Invitation to Urban Child CityLab: Healthy Cities for Children

DATE & TIME: TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2013, 12:15-15:30

VENUE: EGS Seminar Room, Room 5.05, Environmental and Geographical Science Building, Upper Campus, UCT

We invite you to join us for the third in a series of Urban Child CityLabs, hosted by the Children’s Institute, in association with the African Centre for Cities.

The Urban Child CityLab is linked to a Children’s Institute research project "Healthy Cities for Children", which aims to understand the relationships between the urban environment and children’s well-being in South Africa. The ultimate purpose of the project is to provide evidence to assist policy-makers and practitioners to create policies, programmes and institutions that support the well-being of children, as well as to build research capacity among emerging academics, and enhance capacity for policy-relevant research.

As with other CityLabs, this Urban Child CityLab too will provide a platform where policymakers, practitioners, researchers and postgraduate students from various disciplines can engage with one another to create a more holistic understanding of issues in child and youth well-being the urban environment.

We hope to see you all on 30 April.

NB: Space is limited. For catering purposes, RSVP to Ariane De Lannoy by Friday 26 April 2013 - ariane.delannoy@uct.ac.za.

PROGRAMME

12:15 – 12:45 Finger lunch, welcome and introduction (Ariane De Lannoy, Children’s Institute)

12:45 – 13:15 “Children’s expressions of distress” (Ria Reis*, Universities of Amsterdam and Leiden)

13:15 – 13:45 “Medicine and the politics of knowledge” (Susan Levine*, Social Anthropology, UCT)


14:15 – 14:45 Response (Karen Tranberg Hansen*, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University)

14:45 – 15:15 Questions and open discussion

15:15 – 15:30 Closure and tea

*see page 2 for presenter bios
About the presenters

RIA REIS is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam and joint-director of the research program Anthropology of Health, Care and the Body at the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR). She is Professor of medical anthropology at Leiden University Medical Center, Department of Public Health and Primary Care (LUMC/PHEG) and Fellow of the African Studies Centre in Leiden, the Netherlands. She is the SANPAD-funded research advisor to the Healthy Cities for Children project led by the Children’s Insitute at UCT. Over the past 15 years her research shifted to children and youth’s health and wellbeing. Her focus is on the trans-generational transference of vulnerabilities in contexts of inequality and (post)conflict, and on young people’s health perceptions and strategies. Currently she is developing an applied research program on child idioms of distress as expressions of communal social suffering in regions affected by epidemics, disasters, conflicts and violence. Her graduate and doctoral students work on these issues in all continents, but particularly in Africa.

KAREN TRANBERG HANSEN is Professor Emerita in the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern University in the USA. Her research interests include Urban Anthropology, Political Economy, Economic Anthropology, Consumption and Material Culture, Dress and Fashion, Gender Relations, Southern Africa, and Development Issues. One of her research involvements was a collaborative, interdisciplinary study, “Youth and the City: Skills, Knowledge and Social Reproduction”, conducted between 2001 and 2005 in Lusaka (Zambia), Recife (Brazil), and Hanoi (Vietnam). Hansen was the PI and responsible for the Lusaka part. The project examined how different social, cultural, and economic factors affect young people’s possibilities to acquire the kinds of skills that are required to become social adults. The project book, Youth and the City in the Global South, was published by Indiana University press (2008).

SUSAN LEVINE is a senior lecturer in the School of Gender and African Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics at the University of Cape Town. She has written extensively on the political economy of children’s work in South Africa’s wine industry. Her current research focuses on children’s subjective experiences of living with infectious illness in sub-Saharan Africa. The recipient of a Distinguished Teacher’s Award in 2011, Dr Levine is renowned for her experimental pedagogy in teaching medical anthropology. She is editor of the book Medicine and the Politics of Knowledge (HSRC Press, 2012).

JANE BATTERSBY LENNARD is an urban social and cultural geographer with ongoing research interests through Urban Food Security as part of the CIDA funded AFSUN programme (AFSUN website) and the Formas funded ‘Ways of Knowing’ project, which aims to use interdisciplinary approaches to reflect on the values inherent in the management of green spaces in urban areas. She is also a member of the SANPAD-funded project, "Healthy Cities for Children" with Children’s Institute at UCT. She has particular interests in urban food systems and the construction of food security theory in Northern and Southern research contexts.