Modelling socio-economic dynamics in a working class desegregation area in post-industrial, post-Apartheid South Africa – the case of Danville-Elandspoort, Pretoria

By

Steve Keith Abbey

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Masters of Science (Geography)

Faculty of Natural & Agricultural Science
University of Pretoria

July 2007
Modelling socio-economic dynamics in a working class desegregation area in post-industrial, post-Apartheid South Africa – the case of Danville-Elandspoort, Pretoria

Student: Steve Abbey
Supervisor: Professor Andre Horn
Department: Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology, University of Pretoria
Degree: Master of Science (Geography)

SUMMARY

Within post-Apartheid research there is little to no research into poor historically White areas which are experiencing rapid rates of desegregation. It is in these cases a researcher could pose a question to whether or not Apartheid’s race-class divisions are still prevalent. A further gap in South African literature is a lack of a model on which to base socio-economic changes in a situation of post-Apartheid and post-industrial trends. This study addresses both of these short fallings of current academic literature.

This paper explores Socio Economic Transformation within a lower income urban area of Pretoria, South Africa. The area, which was previously White only under Apartheid legislation, has been experiencing changes due to factors including post-Apartheid legislation and post-industrialism. Desegregation and a decline in industry have created complicated racial and social patterns within a merging community. Two major trends within the study area include an influx of an upwardly mobile Black population and secondly a downward economic movement of White individuals.

The trends identified within the study area contradict many mainstream South African beliefs as the more traditional White-racist-empowered vs. Black-marginalized-oppressed binary is not absolutely valid. These newly emerging racial geographies are identified and explained with the use of personal interviews. The resulting classifications of local individuals are then utilized in a conceptual model to help explain the various socio-economic trends within the area.
The study is structured in three main components. Firstly, structural and contextual issues relating directly to the study site are addressed to provide a backdrop on which social issues can be analysed. Socio-economic changes with focus on racial and economic situation are identified and explained. Once the social, economic and spatial are well discussed a theoretical model is developed. The theoretical model is then utilized to plot the individual changes within the study area.

The individual trends, which were identified during field studies, are modelled and analysed within a South African context. The model developed from the study has the potential to base further community research upon, both within South Africa and international arenas. The model identifies and explains both the status of individuals which is an individuals socio-economic standing. Secondly trends are defined as an individuals change in socio-economic status through time.

Results from the study have shown that labelling the economic situation of varying racial groups on the historic Apartheid framework is no longer valid in all situations. Post-Apartheid racial hiring policies as well as a national de-industrialization trend has created a situation of an upwardly mobile Black middle class as well as a declining poor White economic classification.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many acknowledgement sections can be overly long-winded thanking everyone in their lives and department. I on the other hand want to keep the acknowledgements sweet and simple giving credit to the very few individuals who actually contributed and made this dissertation possible. Many other people are important in my life and with their friendship or love I am a happier person but their contributions are not relevant to this study and are thus omitted.

Firstly, and most importantly - Thank You, Professor Andre Horn, for your support and guidance.

And to my mother, Nancy Burgess, and grandparents, Stephan and Joan Burgess, whose timely financial contributions kept me from missing any significant events.
## CONTENTS

1. THE INTERSECTION OF ECONOMIC CHANGE AND DESEGREGATION – A NEGLECTED FIELD

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Focus of the Study

1.3 General Dynamics

1.4 Aim

1.5 Specific Objectives

1.6 Study Site

1.7 Methodology
  1.7.1 Sources
  1.7.2 Quantitative Data Sources
  1.7.3 Qualitative Data Sources
  1.7.4 Institutional Data Sources
  1.7.5 Secondary Sources

1.8 Summary

2. SITE CONTEXT, STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

2.1 Context
  2.1.1 Location and Proximity
  2.1.2 Subdivisions

2.2 Structure
  2.2.1 Varying Housing Types
  2.2.2 Business Infrastructure
  2.2.3 Public Infrastructure
2.3 Supportive Facilities and Services

2.3.1 Food Banks

2.3.2 Soup Kitchens

2.3.3 Homeless Shelter

2.4 Summary

3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC DYNAMICS

3.1 Processes

3.1.1 Post-Industrial

3.1.2 Post-Apartheid

3.1.3 Local Consequences

3.2 Distinguishable Groups

3.2.1 Blacks

3.2.2 Whites

3.2.3 Tertiary Students

3.2.4 Homeless

3.3 Community Dynamics

3.3.1 Intra-Community Assistance

3.3.2 Resident Interactions

3.3.3 Problems Expressed

3.4 Summary

4 MODELLING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DYNAMICS

4.1 Conceptual Framework

4.1.1 Categories

4.1.2 Trends

4.1.3 Complete Socio-Economic Transition Model

4.2 Application of the Model

4.2.1 Black Socio-Economic Modelling

4.2.2 White Socio-Economic Modelling
4.3 Summary 88

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS 90

5.1 Summary 90

5.2 Conclusion 92

5.3 Recommendations 94
  5.3.1 Security 94
  5.3.2 Community Integration 95
  5.3.3 Group Specific Recommendations 97

5.4 Final Thoughts 99

BIBLIOGRAPHY 100
## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Pretoria West and Study Site Location 15  
Figure 2: Pretoria West Service Locations 24  
Figure 3: Danville and Elandsport 27  
Figure 4: Danville and Elandsport Housing Types 29  
Figure 5: Danville and Elandsport Expansion 31  
Figure 6: Danville and Elandsport Church Locations 40  
Figure 7: Complete Socio-Economic Transition Model 78  
Figure 8: Black Socio-Economic Transition Model 83  
Figure 9: White Socio-Economic Transition Model 86

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Study Area Populations 2001 and 1991 52  
Table 2: Population Change in Study Area 53  
Table 3: Comparative Populations 53  
Table 4: Level of Segregation 55  
Table 5: Local Comparative Black Population Increases 55
LIST OF PICTURES

Picture 1: Danville Proper House 30
Picture 2: Danville Extension 3 Housing 30
Picture 3: Danville Ext. 5 Housing 31
Picture 4: Danville Ext. 5 Houses 31
Picture 5: Elandsroot Infill Housing 32
Picture 6: Elandsroot Illegal Dumping 32
Picture 7: Danville Formal Business A 34
Picture 8: Danville Formal Business B 34
Picture 9: Informal Business A 36
Picture 10: Informal Business B 36
Picture 11: Tuckshop A 37
Picture 12: Tuckshop B 37
Picture 13: Elandsroot Park 41
Picture 14: Danville Football Pitch 41
Picture 15: News Paper Clipping on Poverty 43
Picture 16: Homeless Shelter 45
Picture 17: Children Outreach Program 45
Picture 18: Tent Housing 67
Picture 19: Apartments in Danville Business Centre 76

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Interview Questions
Appendix B: Interview Summary
Appendix C: Census Data Summary