

Amanda Hammar (Kopenhagen)

## Property and personhood in Zimbabwe's urban margins

How do relationships to property get shaped – by which social, political, economic or other factors – and how do these relationships in turn shape personhood? This rather large, exploratory question is explored in this talk through examining the ways in which those living in Zimbabwe's urban margins (as a result of either chronic structural exclusion or as a result of direct acts of dispossession and displacement) relate to and make claims on plots or houses or other key possessions. It explores the dynamic effects of changing property relations – in terms of both losses and gains – on the meaning and experiences of being a 'person', as well as a 'citizen'. It draws in particular on research over the past five years on aspects of urban displacement and resettlement in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second city.

**Amanda Hammar** is a professor of African Studies and Director of the Centre of African Studies at the University of Copenhagen. Her work in southern Africa and especially Zimbabwe has focused on questions of land and agrarian change, state making and citizenship in the margins, the paradoxes of displacement and crisis, and most recently on urban displacement and resettlement and the relationship between property, authority and citizenship. Her most recent journal publication is "'Becoming Mozambicanised': Nostalgic amnesia among Zimbabweans adapting to 'disorder' in Mozambique" (in *African Studies*, 2017). Her most recent book is *Displacement Economies in Africa: Paradoxes of Crisis and Creativity* (Zed Books, 2014). She is currently working on a book on Property and Personhood.

Dienstag 23. Januar 2018, 18:15 – 19:45 Uhr  
Hörsaal 13 (Raum 01-716), Forum 7, Becherweg 4, 1. Stock