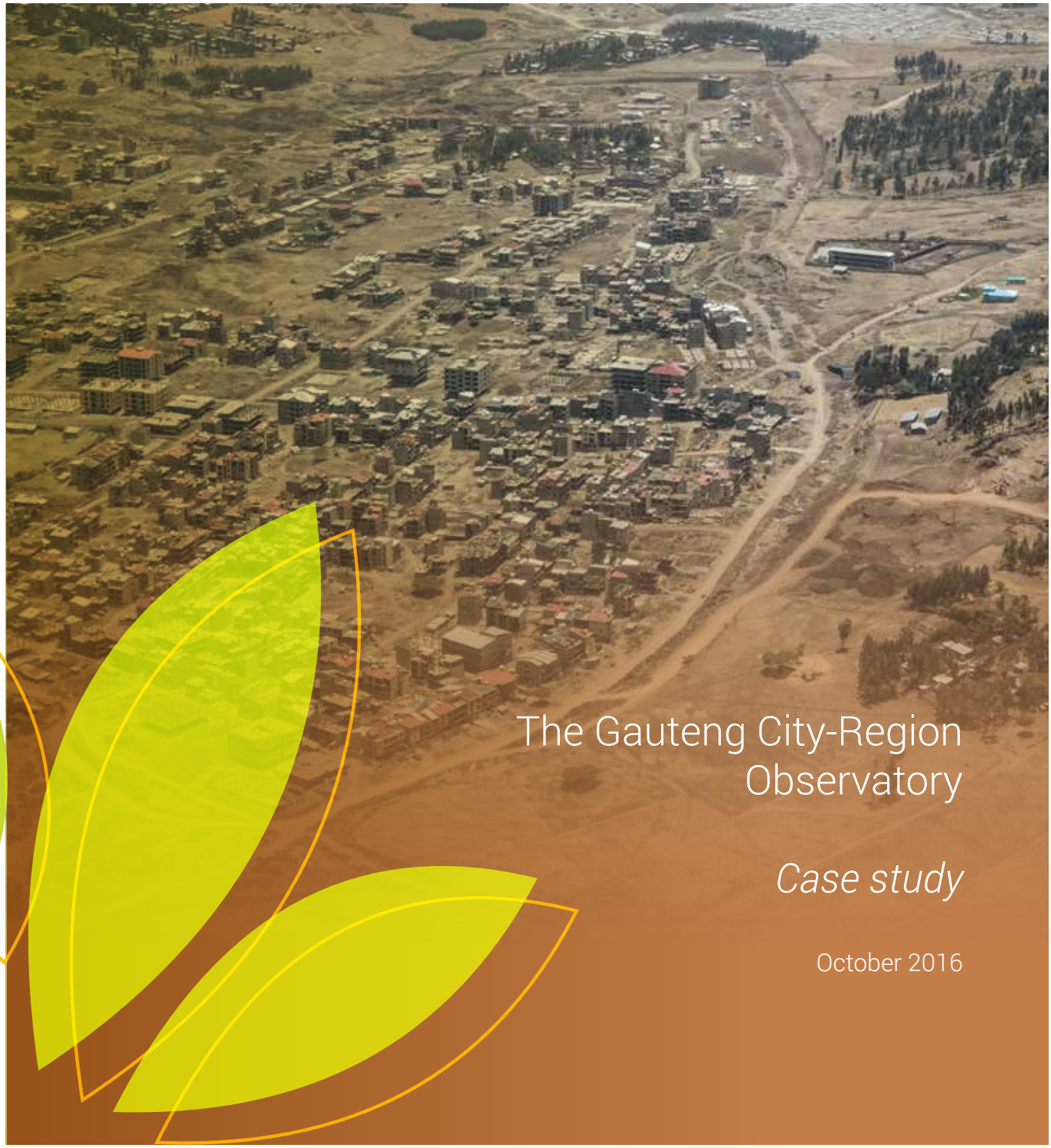
PSPPD
PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT PRO-POOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT



The Gauteng City-Region Observatory

Case study

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Preface

This case study on the Gauteng City Region Observatory (GCRO) is an example of a collaboration between provincial government and partner universities. The GCRO shows what it is possible to achieve when using the resources in academia to support the development agenda of the public sector, and when there is commitment from government to generating evidence for policy-making. An important element of this partnership is its dedication to building in-depth knowledge and identifying long-term trends. The GCRO is an exemplar of how the use of data and research can be increased in policy development and implementation. While the government partners are the primary clients, the research outputs are publicly available.

The Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development (PSPPD)

The Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy Development (PSPPD) is a research and capacity-building programme located within the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). The PSPPD is part of the larger National Development Policy Support Programme (NDPSP), the overarching Programme between the South African government and the European Union.

The core purpose of the PSPPD is to improve evidence-based policy-making and implementation (EBPM&I) on poverty and inequality at national and provincial levels through a variety of learning and capacity development tools, such as research, capacity building, training events, conferences and workshops, and study tours.

The PSPPD aims to improve evidence-based policy initiatives which transform the conventional relationship between policy-making and the use of social science evidence – making evidence an integral part of the decision-making around policies in policy development and implementation. The PSPPD also contributes to the building of an evidence base and sharing of knowledge through its partnerships with a range of organisations, academia, think tanks and the public sector.

Contents

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DISCLAIMER

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development (PSPPD), a partnership programme of the Presidency, Republic of South Africa, and the European Union. The contents of this report can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and the European Union.

1. Acronyms

BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
ESPON	European Spatial Planning Observation Network
GBV	Gender-based violence
GCRO	Gauteng City-Region Observatory
GPG	Gauteng Provincial Government
GUO	Global Urban Observatory
LGE	Local Government Elections
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation

OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PWV	Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging nexus
QoL	Quality of Life Survey
RAC	Research Advisory Committee
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SARChI	South African Research Chairs Initiative
UJ	University of Johannesburg
Wits	University of the Witwatersrand

2. Rationale for the case study

The imperative for enhanced research and evaluation capabilities to inform the work of the public sector is well acknowledged, and strengthening the relationship between the fields of academic research and the functions of government is an ongoing goal. However, securing this collaboration effectively has proved elusive, not least because of the divergent purposes, cultures and rhythms of these institutions, and significant structural constraints that contribute to continuing isolation from each other.

The Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) is an unusual initiative, constituted as a formal structured partnership between provincial government and universities, with the deliberate intention of bridging what has been an enduring divide. In essence, the GCRO is a purpose-designed platform for multi-disciplinary research aimed at the complex questions of urbanism in the city region, geared to provide the public sector with insights to inform its policies and decision-making.

Questions driving this case study thus include the following:

1) How has government conceived the knowledge requirements needed to inform one of the most ambitious post-apartheid urban transformation projects?
2) What forms of knowledge have emerged and how have they been produced? What are the challenges associated with these forms of knowledge production, and their translation into modes useful for governance purposes?
3) How have they influenced government decision-making?
4) Does the evolving nature of the governance imperative have implications for the kind of knowledge needed into the future, how it is to be generated, and how it will be absorbed effectively into systems of governance?
5) What are the implications for reproducing the successful characteristics of the GCRO model in other circumstances?

In response to the questions above, this report outlines the origins of the GCRO and provides an overview of its purposes, the key challenges of its context and an appraisal of its successes, priorities for future development, and considerations for reproducing the model elsewhere.

3. Provenance and purposes of the Observatory

How did government conceive the knowledge project that became the GCRO?

It is vital to understand the provenance of the GCRO as deriving from a compelling concept that promised to contribute to transfiguring the economic and social fortunes bequeathed by apartheid. We should not underestimate the role of visionary aspirations to energise the political will needed to drive new organisational forms and overcome the sedimented and resistant patterns inherited from the past. Put differently – and drawing on the language of institutional theory (Scott 1995) – a revised regulatory project (the city-region) requires a commensurate cognitive architecture (a knowledge system) that in turn is driven by a reforming normative regime (the transformation agenda of the post-apartheid era). As Perry (2011) has shown, aligning these dimensions is crucial to the success of achieving innovation in complex urban governance systems. This section of the report outlines how the political determination to achieve an adaptive system of governance gave rise to a fresh approach to public policy-oriented knowledge.

While the provincial spatial development framework may have languished, one apparently new and powerful spatial concept increasingly entered public discourse as democracy completed its first and tumultuous decade in 2004. The 'big idea' was the political representation of Gauteng as a global city-region – a polynucleated but singularly overwhelming urban zone, comparable with the major cityregions of the world, and requiring concerted effort to realise its global potential… In a twentyfirst century democratic context the notion of the city-region held entirely new possibilities. (Mabin, 2013: 47)

During the course of the negotiations towards a new democratic dispensation in the period 1991 to 1993, the political geography of South Africa was refashioned into nine provincial regions, one of which more-or-less encompassed what previously had been termed the "PWV" (or the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging nexus), an agglomeration of industrial, commercial, residential and transport nodes that together were acknowledged as forming the substantial core of the country's economy, and containing a significant proportion of its population. This new provincial entity, Gauteng, began its life through the 1994 elections, and had to invent itself from scratch, including various spatial development initiatives. Although a Gauteng Spatial Development Strategy was commissioned, progress towards a coherent and shared vision for the region was (perhaps understandably) unsteady and contested throughout the first decade of democracy. A key development, however, was the eventual emergence of the concept of a 'city-region':

This fresh way of conceiving the spatial formation, that included a number of cities, towns, industrial zones and the sprawling, segregated residential patterns inherited from apartheid social engineering, required an insight into the economic and social geography that characterised the region, including the flows of commerce, people and money, so that a degree of steerage and control could be achieved – and a confident sense of purpose could be asserted by the new provincial authority. Part of the purpose was to enhance the coherence of the region itself, and part was to strengthen the relation of the region within the wider flows of the national and global economy. In this way, the political and social project of the democratic era could be steered by visionary and coherent planning, and fuelled by a flourishing economy. Clearly, new sources of synoptic data and detailed insight would be needed in order to inform the governance of this agglomeration, seen now on a markedly different scale and playing in a far broader arena. In other words, a changing view of the urban governance project signalled the need for a distinctive and new approach to urban knowledge.

4. Precedents and models

Why was this model chosen?

In proposing a model, the Gauteng Premier's Office commissioned a needs and capacity review related to the establishment of an urban observatory in 2007, which elaborated the concept and invoked as examples a number of research organisations internationally which focus on the dynamics of urbanism from one perspective or another. These models varied considerably in their spatial breadth of gaze, from a single city-region, e.g. Vancouver or Melbourne, to the urban forms of all Europe, e.g. the European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON), or in their specialisation of focus, e.g. on environmental issues, or on holding government to account for service delivery. Observatories could operate at multiple levels, including local (regions within a country), regional (across a cluster of countries) and national, such as the Global Urban Observatory (GUO), established by the UN-HABITAT and consisting of a network of urban observatories focused on environmental and sustainability issues.

The needs and capacity review placed considerable emphasis on the idea of 'triple helix' approaches to knowledge production (Etzkowitz & Leydesdorff, 2000), where government works collaboratively with industry and the private sector as well as with universities and research institutes to produce trans-disciplinary and multi-sectoral insights into the challenges of the present and future, and to stimulate innovation across all spheres of economic and social activity. The emphasis is on tapping into the broader knowledge resources and perspectives of society rather than relying only on those of government.

Among other things, the study suggested that the roles of an urban observatory in the context of Gauteng could include:

- A data-generating engine and repository for a range of indicators that reflect the dynamics of a city-region to enable reflection on trends over time and inform policy agendas;
- A research platform for data-analysis, including data sourced from other agencies;
- A platform to assist and inform cooperative governance across the various spheres and agencies of government;
- A platform for dialogue and coordination between government and other social actors (including the private sector and civil society);
- Knowledge sharing and data dissemination across social actors.

Although the primary beneficiary of the work of observatories is government, the study was careful to affirm both the relative independence of this knowledge function and that it should be understood as a resource for society at large:

The urban observatory should be seen as belonging to and for the benefit of everyone who has an interest in the city, from the national, provincial and local political and administrative leadership, private sector, public interest groups and NGOs and civil society generally. (Gauteng Provincial Government, 2007)

Although the study speculated very provisionally on the possible partners and location for a Gauteng urban observatory, the then premier approached just two institutions, the Universities of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and of Johannesburg (UJ), to establish the initiative, based on an appraisal of their established capacities to address the scope of work envisaged for the observatory (see Gauteng Urban Observatory proposal to Gauteng Provincial Government, 2008). Extensive, detailed negotiations commenced in 2007 to this end.

We should not underestimate, however, the role that was played in bringing the partners together, and enabling the ultimate agreements between them, by a powerful and mobilising vision for an alternative future. The interests and modalities of the respective partners are distinct, even divergent, and the aspirational purposes embedded in the notion of the 'city-region' were vital to enabling the negotiating parties to find common cause and commit to the creation of a new hybrid organisational form, and the sustained investment that it implied.

5. Principles informing the partnership

What are the challenges associated with this partnership-based approach to governance-oriented knowledge production?

The establishment of a partnership across social institutions with distinctly different purposes and methods, like government and academia, is a challenging proposition, often underestimated (see Moore, 2016). In particular, it must be noted that the political economy of universities is by and large not geared to respond to the knowledge requirements of government, consumed as they are by the demands of growing enrolments, the insistent ethic of 'publish or perish', and the shrinking resource base on which they survive. While the advantages (indeed, the necessity) of cross-boundary collaboration are compelling and urgent, the practical achievement of effective partnerships and hybrid organisations require thoughtful approaches and persistent attention to the tensions that inevitably arise. Since this is a theme that pervades much of this case study, it is worth noting the central principles that were negotiated by the parties at the outset, many of which were crucial to the resilience and success of the initiative. Fundamentally important to the character and function of the GCRO was the striking of balance between potentially competing purposes, values and practical considerations that are inherent to both government and to universities. The principles include:

- Agreeing that, although the government partners are the primary clients of the GCRO, the research outputs and data repositories are freely publicly available;
- Acknowledging that the broad research agenda of the GCRO would be signalled by the government partners, but interpreted and given effect by the researchers within the GCRO;
- Granting the right for academic publication of research insights arising from the GCRO's work, but respecting the need for government confidentiality as required;
- Noting that the GCRO is intended as a long-term endeavour, to build in-depth knowledge and data on long-term trends;
- Confirming that the core funding for the GCRO would come from the government partners, but that contributions in kind were expected from the partner universities.

Other agreements, such as reciprocity in human capital development (for both the government partners and the universities) and a five-yearly review process were significant and valuable undertakings, although only realised substantively over time; it was these areas of agreement noted above that were foundational to enabling the differential cultures and objectives of the partners to be resolved at the outset, and laid the basis for navigating tensions whenever these arose.

These tensions derive from the fact that the GCRO is a hybrid, interstitial organisation that straddles the boundaries of very different institutions (university and government), and must mediate and resolve the competing priorities, rhythms and cultures. It needs to draw on the resources and methodologies of the academy in order to inform the purposes of government, and a broader range of stakeholders too. It is located in the academy (to signal its independence and credibility), but takes its cue from the needs of government. Inevitably, both these contexts jostle to hold sway over the disposition of the organisation, and the staff of the GCRO must steer an accommodating route between these contending demands.

Government understandably seeks both long-term strategic research and quick turnaround insight to inform its political responsiveness. Both of these are complex and demanding, in very different ways, and knowledge products consequently can take on a variety of forms suited to consumption in government quarters, including strategy frameworks, policy briefs or governance-oriented research reports. In contrast, the university environment can be dismissive of any work that doesn't follow traditional scholarly routes of peer-review and publication. As a result, some of the most popular innovations generated within the GCRO, such as the Maps of the Month, Vignettes, data briefs and the Provocation series, which aim to make its research widely and quickly accessible to public sector and civil society audiences, carry little esteem in the eyes of academic peers.

A listing of the published output of the GCRO is provided as an appendix to this case study, and reflects both self-published reports and products, as well as the peer-reviewed academic publications. This differentiation between, on the one hand, academic publication (the primary currency of scholarly credibility in the university sector) and, on the other hand, publication and products intended for a wider (especially public sector) readership reflects both the distinguishing character of the GCRO, as well as the distinctive tensions and dilemmas that it must resolve on an ongoing basis. As the appendix of publications and products illustrates, the GCRO has worked productively to respond to both requirements, and this reflects the array of capabilities in its multi-disciplinary staff complement, as well as the innovative agility in making its research serve disparate audiences.

Notable is the large number of presentations that are made to public sector, civil society and academic audiences, and the innovative web-based approaches used to disseminate the work as widely as possible. These include a repository on the GCRO website of all the outputs produced by the observatory, which are available for download in full. The repository is a key means of simultaneously archiving and disseminating data. Anyone is free to subscribe to the GCRO email list via the website and subscribers automatically receive information on, and links to, the complete pdf version of new reports and outputs as they are published. Although hardcopy forms of most reports are printed, it is clear that the website enjoys a high level of traffic (growing from around 900 page views per month in 2009 to over 13 000 per month in 2016).

Key insights from in-depth GCRO research are also conveyed in easily digestible Vignettes and Maps of the Month. These visual representations ensure that data is translated from otherwise wordy reports into concise snapshots replete with critical insight. This style encourages a more immediate uptake of information which remains coherent across possible barriers of specialised language.

The GCRO's flagship studies, such as the biennial Quality of Life (QoL) Survey, now attract much media attention with news of the findings quickly injected into the public sphere (working collaboratively with many media outlets). The QoL data is made available on request to any interested party, provided they will not repackage this information for commercial gain, and the GCRO enjoys a rapidly growing number of local and international research partners who assist in bringing varied analytic lenses to bear on the data sets.

Ultimately, however, the GCRO (and its researchers) must frame research agendas which take into account the longer-term objectives of the city-region, with sensitivity to the multiple stakeholders and audiences of its work. This typically includes a relatively dispassionate view of the contingencies of the moment, seeking to locate day-to-day developments within larger frameworks of interpretation, mulling over the implications for trends and possible systemic responses. As Perry (2011) has noted:

If universities are at the heart of the knowledge economy, and the knowledge economy is urban, then urban researchers must pay heed to how they are increasingly implicated as political actors in, rather than purely critics of, territorial projects.

When the GCRO's voice is heard, the strength of its insights must proceed from systematic and rigorous methodologies whose results (encouraging or discomforting) must win the confidence of audiences from all quarters.

6. Research products

What forms of knowledge have emerged from the GCRO? How do these serve government priorities?

The ability of an adumbrating sphere of governance, the Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG), to achieve alignment and coherence across multiple autonomous agencies of local government depends in the first instance on acquiring robust comprehensive data and insight across the territorial localities of the city-region.

In order to reflect the project of the city-region, and to command the attention of audiences in government and more widely, GCRO studies have provided 'state of the current context' overviews, commencing with a synoptic Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) territorial review, giving inaugural definition to the object of study. Other studies have subsequently mapped how particular issues are finding effect (often differentially) across spatial locales, providing insight into areas of relative functionality or dysfunctionality and thus constituting baseline information on areas needing priority attention. This has included analysis and comparative views on issues of the economy, transport systems, infrastructure, migration, social fabric and environmental issues.

Further, the GCRO provides longitudinal trend data in the form of the biennial QoL Survey, which tracks the lived experience of the city-region's inhabitants across a range of indicators, including key economic and social cohesion considerations that are vital to analysing both the success of governance efforts and the more intangible dynamics that reflect the levels of well-being and resilience in the city-region. The QoL Survey has become a key platform for monitoring the ways in which the city-region is (and, in many cases, isn't) repairing the deep inequities and divisions that were the legacies of apartheid. It has also played a major role in securing the notion of the city-region in the public 'imaginary'.

7. How has government absorbed the research?

An appraisal of the uptake by government agencies of the GCRO's work is necessarily complex and multi-faceted, not least because of the diversity of the research and 'responsiveness' products that the GCRO produces, as well as the complexity of government agencies themselves. However, notable observations include the following:

- In some cases, the GCRO is involved in directly helping to produce strategic frameworks intended to inform future policies and approaches. For example, the G2055 Strategic Framework was in large measure co-authored by GCRO researchers.
- The results of the QoL Survey are used by some departments to assess success in service delivery on a ward-by-ward basis, such as the Department of Health, which is using it to assist in monitoring the performance of hospitals and clinics across the city-region. At least one metro council has begun work on social cohesion issues, prompted by insight into social tensions revealed in QoL data, and has further linked the performance remuneration of senior officers to achieving targeted improvements in responses reflected in the data.

- Insights into social fabric issues generated by both the QoL Survey and other research products have informed key leadership responses. In particular, the premier has foregrounded migrant and xenophobia issues in his public addresses, and has instituted a programmatic initiative on social cohesion to be guided by a group of high-profile leadership figures and supported by ongoing research from the GCRO.
- The GCRO has participated in efforts to achieve alignment between (sometimes divergent) strategic approaches adopted by different spheres of government, including a continuing initiative to mediate between diametrically opposed spatial development frameworks.
- Major initiatives underway in all three spheres of government to address the transport conundrum (presented by the apartheid-inspired distances between where job-seekers live and where employment opportunities are located) are based in part on insights generated by GCRO studies.
- One indicator of the value placed on the GCRO's research is the increasing appetite and demand for its work. At one level, this is seen by increasing investment by the metros and some GPG departments in the QoL Survey, seeking deepening granularity of data to inform their respective interests. At another level, the GCRO is being asked to take on larger-scale research projects (a development that is discussed in more detail in section 9 of this report).

In general terms, it may be unhelpful to imagine a linear, cause-and-effect relationship between research undertaken in an institute like the GCRO and responses in government. The context of large governance architectures that operate in fluid (often turbulent) socio-political environments will always be complex, with multiple intervening variables. Obviously, the absorptive capacities of government structures will be conditioned by both endogenous factors (like the capability and disposition of staffing and leadership) and exogenous factors (like the political and economic contingencies of the time), and part of the aim of agencies like the GCRO must be to saturate the public sphere with its data and insights, so that policy choices, and the disposition to respond to these policy directions, become more informed and more likely.

This is why the wide public dissemination of research insights in accessible forms, rather than only channelling them into government offices, is central to the GCRO's mission. The organisation should thus be understood as a player in a wider 'knowledge ecology' rather than a functional adjunct in government machinery.

That said, there are ways in which closer alignments can be achieved between the GCRO and its government clients. These need to take the form of increasingly collaborative methodologies that draw researchers and public sector decision-makers into shared approaches to problem-definition and subsequent co-production of knowledge. This is challenging, not least because of the work and time pressures government officers are under and, by contrast, the necessarily iterative and deliberative nature of research.

The GCRO's experience has been that different government departments have extremely varied appetites for external knowledge partners, ranging from strong enthusiasm to energetic resistance and evasion. Often, the most productive relationships are with sections responsible for strategy and planning, while line departments tend to be less accessible, especially below senior levels. The practice of making political appointments to some departments and portfolios has meant wide divergence in capability and stance. In some cases, the GCRO has been recruited by top leadership to work around, rather than with, certain departments because zones of intractability are politically protected.

However, one successful approach is the 'urban lab' method, which brings these groups together periodically in a sustained avenue of enquiry with a clearly defined problem. This approach enables research insights to be fed into a shared space for addressing problems, and for increasingly shared perspectives on how the issues at hand can be addressed. (See Anderson, et al 2013 for more on this methodology). The GCRO has initiated some urban labs and has participated with partners in others, including a series of meetings intended to bring provincial and metropolitan approaches to spatial planning into closer alignment. Further, the GCRO participates in a five-country BRICS-based (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) urban lab that is focused on the theme of 'adaptive governance'.

It is clear, however, that greater structural attention to facilitating knowledge partnerships would assist in achieving these cross-border flows. In other words, this might mean the creation of portfolios (especially within line departments) that are charged with generating evidence-based scenarios for policy decisions, and evidence-based approaches to policy evaluation. Although generic planning and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) units exist, they often have similar difficulties in penetrating the insulations that characterise bureaucratic systems. Put differently, it is necessary for government to invest in long-term public policy-oriented research and to require the line functions to make evident use of these insights.

There is room to align more closely the training activities of universities (e.g. postgraduate programmes aimed at the public sector) with the policy-oriented research provided by the GCRO, with the intention of using these as opportunities to grow research-skilled public sector staff members and the cross-boundary knowledge flows that would strengthen evidence-based governmentality. However, what underlies any approach to this collaboration is the building of relationships and trust over time, one reason why the GCRO is necessarily a long-term endeavour and why the stability of skilled personnel in the public sector is vital for its levels of capability.

8. Governance and structure

Two governance structures are provided for in the founding arrangements of the GCRO: the governing 'Board', and an advisory 'Research Advisory Committee'.

The 'partnership' was put into effect by the governing Board of the GCRO, which was conceived as having two representatives from each of the three 'founding partners' (GPG, UJ and Wits) and, to honour the scholarly character of the enterprise, the chair of the GCRO board would alternate annually between the senior university representatives (normally understood to be the respective deputy vice chancellors for research). Subsequently, and to signal the multi-governmental character of the city-region, two representatives from 'local government' were added to this structure, nominated by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). This structure has remained stable and normally meets three times a year. Under discussion throughout the life of the GCRO has been the possibility of adding individuals from other sectors (especially industry) to the board, but this remains a modification for the future.

The executive director of the GCRO is accountable to the board and sits on the board ex officio.
The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) is constituted of approximately 20 individuals who, by virtue of their expertise in related fields, are expected to provide guidance on the research activities of the GCRO. Although the executive director and staff of the GCRO have structured their engagement with the RAC in a number of ways over the years (usually half-day or day-long workshops with all RAC members), a satisfactory modality has yet to be arranged. Both GCRO staff members and RAC members have noted that new approaches should be tried and (at the time of writing) it seems likely that increasingly theme-driven and smaller sub-groupings will be trialled, associated with the key umbrella research themes of the GCRO.

The GCRO itself was provisioned at the outset with the posts of an executive director, a research director, researchers at varying levels of seniority and a small administrative capacity. In the intervening years, a second research director has been appointed to assist in overseeing the volumes of work, and the number of researchers has grown. In addition, the unit also takes on interns (usually Masters graduates on one-year contracts, or postgraduate students in part-time capacities) and post-doctoral fellows (in 12- to 18-month contracts). In some cases, talented individuals have started as interns and subsequently been appointed to substantive researcher positions.

9. Resourcing and sustainability

As agreed, the GPG has provided consistent core funding for the GCRO since its inception, while the two partner universities have provided resourcing in kind.

The project commenced in the 2008/09 financial year with a grant of R8 million, and this has escalated in each succeeding year by around 10%. In the 2015/16 financial year, the premier added a further discretionary R5 million to the budget, and this may be a sustained escalation of the resourcing (depending on the constraints of the economic downturn). Over and above this core funding, the GCRO has attracted some additional project funding, especially when stakeholders have made contributions to the GCRO's biennial QoL Survey, such as the three metros which each contributed R1 million to the 2015/16 QoL exercise to deepen the granularity of data generated in their respective priority wards.

The in-kind contributions from the participating universities have included the on-campus office accommodation and parking facilities, the university administrative services (e.g. finance, audit, HR, etc.), telephone and IT infrastructure, funding for postdoctoral fellows, and the governance and consultative services of senior academic and administrative staff.

Notwithstanding this, the reliable core funding provided by the GPG has been central to the success of the GCRO and has enabled the recruitment of high-quality researchers and the conduct of complex, sustained research projects (often multi-year enterprises) predicated on the priorities of the city-region government. This would not have been possible if the project had to rely on short-term, project-driven donor-funding. Aside from the time-consuming, distracting and unpredictable business of competing in the donor environment, the priorities of donor-driven funding inevitably have a distortive effect on the priorities of the project.

While the GCRO has been successful in attracting talented individuals onto its staff, an enduring issue for management has been the retention of this talent in the project. The researchers quickly achieve a profile and reputation that makes them attractive to other employers. Three considerations in particular make GCRO staffers vulnerable to external offers: firstly, GCRO positions are contract posts (currently around three years) and competitors are often able to offer permanent positions; secondly, universities are able to offer professorial status and titles currently not available within the GCRO; and thirdly, there are perceptions that the GCRO does not provide a sustained and long-term career pathway.

The GCRO has thus sometimes come to be seen as a powerful springboard to accelerate a career, but currently insufficiently institutionalised to provide a platform for long-term career investment. These matters are under consideration (in discussions between GCRO management and the governing board), and are acknowledged as vital to the sustainability and quality of the enterprise.

Although during the seven years of its life both the budget and staffing of the GCRO has grown, the project faces continuing encouragement from GPG to further expand its activities to meet the needs of GPG and other government agencies. The next section of the report considers the pressures for expanding the functional role of the GCRO, and the implications these might have for its work and structure.

10. New roles

As the governance agenda of the city-region becomes more clearly defined, and the reach and responsibilities of the city-region government deepen, so the GCRO is confronted with requests to broaden the scope of its work in concomitant ways. A recent example is the request that the GCRO becomes the platform for brokering the relationships between the GPG and the Gauteng research agencies (i.e. universities and science councils) in order to enhance evidence-based governmentality. In particular, the GPG has signalled that it needs large-scale systematic research initiatives that 1) serve to inform economic development strategy for the region; 2) inform its governance and service-delivery functions into the future; and 3) inform efforts to intervene in serious social pathologies such as xenophobic violence, racism, gender-based violence (GBV) and community-level protest. In other words, GPG is seeking to exercise governmental steerage or intervention on scales not previously considered, and intervening at a regional level on matters that are national and societal in their definition, although their realisation is always local.

Likewise, the metros and municipalities are seeking similar services from the GCRO. National-level government departments have also requested the GCRO's participation in significant initiatives. Both of these new functional areas (brokerage and dialogue) are inherently very challenging and require specialist capability, not currently provided within the staffing of the GCRO.

Much more recently, the outcome of the recent Local Government Elections (LGE 2016) will signal a new level of complexity in exercising governance across a city-region constituted by relatively autonomous metro and municipal authorities. As the new era of coalition local government sinks in, the dramatically enhanced levels of complexity will become apparent as the interests of coalition partners must be accommodated, the tensions within the majority party must be negotiated, and the (possibly violent) consequences of disrupted systems of patronage must be managed.

How should the GCRO position itself at this time?

All of the considerations arising from this confluence of factors will signal the increased salience of reliable knowledge bases and deftly-mediated approaches to social dialogue. Storper (2014) has argued how approaches to handling complex metropolitan environments, where many discrepant and ultimately irreconcilable interests must be adjudicated across multiple incoherent authority systems, must include:

… information and mapping tools … to envision different … alternatives, to map them graphically and visually represent them, show them in evolution and motion to the public, and hence to have a transparent public debate about … choices. (This will create) a dialogic interchange of information, participation and clarification of what the principals want, and helps clarify the trade-offs they are willing to accept… (130-1)

Managing this multi-faceted, growing demand, while keeping its strategic priorities clearly in view, is the challenge for the next phase of the GCRO's trajectory.

11. Conclusion

There are indicators which signal that the GCRO is succeeding across a number of fronts: a clear track-record of salient outputs that communicate across a range of audiences, an ability to attract talented researchers from a variety of relevant fields of expertise, strong interest from counterpart initiatives internationally, and (perhaps most importantly) a deepening appetite from public sector agencies for its services.

Although the project has scored significant successes in pursuing its mission during its relatively short life, there are important avenues of development that still lie ahead. Among these would be, firstly, securing a deeper form of institutionalisation that would provide increasingly secure career-pathing for talented and seasoned researchers who are energised by the challenges of this domain of work and, secondly, an expanded methodological repertoire aimed at more effective knowledge flows and absorptive capacity in the public sector.

Crucial to its current and continuing success, however, have been a number of key characteristics that have enabled this hybrid, interstitial format to establish and sustain itself, and that will support its development into the future. At an organisational level, these have included:

- A carefully-negotiated constitution and set of expectations for the partnership that has enabled the project to steer through inevitable moments of ambiguity and conflict;
- The sustained core funding from GPG that has provided a secure and dependable platform for staffing and project planning; and
- Capacity, at both management and governance levels, to be innovative and resilient in giving shape to a relatively new field of practice and organisational form.

In terms of its intellectual work, it has succeeded in:

- Attracting talented researchers with the appetite and skills for the policy-relevant domain;
- Striking the balance between an independent scholarly credibility and the relevance required by government;
- Working in collaboration with other strong academic partners;
- Securing the trust and confidence of public sector partners;
- Producing carefully researched insight that has served the purposes of government agencies, academic publication, and wide public appeal; and
- Utilising a wide range of communicative modalities, some of them entirely innovative in the South African context, that make the research insights accessible in a variety of forms.

However, as the governance enterprise of the city-region takes on growing complexity and the GCRO responds selectively to this fluid and increasingly contested terrain, it will need to astutely expand its repertoire of work, build its network of collaborators, and come to grips with the methodologies of networked knowledge production – all the while signalling its independence and scholarly autonomy.

The challenges of cross-boundary knowledge exchanges are considerable, and it seems clear that a strongly structured and sustained platform like the GCRO stands as an exemplar that might inform similar initiatives elsewhere.

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13. Appendix

Gauteng City-Region Observatory outputs to April 2016

More information and full text of selected outputs can be found at http://www.gcro.ac.za/.

Books

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Major reports

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2. GCRO (2015). *Quality of Life Survey 2013: City Benchmarking Report.* GCRO Research Report, November 2015
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5. Schaffler, A. et al (2013). *State of Green Infrastructure in the Gauteng City-Region.* GCRO Research Report, July 2013
6. *GCRO Background report (2010) and OECD Territorial Reviews: The Gauteng City-Region, South Africa*, September 2011

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2. Mushongera, D (2015). 'GCRO Barometer 2014', *GCRO Occasional Paper 9*, April 2015
3. Bergmann, R. (2014). 'Towards More Effective Higher Education Collaboration for Development in the Gauteng City-Region', *GCRO Occasional Paper 8*, November 2014
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9. Greenberg, S. (2010). The political economy of the Gauteng city-region: a review of the literature, *GCRO Occasional Paper 2*, October 2010
10. Everatt, D. Gotz, G, Makgetla, N and Phakathi, S. (2010). Benchmarking city and city-region responses to the economic crisis, *GCRO Occasional Paper 1*, July 2010

Major online outputs

1. Wray, C and Katumba, S. (2016). *Ward profile viewer*, April 2016
2. Trangoš, G. (2015). *GCRO website*, August 2015
3. Katumba, S. (2015). *Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg and Tshwane data on the ESRI Urban Observatory website*, August 2015
4. Wray, C and Katumba, S. (2015). *GCRO GIS interactive viewer, 2nd generation*, August 2015
5. Mushongera, D. (2014). *GCRO Barometer 2014 (an interactive online visual tool with a detailed report, published as a GCRO Occasional Paper)*, August 2014
6. Phasha, P. (2014). *Scavenger economies of the mine dumps, GCRO online photo essay 2*, June 2014
7. Phasha, P. (2013). *Representations of a fluid spatial identity: the GCR in a photograph, GCRO online photo essay 1*, December 2013
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1. Arbix, G. de Toledo, D. Felizardo, R. (2012). *Brazil: Innovation and Development,* GCRO Provocation 2, October 2012
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1. Peberdy, S. (2015). 'Informal sector enterprise and employment in Gauteng', January 2015.
2. Peberdy, S. (2013). Gauteng: a province of migrants, June 2013
3. Nyar, A. (2013). Transformation of higher education for development in the GCR, March 2013
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5. Gotz, G. Mushongera, D. (2012). Key findings from Census 2011 for Gauteng, October 2012
6. Mushongera, D. (2011). Summary findings from the 2010 GHS Survey, October 2011

Surveys (data as output)

1. *Quality of Life Survey 4 (2015)*, 30 000 respondents. Dataset finalised April 2016
2. *Surveys of foreign migrant entrepreneurs and cross-border traders (2014)*, 2 837 interviews, completed November 2014
3. *Quality of Life Survey 3 (2013)*, 27 490 respondents, launched August 2014
4. *Quality of Life Survey 2 (2011)*, 16 729 respondents, launched July 2012
5. *Promises, expectations and residents' experiences of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup*, repeat panel survey of 200 micro-traders in June 2010, November 2010 and July 2011
6. *Quality of Life Survey 1 (2009)*, 6 636 respondents, launched May 2010

Policy support to government: major outputs only

1. *Socio-economic impact study for the Premier's e-tolls panel*, August-November 2014
2. *G2055*, strategic support over the period 2011-2013
3. *'Socio-economic trends' chapter for Gauteng Provincial Government's 20 year review / review of 2009-14 term of office*, March 2014
4. *Gauteng 2055: A discussion document on the long-term development plan for the Gauteng City-Region*, May 2012
5. *'Overview of the GCR' chapter for Gauteng Provincial Government's 2011/12 mid-term review*, February 2012
6. *Sports facilities audit baseline mapping and proposed method*, August 2011
7. *2011 Green Strategic Programme* (an eight month process that entailed the production of 9 background papers, 2 major consultative conferences, and the strategy itself authored by GCRO), June 2011
8. *Gauteng Growth Employment and Development Strategy (GEGDS)*, August 2011
9. *Strategy for a developmental green economy for Gauteng*, January 2010

Vignettes, maps of the month and interactive graphs

Vignettes

1. The quality of education in Gauteng, February 2016
2. Transforming transport in the Gauteng City-Region, November 2015
3. Informal sector cross border trade spending in Gauteng, October 2015
4. Xenophobic attacks - are migrants the only victims? May 2015
5. LGBTI attitudes in the GCR, March 2015
6. Social Isolation in the GCR, January 2015
7. Getting to work in the GCR (linked to interactive visualisation and map of the month), October 2014
8. Social Attitudes in the GCR, October 2014
9. Informal sector activity in the GCR, September 2014
10. Gauteng's bread and butter, April 2014
11. Marginalisation in the GCR, March 2014
12. Non-Motorised Transport, January 2014
13. Backyard housing in the GCR, December 2013
14. Living solo in Gauteng, June 2013
15. Comparative analysis of salaries for primary school teachers in the GCR, April 2013
16. Attitude towards gender based violence in the GCR, December 2012
17. Fuel use behaviour for households with electricity, October 2012
18. Quality of Life II Survey, July 2012
19. Geographic distribution of SARChI chairs, July 2012
20. Gauteng's green assets and infrastructure, June 2012
21. FIFA 2010 Economic legacy for micro-traders, April 2012
22. Gauteng 2012 Budget Highlights, April 2012
23. Gauteng's 50 Priority Wards, March 2012
24. OECD Territorial Review of the GCR, February 2012
25. Participation, Civil Society & Religiosity, December 2011
26. GDP Data for Gauteng, November 2011
27. Transformation in Higher Education in the GCR, October 2011
28. Green Stats, September 2011

Maps of the Month

1. Perceptions of mines and mining waste across Gauteng, March 2016
2. The quality of education in Gauteng, February 2016
3. Clusters of dissatisfaction with local government performance, January 2016
4. Gauteng's changing urban footprint 1990-2013, December 2015
5. Transforming transport in the Gauteng City-Region, October 2015
6. Where informal sector cross border traders sell their goods, September 2015
7. What is the biggest problem facing your community? August 2015
8. Quality of Life survey and service delivery protests, July 2015
9. Application of the GPEMF for informing the location of proposed mega-housing projects in Gauteng, June 2015
10. The location of planned mega housing projects in context, May 2015
11. Satisfaction with local government performance, April 2015
12. Best and worst performing public schools in relation to poverty, March 2015
13. Multidimensional poverty index for Gauteng (GMPI), February 2015
14. Socially isolated wards and gated communities in the GCR, January 2015
15. Look for work trips, November/December 2014
16. Getting to work in the GCR – trips to work by race, October 2014
17. Dissatisfaction with local government performance, September 2014
18. Quality of Life (QoL) index per ward, August 2014
19. Changing spatial inequality across the GCR, July 2014
20. Provincial voting results in the cities and 20 priority townships, June 2014
21. Provincial election results, May 2014 (b)
22. Voter registration, May 2014 (a)
23. Gauteng's Human Development Index, 1996-2012, April 2014
24. Gauteng-sized populations in South Africa, March 2014
25. Proximity of RDP housing in relation to major economic centres, February 2014
26. Household internet access in the GCR, January 2014
27. GTI housing and commercial/industrial growth, November/December 2013
28. Quality of Transport index, October 2013
29. Backyard structures in Gauteng, September 2013
30. 3D population density (Census 2011), August 2013 (b)
31. Population dot density (Census 2011), August 2013 (a)
32. The spoken diversity of Gauteng, July 2013
33. Building our green networks, June 2013
34. Defining the core and periphery in Gauteng, May 2013
35. Historical spatial change in the GCR (1991-2009), April 2013
36. Census 2011 Population by race, March 2013
37. Census 2011 population cartograms of Gauteng and South Africa, February 2013
38. Visualising Gauteng's green infrastructure network, January 2013
39. Grey vs. Green Infrastructure, December 2012
40. A comparison of housing settlement typologies using 2.5m land cover, November 2012
41. Movement into and within Gauteng's Metros, October 2012
42. Fragmenting Space: The Development of privately Governed Space in Gauteng, September 2012
43. 2011 GCRO QoL Survey: Origins of South African migrants, August 2012
44. 2011 GCRO QoL Survey: Origins of International migrants, July 2012
45. Growth in new industrial and commercial buildings (2001-2009), June 2012
46. Population density, May 2012
47. Agricultural activities in Gauteng, April 2012
48. Urban land cover (2009), March 2012
49. Hydrology of Gauteng: rivers, wetlands, dams, flood areas & flooding hot spots, February 2012
50. 2011 local municipal boundaries, January 2012
51. Dolomite intersection with adult population receiving social grants, November 2011
52. 2010 Population in the City of Joburg, October 2011
53. Economic activity across Gauteng, 2011
54. GCR Population by race - dot density map (Census 2001), 2010
55. The GCR: Gauteng and surrounding municipalities, 2010
56. GCR with population radius - dot density map (Census 2001 SAL), 2010
57. Gauteng's topography, 2009
58. Gauteng – provincial and local boundaries, 2009
59. GCRO 2009 Quality of Life Field survey map, 2009

Interactive visualisations

1. Transforming transport in the Gauteng City-Region, November 2015
2. Getting to work in the GCR (linked to vignette and map of the month), October 2014
3. FIFA 2010 research into the economic legacy for micro-traders, May 2012
4. House Prices, GDP and Civil Cases for Debt, 2007-2011, March 2012
5. Municipal Finances, January 2012
6. State of the Gauteng labour market, October 2011

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2. Mahomed, F. and Trangoš, G. (forthcoming 2016). 'An exploration of public attitudes towards LGBTI rights in the Gauteng City-Region of South Africa'. *Journal of Homosexuality* (in press)

3. Moore, R. (forthcoming 2016). 'Connective cognition: Transdisciplinarity in a precarious world'. *Quaderna* (in press).
4. Ballard, R. (forthcoming 2016). 'Development and governance'. Submitted to Douglas Richardson, Noel Castree, Michael F. Goodchild, Audrey L. Kobayashi, Weidong Liu Richard Marston (eds.) *The International Encyclopaedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology.* London: Wiley-Blackwell (in press)
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65. Wray C. (2012). 'Promoting g-government in the Gauteng City-Region (GCR)', PositionIT, March 2012
66. David Everatt was guest editor for a Special Edition of Politikon, 'Xenophobia and civil society', Politikon, 38(1). April 2011
67. Everatt D. (2011). 'Xenophobia, state and society in South Africa', Politikon, 38(1). April 2011
68. Nyar, A. (2011). 'Business as Usual: the response of the corporate sector to the May 2008 xenophobic violence', Politikon, 38(1). April 2011
69. Everatt D., Gwagwa L. (2011). 'Co-ordination and integration: The perpetually elusive grail of governance' in Plaatjies D. (ed) Future inheritance: Building state capacity in democratic South Africa, Jacana Press, Johannesburg
70. Gotz, G. Pieterse, E. Smit, W (2011). 'Design, limits and prospects of metropolitan governance in South Africa', published in Portuguese as 'Desenho, limites e perspectivas da governance metropolitan na Africa do Sol', Klink, J. (ed). Governanca das Metropoles: Conceitos, experiencias e perspectivas, Anna Blume, Sao Paolo
71. Everatt D. (2011). 'Class formation and rising inequality in South Africa: What does this mean for future voting patterns?', in Mbeki M. (ed.) Advocates of Change: How to Overcome Africa's Challenges, MacMillan, Johannesburg
72. Storie, M. (2011). 'Utilising disaster risk management as a sustainable spatial development planning tool'. Journal of the Disaster Management Institute of South Africa, September 2011, Volume 7
73. Wray, C. and van Olst, R. (2011). 'Maximising user acceptance as the underlying strategy for the development of an interactive website for South Africa's citizens', published in IEEE Africon 2011 Conference Proceedings, Zambia, 13-15 September 2011. (ISBN 978-1-61284-991-1)
74. Wray, C. (2011). 'Developing a Web 2.0 GIS website for the Gauteng City-Region', published in Proceedings of the 13th annual conference on World Wide Web applications, Johannesburg, 14-16 September 2011. (ISBN 978-0-620-51918-2)
75. Musango JK, Brent AC, Amigun B, Pretorius L & Müller, H (2011). 'Technology sustainability assessment of biodiesel development in South Africa: A system dynamics approach'. Energy 36: 6992-6940
76. Musango JK, Amigun B and Brent AC (2011). 'Sustainable electricity generation technologies in South Africa: Initiatives, challenges and policy implications'. Energy and Environment Research 1:124-138
77. Amigun B, Kaggwa M, Musango JK and Stafford W (2011). 'Africa's technology options for renewable energy production and distribution', in Energy Transition in Africa. Book launched during COP17, 28-30 2011
78. Everatt D. (2011). 'In remembrance of things past?', book review of Africa South: Viewpoints, 1956-1961, Editors: M J Daymond & Corinne Sandwith, University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, Durban.
79. Everatt D., Marais, H., and Dube N. (2010). 'Public participation in governance in Gauteng' Politikon
80. Everatt D. (2010). book review of Cardo M. 'Opening Men's Eyes: Peter Brown and the Liberal Struggle for South Africa' in the journal of the Helen Suzman Foundation
81. Phakathi, S. (2010). 'Workplace change and frontline supervision in deep-level gold mining: Managerial rhetoric or practice?', Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa, 72(73):181-204
82. Wray C. (2010) 'Working towards a successful Gauteng City-Region, PositionIT, Jan/Feb 2010, pp. 38-43
83. Phakathi, S. (2009) 'Planisa! Gold Miners' Underground Practices', South African Labour Bulletin, 33(5):13-15, December 2009
84. Everatt, D. (2009) 'Despatches from the 'war on poverty' in South Africa's poorest nodes, 1996-2006' in McLennan A. and Munslow B. (ed.s) The State and the Politics of Delivery in South Africa

Presentations

2016

1. Graeme Gotz (January 2016). (On behalf of the Brookings Institution) 'South Africa's global gateway: Profiling the Gauteng City-Region's international competitiveness and connections', Gauteng Economic Development Workshop, 28 January 2016.
2. Graeme Gotz (February 2016). 'Key human settlements questions and relevant (spatial) datasets for the GCR', Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency Human Settlements Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop, 25 February 2016.
3. Graeme Gotz (March 2016). 'Transport governance in the Gauteng City-Region'. GPG conference Transport Authorities, 9 March 2016.
4. Sally Peberdy (February 2016), Presentation to the Grocery Retail Commission Inquiry of the Competition Commission, Pretoria, 22 February 2016.
5. Sally Peberdy (March 2016). Invited panellist Gauteng Policy, Research and Strategy Forum, Johannesburg, 2 March 2016.

6. Guy Trangoš (April 2016). 'Visualising the Gauteng City-Region', University of Johannesburg, Bachelors of Technology Class, 7 April 2016.

2015

1. Caryn Abrahams (March 2015). 'Considering the business of social cohesion: relational equality vs. distributive equality', University of Pretoria, Department of Politics. Expert input on a project working group on 'Transitional justice and social cohesion', 19 March 2015.
2. Caryn Abrahams (July 2015). 'The myth of multiculturalism in the church: structural anti-racism', Jesuit Institute seminar on "Racism: The Conversations We Are Not Having", Parktown, 28 July 2015.
3. Caryn Abrahams (August 2015). 'Global anti-racism networks: structure, ethos and institutional makeup', Anti-Racism Network South Africa Workshop, Johannesburg, 1 August 2015.
4. Caryn Abrahams (August 2015). 'The future depends on now: Forecasting social attitudes', CANRAD Conference, "Non-racialism: Debates and controversies", Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, 29 August 2015.
5. Richard Ballard (April 2015) Panelist 'Middle Class, Consuming Class?' organised by the Wits 'Critical Research in Consumer Culture' network.
6. Richard Ballard (June 2015) Panelist for the Antipode-sponsored 'Institute for Geographies of Justice', Johannesburg.
7. Richard Ballard (August 2015). 'The policy idea of mega human settlements in Gauteng' Conference Organised by the Research Project on Employment, Income Distribution and Inclusive Growth, University of Cape Town, 17-18 August.
8. Richard Ballard (September 2015). 'A close reading of the policy: reasons, ambiguities and assumptions'. GCRO, Wits and Gauteng Department of Human Settlements half day symposium on Mega Human Settlements, Wits Staff club, 3 September.
9. Richard Ballard (October 2015). 'An ontology of aspiration' Aspiration, Belonging and Exclusion, WISER workshop, 7-8 October.
10. David Everatt (May 2015). 'Public perceptions regarding progress after one year in office', Gauteng Provincial Government EXCO Lekgotla, Velmore Estate, 27 May 2015.
11. David Everatt (March 2015) input to Gauteng provincial legislature 'Thought Leadership Series' on 'Reflecting on 20 years of Public participation', GPL, 3 March 2015.
12. David Everatt (February 2015) 'Public attitudes to key issues facing Gauteng', provincial Cabinet Lekgotla, Misty Hills Hotel, February 2015.
13. Kerry Bobbins (May 2015). 'Green growth transitions through a green infrastructure approach at the local government level', *ESCP Europe, Berlin*, 28 May 2015.
14. Kerry Bobbins (July 2015). 'Incorporating green infrastructure into Gauteng City-Region planning', Wits Global Change MSc Programme, Centre for Sustainability in Mining and Industry (CSMI), 22 July 2015.

15. Kerry Bobbins (June 2015). 'Promoting the provision of sustainable infrastructure through a green infrastructure planning approach', CSIR Sustainable Infrastructure Seminar, Pretoria, 25 June 2015.
16. Kerry Bobbins (August 2015). 'Incorporating green infrastructure into Gauteng City-Region planning', Solid Green, Johannesburg, 7 August 2015.
17. Kerry Bobbins (September 2015). 'Acid mine drainage and its governance in the Gauteng City-Region', South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Gauteng Province Executive Committee Quarterly Meeting, Johannesburg, 11 September 2015.
18. Kerry Bobbins and Christina Culwick (February 2015) presented 'Enhancing urban resilience through GI' at the launch of the DST/NRF Urban resilience thinking for municipalities, 16 February 2015.
19. Christina Culwick (May 2015). 'Green growth transitions through a green infrastructure approach at the local government level: Case study for the Gauteng City-Region', *International Conference on Innovation and Sustainability*, Ekurhuleni, 28 May 2015.
20. Christina Culwick (August 2015). 'Facilitating the uptake of a green infrastructure approach in municipal planning: the case of the Gauteng City-Region', Impumelelo Master Class in Public Service Excellence, Johannesburg, 13 August 2015.
21. Christina Culwick (August 2015). 'Green growth transitions through a green infrastructure approach at the local government level: case study of the Gauteng City-Region', West Rand District municipality Green IQ/ Climate change dialogue, Randfontein, 14 August 2015.
22. Christina Culwick (August 2015). 'Social justice and sustainability transitions in the Gauteng City-Region', RC21 Conference, Urbino, Italy, 28 August 2015.
23. Christina Culwick (September 2015). 'Green infrastructure in the Gauteng City-Region: Sustainable development and green job opportunities', Promoting Green Jobs in the Natural Resources Sector Course, DBSA, 10 September 2015.
24. Koech Cheruiyot (May 2015). 'Spatial statistical analysis of dissatisfaction with the performance of local government in the Gauteng City-Region, South Africa', *2nd International Conference on Applied Methods in Social Sciences: People, Goods and Regions in a Globalized World*, Poznan, Poland, 22-23 May 2015.
25. Claudious Chikozho (July 2015). 'Revisiting Africa's Political Economy Landscape: Comparatively Articulating the National Macro-Economic Policy and Institutional Trajectories of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe'. Paper Presented at the UNECA Regional Conference on Building Democratic Developmental States for Economic Transformation in Southern Africa, Pretoria, South Africa, 20-22 July 2015.
26. Chikozho, C. & Mushongera D. (September 2015). The Missing Link: Articulating the Disjuncture between Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion in the Gauteng City-Region. Paper & Poster Presented at the *World Social Sciences Forum, Durban International Conference Centre*, 13-16 September 2015.
27. Graeme Gotz (July 2015). 'The Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF)'. UCT Mphil in Development Policy & Practice, Cape Town, 1 July 2015
28. Graeme Gotz (July 2015). 'Urban development issues in the Gauteng City-Region'. National Treasury Pre-Budget Stakeholder Engagement Forum, Pretoria, 2 July 2015
29. Graeme Gotz (July 2015). 'Overview of the GCRO and its work', Johannesburg City Improvement District (CID) Forum, Johannesburg, 7 July 2015
30. Graeme Gotz (July 2015). 'Spatial inequality and financial sustainability in the Gauteng City-region'. National Treasury City Budget Forum, Pretoria, 8 July 2015.
31. Graeme Gotz (August 2015). 'Urbanisation and its implications: appropriate policy responses'. Isandla National Roundtable: Transforming the urban landscape, Cape Town, 27 August 2015
32. Graeme Gotz (October 2015). 'Overview of government and governance: with a focus on the Gauteng City-Region'. Visiting delegation of Indian civil servants on a study tour organized by the Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS), Johannesburg, 19 October 2015.
33. Graeme Gotz (November 2015). Panel member on a commission entitled 'New spatial paradigm for the GCR – Spatial restructuring and transformation', Gauteng Spatial Planning Summit, 24 November 2015
34. Samy Katumba (November 2015). 'Telling the story of the Gauteng City-Region through a map of the month' ESRI Africa User Conference, Cape Town, 11-13 November 2015
35. Samy Katumba (November 2015). 'A new age for web GIS applications in the GCR, Cape Town, 11-13 November 2015
36. Samy Katumba (November 2015). 'Telling the story of the Gauteng City-Region through a map of the month'. Geoinformation Society of South Africa (GISSA-Gauteng), Pretoria, 26th November 2015
37. Darlington Mushongera (May 2015). 'Caring Cities Barometer', special session at the Metropolis Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17 May 2015.
38. Darlington Mushongera (September 2015). 'The GCRO Barometer', Human Development Capability Association (HDCA) Conference 2015, Georgetown University, Washington D.C. 11 September 2015.
39. Sally Peberdy (March 2015). 'Perceptions Racism & Xenophobia in the GCR', Gauteng APRM Provincial Governing Council, Johannesburg 19 March 2015.
40. Sally Peberdy (April 2015). 'Migrant entrepreneurs in the City of Johannesburg', GCRO Brown Bag Lunch Seminar, 29 April 2015.
41. Sally Peberdy (May 2015). 'Xenophobia and the GCR', Gauteng Provincial Government EXCO Lekgotla, Velmore Estate, 27 May 2015.
42. Sally Peberdy (December 2015). 'Migrant entrepreneurs in the informal sector of Johannesburg', roundtable hosted by the Ambassadors of Sweden and the Federal Republic of Somalia, 8 December 2015.
43. Sally Peberdy (February 2015), 'Migrant entrepreneurs in the City of Johannesburg: negotiating xenophobia?' Institute of Security Studies seminar 'Xenophobia in South Africa: myths and realities,' Pretoria, 13 February 2015.

44. Sally Peberdy (February 2015) 'Migrant entrepreneurs in the City of Johannesburg' at GCRO/ACC/SAMP workshop 'Urban informality and Migrant Entrepreneurship in Southern African Cities', Cape Town, 9 February 2015.
45. Sally Peberdy (January 2015) participant in conversation 'Wits Responds to the Events in Soweto', Wit Business School, 30 January 2015.
46. Guy Trangoš (May 2015). 'Planetary Urbanism and the GCR', Department of Architecture, University of Johannesburg, FADA, 20 May 2015.
47. Guy Trangoš (October 2015). 'EcoMobility online survey interim results', EcoMobility Press Conference, City of Johannesburg, 30 October 2015.
48. Guy Trangoš (September 2015). 'Claiming Johannesburg: urban heritage and acts of symbolic appropriation', EUGEO 2015 conference, Budapest, 2 September 2015.
49. Guy Trangoš (August 2015). 'What Smart City?' Panel chair, Smart | City | Region Symposium, 26 August 2015.
50. Chris Wray (May 2015). 'GCRO Ward profile viewer', Gauteng Ntirhisano Service Delivery War Room, Midvaal, 21 May 2015.
51. Chris Wray (June 2015) 'The potential of an African Urban Observatory and mapping the way forward', African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum, CSIR Pretoria, 23 June 2015.
52. Chris Wray (August 2015) 'Analysing key challenges in the Gauteng City-Region (GCR) through a range of GIS outputs, applications and open data', GPG GIS forum, 27 August 2015.
53. Chris Wray (October 2015) 'Showcasing urban innovation through GCRO's urban data gallery', Partnership for Urban innovation Colloquium, Ekurhuleni, 1 October 2015.

2014

1. Chris Wray (November 2014) 'Open data + smart cities + smart province = smart city-region?', Joburg City Power IEC SEG 1 - Work Group 7 workshop, 25 November 2014.
2. Chris Wray was invited to speak on smart cities at the 'Common purpose global leadership student workshop on smart cities' at the City of Johannesburg, 27 November 2014.
3. Caryn Abrahams (February 2015), 'Strategic planning for social cohesion', *Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation*, 11 February 2015
4. Caryn Abrahams (February 2015), 'Non-racialism at a dead end? What do the surveys say?' *Kathrada Foundation Colloquium*, 7 February 2015
5. Caryn Abrahams (November 2014), 'South Africa 20 years after democracy'. *European Centre of the Mediterranean*. Barcelona, 22-26 November 2014
6. Christina Culwick (November 2014) presented 'Towards a GI Plan for the GCR' to the WRDM section 80 technical committee on infrastructure & transport, 11 November 2014
7. Caryn Abrahams (October 2014), 'Imagining the nation: 20 Years of nation-building in South-Africa', *Reconciliation in South Africa after 20 Years of Democracy* author workshop, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), 30 October 2014
8. Darlington Mushongera (October 2014), 'GCRO Barometer' at a conference *Beyond GDP: Innovative ideas on a regional dashboard*, hosted by the Governance Innovation Institute, University of Pretoria, 28-29 October 2014
9. Darlington Mushongera presented Quality of Life III to Sedibeng Municipality, 4 March 2015.
10. Sally Peberdy (October 2014), 'Social Protection and Cross Border Traders in the SADC', *Southern African Social Protection Experts Network*, 29 October 2014
11. Sally Peberdy (October 2014). 'Keynote address: Migration and Development' High Level Seminar Managing Migration for Development, *African-European Parliamentary Dialogue on Migration and Development*, AU & AWEPA, 3 October 2014.
12. Darlington Mushongera (September 2014), 'Crafting and managing water service in a polarised city – the case of Johannesburg', *Nordic Africa Days Conference*, Sweden, 26-27 September 2014
13. Darlington Mushongera (September 2014), 'Crafting and managing water service in a polarised city – the case of Johannesburg', Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA) workshop on *Political Economy / Public Choice Economics workshop*, Soweto Hotel, Johannesburg, 18-19 September 2014
14. David Everatt (September 2014), 'Youth 20 years into democracy: who cares?' *Youth work Symposium – Youth as Agents of Change & Transformation, Department of Practical Theology*, University of Stellenbosch, 4 September 2014
15. Kerry Bobbins (September 2014) 'Towards a guideline green infrastructure plan for the Gauteng City-Region'. Section 80 Committee: Environmental Management Meeting, West Rand District Municipality, 3 September 2014.
16. Christina Culwick (August 2014) 'Navigating the co-production process: Reflections from the Gauteng City-Region Observatory's Green Infrastructure Citylab'. RGS-IBG annual conference, 29 August 2014.
17. Co-authored poster (Kavesha Damon, Sally Peberdy& Chris Wray) 'Visualising core and peripheral areas in the Gauteng City-Region, South Africa' was shown at the RGS-IBG conference, London, 27-29 August 2014
18. Caryn Abrahams (August 2014), 'Envisaging and enacting the national project twenty years after democracy', RGS-IGB Conference, London, 27-29 August
19. Guy Trangoš (August 2014), chaired a panel discussion at the *Tshwane Urban Design Seminar*, 22 August 2014.
20. Graeme Gotz (August 2014), chaired a panel discussion on inner city regeneration at the *Tshwane Urban Design Seminar*, 22 August 2014
21. Kerry Bobbins (August 2014), 'Building a Green Infrastructure concept and process for the Gauteng City-Region, South Africa'. *International Geographers Union* (IGU) Regional Conference, 19 August 2014.
22. Darlington Mushongera (August 2014), 'GCRO Barometer', GCRO's *Quality of Life III launch event*, 14 August 2014

23. Kerry Bobbins (June 2014), 'Investigating the financial vulnerability of households to mine residue areas in the Gauteng City-Region, South Africa'. *Society of South African Geographers (SSAG) Conference*, 26 June 2014.
24. David Everatt (June 2014) 'Initial findings from the 2013 Quality of Life survey', Extended Provincial Cabinet Lekgotla, 19 June 2014.
25. David Everatt attended the *1994-2014: Twenty years of South African Democracy Conference* in Oxford, England (24-26 April 2014), where he gave three presentations:
    a. 'The state of the Gauteng City-region'
    b. 'Non-racialism in South Africa today'
    c. 'Politics, polling and social change in South Africa: The fight for Gauteng in Election 2014'
26. GCRO was well represented at the *Southern Africa City Studies Conference*, co-hosted by CUBES and the African Centre for Cities in Johannesburg from 27-29 March 2014:
    a. Kerry Bobbins presented a paper, 'Mapping green infrastructure networks of the Gauteng City-Region, South Africa', and participated in a panel on 'The Post-Mining Studio: Studio as collaboration; Studio as exploration';
    b. Christina Culwick chaired a session and presented a paper, 'Transitions to Non-Motorised Transport in the Gauteng City-region';
    c. Graeme Gotz and Chris Wray each presented on a panel on 'Spatial Transformations in Johannesburg: Materialities and Subjectivities in Urban Spatial Change';
    d. Graeme Gotz was discussant on a panel on 'Co-producing knowledge for tricky transitions: Urban experimentation and innovation in Cape Town';
    e. Potsiso Phasha presented his photo-essay 'Scavenger Economies of the Mine Dumps'.
27. Guy Trangos and Graeme Gotz (March 2015) presented on a panel, 'Mapping, Justice and Sustainability', at the *Columbia University Studio-X Johannesburg Launch*, 15 March 2014.
28. Kerry Bobbins (February 2014), 'State of Green Infrastructure in the Gauteng City-Region'. *JCP Valuing Natural Capital Dialogue*, 26 February
29. Kerry Bobbins (February 2014), 'Valuing green infrastructure and existing spatial data challenges'. *GCRO Citylab*, 20February
30. Kerry Bobbins (February 2014), 'Investigating acid mine drainage and its governance as part of the broader mining landscape legacy in the GCR'. *Post-mining landscapes of the Witwatersrand seminar*, 19February
31. Sally Peberdy (February 2014), 'Monitoring Small Scale Cross Border Trade in Southern Africa: Contributions, Costs and Opportunities' at the SAMP/GCRO/ACC/IMRC/IDRC workshop 'Urban informality and migrant entrepreneurship in Southern African cities, Cape town 10-11 February 2014.
32. Chris Wray (February 2014), 'GIS for spatial analysis and data visualisation in the Gauteng City-Region', *IEB teachers conference*, 1 February 2014
33. Christina Culwick (January 2014) 'GCR overview' for *UP Leadership in Urban Transformation course*, 29 January 2014

2013

1. Kerry Bobbins (December 2013), 'The legacy and prospects of the Gauteng City-Region's mining landscapes'. Sustainable Cities Conference, 4th December 2013
2. Christina Culwick (November 2013), 'A multidisciplinary approach to understanding disaster risk: the case study of flood disasters in Ekurhuleni' at the Southern African Adaptation Colloquium in Cape Town, 25 November 2013
3. Chris Wray (November 2013), 'GIS for spatial analysis and data visualization in the Gauteng City-Region', Statistics South Africa GIS day, Pretoria, 20 November 2013
4. Guy Trangoš (November 2013), 'Johannesburg: Dislocation | Fragmentation and An Introduction to the GCR / GCRO' , Opening of the Johannesburg component of the [In]formal City Berlin-Johannesburg Exchange, 18 November 2013
5. David Everatt (November 2013), 'State of the Gauteng City-Region2013', Gauteng Advisory Council, 15 November 2013
6. David Everatt (November 2013), 'GCR past, present and future', Gauteng SMS Conference, 14 November 2013
7. Kerry Bobbins (November 2013), 'State of the Green Infrastructure Report and GIS data constraints', CoJ user group and spatial information steering committee, 13 November 2013
8. Kerry Bobbins (October 2013), 'Investigating acid mine drainage and its governance in the Gauteng City-Region', GCRO Day / Launch of the 2013 State of City-Region Review, 25 October 2013.
9. Darlington Mushongera (October 2013), 'The GCR barometer', GCRO Day / Launch of the 2013 State of City-Region Review, 25 October 2013
10. Guy Trangoš (October 2013), 'New spaces of transport in the GCR: a Gautrain analysis' , GCRO Day / Launch of the 2013 State of City-Region Review, 25 October 2013
11. Christina Culwick (October 2013), 'Non-motorised transport in the GCR', GCRO Day / Launch of the 2013 State of City-Region Review, 25 October 2013
12. Chris Wray and Christina Culwick (October 2013) 'Spatial transformation across the Gauteng City-Region', Ahmed Kathrada Foundation's *"Lost in Transformation?" Conference*, 9 October 2013.
13. Chris Wray (September 2013), 'Smart cities + smart province = smart city-region?'. G2055 business lab, 17 September 2013.
14. Koech Cheruiyot (September 2013), 'Collaboration opportunities for spatial analysis and data visualization', StatsSA's Gauteng Isibalo Conference, Midrand, 16-17 September 2013.
15. Sally Peberdy (September 2013) 'Social protection for informal cross-border traders', inaugural international conference of the Southern African Social Protection Experts Network (also hosted by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung) *Social protection for those working informally: Social & income (in) security in the informal economy*, 16 September 2013

16. Graeme Gotz (September 2013), 'Socio-economic trends in the Cradle of Humankind' Wits colloquium on *Inclusive Economic Growth in the Cradle of Humankind*, 13 September 2013.
17. David Everatt (September 2013) 'What we know: the GCR today' Premier's Co-ordinating Forum, Springs, September 2013David Everatt (September 2013). 'Long-term quality of life analysis in Gauteng' to RC55 (Social Indicators Research Committee of the ISA) mid-term conference on Social Indicators, Hague, Netherlands, 12 September 2013
18. Graeme Gotz (September 2013), 'Resource crises and infrastructure transitions', Gauteng Planning Forum, 10 September 2013
19. Chris Wray (July 2013), 'Collaboration opportunities for spatial analysis and data visualisation in the Gauteng City-Region'. Wits School of Statistics & Actuarial Science lunchtime seminar series, 25 July 2013
20. Guy Trangoš (July 2013). 'Johannesburg: Dislocation | Fragmentation'. Brightest Young Minds Summit, Johannesburg, 25 July 2013
21. Sally Peberdy (July 2013), 'Internal and cross border migration in Gauteng focusing on the City of Johannesburg', City of Johannesburg Business Forum, 25 July 2013
22. Graeme Gotz, Alexis Schäffler and Kerry Bobbins (July 2013), 'Governing resource flows in the Gauteng City-Region'. Presented at the *19th International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRC19) Conference*, Spier Estate, Stellenbosch, 3 July 2013
23. Graeme Gotz (June 2013), Closing synthesis at Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) workshop Cities of Hope, 27 June 2013
24. David Everatt presented 'The GCR: What we know' to multiple audiences including the ANC and DA provincial caucuses over June and July 2013
25. Graeme Gotz (June 2013), 'West Rand social and economic trends and dynamics', West Rand Transformation Committee, 18 June 2013
26. Kerry Bobbins (May 2013), 'Beneath the surface: investigating Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) and its governance in the Gauteng City-Region (GCR)'. Presented at the Faces of the City Seminar Series hosted by the Wits School of Architecture and Planning, 14 May 2013
27. David Everatt (May 2013) was the keynote speaker at the ESRI South Africa Summit conference held at the Champagne Sports Resort, Drakensburg, 8-9 May 2013.
28. Graeme Gotz & Alexis Schäffler (April 2013), 'Conundrums of an emerging green economy in the Gauteng City-Region', at an international workshop at Royal Holloway, *London, Bearing the brunt of environmental change: understanding climate adaptation and transformation challenges in African cities*, 16-17 April 2013
29. Guy Trangoš (April 2013), 'Architecture and the City', Faces of the City Seminar, Wits University, 2 April at Wits University
30. Sally Peberdy (March 2013), 'Who was a real white South African? The South African state, whiteness and national identity', University of Johannesburg, *Whitewash 1: Negotiating whiteness in 21st century South Africa,* 19-20 March 2013
31. Annsilla Nyar (March 2013), 'A critical examination of anti-Indian racism', *India in Africa: new frontiers in South-South relations conference* hosted jointly by the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) in Tanzania and the Department of Political Science (Africana Studies and International Studies) at Vassar College, New York State, 15-17th March 2013 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
32. Alexis Schäffler (February 2013), 'Urban Age Electric City Report Back to DST / NRF Resilient Cities group', 14 February 2013
33. Alexis Schäffler (February 2013), 'The State of Green Infrastructure in the Gauteng City-Region', Gauteng Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan Workshop, 8 February 2013
34. Graeme Gotz & Alexis Schaffler (February 2013), 'Conundrums for an emerging green regional economy: The Gauteng City-Region', KZN Green Growth Conference, ICC Durban, 5 February 2013

2012

1. Josephine Musango (November 2012), 'Modelling green economy', *1st National Conference on Global Change*, Birchwood Conference Centre, 26-28 November 2012
2. Graeme Gotz and Chris Wray (November 2012),'Demographic modelling and the implications of the results from census' and 'Modelling urban spatial change: a preliminary review of South African Initiatives' respectively, joint workshop on *Spatial and demographic modelling for G2055*, arranged by GCRO and the Gauteng Planning Commission, 23 November 2012
3. Josephine Musango (November 2012), 'Understanding and measuring urban metabolism: the GCR perspective', AFD-Wits Roundtable, *Sustainability in Johannesburg and its wider metropolitan region*, 7-8 November 2012, on her research
4. Sally Peberdy (October 2012), 'A province of migrants? Internal and cross border migration in Gauteng', African Centre for Migration Studies, Wits University, 30 October 2012.
5. Sally Peberdy (October 2012), 'Migration & migration policy: Reflections on migration & xenophobia in the GCRO Quality of Life Survey II', Ahmed Kathrada Foundation Annual Conference, Unity and Diversity: What does it Mean for Nation-building and Non-racialism, 12 October 2012
6. David Everatt (October 2012), 'The black middle class and the future of politics in South Africa', Brazil/Indian/South Africa workshop on the nature and role of middle classes in emerging democracies, funded by the CDE, Sao Paulo, Brazil, October 7-11.
7. Annsilla Nyar (September 2012), 'Nation-building, Africanism and the 2010 FIFA World Cup: what did they do for social cohesion in post-apartheid South Africa?' Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies (CUBES) seminar, 26 September 2012.
8. Alexis Schäffler (September 2012), 'Sustainably managing storm water in Johannesburg', NRF/GCRO/CUBES Faces of the City Seminar Series, 25 September 2012

9. Annsilla Nyar (September 2012) successfully presented her PhD proposal 'An examination of anti-Indian racism in post-apartheid South Africa', to an open meeting of the Department of Political Studies at Wits University, 13 September 2012.
10. Maryna Storie (August 2012), 'Acid Mine Drainage: facts and future', CUBES seminar, 16 August 2012
11. Graeme Gotz and Chris Wray (July 2012), 'The GCRO's 2011 Quality of Life Survey: early transport analysis', presented to a GPG Department of Roads and Transport workshop on the proposed 25-year transport master plan, 12 July 2012 (slides for this presentation were prepared by Prof Christo Venter and added to by Graeme Gotz and Chris Wray)
12. Annsilla Nyar (July 2012), 'Some new perspectives on Indian South Africans and non-"racialism", 22nd World Congress of Political Science 'Reshaping Power and shifting boundaries' of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), Madrid, 8-12 July 2012
13. Alexis Schäffler (June 2012),'Green infrastructure trends and research in the Gauteng City-Region', CUBES Urban Sustainability Theme Roundtable Discussion, 28 June 2012
14. Josephine Musango (June 2012), 'GCRO's metabolic flows and infrastructure transitions work', CUBES Urban Sustainability Theme meeting held at School of Architecture and Planning, Wits University, 28 June 2012
15. Maryna Storie (June 2012), 'The choices we make determine the path we take: vulnerability of low income settlements in the GCR', City of Johannesburg Disaster Management Advisory Forum, 22 June 2012
16. Sally Peberdy (June 2012), 'Making a home? Migrants in the Gauteng City-Region (GCR)' *Society of South African Geographers Conference*, Cape Town, 22 June 2012.
17. Josephine Musango (June 2012), 'Conceptual foundations and approaches to urban metabolism assessment', GCRO-ACC-SI workshop, 13-15 June 2012, Stellenbosch
18. Josephine Musango, Alexis Schaffler, Darlington Mushongera, and Maryna Storie (June 2012), 'Towards assessing the metabolism of Gauteng City-Region', GCRO-ACC-SI workshop, 13-15 June 2012, Stellenbosch
19. Alexis Schäffler (June 2012), 'Green infrastructure trends and research in the Gauteng City-Region: Head in the Clouds – Reflections on managing storm water as a resource', GCRO-ACC-SI workshop, 13-15 June 2012, Stellenbosch
20. Graeme Gotz (June 2012), 'Infrastructure transitions in Jo'burg – failing to use a crisis?' GCRO-ACC-SI workshop, 13-15 June 2012, Stellenbosch
21. Maryna Storie (June 2012), 'Intersections between disaster risk and settlement types', GCRO-ACC-SI workshop, 13-15 June 2012, Stellenbosch
22. Chris Wray, (June 2012), 'A city-regional observatory perspective: GCRO spatial data initiatives, GCRO GIS website & g-government ', *South Africa Geospatial Forum conference*, 6 June 2012
23. Maryna Storie (June 2012) 'Acid Mine Drainage in the Gauteng City-Region: some of the facts and concerns', City of Johannesburg Ward Councillor Meeting, 1 June 2012

24. David Everatt, (May 2012), 'Quality of Life in the Gauteng City-Region: 2011 findings', GPG Lekgotla, 22 May 2012
25. Maryna Storie (May 2012) 'Intersections between sustainability and vulnerability in the Gauteng City-Region: the role of the GCRO', South African National Disaster Management Centre and the World Bank: Disaster Management Specialist Unit for East Asia & the Pacific Infrastructure, 11 May 2012
26. David Everatt, (April 2012), 'Youth as a 'ring of fire", Wits Colloquium responding to the NPC, 25 April 2012
27. Maryna Storie (April 2012), 'Dolomite issues in the Gauteng City-Region: preparing for community engagement', Workshop with community leaders of the Protea South settlement and land planners, 13 April 2012.
28. Alexis Schäffler (April 2012), 'Green infrastructure research in the Gauteng City-Region', Virginia Tech-GCRO Research Visit, 11-12 April 2012.
29. Alexis Schäffler (April 2012), 'Green infrastructure research in the Gauteng City-Region', MIT-GCRO Research Visit, 4 April 2012.
30. Graeme Gotz, (April 2012), 'Secondary cities: criteria for segmentation – indicators and data', The Differentiated Approach to Local Government: "South Africa's Secondary Cities" Launch & Conversation, South African Cities Network (SACN) and SALGA, 3 April 2012
31. Maryna Storie (March 2012), 'Dolomite risk in the Gauteng City-Region', Gauteng Provincial Department of Local Government and Housing: Provincial Cross-boundary Forum, 28 March 2012

2011

1. Alexis Schaffler, Graeme Gotz& Josephine Musongo (November 2011), 'Current Research and initiatives for a Green Gauteng City-region', SACN, DBSA Infrastructure Dialogues, Infrastructure and Greening the Future, 16 November 2011
2. Josephine Musongo, Alexis Schaffler& Graeme Gotz (November 2011), 'Current Research and initiatives for a Green Gauteng City-region', SACN and DBSA Infrastructure Dialogue on Infrastructure and Greening the Future, 16 November 2011
3. David Everatt presented an overview of the Gauteng City-Region to the ANC Caucus, Gauteng Legislature
4. Annsilla Nyar (October 2011), 'Inside or Outside the Academy: Examining the Possibilities for a Scholarship of Engagement', University of Fort Hare/Rhodes University/ NRF/HSRC/ conference, Community Engagement: The Changing Role of Higher Education in Development, 7-10 November 2011
5. Maryna Storie successfully presented her PhD proposal to the WITS School of Architecture and Planning and external readers on 3 November 2011. The proposal is due to be formally submitted on 5 December 2011
6. Graeme Gotz (October 2011), 'Green economy transitions: Gauteng's Green Strategic Programme', South African National Bio-Diversity Institute (SANBI) Grassland Forum conference on Powering the Green Economy, 19 October 2011
7. Annsilla Nyar (October 2011), 'Some new perspectives on 'Indian' South Africans and 'non-racialism': Findings from the AKF/GCRO Focus Groups', Ahmed Kathrada Non-racialism Conference: Non-racialism in post-apartheid South Africa: Contemporary meanings and relevance, 13 October 2011
8. Chris Wray (September 2011), 'Developing a Web 2.0 GIS website for the Gauteng City-Region', 13th annual conference on World Wide Web applications, Johannesburg, 14-16 September 2011
9. David Everatt presented a summary of GCRO's work to the winter political school of the tripartite alliance Provincial Executive Committees in September 2011
10. Maryna Storie (September 2011), 'Addressing urban disaster risk and resilience through a green lens', National Disaster Management Institute of South Africa (DMISA) Annual Conference, Somerset West, 13-16 September 2011
11. Maryna Storie (September 2011), 'Representations of space: a case of karst, community and change in the urban landscape', ACC/CUBES Cities Conference, Cape Town, 7-9 September 2011
12. Graeme Gotz (June 2011), 'Understanding and preserving metropolitan governance', presentation to Metros: the key to South Africa's Growth Roundtable, organised by the Municipal Demarcation Board, 9 June 2011
13. David Everatt served on a panel which included Deputy Minister Yunus Carrim, Aubrey Matshiqui and others, convened by the Helen Suzman Foundation, to discuss the state and future of local government on the eve of the local government elections held in May 2011
14. Graeme Gotz and Alexis Schaffler (May 2011), 'Gauteng's green economy strategy', presentation to a conference organised by the national Department of Economic Development, as part of a panel on the 'Green Economy: case studies of technology developments in South Africa', 30 May 2011
15. Graeme Gotz and Chris Wray (May 2011), 'The Gauteng City-Region and transportation analysis', preparatory workshop on the Mobility Project with UJ Departments of Civil Engineering Science and Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies, 12 May 2011
16. David Everatt, (May 2011), 'The developmental state on the ground: Co-ordination and integration in South African governance' presented at a workshop on States, Development and Global Governance at the University of Wisconsin Law School, May 2011
17. Chris Wray (April 2011), 'GCRO GIS website development – lessons learnt', GeoInformation Society of South Africa (GISSA) AGM, 8 April 2011
18. David Everatt, Graeme Gotz, Alexis Schaffler and Maryna Storie (March 2011), 'Overview of GCRO's sustainability work', Comparative Dialogue on Sustainable Infrastructure Transitions and Governance, African Centre for Cities (ACC) and the Sustainability Institute, 31 March 2011

19. Maryna Storie delivered (with his permission) Prof T McCarthy's Provocation Series presentation on Acid Mine Drainage in the GCR to a variety of groups, including: DMISA Southern Region Annual General Meeting; DMISA Tshwane Region General Meeting; and the Roodepoort Emergency Services
20. Chris Wray (February 2011), 'GCRO spatial data initiatives, GCRO GIS website & co-ordinated national SDI", National Planning Commission SDI workshop, Union Buildings, Pretoria, 17 February 2011
21. Ferrial Adam, Alexis Schaffler and Maryna Storie (January 2010), 'Implementation of a Green Economy Approach', Workshop on Local Government and the Green Economy, 17 January 2011
22. Graeme Gotz and Alexis Schaffler (January 2010), 'Understanding the green economy', Workshop on Local Government and the Green Economy, 17 January 2011

2010

1. Chris Wray (November 2010), 'Enabling successful G-Governance through the development of a web 2.0 GIS website for the Gauteng Provincial Government', Map Africa 2010 conference, Cape Town, 23-25 November 2010
2. Annsilla Nyar (October 2010), 'Accommodating Diversity and Migration in African Cities: the Gauteng City-Region in Perspective', 15th International Metropolis Conference: Justice and Migration: Paradoxes of Belonging, The Hague, Netherlands, 4-8 October 2010
3. Graeme Gotz (October 2010), 'Bad buildings in Inner City Johannesburg', GCRO, CUBES and NRF Chair 'Faces of the City' Seminar Series, 5 October 2010
4. David Everatt (September 2010), 'The Challenges of Creating Inclusive, Democratic City-regions in Post-Apartheid South Africa', African Studies seminar, University of Wisconsin: Madison, September 2010
5. Maryna Storie (September 2010), 'Utilising disaster risk management as a sustainable spatial development planning tool', Disaster Management Institute of South Africa National Conference, Port Shepstone, 8 September 2010
6. David Everatt (August 2010), 'Non-racialism in South Africa', seminar, Centre for Critical Research into race and Identity, UKZN, August 2010
7. David Everatt (May 2010), Marginalisation in the Gauteng City-Region: First steps towards measurement, African Centre for Cities & CUBES: South African Cities Conference, (May 2010)
8. David Everatt (May 2010), 'Quality of Life in the Gauteng city-region', survey launch, 27 May 2010
9. David Everatt (May 2010), 'The GCRO: current and future work', presented to the Management Committee of the University of Johannesburg, May 2010
10. Graeme Gotz (May 2010), 'What did the 2006 Inner City Regeneration Charter represent?', Johannesburg Development Agency seminar on Inner City regeneration, Halala Awards, 12 May 2010
11. Graeme Gotz (May 2010), 'Selected extracts from GCRO's Quality of Life Survey', ANC Gauteng Region Symposium on Local Government, 3 May 2010
12. David Everatt (April 2010), 'The GCRO: current and future work', presented to Senior Executive Team, Wits, April 2010
13. David Everatt (March 2010), 'The state of xenophobia in South Africa today', presented to Atlantic Philanthropies breakaway, Mount Grace, March 2010
14. David Everatt, Chris Wray and Graeme Gotz (March 2010), 'The City-Region now', Think Metropole workshop – how large city-region thinking and action have been changing in diverse ways, Wits School of Architecture & Planning, 4 March 2010
15. David Everatt (February 2010), 'What is non racialism – past and current debates', Deepening non-racialism conference, Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, Liliesleaf Farm, 27 February 2010
16. Chris Wray (February 2010), 'Working towards a successful Gauteng City-Region: the role of GIS in the GCRO', GISSA Gauteng AGM, Centurion, 25 February 2010

2009

1. Graeme Gotz (November 2009), 'Transformation of Human Settlements', DBSA internal learning session, Midrand, 27 November 2009
2. Annsilla Nyar (November 2009), '"Re-inventing the Foreigner': Critical Reflections of Identity Politics in South Africa", to be presented to the South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS) Colloquium, 19-20 November 2009, University of KwaZulu-Natal
3. David Everatt (November 2009): 'Access to services, social cohesion and xenophobia', presented to National Department of Social Development national conference on social cohesion and xenophobia, Pretoria
4. Chris Wray (November 2009), 'The GCRO: Changing the way GIS data is visualized and accessed in the Gauteng City-Region', Geo-Information Society of South Africa (GISSA), North-West inaugural meeting, Potchefstroom, 12 November 2009
5. Graeme Gotz (November 2009), 'Making local government work better: City structures and governance', DBSA Knowledge Week, Midrand, 4 November 2009
6. David Everatt (October 2009), 'Think Metropole, Think … city-region, Think … democratic space or planner's wet-dream?', Think Metropole Workshop, Wits School of Architecture & Planning, Johannesburg, 22 October 2009
7. Graeme Gotz (October 2009), 'Visualisations? infrastructures? institutional conditions?', Think Metropole Workshop, Wits School of Architecture & Planning, Johannesburg, 22 October 2009
8. Chris Wray (October 2009), 'The GCRO: Changing the way GIS data is visualized and accessed in the Gauteng City-Region', GIMS User Conference, Drakensburg, 21-23 October 2009

9. Graeme Gotz (October 2009), 'Possibilities for planning the South African City', Wits School of Architecture & Planning Beyond Modernism workshop to launch the UN Habitat Sustainable Cities Report, Johannesburg, 21 October 2009
10. Graeme Gotz (October 2009), 'On walls – safety in the South African city', Goethe Institute, GTZ and CSIR Seminar on Cracking Walls, Johannesburg, 6 October 2009
11. Graeme Gotz (September 2009), 'Spatial development outcomes in South African cities', World Bank and National Department of Human Settlements Workshop, Pretoria, 29 September 2009
12. David Everatt (September 2009) 'Class, nationalism and non-racialism: the search for convergence', presented to the 'Yusuf Dadoo Centenary Conference: Marxism, non-racialism and the shaping of South Africa's liberation struggle', University of Johannesburg, September 2009
13. David Everatt (July 2009), 'The Gauteng ANC election campaign: data and implications', P&DM, Wits
14. Sizwe Phakathi (June/July 2009), 'Worker reactions to the stope team incentive scheme: Manufacturing consent or conflict?' South African Sociological Association's (SASA) Annual Conference, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 28 June - 2 July 2009.
15. Sizwe Phakathi (June 2009), 'Race and the changing nature of work in the South African gold mining workplace.' Hard Labour: Sociology and the Transformation of Working Life, A Colloquium in Honour of Professor Edward Webster, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 27-28 June 2009.
16. David Everatt (April 2009) presented on GCRO to South African Cities Network: Indicators Reference Group

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