



**“The progressive agenda of ‘urban reform, has come under increasing pressure from groups that seek to expand and re-shape cities according to their own interests”.**



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