

LAND FOR SALE. TRANSACTIONS, INEQUALITIES, MOBILIZATIONS.

WORKSHOP
JULY 2-3, 2026
PARIS 13TH

DIALOGUES
FROM THE PERIPHERIES
OF AFRICAN METROPOLISES.



The peripheries of African metropolises are today one of the main fronts of global urbanization. In a context of some of the fastest urban growth in the world—where the continent's built-up area has nearly doubled since 1990 and close to one billion additional urban residents are expected by 2050—the rural outskirts of cities are becoming strategic spaces where major transformations in land ownership and land use are taking place. Far from being mere transitional zones, these areas constitute a shifting and heterogeneous urban edge, shaped by uneven levels of land artificialization, buildings at various stages of completion, diffuse forms of speculation and land hoarding, and rapidly evolving land tenure systems.

These two days workshop, organized at the conclusion of the ANR METROLAND project, aim to revisit the main findings of four years of collaborative research devoted to these transformations. Based on fieldwork conducted in the peripheries of Nairobi (Kenya), Dakar (Senegal), and Bamako (Mali), the project shows that the production of habitable land and housing involves a plurality of actors with unequal capacities and diverse interests. Transactions, subdivisions, re-legitimation of rights, and plot reconfigurations are key mechanisms driving the accelerated commodification of peri-urban land. This perspective helps renew the understanding of African suburbanization processes, beyond analyses focused solely on large-scale development projects, real estate production, or international capital.

Structured around thematic roundtables, this workshop will provide a space for collective discussion on contemporary urbanization dynamics in sub-Saharan Africa: land markets and value chains, the sociology of property, socio-spatial inequalities, conflicts and mobilizations around land, and the habitability of these transitional territories. The workshop will be held with simultaneous English-French interpretation.

www.metrolandproject.org



THURSDAY, JULY 2

8h45 : Tea and coffee welcome for participants

9h-9h15 : Origins of the Workshop and Tribute to Éric Denis

9h15 - 11h : Round Table « **Land Use and Land Dynamics : Cartographic Approaches, Geomatics and AI** »

With Cathy Chatel (CESSMA, METROLAND), Jean-Philippe Lestang (IGN-FI), José Luis San Emeterio (Africapolis)

Moderation Momar Diongue (UCAD, METROLAND)

11h15 - 13h : Round Table « **Negotiating land. Individual and Collective Dynamics** »

With Arthur Bertucat (Nanterre Université-Mosaiques), Fatoumata Camara (USSGB, METROLAND), Claire Simonneau (Gustave Eiffel-EUP, METROLAND)

Moderation Dennis Muthama (Nairobi University)

13h - 14h : Lunch Break

14h -15h45 : Round Table « **Capitalism, Land Ownership, and Urban Forms** »

With Bérénice Bon (IRD-CESSMA, METROLAND), Armelle Choplin (Université de Genève, METROLAND), Corten Pérez-Houis (UMR Géographie-cités)

Moderation Monique Bertrand (IRD-CESSMA, METROLAND)

Screening of *Plot Twist. City on Hold*. Marine Frantz (UMR Géographie-cités)

16h30 - 17h30 : Discussion with the audience

17h30 : Cocktail Reception and Exhibition Tour: Photographs and Posters from Bamako, Dakar, and Nairobi

FRIDAY, JULY 3

8h45 : Tea and coffee welcome for participants

9h - 10h45 : Round Table « **Peripheries in the Making : Plots, Buildings and Access to Services** »

With Momar Diongue (UCAD, METROLAND), Sylvy Jaglin (Gustave Eiffel, EUP), Dennis Muthama (Nairobi University)

Moderation Marie-Hélène Zérah (IRD-CESSMA)

11h - 13h : Round Table « **Habitability and Inequalities in Metropolitan Peripheries** »

With Laurent Bazin (CNRS-CESSMA), Monique Bertrand (IRD-CESSMA, METROLAND), Claire Mercer (LSE)

Moderation Bérénice Bon (IRD-CESSMA, METROLAND)

13h - 14h : Lunch Break

14h -16h : Round Table « **Mobilizations for Land and the City** »

With Chloé Buire (CNRS-LAM), Mamadou Kouma (USSGB, METROLAND), S.A. Lahat Ndiaye (UCAD, METROLAND)

Moderation Philippe Lavigne Delville (IRD-SENS, METROLAND)

16h15 - 17h15 : Discussion with the audience

17h15 - 17h30 : Closing Remarks for the Two-Day Workshop

Room 105

Building Olympe de Gouges (n°10 on the map)

Université Paris Cité campus

Métro : Ligne 14 et RER C , station "Bibliothèque F. Mitterrand"

Bus : Lignes 62-89-325, terminus "Porte de France"

Tram : Tram T3 arrêt "Avenue de France"

For catering arrangements, please kindly confirm your attendance at : berenice.bon@ird.fr

