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Forum för Afrikastudier vid Uppsala Universitet  
Uppsala University's Forum for Africa Studies

## Friday Seminar in Africa Studies

# Claiming the city: Governance and political connections in African neighbourhoods

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**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024, 9.30-11.00.**

Venue: ENG3-2028, Engelska Parken,  
Thunbergsvägen 3H, Uppsala.

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/63496793937>



Rapid urbanization is changing the way Africans experience and engage the state in their everyday lives, creating new opportunities for urban claim-making. But it also creates the conditions for local capture. In their quest for rights and services, how do neighborhoods navigate these rapidly changing political environments? Based on 16 focus group discussions and 87 key informant interviews in eight neighbourhoods in Lagos (Nigeria) and Accra (Ghana), we find that residents in low-income neighbourhoods seek direct connections through voting blocs and the instrumental use of their concerned youth associations, while high-income neighbourhoods use personal connections and leverage their residence associations to influence state power. We argue that a neighborhood's class structure shapes the political connections that residents have to the state, thereby shaping the everyday strategies that residents use to claim citizenship.

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