

Winter School on Urban and Regional Economics in Africa reading list

Lecture 1: Contemporary urbanisation in Africa

Turok, I. (2016). [Getting urbanization to work in Africa: the role of the urban land-infrastructure-finance nexus](#). *Area development and policy*, 1(1), 30-47.

Turok, I., Scheba, A., & Visagie, J. (2023). [Rethinking urbanization and economic development: a synopsis](#). *Environment & Urbanization*, 35(2), 297-309.

Lecture 2: Urban labour markets

Fields, G. S. (2011). [Labor market analysis for developing countries](#). *Labour economics*, 18, S16-S22. Open access [here](#).

Donovan, K., Lu, W. J., & Schoellman, T. (2023). [Labor market dynamics and development](#). *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138(4), 2287-2325. Open access [here](#).

Lecture 3: The dynamics of firms in cities

Grover, A., Lall, S., Maloney, W. 2022. *Place, Productivity, and Prosperity*. Ch.2 [Agglomeration economies, productivity, and the persistence of place](#). P.11-45.

World Development Report: Reshaping Economic Geography (Ch.4), [scale economies and agglomeration](#), pp. 126-146.

Visagie, J., Turok, I. 2021. [Firing on all cylinders: Decomposing regional growth dynamics in South Africa](#). *South African Journal of Economics*; 1-18.

Lecture 4: Land issues in African cities

Cai, Y., Selod, H., Steinbuks, J. 2018. [Urbanization and land property rights](#). *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 70. 246-257. Open access working paper [here](#).

Brueckner, J. K., & Selod, H. (2009). [A theory of urban squatting and land-tenure formalization in developing countries](#). *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 1(1), 28-51. Open access working paper [here](#).

Letrouit, L., & Selod, H. (2024). [Informal land markets and ethnic kinship in West African cities](#). *Regional science and urban economics*, 106, 104008. Open access paper [here](#).

Lecture 5: Housing and finance

Ioannides, Y. M., & Ngai, L. R. (2025). [*Housing and inequality. London School of Economics and Political Science.*](#)

Lecture 6: Transportation

Abebe, G., Caria, A. S., Fafchamps, M., Falco, P., Franklin, S., & Quinn, S. (2021). Anonymity or distance? Job search and labour market exclusion in a growing African city. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 88(3), 1279-1310.

Kerzhner, T. (2022). [*Is informal transport flexible?*](#) *Journal of Transport and Land Use*, 15(1), 671–689.

Oluchi, M. 2024. [*Divided we ride: The cost of segmented minibus services in Johannesburg, South Africa.*](#) World Bank Development Impact Blog. Published December 12 2024.

Lecture 7: Infrastructure and service delivery

Bhalotra, S. R., Diaz-Cayeros, A., Miller, G., Miranda, A., & Venkataramani, A. S. (2021). [*Urban water disinfection and mortality decline in lower-income countries.*](#) *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 13(4), 490-520. Open access working paper [here](#).

McCulloch, S. E., Schaelling, M. P., Turner, M., & Kitagawa, T. (2025). [*Sewers and Urbanization in the Developing World \(No. w33597\).*](#) National Bureau of Economic Research.

Ashraf, N., Glaeser, E., Holland, A., & Steinberg, B. M. (2017). [*Water, health and wealth \(No. w23807\).*](#) National Bureau of Economic Research.

Lecture 8: Cities and the environment

Abajian, A., Cole, C., Jack, K., Meng, K.C., Visser, M. 2025. [*Dodging day zero: Drought, adaptation, and inequality in Cape Town.*](#) National Bureau of Economic Research working paper no. 33468.

Lecture 9: Spatial methods and models

Redding, S. J., & Rossi-Hansberg, E. (2017). [*Quantitative spatial economics. Annual Review of Economics*](#), 9(1), 21-58.

Bryan, G., Glaeser, E., & Tsivanidis, N. (2020). [*Cities in the developing world. Annual Review of Economics*](#), 12(1), 273-297.

Lecture 9: additional readings

Treb Allen Graduate Trade Teaching Notes

Redding, Stephen J. "[*Quantitative Urban Models: From Theory to Data*](#)." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 37, no. 2 (Spring 2023): 75–98. DOI: 10.1257/jep.37.2.75

Bryan, Gharad; Frye, Kyra; Morten, Melanie. "[*Spatial economics for low- and middle-income countries*](#)." Paper prepared for the 2025 Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics, January 31, 2025.

Lecture 10: Urbanisation and development

Glaeser, E. 2013. [*A world of cities: The causes and consequences of urbanization in poorer countries*](#). NBER Working Paper 19745

Bryan, G., Glaeser, E., Tsivanidis, N. 2024. [*Cities Evidence Paper*](#). IGC Evidence Paper.