



# MAKING THE CASE FOR HUSTLE STUDIES: THINKING WITH NAIROBI

**TATIANA THIEME**

CHAired BY: SAANCHI SAXENA

24 March 2026

4 PM CEST

IN PERSON AT:

Sala Vigliano, DIST  
Castello del Valentino  
Viale Mattioli, 39, Torino

ONLINE SEMINAR REGISTRATION:

[https://polito-it.zoom.us/join/register/R\\_uJnI1bRmqwDH1onFciJg](https://polito-it.zoom.us/join/register/R_uJnI1bRmqwDH1onFciJg)

More info at:

[www.beyondinhabitation.org](http://www.beyondinhabitation.org)

In this talk, Tatiana Thieme will discuss her recently published book *Hustle Urbanism: Making Life Work in Nairobi* (University of Minnesota Press, 2025). In Nairobi, “hustle” operates as both a narrative and an urban practice. Drawing on 15 years of ethnographic engagement, *Hustle Urbanism* centres youth logics, perspectives, and inventive strategies for resisting the legacies of colonial violence and uneven urban development, while carving out opportunity spaces for themselves and their peers. Cautioning against fetishising hustle as social and economic uplift, the book advances a pluriversal urban theorisation that thinks with vernacular self-narrations of life, labour, and learning the city.

*Tatiana Thieme is Associate Professor of Geography at University College London. Drawing on longitudinal, multisituated, and patchwork ethnographic research, her work explores hustle economies, repair ecologies, and geographies of migration in cities shaped by continuities of coloniality, diasporic encounters, and city-making from below. She is the author of Hustle Urbanism: Making Life Work in Nairobi (University of Minnesota Press, 2025).*