Project Number: [65676]

Project Acronym: [TEMPEA]

Project title: [Temporality of permanence – material and socio-spatial practices in African urbanism]

Periodic Technical Report
Part B

Period covered by the report: from [14/05/2017] to [13/05/2018]

Periodic report: [2nd]

1 The term ‘project’ used in this template equates to an ‘action’ in certain other Horizon 2020 documentation
1. Explanation of the work carried out by the beneficiaries and Overview of the progress

- Explain the work carried out during the reporting period in line with the Annex 1 to the Grant Agreement.

The ebbs and flows of urbanisation represent one of the key issues in research on human settlements as well as a major concern of global society today. The spatial structure of towns is a material representation and an active component in negotiations of social relationships, including political power, trade, and constructs of cultural identity. This research project was designed with these ideas in mind to study the characteristics and changes in the spatial properties of urban settlements in sub-Saharan Africa over the long-term, focusing specifically on the thirteenth through to the nineteenth century. This allowed the researcher to analyse and assess how urban fabric developed over multiple generations, compare pre-colonial and colonial trajectories of changes, and draw conclusions about the connotations and under-the-surface causalities of the present-day structure of African towns.

- Include an overview of the project results towards the objective of the action in line with the structure of the Annex 1 to the Grant Agreement including summary of deliverables and milestones, and a summary of exploitable results and an explanation about how they can/will be exploited.

During the outgoing phase, months 1-20, research on the project first addressed whether and how we can link certain aspects of social behaviour with material representations (such as relative privacy and gradated access to spaces within buildings; placement and use of mortuary monuments for display of identity in cosmopolitan urban environments; and the links between social trust and the building of walls). Secondly, the focus was directed at comparing case studies of West African towns that were established in the pre-colonial era (namely Timbuktu and Djenne in Mali), by analysing the relative potential of their street networks and structural organisation for urban trade (both towns were known as major connecting nodes for trade routes from across the Sahara and inland West Africa) and the current respective layout and interconnectedness of urban quarters that gradually grew together in the pre-colonial era. Rather than addressing the specific nature of activities that took place in the urban spaces, the results of this phase of research generated information about the potential of particular settings for social action.

During the incoming phase, months 21-32, the project centred on identifying patterns in structuring of the built environment and possible crossing points between social and spatial dynamics. The region studied in greatest depth was the East African coast, where the predominantly Islamic Swahili towns represented an ideal case study for analysis. Because the importance of trade, contacts with other regions, and Islam, all characterised these towns for much of the second millennium, offer the opportunity to compare their specific materialisation and spatial characteristics with the West African case studies, specifically the towns on the edge of the Sahara that have broadly coeval histories with those on the Swahili coast, investigated during the outgoing phase. Emphasis was also placed on finalising journal and book chapter articles for publication and organising a conference/workshop around the project themes.

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2 Beneficiaries that have received Union funding, and that plan to exploit the results generated with such funding primarily in third countries not associated with Horizon 2020, should indicate how the Union funding will benefit Europe's overall competitiveness (reciprocity principle), as set out in the grant agreement.
1.1 Objectives

**Expected**: Over the course of the project, the Fellow was expected to:

- Participate in 13 research seminars
- Participate in and present at 6 conferences
- Publish 2 popular articles about the project
- Deliver 2 public lectures about the project
- Publish 3 peer-reviewed articles (one of which might be a book chapter) utilising results from the project
- Organise of a workshop on the wider themes of the project.

**Realised**: All the milestones and objectives were achieved, and the number of expected outcomes was exceeded.

- 34 seminars were attended by the Fellow, with 10 presentations given (in 3 various departments of the University of Basel and 2 departments in Uppsala, and at universities in Geneva, London and Ceske Budejovice)
- 15 conferences and workshops were attended, all with presentations of the research on this project: (Africa Days (Pilsen, Czech Republic), “Territoriality” workshop (Basel), Structure of infrastructure (Liverpool, UK); Society of Africanist Archaeologists (Toulouse, France); World Archaeological Congress (Kyoto, Japan); Central Europe TAG (Bratislava, Slovakia); Socioenvironmental dynamics workshop (Kiel, Germany); “Secondary cities” workshop (Basel); Identities and identifications Euroacademia conference (Florence, Italy); ECAS (Basel); European Association of Archaeologists (Maastricht, the Netherlands); Central Europe TAG (Vienna, Austria); AARD (York, UK); CEA (Modena, Italy); Society for American Archaeology (Washington, USA)
- 3 popular articles were published (see Dissemination activities section below)
- 2 public lectures were given (Science Café, Pilsen, Czech Republic, 24th January 2017; Academic library, Prague 25th January 2018). (It was not possible to organise the public lectures in Basel/Uppsala as originally expected due to language issues – to have the desirable public impact they would have to be presented in German/Swedish).
- 5 peer-reviewed articles were published, a further one was submitted and is in review, and 2 are in preparation (see Dissemination activities section below)
- One conference (CRG African History) and one roundtable/workshop were organized. The workshop session formed part of the October 2016 Swiss Researching Africa days held at the University of Bern. The conference will be held in June 2018 (Material histories: interdisciplinary engagements of archaeology in Africa) in Pilsen, Czech Republic (see Dissemination activities section below)
1.2 Explanation of the work carried per WP

The project was divided into three work packages, realised over the outgoing and incoming phase. The outgoing phase, which took place at the Centre of African Studies, University of Basel, Switzerland, was comprised of Interdisciplinary research on the themes of East African / Swahili urban studies and a Comparative review of social themes in urbanism of West and South Africa. The incoming phase, realized at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University, Sweden, was represented by the third work package Comparative analysis and implications for Swahili archaeology.

1.2.1 Work Package 1

Work Package 1, Interdisciplinary research on the themes of East African/ Swahili urban studies, covered the period of month 1 to month 6 (mid-September 2015 to mid-March 2016). The main objectives of this period were to identify and link research approaches to African urbanism on the Swahili coast in current research in African anthropology, geography, history, sociology and urban studies, which would be relevant for archaeological research and vice versa. The goal was to actively promote and pursue the broadening of research directions and perspectives in the study of Swahili built environments and spatial structures as types of material culture, through interdisciplinary enquiry.

The fellow attended seven seminars, gave two seminar presentations, attended two conferences, wrote two popular articles, and submitted one paper for publication during this phase.

Outreach and networking to other departments at the University of Basel that study the past and present of the Swahili coast was crucial throughout this phase. The researcher participated in a range of seminars at the Department of History, Department of Anthropology, Basel African Library, and preliminary meetings of the Urban Studies group.

Regular meetings and networking were established with associate professors Dr Julia Tischler (African History) and Dr Kenny Cupers (Architectural History), and Professor Brigit Obrist (African Ethnography) at the University of Basel. New contacts were made at conferences, workshops and seminars with Prof Maurice Amutabi (African History, Kisii University), Dr Prita Meier (Art History, University of Illinois). Further collaboration was agreed upon with The Zamani project, University of Cape Town (recording of standing buildings in the field, sharing of data, joint research), with which team a research article is currently in preparation.

1.2.2 Work package 2

Work Package 2, Comparative review of social themes in urbanism of West and South Africa, covered the period of month 7 to month 20 (mid-March 2016 to mid-May 2017). The original objective was to undertake a sequence of comparative structural analyses on 2-3 urban sites/case studies in West and South Africa, most likely in the present-day states of Ghana, Mozambique and South Africa. In the event, the project focused on analysing the spatial characteristics of a sample of West African towns in the northern Sahel, established at broadly the same time as those on the Swahili coast in East Africa. This was partly for pragmatic and practical reasons – data concerning these towns was more readily available than for some of the other areas – but also for academic reasons. Namely, similar trade, contacts with other regions, and Islam were key drivers of urbanism in these areas, just as they were on the
Swahili coast. Theoretical and methodological approaches to the interplay between social and spatial environment in towns were also developed as part of this Work Package.

The Fellow attended 13 seminars (at five of which she gave presentations), and gave papers at six international conferences, had two peer-reviewed articles published and submitted a further two papers, delivered one public lecture, and organised a workshop session at an international meeting during this phase.

The researcher also established co-operation with Dr Stephanie Wynne-Jones (Swahili archaeology, University of Uppsala) and Dr Jeffrey Fleisher (Swahili archaeology, Rice University), through meeting at a conference and by joining the project team which they are co-directing for fieldwork at Songo Mnara, Tanzania.

1.2.3 Work package 3

Work Package 3, *Comparative analysis and implications for Swahili archaeology*, covered the period of month 21 to month 32 (mid-May 2017 to mid-May 2018). The main objectives were to undertake a comparative analysis of the spatial organization and layout of Swahili towns and the sample of West African towns analysed as part of Work Package 2. These analyses centred on studying the socio-spatial role of urban quarters, in terms of their relative positioning, layout and role in the communication networks of the towns. Emphasis was also placed during this phase on finalising a series of academic papers for publication and organising a conference to be held in Pilsen in June 2018, shortly after the end of the project.

The Fellow attended 14 seminars (at two of which she gave presentations), and gave papers at six international conferences, had three peer-reviewed articles published and submitted a further paper (currently in review), delivered one public lecture, and organised an international conference during this phase.

The researchers established cooperation with archaeologists in Uppsala that focus on studying urbanism (e.g. Frands Herschend, Joakim Kjellberg, Gustav Malmborg), Cameron Gokee (African archaeology, University of Michigan), Carla Klehm (spatial analyses and African archaeology, Washington University in St.Louis), and Daniel Krizek (North Africa, anthropology, University of West Bohemia).

1.3 Impact

The expected impact of the project as foreseen at its commencement is still relevant. The project contributes to broadening the cooperation and cross-referencing of a range of social disciplines which are relevant for research on the long-term history of urbanism in Africa. The research theme has and will continue to be centred on the studying the structure of the built environment and its relevance for social phenomena. It will further explore the crossing points between social practices, spatial elements and structure of the built environment, in the incoming phase reflecting specifically on the living cities with colonial history and also on East Africa.

2. Update of the plan for exploitation and dissemination of result (if applicable)

The plan for exploitation and dissemination of results as described in the DoA does not need to be updated.

The following dissemination activities were accomplished by the end of the funding period:
Publications submitted:


Publications accepted for publication or in press:


Publications:


Publications in preparation:

Baumanova, M. In prep. Context-specific applications of space syntax on African urban sites. For submission to *African Archaeological Review*

Baumanova M. In prep. The socio-spatial dimension of urban quarters in Swahili towns For submission to *Urban Studies*.

Popular articles and lectures (in popular magazines and media):

Popular article in Koktejl (travel, ethnography and archaeology magazine) 1/2018, p. 24-29 – Tisíciletá města na afrických březích (A thousand years of towns on the East African coast)

Public lecture at Science Cafè, Pilsen, Czech Republic, 24.1. 2017, Zlatá doba východní Afriky: Archeologie předkoloniálních měst (The archaeology of pre-colonial towns in (North-)East Africa)


Participation at conferences:


Conference on Environmental Archaeology, Modena, Italy, 2018 – “(Pre)colonial urban sustainability in coastal Africa: environmental and social aspects”

African Archaeology Research Day, York, UK, 2017, - “Networks of trade and communication: urban centres on the coasts of Sub-Saharan Africa”

Central Europe TAG, Vienna, Austria, 2017 – “Multi-disciplinary perceptions of the
European Association of Archaeologists, Maastricht, the Netherlands, 2017 – “Deploying the tomb: a spatial reference and material symbol of the urban Swahili”


Socio-environmental dynamics over the last 12,000 years, Kiel, Germany, March 2017 – “Urban spaces on the coast of the Sahara: moving goods, people and ideas”

3rd Central European Theoretical Archaeology Group meeting, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2016 – “The materiality of constructed space: between theory and methodology“

8th World Archaeological Congress, Kyoto, Japan, 2016 – “Global and local faces of Swahili built environment“


Structure of infrastructure, University of Liverpool/Uppsala University, Liverpool, UK, March 2016 - “Swahili tombs as mortuary infrastructure in urban strategies of display”


Africa Days Pilsen, Czech Republic, 2015 - roundtables

Organisation of sessions and workshops:

Swiss Researching Africa Days, Bern, Switzerland, 2016 – co-organisation of a session with Dr Anne Mayor (University of Geneva) - “Material representation and spatial patterning of practices in Africa” and presentation “Great residential buildings of pre-colonial Africa in a comparative perspective”

CRG African history conference, Pilsen, Czech Republic, 2018 – co-organisation of the conference and convenor of the panel “African archaeology”

Invited lectures and talks:

Department of Archaeology, University of Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, 9th March 2017 (“The materiality of space and buildings in archaeology”)

University of Geneva, Switzerland, 15 September 2016 (“Monumental mortuary architecture on the East African coast: urbanism and tombs in context”)


3. Update of the data management plan (if applicable)

Not applicable

4. Follow-up of recommendations and comments from previous review(s) (if applicable)

Not Applicable
5. Deviations from Annex 1 and Annex 2 (if applicable)

Explain the reasons for deviations from the DoA, the consequences and the proposed corrective actions.

5.1 Tasks

Include explanations for tasks not fully implemented, critical objectives not fully achieved and/or not being on schedule. Explain also the impact on other tasks on the available resources and the planning.

5.2 Use of resources (not applicable for MSCA)

Not Applicable