

# Contents

---

**Abstract** | 9

**Acknowledgement** | 11

**Glossary** | 12

## **1. Introduction** | 15

1.1. Objective | 16

1.2. The Research Process | 18

1.3. Structure of the Thesis | 19

## **2. Urbanisation in African Cities** | 23

2.1. Concepts from Urban Studies | 27

2.2. Informing Urban Policy on Urbanisation | 31

2.2.1. Beyond the Formal-Informal Dichotomy | 36

2.2.2. Undoing the Modern-Traditional Division | 39

2.2.3. Establishing Rural-Urban Linkages | 41

2.2.4. Re-Framing Local-Cosmopolitan Constellations | 43

2.3. Assembling Narratives of Urbanisation in African Cities | 45

## **3. Accounts of Ethiopian Urbanisation** | 49

3.1. 1880-1936: Early Towns | 54

3.2. 1936-1941: Italian Facist Settlement Plans | 55

3.3. 1941-1974: Imperial Modernism | 58

3.4. 1974-1994: Towns under Socialism | 61

3.5. 1994-present: The Federalist Urban Network | 65

3.6. Missing Accounts of Urbanism | 68

## **4. Research Design** | 73

4.1. Applying a Case Study Methodology | 73

4.2. The Case Study Site | 76

4.3. Research Questions | 78

4.4. Data Collection | 80

4.5. Analytical Framework | 84

## **5. Urban Planning in Bahir Dar | 87**

- 5.1. Traditional Land-Administration and Settling Practices | 87
- 5.2. Italian Legacy | 91
- 5.3. The Modernist Layout | 94
- 5.4. Introducing the Kebele Administration | 99
- 5.5. Contemporary Planning | 101
  - 5.5.1 The BDIDP | 104
  - 5.5.2 Urban Development Practice | 111
- 5.6. Ruptures, Continuities and Parallels in Bahir Dar's Urban Planning | 118

## **6. Everyday Urbanisation in Bahir Dar | 127**

- 6.1. The Sub-Cases | 131
  - 6.1.1. Inner City Area | 133
  - 6.1.2. Textile Settlement | 140
  - 6.1.3. Informalised Village | 143
  - 6.1.4. University Campus | 147
- 6.2. Ordinary Practices of Making the City | 154

## **7. The Relation of Planning and Everyday Urbanisation | 161**

- 7.1. Constellations in the Neighbourhoods | 162
  - 7.1.1. Historical Diversity | 163
  - 7.1.2. Housing Area | 169
  - 7.1.3. Urban Village | 171
  - 7.1.4. Academic Compound | 173
- 7.2. Spheres of Negotiation | 175
  - 7.2.1. Negotiations of Legal Status | 176
  - 7.2.2. Disputed Modernity | 182
  - 7.2.3. Understandings of Urbanity | 186
  - 7.2.4. Questions of Citizenship | 193

## **8. Towards a Situated Agenda | 197**

- 8.1. Bahir Dar's Idiom of Urbanisation | 197
- 8.2. Implications for Urban Development | 202
- 8.3. Inclusive Planning | 209

## **9. Furthering Synergetic Constellations | 209**

9.1. Mixed-Use Zoning | 211

9.2. Arrival Structures and Temporary Housing | 213

9.3. Incremental Building Zones | 215

9.4. Networks of Innovation | 218

**Table of Resident Interviews | 221**

**List of Expert Interviews | 222**

**References | 223**

