



**POLITICS AND  
COMMUNITY-BASED  
RESEARCH**

Perspectives from  
Yeoville Studio, Johannesburg

EDITED BY  
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## Politics and Community-Based Research

### Perspectives from Yeoville Studio, Johannesburg

Edited by Claire Bénit-Gbaffou, Sarah Charlton, Sophie Didier,  
Kirsten Dörmann

*Politics and Community-Based Research: Perspectives from Yeoville Studio, Johannesburg* provides a textured analysis of a contested urban space that will resonate with other contested urban spaces around the world and challenges researchers involved in such spaces to work in creative and politicised ways.

This edited collection is built around the experiences of Yeoville Studio, a research initiative based at the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Through themed, illustrated stories of the people and places of Yeoville, the book presents a nuanced portrait of the vibrance and complexity of a post-apartheid, peri-central neighbourhood that has often been characterised as a 'slum' in Johannesburg. These narratives are interwoven with theoretical chapters by scholars from a diversity of disciplinary backgrounds, reflecting on the empirical experiences of the Studio and examining academic research processes. These chapters unpack the engagement of the Studio in Yeoville, including issues of trust, the need to align policy with lived realities and social needs, the political dimensions of the knowledge produced and the ways in which this knowledge was, and could be used.

#### About the Editors

Claire Bénit-Gbaffou is an associate professor at Aix-Marseille University and a visiting researcher at the Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies (CUBES) in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

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#### Key words

Social Sciences Methodology; Developmental Studies of Human Geography; planning research and education; urban planning and urban studies

Dedicated website for the book's research

<https://www.wits.ac.za/yeovillestudio/>

This website complements the book and focuses on academic reflections on the Studio, by adding more detailed stories, more diverse voices and images to the book's stories.

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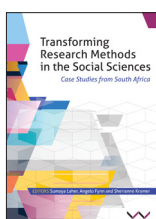
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