# Arsht Research on Ethics and Community Grant

**Foreign Nationals, Xenophobia, and Space in Johannesburg, South Africa: Bringing Attention to the Ethics of Inclusion and Exclusion in Community Governance and Territorial Organization**

**2011-2012**

**Faculty:** Richard Grant, Ph.D., and Jyotika Ramaprasad, Ph.D.

**Student:** Daniel K. Thompson

**School of Communication**

## Abstract

Foreign nationals are filling a void in the absence of a coherent spatial policy in post-apartheid Johannesburg, establishing governance arrangements in parts of urban neighborhoods. This hodgepodge of spatial arrangements is intensifying urban fragmentation, exacerbating social distance and dissonance between South Africans and international migrants from Africa. An atmosphere of heightened xenophobia prevails, reinforced by media negative depictions of African immigrants. This research will assess senses of injustice with regard to access to urban space among immigrant communities in order to build a practical understanding of the ethics of inclusion and exclusion that constitute rights to the city. Our research extends previous and on-going work on immigrants in Johannesburge through an interdisciplinary collaboration to assess ethical dimensions of inclusion and exclusion in urban space and to enhance more balanced media coverage of issues of access to space. Our case studies will examine three different neighborhood governance arrangements in three distinct parts of the city (an Inner-City Fashion District, a Central African neighborhood [Yeoville], and a Muslin neighborhood, [Mayfair]). These case studies will involve in-depth interviews with local community organizations, non-governmental organizations, city officials and the media, which will provide the basis for our proposed media workshop. Our project integrates urban studies, geography and communications. A co-authored publication in a top interdisciplinary journal and an MA thesis on territorial rights and ethics of migrant spatial enclaves will result from our research.