

## Youth on the Move: Performing Urban Space in the Global South



Setup for the Slum Party, Lagos, 2023

### About the roundtable discussion

This round table session shares the first part of the year-long research project Youth on the Move with scholars at the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP). Youth on the Move was initiated by scholars Ying Cheng (African culture studies) and Min Tang (Southern urbanism), and Anuj Daga (Mumbai based architect-curator). It received the [Urban Seminar Series 2023 Award](#), the second leg of which shall be co-hosted by the IFP. The project seeks to investigate forms of urbanity that youth produce on the move - focusing on emerging socio-spatial practices of young people in African and Asian contexts, and examines their modes of moving and meaning-making through an embodied politics of performance. It aims to offer alternative understanding of practices, and imagination of public, urban space, youth to highlight the complex nature of contestations and negotiations of southern cities, in turn, decolonising knowledge production.

Over June-July 2023, the researchers conducted the African workshop “Performing the City: Youth, Popular Arts and Social Movements in Urban Africa” in Lagos, Nigeria. The workshop was conceived as a collaborative exchange between Lagos based art groups with young artists from Kenya and India. It brought the above artists in dialogue with interdisciplinary scholars over a performance tour across spaces of different communities in Lagos. This session will reflectively summarise the experiences of the African workshop, while taking the opportunity to introduce and launch the upcoming second part of the research programme that includes:

1. The two-part virtual lecture series that focuses on a conceptualisation panel “The Time and Space of Youth: Situating Youth in Southern Cities”, along with a more practice oriented panel “Life on the Move: (Im)mobility and Daily Practices of the Youth”; and
2. The early career scholars’ workshop in Asia titled “Doing Mobile Ethnography – Learning from the Other ‘Other’”, invites Southern scholars whose ethnographic research and practices are in another Southern context. This sub-programme will be organized in collaboration with the Social Sciences Department of the French Institute of Pondicherry.

**Project Website:** <https://asiaafricayouth.wixsite.com/youthonthemove>

## SCHEDULE / Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023

09:00 am - 10:00 am Internal Coordination meeting with IFP  
10:00 am - 11:00 pm YOTM Seminar (With Min Tang and Ying Cheng online)  
11:00 pm - 11:30 pm Tea Break  
11:30 am - 12:30 pm Open Discussion with staff and IFP-affiliated scholars

## BIOS



### **Anuj Daga**

Assistant Professor, School of Environment & Architecture, University of Mumbai, India

Research field: visual culture and meaning-making in the contemporary built environment in South Asia, decolonisation, social design

Anuj Daga is an architect, writer and curator based in Mumbai. Trained as an architect from Mumbai (2008), he went on to pursue his interests in History & Theory of Architecture at Yale School of Architecture, Yale University (2014). His practice is informed by diverse engagements in fields of design, research and academia that have resulted into numerous roles as writer, critic, commentator, theorist or interlocutor in the cultural field. He has keen interest in studying the processes of visual culture and meaning-making in the contemporary built environment in South Asia. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor at the School of Environment & Architecture, Mumbai.

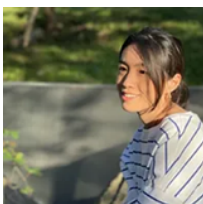


### **Min Tang**

Research Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University, Shanghai, China

Research field: Global South Urbanism, Public space, Youth and everyday mobility, Critical cartography

Obtained a PhD in Architecture from the KU Leuven (Belgium) and a PhD in Geography from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France), her research interest lies in the decolonial and situated knowledge production of the urban, through critical examinations of moving human bodies, planning ideas and city-making practices. The aim is to understand how these moves trigger localised institutional and grassroots practices that continuously territorialise urban peripheries. She conducts multi-sited activities across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe with multi-linguistic working ability (EN, FR, JP, CN).



### **Ying Cheng**

Assistant Professor, Department of Asian and African Languages and Cultures, Peking University, Beijing, China

Research field: Youth and popular culture in Africa, African visual and performance arts

Her research interests include youth and popular culture in Africa, African visual and performance arts, cultural interactions between China and Africa, and so on. Dr Ying Cheng has also been a research associate (Arts of Africa and the Souths) of Rhodes University, South Africa since 2017. In recent years, she has published articles in African Arts, Journal of African Culture Studies, Routledge Handbook of African Literature, African Theatre, and so on.