

Beyond the Post-Apartheid City: De/Segregation and Suburbanization in Windhoek, Namibia*

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ABSTRACT:

Following the demise of apartheid in Namibia and South Africa in 1990 and 1994 respectively, urban practitioners as well as academics writing on the subject have aimed to address the well-documented geography of apartheid. Post-apartheid urban development strategies, as most urban practitioners and scholars agree, need to contribute to overcoming the social divisions and spatial marginalization produced and naturalized by apartheid urban planning policies. How these legacies should be overcome is, however, a matter of contention. Using the example of Namibia's capital city, Windhoek, this paper illuminates the extent to which post-apartheid urban planning policy strategies have redressed the socio-spatial marginalization of the black and colored majority. Specifically, this paper examines the ways Windhoek residents, the city's urban practitioners, and academics writing on the subject approach the exclusionary spatial legacies of apartheid. Given the continuing fragmentation of the city form and the reproduction of its concomitant structural inequalities, future municipal strategies could aim to reverse these trends by targeting "integration."

Key words: Namibia, urban, post-apartheid, integration

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