1. Record Nr. UNINA9910346055603321 Heer Barbara Barbara Heer, Universität Basel, Schweiz Autore Cities of Entanglements: Social Life in Johannesburg and Maputo Titolo Through Ethnographic Comparison / Barbara Heer Pubbl/distr/stampa Bielefeld, : transcript Verlag, 2019 **ISBN** 9783732847976 3732847977 9783837647976 3837647978 9783839447970 3839447976 Edizione [1st ed.] 1 online resource (340 pages) Descrizione fisica **Urban Studies** Collana Classificazione LB 72585 Disciplina 960.33 Soggetti **Urban Anthropology** Johannesburg Maputo **Urban Studies** Segregation Diversity Neighbourhood **Shopping Malls Urban Religion** Africa South Africa Mozambique **Enclaves** Encounter Entanglements Urbanity City Ethnology Sociology Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Materiale a stampa

Monografia

**Formato** 

Livello bibliografico

Nota di bibliografia

Nota di contenuto

Includes bibliographical references.

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Sommario/riassunto

How do people live together in cities shaped by inequality? This comparative ethnography of two African cities, Maputo and Johannesburg, presents a new narrative about social life in cities often described as sharply divided. Based on the ethnography of entangled lives unfolding in a township and in a suburb in Johannesburg, in a bairro and in an elite neighborhood in Maputo, the book includes case studies of relations between domestic workers and their employers, failed attempts by urban elites to close off their neighborhoods, and entanglements emerging in religious spaces and in shopping malls. Systematizing comparison as an experience-based method, the book makes an important contribution to urban anthropology, comparative urbanism and urban studies.

»Das Buch ist [...] für all jene Stadtforscher\_innen geeignet, die an African urbanism interessiert sind oder nach neuen theoretischen Konzepten als Werkzeuge kritischer Stadtforschung suchen.« »The book is an invaluable contribution to urban anthropology and to urban studies in general, and will prove useful more widely across the humanities and social sciences.«

Besprochen in:ORLIS, 1 (2020)www.kommunalweb.de, 1 (2020)

»This very well-written book [...] addresses a number of critical questions to both urban studies and anthropology in doing so. This capacity and willingness to engage conventions within the two disciplines makes the book important, highly readable, and valuable to scholars well beyond those interested in the cities of Maputo and Johannesburg.«