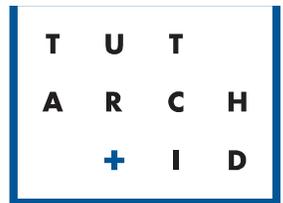




Tshwane University
of Technology
We empower people



Professor Amira Osman
SARCHI: DST/NRF/SACN
Research Chair in Spatial Transformation
(Positive Change in the Built Environment)

Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment
Department of Architecture & Industrial Design

TUT ARCHITECTURE DOCTORAL AND POST-DOCTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FEBRUARY 2021

Applicants are invited to join the

SARCHI: DST/NRF/SACN Research Chair in Spatial Transformation (Positive Change in the Built Environment)

at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in Pretoria (key partner: Centre for Applied Research and Innovation in the Built Environment (CARINBE), University of Johannesburg).

Applicants must submit a one-page research proposal, a CV and a brief motivation that addresses the aims of the Chair (as presented below) as well as the list of requirements presented. Applications must be submitted to Prof Amira Osman, osmanaos@tut.ac.za

Background to the Chair in Spatial Transformation and CARINBE:

Both institutions are located at the heart of their respective cities; the cities of Pretoria and Johannesburg are considered as a microcosm of a larger context, advantageous in addressing a spatial transformation agenda; the unique locations offer laboratories where direct engagement with the dynamics that make up the DNA of the two cities will play out. The function of the chair will align with and deepen existing research activities at both institutions as well as build new partnerships and commit time and resources to building up national and international partnerships. The Chair will be working closely with colleagues in Brazil, India and other countries of the global south, considering cities with similar socio-economic conditions to those in South Africa. The Chair will focus efforts at strategic high-level decision-making to project-level interventions and their impact on spatial transformation.

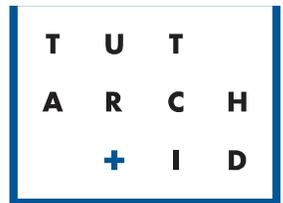
The Chair will have an impact with regards to transformation in the Built Environment (BE) (in its totality and in its diverse scales):

- how power and control manifest in the BE – this impact will be demonstrated in a tangible manner as far as possible.
- how transformation is reflected in morphology, infrastructure, networks, services, spatial planning, design, technology, transport, resource efficiency and urban management and BE interventions
- the actors and decision-makers that negotiate and act on different levels
- how these relate to social, cultural, financial and management factors

In its first five years, it is anticipated that a significant impact on debates on spatial transformation will be made by the Chair. A unique lens will be introduced which enables a deeper understanding of the BE. The Chair has a broad view of transformation, believing that every aspect of it is interconnected. While the creation of a more equitable society, reflecting different races, genders and socio-economic groups is important, it is also important to acknowledge transformation of thinking and practice, education (content and methods) and professional regulation. The work of the Chair is firmly focused on achieving livable and lovable cities.



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The legacy of Apartheid and the disadvantage that came about is still evident; technology and space are never neutral. The BE professions have remained disengaged, isolated and elitist. Many aspects of South African cities were meticulously conceptualised by BE professionals who served a particular political dispensation and thus can only be “undone” through targeted spatial restructuring and complex, multi-disciplinary interventions.

The BE professions are many times complicit in practices that disempower, humiliate, restrict opportunities, destroy livelihoods, damage ecosystems, and disrupt economic networks, deepening conflict and reinforcing divisions. Opening up the BE professions to people from diverse backgrounds is a start towards transformation; the Chair will work in a systematic manner towards the strategic selection of student and research participants to achieve these aims.

The Chair will support the

- National research priorities as stipulated in the NRF vision 2020
- Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF)
- government's strategic plan for 2014 to 2019
- National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, Chapter 8 of the NDP
- Strategic interventions for higher education, human capacity development, science engagement, human resource development, infrastructure development and research development
- National system of innovation (catalyse innovation for societal benefit)
- Integrated Urban Development Framework
- SACN priority areas and the SACN strategic framework basing its functions on the SACN strategic framework 2017-2021

FOCUS AREAS OF THE CHAIR

1. NEW THINKING AND PRACTICE IN THE BE

Conceptual and analytical research on “spatial transformation”; what does Spatial Transformation mean for integrating planning and design of transport, infrastructure, property and land-use (The physical) and in terms of investment decision-making and governance of urban areas (The political), as well as the aspirations, interactions, perceptions, behaviours, and inclusion of people (The socio- economic).

3. POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Towards training emerging researchers on inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches to studying urban spatial issues, the appointment of research assistants and post-graduate students and post-doctoral appointments are an integral part of this project and will support the aims of the chair. Working across disciplines is seen as very important towards the achievement of the intentions of the Chair.

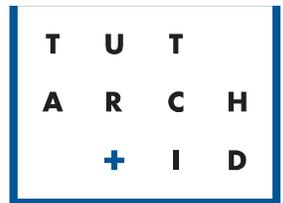
4. THEMES, TOOLS AND POLICY CONTEXT

The Chair will focus on the following themes:

- spatial planning
- human settlements
- public transport
- infrastructure



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- services
- resource efficiency
- urban management

To explore spatial transformation, not just as theory but also as practical implementation, the analysis of existing tools, as well as further development of those tools and innovations in new tools is also important. These tools may be:

- Financial
- Design
- Technical
- Delivery
- Practice
- Dissemination

DOCTORAL AND POST-DOCTORAL APPLICATIONS EVALUATION CRITERIA

Academic merit of the submitted proposal is assessed as follows using the attached assessment form which will be filled in by the applicants (note the section that is for the Research Committee and must be left empty).

Please also note the following conditions:

1. The applicant must be prepared to travel to Pretoria for the duration of the appointment
2. For the post-doctoral application, the applicant must be less than 45 years of age according to TUT policy – if this is not the case, a strong motivation must accompany the application
3. There are specific budgets available for these positions – if more applications are received and funds are not available for all of them, applicants are still encouraged to apply so we may seek other funding sources for the positions

Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is needed.

Kind regards,

Amira Osman

Professor, Architecture and Industrial Design, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)

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Joint coordinator: CIB W104 Open Building Implementation

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