

## Abstract Thesis Rachel Dubale

Inner city renewal in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, leads to the eviction of thousands of slum dwellers. In its place, the inhabitants live in condominiums. This thesis investigates how living in condominium units shapes economic, social and political practices intrinsic to Ethiopian culture, particularly Addis Ababa's relocated people. The aim is to explore new ways of looking at relocation dynamics unfolding in Ethiopia: ex-post, after relocation, and with an emphasis on the role of local government. Discussing the condominium model, a growing solution to informal housing and population mushrooming, and governmental approaches to its effects, it contributes to a still-fledged literature on relocation's effects in the long-term. The analysis is based on six months of fieldwork in Addis Ababa, in the Jemo One Condominium area, with a collection of data through observation, residential experience, interviews in Amharic with the inhabitants and surveys with the administration of the area. This thesis uses social capital theory to holistically cover several areas of life in the condominium, with Robert Putnam's (1997, 2000) school of thought as the cornerstone. The economic and social aspect relies on attitudinal variables such as norms of reciprocity, kinship structures as networks, and popular social capital practices in Ethiopia like *iddir*<sup>1</sup>, *eqqub*<sup>2</sup>, and *mahber*<sup>3</sup> as risk-sharing mechanisms. On the other hand, the political aspect focuses on taking power consciousness and proximity between citizens and the local government, i.e. the *woreda*, as main parameters, using the variant linking social capital theory. Locating the discussion within the temporal becoming of the country, this thesis demonstrates how living in apartment blocks has transformed economic practices for former slum dwellers, once linked to life-sustaining support networks, now contained. At the social level, it shows how the same extended networks are unworkable in the condominium areas and further affected by class and ethnic frictions in the blocks, leading to a loss of practices such as *mahber* and *eqqub*, and *iddir* used predominantly for self-interest and cultural courtesy. At the political level, it assesses how the relationship between local government and citizens has been weakened to make room for a political body more interested in the object, i.e. the apartment block, than the subject, i.e. its residents. The findings of this study suggest that, as an enduring housing solution

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<sup>1</sup> Iddir: Association initially designed to provide financial assistance for funeral services

<sup>2</sup> Eqqub: Association to raise money on a rotating basis

<sup>3</sup> Mahber: Association; Ritual meetings of Orthodox connotation

in Addis Ababa, the experiences of living in the condominium should continue to be investigated to give a complete picture of its limitations and act on these. In this context, the thesis highlights the importance of examining local government as a link in promoting social capital, and strongly recommends its ongoing use for future research. Further work might explore more affluent and ethnic social actors' perspectives within the area for a veritable picture.