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Abstract

The findings of post-colonial urban studies on the nature of urbanisation in Africa call for new approaches in urban planning. Thereby it is necessary to address the question of inclusiveness in urban development, regarding an acknowledgment of distinct urbanisation trajectories within the city, resulting in a widening spectrum of urban practices. The thesis studies the relation of formal planning and everyday urbanisation practise in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. Aim is to gain insight on how the phenomenon of urbanisation can be conceptualised widely for the location and to identify the rationales behind the process. The methodology chosen for the purpose is the set-up of Bahir Dar as a single case study location with four sub-cases in contrasting neighbourhoods founded in different time periods. The study is comprised of a theoretical review and three empirical parts. The first is a review of the historical urban development of Bahir Dar, the second is an account of the planning policies currently in place and third the primary data collection and evaluation for the everyday urbanisation in the four sub-case sites in Bahir Dar. Fieldwork was conducted in a number of site visits over a period of four years from 2009 to 2013. In a multi-tool approach data on actions comprising urbanisation was collected.

The preliminary data evaluation shows, that there is an imbalanced account on the types of urban activities that have constituted the current urban structure and cityness over time. The historical material is largely limited to formal building endeavours, while dominant traditional building practices have repeatedly been rendered informal. Recently "Integrated Development Plans" (IDPs) have been introduced as planning instruments and form the policy base for major re-construction of the city structure. Contrasting the IDP projects with evidence from the sub-cases thereby reveals, that a large spectrum of everyday urbanisation has not found consideration in urban development. Overall objective is therefore to provide ideas for policy revision and inclusion of everyday urbanisation in the urban development process.

