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“Loxion management”: social networks and precarious economies, a case study of Tembisa

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2017
https://hdl.handle.net/10539/24561
Mabena, Gugulethu (2017) “Loxion management”: social networks and precarious economies, a case study of Tembisa, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, <https://hdl.handle.net/10539/24561>

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Abstract

This research project was designed with the aim of understanding how tailoring a particular township experience known as "loxion management" in a Gauteng township of Tembisa could insert more knowledge and re-envision literature on precarity. This project hopes to not only re-envision "loxion management" as a possible intersection between the labour market and township life but to also unpack the intricacies within this idiom. With attempting to unpack this idiom, most participants and external conversations to this research project revealed an assortment of terms used in the township which have the possibility to obscure an understanding of what "loxion management" really encapsulates. Therefore, this research project highlights that a misinterpretation of the terms glosses over the significant undertones permeating experiences of this idiom. Thus, it argues that "loxion management" is an idiom which has been loosely defined in the township, which not only serves as a circuitous network contributing to social cohesion amongst men but also as a site where employment information, even of a precarious nature circulates.

Key words: loxion management, precarity, Post-apartheid township life, unemployment, labour market, masculinity, "conduits", circuitous network, social ties.