Bridging the urban divide between the informal and the planned city. The African microstate of São Tomé and Príncipe as case-study.

The worldwide acceleration of the process of urbanisation of the last decades has induced great pressure on the urban built environment, especially in developing countries, where urbanization has been hyper-speed and in most cases unplanned. Urbanization is not always followed by the provision of adequate public services, health care, education, and social services. This has led to conditions of great social inequality, poor health, lack of access to education, and lack of opportunities for economic development.

challenging the urban divide

In order to highlight the challenges and the urban divide, urban scholars call for acting towards inclusion and urbanity. Several examples have been cited to show the impact of urban development on human rights and the environment. Urbanization, while it has been a source of economic growth and development, has also led to social exclusion and environmental degradation. The informal sector, which provides basic services and goods to the urban population, is often left out of the planning and development processes.

what has changed?

After twenty years of urban growth, it seems that the urban divide has not improved. The impact of urbanization on the human environment is significant. The informal sector, which provides basic services and goods to the urban population, is often left out of the planning and development processes.

the formal and the informal city

The nature of urban development encompasses a complex set of conditions that determine the sustainability of the urban environment. The concept of sustainability is closely linked to the notion of the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of urban development. The formal city is characterized by a structured system of planning and development, with a clear distinction between the public and private sectors. The informal city, on the other hand, is characterized by a lack of planning and development, with a blurred distinction between the public and private sectors.

analysing São Tomé and Príncipe

Located in the Western African island near the Gulf of Guinea, the archipelago of São Tomé and Príncipe was a former Portuguese colony. The country is characterized by a complex geographical and social context. The economic development of the country has been limited, and the infrastructure and public services are inadequate.

the capital city of São Tomé

The city of São Tomé has grown from an agricultural site to a megalopolis. The city is characterized by a lack of planning and development, with a blurred distinction between the public and private sectors. The informal sector, which provides basic services and goods to the urban population, is often left out of the planning and development processes.

savings and planning

The African microstate of São Tomé and Príncipe as case-study.

the urban divide

From the idea of the city to the present-day urban environment, most of the African cities in sub-Saharan Africa are divided. This division is not only visible in the physical environment, but also in the social and economic dimensions. The informal sector, which provides basic services and goods to the urban population, is often left out of the planning and development processes.