

INTERNATIONAL RETERRITORIALISATION AND CHANGING FORMS OF GOVERNANCE: MIGRATION, ECONOMIC ALTERATIONS AND SHIFTING AUTHORITY IN CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Broad structural changes in the world economy are affecting the way in which political authority takes shape and is exercised. Within the field of International Political Economy a growing body of literature places emphasis on how authority is being redrafted and recalibrated, manifesting in the declining power of states and the rise of new centres of power and regulation in the world. Such new centres are both subnational (e.g. cities or regions) and supranational (e.g. multinational corporations, international financial institutions and international organisations) in form and scope.

The regional sub-system of Southern Africa, with which South Africa has become increasingly integrated over the past decade, has been affected by such international changes. These changes have stimulated new forms of economic, social and political interaction between South Africa and its regional neighbours, which are both formal in nature – consisting of, inter alia state-led initiatives towards regional integration and cooperation – and informal, through for instance population movements and diasporic networks.

On the assumption that by virtue of its economic size, and its linkage to the world economy, South Africa plays a specific role in how new types of interaction (both formal and informal) take shape in the Southern African region, this paper investigates three types of alterations in Southern Africa and their consequences. It will be investigated how aspects such as migrant flows lock key areas in South Africa into wider and potentially enriching diasporic networks across the continent; how population movements are related to forms of wider reterritorialisation; how such movements affect the physical and social make-up of South Africa; and finally, how these various changes are affecting governance (in essence, authority) in South Africa.

The first part of the paper will review the main theoretical claims concerning the reterritorialisation of power and capital in the international system, the factors that underlie it, and some of the main forms such reterritorialisation takes in national contexts and internationally. The second part of the paper will investigate various patterns of reterritorialisation in the Southern African region. This will be done against the backdrop of the economic and political prominence that South Africa occupies in the region. The remaining parts of the paper will investigate aspects such as new spatial forms that have emerged, its impacts on the socioscape of the region, and the implications for governance.

Keywords: Reterritorialisation, Governance, Migrant flows