Informality, security and neighbourhood development in downtown Kingston

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Core themes

Urbanisation

Security

Tenure

Formalisation

Social sustainability: security and urban governance

Sovereignty and hybrid governance
Urban context

• 1950 – 86 cities over 1 million
• 2015 – 550 cities
• 2/3 expansion absorbed by urban areas
• 95% demographic growth in urban south (UN Habitat 2010)
• young, urban, low income

Cities are the sites to lead sustainable initiatives (Hodson and Marvin 2004)

Urban adaptation and resilience
What is a sustainable city?

- Awareness of urban impact on a region
- Accountability and responsibility for increasing consumption
- Local Agenda 21
- Mixed use and diversity
- Compact development
- Urban hydrological cycle
- Renewable energies
- Sense of place – ‘community’
- Walkable; sustainable transport
Mapping social transition: from the colonial to postcolonial city

Kingston Metropolitan Region, Jamaica
Orange Street, Kingston

Source: Duperly & Sons, c. 1915
King Street, Kingston

Source: Duperly & Sons, c. 1915
Cartogram to represent the quality of housing across the Kingston Metropolitan Region, 2001

Legend

Housing classification
- No data
- 1st Quintile
- 2nd Quintile
- 3rd Quintile
- 4th Quintile
- 5th Quintile
Urban violence: roadblock to development

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<th>Region</th>
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Jamaica: US$ 529m per year public/private costs to fight youth crime

US$ 4.3m investment loss per year (US$ 95m diverted tourism)

Youth crime costs 3.21% GDP per year
Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke

Tivoli Gardens, Kingston, Jamaica
May 2010

‘Shower Posse’
Alleged links with political parties

Extradition to US
Garrison communities

Stone (1975) first introduced ideas of the garrison as a term for specific downtown Kingston communities.

Figueroa (1994: 2) describes the garrison:

one in which anyone who seeks to oppose, raise opposition to or to organise against the dominant party would definitely be in danger of suffering serious damage to their possessions or person, thus making continued residence in the area extremely difficult if not impossible.
‘One murder every six hours!’

Homicide figures

746 Jamaicans have been murdered since January.
555 were killed by the gun.
69 women are numbered among the murder victims.
49 persons were killed last week.
167 homicides were recorded in May - the highest for any month this year.
157 persons were killed in March.

The Gleaner
23rd August, 2005
‘Bloody start to 2009: Thirteen killed in 48 hours’

The Gleaner
4th January, 2009

The killings have spoiled efforts by the National Transformation Programme (NTP) and the Peace Management Initiative (PMI) to have a crime free January.
‘Death is a lively business - Bargain hunters make a killing in funeral industry’

Death is a familiar face in Kingston and St Andrew and it seems to have free rein, forever stalking the nation's capital. So it should come as no surprise that the business of taking care of the dead is thriving in the metropolis… It’s a very competitive industry right now, so you have to make it attractive at affordable costs.

The Gleaner
26th March, 2009
Reported violence

13th November, 2001: Government announced 1,146 violent deaths that year (800 in 1980 during the election):

981 by gunmen
135 by police
18 by civilians
3 by Jamaica Defence Force
Rose Town Federation

‘No man’s land’ – microcosm of political & social divides

2009 formalisation of tenure programme
– DFID, USAID, Prince’s Foundation
– 12 years
– 60% success; 12 leases
Formalisation of tenure

Ordinary cities (Robinson 2004)

Informality not ‘separate’, but a mode of organising cities (Roy 2005)

Formalisation – access to capital (de Soto 1985/2004)

Focus on tenure – security & mobility of capital
Sovereignty and security

Rights to the city

Sovereignty – restriction of rights; regulation

Hybrid governance – informal / formal

Locality – external actors
Concluding comments

Long-term empirical and ethnographic survey

Urban fabric /social design

Secure foundations: shelter, access to resources; community

‘New urbanism’