



The Post-Global City: Rethinking Urban Interconnectedness in the 21st Century

Speaker: Associate Professor Katrien Pype
KU Leuven

Chair: Assistant Professor Allen Xiao
Department of Geography, NUS

Date/Time: 26 August 2026, Wednesday at 3.30pm

Place: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,
Geography Earth Lab, AS2 #02-03

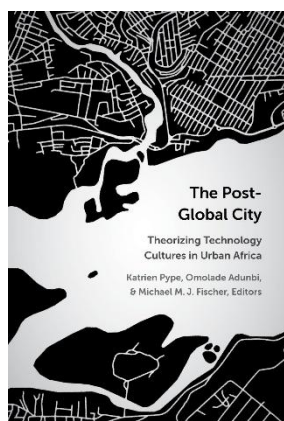
Abstract:

This talk is an introduction to the new OA book volume *The Post-Global City: Theorizing Technology Cultures in Urban Africa*, which emerged from a shared concern that many of the conceptual frameworks through which we have understood globalization, urbanization, and cosmopolitanism no longer adequately capture the transformations taking place in cities across the world.

For more than three decades, the notion of the “global city” has been a powerful paradigm for understanding how urban centers are integrated into transnational circuits of finance, governance, migration, and culture. While this framework generated important insights, the contributors to this volume ask what happens when the conditions that sustained globalization become increasingly fragile, contested, and uneven. Rather than assuming the continued expansion of global connectivity, the book examines urban worlds shaped by disruption, uncertainty, infrastructural breakdown, political fragmentation, environmental crisis, and new forms of inequality.

The concept of the “post-global city” does not imply that globalization has ended. Instead, it draws attention to the ways cities are reconfigured in contexts where global ambitions, networks, and imaginaries are being renegotiated. Through ethnographic case studies from Africa, the chapters explore how urban residents, institutions, and infrastructures respond to these shifting conditions. The volume foregrounds everyday practices of adaptation, survival, aspiration, and world-making that often escape macro-scale analyses of urban development.

The book offers an invitation to reconsider established spatial concepts and scales of analysis. It asks how urban futures are being produced in a world characterized not only by mobility and connection, but also by interruption, exclusion, and uncertainty. More broadly, *The Post-Global City* contributes to ongoing debates about urban transformation by emphasizing the multiplicity of ways cities remain globally entangled while simultaneously confronting the limits and contradictions of globalization itself.



About the Speaker:

Katrien Pype is Associate Professor of Anthropology at KU Leuven, where her research examines urban life, media, infrastructure, and processes of social transformation. Her work explores how people navigate rapidly changing urban environments through engagements with technology, religion, popular culture, and media. She has co-edited the OA volumes "Cryptopolitics: Exposure, Concealment, and Digital Media" (2023, Berghahn Books, with V Bernal and D Rodima-Taylor), and "The Post-Global City: Theorizing Technology Cultures in Urban Africa" (2026, University of Michigan Press, with O Adunbi and M MJ Fischer). She has co-initiated the CongoResearchNetwork, and co-coordinates the Commission for Digital Anthropology (UIAES) and the Medianthro for the European Association of Social Anthropologists.

Light refreshments will be served 30 minutes before the seminar.
