

Uruguay and Argentina. She recently co-authored a publication in *Oxford Development Studies*, and has contributed to academic and policy publications on the topics of care and human development.

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<https://doi.org/10.1080/14616742.2017.1400208>



On Their Own: Women, Urbanization, and the Right to the City in South Africa, by Allison Goebel, Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015, 256 pp., \$32.95 (paperback), ISBN 978-0-7735-4590-8

Allison Goebel's book gives much-needed attention to the experiences of women in South African cities. While there is plenty of literature on the urban experience in South Africa, such literature does not often give much attention to gender. Goebel's book draws on the experiences of poorer women living in informal and township areas in the Msunduzi Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal. Goebel has conducted extensive fieldwork in the area and uses this fieldwork to provide the reader with a sense of South African women's experiences of urban living.

The book begins with a chapter providing historical background on urbanization in South Africa with a focus on the gendered processes which governed such urbanization. While most of this chapter provides little new to those familiar with literature on urbanization in South Africa, it is a helpful introduction to the literature for those less familiar, and the last part of the chapter, which introduces the case study area, includes details unavailable elsewhere.

Following this are four rich chapters which draw on a decade of Goebel's fieldwork in the Msunduzi area. Each of these chapters has a slightly different thematic focus, but they all contain detailed discussions of the lives of the women interviewed, allowing the reader to become better acquainted with various aspects of the everyday lives of poor, urban South African women. The text is accompanied by black and white photographs and boxed sections providing profiles of some of the women interviewed for the research. These photographs and profiles enrich the accompanying discussion by giving the reader a good overall sense of these women's lives.

The book closes with two chapters which move away from a particular focus on the Msunduzi region and engage with broader issues in the literature on urbanization in South Africa, such as race, protest and the "right to the city." These chapters draw more on contemporary academic debates in the literature than on Goebel's fieldwork.

Goebel does not make any ground-shifting claims in this book, but does raise some tentative conclusions which are worthy of serious consideration and further research. She suggests that scholarly work on the right to the city in South Africa could be enriched by closer consideration of the differences between the way in which men and women inhabit the city. Her research in Msunduzi highlights some differences which may also be present elsewhere in South Africa. For example, while households