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Creating new urbanism in Africa: urban-to-rural migration in Angola and Mozambique

V CONFERÊNCIA INTERNACIONAL DO IESE: DESAFIOS DA INVESTIGAÇÃO
SOCIAL E ECONÓMICA EM TEMPOS DE CRISE

*V IESE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
RESEARCH IN TIMES OF CRISIS*

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Introduction

- (Still being) recognised potential of cities
- New dynamics taking place (communication and mobility, new opportunities)
- Need to understand emergent towns' potential for development
- Need to understand urban-to-rural migration

The new normal

- UNFPA 2007: unleashing the potential of urban growth
- SDG 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- New Urban Agenda: Urbanization as a driving force as well as a source of development

Changing context: urban congestions

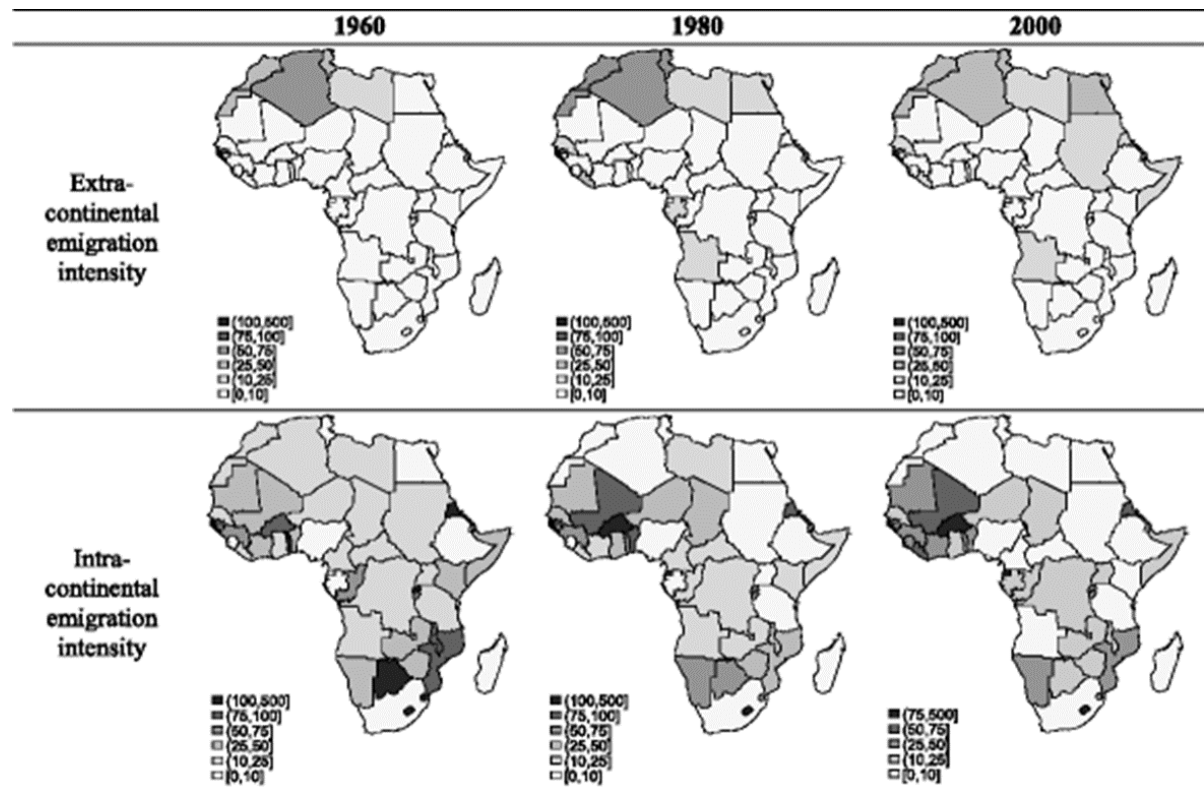
- Poverty
- Slums
- Unemployment



Mobility and communications

- African mobility is an important aspect of urbanisation patterns and conditions

(Potts, 2010; Simone, 2011)



Flahaux & De Haas, 2016

New investments

- extraction of natural resources
- major road and transportation investments combine with favourable global trade conditions and with local informal and illegal business dynamics (e.g. borders)
- development of a core activity, like tourism



Emergent towns

- UN-Habitat's *The State of African Cities 2010*: larger cities – more than one million inhabitants – typically absorb on average only 25 percent of countries' urban growth while intermediate-size and smaller cities attract the significant balance of about 75 per cent.

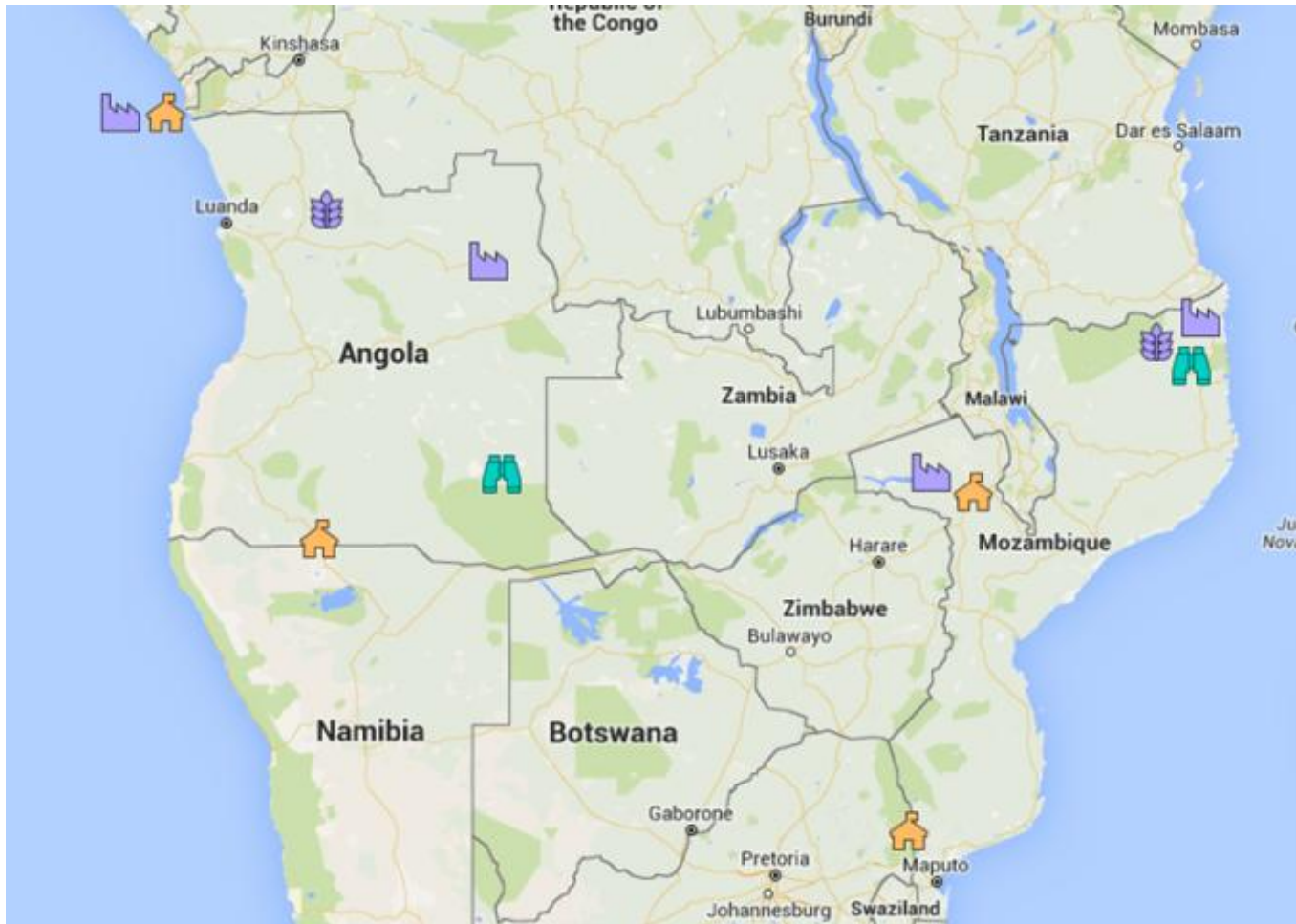
New urbanism

- New dynamics involving both the private and government enterprises in the rural areas gradually attract, voluntarily and involuntarily, urban dwellers and rural migrants to new forms of settlement

(Agergaard, Fold, & Gough, 2009; D. F. Bryceson, 2011; D. Bryceson & MacKinnon, 2012; Dobler, 2009)



Case studies



Rural new towns in Angola and Mozambique

- **Forced by civil wars**

Usually refugee areas; many located at border regions; forced immobility

- **Facilitated by mobility and interconnections**

Nodes and joints; regional traffics; corridors

- **Accelerated by new economic or infrastructural elements**

Mining; agribusinesses; tourism

Potential for development of emergent towns

- State
- Large-scale and small-scale private
- Urban migrant dwellers



Urban migrants

- Agri-businesses: skilled urban workforce
- Extractive and energy industries: skilled urban workforce
- Border trade: urban entrepreneurs, businessmen
- Tourism: skilled urban workforce



Continued pluri-residence and circulation

- I stay in town half of the time and the other half I stay in Luanda or in the off-shore platform (J, 29 male, technical staff, Soyo, 27/4/2016)
- I have a job here but also in Namibia; I travel between places during the week
(VCS, 40 male, priest and teacher, Santa Clara, 4/5/2016)

Expectations of infrastructure

- The state is responsible for the growth of cities (DN, 41 male, businessmen, Soyo, 27/4/2016)
- The population goes where the basic conditions are created (EC, 35 male, teacher, Santa Clara, 4/5/2016)



The more investment, the more likely to stay

- I finished building my house in 2012; this neighbourhood was a bush before now it is all nice houses (EZ, 29 male, technical staff, Soyo, 27/4/2016)
- I am already used to being here (DMK, 40 male, teacher, Santa Clara, 4/5/2016)



Making and changing life-styles

Places in the countryside 'become culturally more similar to large urban agglomerations', leading to a visible 'rural transformation' (Berdegué, Rosada & Bebbington, 2014: 1).

- Young people of Soyo progressed; the mentality is new (J, 29 male, technical staff, Soyo, 27/4/2016)
- Initially, Santa Clara was a market and settlement; but now it is more organised and the houses are better (IM, 38 female, trader, Santa Clara, 5/5/2016)



Conclusions

- Need to address the new urban
- Identifying local conditions for urban emergence and growth and their potential for development
- Investigating the dynamics of urban-to-rural migration

Thank you!

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