Urban livelihoods, institutions and inclusive governance in Nairobi: ‘spaces’ and their impacts on quality of life, influence and political rights
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Citation for published version (APA):

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Acknowledgements

This Ph.D. is rooted in my earlier work with international NGOs and as self-employed on issues concerning the slums of Nairobi between 1994 and 1999. Upon returning to the Netherlands and next to working as an advisor and programme manager with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, I started pursuing my Ph.D. as an external candidate. Little did I know, however, of the ins and outs of such an undertaking. The combination of various employment and its changing contexts often offered a welcome alternation. Sometimes it was not easy and taking time to continuously switch between Kenyan and Dutch realities. Other times it led to mutual strengthening of concepts and the integration of parts of both worlds. But most of all, it gave me the satisfaction of dedication to the lives and times of the people in the slums. Overall, I have been happy to work on ‘it’, although last year’s writing was a real marathon and makes me yearn for a more balanced personal life and new directions.

My sincere gratitude to my promoter, professor Isa Baud, for honouring my wish to pursue a Ph.D. as an external candidate and being my supervisor on this journey. I deeply appreciate her continuous encouragement for further improvement, ever stronger linking of abstract analysis with detailed empirical observations and relating with people, while offering space for exploring my own path. The more so, when taking into account the consequences of my time constraints. She probably chose the best way of not making me finish this study prematurely, by never bringing up the issue, being patient, flexible and acting whenever requested. Talking about flexibility, I especially enjoyed our informal meetings at Leiden station, which often also was a more convenient setting for personal exchange.

Of course, there would have been no study at all without the generous support of many people in Kenya. I am very grateful for the sharing on issues as well as the building of personal relationships alongside that I am sure I can still rely on for many years to come.

My deepest gratitude to my former colleague and friend at SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, Patterson Kuria Gathuru. I am very grateful for the extra time we have had to deepen our friendship. I deeply value his remarkable wisdom, support and non-judgemental attitude towards other people, also in cases when I was not at my best, while seeing the relations beyond and the broader picture of people’s lives. I will always cherish the inspiring tea drinking moments, together and with other people, in which we shared on work and all those things that make life.
Thank you so much to all the research assistants: Sammy Chagal, Mary Kahingo, Pauline Wanjiku, Seline Odhiambo, Erastus Karaogo, Mercy Karogo, the late Charity Gatari and the late George Onyi. I have really enjoyed our time together, your sincere commitment and motivation. To two of you I would like to draw some extra attention. Thank you to Erastus Karogo for his humour and funny ways of talking, although sometimes a bit rough, while curiously innocent and disarming; but also for his investigative work nature, creativity, commitment and, somewhat amazing ability to make a group atmosphere. Thank you to Sammy Chagal for his warm-heartedness towards people and for taking the responsibility to go the extra mile for a successful completion of the research on livelihoods in Mathare Valley slums. I am happy we still shared one holiday together visiting Magadi areas.

My deepest gratitude to the men, women, and children from Mathare Valley slums for their hospitality and sharing so openly about their personal lives, livelihoods and hardships. Fortunately, as I had been working in the area before, I did not have too many scruples to do a call on their scarce time. Their amazing strength, resilience and perseverance, as well as the pleasant roughness, will always remain with me and strengthen my heart.

My deepest gratitude to all people who contributed to the research on access to peri-urban land and tenure. I thank Samuel Chege, Felix Mutanguli and Mr. Mwandime for their cooperation and commitment to make the research on the Bellevue Housing Cooperative a success. Thank you to Ingrid Munroe who eventually agreed on me visiting the Kaputiei New Town site and sharing with professor Elijah Biamah on Jamii Bora’s conflict with the state, despite the risks of loss of critical information. I am happy that finally the realisation of having a daughter who used to be in the same position made her opt for trust in human interrelations. Memories of my trip to Kitengela with Ken Otieno and our late night chill in Dandora are still fresh in my mind! Thank you to the women of Wapenda Afya Bidii, to James Watheru and the other Ghetto members, to Ezekiel Rema Oeri of Toi Market traders and to Samuel Kihara and Joseph Muturi Gitau of Shangilia Baba na Mama. I am grateful to Jane Weru, Florence Midudu and Irene Karanja of Pamoja Trust for their organisation’s natural commitment to exchanging views and sharing information. I also acknowledge the support of various people at NACHU, KENSUP, UN-Habitat, Mavoko SNP programme, Ministry of Lands and Housing, and KUSCCO.

I am also very grateful to all people who contributed to the research on the invited spaces of city-wide governance networks in Nairobi over the years. These include key informants at ministries, provincial administration, City Council of Nairobi, private sector associations, residents associations, international donors, NGOs, CBOs and civil society associations. Confidentiality partly holds me from mentioning all their names. To name but a few: Elijah Agevi formerly of ITDG East Africa, Eric Makokha of Shelter
Forum, Wendy Taylor formerly of DFID, Josiah Omotto of Maji na Ufanisi, of Action Aid, J.M. Waiganjo, Christine Ogut and assistant town clerk P.G.M Kamau of the City Council of Nairobi, Emmy Mbwanga and Rose Okoth of the Ministry of Local Government, Joseph Ngugi and Clive Davis of DFID PROLOGS at the Ministry of Local Government and the former also of the City Council of Nairobi. Special thanks are also due to Jacqueline Resley of umbrella residents association We Can Do It for her inspiring conversations and controversial views on governance and stakeholder relations in Nairobi.

Although the results of the preparatory research on collectively claimed spaces in (non-formal) education and solid waste management have not been worked out yet, I am indebted to all people who contributed to it. I thank all the head-teachers and teachers of the participating informal schools, the late Bernard Nonga and George Mikwa of the Elimu Kwa Wanavijij Coalition, members of the Elimu Yetu Coalition, Teresia Wambui Gathenya and Paschal Makite at the Ministry of Education, and Conny Nyatta of Unicef. Thank you also to the leaders of the solid waste management community initiatives, the members of the civil society coalitions on solid waste, supply and demand side actors in compost, Andrew Macharia Gakunju who founded the City Garbage Recyclers, professor Nancy Karanja of the University of Nairobi, Mary Njenga of formerly Urban Harvest/CIP, David Kuria of Practical Action, Leah Onyake of CCN Environmental Department, and people of Taka ni Pato and the National Environment Management Authority.

I also acknowledge the assistance by the staff in various copy shops and smaller micro-enterprises as well as the staff and attendants at various libraries such as HABRI-University of Nairobi, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, AMREF, Practical Action, The British Library and CBS. Thank you also to the many remarkable anonymous persons, such as the taxi driver with his amazing skills of continuously observing third level interdependency in the heavy traffic.

I am indebted to the people at the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Nairobi for affiliation. Although the fieldwork periods were intensive and did not offer a lot of time to exchange knowledge and views at the institute, the affiliation was especially instrumental in facilitating access to senior levels of government and private sector institutions. Many thanks to professor and former director Dorothy McCormick, Winnie Mitullah and other academic staff. Thanks to Charles Njuguna for dealing efficiently with bureaucratic barriers to affiliation. I hope there will be future opportunities to build on our relations.

Although I (have) pursued my Ph.D. as an external candidate, I am grateful for the contacts, relations and support of many colleagues at AMIDSt, University of Amsterdam. I deeply appreciate the culture of openness, exchange of ideas, mutual support and linking. These include fellow PhD researchers Hebe Verrest, Magali Chelpi, Maartje Van Eerd, Niels Beerepoot, Anne Karanja,
Edith van Ewijck, Edith de Meester, and Koen Kusters. In addition, I am thankful for the statistical support from Sjoerd de Vos and for the creation of the location map by Karin Pfeffer and Els Veldhuizen. I appreciate the willingness of the AMIDSt management to look for opportunities to facilitate me given my limitations in time. Thank you to Barbara Lawa, the ICT department and the secretariat for the timely facilitation of practical issues related my external candidate status. I thank Alizia Kamani for carefully correcting my English.

I am grateful to Jan Koster at Erasmus University of Rotterdam for our discussion, in the Spring of 2003, on methodological and statistical suggestions for the article on urban livelihoods in Narobi. Special thanks to Sharon Welsh at the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) for her continuous effort to provide instant access to literature and giving cordially to many people. Unfortunately, a large group of people are still excluded from regular and continuous access to journals and literature, especially on the African continent, but also closer to home.

I am grateful for the support I received from various institutions in different stages of the project: WOTRO Global Science for Development financed most of the fieldwork periods. The University of Amsterdam financed some fieldwork and printing. It also financed association with the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Nairobi. Last but not least, I very much appreciate the flexibility of my respective direct managers and directors Irene van Munster and Jacco Post, as well as Flora van Houwelingen and Johan Maas my managers at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, who gave me the opportunity to go on fieldwork for three-month periods every year. I am sure this will serve as example behaviour to do the same for other people, whenever I will be in the position.

Finally, I thank my former wife Esther Kuria for the good and happy times we had in Kenya as well as in the Netherlands. Last but not least, I am deeply grateful to my late mom and dad for their continuous love and support and shaping the basic forms of who I am. My mom has been ‘my greatest fan’ during last year’s marathon writing. It’s unfortunate that she has passed away so soon after I finished this work. The quietness of her passing away leaves me with a clear mirror reflecting future challenges in being kind and sincerely interested in other people.