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Cities in a World of Cities: The comparative gesture

Jennifer Robinson

Jennifer Robinson is Professor of Urban Geography at the Open University in the UK and has also worked at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, and the LSE in London. She has published widely on South African cities, especially on the spatiality and politics of apartheid and post-apartheid cities. Her most recent book, *Ordinary Cities* (Routledge, 2006) offers a post-colonial critique of urban studies.

15:00, Tuesday, Dec. 11th 2007
Geoffrey Manton Building, GM Lt4
MMU campus: Oxford Rd./Rosamond St. W.

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Why has urban studies, an intrinsically comparative field with an urgent need for thinking across different urban experiences under globalisation, come to be so restricted in the range of cities it attends to? Why do the currently available practices of formal comparative urban research actively reinforce this? Reviewing existing strategies for comparing cities, Robinson considers the potential for comparative methodologies to overcome these constraints to meet growing demands for an international, and properly post-colonial, urban studies.



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