



## AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

MACERATA 17 -20/09/2014

**TITLE: Informal trading policy in the Inner City of Johannesburg**

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**ABSTRACT:** The paper explores the policy-making process and the real governance of informal trading in the Inner City of Johannesburg and highlights the different and contradictory empirical models of informal trading management which result from the interplay of multiple and plural local actors on the ground. The argument is that Johannesburg municipal authorities react rather than governing informal trading in the streets of the Inner City without following a clear and consistent strategy, despite the production of a mass of documentation and policies. This asymmetric governance, on the one hand, ends up reproducing and reinforcing historical constraints and discrimination against informal traders, confining the majority in unmanaged and congested areas of the inner city where they are excluded from a full access to social and economic citizenship. On the other hand, new models of management, mainly driven by the private sector, emerge on the ground integrating a minority of street traders in the City Improvement Districts (CIDs).

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