**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR CONTRIBUTION TO A BOOK**

**Densification: Plans, practices and realities in Greater Johannesburg**

Over the last two decades, there have been increasing calls by multi-lateral organisations, academics and practitioners, to densify cities, citing a range of potential benefits, from climate proofing, to resilience, and lessening city spending during times of financial austerity. Most recently, the New Urban Agenda, and Sustainable Development Goal 11, have included goals for inclusivity and the right to the city, which have been interpreted in some quarters to mean increased densification and more “efficient” use of urban space. Such thinking has meant that a number of countries and cities around the world, have adopted a range of densification and densification-related policies, to try affect such changes. The outcomes have been uneven: densification policies have not always been fully implemented and where they have, there have been a wide range of outcomes, not all of them necessarily beneficial.

Johannesburg, unlike many other cities, is densifying, the drivers of such densification are myriad but seem to include: informal processes and a markets enabled by a loosening of planning controls (Todes, et al, 2017) and arguably the influence of state policies such as the Corridors of Freedom. However, simultaneously, there have also been areas within the city-region, which have experienced de-densification. These divergent processes, bear investigation and exploration, as such the NRF SA&CP and the School of Architecture and Planning, are calling for contributions to a book project that explores the theme of densification. The proposed book will look specifically at international policy experience regarding how density has been managed, both cases that have tried compaction/densification policies, but also some examples of trying to manage high density through changing spatial form and de-densification and the consequences of such approaches. In Johannesburg, the book hopes to explore the processes of densification (and sometimes de-densification too) across the city, how it happens, its drivers, effects, experiences and if and how policy has or has not addressed it.

The current structure of the book has three proposed sections: the first section will look at the international framing of densification; examining international debates on densification, and the current sets of policies, practices and programmes as well as their consequences from cities around the world. The second section, will look specifically at processes of densification (and de-densification) in Johannesburg, the policy responses to such processes and Johannesburg’s densification from a comparative perspective. The last section, will explore Johannesburg’s Corridors of Freedom as a case study of Transit Oriented Development and densification as a policy response.

As such, we are requesting short abstracts as indications of interests in producing work for the proposed publication. Contributions could take the form of longer academic chapters, shorter vignettes to add narratives and texture, as well as, any design or creative work that could be published in a book format. The above list is not comprehensive and we are also interested in proposals that are related to the above but perhaps have not been mentioned or we have not thought of.

If you are keen to contribute, please could you submit a 300-400 word abstract, to Alexandra.Appelbaum@wits.ac.za by the 20th of October, indicating, what type of contribution you would like to make i.e. academic chapter, vignette or creative work, as well as your affiliation and contact details.

Should your abstract be selected the proposed timelines for submissions are quite tight, with an initial workshop to take place in early December 2017 for authors to present chapter outlines (either in person if Gauteng based or via skype etc if from elsewhere) and first drafts will be expected in April 2018 and final revised chapters at the end of July 2018.